

FIREARMS NEWS[®]

GUN SALES, REVIEWS & 2A INFORMATION

JULY 2025

THE MOSSBERG 590RM SHOTGUN

SHOOTING CHAMPION
PATRICK SWEENEY
REVIEWS MOSSBERG'S
LATEST 12-GAUGE!

J&C ARMAMENT BLACK WIDOW Mk.III

AN AR-15-LOWER
COMPATIBLE
PISTON-DRIVEN
PDW FROM
POLAND

CANIK'S MC9L & MC9 PRIME PISTOLS

KIMBER'S 2K11 TARGET PISTOL

THE DP28 LIGHT MACHINE GUN

■ **CARRYING
CONCEALED
BELTS**

■ **IN HUSHED TONES**
NEW SUPPRESSORS
FOR 2025

■ **MUSINGS FROM THE
AMMO BUNKER**
6.5MM PRC

■ **NFA COLLECTING**
THE TRANSFERABLE M16

■ **RELOADING (NEW COLUMN!)**
HORNADY'S PRECISION
LAB POWDER SCALE

■ **THE WAR GUNS**
THE BOYS ANTI-TANK RIFLE

■ **CODREA'S CORNER**
TRUMP ADMINISTRATION
POSITION ON MACHINE
GUNS UNDERMINES ITS
2A CREDIBILITY



THE ALL-NEW BANISH[®] 9



BANISH

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AND MICRO BOOSTER

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- 1.35" DIAMETER
- 6.7 OUNCES
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MICRO BOOSTER INSTALLED

The BANISH 9 is a full-size 9mm suppressor for handguns and pistol-caliber carbines featuring titanium and aluminum body construction, 14 baffles, up to 34dB noise reduction, user serviceability, and BANISH's new Micro Booster. Multiple mounting options available. Includes lifetime warranty.

SPECS

LENGTH	6.8"
DIAMETER	1.35"
CALIBER	9MM
LIFETIME WARRANTY	YES

- 9MM SUPPRESSOR
- UP TO 34DB SOUND REDUCTION
*THE QUIETEST 9MM SUPPRESSOR
ON THE MARKET*

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BCM STOCKS FOR ALL MISSIONS . . . Starting at \$59



BCM Stock Mod 0



- Available in widebody SOPMOD model with more pronounced cheekweld



BCM Stock Mod 1 SOPMOD



- With storage compartment accessible through buttpad
- Widebody SOPMOD



BCM Stock Mod 2 SOPMOD



- Widebody SOPMOD
- With removeable modular buttpad



BCM Stock Mod 3



- Shown with optional BCM M3 Cheek Risers
- Patented internal latch system
- With removeable modular buttpad

BCM Grip Mod 3

- In Black and Flat Dark Earth
- Hinged trap door storage with gasket

Starting at . . \$20



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- In Black and Flat Dark Earth
- Available with Jack Carr Crossed Tomahawks design

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- In Multiple Heights. Starting at \$125



BCM A/T Optic Riser

Lengths from 2 inch to 7 inch. Starting at \$70



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For 5.56mm and 7.62/.30 Cal . Starting at \$35



BCM Compensator Mod 2



BCM Compensator Mod 3



BCM Compensator Mod 4



BCM Compensator Mod 7



BCM A2X Extended A2 Flash Suppressor

BCM QD Sling Mounts

For every applications Starting at \$19



BCM MCMR
• M-LOK® compatible



BCM KMSM
• KeyMod™ compatible



BCM RSM
• Picatinny rail compatible



BCM QD End Plate



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Starting at . . . \$45

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- Low-Viz Pro
- Auto Lock Folder

- Haley Strategic

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- Frank Proctor

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BCM 11.5 Inch Carbine

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- USGI 1/7 Twist • Mil-Spec 11595E Steel • HPT/MP Inspected
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BCM Complete Upper Receiver Groups

without Hanguards Starting at \$560



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- USGI 1/7 Twist • Mil-Spec 11595E Steel • HPT/MP Inspected • Chrome Lined
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BCM Complete Upper Receiver Groups

with BCM MCMR Rail Hanguards Starting at \$725



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- USGI 1/7 Twist • Mil-Spec 11595E Steel • HPT/MP Inspected • Chrome Lined
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M-LOK® Compatible Modular Rail

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BCM MCMR Handguards

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Free Float Handguard

KeyMod™ Compatible Mounting Slots

- 6061-T6 Aluminum Alloy, Hard Coat Anodized

BCM KMR Alpha Handguards

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BCM RAIDER-13

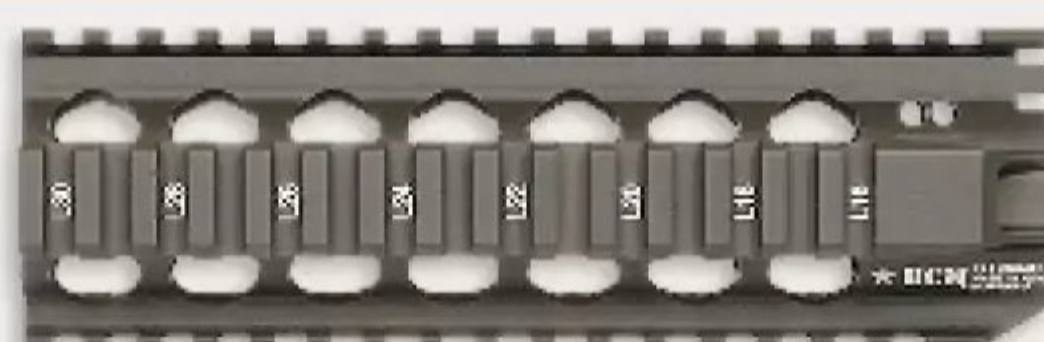
Free Float Handguard

M-LOK® Compatible Mounting Slots

- 6061-T6 Aluminum Alloy, Hard Coat Anodized

BCM RAIDER Handguards

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BCM QRF-7 Quad Rail

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- 6061-T6 Aluminum Alloy, Hard Coat Anodized

BCM QRF Handguards

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- Available in Black or Flat Dark Earth, in KeyMod or M-LOK® compatible

BCM Rail Covers 5 Packs starting at \$10



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- Available in Black or Flat Dark Earth, in KeyMod, M-LOK® compatible or 1913 Picatinny

BCM KAG Grips Starting at \$19



BCM PKMR and PMCR Polymer Handguards

- High strength polymer, simple "drop in" design
- Available in Black or Flat Dark Earth, in KeyMod or M-LOK® compatible, in Carbine or Mid-Length

BCM Polymer Handguards . . . Starting at \$21



BCM Vertical Grip Mod 3

- Available in Black or Flat Dark Earth, in KeyMod, M-LOK® compatible or 1913 Picatinny

