

FIREARMS NEWS[®]

GUN SALES, REVIEWS & 2A INFORMATION

OCTOBER 2024

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A 4 POUND, 3 OUNCE
HUNTING RIFLE AT AN
AFFORDABLE PRICE!

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ARSENAL'S**
BC-201 .22 LR
SEMI-AUTO
RIFLE

**TISAS FATIH
B380**
AN OLD-SCHOOL
.380 PISTOL

SMITH & WESSON'S
M&P 2.0
10MM PISTOL



MOVIE GUNS:
THE MAGNIFICENT
SUBMACHINE GUNS OF
SKY RIDERS
STARRING JAMES COBURN

KIMBER'S KDS9c
9MM PISTOL WITH RAIL

■ **CARRYING
CONCEALED**
CARRYING A
RELOAD

■ **THROUGH THE
LOOKING GLASS**
VORTEX'S RAZOR HD
GEN III 1-10X24MM LPVO

■ **IN HUSHED TONES**
GEMTECH'S INTEGRA
5.56 SUPPRESSOR

■ **MUSINGS FROM THE
AMMO BUNKER**
THE RETURN OF CHEAP SURPLUS
AMMO?! CENTURY ARMS FLOODS
MARKET WITH 8MM MAUSER!

■ **THE WAR GUNS**
NAMBU TYPE 11 LIGHT MACHINE GUN

■ **CODREA'S CORNER**
ULTIMATE FUDD WALZ REPRESENTS
WORST OF 2A ENEMIES

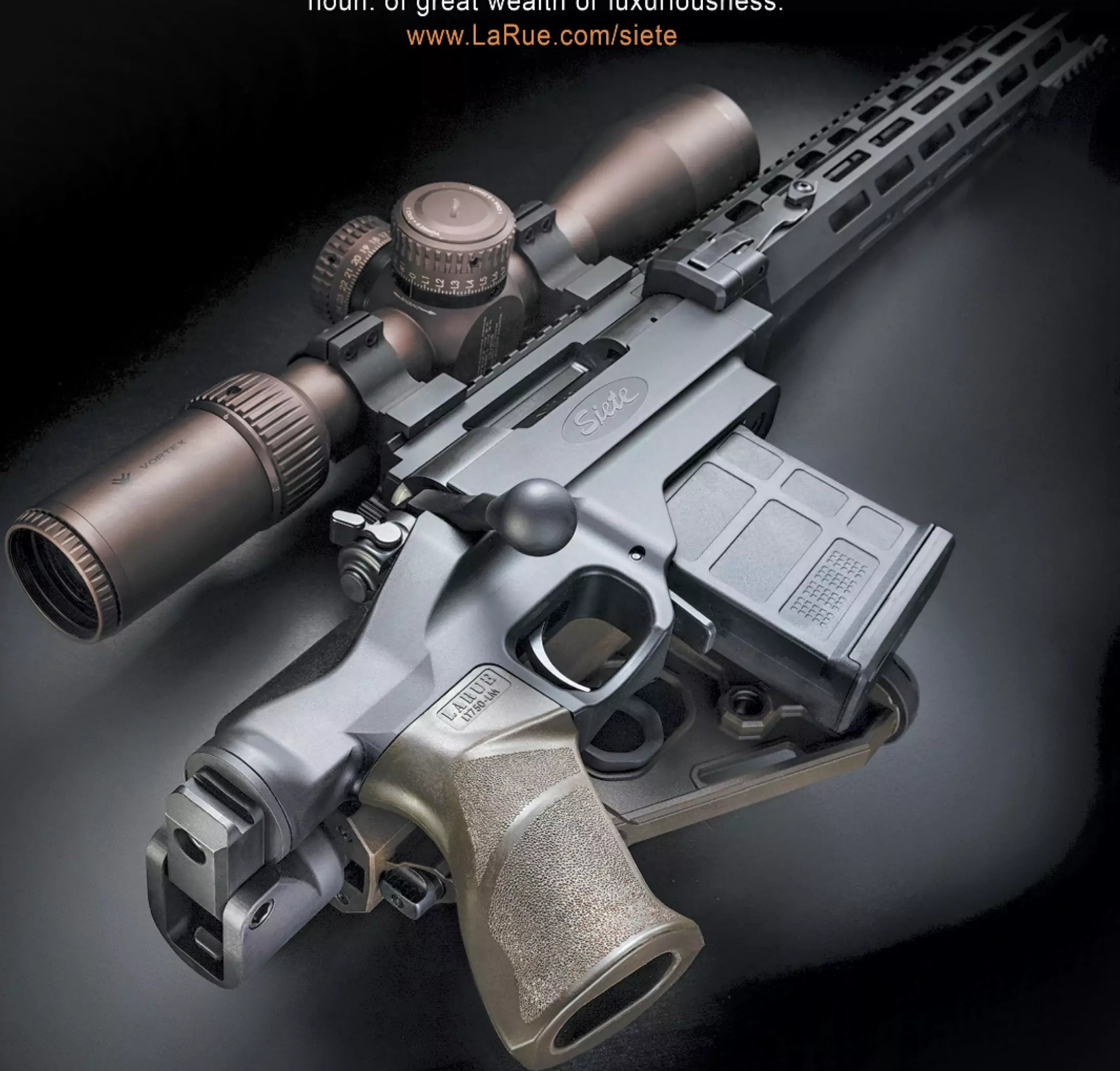
LEUPOLD VX-6HD

opulence

op·u·lence

noun: of great wealth or luxuriousness.

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FIREARMS

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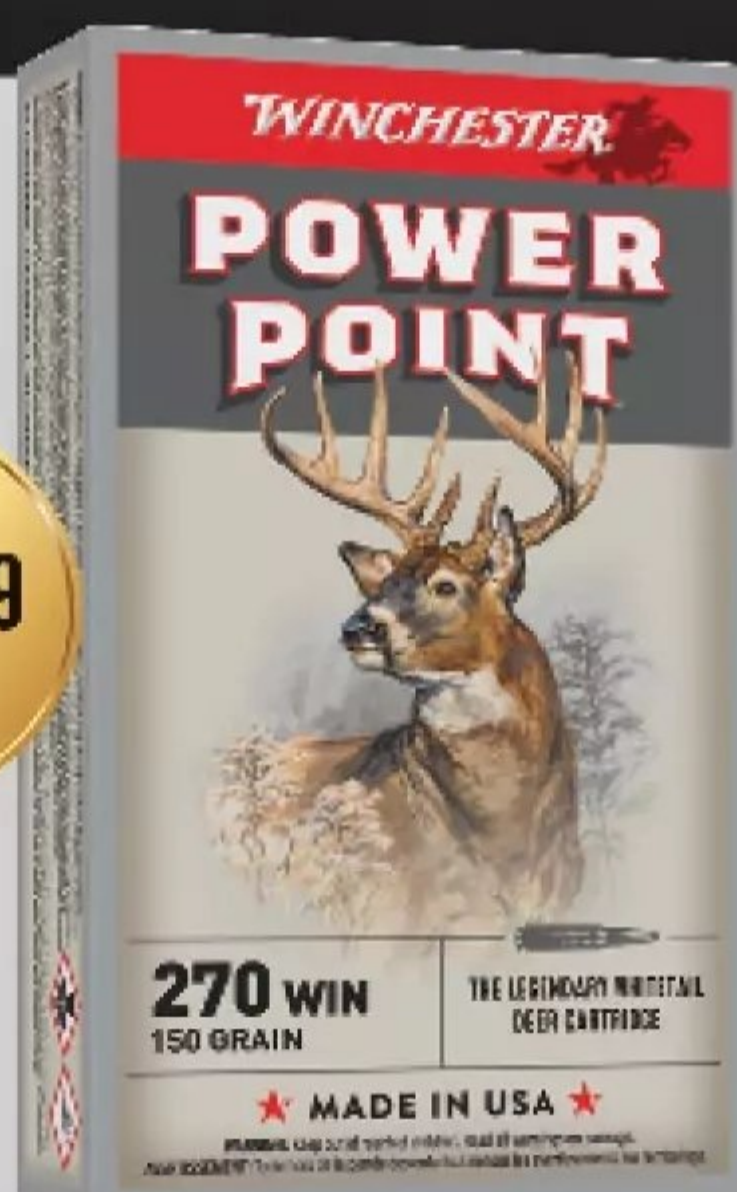


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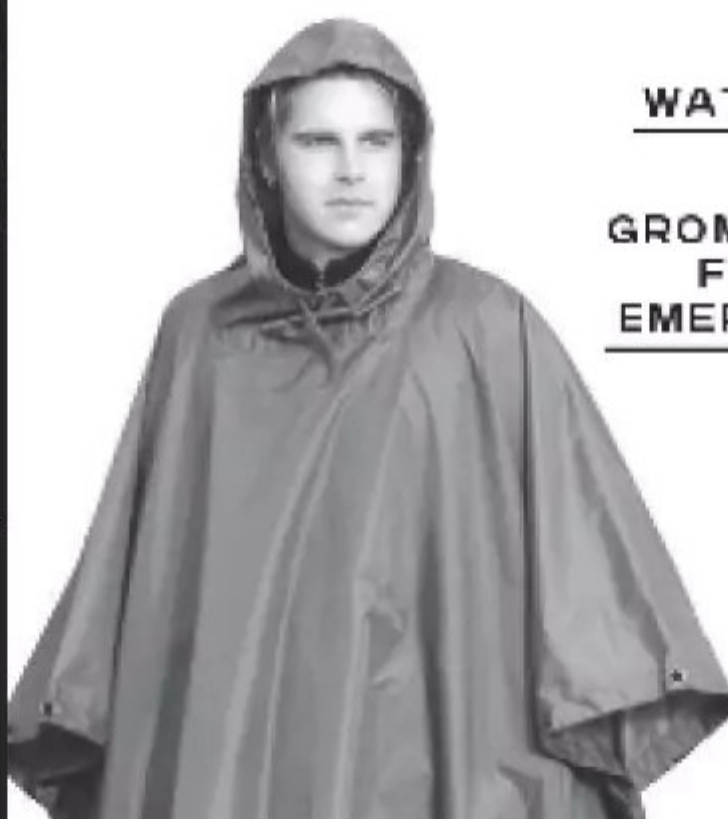
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An Outdoor Sportsman Group® Publication

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Firearms News (ISSN #2691-3259). Published 12 times a year, monthly January through December, by Outdoor Sportsman Group, 1040 6th Ave., New York, NY 10018. Periodical postage paid at New York, NY, and at additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes (Form 3579) to Firearms News, P.O. Box 37539, Boone, IA 50037-0539. Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to 500 Rt. 46, East Clifton, NJ 07011. Canada Post Publications Mail Agreement No. 41405030.

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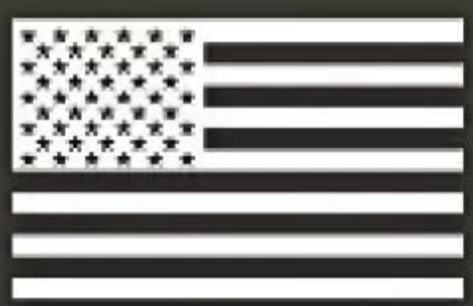
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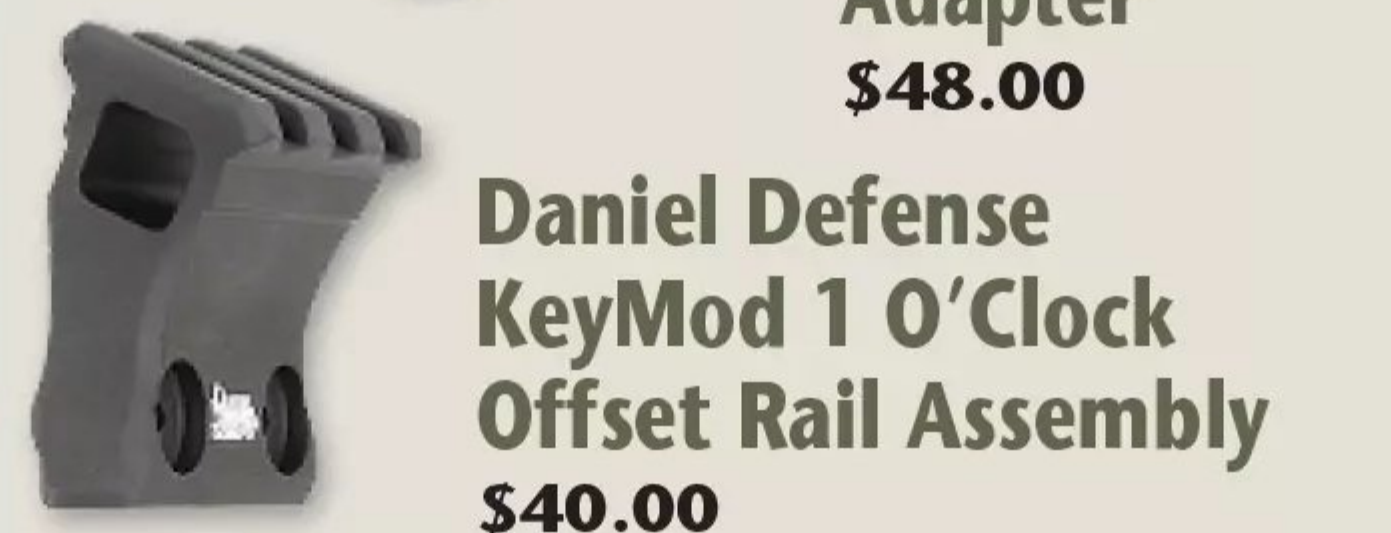


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Thorntail 1.030 Mount	\$70.00
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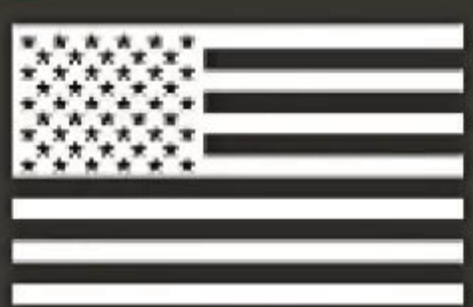


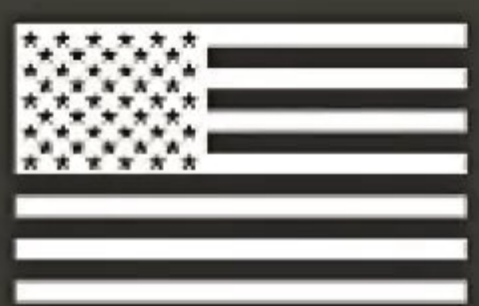
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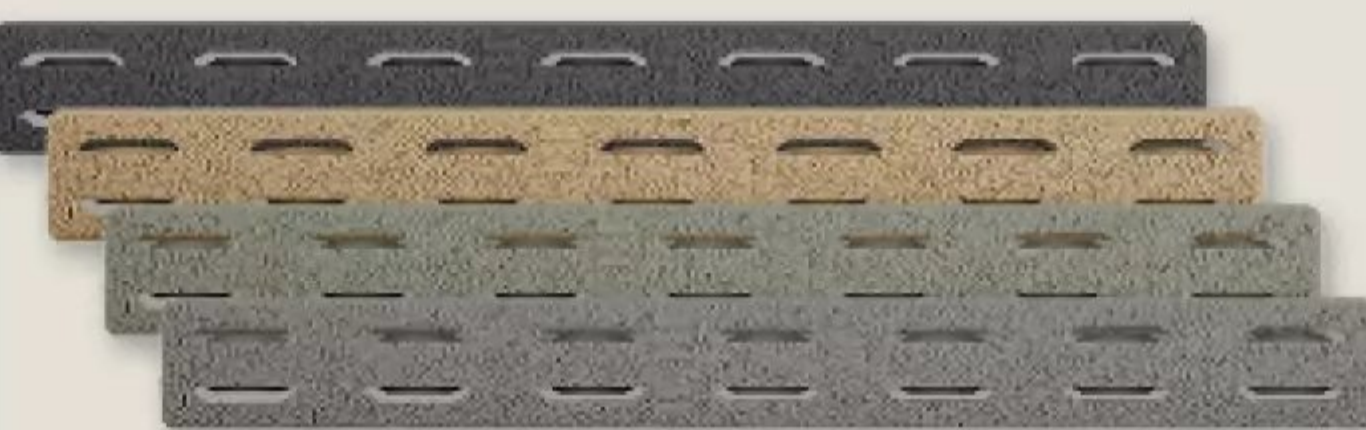
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Aimpoint Comp M4S

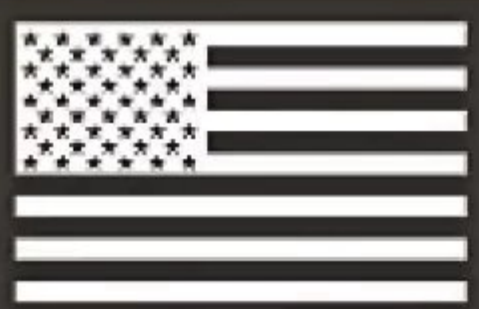
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BCMGUNFIGHTER Pistol Grips . . Prices start at \$17.95



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- Available in Black, Flat Dark Earth, Foliage Green and Wolf Gray

BCMGUNFIGHTER VG - Screw Mount \$20.00



BCMGUNFIGHTER™ VG

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- The forward angle increases the rigidity of the forearm, while providing a more natural wrist angle
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- Forward angle increases rigidity of the forearm, provides more natural wrist angle
- Aggressive texture, generous storage volume
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RURAL FAIRS BANNING SELF-DEFENSE WITH GUNS

PROHIBITIONISTS USING ‘UNFAIR’ PRACTICES

By David Codrea

“Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton sent a notice letter to the City of Dallas directing it to withdraw the statement made by the State Fair of Texas, the organization contracted to run Fair Park during the annual event, that prohibits citizens from lawfully carrying a firearm on the premise,” an August 14 press release from the AG’s office declares.

The catalyst was an incident from 2023, when a suspect since arrested on three counts of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon opened fire in a fair food court, hitting a man he said was approaching him along with two bystanders. Fair officials evidently believe citizen rights should hinge on how they can be criminally abused, and Paxton’s having none of it.

“Texas law clearly states that license to carry holders may not be prevented from carrying a firearm on property owned or leased by the government unless otherwise prevented by state statute,” Paxton noted, giving the City 15 days “to correct course before he will file suit to seek injunctive relief and collect civil penalties.”

The AG’s quick action followed a furor by Texas gun owners who know the law and know their rights and included, per Newsweek, “71 state lawmakers and Republican House nominees [who] signed a petition arguing that the new policy...makes folks ‘less safe.’”

The flap began a week earlier with a post by Texas State Fair author Philip Morales, where he admitted, with-



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out any real explanation besides “an ongoing safety and security assessment,” that “Previously, our weapons policy allowed licensed concealed carry. Now it does not.” Visitors will undergo bag checks for prohibited items and be screened by detectors. Curiously, detectors in place in 2023 failed to expose the shooter, who did not have a Texas permit.

“The State Fair of Texas prohibits fairgoers from carrying all firearms, knives with blades over 5.5 inches long, clubs, explosive devices, ammunition, chemical dispensing devices, replicas or hoaxes, or weapons of any kind. This includes concealed carry and open carry of firearms anywhere on the fairgrounds including Cotton Bowl Stadium,” Morales wrote, adding another proviso certain to stick in the craw of gun owners who are pro-

tective of their rights and resentful of elitist exemptions. “This policy does not include elected, appointed, or employed peace officers.” So much for George Mason’s assertion that the Militia was “the whole people, except for a few public officers.”

Except the “Only Ones” exemption didn’t work in the case of St. Paris, Ohio, Police Chief Eric Smith, arrested by County Sheriff’s deputies for open carrying at the Champaign County Fair because the Fair Board posted “No Guns” signs, he was “not working as a law enforcement officer” and Sheriff Matthew Melvin, who, per an Ohio Gun Owners Action Alert, lost his primary to a candidate Smith endorsed, demands a monopoly.

That’s despite Ohio having a “preemption” law (ORC 9.68) that prohibits any “political subdivision”

[Cont. to page 110]

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David Codrea is the winner of multiple journalist awards for investigating/defending the RKBA and a long-time gun owner rights advocate who defiantly challenges the folly of citizen disarmament. In addition to being a regular featured contributor for Firearms News, he blogs at "The War on Guns: Notes from the Resistance," and posts on Twitter: @dcodrea and Facebook.

ULTIMATE FUDD WALZ REPRESENTS WORST OF 'ENEMIES INSIDE THE GATES'

"Viral Harris-Walz camo hats riff on red-state style, draw ire of NRA," *The Washington Post* reports. "The official campaign merch... sold out of its initial inventory of 3,000 hats within 30 minutes — with camo-hat sales totaling nearly \$1 million Tuesday via its online store."

It's not the first time Walz campaigned in a camo hat. Back in 2016, he wore one that had "NRA Endorsed" emblazoned under his name. Despite that, per leftist MoveOn Political Action, "As a gun owner and hunter, Gov. Walz now proudly has a F- NRA rating and supports universal background checks, an assault weapons ban, and Extreme Risk Protection Orders, and he has passed safe storage laws in Minnesota."

He says he "sleeps just fine." That he does after betraying people who believed in him tells us much.

"Rep. Tim Walz, Minnesota Democrat, calls the NRA 'the biggest single obstacle to passing the most basic measures to prevent gun violence in America,'" political correspondent Jim Geraghty wrote. "Funny, he didn't mind \$2,000 of their PAC's money in 2016, nor their endorsement."

"Walz donated all of his NRA campaign contributions to organizations supporting veterans," MoveOn counters. Compared to the non-monetary contributions of an endorsement and notifying members to vote for him via orange card mailers and other publicity that ended up getting him elected, that was well worth the price. Left



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unsaid is if he also returned contributions from the National Shooting Sports Foundation and Safari Club International PACs.

Also unexplored is what Walz told NRA to get their endorsement. People with sincere, core knowledge-based freedom principles don't abandon them in favor of emotion-based demands for coercive prohibitions against allies they'd pledged allegiance to. A release of his questionnaire would be instrumental in showing just how much the guy is willing to lie for political power. Noting innumerable A-rated defectors who have betrayed gun owners over the years, it would also help to show how unreliable unreleased questionnaires holding politicians accountable to specifics

have proven to be, and how cheesy NRA superlatives help mislead its members — especially when it comes to Democrats, who have yet to produce a candidate who hasn't ultimately chosen the party first.

Cases in point: We saw former NRA Director and Democrat Rep. John Dingell vote for the Clinton "assault weapon" ban. We saw "A"-rated and endorsed Democrat Rep. Bart Stupak not only endorse Barack Obama (who NRA called "the most anti-gun president in U.S. history"), but also earn Brady Campaign praise "for support for closing gun show loophole." We saw Democrat Kirsten Gillibrand do a complete about-face and go from being NRA's darling to a committed gun-grabber. And then



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there's NSSF's 2011 "Legislator of the Year" Jon Tester. And Wayne LaPierre's "true champion of the Second Amendment" Harry Reid, NRA-PVF endorsee Joe Manchin, and...

Democrat politicians in hunting country who appeal to the sport shooter crowd must vote a certain way to get elected — the Party allows for such regional accommodations so it can increase its power and influence and advance other agenda items. But when you get right down to it, they won't oppose Harris for president on Second Amendment grounds or Ketanji Onyika Brown Jackson for the Supreme Court. They'll all betray constituents on guns when they think they can get away with it and it suits their purposes.

"Tim's been a strong supporter of our Second Amendment freedom and our hunting heritage," then-NRA political director Chris Cox wheedled in a 2010 campaign video, back before he realized he was being publicly pantsed. And there was Walz, declaring, "I'm proud to stand with the NRA to protect the rights of sportsmen and gun owners."

Except it's not about sports, is it? And practically every gun-grabber out there parrots the narrative lie before showing everyone their big "but" about "respecting the Second Amendment," right before launching into the gun prohibitionist citizen disarmament laundry list. The media, of course, with no shortage of "real reporters" either too ignorant and/or agenda-driven to expose that lie, is all on board with amplifying it.

"Military veteran former public school teacher... rural appeal," says one headline. "Looks to boost ticket in Midwest," "Everybody's favorite uncle," "Unions cheer," "Kamala calls him 'coach'," read others.

The strategy is clear. He's avuncular and folksy. A big old Teddy bear. He's a flyover moderate. Trump and MAGA and NRA are extremists. Disregard that he'll act the part of

iron-fisted Marxist presiding over a monopoly of violence if given the chance.

"There's no guarantee to free speech on misinformation or hate speech, and especially around our democracy," Walz declared on camera. And of course, he and his fellow Democrats showing they respect the First Amendment as much as they do the Second, will be the sole arbiters of classifying what's acceptable.

"Don't ever shy away from our progressive values," he advocated on another. "One person's socialism is another person's neighborliness."

Except being neighborly is voluntary and doesn't involve armed enforcers ready to take you hostage or kill you if you don't obey and surrender what they determine to be your "fair share." And Walz's definition of neighborliness included, per a Department of Public Safety Stay-at-Home Hotline recording posted by influential conservative commentator Rogan O'Handley (@DC_Draino) on X, "a 'snitch' program during Covid where people report neighbors for violating his authoritarian stay-at-home orders. This is straight out of Fidel Castro's playbook for anyone that spoke out against his regime."

Here's the thing — like the line from the Bill Murray movie goes, "It just doesn't matter."

Conservatives can say what they want about Walz's no limits on late-term drawing and quartering, stolen valor allegations, tampons in boys' school restrooms and imposing state preemption on children's gender "education" and identity choices, defending the George Floyd sackers and burners as "rightfully angry" (while his wife got off on the smell of burning tires, reminiscent of the "I love the smell of napalm in the morning" quote from *Apocalypse Now*), and wrapping illegal immigrants in "a blanket of benevolence," meaning create a "pathway to citizenship" for 30-million + invaders to assure an unchallengeable Democrat majority.

Meanwhile, Walz is out there trying to gin up demand to ban semiautos by claiming, "We can make sure those weapons of war, that I carried in war, are only carried in war." Except he was never in a war, and that Second Amendment he claimed to support says "arms." Never mind, the guy who wants to outlaw misinformation "misspoke," the Harris campaign "clarifies." Now give us your guns.

It doesn't matter what truths are revealed. Democrats could run Charles Manson. Their constituents will not be moved to vote Republican. Their raging women will burn the house down over abortion law being decided by the people of the states, that is, "democratically."

And the idiot Fudds will continue to equate "sporting use" (a strategy outlined in the 1938 Nazi Weapons Law) with the Second Amendment. Here's hoping if one walks into a gun store wearing a Walz camo hat the owner tells him to get the hell out.

Meanwhile, a growing number of gun owners, disillusioned by Donald Trump's actions not matching his rhetoric, are talking about sitting the election out because TINVOWOOT (There Is No Voting Our Way Out of This). I've been unsuccessful at motivating such naysayers and can only offer that if apathy and cynicism turn into a self-fulfilling prophecy, Democrats will be able to have the *Bruen* opinion reversed and any citizen disarmament edict they pass upheld.

If the cynics are right and voting ultimately doesn't work, there will be plenty of opportunities to confront threats. For right now, the immediate existential menace we face is in November. How about using any chair available in a bar fight?

Rejecting the tools at hand is self-defeating and, like suicide, is generally irreversible when there's an "Oh s***!" instance once the chair is kicked out or the bridge has been leapt from. **FN**

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 Features 10/17 magazine, 4.5"
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Roto 4M Compensated Model 1911 Barrels Pg. 4

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 Super easy to install in seconds



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Perfect parts set for building a Government Model 1911 as all parts are included except for the frame. Parts are new except for grips that may be take offs from disassembled GI pistols. This set comes with a new 7 rd. .45 cal. magazine and new Government model slide with sights and 5" barrel. This is out most popular 1911 'Builders Kit', because it is highly economical in the pursuit of building your own 1911 pistol.

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Precision magazines well tested for form & function. The Sarco magazine is the best around, if we do say so.... and the prices can't be beat.

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Also available in Stainless Steel **\$13.95 #RPM307 (On Sale)**

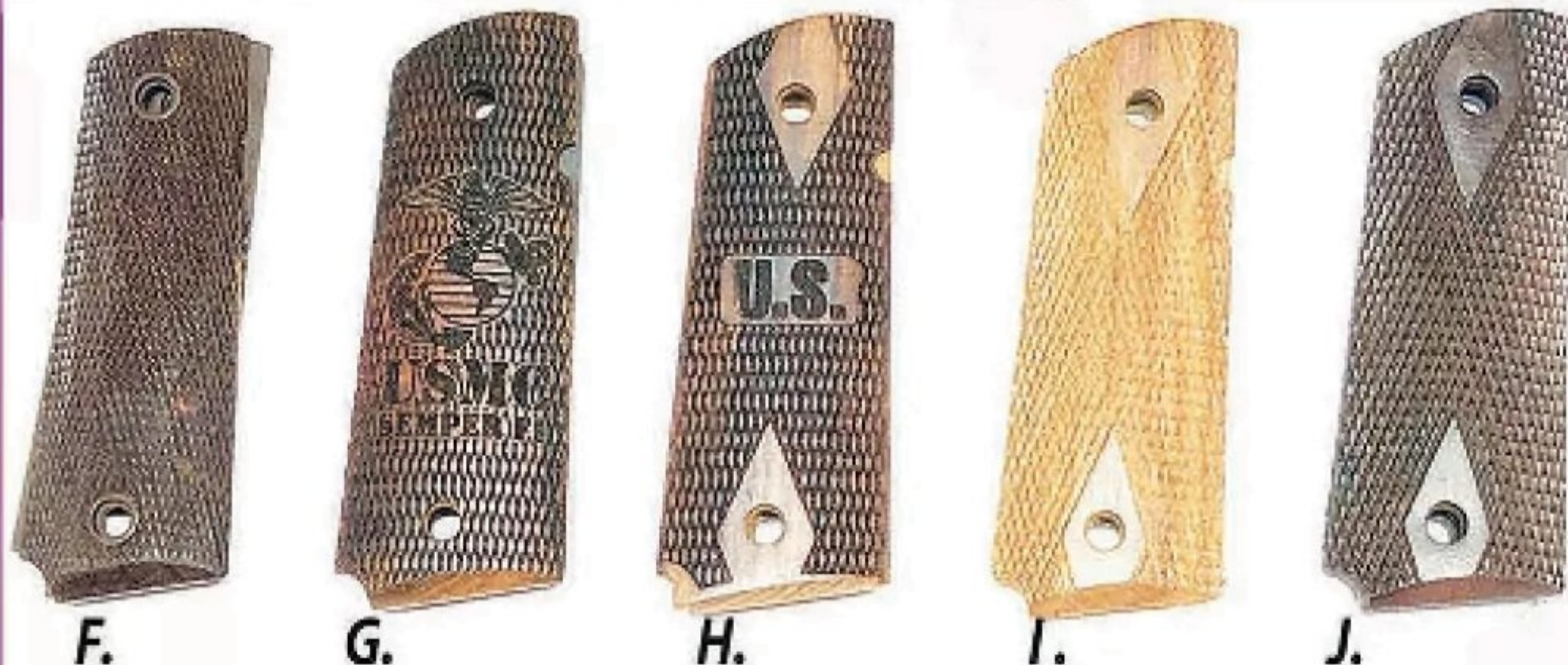
Double Stack 1911, 13 rd. magazine **\$24.99 #RPM289** (.45acp) (For frames that are designed for double stack mags.)

Blued 1911 single stack .38 super mag. **\$29. #RPM151**

Blued 1911, 10 rd. single stack mag. 9mm **\$24.95 #RPM269**

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.45 acp Steel & Polymer construction Perfect addition for the 1911 Carbine conversions



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- F. USGI Plastic knurled brown grips in very good to excellent condition. **\$24.95 #GRP131**
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- I. WW1 pattern diamond walnut grips, new **\$14.95 #GRP162-WAL**
- J. WW1 pattern diamond Rose Wood grips, new **\$14.95 #GRP162-RW**



Model 1911 Parts Kit 'Minus' The Barrel, Frame & Slide

This set is perfect as a 'spare parts' pack for your firing 1911, or as a 'builders kit' for those who have chosen to purchase custom slides, frames, or barrels on their own. These parts are ready for installation. While parts are new, the plastic grips are USGI used 'take off' grips from guns that were deactivated.

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Precision steel Model 1911 slides, military profile with front and rear sights and improved beveled ejection port. Unmarked and ready for installation with a proper firm fit. Perfect replacement slide and a great opportunity to add value by having a slide you can have engraved the way you want it!

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Pg 5

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The best little pistol clean-
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Quality set meticulously
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w/ RL1 crest, and in grass
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Parts set has all
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Cetme 'L'

5.56mm



CETME L
parts set - all parts ex-
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receiver. Great for
spares or a build.
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too w/ T&E & Pintle.
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Cooled parts in stock.
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Beretta 38/44 sub machine guns were a staple of the Italian WW2
forces. Post WW2, many were converted for Police use and had
improvements like the cross bolt safety installed. We have some
of these guns prepared in parts set form, minus the intact receiver
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Magazine is not included, but we have them for sale separately.
See Web Site for other details. On Sale !!!