BCM Vertical Grips Starting at \$19

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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. Frequency is subject to change without notice. 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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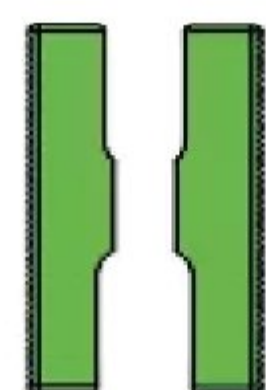
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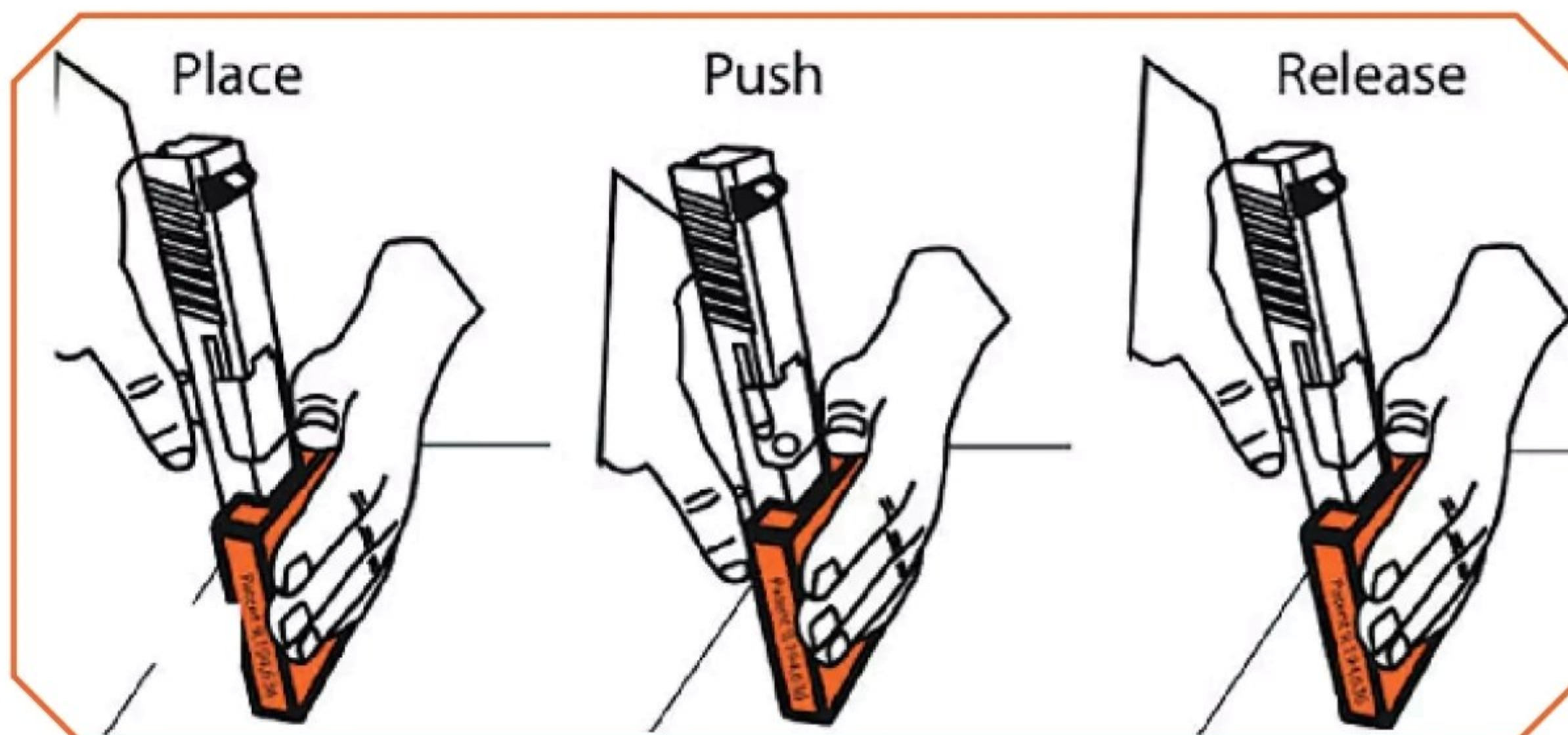
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See Web Site

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1944 Designed British Bergen with water proof coating on the inside and modified side straps for Belgian operation loadouts. Olive green canvas w/ leather reinforcements.

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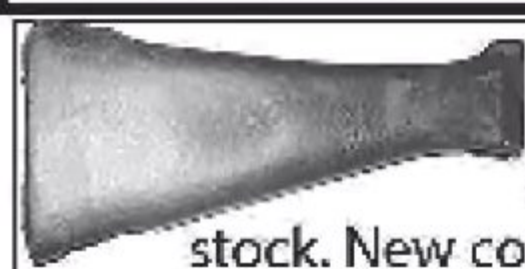
Israeli FAL Grenade Launcher, Used, Good **\$21.95 #FAL289**



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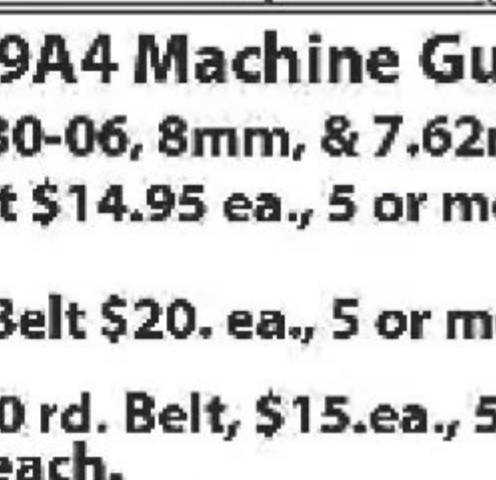
German Butcher Bayonet Model 1898/05 Sawback, new **\$69.95 #BAY302**



Italian BM59/AR70/AR90 Bayonet & Scabbard Black plastic grips with 6.5" blade. Original. **\$84.95 #BAY399**



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German K98 Bayonet & Scabbard with plastic Bakelite style grips. **\$44.95 #BAY254**



Mk46 & Mk48 Picatinny Rail Works on M249 SAW as well. Used, Excellent condition. **\$400. #M249001** Rarely on the market!!!!



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1958 Model



Size Large 60cm **\$125. #HAT26**

Original and Unissued!

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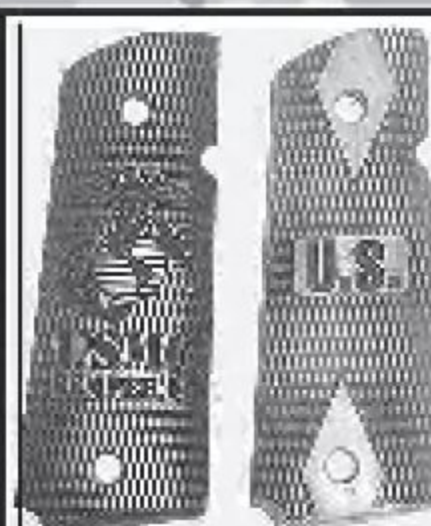
Extremely Great Find!!!! Original UNISSUED Belgian Army Tropical Bush Hats, adopted in 1958 and famous from their use in the 1960s Congo Rebellion thru the Biafra War as well as numerous other 'Bush Wars'. Khaki color w/ circular stitching and a fairly rigid upper that holds up better than its French cousin, the Mle-49 hat. Also sports a detachable chin strap with brass clips. Left side can be snapped upward and the inside is stamped well w/ the manufacturer 'M. Rousseau of Caussade'. Stored well in 'like new' condition in Large size of U.S. size 7-1/2" or 60cm. Extremely rare find in this day and age. Only a few dozen!