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Pineapple M1
\$18.95
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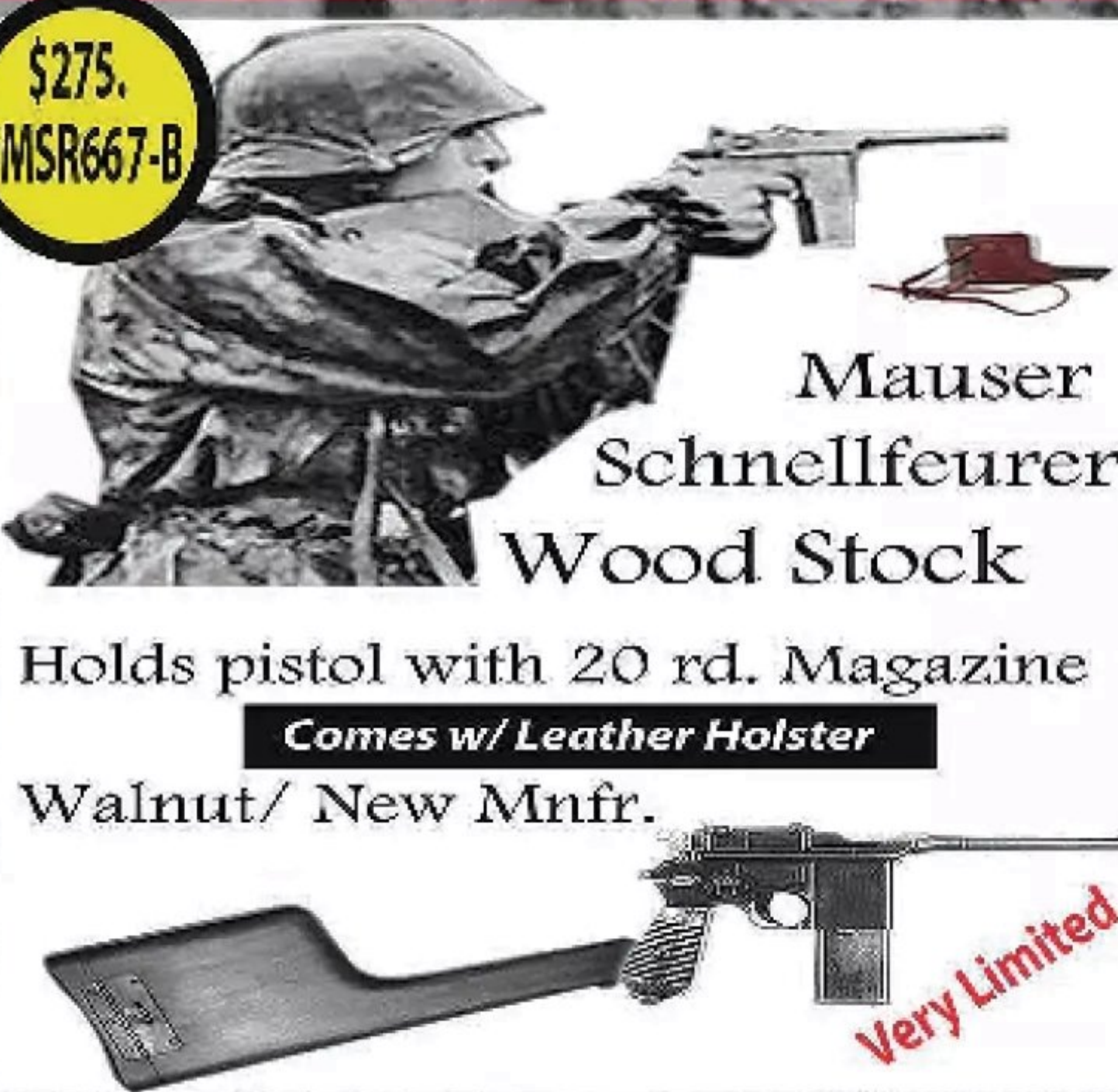
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Model M69
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Holds pistol with 20 rd. Magazine
Comes w/ Leather Holster
Walnut/ New Mnfr.
Very Limited

\$275.
#MSR667-B

CARRYING A RELOAD

► Considering the thing most likely to fail in your gun is the magazine, and a spare magazine doubles your available ammunition capacity, having a spare magazine on you for your CCW gun seems a no-brainer. And yet some people don't.



While there is no way to verify the actual numbers, it's estimated that ninety percent of potential problem situations are stopped with just the mere presentation of a firearm, without a shot needing to be fired. We don't live in the John Wick universe—in the real world, when a gun comes out, normal people usually stop causing problems, because they don't want to get shot. And yet...still, private citizens have to fire shots from their concealed carry pistols thousands of times a year. Private citizens are the real first responders, not whoever shows up after 911 is called.

When it comes to lawful shootings involving private citizens the FBI is not as rigorous in collecting data as with shootings involving law enforcement

officers, but we still have a good database. It's said the "statistically average gunfight" involving a private citizen, or cop, is the rule of three—three rounds fired in three seconds at an average three yards distance. It's also said that the gunfight will only last as long as you've got rounds in your gun. Luckily, CCW guns are holding more and more ammo. The number of actual documented incidents where a private citizen actually had to reload his CCW pistol hovers close to zero. So, if that's the case, why carry a reload for your CCW pistol?

First, and I'll address semi-autos here, as they are far more popular than revolvers, that magazine is the heart of your gun. If your magazine fails your gun stops working

entirely, or becomes a jam-o-matic. If you actually shoot, practice, and train, you understand that magazines are a consumable—they wear out. Springs tire, feed lips spread, or the magazines get broken while dropping onto the ground while practicing your reloads.

Chances are, if anything is going to go wrong with your gun during an altercation it is more likely to be magazine-related than anything else. So simply having a spare magazine on your person, just in case, for that reason, seems a smart move. And that's even



Extended magazines don't really work for the one in your CCW gun, but they're perfect for your spare magazine. The second magazine Springfield Armory supplies for their Echelon is an extended 20-rounder for exactly this reason.



Speed Strips are a simple invention to hold spare ammunition for your revolver. They snap around the rims and hold six rounds flat and in a row.

One of the neat things about Speed Strips is you can use them to reload your wheel gun two rounds at a time. Insert the cartridges partway into the cylinder, then twist up, and the rounds will pop out of the rubber Speed Strip.

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For those who demand the difference, the Aimpoint® Duty RDS® is feature-rich while maintaining affordability and legendary Aimpoint ruggedness. Never compromise.



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CARRYING CONCEALED



◀ **DeSantis' Mag-Packer holds a spare magazine in your off-side pocket. It is convenient and pretty fast to use.**



Like a lot of new appendix holsters, Safariland's InCogX has an optional spare magazine carrier that attaches right to the holster.

before we get to the fact that that spare magazine holds additional rounds.

I get it—carrying a gun is a pain in the butt (or the hip, or the pocket, whatever). The majority of people who have CCWs do not carry regularly, and a certain percentage of them almost never carry, they got their CCW “just in case.” So getting them to also carry a spare magazine when they do carry a gun is an uphill battle, especially when the chance of them needing it is near zero.

But you'll notice I said “near zero,” not zero. The whole premise behind carrying a self-defense handgun is acknowledging that you are responsible for your own safety, and there's a chance (albeit small) you might need a gun. And who's to say what that situation is going to look like? An average is composed of extremes from both ends of the spectrum. That might be just one homeless guy with a dull knife demanding your wallet...but as I'm writing this much of Belfast is in flames and mobs are taking to the streets, and the UK police forces are either doing nothing... or arresting the wrong people.

You are on your own. Expect to self-rescue. Nobody who ever found themselves in a gunfight ever regretted having too much ammo. So, let's address that spare reload. First, let's talk about revolvers. Personally, I prefer semi-autos, but I've carried a snubnose more than a few times. Reloading a revolver is always going to be slower than reloading a semi-auto. And you can reload it one of three ways—using loose rounds, using a Speed Strip, or using a speedloader.

Loose rounds in your pocket are annoying, and that's the slowest way to reload. I wouldn't want to have to do it at speed, much less under threat. A speedloader is the fastest, but it is bulky, so it's either going to be bulging a pocket or one more thing riding on your belt. To me, Speed Strips seem the best compromise of speed and concealability.

If you've never heard of Speed Strips, I believe Bianchi (BianchiLeather.com) invented them and currently has the patent on the name, and you can find them for sale from a number of online retailers. It is a rubber strip that holds the bases of six cartridges in a row, so it lays flat. Perfect for a pocket. You bend the strip just a bit to separate the cartridge from the others beside it, slide it into the chamber of your cylinder, and then twist the Speed Strip off the rims of the cartridges. Best thing is you can do this two cartridges at a time. They are cheap, simple to use, and about the size in your pocket of one of those minimalist Ridge-type wallets.

With semi-autos, a reload is simple—a spare magazine. But that spare magazine is an opportunity. Higher capacity magazines compromise concealability when inserted into a firearm, but are perfect for your backup magazine. Carry your Glock/SIG/whatever with a flush magazine inserted, so it prints against your covering garment as little as possible, but carry a higher-capacity extended magazine for your spare.

As for where to carry your reload, the absolute best choice is on your belt in a dedicated carrier—inside the waistband or outside, I don't care, although IWB is always more low profile/easier to conceal. On your weak side if it's a magazine, on your strong side if it's a revolver speedloader, simply because of the hand you'll be using to reload with. If you're carrying appendix (which is currently very popular), many of those holsters have a spare magazine carrier already attached.

If it's not on your belt, the next best place for your reload is a pocket. Preferably a pocket that is otherwise empty, so you're not grabbing papers/keys when you go for the reload, and lint and detritus isn't getting ground into your mag/speedloader every time you take a step. You can find companies selling fancy clips and magnet things to hang your mags inside a pocket, but personally I prefer the simplicity of something like DeSantis' (DeSantisHolster.com) Mag-Packer, which is a padded pouch that fills your pocket and holds the magazine at an angle for quick removal (while disguising its shape).

As a wise man once said, it is impossible to have too much ammunition on you unless you are underwater or on fire. The chances of you needing to use your gun at all, much less finding yourself in a situation where you'll need to do a reload, are exceeding small. But not zero. **FN**

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THE RETURN OF CHEAP SURPLUS AMMO?!

Century Arms Has Flooded The Market With Economical 8MM Mauser Military Surplus Ammo. Should You Stack It Deep?



Economical 8mm Mauser military surplus ammo, like this 154-grain Turk ball, has hit the US market, but should you buy it?

If you have been shooting for years, you are likely aware of the ban on Russian manufactured ammunition, as well as the demise of traditional surplus ammunition. These two groups were long a staple of American shooters, providing blue collar workers with a vast amount of economical options for practice, personal protection, hunting and recreation. With the US Government banning Russian ammo from the US commercial market, and a dwindling supply of military surplus, the American gun enthusiast has been hit hard in the wallet, especially when it comes to rifle ammunition. While 9mm Parabellum and .22 Long Rifle ammunition prices have dropped back to saner levels, rifle ammunition remains at ludicrous over-inflated prices compared to just four years ago. So, what's someone who loves shooting to do?

Frankly, there has been little good news concerning rifle ammo prices lately. So, I was surprised to learn

Century Arms (CenturyArms.com) had imported a large quantity of 8mm Mauser military surplus ammunition which has hit the market at reasonable prices. The 8mm Mauser (also known as the 7.92x57mm Mauser, 8x57mm, 8x57mm IS and 8x57mm JS) is a classic military cartridge fielded by Germany and many other countries around the world. The German 8mm Mauser IS (Infanterie Spitzgeschoss) cartridge wasn't designed by Paul Mauser, but rather is based on the 1888 vintage Patrone M/88 cartridge. This was updated to use a larger diameter 0.323-inch projectile. The rimless bottleneck cartridge case was very advanced for its day and features a 0.470-inch base diameter, 2.244-inch case length, 0.431-inch shoulder diameter and an overall cartridge length of 3.228-inches. C.I.P. has a maximum pressure of 56,560 PSI while SAAMI's maximum pressure is only 35,000 PSI.

Performance wise, the 8mm Mauser is no slouch and capable of driving a 0.323-inch diameter 154-grain FMJ at close to 2,900 fps from a 23.6 inch barreled Kar 98k. 196-grain FMJs

average close to 2,400 fps. Due to near .30-'06 exterior ballistics and terminal performance, the 8mm Mauser has been fielded by hunters around the world with good success. Here in the USA, it is successfully used on white-tail deer, black bear, elk and even moose. Performance in the hunting field is similar to the .30-'06.

Modern hunting loads are readily available. Just to give an idea on this cartridge's performance, Norma offers a 196-grain SP at 2,525 fps, Buffalo Bore has a 200-grain TSX at 2,500 fps and a 150-grain Spitzer at 2,900 fps, Lapua offers a 120-grain Open Tip at 3,084 fps, and Federal offers their traditional 170-grain JSP at a sedate 2,360 fps. Plus, there are many other factory hunting loads to choose from. The only downside to modern commercially available 8mm Mauser ammunition is simply cost.

The good news is that surplus ammunition is once again available at economical prices from a number of popular distributors. As to be expected, this is older full metal jacket military ammunition manufactured decades ago by a few different countries. Turkish, Yugoslav, Greek, and German produced ammunition is available. Bullet weights range from 154 to 198 grains. Cartridge cases are brass, although in the past, there has been some Romanian surplus available with steel cases. Expect all



The 8mm Mauser with its peers (L to R): 7.62x54mmR, 8mm Mauser, 8mm Lebel, 6.5x50mmSR Arisaka, 6.5x52mm Carcano, .303 British and 7.62x51mm NATO.



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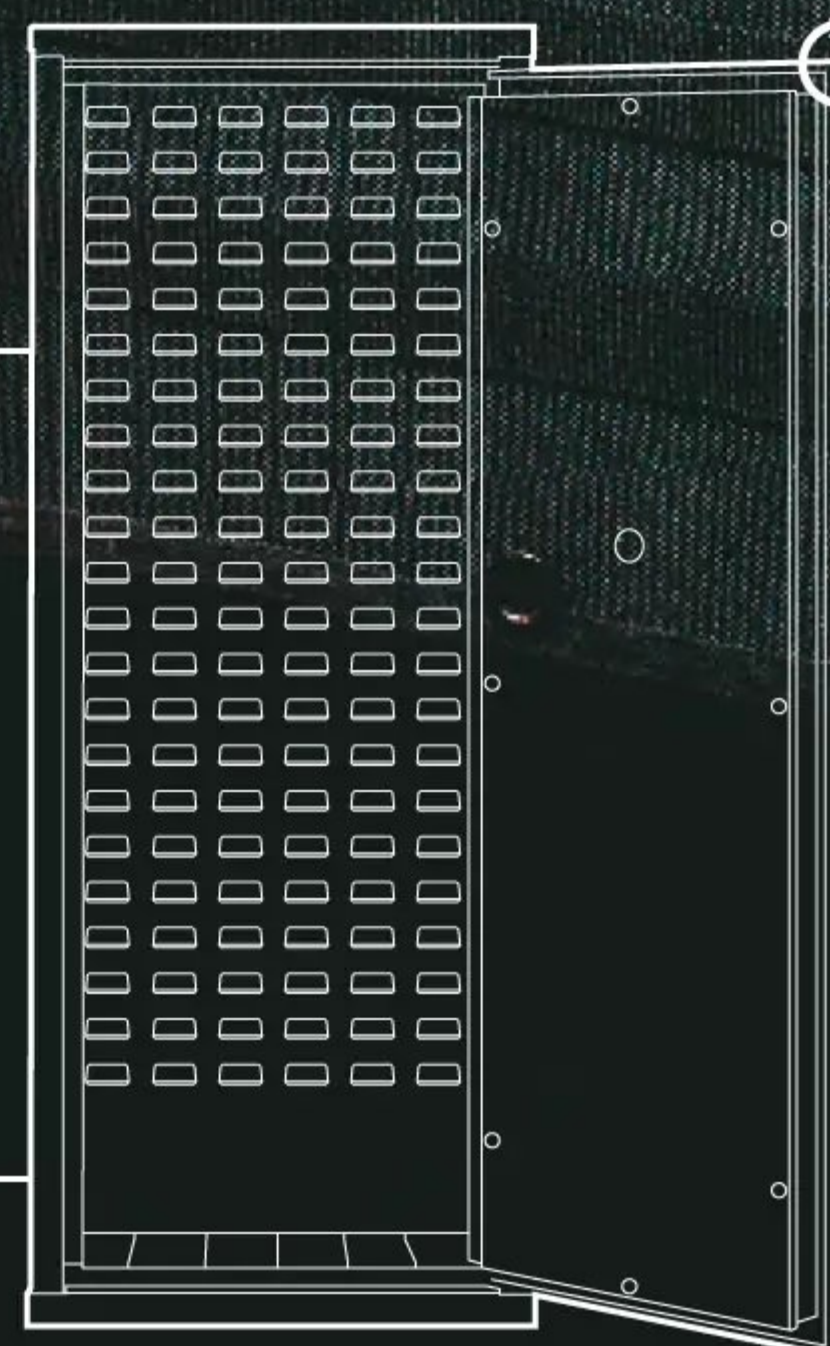


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of it to be Berdan primed and corrosive. If you do not know what “corrosive” ammunition is, you **NEED** to educate yourself and know how to properly clean your firearm after shooting corrosive ammunition **BEFORE** heading to the range.

So, what can you expect this surplus ammunition to be like? To find out, I examined and tested a couple readily available loads. The first is Yugoslav manufactured heavy ball. This came packed in 15-round cardboard boxes and features brass cases topped with a lead core 196-grain FMJ-BT projectile. G1 ballistic coefficient (BC) of this projectile is 0.451. My ammunition was manufactured by Factory 12 in 1953 and featured sealant on the Berdan primer annulus. Individual cartridges appeared in very good condition with only minor tarnishing. This ammunition is corrosive.

I also examined some Turkish produced light ball. Unlike the Yugoslav ammo, this came loaded on reusable five-round brass stripper clips packed in 70-round cloth bandoleers. The brass stripper clips and bandoleers are a nice bonus. This ammunition is brass cased and topped with a cupro-nickel jacketed 154-grain FMJ projectile with a flat base. G1 BC of this projectile is approximately 0.330. The Berdan primer annulus is sealed and the cases are marked “TG” (due to faulty stamping they may appear “TC”) for *Turkiye Gumhuretu-Turkish Republic*. Dated 1940, it appears to be in good shape. This ammunition is corrosive.

What about performance on the range? To find out, I put an old Kar 98k topped with a World War I vintage C.P. Goerz scope to work. The test rifle is a Karabiner 98 Kurz built by Mauser Werke AG, Oberndorf in 1944. It is mismatched and came in a VZ-24 stock. I added a David Tubbs SpeedLock and a 24-pound Wolff Blitzschnell striker spring from Brownells. The ultra-lightweight Titanium and aluminum/steel firing pin and heavier striker spring were added to ensure reliable ignition of

the surplus ammo. The trigger was reworked to provide a crisp 3.5-pound release and the scope was fitted.

Accuracy from the bench at 100 yards ranged from good to plinker level with the surplus ammunition. In this regard, the Turkish 154-grain light ball performed the best. Four five-shot groups fired with this load averaged 1.8 inches at 2,877 fps. The heavy 196-grain Yugoslav ball averaged 2.6 inches at 2,333 fps. I also tried some 1972 Romanian 154-grain ball which averaged 3.5 inches at 2,467 fps. I’d also like to point out different rifles may perform quite differently. For example, a friend’s Yugoslav M48 shot the best with the Romanian load and the worst with

but I could do it frequently enough to be grinning and having a great time.

Are these surplus loads useful for plinking, recreational shooting, hunting or personal protection? I would not recommend decade’s old surplus FMJ loads for hunting or personal protection. However, they are great for plinking and recreation IF fired from bolt-action rifles in good condition. The 154-grain loads are definitely easier on the shoulder than the 196s and 198s. I do not recommend the Turkish ammunition for use in semi-autos or machine guns. Be aware, hang fires are a real possibility with decade’s old surplus ammunition. Understand this and know how to safely handle a failure to fire if you encounter one.



Fortier has long been a fan of the 8mm Mauser cartridge and is seen here plinking with the test rifle and a bandoleer of surplus 20 years ago.

the Turkish ball. So, keep in mind that each rifle has individual tastes. In the past, I have also shot some Turkish ball manufactured by Makina ve Kimya Endustrisi, Kurumu (marked “MKE”) in 1953. This load performed the best, cutting average group size to 1.6 inches at 2,852 fps.

Can cheap surplus ammunition perform past 100 yards? To find out, cardboard IPSC targets were placed at 515 yards and engaged prone, Hawkins style, using the 1940-vintage Turkish 154-grain ball. The Mauser kept all of its shots in the chest of a silhouette at this distance with five-shot groups averaging 11 inches. Impressed, I stretched the Mauser’s legs a bit further. By carefully watching the wind, I was able to repeatedly hit a man-sized steel silhouette at 702 yards. No, I couldn’t do it every time on command,

Also, to prevent destroying or damaging the bore of your rifle, know how to properly clean your rifle after firing corrosive ammunition. While this is not difficult at all, it must be done promptly and properly. The old adage, “The sun must not set on a dirty rifle” must be adhered to. Hot soapy water, a good scrubbing and careful oiling will prevent a badly rusted or pitted barrel.

Depending on the online retailer, surplus 8mm Mauser is priced between \$285 and \$400 per case of 900 to 945 rounds at the time of writing. The price of \$285 for 945 rounds is a pretty good deal today for rifle ammunition. My suggestion is to buy some and try it, and if it meets your expectations, stack it deep! Surplus ammo is here today and gone tomorrow. You must buy it when available or you will miss out. Don’t miss the train on this one! **FN**

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VORTEX'S 1-10X

Michelle Hamilton Examines The Vortex Razor HD Gen III 1-10x24mm and if It's Worth the Price of Admission!

It seems Low Power Variable Optics (LPVOs) are slowly overtaking older technology, overshadowing fixed powered prismatic optics such as Trijicon's ACOG, and effectively bridging the gap between non-magnified red dot sights and traditional scopes. If a 1-6x or 1-8x are good, wouldn't a 1-10x be better? While it sounds good in theory, getting a 1-10x scope to perform really well optically is a challenge not for the faint of heart. Many companies fall short, leading to 1-10x scopes often being held in low regard. Enter the Vortex Razor HD Generation III 1-10x24mm FFP.

Utilizing a 34mm main tube, the Razor HD Gen III 1-10x24mm is definitely a bit bulkier than its 1-6x peers, but this plays largely into the usability of the optic overall. With this larger tube, it doesn't feel nearly as "constricted" on powers exceeding 6x and is quite usable from 1-6x, with a crystal clear, quite sharp image. From 6x to 8x it again works quite well, and is very usable in this range.

Through the entire spectrum of magnification, light transmission was not an issue, the Razor HD Gen III glass was clear, offering a bright, crisp, and vibrant view. This surprised me, as I expected the image quality to degrade past 7x and the optic to



Vortex's Razor HD Gen III 1-10x24mm is a robust LPVO which combines impressive optical capabilities with a very wide magnification range.

struggle once 10x was reached. I attribute a lot of it to the large optics tube, lens design, glass quality and the overall design of the system. Light transmission is surprising, especially considering how small the objective of this scope is.

The illumination controls are exceptionally well-designed. A locking collar is utilized which prevents accidental adjustments to the brightness settings, or accidentally disabling of the illumination. This design is well-thought out, well executed, and likely being my personal favored design so far. Illumination settings are user-friendly, offering low light and day settings that correlate well to even the brightest of days. Even when placed on the highest setting, there's minimal haloing from the Razor's light source in broad daylight.

I also like that Vortex designed a consistent "Off" option for illumination between each setting. This means, the user can easily transition from "Off" and right back to their initial setting



Built on a 34mm tube this model is only 10.1 inches long and is actually fairly light at just 21.5 ounces.

with no fumbling, guess work or time wasted.

Glass clarity is overall very good and exceeded my expectations, especially for a 1-10x LPVO and the history of that power range. From 1-6x, clarity is phenomenal. From 6x to 8x, clarity is great, 8x to 10x is still quite good, although one will begin to notice a strain on the optics abilities. I consider the Vortex Razor HD an extremely capable optic for multiple roles



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THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS

from 1-6x power and still quite capable to 8x, but past 8x, a person better be using a bench or have support.

This model features a Front Focal Plane reticle available in either a Mil or MOA based design. These reticles provide a brightly illuminated center aiming point for use on 1x, and ballistic compensation for leads/wind and holdovers. Once zeroed you do not need to remove the capped turrets to make ballistic adjustments, everything can be done using the reticle. Turret adjustments are in 1/10 Mil or .25 MOA clicks which are audible and tactile.

Using the Razor HD Gen III 1-10x24mm on multiple platforms and multiple calibers produced quite satisfactory results overall. It performed well with the blast and recoil impulse produced by the .50 BMG Barrett M82A1, on 5.56x45mm AR pattern rifles, and really shined on a .308 Win 16-inch AR carbine.

Adjustments were smooth, with crisp and precise clicks for both windage and elevation, along with user friendly power adjustments, which transitioned well from the high end to 1x, especially with the supplied Vortex throw lever. This made engaging targets at close range and transitioning to 2x for 50 yard shots, to 6x for 100, 200 and 300 yard shots extremely easy.

Pros

The Vortex Razor HD Gen. III 1-10x24mm is the measuring stick in glass clarity for the 1-10x LPVO market, plain and simple. Even pushing it to its maximum power range, this LPVO offers excellent resolution which exceeded my expectations. The illumination settings, adjustments and system as a whole are my favorite on the market. It is well protected, well designed, well executed, and lacks the ability to be bumped out of place, bumped off, or manipulated in a way the user doesn't want. It's simple, it's robust and it works.

The turrets are low profile, hugging close to the body of the optic, resulting in less of a snagging hazard, plus well



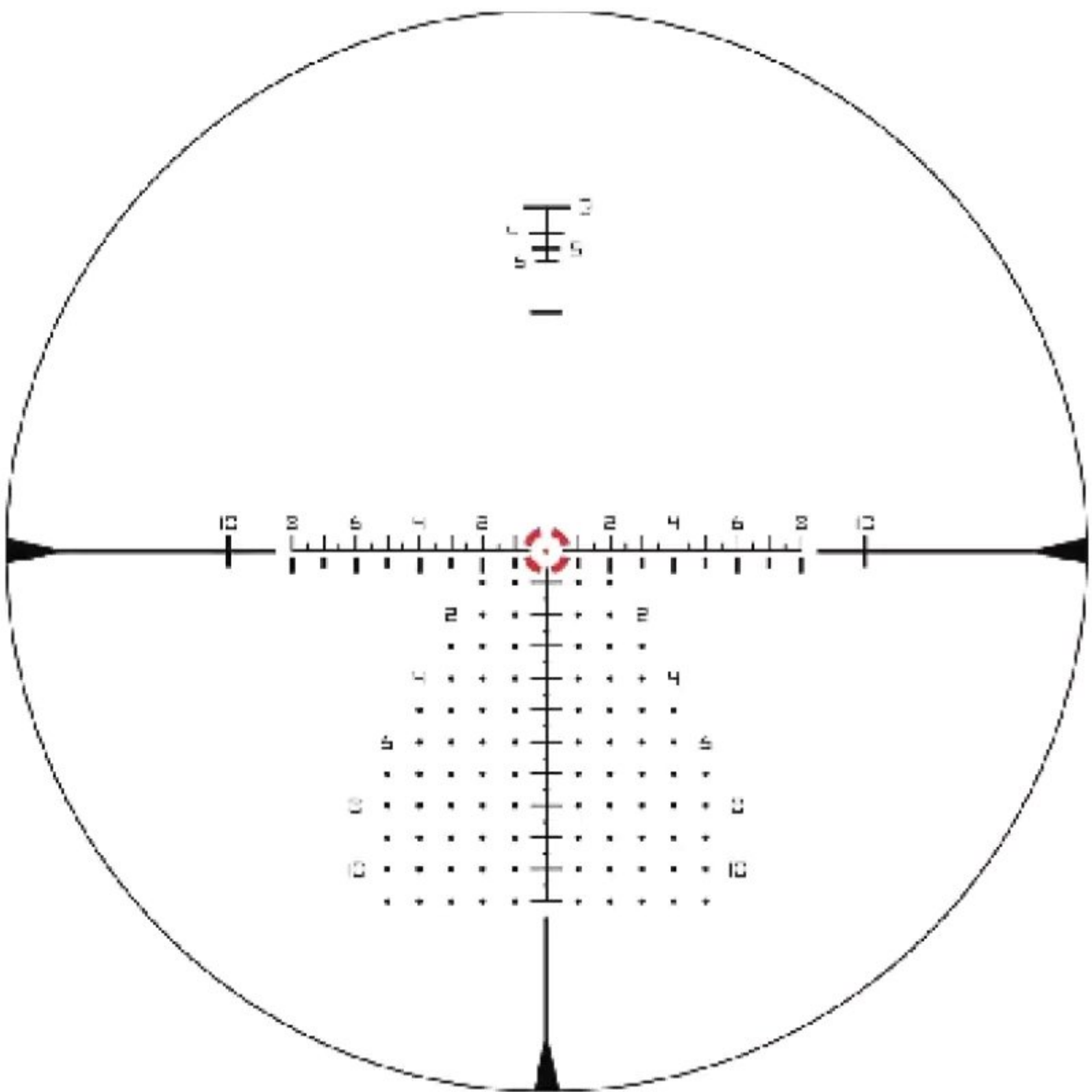
The design features capped turrets, a Front Focal Plane reticle, 11 intensity settings on the rheostat and a fast focus eye-piece.

protected with aluminum caps to keep windage and elevation adjustments protected through rough use and rough handling. The adjustment knobs are low profile but wide and easy to work with, offering tool free adjustments and are overall easy to work with and quite user-friendly overall. The parallax and magnification adjustments were smooth, easy to manipulate by the user. Overall, all adjustments were great, worked great, and felt quality.

Glass clarity is great to say the least. When Vortex states "HD" on their Razor HD line, they really mean it. I am very pleased with the resolution and optical performance offered from this scope, especially considering the limitations of 1-10x LPVOs in general. Overall, the Razor HD Gen III 1-10x offering is likely the best in its class of 1-10x scopes, and by a wide margin at that. I can see now why the Razor line in general is so popular, and why the Razor line of LPVOs is so highly regarded.

Cons

In use, the 10x and even 8x are more difficult to use



Vortex's EBR-9 (MRAD) reticle is well-designed and easy to use. Photo courtesy Vortex

as the eye box of the Razor is bordering on being constricted. The scope is on the bulky side for a LPVO and requires large 34mm rings. The real drawback to the Razor HD Gen III 1-10x24mm is simply its price tag. It has an MSRP of \$3,999.99. If you can afford it though this is an impressive best in class flagship optic. **FN**

VORTEX RAZOR HD GEN III 1-10X24MM	
Magnification:	1-24x
Tube Diameter:	34mm
Objective Lens Diameter:	24mm
Eye Relief:	3.6 in.
FOV @ 100 Yards:	116 ft. (1x) – 11.7 ft. (10x)
Click Value:	0.1 Mil with 10 Mils per full turret revolution
Total Elevation Adjustment:	30 Mils
Lens Coatings:	Fully Multi-Coated
Illumination:	11 positions, True Daylight Bright
Power:	CR2032 battery
Fast Focus Diopter:	Yes
Length:	10.1 in.
Weight:	21.5 oz.
MSRP:	\$3,999.99
Manufacturer:	Vortex, www.VortexOptics.com



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GEMTECH'S INTEGRA

Save a Stamp!

OK, suppressors are cool, but they do add length, even on a carbine. Starting with a 16-inch barrel, adding a suppressor makes it as long as a full-sized AR-15 rifle. The usual “solution” is to put a suppressor on an SBR. Except, that means two

tax stamps. “Grrrrr.” Well, there’s one way around that. That is to go the “pin and weld” route. You get your barrel shortened to the needed length, and then you permanently attach your suppressor to it, making the finished length 16-plus inch of barrel.

Or, you just go to Gemtech and get the Integra.

They have done the work for you, taking a 10.5-inch barrel, and permanently attaching a suppressor that brings it up to 16-plus inches of barrel length. But they don’t just leave it at



The Integra comes complete and ready to go on your lower. Well, you’ll need sights, but that’s your choice. This is America, after all.



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The Seekins handguard has a top rail, M-LOK slots and QD sling sockets.

**The front of the G-Core monoco-
re is a 3/8-inch sock-
et, so it is easy to
disassemble. Yes,
a 5.56 suppres-
sor which can be
disassembled.**



that. Gemtech also plugs the barrel and suppressor into a Gemtech-marked flat-top AR-15 upper (VLTOR modular, which is Type III anodized black, of course) and then installing a Seekins Precision free-float aluminum handguard, which has M-LOK slots at 3, 6 and 9 o'clock. The top is a full-length rail, so you have plenty of options to mount whatever optics and accessories you desire. The receiver internals are a Ballistic Advantage carrier and bolt, and a BCM charging handle.

The suppressor itself is a titanium tube with a titanium monoco-
re, the Gemtech G-Core Technology. So, in assembling a kick-butt integrally suppressed upper, Gemtech went to top-tier suppliers for the items that they themselves do not make. Good call.