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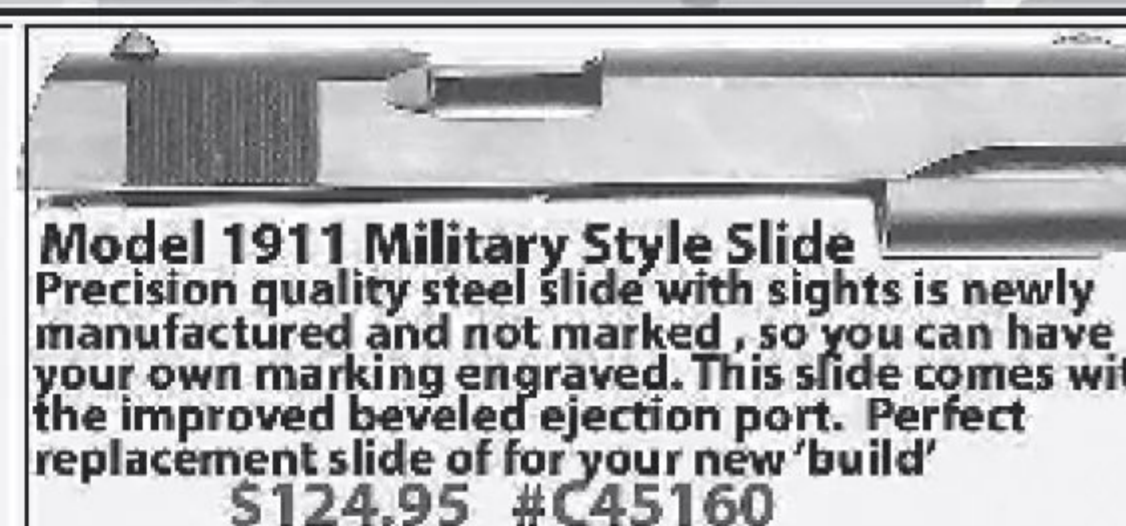
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- Steel Replica
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\$349.95 #C45451



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.

\$159.95 #C45096



Model 1911 Pistol 'Builders Kit'

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On Sale ! \$250. #C45097



.45 ACP
See Web Site For Details



Model 1911 Commercial Builders Kit- All parts, but the frame. This kit includes the Commercial new slide with wide serrations for easy cocking. Also wood diamond grips.

\$299.95 #C45218



Model 1911 Builder Part Set w/o slide, barrel, & frame. Excellent set to start with or use for spares!

\$159.95 #C45096



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1911, .45acp 5" Commander \$65. #C45325
1911, .45acp, 5-3/4" \$80. #C45321
1911, 10mm, 5" \$65. #C45399
1911, 38 Super, 5" Commander \$65. #C45386
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5" Forged! \$79.95
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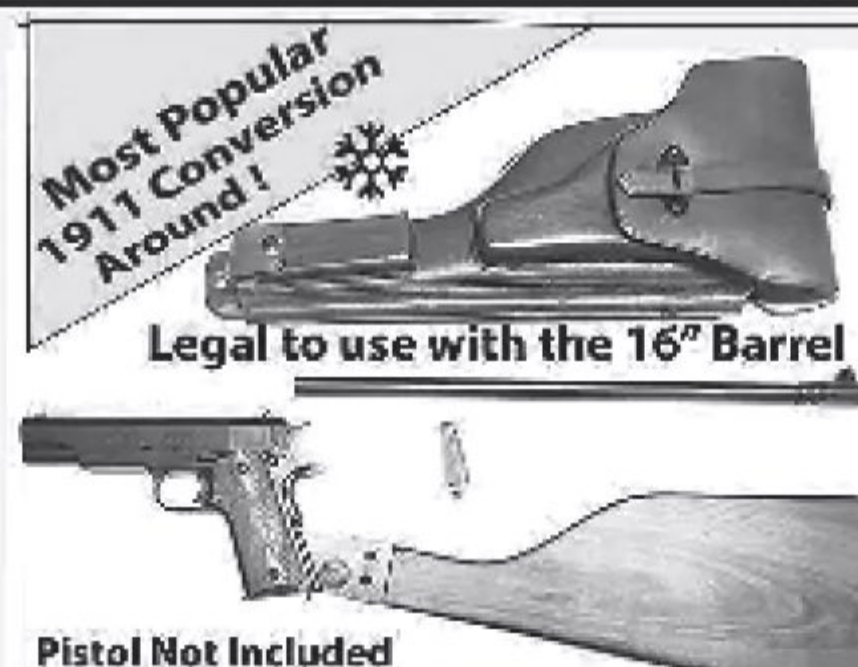
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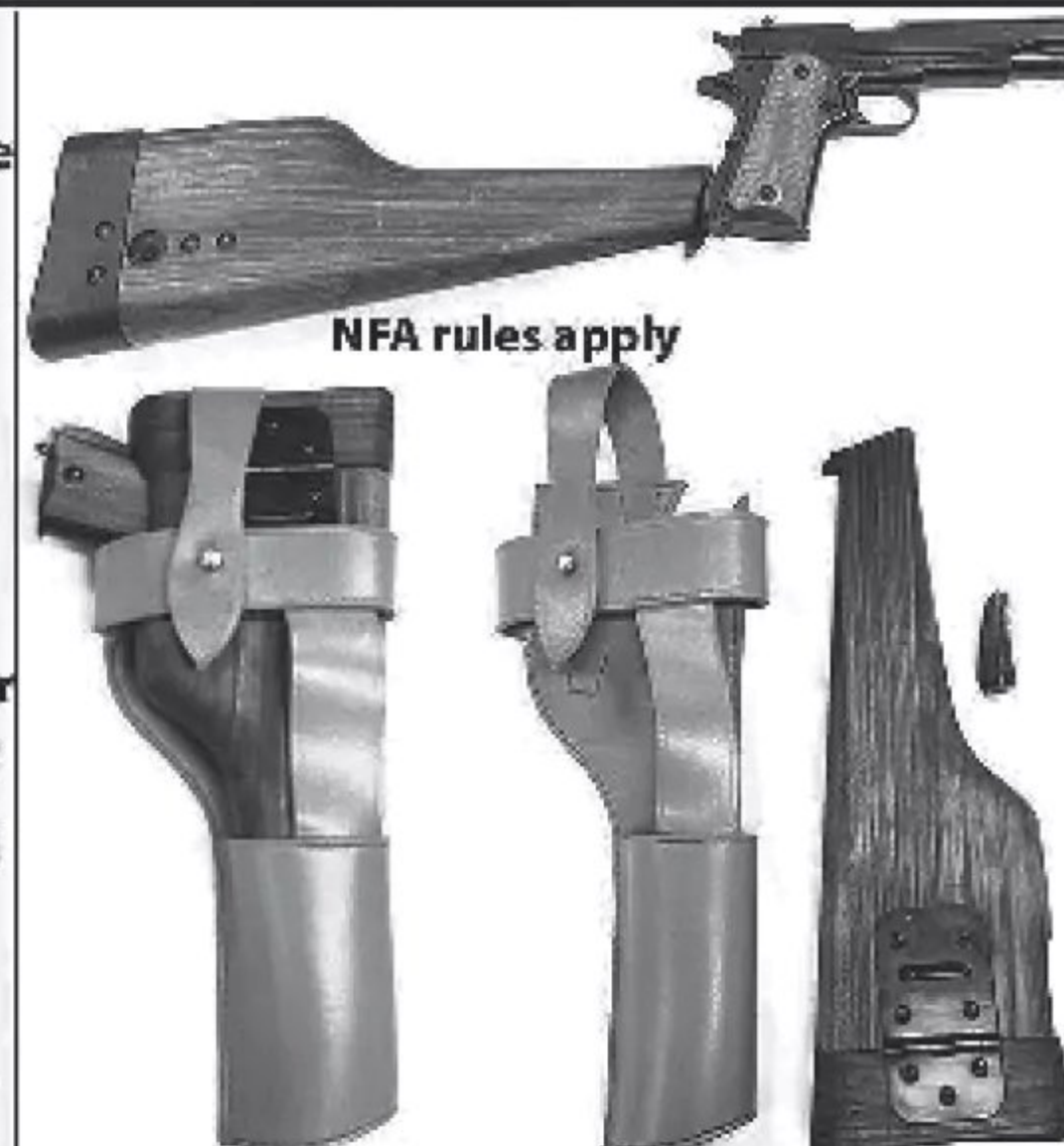
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CURRENT WILD SWINGS OF THE GUN CONTROL PENDULUM

With Gun Accessories Getting Banned, Trump Administration Needs Direction on the 2nd Amendment

By David Codrea, Politics Field Editor



“**[T]**here is no constitutional right to a factory setting,” The United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit declared in one of the more absurd statements made in its opinion in *Duncan v. Bonta* that California’s ban on ammunition magazines capable of holding more than ten rounds is constitutional. They’re not protected by the Second Amendment because they’re optional accessories, not arms, the Court claims. And even if it did protect accessories, the state can prohibit dangerous uses of weapons “by regulating components necessary to the firing of a firearm.” That and “Plaintiffs understate the extent to which our forebears regulated firearms to promote public safety.”