However, the goodness doesn't stop there. The monoco-
re is removable. Yes, an integrally suppressed 5.56 with a re-
movable baffle stack. The trick is easy: The Integra comes with a disassembly tool, but the front port is a square 3/8-inch hole, perfect for a socket wrench. Now, removing a really carbon-welded monoco-
re from its tube could work, but Gemtech has done its homework here as well. The sides of the monoco-
re that are solid (It can't all be baffles) are machined with crud-scouring/scraping slots. The slots are almost full-length, and they scrape out carbon buildup, so you can get the Integra really clean. Still, you have to do your part. I didn't bother to take the Integra apart after each of the first few range sessions, and when I did, I had to shove the upper

onto a reaction rod and get both hands on the socket wrench handle to break the monoco-
re loose. So, strip and clean after every range date. The monoco-
re is not long enough to bottom out against the inside rear face of the tube. No, it threads onto the barrel muzzle, leaving a blast chamber space. The resulting gap at the back produces a really large blast chamber, a place for a lot of gas to not go out and produce noise. That makes the Integra quiet, really quiet.

You're thinking "gas is slow going out, that means gas-face." Nope. Gemtech builds a bore evacuator into the Integra, the same principle as is used on tank guns. The evacuator uses the flow of gas to push the build-up out the muzzle. It just does it slowly enough to not build noise, but fast enough to not create gas-face. It was the work on the Integra that led to the gas block on the Gemtech GVAC upper. That gas block is both gas block and bore evacuator.

Since it is all one product, there's no worry about the gas port being the proper diameter. The gas system is a pistol-length one, but since it all was built as a single item, Gemtech has made sure the system is properly balanced.



**The G-Core monoco-
re unscrewed from the
suppressor tube.**



**The monoco-
re has scraping slots machined into the sides. They help keep it clean, but you still have to do your part.**

The VLTOR upper is intended to fit onto any mil-spec dimensioned lower, and while I did not try it on every lower in the shop, all those I tried it on worked just fine. There was some wobble with some lowers, but considering the variance of dimensions even today (and in the past, the dimensions were really wide) they do a good job. The Integra, as well-spec'd as it is, does not come with sights. That you'll have to provide for yourself, which is



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not a big deal. We all have our own ideas about what is right, proper and tactical, correct? So, I looked over the optics shelf and grabbed a spare EOTech sight and bolted it on. (Woo-hoo, green reticle!)

I took a spare BCM lower lying around and made sure the Integra fit, and with that it was easy enough to head to the range. The initial testing was your basic “Ho-hum, a day at the range” shooting. Then, I noticed that the hearing protection I was wearing didn't seem to be needed much, so I took them off. (I usually wear earpro even when shooting suppressed. Even a few thousand rounds a year can take a toll even with a suppressor on.) Wow. This is quiet! OK, to give you a perspective on this, the listed decibel

level for the Integra is 131 db. The simple crashing of the bolt home on an empty chamber is 115–120 dB. So, the action cycling is most of the noise you hear when using the Integra, and there's nothing you can do about that. But the muzzle blast? Almost not there. Oh, there's the supersonic crack, for sure. But again, there's nothing Gemtech or anyone else can do about that. Then another club member started shooting on the range next to mine, and on went the earpro again. (Rats!)

Once I had done some preliminary work with the Integra, I figured I'd try it on paper. Only at 50 yards, because I'm using a red-dot, right? (Oh, a holographic display, sorry.) The results were so encouraging (I figured it not to be as good as it was, only a 10.5-inch barrel, right?) I packed up once I was done for the day, planning to come back. For the second trip I put a Leupold 3-9X on top, in a LaRue mount, and went to work at 100 yards. We're all accustomed to sub-MOA rifles these days, so just barely doing MOA is not the cause for excitement it would have been back in the 20th century. But for an integrally-suppressed upper, with a 10.5-inch barrel, to do MOA is pretty darned good. Are there drawbacks? Sure, there are with everything.

First up, the Integra is portly. I mean, adding 80 ounces to your lower, five whole pounds before you do any optics, makes a difference, but an SBR, with a free-float handguard and suppressor on it, would come close to the weight of the Integra by itself. If you used a suppressor as big and effective as the Integra, you'd match the weight, so portly, yes, but with cause. Second, making the handguard large enough to cover a suppressor makes the entire package a bit wide. Not bad, but it isn't the slimline competition handguard you might be familiar with. Also, the tight fit of handguard to suppressor tube means you have to be careful with bolt-on accessories and make sure the screws

or mounts don't contact the suppressor tube. And last, the handguard is going to get hot — wear a glove.

The short barrel takes some steam off of any load, but every SBR does that. And the price? At first glance, it seems a bit much, but total up the prices if you did it yourself: an upper with BCG and charging handle. Barrel. Gas system. Suppressor. Then the cost of a gunsmith to shorten the barrel, pin and weld, and assemble the handguard. I'm not sure you could duplicate the Integra for less than its listed cost.

One last detail, in case you want to be even quieter; Gemtech offers the Integra in .300 Blackout. (Yes, a test on it will be coming up in the future.) If you want truly “Hollywood” quiet, then the Integra in .300 Blackout and fed subsonic ammunition will be the closest thing to it you can lay hands on. If the .300 is just too specialized for you, and you are fully invested in things .223/5.56, then the Integra in 5.56 is something that should be on your list. **FN**

GEMTECH INTEGRA	
OAL:	22.375 in. (10.5 in. barrel)
Net Added Length:	N/A
Diameter:	1.5 in. (handguard 1.75 in.)
Material:	Titanium, aluminum, steel (monocore is 6AL4V)
Weight:	80 oz.
Finish:	Anodized aluminum, black Cerakote
Calibers Available:	5.56 & 300 Blackout
Full-Auto Rated:	Yes*
Mount System Available:	N/A
MSRP:	\$2,009
Contact:	(800) 350-9517, Gemtech.com
*The full-auto rating is 4-8 round bursts every 4-8 seconds.	

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THE NAMBU TYPE 11 LIGHT MACHINE GUN

The “Bent Buttstock” Machine Gun

In the 1890s, the Imperial Japanese Army obtained a quantity of Maxim and Hotchkiss machine guns for trials purposes. They chose the air-cooled Hotchkiss heavy machine gun, numbers of which were purchased from France beginning in 1897. Licensed manufacture of a Hotchkiss gun — known as the Type 38 machine gun — began around the turn of the 20th century and these saw service in the Russo-Japanese War (1904 – 1905), one of the first times modern armies equipped with machine guns, faced each other on the battlefield.

In 1914, the Type 3 machine gun, another Hotchkiss-type gun as modified by Captain Kijirō Nambu, was adopted. It was a gas operated, tripod mounted, air cooled gun chambered for the 6.5mm Type 38 cartridge and was fed via 30-round metal strips.

The Type 3 proved an excellent weapon but with its tripod it weighed 122 pounds and required a four- or five-man crew. The new tactics developed during WWI had shown that light, portable machine guns improved the fire base, and effectiveness, of the infantry squad and the Japanese set about finding one. Once again, the army turned to Nambu who had been promoted to colonel.



Japanese soldiers training with a Type 11 Light Machine Gun. Note the bag for catching ejected cases.

The resulting Type 11 Light Machine Gun (named after the 11th year of the reign of Emperor Taishō, or 1922) was based upon the Model 1909 Hotchkiss Benet-Mercie. It was a gas operated, air cooled weapon with a finned barrel that used a long stroke gas piston and a falling block to lock

the bolt. Angled camming projections in the sides of the receiver slide the locking piece down to lock and up to open when the bolt cycles. The bolt moves linearly back and forth which caused poor, and violent, extraction. It also featured an adjustable gas regulator to allow the use of ammunition



The Type 11 was an odd-looking gun with a hopper feed system, finned barrel, bipod and bent shoulder stock. (Rock Island Auction Co.)



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The Type 11 had a permanently attached bipod. (Rock Island Auction Co.)

of various pressures and to help functioning when the gun becomes fouled.

To address these potential problems the Type 11 has, an automatic oiler system located above the chamber to lubricate the cartridges as they were chambered. While fine in normal range conditions, oiled cartridges tend to attract dust and dirt, leading to another source of jamming problems on the battlefield.

Nambu's gun was unique in that it utilized a hopper magazine mounted on the left side of the receiver that held six Type 38 rifle chargers (stripper clips). The five-round clips were stacked lying flat above the receiver, secured by a spring arm with a large spoon shaped handle and the rounds were stripped from the lowest clip one at a time by a ratchet system actuated by the operating rod with the empty clip thrown clear and the next clip automatically falling into place as the gun was fired.

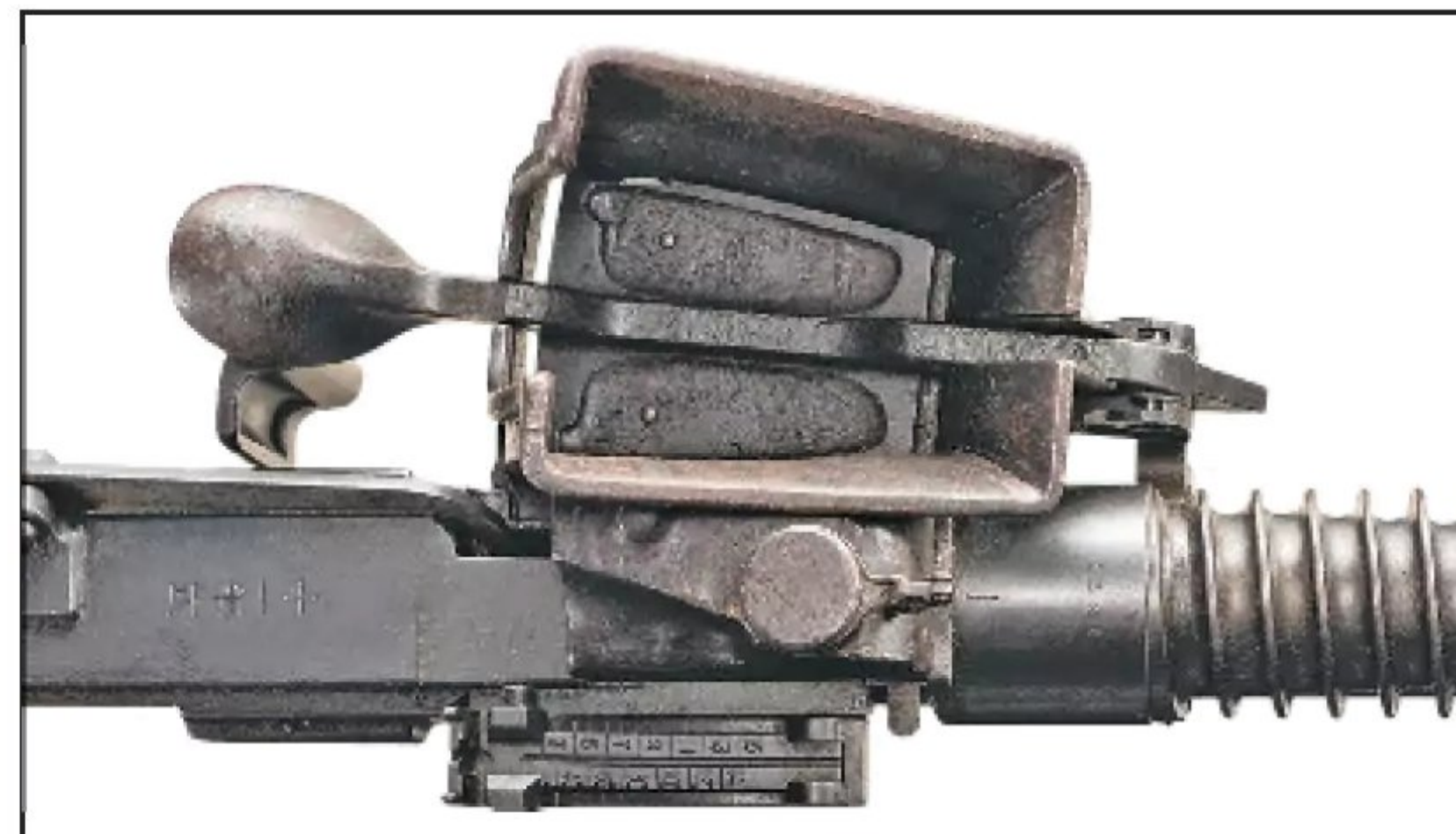
The system had the advantage that any squad member could supply ammunition and that the hopper could be replenished at any time although, it took a long time to top the magazine off. It was fitted with a permanently attached folding bipod and could also be mounted on a tripod for use in fixed positions or as an anti-aircraft gun.

The Type 11 was chambered for the 6.5mm Type 38 cartridge with a bottle necked, semi-rimmed case 50mm in length whose 139-grain pointed (Spitzer) bullet had a velocity of 2,500 fps.

However, the standard 6.5mm Type 38 cartridge caused problems in the Type 11, primarily excessive muzzle flash. In the 1930s, the 6.5mm Type 38 "G" cartridge was adopted which, by combining nitrocellulose with

nitroglycerine in a new propellant, reduced the muzzle flash and visible powder signature. Rather than have two, dimensionally identical, 6.5mm cartridges in service, the "G" cartridge was standardized for all 6.5mm weapons and would remain in Japanese service until 1945.¹

The open-topped hopper feed system allowed dust and grit to enter the gun, which was liable to jam in muddy or dirty conditions a situation that was exacerbated by the use of oiled cartridges. There were also issues due to poor dimensional tolerances, which gave the weapon a bad reputation with Japanese troops. To allow soldiers to carry



The cartridge hopper was offset to the left side. Note the cap for the cartridge oiler the spring-loaded spoon shaped handle and the offset rear sight. (Rock Island Auction Co.)



The Type 11 had a large cocking handle on the left side of the receiver. (Rock Island Auction Co.)

the gun when the barrel was hot, they were often issued a padded leather sleeve that fit around the barrel.

In 1928, the Japanese experimented with Type 11 guns modified to use a

Japanese soldiers armed with Type 11 machine guns.





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The Type 89 “Flexible” machine gun used two 45 round magazines.



1931. Japanese troops in Manchuria firing a Type 11 machine gun.

35-round box magazine as it was felt they would be more reliable and less expensive to produce. Apparently, they were not successful.²

Other issues were that the weight of a fully loaded side-mounted magazine unbalanced the weapon and required that the sights be mounted offside. To compensate for these problems, the buttstock had a dogleg bend to the right leading to the Chinese nickname for the weapon as the “bent buttstock” (Chinese: 歪把子). Reloading the weapon on the move proved almost impossible due to the clip feeding system.

Initial production began at the Nagoya and Kokura Arsenals in 1923. The Tokyo and Hoten (a.k.a. Mukden) arsenals, Tokyo Gas and Electric, and Hitachi Heiki KK also produced the gun. Approximately 29,000 guns were produced before manufacturing ended in 1941.

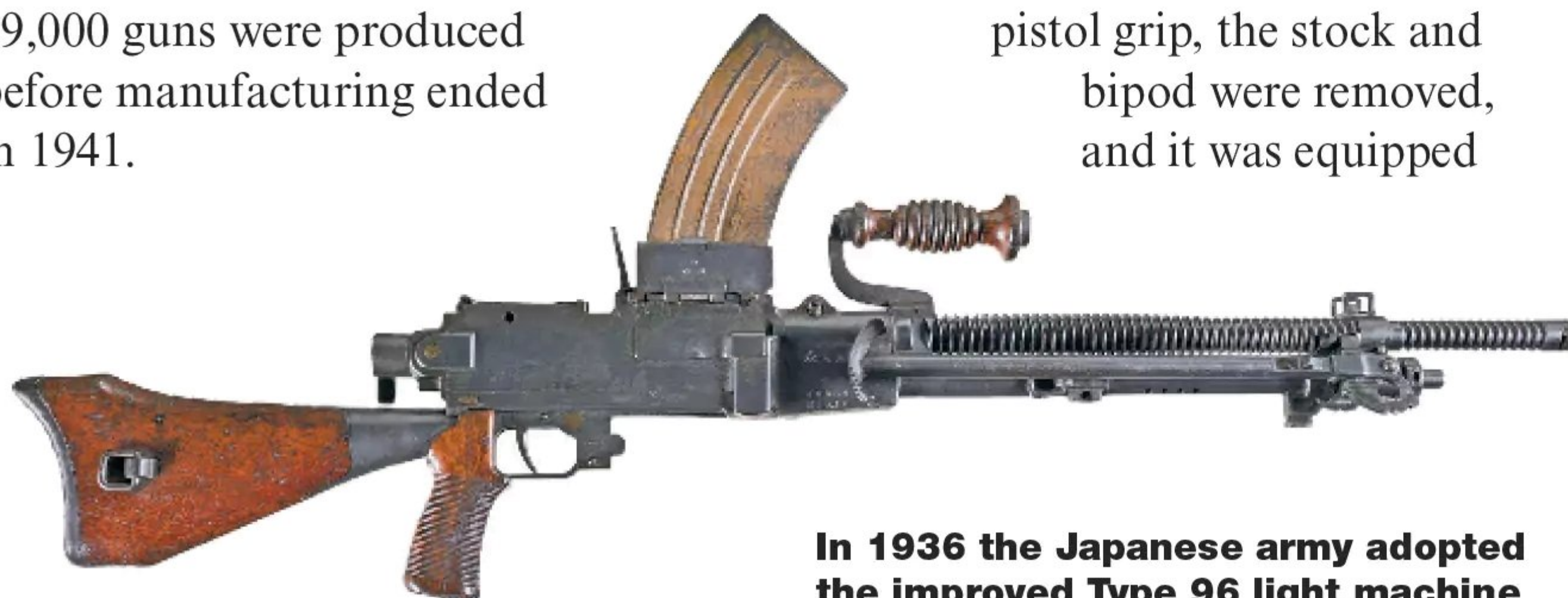
There were several variations of the Type 11:

- The Type 89 “Flexible” had two Type 11 guns mounted together and chambered for the 7.7mm Type 99 cartridge and designed for anti-aircraft defense. It was equipped with a metallic Y-shaped stock, two spade grips, and the barrels lacked cooling fins. It was fed from two 45-round pan magazines each holding nine five-round stripper clips.
- Type 91 Tank machine gun was a modified Type 11 for use on tanks and armored vehicles. It was also chambered for the 7.7mm Type 99 cartridge and was equipped with an angled pistol grip, the stock and bipod were removed, and it was equipped

- with two brackets on the right side for mounting a 1.5x30 scope
- TE-4 Machine Gun was a modified Type 11 which was intended to replace the Type 89 “Flexible” due to the excessive weight of the latter. It used a different flexible mounting, had a shorter wooden stock and a straight pistol grip with an enlarged trigger guard and used a 70-round pan magazine.

The Type 11 was first used in combat during the 1931 Japanese invasion of Manchuria, Soviet-Japanese border conflicts (1932 – 1939) and the Second Sino-Japanese War (1936 – 1945). Combat service brought the above-mentioned shortcomings of the weapon to the fore, while continuing complaints about the long-range lethality and penetration of its 6.5mm cartridge led to calls for a more reliable light machine gun.

In 1936, the Type 36 light machine gun was introduced, a new design that used a top mounted, detachable box magazine, which proved more reliable and robust. This was followed by the improved Type 39 light machine gun



In 1936 the Japanese army adopted the improved Type 96 light machine gun. (Rock Island Auction Co.)

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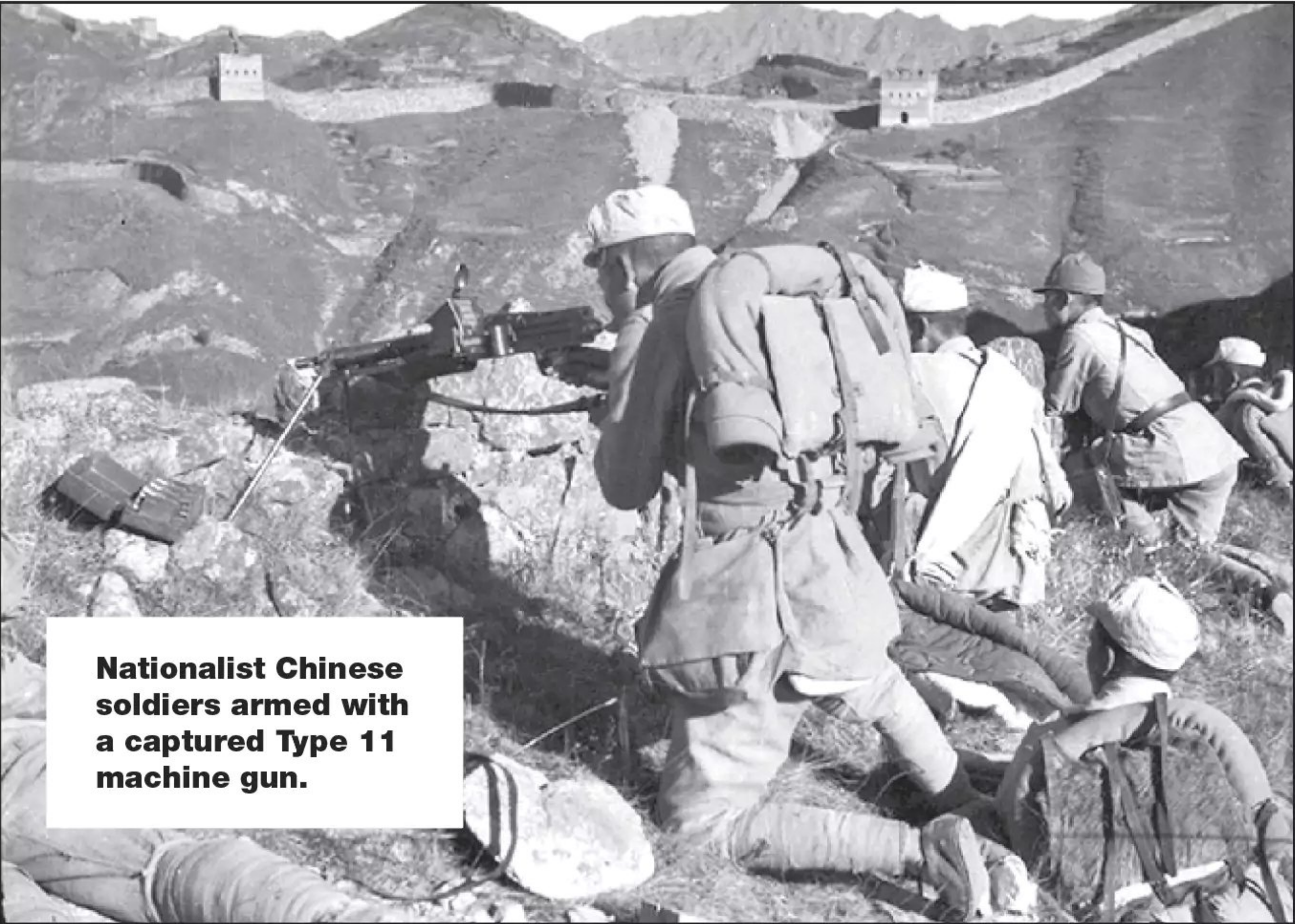
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Nationalist Chinese soldiers armed with a captured Type 11 machine gun.



Soviet soldiers examining captured Type 11 machine guns.

which fired the more powerful 7.7mm Type 99 cartridge.

Once production of the Type 36 and Type 39 light machine guns met demand, the Japanese ended production of the Type 11 in 1941. Although, Type 11 guns continued in service on all fronts until the end of WWII.

Besides the Japanese armed forces, Type 11s saw service with other armies.

Before WWII, the Chinese purchased numbers of them. The Manchukuo Imperial Army replaced its ex-Chinese ZB vz. 30s with Type 11s in 1936.³ Both sides used Type 11 machine guns during the Chinese Civil War while North Korean and Communist Chinese troops used Type 11s during the Korean War. The South Korean army also used some until replaced by U.S. weapons.

Indonesian nationalist forces used the Type 11 during their fight against the Dutch (1945 – 1949) while the Viet Minh used numbers of Type 11s against the French during the First Indochina War (1946 – 1954), as did communist forces during the Malayan Emergency against the British (1948 – 1960). The last use was by the Viet Cong during the early stages of the Vietnam War.

If maintained properly, the Type 11 proved an acceptable, and long serving, squad automatic weapon, but it was basically an early 20th century vintage design whose time had passed before WWII. **FN**



1945 – Japanese soldiers surrendering their weapons, including Type 11 machine guns, to Soviet soldiers.

1 The boxes for 6.5mm “G” cartridges were marked with a large “G”.
2 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/6.5%C3%9750mmSR_Arisaka
3 Manchukuo was the puppet state that the Japanese established in occupied Manchuria.

SPECIFICATIONS	
TYPE 11 LIGHT MACHINE GUN	
Caliber:	6.5mm Type 38 and Type 38 “G”
Overall Length:	43.5 in.
Barrel Length:	17.4 in.
Weight:	22.5 lbs.
Feed System:	30-rd. hopper
Rate of Fire:	400 – 450 rpm
Sight:	Front: Inverted V blade Rear: V notch adj. from 200 to 1,500 meters

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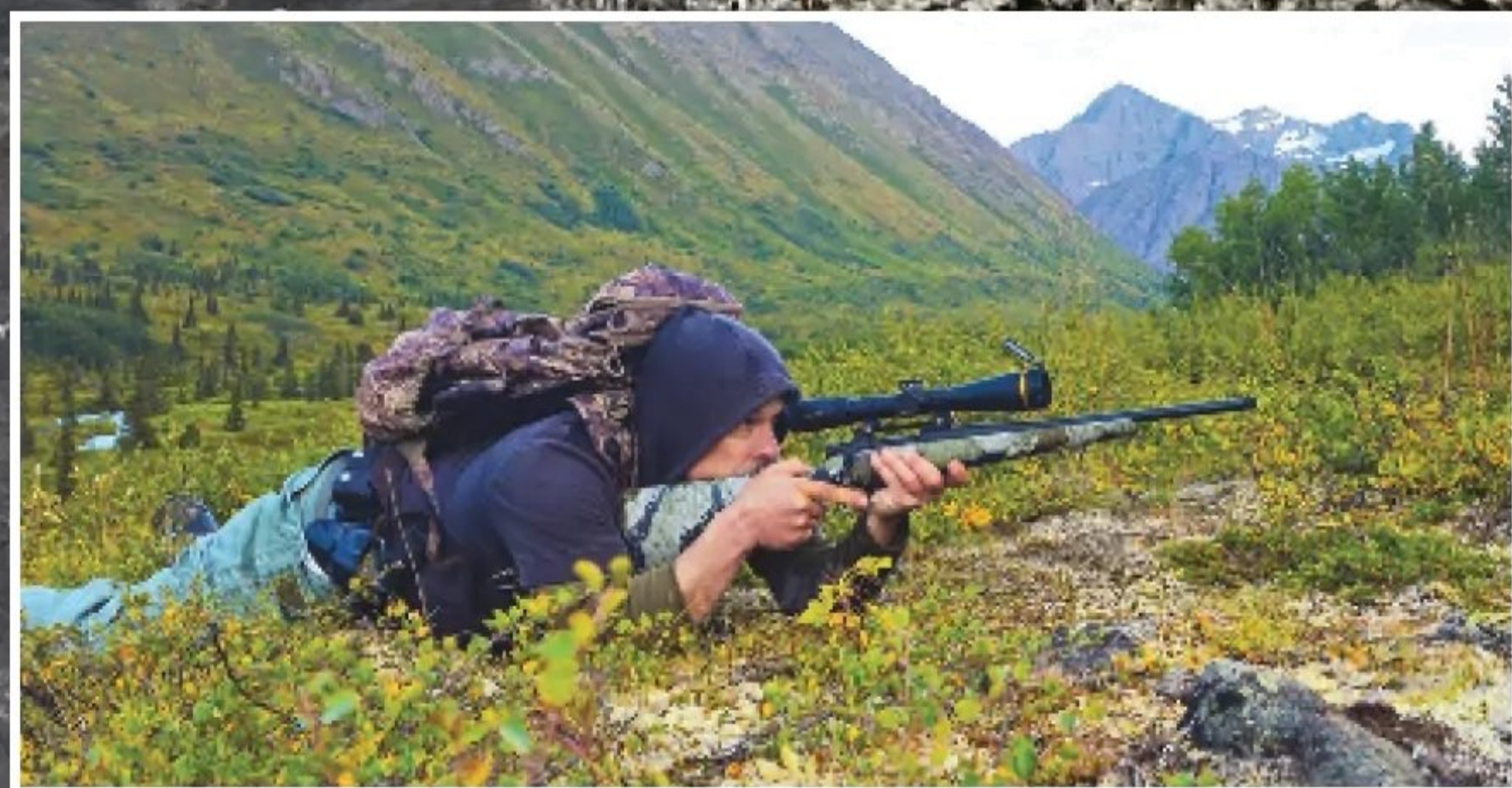
“SUPERLITE”

MOUNTAIN RIFLE!

By Rikk Rambo, Hunting Editor



The 4 pound, 3 ounce
Howa Superlite in its
natural environment,
the back-country!

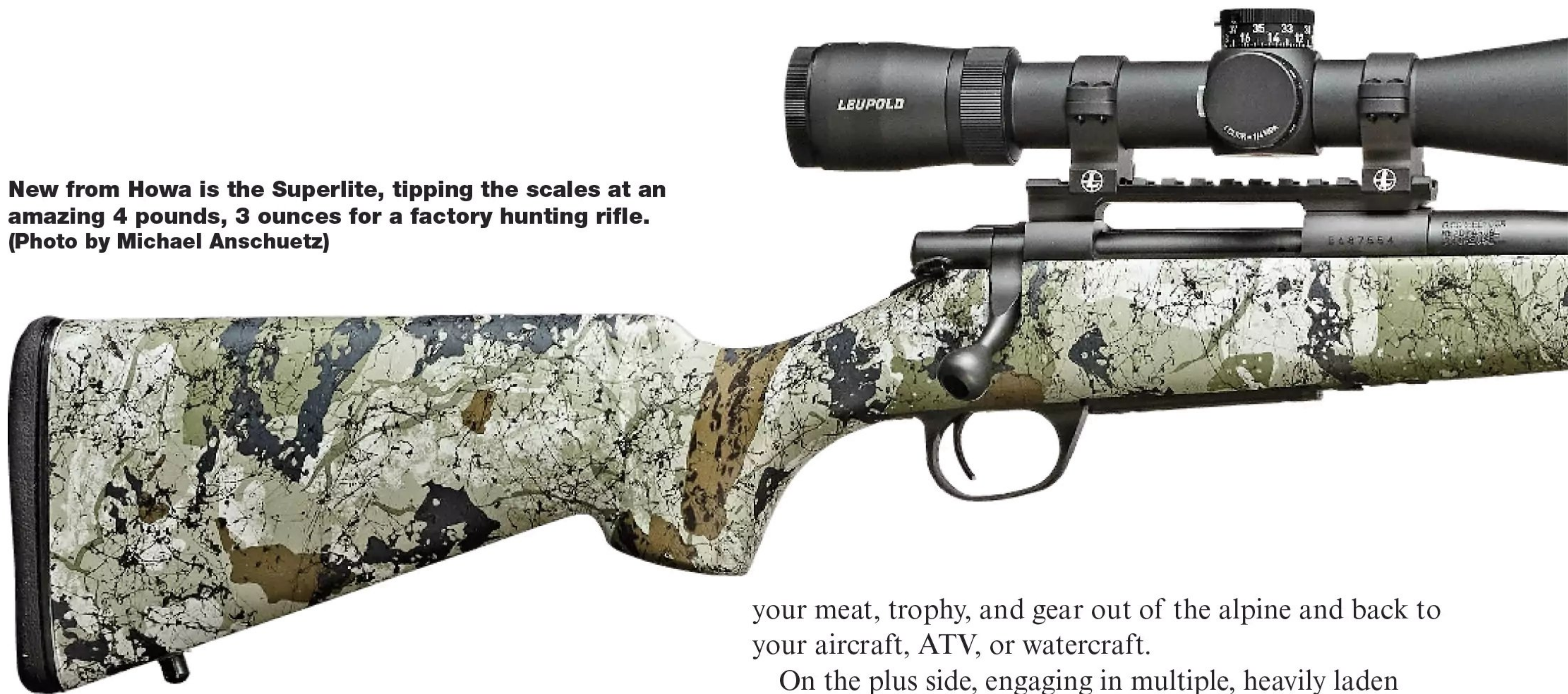




Four days of non-stop trekking across high alpine peaks in Alaska's Brooks mountain range with a 55+ pound pack and 7¾ pound rifle/scope combo was taking its toll. My hunting partner and I were hunting Dall sheep approximately 180 miles north of the Arctic Circle in Alaska's northernmost mountain range and everything necessary for surviving 14 days of this grueling brand of high-country hunting was secured in our packs. These necessities included a sleeping bag, ground-pad, mountain-tent, freeze-dried food, cook-stove, raingear, spotting scope, binoculars, and other critical gear. Every single ounce counts when it comes to pack-weight, and in that regard, I had even cut my tooth-brush down to a mere nub with some bristles attached.

(Photo by Michael Anschuetz)

New from Howa is the Superlite, tipping the scales at an amazing 4 pounds, 3 ounces for a factory hunting rifle. (Photo by Michael Anschuetz)



It was early fall, 2006, and while advances in mountain hunting gear had come a long way, affordable ultra-light rifles were still nearly a decade in the future. This fact was not lost on me after my hunting buddy and I shot our sheep, simultaneously, nearly 12 mountain-miles away from our tethered-down Piper Super-Cub. With two definitive rifle shots, the already challenging 12-mile return trek to our aircraft abruptly increased to 36 miles.

Quite simply, it is nearly impossible to pack your meat, cape, horns, and gear out of the back-country in one trip. This is where the phrase “If it was easy, everyone would be doing it” comes into play, because you have to cover the same rugged terrain three times, in relays, to extract all of

your meat, trophy, and gear out of the alpine and back to your aircraft, ATV, or watercraft.

On the plus side, engaging in multiple, heavily laden sorties over some of the most difficult terrain on the planet makes for an excellent weight-loss program. Conversely, it also carries with it the possibility of suffering career-ending mishaps (up to and including death) in the form of trips, falls, or sports-related injuries.

My 36-mile traipse/death march back to our Super Cub nearly resulted in all of the aforementioned injuries (up to and including death) when a shoulder harness buckle on my pack-frame broke as I was traversing an insanely steep stretch of mountainside directly above a white water river. The massive and instantaneous weight shift resulted in my execution of a series of non-US Olympics team sanctioned head-over feet cartwheels towards a precipice overhanging the torrent below. Luckily, my YouTube “Fail Army” worthy acrobatics, accelerated by 60 pounds of



Weight is critical on certain types of hunts, and the Howa Superlite cuts weight bigtime!



Ghosts of sheep hunts past, an accurate, lightweight, rugged, and reliable rifle is the key to success!



With a 16.25 inch long barrel and an overall length of just 38.75 inches, the Howa Superlite is also super handy.
(Photo by Michael Anschuetz)

sheep-meat acting as a downhill fulcrum, came to a conclusion just shy of the cliff thanks to a collection of plush and relatively comfortable boulders mere feet away from the precipice.

I learned a valuable real-world lesson regarding pack weight on that rookie sheep-hunt that I've carried with me ever since, ounces are your enemy and the rifle you carry is a significant portion of your over-all loadout weight.

While my #1 dad always admonished me that "Cheaters never win," mountain hunting taught me another fact-based maxim: "If you ain't cheatin,' you ain't tryin'!" There's never any shame in capitalizing on modern weapon engineering or component designs, and when the opportunity to acquire a new, extraordinarily lightweight rifle chambered in a tried and true caliber comes along, take advantage of it! Enter the short-barreled Howa Superlite, a mountain-capable bolt-gun weighing in at a mere four pounds, three ounces and chambered in 6.5mm Creedmoor, .308 Winchester, .243 Remington, and 7mm-08 Remington!



Built on a short-action receiver length the Howa Superlite features a M1913 Picatinny optics rail for easy mounting of optics.
(Photo by Michael Anschuetz)

Howa and the Model 1500 Legacy

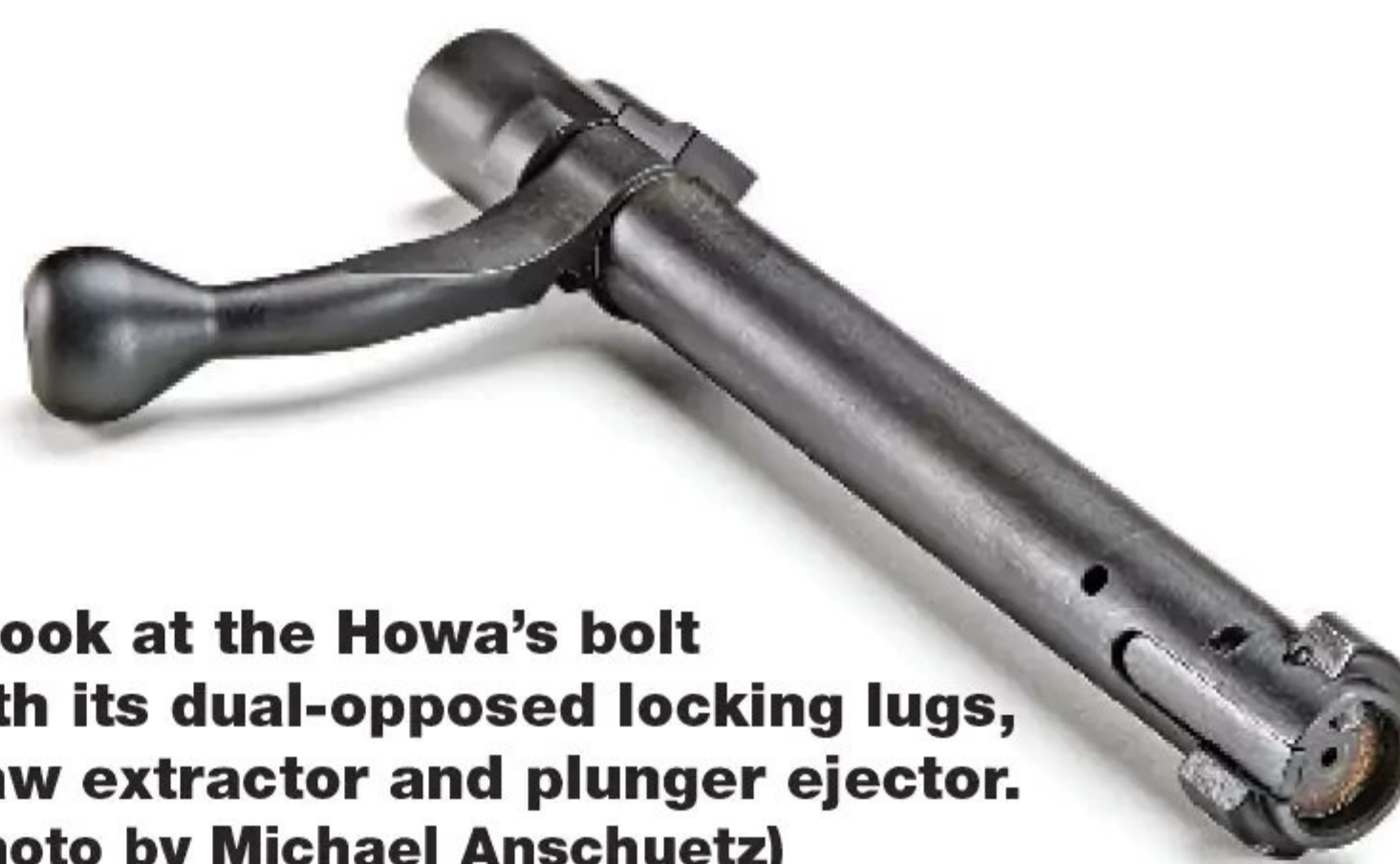
Howa has been designing practical and reliable bolt-action Model 1500 hunting rifles since 1979, but 2024 witnessed their flagship mountain capable bolt-gun evolve into a new iteration: the short-barreled "Superlite."

Howa's original Model 1500 was based on the Weatherby Mark V, although the Japanese firm strayed slightly from the original Weatherby bolt specifications. The Model 1500 has historically been available in Mini-Actions, Short Actions, and Long Actions.

Just 4 Pounds, 3 Ounces: The Howa Superlite

The Superlite I tested was ready to rock and roll right out of the box with the inclusion of an optic-ready M1913 "Picatinny" rail on its receiver. The model I ran through its paces is chambered in 6.5mm Creedmoor. When I unlimbered the test rifle from its shipping container, it just felt too light. After calling upon every shred of my gunwriter super-powers, however, I found that the barrel, bolt, trigger-group, and stock were actually in place and

everything necessary to send it into action was attached and mission-ready. The Superlite isn't just light...it's SUPER LIGHT at a mere four pounds and three ounces.



A look at the Howa's bolt with its dual-opposed locking lugs, claw extractor and plunger ejector.
(Photo by Michael Anschuetz)



The Howa Superlite feeds from a three-round detachable box magazine. (Photo by Michael Anschuetz)



The muzzle features 1/2x28 threads for easy mounting of a suppressor or brake. (Photo by Michael Anschuetz)



A three-position safety is fitted, which is a nice touch. (Photo by Michael Anschuetz)

The rifle’s minimalist heft can be directly attributed to several key components. First and foremost in the stack is its Stocky’s carbon fiber composite “Accublock” stock. Stocky’s wunderkind rifle-stock weighs a mere 17 ounces, yet still manages to feature reinforced receiver walls and a recoil-dampening Limbsaver recoil pad.

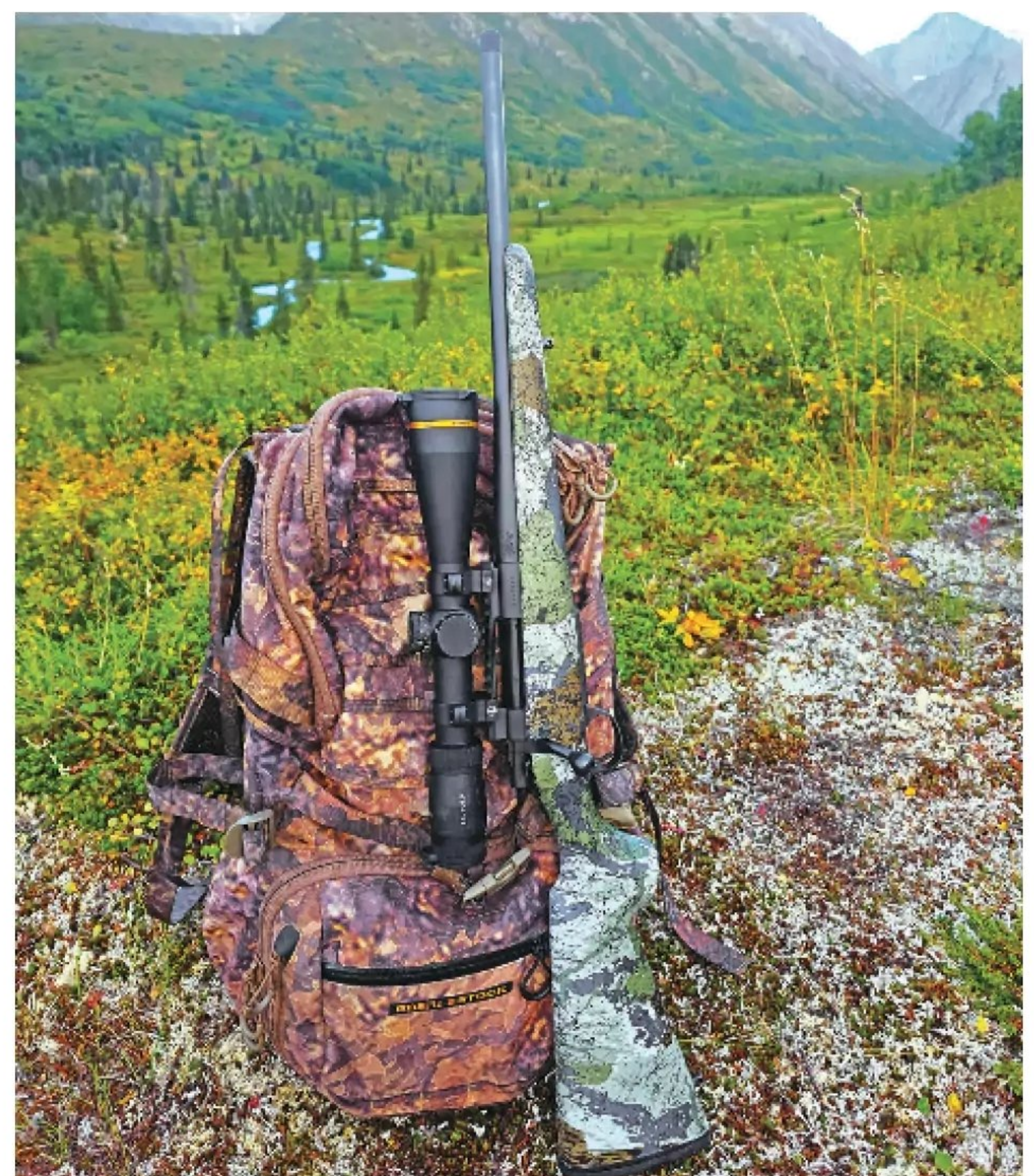
The second weight-saving feature is its lightweight 16.25 inch barrel. It features a one turn in eight inches rifling twist and is factory threaded at the muzzle (1/2x28) for shooters who want to go quiet and add a suppressor, or those considering a Superlite for a younger shooter who could benefit from recoil reduction by way of a muzzle brake. The Superlite’s barrel is thin by design in furtherance of the rifle’s intended purpose as an ultra-lightweight hunting rifle. Unfortunately, there are often several undesirable mannerisms commonly associated with thin rifle barrels:

- Barrel Harmonics: Vibrations that travel through a rifle barrel when firing capable of negatively affecting its downrange accuracy
- Barrel Heat Aggregation: The build-up of heat throughout a rifle’s barrel during multiple-shot strings of fire that results in a degradation of downrange performance/accuracy

Since everyone hates a “spoiler” and writers love a suspense inducing cliffhanger, we’ll discuss the Superlite barrel’s “Lightweight Design vs. Harmonics & Heat”



The 16.25-inch short-barrel Superlite tested by Rambo is also available with a longer 20-inch barrel as seen here.



Engineered for packability, the Superlite and the Eberlestock X-1 Euro pack.

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performance during the range performance briefing.

The Superlite’s HACT (Howa Actuator Controlled Trigger) is engineered to mitigate trigger creep. The two-stage trigger on our test weapon averaged a 2.8 pound average pull. The thumb-activated safety is a simple three-position push-forward, pull-back design which also locks the bolt shut. The Superlite’s Mauser-esque safety is something I always look for in a hunting rifle. This safeguard is critical when traversing heavily wooded or hazardous terrain that has a penchant for unlocking the bolt and allowing gravity to pull it downward, leaving your chamber vulnerable to bits of foliage, dirt, sand, and other detritus that can find its way into the action.

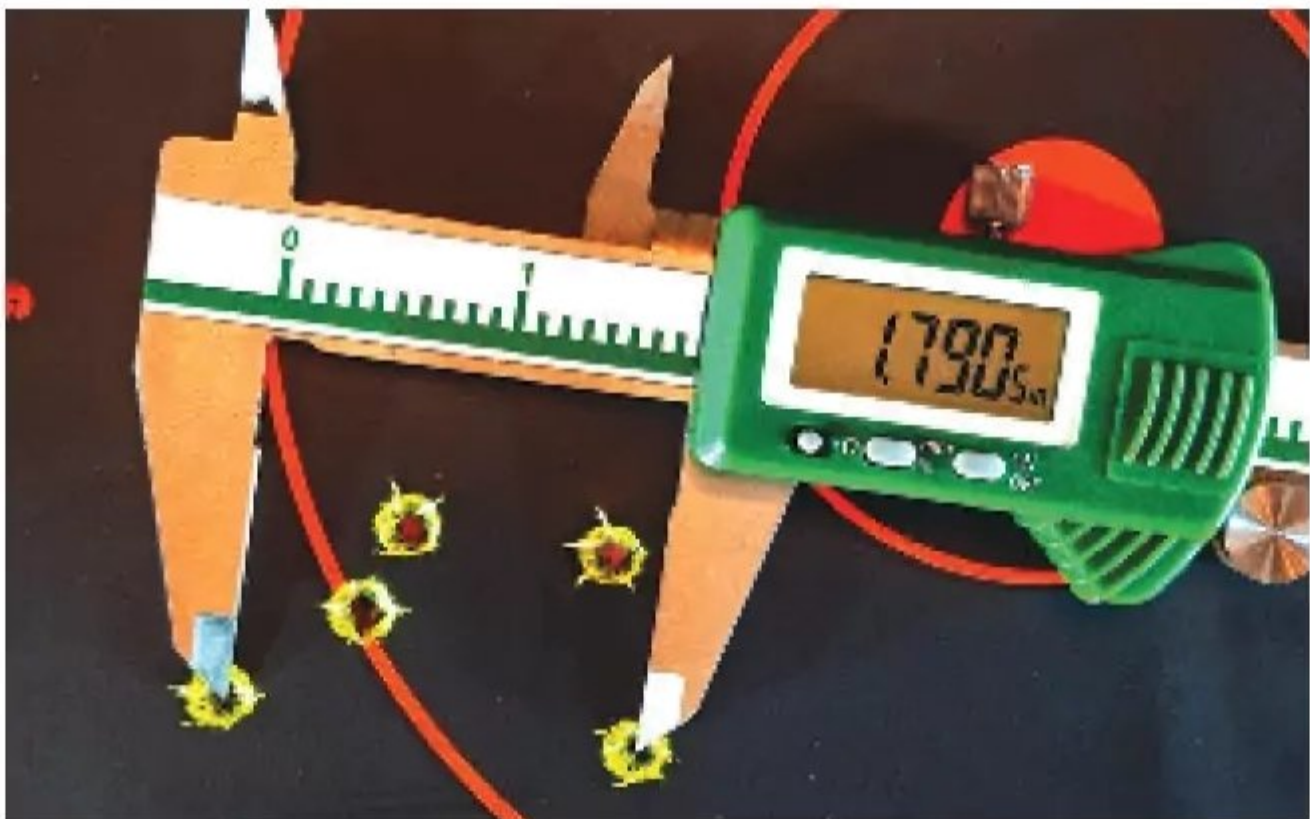
The Superlite’s bolt features dual-opposed locking lugs. An M16 stylized extractor plays its part in reliable functionality when the time to “get it on” is at hand. The bolt’s design incorporates small but effective over-pressure vent openings and a bolt face guaranteed by Howa to be true and square to the chamber. The rifle’s ability to inflict 3+1 rounds of battle damage on downrange game can be attributed to its flush/detachable single stack polymer magazine.

Range Day: A Short Barrel with a Long Reach

Show me a shooter who claims they have never silently judged the weapons or shooting gear of another at the



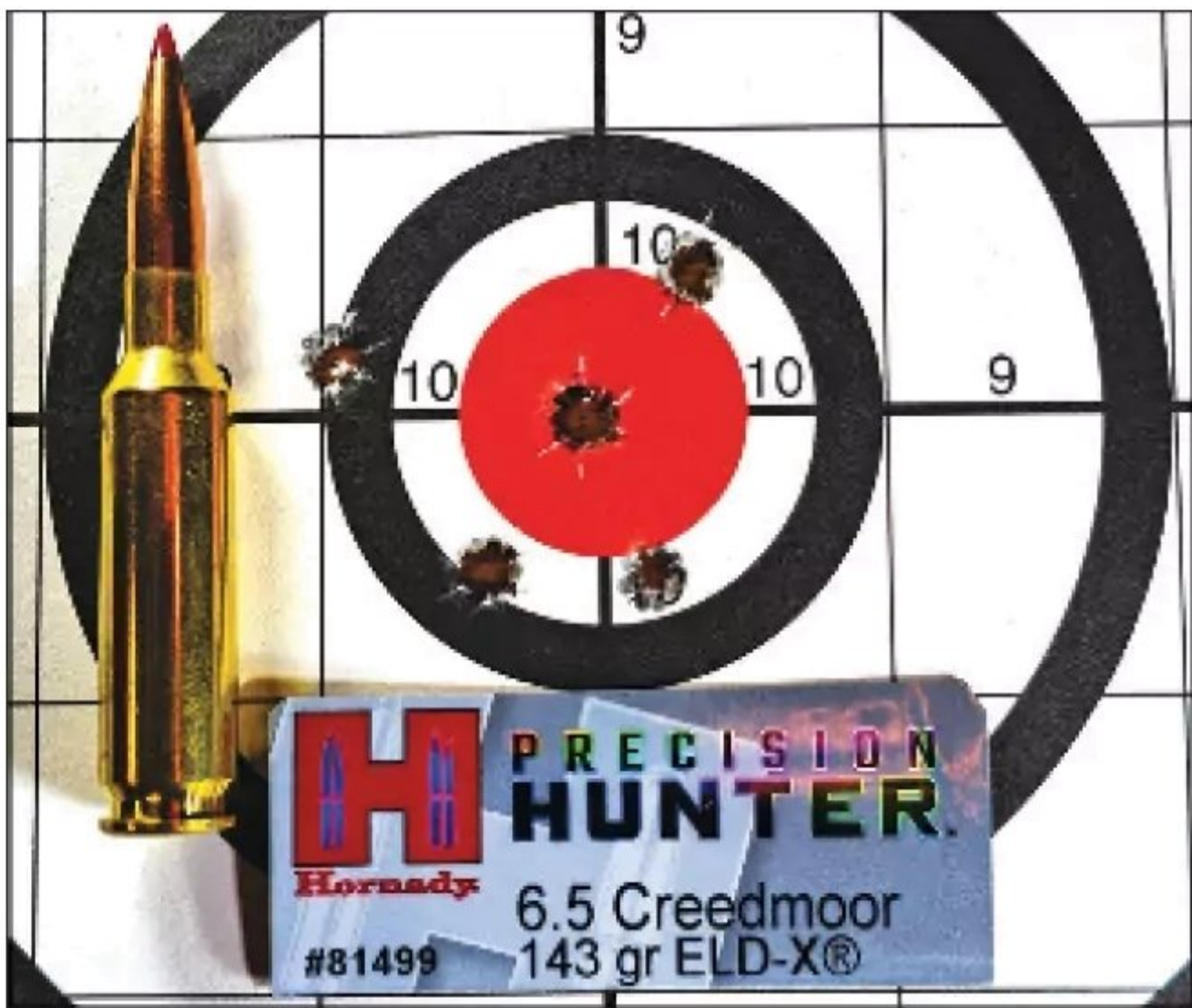
The Superlite’s pet load, Federal Premium 140-grain Gold Medal CenterStrike, posted this group at 100 yards.



At 300 yards the Howa Superlite posted this five-shot group with Federal’s 140-grain Gold Medal CenterStrike load.



A look at how Hornady’s 140-grain ELD Match load performed at 100 yards.



Not a bad five-shot 100 yard group from a 4 pound hunting rifle!

range and I’ll show you someone who better buy pants made out of Nomex. When I produced the short-barreled Superlite from its case and made ready to start the Howa’s range testing, the side-eyed, thinly-veiled smirks of shooters with bull and standard barreled long guns abounded. After the rifle was zeroed, however, these uncultured stares ceased, because the Superlite can perform downrange, even with its short, thin barrel.

ACCURACY CHART LEGACY SPORTS HOWA SUPERLITE 6.5MM CREEDMOOR				
100 YARD ACCURACY CHART				
Load	Bullet Weight (gr)	Muzzle Velocity (fps)	Best 5-shot group (in.)	Average Group (in.)
Federal Premium CenterStrike	140	2675	0.75	0.97
Hornady ELD Match	140	2710	0.94	1.05
Hornady Precision Hunter ELD-X	143	2700	1.1	1.4
Notes: Accuracy results are averages of three five-shot groups fired from a rest at 100 yards.				
300 YARD ACCURACY CHART				
Load	Bullet Weight (gr)	Muzzle Velocity (fps)	Best 5-shot group (in.)	Average Group (in.)
Federal Premium CenterStrike	140	2675	1.79	2.04
Hornady ELD Match	140	2710	1.84	2.22
Hornady Precision Hunter ELD-X	143	2700	1.92	2.44
Notes: Accuracy results are averages of three five-shot groups fired from a rest at 300 yards.				

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Standing, kneeling, sitting, or prone the Howa Superlite is easy to wield and down to clown!

The temperature on range day was 70 degrees, sub-tropical by Alaska's late-August standards. I was convinced these temps weren't going to do the Superlite's barrel any favors, especially with only 2–3 minute intervals between shots. I was wrong, and the proof is in the average group sizes at 100 and 300 yards.

The Superlite was unbelievably accurate, and several other shooters didn't hide their surprise at the little rifle's consistency. Its diet consisted of Federal Premium's 140-grain Gold Medal Center Strike, Hornady's 140-grain ELD Match, and Hornady's 143-grain ELD-X Precision Hunter.

The pet load for the Superlite was the Federal Premium 140-grain Gold Medal Center Strike. It fired a "Best-In-Show" 0.75-inch five-shot group at 100 yards with an average five-shot group size of 0.97-inches. The cartridge's performance continued at the 300 yard line with its "bestie" five-shot group size measuring 1.79-inches and its average five-shot size registering 2.04-inches. These groups were so extraordinary for such a short, thin-barreled rack-grade rifle, I briefly considered gathering signed witness affidavits from the shooters observing the rifle's performance at nearby benches.

The Hornady 140-grain ELD Match followed the Center Strikes closely with a 100 yard best grouping of 0.94-inches and a 1.05-inch group average. The cartridge's best five-shot group at 300 yards was an impressive 1.84 and it averaged 2.22 inches. Hornady's 143-grain ELD-X Precision hunter's best group from the 100 yard line was 1.18-inches with a 1.42 inch five-shot group average. At 300 yards it launched a 1.92-inch "bestie" with a 2.44-inch five-shot average.

At the conclusion of accuracy testing, the post-mortem on the Superlite's performance was a happy one. The trigger is light, crisp (with a barely noticeable "warning scratch" just before breakover) and consistent. More importantly, the

UP-CLOSE AND PERSONAL IN THE ALPINE...NO MATTER THE CONDITIONS LEUPOLD'S VX-6HD 3-18X44 FIREDOT IS AN ABLE HUNTING PARTNER!

Our range-testing of the Howa Superlite, would be augmented by Leupold's VX-6HD 3-18x44 "Firedot" rifle scope. The optic's magnification range is perfect for the alpine where long shooting distances are sometimes necessitated by terrain features that preclude a "close-stalk" on a game animal.

The VX-6HD's glass is crystal clear. Combine this with its 44mm objective and you have a hunting optic that can get you on target in some of the murkiest conditions out there. Leupold's proprietary "ZeroLock" elevation dial allows it to be locked in place and eliminates the possibility of accidental manipulation. The scope also features Leupold's "Custom Dial System," which provides the shooter with the option to purchase additional dials tuned to the ballistics of their chosen cartridge.

Leupold guarantees the optic to be waterproof, fog proof, and shock resis-



(Photo by Michael Anschuetz)

Leupold's VX-6HD 3-18x44 FireDot proved an excellent match for the Howa Superlite hunting rifle.



(Photo by Michael Anschuetz)

At 13.5 inches long and weighing just over 21 ounces the 3-18x44mm Leupold packs a lot of performance.

tant, all mandatory prerequisites for a backcountry rifle scope. Magnification runs from 3x all the way up to 18x allowing it to most anything a hunter may require. Objective lens diameter is 44mm. There is one other feature of the VX-6HD I believe is also indispensable for any rifle going into the back country where an encounter with dangerous game at close quarters may occur, an illuminated reticle. Enter... the FireDot!

The VX-6HD utilizes CR-2032 powered fiber optics to illuminate the reticle with a definitive, highly defined, laser-perfect red dot. This red-dot feature has multiple brightness levels, can be activated while the rifle is shouldered and the shooter is on the move, and incorporates motion sensor technology to shut down the illuminated reticle when the weapon is inactive



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Superlite’s barrel did not succumb to the laws of physics/ metallurgy described earlier and retained better accuracy than many rifles sporting longer barrels of heavier thickness.

The Superlite After-Action Report

The Superlite is a purpose-built rifle for those who want an affordable, accurate, extraordinarily lightweight mountain rifle that doesn’t require selling a kidney on the Chinese black market or striking up an infernally bad deal with “Old Scratch” at some lonely crossroads below the Mason-Dixon line. It is also an excellent choice for outdoorsmen who are on the prowl for a hunting rifle for younger shooters, as it combines conservative weight/pro-file characteristics and capable downrange performance with a manageable amount of recoil.

The rifle’s action isn’t buttery-smooth like a high-end custom mountain rifle, but it is reliable. Two hundred rounds downrange without a single hang-up from the rifle’s bolt/three-round detachable magazine combo proved this. If your path takes you into the high alpine or you have a younger shooter in need of a rifle that will propel him/her with authority through their early medium game hunting years, the Howa short-barreled Superlite is a superb rifle that is not only light on your shoulder, but also your credit card! MSRP on walnut stocked models start at

HOWA MODEL 1500 SHORT-BARRELED SUPERLITE	
Action Type:	Manual rotating bolt
Caliber:	6.5 Creedmoor (tested); also available in .308 Winchester, .243 Remington, and 7mm-08 Remington
Capacity:	3+1 detachable box magazine
Trigger:	Howa 2-Stage H.A.C.T. (Howa Actuator Controlled Trigger)
Barrel:	6.25 inch, 1-8 inch RH twist
Muzzle Threads:	Yes, 1/2x28
Overall Length:	38.75 inches
Weight:	4 pounds, 3 ounces
Safety:	Three-position wing type
Stock:	Stocky’s carbon fiber composite “Accublock” (17 ounces with Limbsaver recoil pad)
Finish:	Matte-black
Sights:	None, One-Piece Picatinny rail
MSRP:	Starting at \$1,089.00
Importer:	Legacy Sports, www.HowaUSA.com

\$649 while synthetic stocked models start at \$1,089. For more information visit www.HowaUSA.com. **FN**

for a period of five minutes. While the FireDot feature is great for standard hunting/shooting applications in abysmal, dark weather, it can also be a lifesaver during close quarter encoun-

ters with bears or other critters intent on turning you into a “Not-So-Happy-Meal.” For CQB (Close Quarter Battle), just activate the FireDot, shut the front scope cover, keep both eyes open,

and BOOM...you have a reflex-style sight that can save your bacon in danger-close situations. MSRP is \$1,899.99 and you can learn more at www.Leupold.com. **FN**



Turrets are available delineated in either MOA, as seen here, or Mils. (Photo by Michael Anschuetz)



Magnification zooms from 3x all the way up to 18x making for a very versatile optic. (Photo by Michael Anschuetz)

LEUPOLD VX-6HD 3-18X44 FIREDOT	
Magnification:	3x to 18x
Objective Lens Diameter:	44mm
Length:	13.5 inches
Reticle:	Second Focal Plane / Illuminated FireDot Duplex with motion sensing technology for reduction in battery consumption
Battery:	CR-2032
Adjustment Range:	22 Mil Elevation, 22 Mil Windage
Housing Material:	Aluminum
Resistance to Environmental Conditions:	Fogproof, Shock Resistant, and Waterproof
Weight:	21.6 Ounces
Finish:	Matte Black
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Manufacturer:	Leupold, www.Leupold.com

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New from Bear Creek Arsenal is the BC-201 .22 LR semi-automatic rifle.

BEAR CREEK'S BC-201 RIFLE

This New .22 LR Offering From Bear Creek Arsenal has Some Great Features, but How Does It Perform?

By David M. Fortier, Executive Editor Photography by Ashley Jaderborg

Now, in decades gone by, they used to say there were only two types of riflemen, those which owned Marlin Model 60s and those who fancied Ruger's 10/22. Both of these designs have proven hugely popular, with over 11 million Model 60s and well over 7 million 10/22s being sold. Many a young shooter has cut his teeth on one or the other. My first semi-automatic rifle was a Marlin Model 60 and I still own a few today. So, I am an unabashed Model 60 fan. That said, there is no argument over which rifle series has greater aftermarket support. When it comes to receivers, barrels, parts and accessories, the 10/22 rules the roost.

With that in mind, I decided to take a look at a new rimfire offering from Bear Creek Arsenal. While Bear Creek Arsenal is known for their economical AR-15 rifles, their new BC-201 is based on the hugely popular 10/22.

Yes, a 10/22, but with a number of upscale features. When Bear Creek began designing their BC-201 they decided to incorporate a number of features which would appeal to serious shooters. This sets it apart from a "budget" style rifle. I'll delve into the specifics in a moment, but let's first



The Bear Creek BC-201, seen here with some aftermarket accessories, is a 10/22 based semi-auto rifle fitted with a 16-inch stainless steel match barrel.

Now, THIS is a Knife!

This 16" full tang stainless steel blade is not for the faint of heart —now **ONLY \$99!**

In the blockbuster film, when a strapping Australian crocodile hunter and a lovely American journalist were getting robbed at knife point by a couple of young thugs in New York, the tough Aussie pulls out his dagger and says "That's not a knife, THIS is a knife!" Of course, the thugs scattered and he continued on to win the reporter's heart.

Our Aussie friend would approve of our rendition of his "knife." Forged of high grade 420 surgical stainless steel, this knife is an impressive 16" from pommel to point. And, the blade is full tang, meaning it runs the entirety of the knife, even though part of it is under wraps in the natural bone and wood handle.

Secured in a tooled leather sheath, this is one impressive knife, with an equally impressive price.

This fusion of substance and style can garner a high price tag out in the marketplace. In fact, we found full tang, stainless steel blades with bone handles in excess of \$2,000. Well, that won't cut it around here. We have mastered the hunt for the best deal, and in turn pass the spoils on to our customers.

But we don't stop there. While supplies last, we'll include a pair of \$99, 8x21 power compact binoculars, *and* a genuine leather sheath **FREE** when you purchase the **Down Under Bowie Knife**.

Your satisfaction is 100% guaranteed. Feel the knife in your hands, wear it on your hip, inspect the impeccable craftsmanship. If you don't feel like we cut you a fair deal, send it back within 30 days for a complete refund of the item price.