See, they’re just making stuff up at this point because they know they can get away with it. They’re counting on a Supreme Court that won’t rein in the inferior courts to respect the *Bruen* decision, and that keeps kicking the can down the road on semiautomatics, allowing infringements to continue until such time as the political pendulum swings back to Democrat dominance. One aside on this: It was all about the Second Amendment being about self-defense, and ignored the militia aspect. As long as that’s the only strategy, expect more of the same.

Another aside on this: If you haven’t seen it, watch dissenting Judge Lawrence Van Dyke’s video (see “Dissent video in 23-55805 *Duncan v. Bonta*” on YouTube) where he removes and attaches “optional accessories,” not only showing the majority for the insufferable ignoramuses on guns that they are, but also doing a better job at field stripping than ham-handed ATF officials have done propaganda videos trying to justify more bans (see “ATF ‘Expert’ Unable to Field Strip Glock” on YouTube).

The federal government has taken essentially the same position on suppressors. Acting U.S. Attorney Michael Simpson argued in *U.S. v. Peterson* that they are not arms and are therefore not protected by the Second Amendment. The uproar from the gun community was so loud that within three days the Justice Department filed a motion, as Gun Owners Foundation characterized it, to “reconsider its incorrect position that suppressors are not arms and are not protected by the Second Amendment.”

They’re NOT “arms” per se, except you’d then need to square that with 26 U.S. Code § 5845 – Definitions: “The term ‘firearm’ means... (7) any silencer (as defined in section 921 of

title 18, United States Code).” But whether a court considers a magazine, a suppressor, or whatever as an “accessory” or not, if they’re to comply with the *Bruen* standard of history, text, and tradition at the time the Constitution was debated and ratified, there’s no honest way around Continental Congress Delegate Tench Coxe’s contention: “Congress have no power to disarm the militia. Their swords, and every other terrible implement of the soldier, are the birthright of an American.”

They’re certainly “implements,” and as a colleague, with decades holding important positions in the firearms industry, advises, “My issue is this. Suppressors are not firearms just as drop-in auto sears and sniper scopes are not ‘arms,’ but the idea that courts, or government, can regulate anything that bolts or screws onto a gun is ridiculous. We shouldn’t fight to keep suppressors as ‘arms’—they are parts.”

Policies out of main Justice continue to leave gun owners uncertain of the Trump Administration’s overall intentions for the Second Amendment, and it’s left the gun community divided. Some are afraid we’ve been conned (again). Others say “patience”

and talk of 3D chess. Meanwhile, things go back and forth.

The President's executive action ordering AG Bondi to "assess any ongoing infringements on the Second Amendment rights of our citizens and present a proposed plan of action...to protect the [rights] of all Americans," seemed like a good first step (although the infringements addressed only go back to the Biden term). Still, his campaign promise to roaring crowds was that "Every single Biden attack on gun owners and manufacturers will be terminated on my very first week back in office, perhaps my first day," not that he'd assign someone to study the problem. Based on his pledge, it was fair to assume the incoming administration had already done its homework and would be able to hit the ground running. Gun owners were not encouraged by news that Bondi had missed the deadline for her report. Then it was learned she asked for an extension. The extension has come and gone, and Justice and the White House are keeping conclusions close to the vest.

Meanwhile, there have been legal developments leaving some of us scratching our heads. DOJ still refuses to say where it gets statutory authority to press a citizen for Consent to Permanent Entry in the National Instant Criminal Background Check System. That creates an unauthorized-by-Congress class of "prohibited persons," without a conviction or other disqualifier as defined by law. That the government has not provided responsive documents to my Freedom of Information Act Request and subsequent legal complaint makes it fair to speculate that resistance is not because it won't comply, but because it can't provide any records authorizing the practice.

A second case of mine involves ATF refusing to pony up for attorney fees after they were forced to return my Akins Accelerator bump stock to me, even though the Supreme Court ruled that the Bureau had "exceeded its statutory authority by issuing a

Rule that classifies bump stocks as machineguns." Instead, ATF is claiming that their position was "substantially justified," backed by "numerous favorable judicial decisions" (from Democrat judges), and is standing on "the reasonableness of the government's position."

In other words, citizens wanting to protect rights unconstitutionally taken from them must find the wherewithal to take on a government with unlimited resources, for years, and when vindicated, be told it's on them to eat the costs. Who can afford to do that? Is this the new management style "pro-gun" Kash Patel brings to the director's office?

There's another example of DOJ deliberate indifference in a formal civil rights complaint documenting how Illinois Supreme Court Justice Elizabeth Rochford, who ruled against "assault weapons," is unable to render an unbiased verdict because of her very public support of gun prohibitionists submitting arguments in her court, and financial support by citizen disarmament interests doing likewise. Justice, instead of taking action like they have when First and Fourteenth Amendment violations by states and municipalities occur, essentially shrugged and said protecting the Second Amendment is not their job. All this is not to say there aren't some good things coming out of ATF and Justice.

Rendering Chuck Schumer's 1992 appropriations rider against restoring gun rights impotent by removing ATF from the equation sounds like something everybody on our side missed, and offers hope that it's a viable workaround. But it's an impermanent one—unless Congress codifies it into law, changing rules is as easy as changing administrations, something trademark Republican fecklessness is great at making happen.

Another hopeful development is the appointment as ATF Chief Counsel of attorney, author and legal scholar Robert Leider, earning kudos from

some quarters as a "staunch supporter of the Second Amendment." How anything ATF does is constitutional remains unsaid, but it's inarguably better to have someone like him charting the Bureau's legal course than a confirmed gun-grabber, and the direction ATF takes in ongoing and future legal cases should tell us much.

Perhaps we'll be seeing such an influence in *Brown v. ATF*. Per a Gun Owners of America post on X: "DOJ Attorney Steven Hazel argues that it is constitutional for the federal government to infringe Second Amendment rights by 'restrict[ing]... the sale of handguns' to 18–20 year old adults" (just like Pam Bondi did when she was Florida AG).

That an attorney for the DOJ under Donald Trump can seriously argue that—with 10 U.S.C. § 246(a) codifying "The militia of the United States consists of all able-bodied males at least 17 years of age..."—is beyond understanding. But further illustrating the bipolar nature of contradictory positions we see coming from the Department is a March 24 advisory from DOJ Chief of Staff Chad Mizelle: "Protecting the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens is a high priority for @AGPamBondi. To that end, the Department will be re-evaluating some of its recent litigation positions on Second Amendment issues, including silencers."

"I got a call last night from someone who works with a higher up in the Trump administration as an advisor who said essentially [my video about DOJ arguing suppressors are not protected by the Second Amendment], and others like it, surprised the people steering the ship and they were unaware it happened," popular YouTuber Mrgunsngear posted on X. That raises obvious questions. Why were they surprised? Why are they unaware?

That brings up an argument this column has been making for years, first recalling 2016's "Second Amendment

[Cont. to page 102]

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AR-15 BIRDCAGE
A2 FLASH HIDER



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- CRUSH WASHER REQUIRED FOR INSTALL
- .223/556
- MATTE BLACK
- NO BOTTOM SLOTS

\$6⁹⁹
#AR64502

AR-15 5.56
FLASH HIDER PHANTOM



- STEEL
- THREADED 1/2-28
- 4 PORT DESIGN

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#FIEMZ48

BOWDEN TACTICAL AR15 556
FLASH CAN



- ANODIZED ALUMINUM
- ONLY 2OZ.
- 2.5" LENGTH
- 1.25" DIA
- THREADED 1/2-28

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AR15 4 PRONG
223 FLASH HIDER



- THREADED 1/2-28
- STAINLESS STEEL
- DESIGNED FOR 223/556 AR-15 RIFLES

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#FIEMZ1012SS

AR 9MM
FLASH HIDER 3 PRONG



- STEEL

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• THREADED 1/2-36
#FIEMZ47

AR 9MM
FLASH HIDER



- THREADED 1/2-36 COLT THREADS
- STEEL
- BLACK FINISH

\$14⁹⁹
• FITS COLT IWI TAVOR SOME CMMG BARRELS
#FIEMZ14

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KNIGHT COMPENSATOR 2-PORT



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- FITS 9MM
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FLASH CAN



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- ONLY 2OZ.
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- 1.25" DIA
- THREADED 1/2-36

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AR 9MM
FLASH HIDER



- THREADED 1/2-36
- STAINLESS STEEL

\$9⁹⁹
#FIEMZ13

BUSHMASTER AR 450
FLASH HIDER IZZY PHOSPHATE



- 3-PORT
- MACHINED TURNED RIBBED DESIGN
- CONTROLS MUZZLE RISE
- FLASH SUPPRESSOR

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#BUSF1005080

AR 45ACP
MUZZLE BRAKE TANKER STYLE



- BLACK STEEL
- TRIANGULAR BAFFLES

\$19⁹⁹
• THREADED .578-28
#FIEMZ43

AR 9MM
MUZZLE BRAKE TANKER STYLE



- SILVER ALUMINUM
- TOP & SIDE PORTS

\$19⁹⁹
• THREADED 1/2-36
#FIEMZ34

AR15 556
FLASH SOUND FORWARDER



- THREADED 1/2-28
- STEEL • .223/5.56
- LENGTH 5"
- SHROUDS 2" OF BARREL

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#FIEMZ1017

AR 308
A2 FLASH HIDER



- THREADED 9/16-24
- BLUED STEEL
- .32" INSIDE DIAMETER

\$6⁹⁹
#FIEMZ12

AR308
FLASH SOUND FORWARDER



- THREADED 5/8-24

\$24⁹⁹
• ANODIZED BLUE
• 2 PIECE DESIGN
#FIEMZ9

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308/7.62



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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.

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION POSITION ON MACHINE GUNS UNDERMINES ITS SECOND AMENDMENT CREDIBILITY

"Trum administration says machine guns aren't protected by Second Amendment," *The Washington Times* reports. "The Trump administration is taking heat from gun rights advocates after the Justice Department argued in court that machine guns fall outside the scope of firearms guaranteed by the Second Amendment."

The story quotes Assistant U.S. Attorney Jennifer Case, who, in arguing a brief in the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals to overturn a lower court ruling, asserted "Machine guns are not the kind of arms protected by the Second Amendment."

District Judge Carlton Wayne Reeves of the United States District Court for the Southern District of Mississippi had properly ruled that the Supreme Court's *Bruen* decision, codifying that text, history and tradition at the time the Constitution was ratified, defined the standards to be used in determining Founding Era intent.

Besides, the Second Amendment says "arms." It doesn't say "kinds of arms." Continental Congress Delegate Tench Coxe's views were reflective of what the understanding was at the time, when he wrote, "Congress have no power to disarm the militia. Their swords, and every other terrible implement of the soldier, are the birthright of an American.... [T]he unlimited power of the sword is not in the hands of either the federal or state governments, but, where I trust in God it will ever remain, in the hands of the people."



(Shutterstock/The Crazy Panda)

And for what purpose?

"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 article in their right to keep and bear their private arms," Coxe declared.

Where'd you pull "kinds of weapons" out of, AUSA Case? She's relying on the "in common use at the time" artificial construct that restricts "legal" ownership to what has not been banned by infringements, and limits gun uses to "self-defense."

While some leading Second Amendment voices are calling it our salvation, this column has been an almost lone voice in warning how "common use" can be a trap, exploited to sustain

current gun bans and deny new weapons developments to the people. We have also been one of the few advocates warning that ignoring the Militia clause and relying exclusively on self-defense makes the Second Amendment more vulnerable to infringements.

Viewed properly, the function of the Militia was to field citizen soldiers bearing arms in common use at the time, in other words, having "ordinary military equipment" to take into "common defense" battles. Make no mistake: they mobilized with the intent to match and best a professional military threat. A modern Militia would re-

quire citizens to keep and bear exactly what the gun-grabbing politicians are trying to take away from them, what they denounce as "weapons of war."

But AUSA Case wasn't done being wrong.

"Machine guns are not typically possessed by law-abiding citizens for lawful purposes. Instead, they are uniformly restricted, highly lethal and well suited to criminal purposes," she flat-out lied.

First, per ATF records, there are about three quarters of a million registered machineguns in the United States, and crimes committed with those have been exceedingly rare, with some reports documenting as low as four in all the time since the National Firearms Act went into effect, with two of them committed by police officers, and one by a sailor with a Navy-issued weapon. As for being

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“uniformly restricted,” the (certainly unconstitutional since Congress has no legitimate delegated authority to ignore “shall not be infringed”) Hughes Amendment, banning civilian ownership of post-1986 machineguns, makes my “common use is a trap” argument for me.

Editor-in-Chief of *Firearms News*, Vincent L. DeNiro, who has spent four decades in the gun industry and who successfully led the first defeat of a municipal “assault weapons” ban in 1989 (which made national news), had this to say, *“It is nonsensical for any so-called ‘pro-gun’ individual to state that they believe that the Second Amendment is in place for the individual to defend against tyranny, and then in the same breath state that machine guns should be illegal. How can a citizenry defend themselves against a tyrannical government which is armed with superior weapons? They cannot, and it was the Founder’s intent that the citizenry owns such modern military-grade weapons. Had they not felt that way, they would have restricted citizens to crossbows and catapults instead of muskets and cannon – they did not, and their writings are very clear. The Founders inserted the Second Amendment specifically as a God-given recognized right for the individual to have the ability to defend their liberty and life against tyranny and genocide. The Second Amendment was not put in place just for defense of robbers and rapists, it was put into place as a defense against a possible future tyrannical government. My Ukrainian grandparents and mother wound up in a German camp and their property and business confiscated by the Nazi government. Almost 10 years before that, Communist Russia, under Stalin, conducted the largest genocide by famine in history murdering somewhere between seven and 10 million Ukrainians in order to wipe out their ethnicity, culture, language, and history, something Russia tried to do for over 600 years, and continues to do to this day. The Second Amendment means much*

more to me than collecting guns and keeping a handgun in nightstand for home defense.”