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— H., Arvada, CO



Rating of A+



touch on why you should consider a rifle chambered in .22 Long Rifle.

The diminutive .22 LR is a fantastic hold-over from the 19th Century. It's small, light, fairly quiet, easy to suppress, capable of startling accuracy and very effective if properly placed. It's a wise choice to have some form of .22 LR in your tool box. Hunting rifles in this caliber tend to be light, easy to carry and economical. The little rimfire has long been the go-to cartridge for putting meat on the table.

With the current high cost of center-fire rifle ammunition, the economical .22 LR makes a lot of sense. It is a fantastic round for plinking, recreational shooting, training, and having fun with family and friends. Due to its low cost, you can spend productive time on the range without setting your wallet on fire. This makes it an excellent cartridge for marksmanship training. I shoot a large amount of .22 LR each month practicing, trying new things and learning. Of course, the .22 LR is also a very popular competition cartridge.

In years past, .22 LR ammunition was widely available in grades running from economical bulk pack all the way up to loads suitable for international competition. Better still, much of it was priced very economically. Sadly, all of that changed with the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting and the following panic buying of firearms and ammunition. The one caliber many shooters and hunters never dreamed would disappear was .22 LR. But it did. After the shelves were stripped bare, and remained that way, prices went through the roof. 550 round bulk packs which once sold for \$15 suddenly sold for \$100, if you could find them.



The BC-201 is equipped with Hogue's popular over-molded stock.

This had the unfortunate effect that many people who began shooting in the years after the Sandy Hook tragedy were never introduced to .22 LR firearms. So, many are unaware of their value for recreation, hunting, serious training or competition. Luckily .22 LR ammo prices have dropped and there are great deals to be had. I have been "buying it cheap and stacking it deep" as the old saying goes! Recently, I have been buying cases of 5,000 rounds of .22 LR for the same price 500 rounds of .223 Rem costs. That is a lot of shooting, and fun at an economical price. I highly recommend having a firearm or two in .22 LR in your collection. It makes good economic sense, especially in the times we live in.

My love of .22 LR rimfires piqued my interest in seeing how Bear Creek Arsenal's BC-201 rifle would perform. When I first heard Bear Creek was going to be offering a model based upon the 10/22 design I expected it to be "cheap" economy model. I was surprised to learn Bear Creek went in a different direction. The BC-201 is built on a beefy billet receiver machined from 7075 T6 aluminum



The BC-201 features a billet receiver machined from 7075 T6 aluminum with an integral MIL STD 1913 rail for mounting optics.



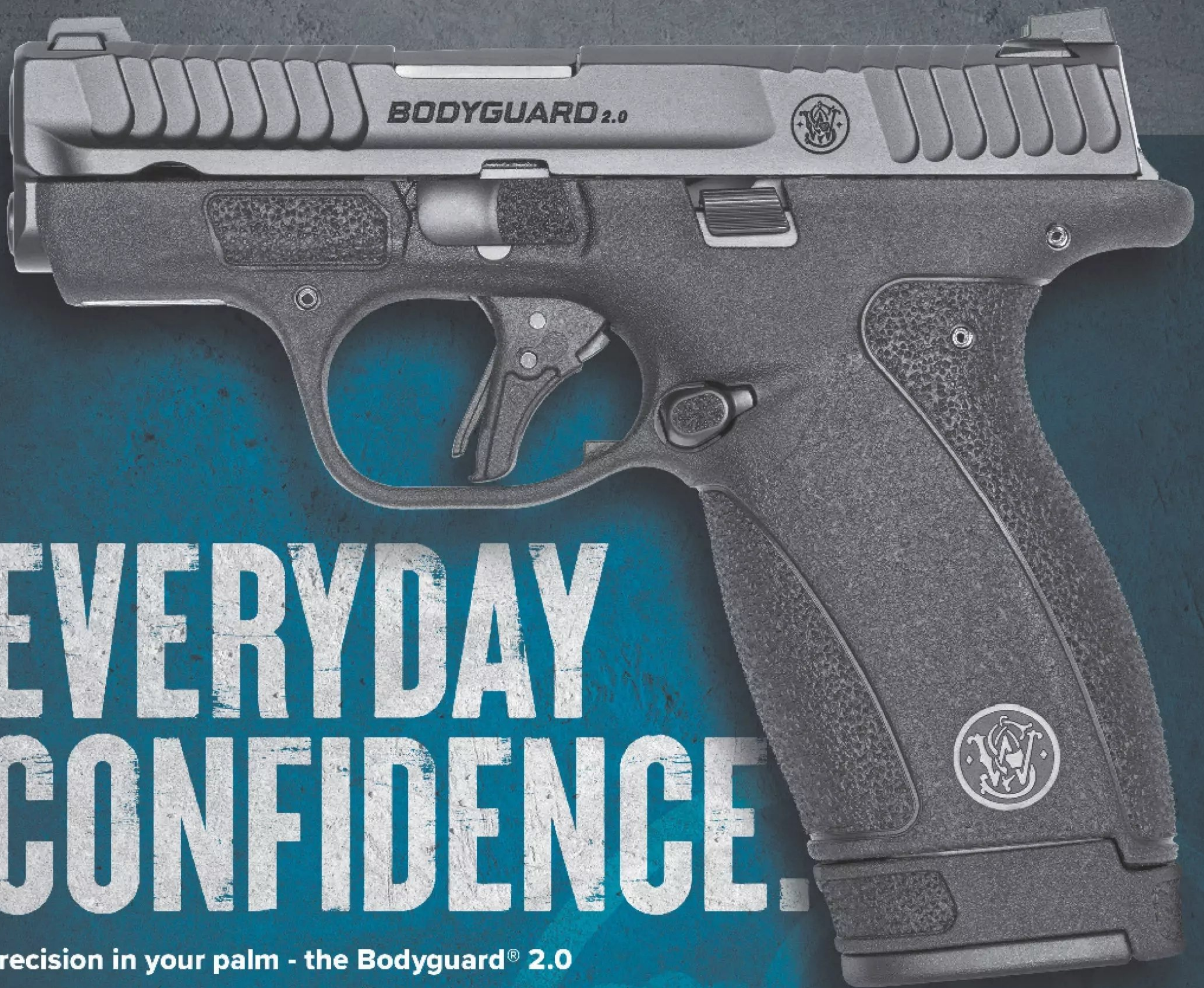
A crisp and light trigger is standard along with a cross-bolt safety, manual bolt hold-open, and ambidextrous magazine release.



Peering inside the BC-201's action from below reveals the guide rod the bolt runs on along with the fixed ejector and claw extractor.



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BEAR CREEK'S BC-201 RIFLE



The Hogue stock is nicely contoured and features a non-slip buttpad.



While the BC-201 comes with one 10-round rotary magazine a Ruger 25-round 10/22 magazine adds to the fun.

which incorporates an integral MIL STD 1913 Picatinny rail machined into the top. This facilitates quick and easy mounting of optical sights. Inside the receiver is what Bear Creek refers to as a “high-performance bolt with an enhanced firing pin” which they claim provides both improved durability and accuracy. The bolt is machined from E9310 steel. Bear Creek redesigned the side-charging handle and patented their design. Their extended charging handle is large, nicely contoured and easy to manipulate.



Initial testing revealed the rifle to have feeding issues with .22 LR high velocity ammunition while standard velocity and subsonic loads ran flawlessly.



The BC-201 feels good in the hands and carries/shoulders well.

Installed in the front of the action is a 16-inch match grade barrel machined from 416R stainless steel. The heavy profile barrel has a diameter of 0.920-inch and features an 11-degree target crown on the muzzle. While the muzzle of my review rifle is not threaded, Bear Creek will be offering rifles with threaded muzzles in the near future. Keep in mind sound suppressors are exploding in popularity. This in turn has led to increased demand for firearms which can mount them straight out of the box. Much to their credit Bear Creek has responded by offering what many shooters are asking for.

The barreled action is installed in one of Hogue's popular over-molded stocks. The stock is comfortable and features sling studs on the butt and fore-arm. Plus, the stock has classic looks. Examining the BC-201 you'll note the controls are pretty straight forward. It has an easy to operate

cross-bolt safety in front of the trigger guard. A quick push and you can go from safe to fire, if you're right handed. The design also incorporates an ambidextrous paddle style magazine release. This is long enough to be easy



Unlike Marlin's 795, which feeds from a conventional box magazine on the left, the BC-201 feeds from a 10-round rotary magazine seen on the right.

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Short and handy, the BC-201 would be a capable small game gun.

to manipulate. Plus, you can manually lock the bolt open. The bolt handle is mounted on the right side of the receiver.

The rifle feeds from standard 10-round 10/22 magazines, and one came with the rifle. It will also feed from other capacity 10/22 pattern magazines and I used a 25-round Ruger magazine during testing as well. The BC-201 does feel good in the hands and shoulders nicely. Bare weight of the rifle is 6.5 pounds. Handling wise it, well, feels like a high-end 10/22 with a bull barrel. The Hogue stock is comfortable and nicely contoured.

To see how Bear Creek's BC-201 performed, I mounted a Swampfox 1-10x24mm Arrowhead scope. This is a second focal plane design, with a bright illuminated "Guerilla Dot Mil Long" reticle. Usually, and in the past, I have gravitated towards 2-7x scopes on my .22 LR rifles, but this Swampfox Arrowhead seemed the perfect size and offered magnification running from 1x to 10x. Typically, scopes in this particular magnification range are scary expensive but this model of Arrowhead has a reasonable MSRP of \$495. I then added a leather Montana sling and a quick detach bipod. All dressed up, with a 25-round magazine inserted, the BC-201 looked really nice.



The BC-201 proved a lot of fun on the range and thanks to its .22 LR chambering it's economical to shoot.



The controls are well-placed and easy to manipulate and reloads are quick and easy.

Next, I rummaged about in my gun room and came up with a variety of .22 LR loads for testing. I tried to include a good mix to see what the rifle is capable of. Four five-shot groups were fired from a rest with each load at 50 yards. Groups fired at 25 yards would have looked better, but I feel 50 yards tells a bit more about what a rimfire rifle is capable of.

I found the Bear Creek very comfortable to fire from the bench. The trigger surprised me as it is both light and breaks crisply. This trigger is a definite aid to accuracy. The reticle in the Swampfox scope also made shooting groups on paper easier. Magazines inserted easily, locked into place securely, and rounds fed smoothly from the magazine. The safety clicked nicely from safe to fire and the stock is comfortable. I had perfect test conditions on one day at the range while on another I had winds gusting up from eight to 12 mph, so less than ideal. That said, the BC-201 proved to be a lot of fun.

Unfortunately, everything did not go smoothly at the range. As soon as I began testing, I noted this rifle did not like high velocity ammunition. I experienced consistent failures to feed as I began to zero the optic and get a feel for the rifle. This happened with ammunition with an advertised muzzle velocity of 1,255 fps and higher. Switching to standard velocity and subsonic ammunition cured the feeding issue and the BC-201 proceeded to run flawlessly. This is one area where .22 Long Rifle chambered firearms differ from their center-fire relatives. Semi-automatic rimfires typically prefer certain types of ammunition. Often, it has to do with a velocity range and sometimes with a bullet shape. I have a .22 LR handgun which will only reliably function with loads with an advertised velocity of 1,255 fps and higher. In the case of the BC-201, this example simply prefers standard velocity and subsonic ammunition.

A close-up, high-angle shot of a person's hands holding a Tokarev TT12 shotgun. The person is wearing a black jacket and tan pants. The background is a bright, hazy sky. The text 'ТОКАРЕВ' is in white, 'TT12' is in large white and red letters, and a red star is positioned above the main headline.

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A five-shot group fired at 50 yards using Aguila's 40-grain SE Subsonic load.

ACCURACY CHART BEAR CREEK ARSENAL BC-201				
Load	Bullet Weight (grains)	Velocity (fps)	SD	50 yards (inches)
Aguila Super SE Subsonic RN	40	982	10.4	.9
Aguila Super SE RN	40	1,070	16.8	1.4
CCI Mini-Mag Segmented HP	40	1,167	21.6	1.5
Wolf Match Target RN	40	1,063	11.9	1.3
Winchester Subsonic 42 MAX	42	1,030	18.2	1.9
CCI Quiet-22 Semi-Auto RN	45	823	23	2
Groups are an average of four five-shot groups fired from a rest at 100 yards. Velocity readings recorded using a LabRadar Doppler radar chronograph at an ambient temperature of 100 degrees F 1030 feet above Sea Level.				

Accuracy from the bench at 50 yards ranged from so-so to pretty good depending upon the load. Best accuracy was obtained using Aguila's 40-grain SE Subsonic load which averaged 0.9 inch at 982 fps. This load did a best of four rounds in 0.6 of an inch with the fifth bringing the group out to 0.9 of an inch. Next up was Wolf Performance Ammunition's Match Target 40-grain load which averaged 1.3 inches at 1,063 fps. This load did a best of four rounds in 0.65 of an inch with all five in 1.3 inches. Finishing out the top three was Aguila again, this time with their Super Extra standard velocity load. This averaged 1.4 inches at 1,070 fps and had a best of four rounds in 0.9 of an inch and all five in 1.2 inches.

With my 50 yard bench testing completed, I moved on to some fun recreational shooting. I began by firing the BC-201 off the bipod at 100 yards. I have various steel silhouettes, plates, and plate racks set up on my range. These proved no match for the Bear Creek/Swampfox combo. During this portion of testing, I noted the BC-201's over-size charging handle works really well with an optic mounted. Without an optic mounted it looks a bit large, but after you mount a scope you can see it's a very practical size.

Next, I moved to shooting from position at 75, 50, and 25 yards. I have a small Action Target Rimfire dueling tree, and the BC-201 and a 25-round magazine proved a lot of fun. The rifle balances well, hangs nicely offhand, and would be a very capable small game gun. It's certainly a fun plinker. Again, the trigger is very good on this example which enhanced its performance.

Since its introduction, the 10/22 has steadily become very popular and today the design is an accepted standard for many companies building rifles, parts and accessories. A number of my friends swear by them. The mechanism is well thought out and simple to operate. Handy, reliable, fun to shoot, and accurate it's easy to see why the basic 10/22 design has flourished. Bear Creek Arsenal's BC-201 is an appealing offering with some nice features. Suggested retail of this model is \$345. It's a pretty solid value when compared to competing models with similar features. **FN**



The BC-201 had no trouble cleaning the paint off Fortier's dueling tree, it's a great plinker!

BEAR CREEK ARSENAL BC-201	
Action:	Semi-Auto via Blow-Back
Caliber:	.22 LR
Barrel:	16-in. stainless steel match grade
Rifling:	1-16 in. twist
Overall Length:	34 in.
Length of Pull:	13.5 in.
Trigger:	Single-stage, 3.5 lbs.
Feed:	10-round detachable rotary magazines
Stock:	Hogue over-molded
Weight:	6 lbs.
Finish:	Black anodized with stainless barrel
MSRP:	\$345
Contact:	(919) 439-8133, BearCreekArsenal.com

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Fatih's B380 is a more or less faithful reproduction of the old-school Beretta 84, an aluminum-framed 13-shot .380 ACP. Big for a modern .380, but very fun to shoot.

THE TISAS **FATIH** B380

Old-School .380 Pistol

By James Tarr

The TISAS Fatih B380 is a very interesting pistol to me. Not just because I'm a huge fan of the Beretta 84, upon which this 13-shot .380 is based, but because I also recently in these pages reviewed the new Beretta 80X Cheetah, a modernized version of the 84. And I have to say...I actually like the Turkish-made bargain-priced Fatih better than I do the modernized tricked-out Beretta 80X. Which is definitely not what I expected.

First off, it's not *Faith*, it's Fatih, which means Conqueror in Turkish. These guns are made in Turkey by TISAS, and imported by TISAS USA. Naming a .380 "Conqueror" seems a bit like calling a big guy "Tiny," but I'll leave that alone. I will say that this is not a tiny gun which will fit easily into a pocket—this is an all-metal .380 ACP the size and weight of modern sub-compact and/or compact 9mms...but

that means you can actually get all your fingers on it and shoot it fast and accurately. More on that in a bit.

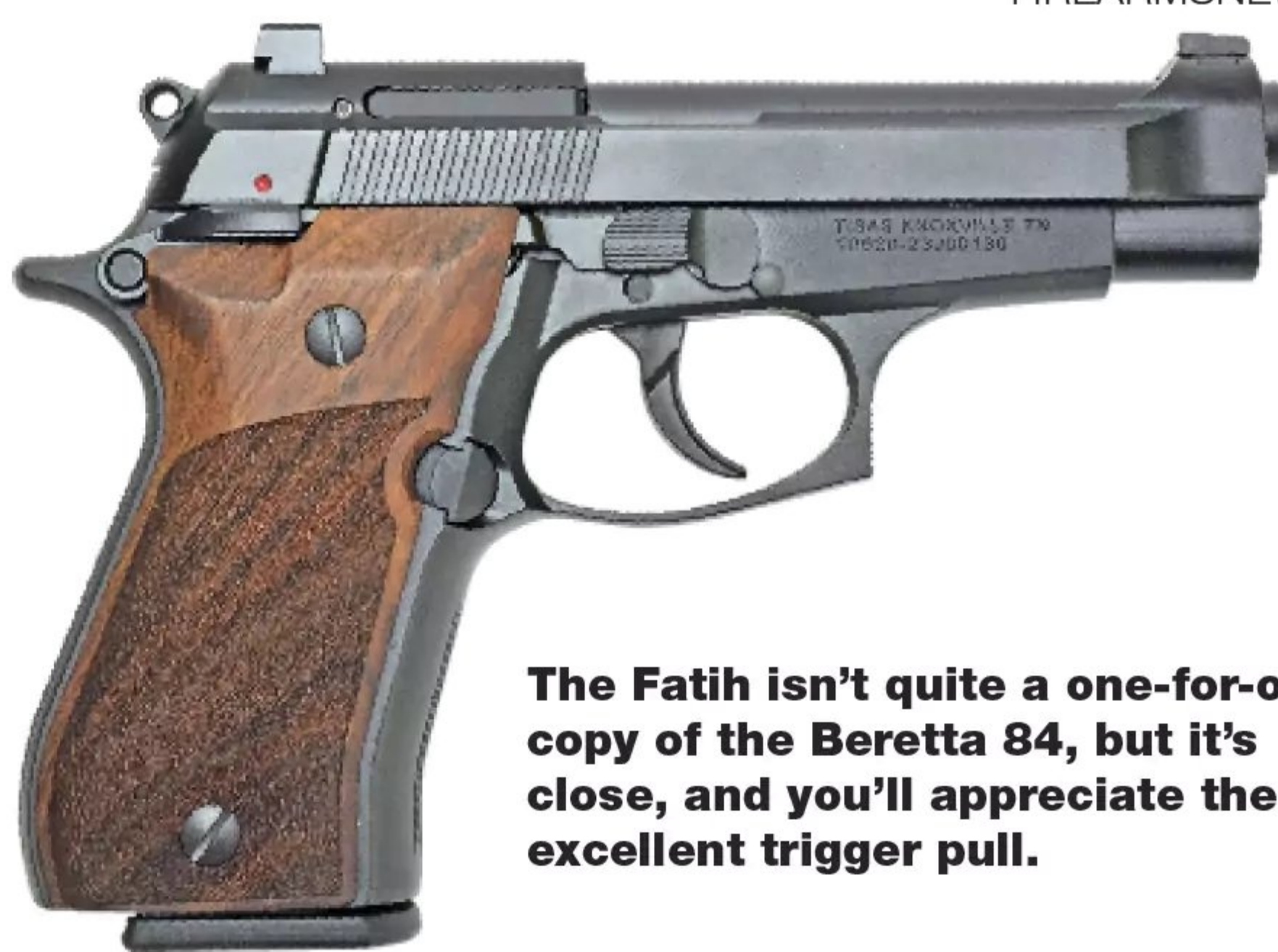
The TISAS Fatih is an aluminum-framed DA/SA .380 ACP semi-auto with 13+1 capacity. It is not an exact copy of the Beretta 84, but it is darn close—most importantly, it uses Beretta 84-pattern magazines and grips.

The Fatih has a 3.98-inch barrel that has been button rifled. A barrel that length will maximize the performance of the .380 ACP. Overall, the pistol is 6.9-inches long, 4.9-inches tall with a magazine inserted, and 1.35-inches wide at the rather fat grips. The slide itself is only 1.05-inches wide. With an empty magazine in place, this pistol weighed 23.5-ounces according to my digital scale.

This is a double-action/single-action (DA/SA) pistol, where the first shot can be fired double action (pulling



TISAS' Fatih has a matte black Cerakote finish and Turkish walnut grips. It has timeless, classic looks.



The Fatih isn't quite a one-for-one copy of the Beretta 84, but it's close, and you'll appreciate the excellent trigger pull.

the trigger brings the hammer back and then lets it fall) and subsequent shots are fired single action (the cycling slide cocks the hammer). But you'll note the bilateral safety at the rear of the frame. Up for safe, and down for fire which reveals a red dot on the slide. This safety allows you, if you so desire, to carry this pistol cocked-and-locked (the hammer cocked and the safety engaged), so every shot is fired single action. The safety has very positive clicks up and down—perfect.

Because there is no decocker, if you want to fire that first shot DA, you'll have to lower the hammer by hand, firmly holding onto the hammer (preferably between thumb and forefinger) and pointing it in a safe direction before pulling the trigger and easing the hammer forward.

I am the proud and happy owner of a Beretta 84F, which you'll see in some of these photos for comparison. I bought it in the early-mid '90s. Even though the safety on the Beretta looks the same, it isn't—when the hammer is cocked on the Beretta, pushing up on the safety decocks the hammer, so you can't carry the older Beretta cocked-and-locked. You can carry the new Beretta 80X Cheetah cocked-and-locked. I am generally a big fan of cocked-and-locked carry, and wish my older Beretta gave me that option, but a DA first shot for a gun this size/type isn't a deal breaker, as they generally have good trigger pulls. Then again, my old Beretta has a magazine disconnect safety, which I hate. The Fatih does not.

The Fatih, as I wrote, is a near-clone of the Beretta 84. In design, this pistol looks like a shrunken version of the



TISAS' Fatih B380 on the left compared to Tarr's original 90s-era Beretta 84F (wearing LOK Grips). There are a few minor differences, but the Fatih is closer to the original 84 series than the current modern Beretta 80X Cheetah.

9mm Beretta 92, but while that pistol is big, too big for many people, this pistol is quite handy. It shares the same open-top slide design, and is eminently reliable.

Compared to the sights on my older Beretta, the sights on the Fatih are objectively better. The front sight is a post with a white dot, and has been dovetailed into the slide. On my old Beretta, the front sight is machined all of one piece with the slide, and the dot is smaller, almost tiny. The rear sight on the Fatih is plain black, and serrated, with a generous notch, bigger and better than the old-school small notch on my veteran Beretta.

The Beretta 92 has a high bore, but because the Fatih uses a straight blowback recoil system the barrel sits lower, and the bore on this pistol is very low, helping to keep muzzle rise down. At the rear of the slide you'll see angled, narrow, flat-bottomed serrations. They work, but I find I almost never use mine, I work the slide from the front. No forward



You can engage the manual safety whether or not the hammer is cocked. The thumb safety, slide release, and magazine release are all in the expected places.

One thing Tarr really loved about the Fatih is being able to run it cocked-and-locked, the thumb safety engaged while the hammer is cocked for single-action-only operation.





The Fatih is imported by TISAS USA and made in Turkey to their specs. You can see the front of the frame, trigger guard, and trigger are all serrated to improve your grip.

the recoil forces. As a result, the slide can be a bit difficult to cycle if the hammer is down, but it's not bad at all if the hammer is cocked.

The stainless-steel barrel has an integral ramp, and it has been nicely polished. The barrel, frame, and slide have been given a matte black Cera-kote finish which is very businesslike. The full-length recoil spring guide rod is stainless steel.

At the rear of the frame, you'll see a modest beavertail which will help prevent slide bite. The front of the trigger guard is squared, and the front of it is horizontally serrated. The front and rear of the frame sport vertical serrations which help keep your hand

The magazine release does not protrude further than the grip, so you won't be accidentally dislodging any magazines. The front strap is vertically serrated, as the original Berettas were.



in place. I can't help but wish they were checkered, but the old Beretta frames were serrated, not checkered.

The magazine release is steel, a serrated button that doesn't protrude as far as the grip panels, so there's no danger of accidentally dislodging a magazine. And now we need to talk about the grips.

Originally, TISAS USA was offering two versions of the Fatih, one with slightly smaller sights and black plastic grips, and this one. They now only offer this one with Turkish walnut grips. The grips look good, and feel great in the hand, with fine texturing. But they're not thin, and they give the gun almost a rounded feel in the hand. It feels quite fat, especially for a .380.

Depending on you/your hand size, you may like this. For most of the last thirty years that I owned my Beretta 84, it had the factory plastic grips on it which were roughly the same width as these. Last year, I became aware of LOK Grips (LokGrips.com). They make thin checkered G10 grip panels for the Beretta 84 in seven different colors, and as I mentioned, the Fatih accepts Beretta 84 grips (I checked that fit myself). I put a set of the dark red/black panels on my Beretta and never looked back, so if the Fatih feels just a tad too thick to you, keep those in mind. They have a much more aggressive texture, and make the gun significantly thinner in the hand. The grip panels are so thin in the middle of the gun that they actually have to swell out to meet the grip screws. It makes the gun feel more concealable. I don't know whether or not it is, but aren't feelings more important than facts in our modern society?

The rear sight on the Fatih is plain black and serrated, with a very generous notch. The thumb safety is bilateral, making it a bit more user-friendly to left-handers.



Original Berettas had front sights integral to the slide, the Fatih's front sight is dove-tailed into place, and is a bit bigger, with a white dot. You'll see the name of the pistol in very small print on the left side of the frame.



serrations? No problem. I pinch the front of the slide just behind the muzzle, where it narrows and forms a natural pinch-point, and cycle the slide that way, and it seems to work great.

Because this pistol uses a straight blowback operating system, the recoil and hammer springs are what control

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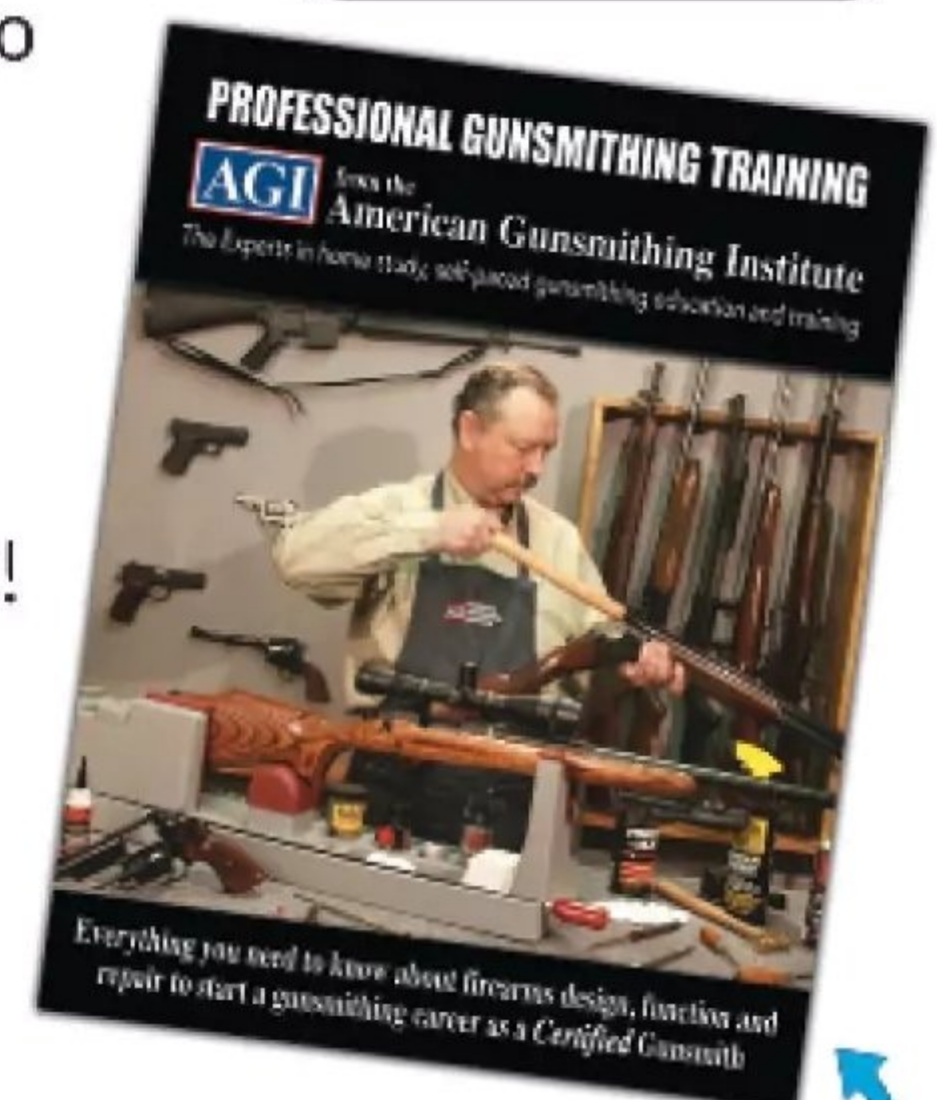
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◀ Tarr likes to cycle the slide from the front, and the angled section of the slide makes for a great pinch point. The Fatih has a full-length stainless steel guide rod.



► The Fatih's Turkish walnut grips on the left, compared to the narrow G10 panels from LOK Grips on the right. They really do change how the pistol feels in the hand, and Beretta 84 grips do fit the Fatih.

The magazine supplied with the pistol is made by Mec-Gar. Mec-Gar is the king of OEM pistol magazines, and know their business. There are three unmarked index holes in the side of the magazine for 5, 10, and 13 rounds.

DA/SA Beretta and Beretta-pattern pistols historically have very smooth trigger pulls, whether heavy or light. The double action trigger pull of the Fatih was smooth as well, with a total pull weight of 8¾ pounds. For the single action pull, there was a bit of take-up, then a smooth rolling break—total pull weight four pounds. All of this is more than acceptable in a compact/sub-compact pistol meant for concealed carry. The trigger itself is curved steel with a serrated face.

At the bottom of the aluminum frame, you'll find the opening for the magazine well is just barely large enough. Empty magazines drop free, but that tight mag well opening will slow your reload just a bit. On my personal Beretta 84F, I used a hand file to bevel the mag well opening, as competitive shooters have never met a gun they didn't feel they could improve. The chance you'll need to reload your carry gun during an altercation is low, but never zero. This is why I wish they supplied a second magazine with the gun, but luckily spare magazines are easy to come by (they'll run you about \$35 apiece at Mec-Gar.com).

I keep comparing the Fatih to my old Beretta, but how does it compare to the new Beretta 80X Cheetah? The new Beretta has much thinner grips and a flat backstrap, significantly shrinking the size of the grip. I like the thinner grips on the 80X but I do not like the flat backstrap;



While the magazines dropped free, there is no extra room in the magazine well. Tarr beveled the frame of his Beretta 84 just to smooth out reloads.

it seems too small for my hand. Your experience may differ. The new Beretta has better sights and a significantly lighter trigger pull. The new Beretta 80X also has a frame rail for mounting a light and a slide that is optics ready. I feel both a weapon light and a red dot are stupid for any concealed carry pistol but especially dumb on a compact .380, but the customer wants what the customer wants.

In truth, I liked the Beretta 80X far less than I was expecting, and like the Fatih far more than I thought I would. Actually, if I hadn't just spent an obscene amount of money on an HK SP5K PDW (including the \$200 tax stamp to SBR it), I would be buying this Fatih as a backup to my 84F, which I carry when I go to the gym. As for holsters, a lot of companies make them for the Beretta 84, and you'll want a holster, this pistol is too big for a pocket. I tried out the Beretta Civilian polymer OWB holster for the 80X, and it worked very well, with just a tiny bit of wiggle due to having no frame rail.



Lots of companies make holsters for the Beretta 84, as it's been around for decades, and the Fatih will definitely fit those. Tarr also tried it in this Beretta Civilian holster for the Beretta 80X Cheetah and found it fit just fine.

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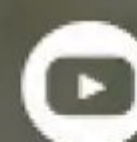
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Yes, it's big for a .380...but that means it's actually shootable. The more you shoot a gun, the better you'll be with it. And the more likely you'll have it with you when you need it.

The only writing on this pistol is the small “Fatih 13” on the left side of the frame and the “TISAS KNOXVILLE TN” on the right side of the frame, but they are in fact made in Turkey by TISAS. TISAS is an acronym and thus



Modern guns tend to be soulless, plastic things—the Fatih has old-school looks and charm, and with modern ammunition 13+1 rounds of .380 are a sizable deterrent.

properly capitalized, and stands for Trabzon Silah Sanayi AŞ, and was founded in 1993 in Trabzon, Turkey. Trabzon is on the Black Sea coast of Turkey, and this area is home to a lot of small and medium manufacturing.