Here’s the thing: Case is offering these offensive and absurd arguments “on behalf of Patrick Lemon, the acting U.S. attorney in southern Mississippi.” It’s fair to ask where the hell either of them were when Attorney General Pam Bondi announced her Second Amendment Task Force and sent out a memorandum to all hands at Justice declaring “For too long, the Second Amendment, which establishes the fundamental individual right of Americans to keep and bear arms, has been treated as a second-class right. No more. It is the policy of this Department of Justice to use its full might to protect the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens.”

To that end, we’re either to believe Case and Lemon are dissidents rebelling against the new marching orders and will be slapped down forthwith, or they’ve already cleared their arguments with the higher-ups, presumably to include Bondi, new Solicitor General D. John Sauer, and new Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division Harmeet Dhillon, and that they’re all on board with it. Ditto for the new “pro-Second Amendment” ATF Chief Counsel, Robert Leider.

But wait, as they say in the infomercials, there’s more!

“Government Opposes Compassionate Release of Gun Tuber Matthew Hoover For Terminal Medical Condition,” *AmmoLand* reports. His “crime”? Advertising (not selling) an “Auto Key Card” that could presumably be cut along the lines and function like a “lightning link,” but, in fact, could not be made to function by ATF testers because its outline dimensions and thickness were wrong. Is this that “full might to protect the Second Amendment” Bondi was talking about?

If Justice doesn’t back down on these cases (and others there’s not enough space to outline here), we’ll have our answer. If it does, like it did

when it got embarrassed for siding with New York Attorney General Letitia James against gun companies for selling 80% kit guns, it will point to more bipolar examples of the left hand not knowing what the right had is doing, the much ballyhooed “Task Force” notwithstanding.

A “solution” to eliminate the confusion that’s being bandied about is for the administration to name a “Second Amendment Czar” and create a Second Amendment staff within the DOJ Civil Right Division. There are two problems no one else seems to be bringing up, so let’s do it here: First, they’d all be feeding from the same hand, with attendant career incentives. Second, a “czar,” by definition, is a dictator, and the Bill of Rights is about freedom.

By all means have a DOJ 2A point person with adequate staff, but also correct the one glaring deficiency then Task Force has: There are no independent gun owner advocates. By bringing gun owner advocacy groups, attorneys, and activists into the process from inception as partners and advisors, the disconnects, the reversals, the misunderstandings and surprises—and the resulting mistrust—could be resolved before policy is ever set.

Otherwise, look for more of the same. And despite whatever “good” decisions we see coming out of Justice today will be offset by disillusioning “bad” ones tomorrow.

“Americans are born free and under the Trump administration, we will live free,” Donald Trump promised in his address to NRA members at the Association’s 2025 Annual Meeting. “With me in the White House, your sacred rights will not be infringed.”

We’ve heard those promises before, Mr. President. Let us help you keep them. Or don’t and keep alienating core supporters who know when they’re being played and are fed the hell up with it. If machine guns aren’t protected, the Second Amendment is a dead letter and anyone who maintains otherwise is a fraud. **FN**

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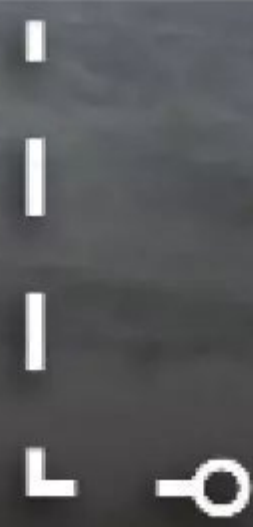
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AP53



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A holster is part of a system, and only as good as the belt that holds it up and keeps it in place. Tarr has some thoughts.

While there are exceptions, generally you'll need a belt to support the weight of a pistol around your waist. As a basic rule, I think, men should wear belts, just as they should wear wristwatches and have pocket knives on them at all times. It's a sign of manhood. If

you go out in public wearing sweatpants or, God forbid, pajama bottoms, and are wearing flip-flops or (even worse) Crocs, you need to have a come-to-Jesus moment. Consider this your intervention.

Belts are like carry guns—any is better than none, but some are better than others. Let me give you a brief education and recommendations based on a few decades of experience of daily beltline carry.



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You've never had more choices in belts specifically designed for concealed carriers. From top: Nexbelt (synthetic), Galco Masterbilt (leather), and Magpul Tejas El Cibolo (leather and synthetic).



You might not realize it, but your belt is a consumable, and the tougher it is the longer it will last. This is what Tarr's horsehide belt looked like after ten years of daily carry.

The wider, stiffer, and thicker the belt, the more it is able to support the weight of your firearm without sagging. And, not coincidentally, the wider, stiffer, and thicker the belt, the less tightly you'll have to pull it around yourself to prevent the pistol from shifting/flopping.

Standard belt loops on men's pants will take up to a 1.5-inch wide belt, and if you're carrying a serious gun, much less a spare magazine and the normal amount of gear a man has

"Tactical" "rigger/instructor" nylon belts, like this offering from Blackhawk, usually with Cobra buckles, are very popular with some guys, but don't think you're going all "gray man" if you're wearing one of these.



er belt to do the job because your pants help in supporting and positioning that holster. You'll also need a longer belt to fit around the gun/holster.

near your holster, your belt is going to sag, your holster is going to flop, and that holster in fact might even migrate around your waist. I'm not saying to

Today, Dozens of Manufacturers Offer Multiple Belts Made Out of Natural and Synthetic Materials, Specifically Designed for Daily Carry.

stuffed in his pockets (wallet, keys, cash, pocket knife, flashlight, etc.), in addition to the weight of the pants themselves, you'll find a 1.5-inch wide belt is probably the best choice for your everyday carry needs.

"Dress belts" are usually one-inch wide and are designed more for looks than they are support. However, they will work, especially if you are carrying a smaller gun or inside the waistband and don't have so much gear in your pockets. Let me point out that carrying inside the waistband means you'll be able to get away with a narrower/weak-

It's not the size of the gun so much as the weight that affects things. Once you go to outside-the-waistband carry or start carrying something heavier than a snub nose or subcompact, you're going to find a thin belt starts to flex and twist. Now, before I dive into the specifics of and pros and cons of various belts, let me talk briefly about belt loops, as they're part of a system.

Belt loop position can be almost as important as belt strength. If you've only got three or four belt loops around the circumference of your waist, and none of them are anywhere

pick your pants solely based on the proper number and position of belt loops, but it is a factor you need to be aware of it. Luckily, the modern belt loop situation is pretty good whether you're talking tactical 5.11 BDUs or simply Wrangler jeans.

While I've always worn 1.5-inch wide leather/horsehide belts, they've never looked especially tactical (just sturdy), and I've never been a fan of the nylon tactical rigger/instructor belts with Cobra buckles. They work, but if you truly are trying to go for a "gray man" look they are not your friend.



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Many smaller companies are doing exemplary work with belts. These are a few offerings from Simply Rugged Hosters. Tarr prefers the “oxblood” color as seen at the top.

Today, dozens of manufacturers offer multiple belts made out of natural and synthetic materials, specifically designed for daily carry. You’ve never had it better. After over ten years of daily carry, my horsehide belt from MTR Custom Leather was long past retirement, so over the past six months I’ve been evaluating a few offerings:

Nexbelt is probably the most well-known and successful brand of tactical EDC carry belts. These synthetic belts are offered in various colors and styles, and have a buckle-less click-adjust feature. They’re so iconic and successful that Safariland sells a co-branded model. I bought one at last year’s NRA show and tried it for a while, but I just can’t get myself



Your waist size is not your belt size, and many companies size things differently—check with the manufacturer. Tarr wears size 34 pants, and yet his belts...are not.

in leather holsters and belts. The Belt Man is well-known in some circles, as is Simply Rugged Holsters if you’re going for a more traditional/western look. One final note: your waist size when you order pants will probably not be the length belt that you want. Follow the manufacturer’s directions in sizing. **FN**

One Final Note: Your Waist Size When You Order Pants Will Probably Not Be the Length Belt That You Want.

A little over a year ago, Galco introduced their Masterbilt series of holsters, high-end high-grade leather holsters produced by their most experienced craftsmen. The holsters were expensive but looked gorgeous, and if you were looking for a leather holster for your expensive 1911, they were worth it. They’ve now introduced the Masterbilt Holster Belt. Double-thickness premium steerhide, double rows of stitching, and a flat brass buckle with the Masterbilt logo. Gorgeous and classy. I will tell you that there’s nothing like the smell of leather and that is one thing to recommend both leather belts and holsters.

to wear it as I just don’t like the looks, but I know a lot of people who love them. Magpul has their line of Tejas gun belts, and from how low their sale prices are currently I wonder if they’re going to discontinue them. I recently bought their Tejas El Cibolo belt. The exterior is textured bison hide, reinforced with bull hide, and the interior is polymer. The end result looks like a fancy leather belt on the outside but is the stiffest belt I’ve ever worn. All the Tejas belts are this stiff. If they’re still available when you read this, I highly recommend them. There are a number of great companies out there who specialize

SOURCES
The Belt Man TheBeltMan.net
Blackhawk Blackhawk.com
Galco Galco.com
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Hornady's 6.5mm Precision Rifle Cartridge offers a step-up in performance over the 6.5mm Creedmoor, but should you consider it?

6.5MM PRC

Is Hornady's Fat 6.5mm One to Consider?

So, what's the deal on Hornady's short and fat 6.5mm? For all intents and purposes, the 6.5mm Precision Rifle Cartridge is a short magnum which provides 250 fps or so of velocity over Hornady's 2007 vintage 6.5mm Creedmoor. Due to this, the exterior ballistics are further improved over the Creedmoor. More importantly, the increase in velocity improves terminal performance making the 6.5mm PRC a better hunting cartridge both at distance and on larger game than the 6.5mm Creedmoor.

The 6.5mm Creedmoor is a good, but not great hunting cartridge. In

reality, especially back east where the distances are shorter, most hunters would actually be better served by the 1952 vintage .308 Winchester. The 6.5mm PRC though ups the ante without a large increase in recoil or completely axing barrel life. Plus, it better handles heavier bullets, such as those in the 147-grain range, than the 6.5mm Creedmoor. Recoil of the 6.5mm PRC with 147-grain loads is



Hornady's 6.5mm PRC is seen here with some of its peers (L to R): .308 Win, .260 Rem, 6.5mm Creedmoor, 6.5mm PRC, 6.5x55mm and .300 Win Mag.

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Testing was conducted with a Legacy Sports Howa HS Carbon Fiber rifle with a 24-inch barrel and the Ruger Hawkeye Long-Range Target rifle with a slightly longer 26-inch barrel seen here.

much more comfortable than say, the classic .300 Winchester Magnum 190-grain load.

Now, keep in mind, what the 6.5mm PRC accomplishes is hardly new. There are a host of 6.5mm cartridges out there, some of which easily outperform the 6.5mm PRC. Cartridges like the 6.5-284 Norma, 6.5-'06, 6.5mm Remington Magnum, .264 Winchester Magnum, 26 Nosler and 6.5-300 Weatherby Magnum have been killing animals for years. Plus, while suddenly popular with American sportsmen, the 6.5mm bore-size is hardly new. It has been putting men in the ground and animals in the dirt since 1891. The sedate

by modern standards 6.5x54mm Mannlicher-Schonauer is legendary for its feats on African dangerous game and the 6.5x55mm "Swedish" Mauser is respected by competitive shooters and hunters alike.

What is relatively new is the interest by American sportsmen in this bore-size. This is primarily due to the success of two cartridges, the previously mentioned 6.5mm Creedmoor and the 2004 vintage 6.5mm Grendel. Now, neither of these cartridges was an instant success, but both eventually found their footing and then took off. The success of the Grendel and Creedmoor has led many hunters to take a closer look at other 6.5mm

cartridges. While there are a host of 6.5mm cartridges, none besides the Creedmoor and Grendel have achieved real success with American hunters. Hornady hopes to change that with the 6.5mm PRC.

Often, the difference between a hugely successful cartridge and one that is soon confined to the dustbin of history (and being sold at blowout prices by CDNN Sports) is nothing more than timing. Cartridges that are too far ahead or behind the curve typically do not fare well. To be blunt, the bones of 6.5mm cartridges which failed to achieve mainstream success in the US litter the ground to the horizon. So, the 6.5mm PRC is a bit

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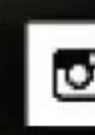
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100-yard accuracy of the 6.5mm PRC Hawkeye Long-Range Target was quite acceptable with the target on the left shot with 143-grain ELD-X and on the right with 147-grain ELD Match.

of a gamble for Hornady. Mainstream success has zero to do with performance or factory support. American sportsmen are a fickle bunch, and commercial success depends upon their whims. That said, the 6.5mm PRC has the performance and characteristics to be a commercial success.

So, how does the 6.5mm PRC actually perform? To find out, I tested two different Hornady factory loads in two different barrel lengths. Test ammunition consisted Hornady’s 143-grain ELD-X Precision Hunter and their 147-grain ELD Match. Both of these bullets have an excellent reputation. They both possess very high ballistic coefficients (BC), are known to be very accurate and the ELD-X performs very well on game. The 143-grain ELD-X has a .625 G1 BC while the 147-grain ELD Match has a whopping .697 G1 BC. The 147-grain ELD Match bullet makes more sense in the 6.5mm PRC than the Creedmoor.

Test rifles consisted of a Legacy Sports Howa HS Carbon Fiber with a 24-inch barrel and a Ruger Hawkeye Long-Range Target with a slightly longer 26-inch barrel. Accuracy at 100 yards proved quite acceptable for production rifles. It’s interesting to note that both rifles preferred the heavier 147-grain ELD Match load. Looking at the included chart, you will note the 6.5mm PRC’s velocity is

fairly impressive and a step up from the 6.5mm Creedmoor. I also found it interesting the 24-inch Howa barrel proved slightly faster than the Ruger’s slightly longer 26-inch tube.

From the bench, I moved to firing the Ruger Hawkeye Long-Range Target prone off a Harris bipod with a rear bag. I decided to try my hand on the various steel plates and silhouettes at 500, 550 and 580 yards. With a 100 yard zero, two Mils of elevation provided center hits with the 143-grain ELD-X load at 500 yards. I fired one quick three-shot group at this distance which measured 4 inches. Holding 2.5 Mils put me on the 550 yard LaRue. 580 yards required 3 Mils to send the 11x20 inch LaRue swinging. During this portion of testing, I was also

interested to see how hard it would be to spot my own shots. Recoil is mild enough that I had no issues from the prone position. However, from some less stable positions it might be an issue.