The guns from SDS Imports (which also includes TISAS USA, Tokarev USA, Inglis, and Spandau Arms) have been getting rave reviews. I think the MAC JSOC 1911, made by TISAS in Turkey and distributed by SDS Imports, may be the finest 1911 available for less than \$1,500. This hasn't happened by accident. SDS Imports has people on the ground in Turkey, and for a while veteran 3-gun shooter Gaines Davis, SDS' Director of Product Development, practically lived at the factory. Quality control is everything, whether you're talking electronics made in China or guns made in Turkey.

At the range, you'll soon see the value in a .380 that actually has a bit of weight to it and fills your hand. The straight blowback operating system gives you a recoil impulse with a bit of a snap, but the Fatih is fun to shoot, and won't have you hating life after a box of ammunition. Between the size, weight, low bore, and good trigger, you can actually run the gun hard and fast. I shot paper, cardboard, and steel while testing the gun, FMJ and JHPs, indoors and outdoors.

The pistol had a few failures to feed in the first fifty rounds, but then

Tarr brought a variety of ammunition to the range the first time he headed out with the Fatih. It never liked the big hollowpoints in the Hornady American Gunner load, but other than that it worked great after 50 or so rounds during the break-in period.



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The most accurate group fired out of the Fatih, a 2.1-inch group with Hornady’s well-respected Critical Defense load. It is designed to expand even when fired out of short barrels.

settled down and fed everything...everything except the Hornady American Gunner 124-grain XTPs. The square front profile of these hollowpoints apparently didn’t mix well with the Fatih’s feed ramp, and once a magazine or so I’d get a jam. The most accurate ammo I tested was the Hornady Critical Duty, which features a hollowpoint with a narrower cavity.

There is a big difference in recoil between various .380 ACP loads, and you have to decide what you want/are comfortable with in your carry loads. There are dozens of .380 ACP loads on the market which offer amazing performance. My two favorite .380 ACP loads are polar opposites—Federal’s 99-grain HST Micro is a

ACCURACY RESULTS TISAS FATIH B380					
Load	Bullet Weight (gr.)	Avg. Velocity (fps)	ES	SD	Best Group./ Avg. Group (in.)
Black Hills Honey Badger	60	1,140	38	14	3.0 / 3.6
Winchester Silvertip JHP	85	961	34	25	3.2 / 3.7
Hornady Critical Defense	90	912	30	20	2.1 / 2.9
Federal HST Micro	99	923	28	16	2.6 / 3.1
SIG Sauer Elite	100	898	41	24	3.4 / 4.2
Accuracy results are the averages of five five-shot groups at 25 yards from a sandbag rest. Velocities are averages of 10 shots measured with an Oehler Model 35 12 feet from the muzzle.					

heavy-for-caliber traditional JHP, and built to expand at .380 velocities. At the opposite end of the spectrum is Black Hills Ammunition’s 60-grain Honey Badger. This copper solid bullet is not designed to expand, rather the flutes shove the tissue out of the way as it penetrates. It will do every bit of the 1,150-fps advertised claim while having noticeably less recoil than a standard .380 load.

Back in the day, Beretta .380s were considered the standard in concealable pistols. While they weren’t the smallest, or the cheapest, you could count on them to work in an era where most small pistols were jam-o-matics. The Fatih gives you a classic, reliable, controllable carry gun that is easily concealable. And while the Beretta 80X Cheetah starts at \$649 (down from \$799 at its launch last year), the Fatih has an MSRP of just \$399. **FN**



The Fatih takes down for cleaning quickly and easily. Barrel fit to frame was somewhat tight, providing good accuracy.

TISAS FATIH B380 PISTOL	
Action:	DA/SA semi-auto
Caliber:	.380 ACP
Magazine Capacity:	13+1
Barrel Length:	3.98 in.
Overall Length:	6.9 in.
Overall Height:	4.9 in. (with magazine inserted)
Width:	1.35 in.
Frame:	Aluminum
Grips:	Walnut
Slide:	Steel
Barrel:	Stainless steel
Sights:	White dot front, serrated notch rear
Trigger Pull:	8.75 lbs. DA, 4.0 lbs. SA (as tested)
Safeties:	Manual safety, firing pin block
Weight:	23.5 oz. with empty magazine inserted
Accessories:	One 13-round magazine, lockable case
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SMITH & WESSON'S M&P 2.0 10MM PISTOL

Thump Them Hard!

By Patrick Sweeney

I was at Smith & Wesson when they showed a room full of gun writers the first M&P pistols. That was in December of 2005. If you had told me then that at some time in the future the hottest new S&W would be an M&P in 10mm, I would have laughed so hard I would have snorted coffee out of my nose. The hot thing then was .40 S&W, 9mm was on the outs, and the 10mm was dead. As dead as a Blue Northern.

Well, things change. And the change has been good. The M&P went from a compact .40 to an every-sized 9mm, and now it is a 10mm, with a comped barrel as well. The S&W M&P 2.0 Performance Center 10mm (a name almost as big as the pistol itself) is a controllable beast. The starting

point is the full-sized big-frame M&P 2.0. PC takes the 10mm version and fits it with an extended slide and barrel. The barrel is just over five-and-a-half inches long, and the slide extends out the extra length, coming short just enough to let the crown of the barrel protrude. Then the slide is skeletonized forward of the usual stopping point, to keep the weight down to the usual and expected weight, and the barrel is machined with two ports so it vents gases up through the slots cut in the slide. This gives the exhaust gases a route up and out, to drive the barrel and slide back down, to keep the 10mm under control. Oh, one detail to take note of, and it is so-marked on the slide: the 10mm does not have a magazine disconnect.

The Performance Center 10mm is ready for your red dot, and ready for whatever ammo you care to feed it with.

The barrel is the M&P ramped barrel, with a loaded chamber indicator notch on the center of the back end of the hood. As with all M&P barrels, it is rifled so as to be amenable (very, as it turned out) to the use of lead bullets. So, hard-cast lead, plated, coated, and jacketed bullets are all on the menu for this pistol.

The PC leaves the expected raft of goodies on the M&P, so you have a slide with a hefty external extractor and cocking serrations in the rear with extras on the slide rib forward. The slide, as is the now-accustomed pistol option, comes with an optics plate, and as a bonus the sights on the PC 10mm are tall enough to let you co-witness should you wish to. The sights themselves are a notch rear and a white-dot front.

The 10mm M&P comes with the plates you'll need to adapt the red-dot optic of your choice to the slide. They also come with the array of screws you'll need for each plate, to do your mounting, since the red-dot world has not yet converged to a "one size to fit them all" mountings and hardware footprint. The process is simple: consult the chart in the owner's manual to see which plate and screws you need. Unbolt the cover plate, fit the adapter and sight, and bolt it and the red-dot on. I would suggest that once you are happy with the arrangement, and have tested it, do it again: disassemble, degrease, use some Loctite, and bolt it back on. Life is hard for a red dot riding on a slide, and the 10mm is particularly hard.

The Performance Center takes extra care on the frame. Yes, it comes with the replaceable backstraps, but it also comes with an ambi thumb safety. As a Performance Center item, you have Hobson's Choice here: you get the safety. Works for me. The trigger is the new 2.0 trigger, but with Performance Center tuning to provide a clean break, and for those who fuss over it, an audible reset. This is aided by the embedded stainless steel frame inside of the polymer, to eliminate frame flex. No flex means the trigger system can be tuned to a better level than your non-rigid polymer-framed pistols. The frame has an accessory rail up front, and the serial number can be seen on the embedded chassis, through one of the ports left in the injection molding process.



With one of the adapter plates, you can mount almost any modern red dot like this Shield RMSx.



The red-dot and a plate get bolted on with the correct screws. Consult the chart, it is in the owner's manual.



The cover plate for the mounting section. If you don't want a red-dot optic on your 10mm, then leave this alone.



The sights on the M&P PC 10mm are tall enough to co-witness with a red-dot made with a low-enough base.

SMITH & WESSON'S M&P 2.0 10MM PISTOL



The 10mm M&P, and the hefty extractor, the ambi thumb safety and the ambi slide stop lever.



The lengthened slide and barrel, showing the ports in the barrel and the slots in the slide the ports vent through.



The trigger has a safety lever in the center of the bow, and the pull has been tuned by the Performance Center wizards.



The M&P 2.0 10mm comes with two magazines, each holding fifteen rounds.

Takedown on the M&P 2.0 is simple: unload, lock the slide back, rotate the takedown lever to down position, and control the slide when you press the slide stop lever, releasing the slide. The slide assembly comes off the frame, and then you extract the recoil spring assembly and barrel. By using a barrel ported through slots in the slide, S&W has avoided the problem of a comp, which usually means you otherwise can't get the barrel out of the slide during disassembly.

The M&P in 10mm uses the same backstraps to change the grip shape and size as the other M&P models. To swap them, you rotate the bottom lip of the magazine well

opening, and pull the retention rod out of the frame. Pivot the backstrap off, hook the new one in and press it into place and then shove the rod back in and rotate to lock. With three sizes, and plenty of backstraps to be found, you could even do mods to the backstraps and see if you can get a better fit to your hands. It is popular to get out a soldering iron and make the frame texture more aggressive on some polymer pistols, but I suspect you won't have to be getting that medieval on the M&P 10mm.

With the porting, and the M&P aggressive texture, you've got a good grip on handling the recoil of 10mm



To swap backstraps, rotate the bottom ledge of the mag well opening. You can then withdraw the pin the ledge is part of.

With the pin out you can hinge the old backstrap out and off, and then pivot the new one into place in its stead.



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SMITH & WESSON'S M&P 2.0 10MM PISTOL

Disassembly is easy, starting with unloading and locking the slide back. Then pivot the takedown lever off and ease the slide off.

ammunition. Which is good, because the M&P magazine holds 15 rounds of 10mm. That S&W can fit a double-stack magazine inside of the full-sized M&P, and still make it a size that average hands can handle, is amazing. But S&W has been amazing us for quite a long time now. In addition to the usual goodies, the lock, manual, three extra backstraps and six adapter plates, the M&P 2.0 10mm comes with a pair of magazines. I requested a couple of extras because I had additional plans for the 10mm.

The fun started with the usual steps; collect ammo and do the chrono and accuracy work. Even a short while ago you might have been hard-pressed to find more than the usual suspects in 10mm ammo, but now that it has been fully accepted as a hunting cartridge, you have plenty of choices. I rounded up a variety, but I also included a special reload, meant for use on bowling pins. There, you want something in the .45ACP+P range, but not the full-turbocharged hunting loads power level. So, I took an oldie but a goodie load out of my



Once the slide is off, the rest is easy, and easily cleaned.



This is the kind of accuracy you can expect, and this with full power 10mm ammunition.

CHRONOGRAPH AND ACCURACY DATA S&W M&P 2.0 10MM PERFORMANCE CENTER COMPED PISTOL					
Load	Bullet Weight (gr.)	Velocity (fps)	ES	SD	Accuracy (in.) (Avg. & Best)
Hornady Hunter	135	1,291	41	15.6	2.0 / 1.8
Hornady Critical Duty	175	1,114	25	10.6	1.9 / 1.6
Federal Train & Protect	180	1,126	34	15.5	1.9 / 1.5
SIG V-Crown	180	1,219	18	7.6	2.0 / 1.8
Remington JHP	180	1,084	13	9.2	2.1 / 1.9
Black Hills JHP	180	1,001	15	7.7	2.0 / 1.7
Wilson Combat XTP	180	1,270	76	28.3	1.8 / 1.4
Blue Bullet FN with 5.4 gr. Bullseye	200	989	55	23.3	2.2 / 2.0
Buffalo Bore hard cast FP	220	1,184	19	9.1	2.3 / 2.1
Accuracy results were to be averages of four, five-shot groups at 25 yards off a Champion shooting rest. Velocities are averages of 10 shots measured on a Labrador chronograph set to read 15 feet from the muzzle.					



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SMITH & WESSON'S M&P 2.0 10MM PISTOL

This is what comes in the box: the 10mm pistol, two magazines, four backstraps, six adapter plates and eight screws. (I got a couple more.)



If you need power (you will in 2024) then the 10mm M&P is ready to go in pins. When we dial back (2025) then the 10mm can still do the job, acting like a 9mm+P.

reloading logs, and used a Blue Bullets flat point for it in tuning and setup.

The M&P worked like a charm through all the loads and accuracy testing, and for the testing and competition I mounted a Shield RMSx on top, for a widest-possible field of view. Riding on a slide is a tough way to make a living, but on a comped big bore like the 10mm it is even harder.

With the usual testing and investigation done, I headed off to the The Pin Shoot (PinShoot.com) to use the 10mm in the Space Gun Main Event. Here, a full-sized bowling pin has to be rudely shoved three feet straight back, and off of the back edge of a steel-topped table. (This is through the 2024 match.

In 2025, the Space Gun Main becomes a 9mm event.) Wimpy loads need not apply, and a Power Factor of 195 is generally considered adequate in the Main Events. That means a 200-grain bullet at 975 fps, or a 220 at 885 fps. Child's play for the 10mm. The S&W served me well, but proved once again that one really should get in some practice before stepping up to the line when in pursuit of loot and glory. I did well, but I didn't come home with loot in the Space Gun category. A few people edged me out, and that's all it takes.

Now, if you want to deer hunt from a tree stand with the 10mm, the PC is already set up for you. Just add your dot, and zero with the hunting load of your choice. Oh, and you'll have to find a way to block the magazines so you only have them holding five rounds, not fifteen. The DNR would be quite cross with you over that. Since you aren't going to be doing any reloads, (I hope five rounds will be enough) a single magazine made to hold only five will do. Those looking to use the S&W M&P 10mm PC RDO as a bear gun when hunting with a rifle in the wilderness will find this an adequate tool, if not as powerful as the really big bores like .454, .460, .480 and .500. But then, you've got sixteen rounds of deeply-penetrating 10mm at your disposal, compared to the five of six of the others. It's a free country (still), so you get to decide.

If you are looking to have the 10mm for defense, then no need to modify the magazines. Fifteen rounds of 10mm per magazine can be quite comforting. There, you will find that the hunting-level loads will be more than you need. In fact, a 220 hard-cast bullet at 1,200 fps would be counter to your needs, giving excessive penetration and stout recoil. However, for bear defense, hard cast projectiles are what you would want.

As far as a holster goes, the world's your oyster here. The M&P in the big frame has been around long enough that pretty much everyone who makes a holster will offer something for it. For defense, I suggest that appendix-inside-the-waistband holster (AIWB) would be out, the

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pistol is just too big, and long, for that. But an outside-the-waistband (OWB) in the FBI cant angle and location would be stellar. And for those hunting, or for bear defense gun use, a chest holster would serve you well.

As I said, The Pin Shoot goes 9mm in 2025, but that doesn’t mean the S&W M&P 10mm is out of the running. I have been loading the 10mm since the very early 1990s, and I have a lot of loads I’ve worked up to make the 10mm



Despite chrono and accuracy work, and time spent up north shooting pins, the M&P 2.0 is reliable, and easily cleaned. Some aerosol cleaner, some brushing, and a bit of lube and we’re back to normal.

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Friends for now, but earlier in the day these were mortal enemies. Well, hunter and hunted, actually, since the pins can’t fight back.



a softie. To do good work in 2025, I’d just need to dial back a 165-grain JHP to 900 fps, and I’d be set. I’ve got a five-gallon bucket of 10mm brass around here somewhere.

For defense, there are now a lot of factory loads that do that, and for bear, well, Buffalo Bore has what’s needed. The 10mm may be old, originating in a time when hair was blow-dried, shoes were worn without socks, and MTV was the hottest new thing on the planet, but it has aged a lot better than those have. These days, the S&W M&P 2.0 10mm PC RDO is hot stuff, and at the listed price, practically a steal. **FN**

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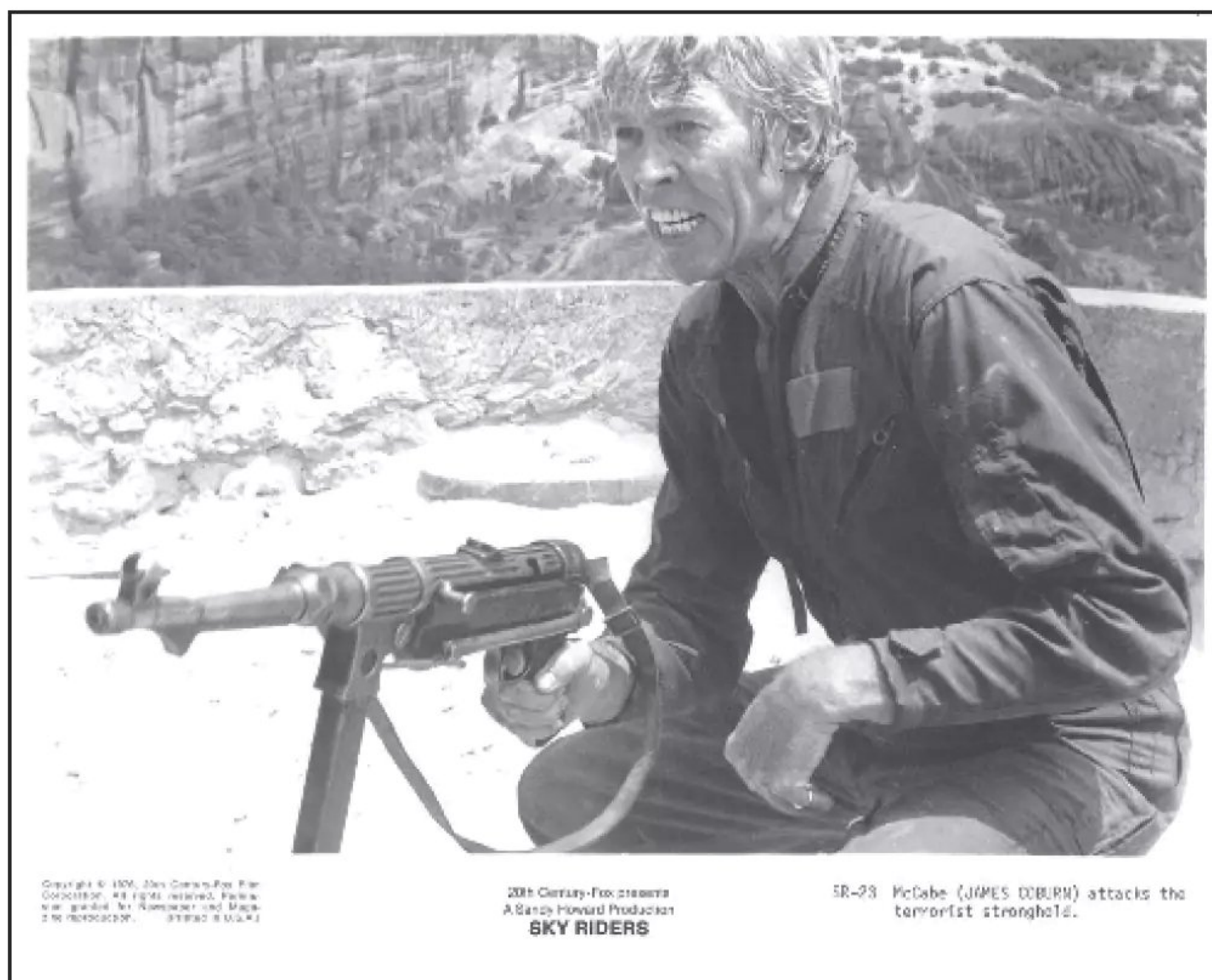
MOVIE GUNS: THE MAGNIFICENT SUBMACHINE GUNS OF *SKY RIDERS*

By Will Dabbs, MD

Anyone who has been married more than a week has experienced the joy of getting in trouble for something your spouse dreamt you did. Movies are sort-of the same thing. Sometimes they seem real, but they just never actually are. Even the good ones.

Some are more compelling than others. The unique 2014 film *Boyhood* is a coming-of-age drama that chronicles the adventures of its protagonist as he develops from childhood

through his teens. What makes *Boyhood* unique is that it was filmed in little snippets over the course of eleven years. As the kid in the film ages, that's really happening. It would be easy to mistake the inimitable flavor of *Boyhood* for real life. On the absolute opposite end of the spectrum, one finds the 1976 James Coburn action opus *Sky Riders*. I'm about to ruin the plot, such as it is, for *Sky Riders*. You'll get over it.



James Coburn shown with an MP38 in this lobby card. (MovieStillsDB.com)

The 1976 action movie *Sky Riders* was almost irredeemable. However, the inclusion of some truly epic WW2-vintage submachine guns makes it red meat for the gun nerd truly committed to his craft. (MovieStillsDB.com)



The 1970's was an interesting time in world history.

Details

James Coburn plays a chiseled smuggler whose day job involves flying a battered float plane around war zones ferrying high-value goods to shady people. He has the rarefied skills to survive in such a deadly world. Along the way, he built for himself a well-deserved reputation for tactical competence. However, operating in these shadow realms came at a cost.

Once his wife had all she could take, she divorced him and took his son with her. She then married a wealthy



The bad guys in *Sky Riders* are very, very bad. This actress' name in real life is, no kidding, Zouzou (just the one word). When the kidnapped mom complains that her kids are cold, she helpfully recommends she take off her blouse and use it to keep them warm. (MovieStillsDB.com)

industrialist and had a daughter with him. One fine day, while the wealthy husband is off on his yacht doing rich guy stuff, a group of masked thugs with submachine guns burst into their home, wasted all of the servants, and took the family hostage.

MOVIE GUNS: THE MAGNIFICENT SUBMACHINE GUNS OF SKY RIDERS



Sky Riders did sport some pretty awesome firearms like this vintage German MP41 submachine gun. (Rock Island Auction)



Apparently hang gliding at night into an impregnable mountain fortress and then shooting your way out with the hostages is fairly easy. Who knew? (MovieStillsDB.com)

The ransom demands from the World Action Revolutionary Army, the whacked-out terrorist mob behind this egregious outrage, included enough military ordnance to topple a small African government. The list specified 1911 pistols, M2 .50-caliber machineguns, M79 grenade launchers,



James Coburn's character McCabe finds his commando talent at a boozy seaside hang gliding demo. (MovieStillsDB.com)

and a zillion rounds of ammo along with "M161A" combat rifles. I hate to be "That Guy" who picks apart the gun details in action films, but I am the movie editor for *Firearms News*. That's kind-of my job.

The heavily-armed terrorists have spirited the hostages away to an abandoned monastery atop an inaccessible plateau deep in the Greek hinterlands. They threaten to execute the family if the ordnance isn't delivered right smartly. The cops are helpless, and it all looks pretty grim. What would you do?

That's a stupid question. You'd obviously find a bunch of hang-gliding hippies, arm them to the teeth with WWII-vintage automatic weapons, and storm the mountainous monastery from above...at night...without telling the police. What could possibly go wrong?

A Certain Set of Skills

Apparently, all it takes for a professional smuggler to become a hang-gliding Ninja is about three hours of crashing a hang glider into the side of a mountain. After that, James Coburn's character Jim McCabe straps into his stealthy hang glider for his daring nocturnal assault. I bet you thought it would be harder than that.

Likewise, as near as I could ascertain, the only things the hippies were really good at was hang gliding and drinking beer. However, put weapons in their hands and they suddenly become deadly Delta Force commandos. Not since *The Matrix* has it been so easy to inculcate complex tactical skills in such an abbreviated period of time.

Professional Nitpicker

I'm usually pretty gullible when it comes to movies. I'm that guy who goes to the new *Star Wars* flick and really, really, really hopes the good guys win. I'm willing to



Bad film edits. Note the guy with the awesome German MP41 submachine gun. That thing inexplicably started out as a sound-suppressed Smith and Wesson Model 10 revolver. (MovieStillsDB.com)

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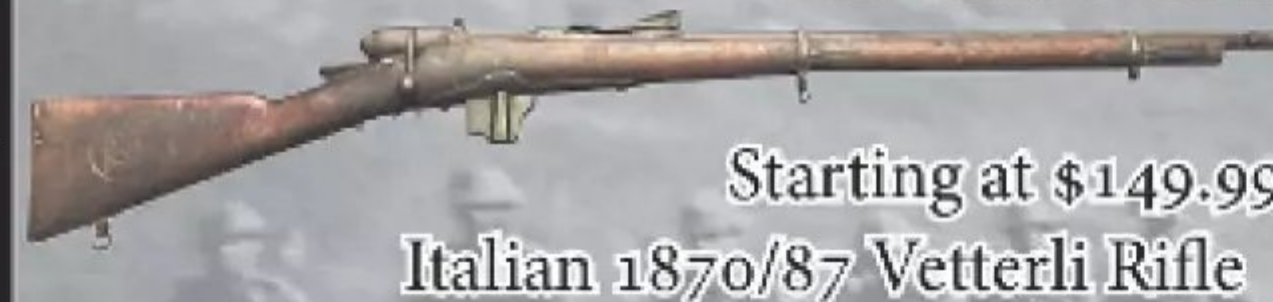
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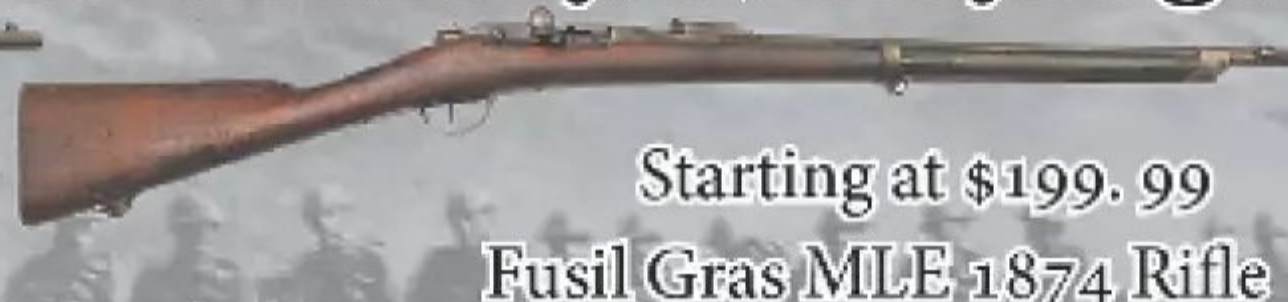


M1943 LA CORUNA MAUSER, 8X57

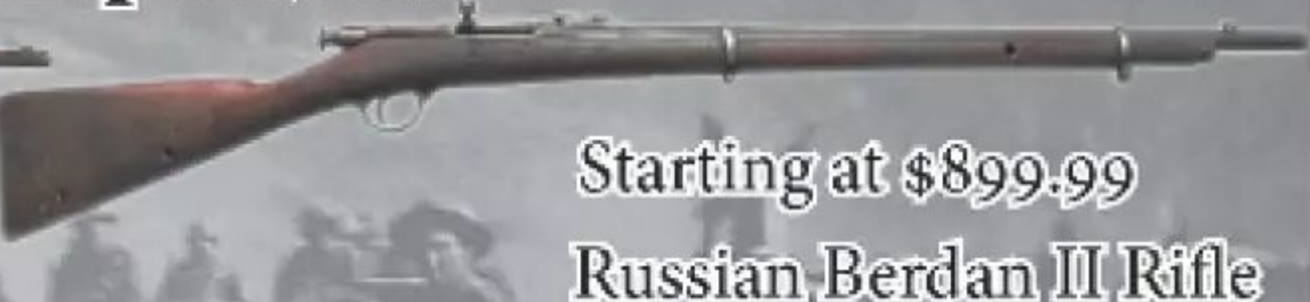
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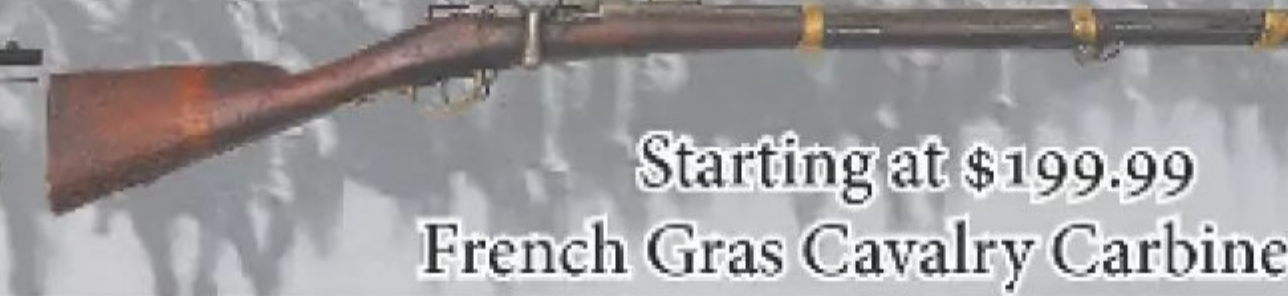
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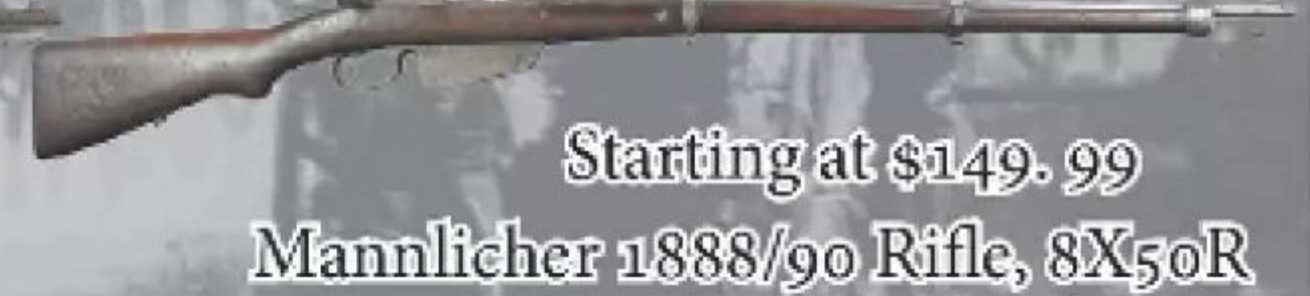
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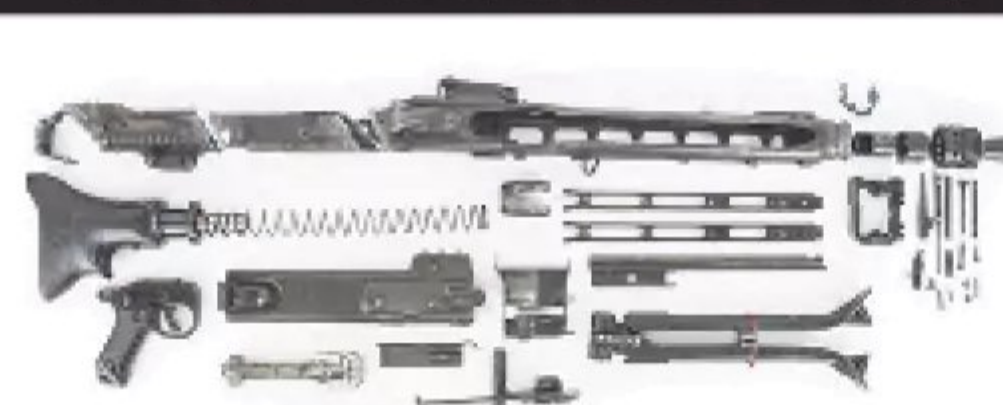
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The Sten Mk V is readily distinguishable from the previous Mk II by its wooden buttstock and fenced front sight. (MovieStillsDB.com)

overlook a lot when it comes to the nitnoids of moviemaking if that's what it takes to enjoy a good story. *Sky Riders*, however, was just cinematic crap.

The editing was so bad that I noticed how bad the editing was. Scenes shift abruptly from one to another without transitions or preamble. There are also so many long orchestral interludes that the film could almost be categorized as a musical. Action goes on in silence as Lalo Schifrin's fevered 1970's-vintage score pounds in the background. His offerings span a broad musical spectrum, some of which feel like the soundtrack from an Atari 2600 video game.

It also seems like a third of the run-time is consumed with long majestic shots of people hang gliding. Apparently, Director Doug Hickox really liked hang gliding. He crafted this entire cheesy movie around it.

Guns inexplicably transform during the course of the attack. The hang-gliding hippie Ninjas start out with Smith and Wesson Model 10 revolvers, one of which actually has a sound suppressor. In the middle of the action they are suddenly packing an MP38, a Sten Mk V, an MP41, and a handful of MP40's. Despite expending enough ammunition to pacify the Hurtgen Forest in 1944, nobody anywhere carries even a single spare magazine.

In one particularly cringeworthy scene, Coburn's character pulls the pin on a hand grenade with his teeth. I have some modest experience with hand grenades myself. There's not a human being who ever lived who could do that for real.

I've been pretty hard on Doug Hickox's hang-gliding shlockfest. Admittedly, the plot is so outlandish that even I did not fall for it. However, what makes the film redeeming enough to find its place in these hallowed pages is that it sports some of the most magnificent guns.

The Wonderful Weapons of *Sky Riders*

There are really only two decent action sequences in the film. That's the beginning kidnapping scene and the



The Sten Mk II was one of the most utilitarian SMGs of WW2. Several examples early in the movie include fake Hollywood sound suppressors. (Rock Island Auctions)



The Mk V was the most refined of the Sten marks. (Rock Island Auctions)



The MP40 was the definitive Axis pistol-caliber SMG during WW2. 1.1 million copies were produced. (Rock Island Auctions)

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The MP38/40 was originally designed to be fired a bit like a rifle with the support hand underneath the receiver. Movies have ruined us to holding the magazine because it looks cooler. (MovieStillsDB.com)



▲ The MP34 was a sedate and effective weapon ultimately offered in six different calibers. (Rock Island Auctions)

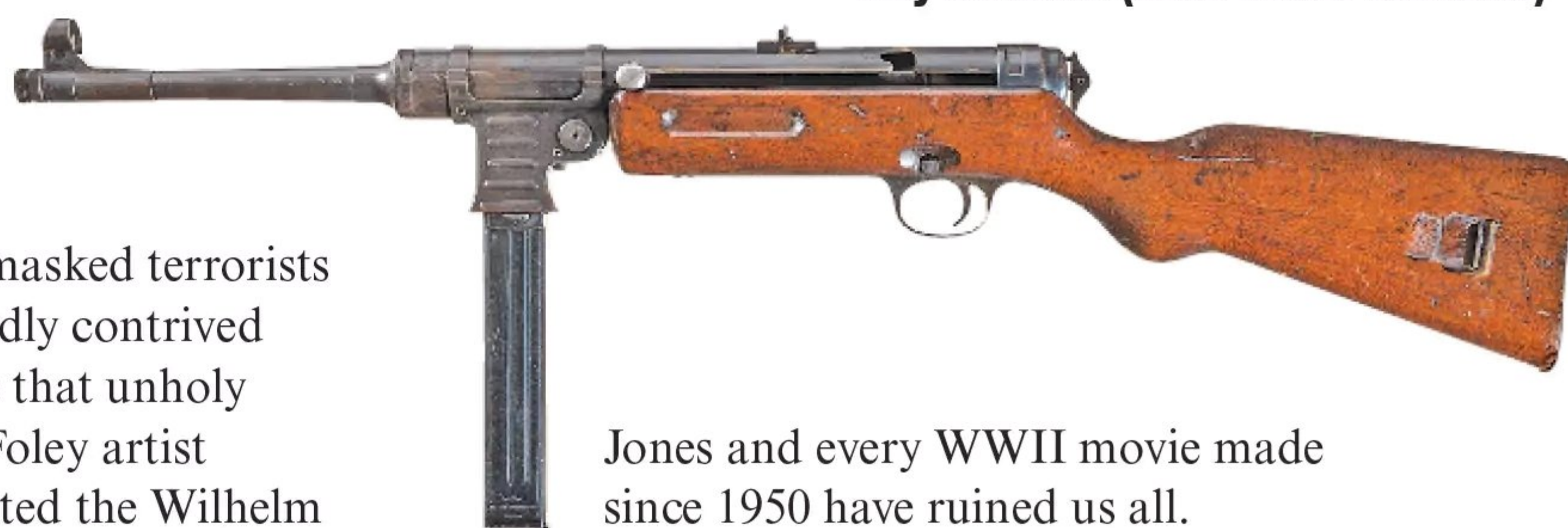


The M3 Grease Gun cost \$18 apiece to produce during WW2. It remained in service with US armored troops well into the 1990's. (Rock Island Auctions)



▲ The belt-fed MG42 General-Purpose Machinegun plays a small role in *Sky Riders*. (Rock Island Auctions)

▼ The MP41 was not a terribly inspired SMG, but it was undeniably effective. *Sky Riders* is one of the few movies where this unusual weapon may be seen. (Rock Island Auctions)



Jones and every WWII movie made since 1950 have ruined us all.

exciting mountain fortress climax. You'll want to skip everything else.

In the opening sequence, several of the masked terrorists are packing Mk II Sten guns sporting weirdly contrived silver sound suppressors. These guns make that unholy mouse fart silenced gun sound that some Foley artist someplace dreamt up right before he invented the Wilhelm Scream. We see several Stens, both Mk II's and Mk V's, in the final shootout, but the suppressors are missing by then.

The German MP40 is well-represented in the hands of both good guys and bad. There is even some cool closeup action involving the elusive MP38 precursor. In fact, there are a couple of POV (Point of View) scenes wherein you get a gun's-eye view of the action alongside the MP38's ribbed receiver. This particular filmmaking technique is de rigueur in every first person shooter video game on the planet today, but it was radical stuff indeed back in 1976.

Curiously, James Coburn's character consistently runs his MP38 the way the Germans originally intended, with his weak hand underneath the receiver rather than wrapped around the magazine. The Bakelite receiver cover on the bottom of the fire control housing was put there to give Wehrmacht grunts a handy place to support the weapon. It just looks cooler to hold the gun by the magazine. Indiana

There are a couple of American M3 Grease Guns and a German MG42 tossed in for flavor. The movie was filmed in Greece a mere two decades after the end of WWII. That place at that time was covered in a thin patina of vintage SMG's. The committed gun nerd can pick out the external charging handle that differentiates the early M3 from the later M3A1.

The Bad Guys also pack several MP34 SMGs. The Steyr MP34 is perennially referred to as the Rolls Royce of pistol-caliber submachine guns. The weapon feeds from the left side like a Sten and has a full-length wooden stock. It also incorporates a magazine loader in the magwell. Slide the magazine up from the bottom rather than the side and the mag can be charged quickly via stripper clips from the top. The receiver of the MP34 is cut from a massive chunk of forged steel, and the workmanship is legendary.

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The common heritage shared by the MP40 and MP41 is obvious if you look for it. (Rock Island Auctions)

Star Power

The real star of *Sky Riders* is not James Coburn, Robert Culp, or Susannah York. Top billing for this horribly flawed film needs to go to the Schmeisser MP41. We get plenty of cherry MP41 action both at the beginning and end of the movie.

The world once universally referred to the ubiquitous German MP40 as the Schmeisser. While this eponym was no doubt intended as praise for the gun’s designer, in reality Hugo Schmeisser only conceived the flawed double-stack, single-feed magazine used by the MP38/40 family of guns. However, old Hugo was indeed the brain trust behind the MP41. All three weapons share some common DNA.

The MP38 was built around a milled tubular steel receiver. It can be identified at a glance by its longitudinal receiver grooves and a dime-sized hole on each side of the magwell. The fire control group of the MP38 was cast from aluminum.

The subsequent MP40 was built around a pressed steel receiver and was cheaper to produce. The MP40 fire control housing was pressed steel as well. The MP38/MP40 was the first general-issue military weapon to eschew wood furniture.

To craft the MP41, Schmeisser basically took the top half of an MP40 and grafted it onto the wooden stock of the MP28. The end result was efficient and effective, but it was also a bit cumbersome. The MP41 saw limited service with the Waffen SS and German police units as well as with the Nazis’ Romanian allies.

Curiously, with the entire world at war, in 1941 the German firm of Erma Werke sued Haenel, where Hugo Schmeisser worked as chief designer, alleging patent infringement. You’d think these storied Teutonic companies might have bigger fish to fry, but this was a big deal at the time. The lawsuit was the nail in the coffin for the

MP41, and the gun died a natural death. The entire production run was only 26,700 copies.

The MP41 was very similar to the MP40 with a couple of interesting differences. While the MP40 was full auto only, the MP41 included a pushbutton fire selector inside the trigger guard like that of the MP28. Additionally, the MP40 included a resting bar underneath the barrel made from either aluminum or Bakelite. This appendage was intended to help keep the gun from dropping into an open-topped armored vehicle under recoil. The MP41 does away with this component. Both weapons fed from



The MP41 ultimately fell afoul of patent infringements. (Rock Island Auctions)



The action of the MP41 is very similar to that of the MP40 save the selective fire function built into the fire control system. (Rock Island Auctions)



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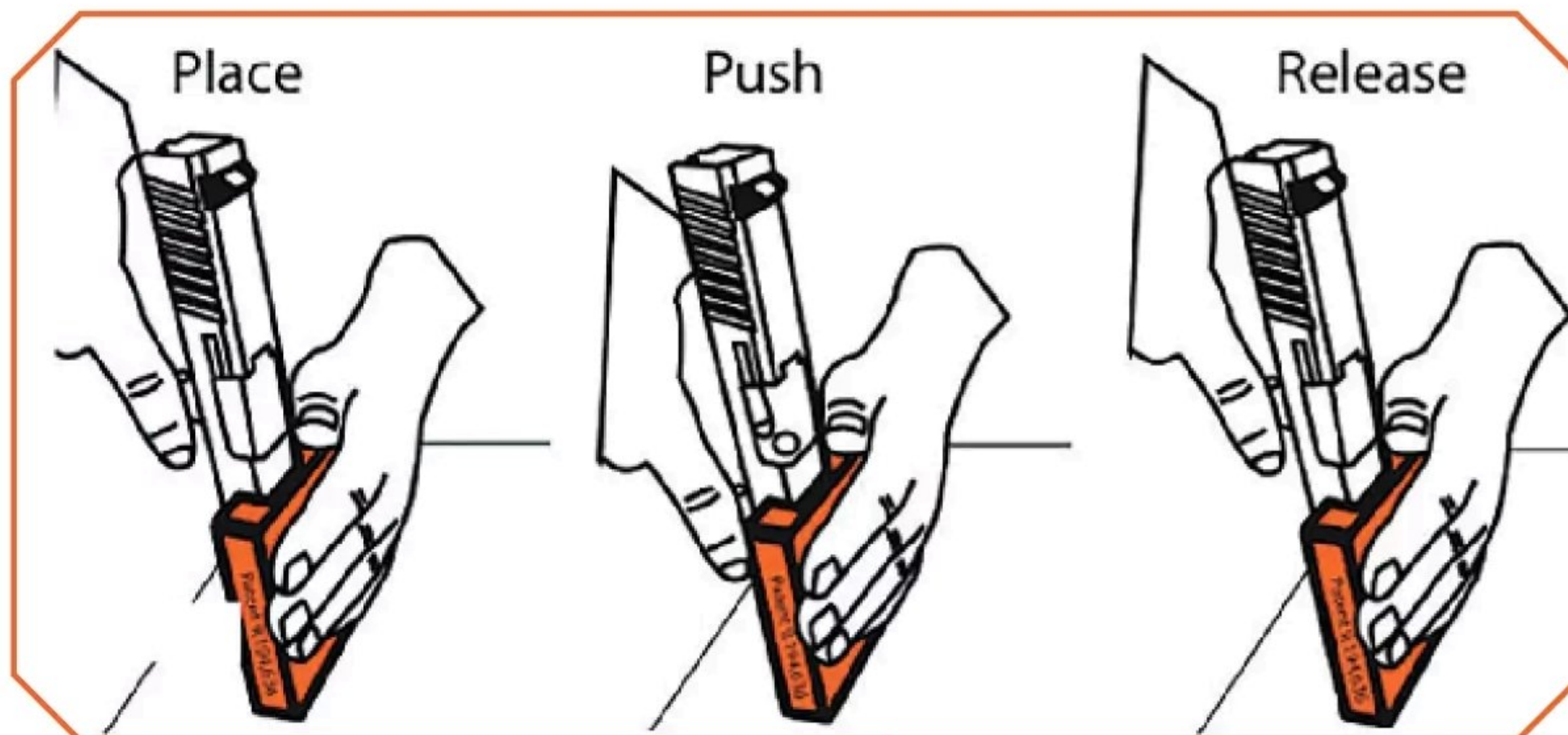
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MOVIE GUNS: THE MAGNIFICENT SUBMACHINE GUNS OF SKY RIDERS



The general layout of the MP38 is identical to that of the MP40. Many of the parts interchange. However, the receiver ribs and lightening holes in the magwell differentiate the earlier MP38 from the definitive MP40. (Rock Island Auctions)



The MP38 was produced concurrently with the MP40 for a time. (Rock Island Auctions)

the same Schmeisser magazine. Every now and again magazines marked “MP41” turn up on the collectors’ market, but they’re rare.

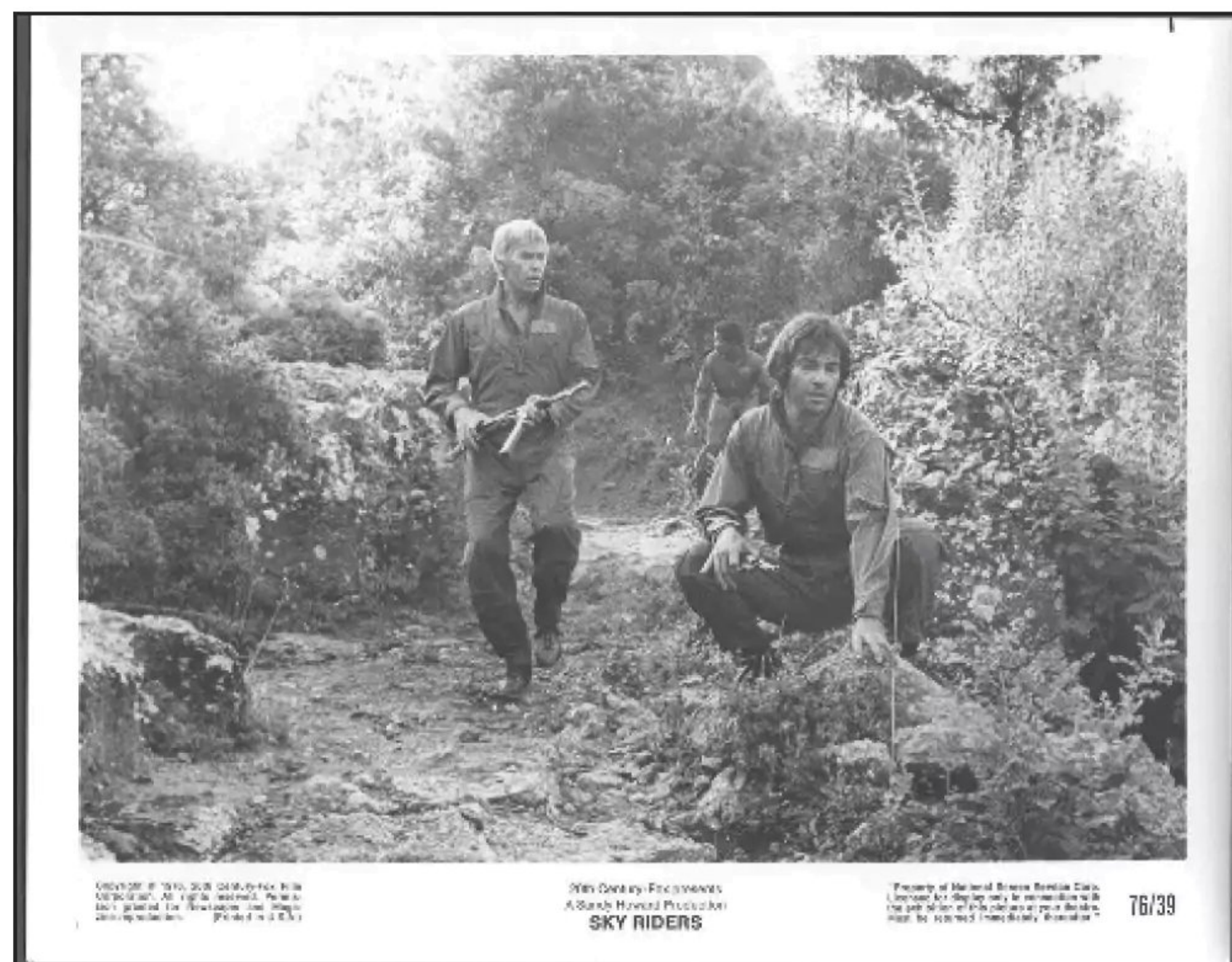
Ruminations

Sky Riders really is a horrible movie. However, it hearkens from a different time. Adventure writers like Alistair Maclean and Frederick Forsyth shaped the landscape with rollicking adventure tales that were long on action but skimpy on technical accuracy. This mindset bled over into the pulpy action movies of the day. And then there were the drugs.

As near as I can tell, somebody was putting LSD in the world’s water supply in the late 1960’s. By the 1970’s, the most overt residual manifestation was found in fashion and music. *Sky Riders* has some of that same secret sauce as well. Shag haircuts are the norm, and lots of folks inexplicably wear sunglasses indoors. Additionally, everyone over the age of six smokes.

At one point after the action dies down, and everybody is getting ready to ride off into the sunset, Robert Culp tosses his lever-action Winchester Model 88 rifle to a ten-year-old boy with the admonition, “*Watch that. It’s loaded.*” In addition, Coburn’s character inexplicably survives jumping from a crippled helicopter. However, he landed in a bush, so I guess that explains it.

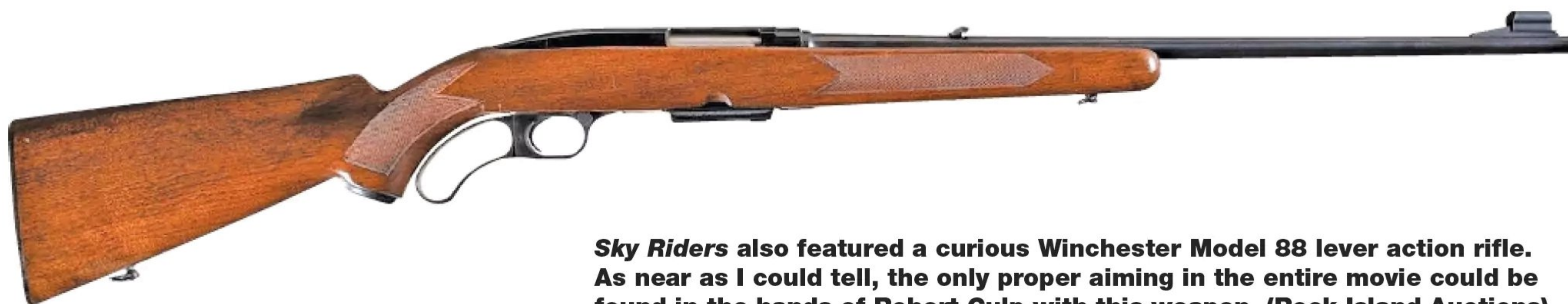
An explosion during filming claimed the life of a hapless Greek electrician. Two of the film’s producers were arrested



Don’t seek out *Sky Riders* expecting a great deal of plot development or award-winning camera work. This is a film about hang gliders and vintage submachine guns. Everything else is fluff. (MovieStillsDB.com)

as a result. A quarter million-dollar bribe purchased their freedom, but the deadly accident tainted the production.

If you can tolerate five seconds’ worth of mindless ads for, no kidding, every five minutes’ worth of runtime, *Sky Riders* is available for free on YouTube. Just skip past all the talking in the middle. You’ll thank me later. **FN**



Sky Riders also featured a curious Winchester Model 88 lever action rifle. As near as I could tell, the only proper aiming in the entire movie could be found in the hands of Robert Culp with this weapon. (Rock Island Auctions)

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Adapter plates were in short supply this early in the KDS9c rollout, so I had to do most of the testing without a red dot mounted. Not a problem, the iron sights are up to the task.

KIMBER KDS9c

Dammit, I Don't Want to Agree with Tarr! WITH RAIL

By Patrick Sweeney

Way back in the 1980s, the gunsmith I was learning the trade from and I schemed ways to win matches. One idea was to fit a hi-cap magazine into a 1911 frame. (I am sure we were not alone in this.) Our plans foundered on the Scylla and Charybdis of: no suitable magazines plus “How will we fit the trigger around any magazine we do find?”

Well, some of those problems were solved back then, not entirely to everyone's satisfaction, and some later, to somewhat better results. As Jim Tarr reported on earlier, Kimber now has found a sweet spot in the variables of “hi-cap 1911” solutions. Their new KDS9c has the good points of the 1911, and the good points of the various hi-cap 9mm pistols, and none of the downsides. And now, it has an ambidextrous thumb safety and a light rail.

First, the good points Kimber has kept. The KDS9c (can we just call it the “C,” for compact?) has the 1911 trigger system, with an external hammer. As Jim pointed out, a close to, or just under four-pound trigger pull on a 1911 is such a normal, accepted, customary thing that you

can't gush about it. It is high praise for any other pistol to sport “a nice, 1911-like trigger pull.” You've got to do better than that to get a 1911 aficionado to go “oooh” over a 1911 trigger pull, and even getting into the normal 1911 range isn't possible for your basic polymer striker pistol. We've been so trained to accept a spongy, gritty, mushy almost-six-pounds trigger pull as normal, that the 1911 is a gift. The C frame shape lets you get high on the pistol like a 1911, to handle recoil and muzzle rise, and it does so without biting you, nor drawing blood from sharp edges.

The efficient lockup of the 1911-style barrel (it has an integral feed ramp, which even pre-dates the 1911) and external hammer means that working the slide is not hard work, and the C slide has cocking serrations fore and aft. Takedown is normal if you've got any familiarity with 1911 style pistols, and if you've worked with a no-bushing 1911, you'll be right at home.

The capacity? A compact pistol that holds 15 rounds of 9mm is the accepted standard these days, and Kimber did



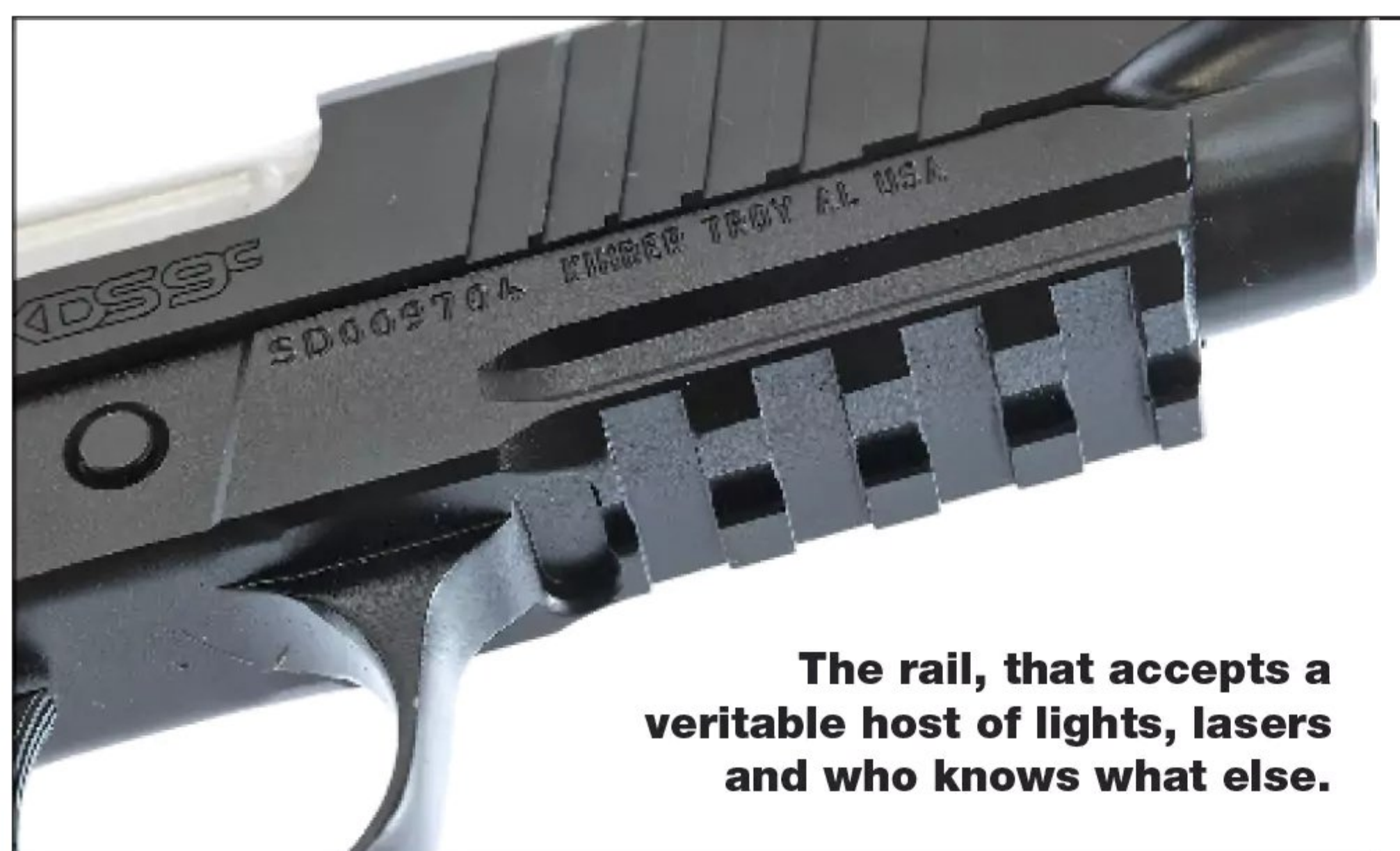
The KDS9c looks like a lot of other 9mms out there, but thinking that could make you pass up a real gem.



The ambi safety on the right side, and the rail are the latest things on the latest, and cool, pistol.

just that. Kimber won't say which one, but they did not design a new magazine (which involves a herculean effort in testing to make sure it works 100%) and used an existing tube, cut the locking notch in the appropriate location for the 1911-like frame, and called it good. And it is good.

The bad things that Kimber left off of the C? Basically, the crunchy-to-crappy trigger pull that polymer pistols have for the most part gotten us all accustomed to.



The rail, that accepts a veritable host of lights, lasers and who knows what else.



The ambi safety is a useful addition, and it is well-done enough that it is not a hindrance for those who don't need ambi safeties.

(We're all looking at you, Glock.) And they left off the pebble-texture that passes for a "non-slip" grip on some of those polymer frames. Kimber here has machined a crosshatch pattern into the aluminum frame and does much the same on the extremely slim G10 grips. They also left off the grip safety of the 1911, partly in order to fit the rest of the parts into a frame shape that was going to be comfortable to all shooters. As a double stack 9mm, in an aluminum frame, you might expect it to be a bit...blocky...bloated.... chunky. It isn't. And, since it is a 9mm with proper 9mm magazines, the reach to the trigger is less than a hi-cap frame that started out to hold .45 ACP cartridges.

The magazine release is in the expected place, and it is a low profile one, not sticking up past the grip panels, but elongated so you can get to it when needed.

So, in all, the C is what we were trying for back in the mid-1980s. Well, one exception: back then, we'd have tried to do as everyone else was working on and made



The ambi safety does not impinge upon my firing hand knuckle, a good thing. Thanks, Kimber.



For being an aluminum framed double-stack 9mm, the KDS9c is slim in the frame.

KIMBER KDS9c WITH RAIL



The deeply recessed crown protects the rifling, and aids accuracy. Of which there was plenty.



The front-and-rear tritium sights are plenty good if you are not a fan of red-dots.



The rear sight is the optics filler plate, and it is both held down by a pair of screws, and a lip that hooks into the slide.

ours in .45. Or at least, .38 Super, which is just as long a cartridge, and thus just as bulky a magazine. Judging by the carpet of 9mm brass I walk on at the gun club ranges every time I go out to work, hardly anyone shoots .45 or .38 Super any more. (There's one guy still shooting 40, and we all hate him, as his brass is a pain to sort out.) Kimber knows this as much as anyone does, and they set out to make the best everyday carry pistol they could. That's how we got the KDS9c. And the latest is a step or two better.

The frame was designed from the beginning to accept an ambidextrous thumb safety, and Kimber offers it in the catalog as an option. Me, I spent quite a few years back in the IPSC Neolithic era practicing weak-hand draws (The methods we all tried ranged from ugly to hazardous) and I am reasonably proficient in swiping the single-side safety off with my left-hand trigger finger, if or when that heroic effort is ever called for. So, for me an ambi safety is pretty superfluous. But a lot of people insist, and a lot actually use them, so Kimber, being smart, offers one. My main problem with ambi thumb safeties is that most of the rightside levers interfere with my right hand, but the KDS9c one does not.

Kimber did not see the need to reinvent the magazine; they based theirs on an existing design, and modified it to meet their needs. Good show, Kimber.



So, in this instance, I ignore it, it ignores me, and we're both happy. Those of you who need one will also be happy.

And the rail? At last, I get to a point of disagreement with Tarr. I see it as a good thing. Yes, a light on an EDC pistol, for most people, is not a good thing at least some of the time. It adds bulk, it encourages using the light to see things, and it adds weight. By "see things" I mean using it in a situation where you are not already engaged. That is, using it to see where you are going, or searching when you might not lawfully be permitted to point a firearm at someone. Lost your keys? Use your extra light, not your weapon light. In most jurisdictions, pointing a loaded firearm at someone when the law does not permit it is an assault. Most likely assault with a deadly weapon. So, don't go searching for your car in the parking structure with your weapon light. (You think I jest, but we all know "that guy.")

But, "everyday" in EDC means "all day" and the night as well. Once at home, you get ready for bed, and you then, viola, clip your tac light onto your KDS9c and put it on the nightstand. In the morning take the light off, holster, and you're ready for the day. This way, you are not switching from one pistol to another, day and night, because one of them has a light and one of them does not. And the KDS9c rail, with four slots, is large enough to accommodate pretty much all accessories, large or small.

The KDS9c is, of course, machined to accept a red-dot optic, and for this one needs an adapter plate. So,

I did the initial part of my testing with the iron sights, and they are eminently useable and work just like iron sights should. I was able to get all the work done except for accuracy with a red dot installed, but I did spend some time working over the plate rack. (Hey, even gun writers need practice, and fun.) No malfunctions, of course, and the magazines all locked the slide open after the last shot and dropped free of

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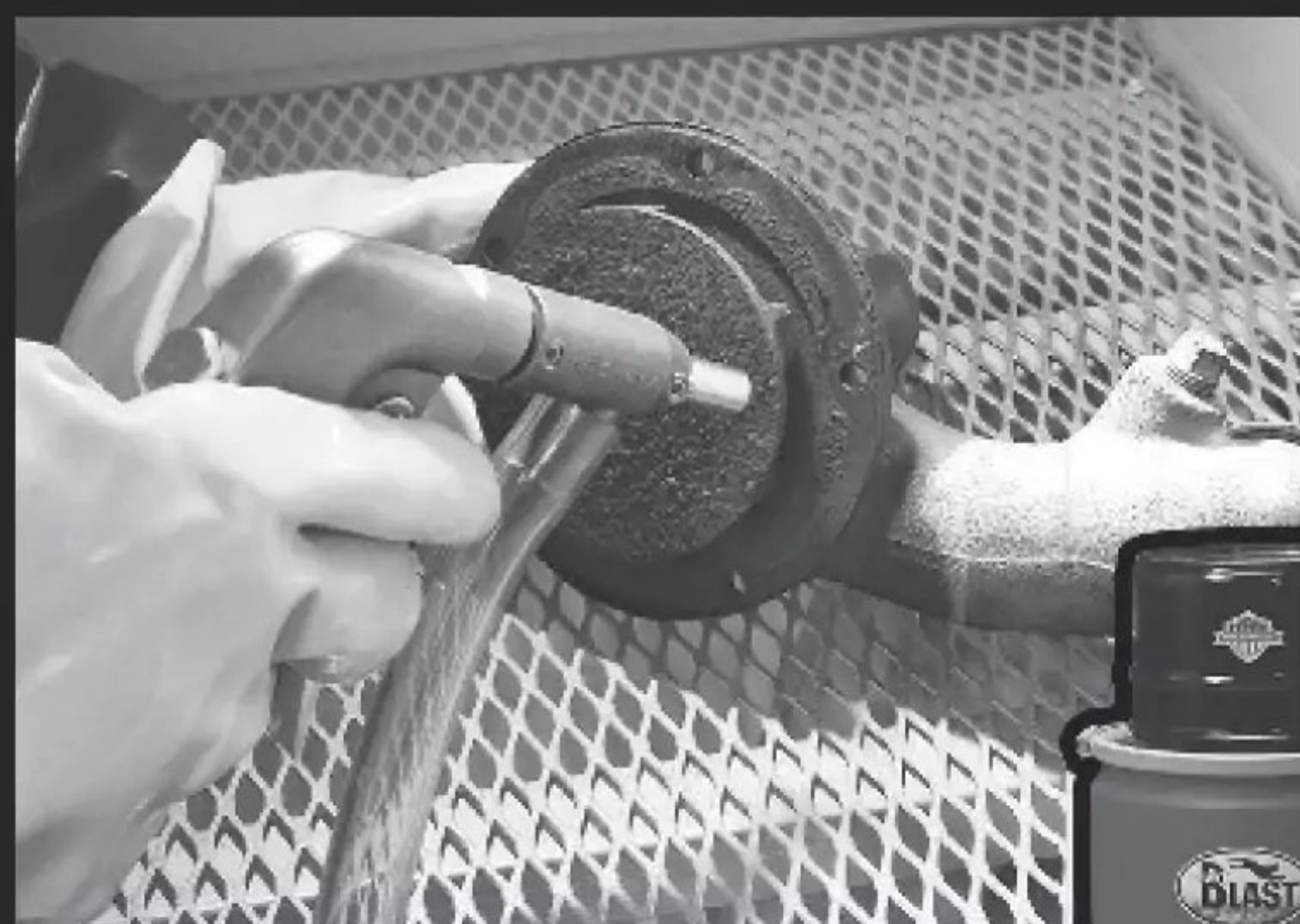
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KIMBER KDS9c WITH RAIL



The KDS9c comes apart like any 1911. If you know 1911s, you can do this blindfolded.

their own weight when required to. The adapter plates are in short supply at the moment, and even I had to nag and plead with Kimber to get me one. (It is my understanding that rubber hoses are being liberally applied to the miscreants, and the problem will be solved soon.) Unlike some designs that use a molded polymer plate as the adapter, the Kimber plate is aluminum. That bodes well for long-term durability. All my other red-dots were in use, so I went with a new one, from Hi-Lux, the TD-3C. It worked fine



The KDS9c adapter plate comes with all the tools needed to remove the cover and mount the plate. Oh, and the plate even has a new rear sight.

as a red-dot, but it did block the Kimber-height sights, should I have wanted to use the irons. In an earlier era that would be a deal-killer, but not so much anymore.

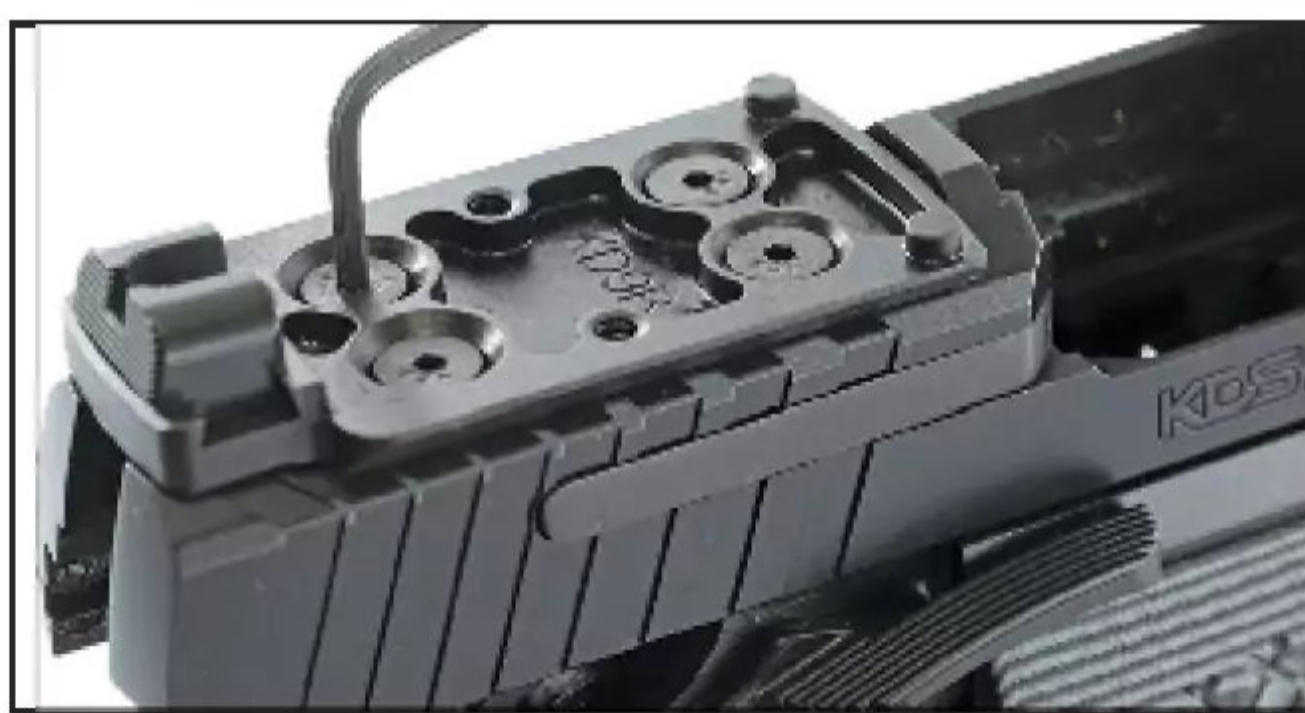
The grip on the KDS9c is wide enough to provide a large surface for recoil, making it feel softer than it would be with a single-stack of the same weight. The tang kept the muzzle from rising as much as it might have on a tang-less or tang-minimal polymer pistol. The trigger was 1911 good, and for as much of the testing as I could I used a light mounted, which took the work in stride.

Okay, if you have already jumped on the KDS9c bandwagon, and yours does not have the rail and ambi safety, your options are limited. Oh, you can have your local pistolsmith install an ambi safety, but he can't go and attach a rail. If you simply have to have the rail and ambi, and love the KDS9c, you can trade yours in and upgrade, or just buy another one, the newer one. (Stick at this long enough and you too will have gone this route. Trust me.)

A holster for the railed C soon won't be difficult to find. Given the adoption of rails and optics, every holster maker out there now looks at every product with the questions "Rail? Red dot? Both? *"Of course"* going through their heads. You can even get a Kimber brand holster for your KDS9c, because they are available through Kimber, made by Blackpoint. If you are worried about magazines, a quick check shows that the 15-round version is in stock (not to be shipped to the usual



Unbolt the cover plate and rear sight....



Bolt down the adapter plate with the provided screws, wrench and Loctite....



◀ **The Hi-Lux TD-3C was up for testing, so it got installed.**

► **Once installed, it was simply a matter of zeroing the dot and having fun.**





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KIMBER KDS9c WITH RAIL



Both a Surefire X200 and an Insight X2 (with laser) fit just fine on the KDS9c, so you’ve got the range from big to small to choose from.



With four cross slots, the KDS9c rail is capable of having pretty much anything fitted to it, so you get to choose the bulk and lumens you want.



These are the kind of groups you can shoot with irons, when you are “on” that day.

non-free states, order the 10-shot ones) and word is there will be an 18-round magazine available soon. I’m with Jim on this one (I hate to say that), but the prospect of an 18-shot magazine indicates a future, non-compact, non-C, KDS9 in our future. So, those of you who were holding back a bit, just in case the C was not going to be the hottest thing you now are rewarded for your patience.

It will be with some reluctance that I ship this one back to Kimber, but I’ve already got a metric boxload of 9mms,

SOURCES

Federal Ammunition, FederalPremium.com, (800) 831-8100
Hi-Lux Optics, Hi-LuxOptics.com, (888) 445-8912
Hornady Ammunition, Hornady.com, (800) 338-3220
Nosler Bullets, Nosler.com, (800) 285-3701
Winchester Ammunition, Winchester.com

KIMBER KDS9c RAILED
CHRONOGRAPH AND ACCURACY DATA

Ammunition	Bullet Weight (gr.)	Velocity (fps)	ES	SD	Accuracy (Avg. & Best) (in.)
Hornady Critical Defense	115	1,117	4	2.1	1.9 / 1.6
Nosler T-Bond+P	124	1,149	72	39.1	2 / 1.8
Remington Bonded	124	1,137	52	31.1	2.1 / 1.9
Federal Hydra-Shok Deep	135	1,006	36	19.0	1.9 / 1.7
WW Defender	147	1,014	17	7.8	2 / 1.8

Accuracy results were to be averages of three, five-shot groups at 25 yards off a Champion shooting rest. Velocities are averages of 10 shots measured on a Labradar chronograph set to read 15 feet from the muzzle.

hi-cap 9mms, 9mms with rails, and 9mms with red-dots in the safe. You, however, likely do not, and you should look first in your local gun shop at the Kimber section, for the KDS9c, black or silver. You won’t be disappointed. **FN**

KIMBER KDS9c RAILED PISTOL

Type:	Hammer-fired semi-automatic
Caliber:	9mm Parabellum
Capacity:	15+1 rounds
Barrel:	4.1 in.
Overall Length:	7.75 in.
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Finish:	Black or Silver KimPro
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[Cont. from page 12]

in the state from enacting gun laws or ordinances more restrictive than state law, and that “The vast majority of Ohio’s fairs are NOT private entities, try as they might to act otherwise.” Champaign County’s not alone.

“The largest county fair in Ohio the Canfield Fair (Mahoning County Fair) has been trying to stop CCW because of youths from Youngstown causing fights including a shooting the other year,” a source tells *Firearms News*. “The Canfield Fairgrounds is a political subdivision which has its own police force, not a security company. As you know, government property in Ohio cannot ban open or CCW carry on open government land, just buildings. My cousin, a retired deputy sheriff, was told that he cannot carry, nor can any current police officer carry in the fair unless they are in uniform.” And the rest of us? The source continued, “Over the years, some fair vendors have been robbed at gunpoint, after hours, when closing up for the night. The criminals know they have a lot of cash then but, any fairgoer is at risk walking back to their car in the dark.”

Per Lisbon, Ohio’s *Morning Journal*, Mahoning County Court Judge Scott Hunter, a fair director in charge of security, “Firearms or guns of any

kind, knives, Tasers, laser pointers, facial coverings other than surgical or KN95 masks are not permitted on the fairgrounds.” And, of course, it’s not just Ohio.

“In a video shot at the North Carolina State Fair, a boy was seen being thrown to the ground and stomped on,” WRAL News reported last October. “The video appears to show the nine-year-old child being body slammed and then punched and kicked while on the ground.” And no surprise, the boy’s mother, who apparently triggered the feral morons by objecting to line cuts, was helpless to protect her son because of the fair’s “clear bag” policy, stating among other rules that “firearms ... or weapons of any type are not allowed.” It’s been ongoing there. Back in 2014, Grassroots North Carolina warned the North Carolina Agricultural Commissioner of the dangers after three people were robbed at gunpoint after leaving the fair.

Disarming fair patrons is longstanding and throughout the Republic. Without trying or intending to write an article about it, here are a few headlines/incidents I’ve commented on over the years:

2022: “Shooting and brawl at Minnesota State Fair triggers mass crowd panic, exodus, and early closure”

2019: “Expect airport-like security at this year’s Washington State Fair in Puyallup.”

2014: “A popular beer booth at the Minnesota State Fair was robbed last Friday night. The State Fair Police say the suspect was armed and the victims’ hands were bound behind their backs.”

2013: “No Guns Allowed at The Bloomsburg [PA] Fair”

We could keep going. I’ve compiled entries going back to 2006 on my *The War on Guns* blog, that last one going back to Ohio and the Clermont County Fair, where the Agricultural Society claims private property privilege.

And prohibitionists being what prohibitionists are, another story I blogged about in 2020 seems as good a way to close out as any: State Rep. Juanita O. Brent of Cleveland, a Democrat, naturally, and a darling of Moms Demand Action because of her sponsorship of citizen disarmament edicts, assembled a handful of malcontents for TV “news” cameras at Elyria’s Old Courthouse to demand banning the sale of the Confederate Flag at the Lorain County Fair, and to tell the board, “Enough is enough.”

It’s not just your guns these people want, and for them, it will never be enough. **FN**

UNIQUE BOOK OFFERS ANTIDOTE TO 2A MISINFORMATION

By David Codrea

“**E**veryone agrees that misinformation is a huge threat...we need to protect ourselves from the insidious effects of misinformation on our views and decision,” *The Misinformation Antidote* declares. “[By learning to identify and focus on accurate information, many of our problems convert from intractable blockers to pathways to progress.”

To say that goal seems ambitious, especially considering the sheer amount of deception and mass gaslighting of the public, is a gross understatement. Undeterred, the book’s author, Omniscient Narrator, proceeds to demonstrate how many of the “truths” promulgated by “leaders” in all fields, and amplified by the media, are lies to advance agendas.

“Omniscient Narrator”? That’s a literary device that, per Oxford Reference, is “An ‘all-knowing’ kind of narrator very commonly found in works of fiction written as third-person narratives. The omniscient narrator has a full knowledge of the story’s events and of the motives and unspoken thoughts of the various characters.” It’s a pseudonym for C. Scott Sunday, “and [the book] is the

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result of over 50 years of research and resource accumulation,” according to the Amazon.com information page.

Who he is, and what his qualifications are to speak authoritatively on such an all-encompassing series of related essays, is left unsaid, but that doesn’t necessarily matter. An ad hominem argument directed toward a person instead of the positions they advocate is a logical fallacy. Sunday’s background is not what’s important, it’s the truth of what he writes, all grounded in an impressive display of solid logic backed by citations from impeccable sources.

This correspondent was equally fascinated with well-researched chapters on evolution and scientific knowledge, and with Sunday’s definitive deconstruction of fascism, demonstrating in their own words that, far from being “far right,” Hitler and Mussolini were both creatures of the collective, and showing Antifa to be that which they project and decry.

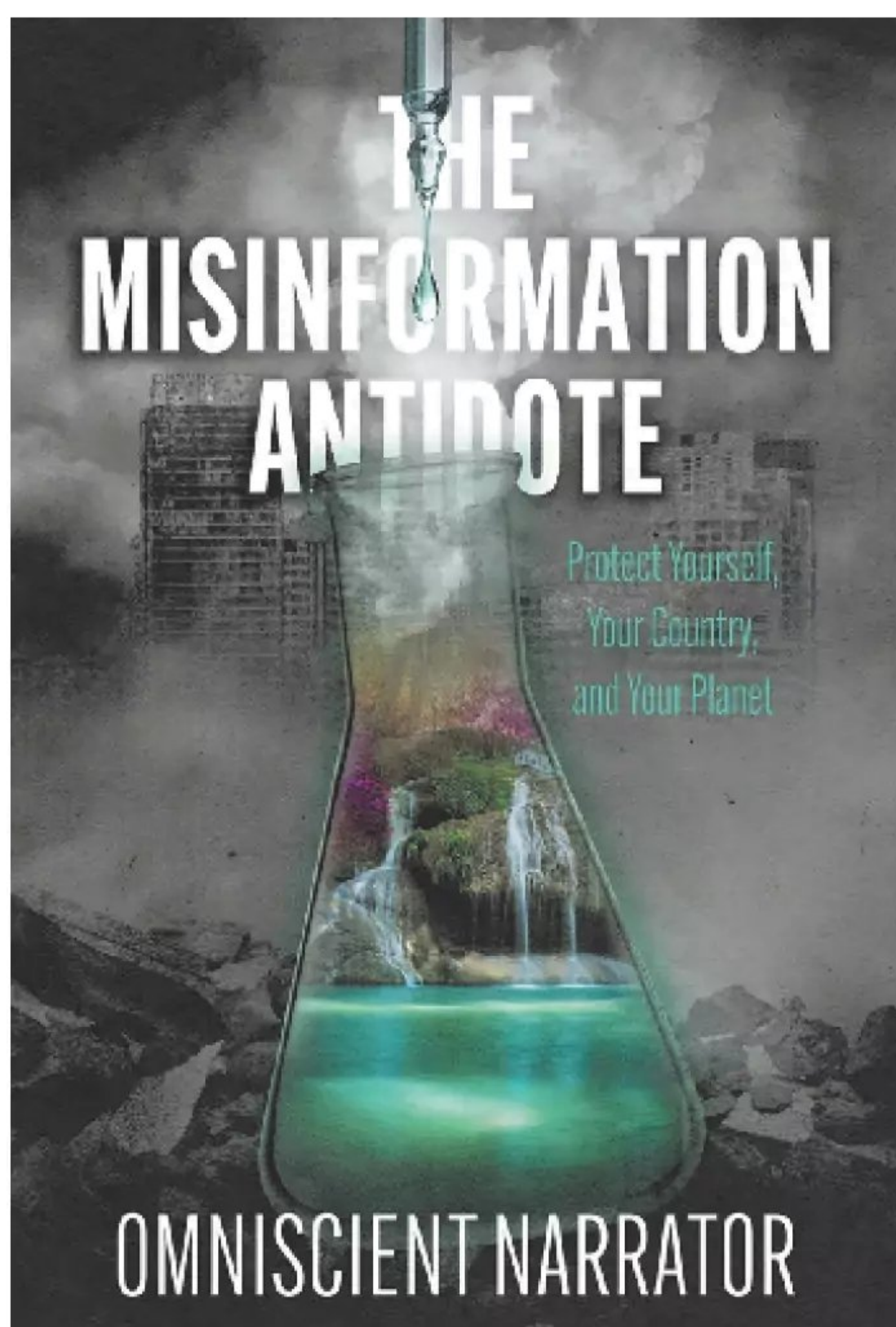
But with *Firearms News* being about guns, and about the right of the people to keep and bear them, three chapters are of special interest to this readership, “The Constitution of the United States,” “The True Meaning of the Second Amendment,” and “Mass Shootings in the United States.”

Tracing “the unbroken chain of continuity from before the Declaration of Independence, to the Articles of Confederation, to the Constitution itself, and finally to the Bill of Rights,” Sunday shows that words had (and still have) meaning, and that proponents of the so-called “living constitution” aim to repurpose them to advance their undelegated (and thus unrestrained) power.

“There can be no resolution to the issue of ‘gun violence’ or gun ownership in the twenty-first century if neither side incorporates the actual 2nd Amendment meaning, and its purpose, in their position,” Sunday asserts, launching into a comprehensive

deconstruction of Justices John Paul Stevens’ and Stephen Breyer’s dissents in *District of Columbia v. Heller*.

“It is necessary to reiterate that in substantial respects, the ‘pro’-2nd Amendment cohort’s proposed interpretation and arguments are defective as well,” Sunday argues, “following Justice Scalia’s silly example of how rights are not ‘absolute.’” (Tangentially related, see this correspondent’s “Scalia’s Critical Error as the 2nd Amendment Literally Requires Military Weapons Ownership by Citizens.”)



Also of note was the “earth-shattering change” when “the Constitution took the control and power of arming the militia from the States and gave it to the Federal Government.” The results of deliberate indifference to and/or calculated subversion of that power has led to the what Continental Congress delegate Tench Coxe’s warned against: “As civil rulers, not having their duty to the people before them, may attempt to tyrannize, and as the military forces which must be occasionally raised to defend our country might pervert their power to the injury of their fellow citizens, the people are confirmed by the next

article in their right to keep and bear their private arms.”

The chapter on Mass Shootings shows how rare the phenomenon was until relatively recent times, even though the capability to carry them out has existed since the 19th century, and even so, how relatively rare they are today, despite politicians and the media exploiting them to impose gun bans.

“The answers to these questions are incredibly important to discover what the actual objectives are of those people pushing so-called ‘gun control’ legislation,” Sunday concludes the chapter. With the information and statistics that he provides, readers are better armed to counter lies that do nothing to enhance public safety, but rather, help those telling them gain the political power to inflict even more infringements.

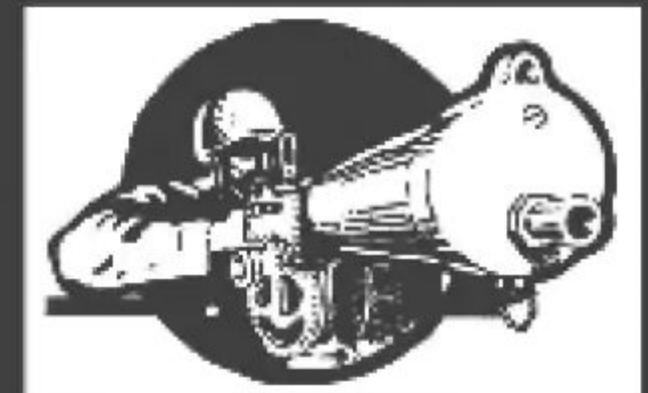
Speaking of statistics, there’s a chapter on “Data and Analytics” that show how “science” is abused to spread misinformation with an emphasis on fraud being perpetrated under the guise of “protecting” against “climate change.” There are comparisons between the Democratic and Republican parties, with a special analysis of the fabricated perceptions regarding civil rights. Sunday includes insightful thoughts on the destructive effects of narcissism, and the importance of finding meaning, and concludes posing an “Optional Exercise: After 100 Years, Has Fascism Finally Won?”

We won’t go into those here — the intent is to pique interest to learn more, and you can do that by obtaining a copy of *The Misinformation Antidote* for yourself. You can do that on Amazon.com, Barnes & Noble, Books-A-Million, IndieBound, or print, eBook, or audiobook at BookBaby.com. **FN**

David Codrea is the winner of multiple journalist awards for investigating/defending the RKBA and a long-time gun owner rights advocate who defiantly challenges the folly of citizen disarmament. In addition to being a regular featured contributor for Firearms News, he blogs at “The War on Guns: Notes from the Resistance,” and posts on Twitter: @dcodrea and Facebook.

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It's been said that we are the only country on Earth able to point to *one day* which resulted in the creation of a great nation.

It's also a day where the historical facts are less important than the implications of those facts.

Consider the choice made by the founding generation on that day—or night, I should say, as the alarms sounded about midnight—alarm gunshots, bells ringing, alarm fires on hill tops, riders sounding the alarm “the regulars are out!”

And there you are, snug on a cold spring night in your warm bed. What do you do?

The choice is to get out of bed, grab your musket and rapidly hustle to the village green, knowing the emergency will likely involve a confrontation with the British army—or—tired, warm, and comfortable—turn over and go back to sleep.

What a future turns on that choice.

Now, look at some of the other aspects of The Choice: Get out of bed, face the British army, and what happens?

You'll find out, if you lower that muzzle to point at the King's troops: Instant traitor at a time when any British officer could direct you to a quick hanging on the nearest oak tree.

And if not today, then tomorrow or the day after, or the year after—a traitor, until you win liberty, or until you die. “Liberty, or death!”, until you win, or die.

That's a tough choice.

But consider: Even back then, they had a saying: “Better to get hit in the chest or abdomen, and die quickly, than get hit in arm or leg, and suffer painful amputation, and likely die anyway from gangrene.”

Think about the patriot that day who was hit in the ankle with one of those big, slow-moving, lead musket balls. A shattered ankle? Amputation! Gangrene set in; another amputation, below the knee. Gangrene set in; another amputation, this time above the knee. Gangrene set in; another amputation, at the hip. Gangrene set in, and our patriot died. What price did this guy pay for YOUR liberty? Is it a price you'd want to pay? Is it too much to ask you to remember what he and his fellows did that day, to bring you liberty?

Consider more: No life insurance. You die, your family is without a breadwinner, and in instant poverty.

Lose an arm or a leg? No disability insurance. Better figure out how to farm or blacksmith less an arm or leg (assuming you survive the amputation).

Your house burned by the King's troops? Oops! Insurance has not yet been invented and even now, would not apply to a case of “civil disorder”.

So, there you are, in your bed, thinking about those things. All you have to do is turn over, sigh, and go back to a nice comfortable sleep.

And liberty is not born. A great nation does not arise.

How easy to make that choice to turn over. No worries about death, or wounds, or amputations, or your family's future.

Yet they made that choice. To get out of bed. Thousands of them.

And you owe them a great debt for the choice they made, for you have liberty. And live in a great nation.

So why should we not appreciate the people who made those choices and took to the battlefield to seize the trophy of liberty, on the behalf of us, those “future generations”?

That's why The Story needs to be told. And every American needs to hear it.

Stay tuned. That's just a small part of The Story. There's two more parts to go!

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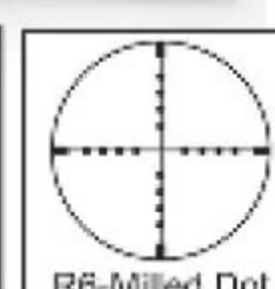
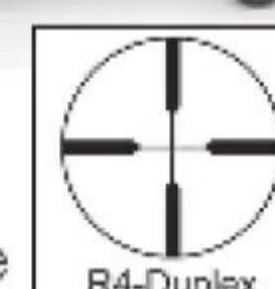


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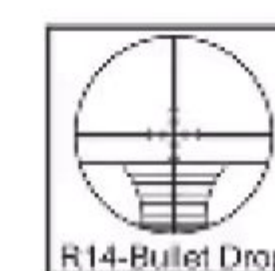


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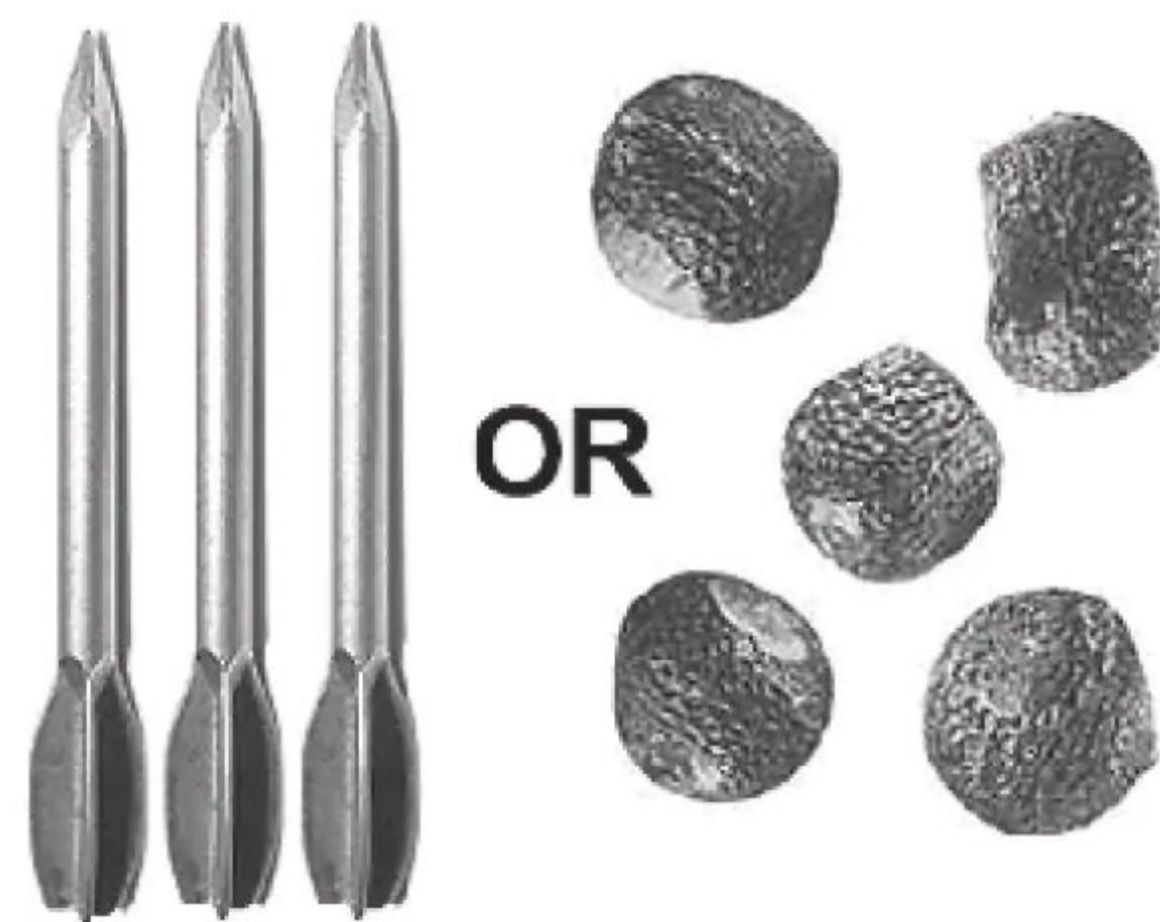
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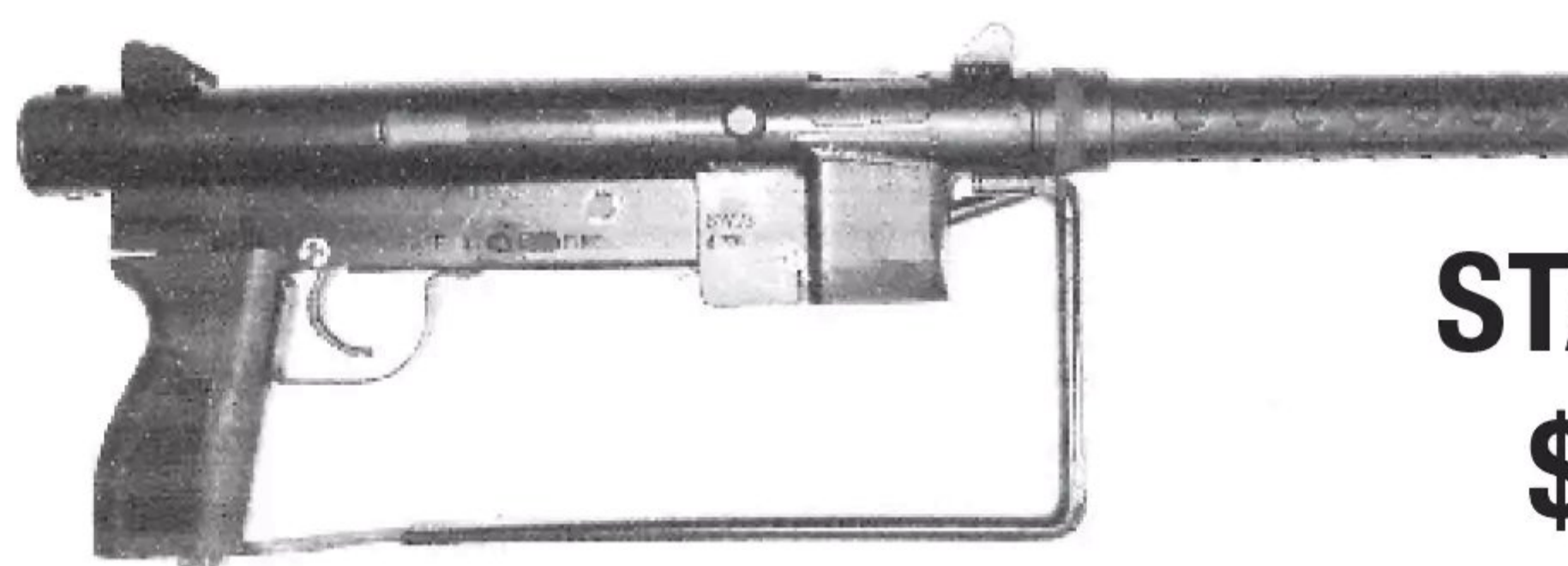
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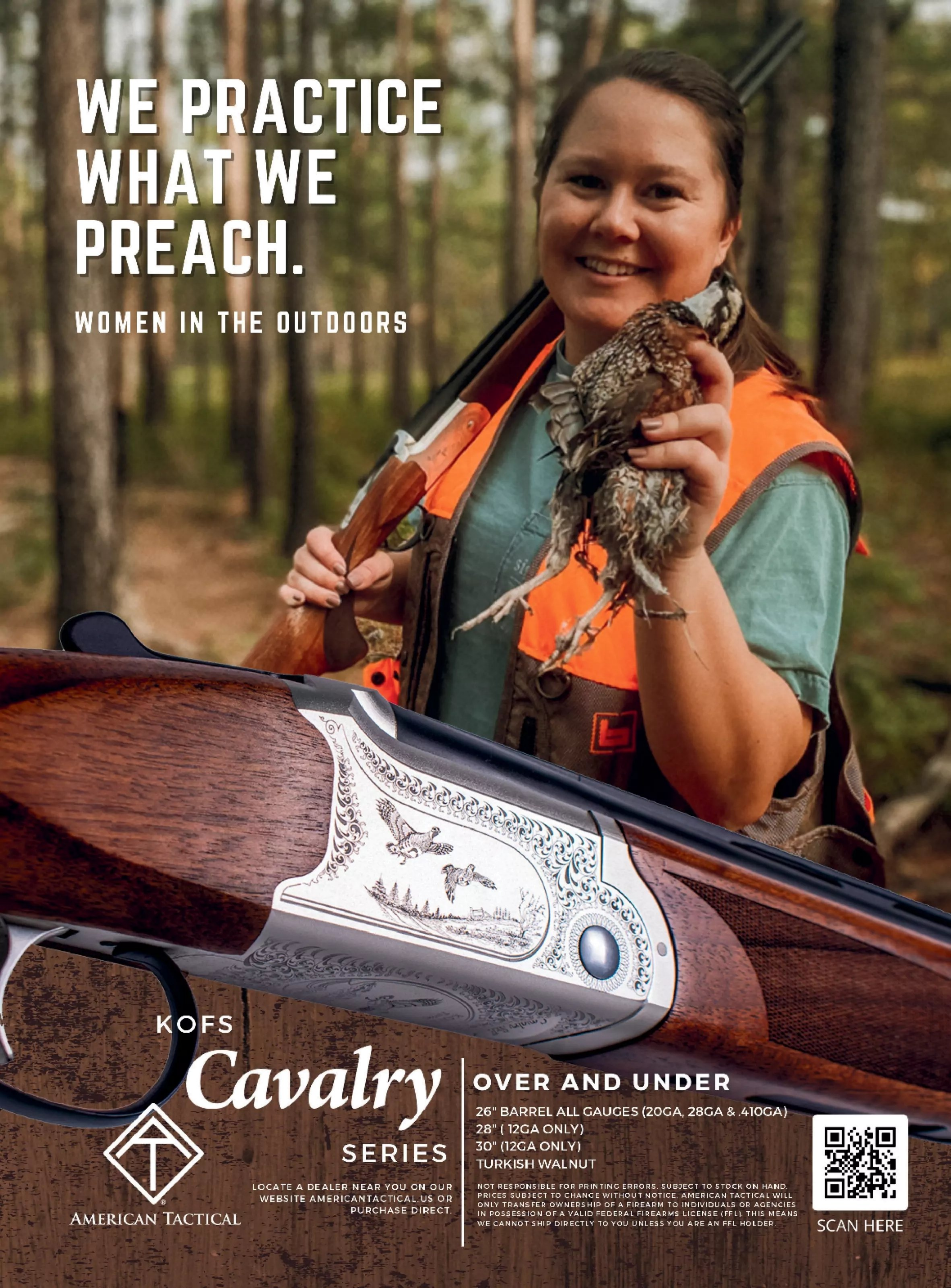
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