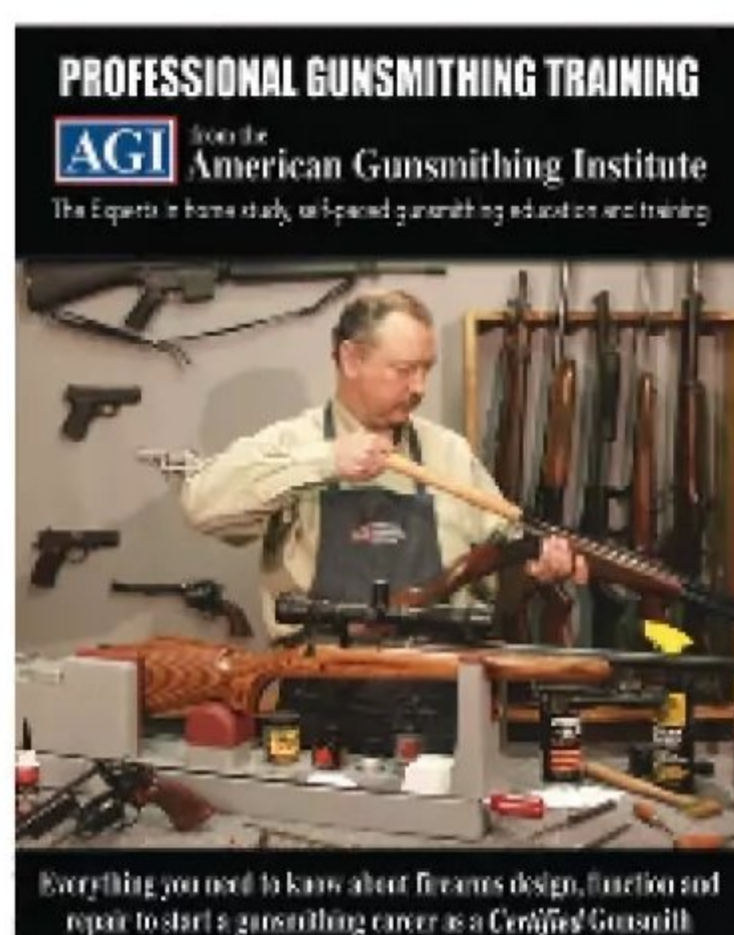
Next, I swapped to the 147-grain ELD Match load and tried my hand at 800 yards. Here, I had no trouble making a first-round center hit. However, a switching wind gave me some grief and a five-shot group measured seven inches horizontally but only three inches vertically. I hit a 12-inch plate, kicked up dirt a few times, and finally hit an eight-inch plate. Most of the time, I was behind on my wind call.

It’s obvious Hornady’s 6.5mm PRC has a number of fine qualities, the exterior ballistics are solid, and it offers a bit more performance over the Creedmoor for hunters. If you want a step up in performance over the 6.5mm Creedmoor, but do not want to go to a .30 caliber, like the .300 Win Mag, this is a viable option. Short, magnum-type cartridges are often here today and gone tomorrow. Will the 6.5mm PRC catch on like the Creedmoor and Grendel? That I cannot say, but it certainly has the performance and industry backing to be a success. For more information on the 6.5mm PRC cartridge visit Hornady Manufacturing at Hornady.com. **FN**

6.5MM PRC ACCURACY AND VELOCITY CHART				
LEGACY SPORTS HOWA HS CARBON FIBER RIFLE WITH 24-INCH BARREL				
Load	Bullet Weight (gr.)	Muzzle Velocity (fps)	SD	Average Group (in.)
Hornady Precision Hunter ELD-X	143	2,948	20	0.75
Hornady ELD Match	147	2,888	35	0.68
RUGER HAWKEYE LONG-RANGE TARGET RIFLE WITH 26-INCH BARREL				
Hornady Precision Hunter ELD-X	143	2,933	13.9	0.80
Hornady ELD Match	147	2,862	34.8	0.60
Notes: Accuracy results are averages of four five-shot groups fired from a rest at 100 yards. Velocity figures are 10-shot averages recorded with a LabRadar Doppler chronograph at the muzzle at an ambient temperature of 35 degrees F at 1,030 feet above Sea Level.				

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HORNADY'S PRECISION LAB POWDER SCALE

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Ok, if there is one absolutely essential item of gear you need in order to safely and properly reload ammunition, it is the powder scale. How important do I think it is? If you don't have a scale, and you are reloading ammo, I don't want to be on the firing line next to you. Without a scale, however much powder you are dispensing is simply a guess, and perhaps not even a very accurate one at that. You need a scale.

Now, I learned proper use of a scale in chemistry lab. The ones we had there were so precise, so accurate, so sensitive that they each resided on their own concrete pillar, isolated from the rest of the world, and from the floor. They each lived inside of a glass enclosure, and you had to open the front to reach in and get to work. Otherwise, air currents could interfere with an accurate measurement. It took some time to learn the skill, and the tricks, to doing it properly, and nudge the weights across their beams. (Four beams, I used a small wooden dowel so my skin moisture wouldn't cause interference. Probably paranoia, but that's in the past.)

Beam balances are accurate, they can be very consistent, but they do take extra effort, and a bit more time each weighing. That's why I use digital scales these days, as I find they are plenty accurate enough (although Dr. Christ might have objected to that assertion, back in chem. lab) and certainly consistent, which is what I need, along with the speed.



The Hornady Precision Lab Scale is everything you'd ever want in a scale and then some.

The top of the line for Hornady is their Precision Lab Scale. This is a digital scale with a maximum capacity of 3,000 grains. You might think, "*That's way more than anyone needs.*" but you could be not-right.

Jumping ahead for a moment, when I do a weight check on a powder measure setting, I drop ten charges, weigh, and take the average. (Averaging ten is easy: just move the decimal place.) Now, if I'm setting a powder

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On the back of the Precision Lab Scale there is the power plug socket, a USB port, and a data cable port.

► The Hornady Precision Lab Scale comes with calibration weights. You use these to ensure consistency and precision.



charge for a .30-06, ten drops can be 600+ grains. If I'm loading up a .300 WinMag, then it can be as much as 850 grains. A three-thousand max gives me plenty of room to work with. Even if you decide to take up reloading the .50 BMG, you'll only be at the halfway point in the Precision Lab Scale limit and it does this measuring to a tenth of a grain. That's why I drop ten charges. Okay, a bit of math. My current high-volume 9mm load uses 3.6 grains of powder. If I just drop a single charge and weigh, my dropped powder weight can be between 3.56 grains and 3.64 grains of powder. That is just over two percent variance from one session to another. Ouch. If, however, I drop ten charges and weigh, then the averaged

weight then falls in-between 35.96 and 36.04 grains, a 0.2% variance. That I can live with. (The powder measure probably varies more than that.)

The Precision Lab arrives in a well-padded box and has all the extras you need to properly weigh powder charges. It will take some time to assemble, and you'll need a power outlet close enough to plug in, so do some planning as to your bench space layout. You can, however, use the USB port to power it with a powerbank, should you want to take it to the range and do some reloading right there at the firing line. I can see that being very useful at a private range, less-so at a public range. There is also a data port on the back, so you can record the measurements should you have your

reloading room set up to be digitally current. (Me, I write things down, but then I've been accused of being so old that I can read cuneiform.)

The weight plate is the square platform that resides inside the removable enclosure. (Shades of chem lab scale room, but ours were not removable.) There is the powder cup, and there will also be a pair of calibration weights in the package. Hang on to them, and keep them handy, so you can regularly check that your scale is in-spec and measuring properly. The Precision Lab Scale also has a bubble level, so you can use the adjustable feet to make the scale level. Yes, it can matter. The mechanism inside depends on the mass being weighed to be pushing directly down onto the measuring system, not at an angle. The owner's manual has instructions for all the steps, as the menu and buttons offer lots of options.

To use is simple: power on. Use the weights to calibrate. (You should



◀ The Hornady Precision Lab Scale comes with all the cables you will need, including a euro-adaptor, an interesting choice. Just make sure you park it on a bench close enough to an outlet.



The enclosure has sliding doors so you can control breezes and keep dust out of the system.



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The Hornady Electronic Scale can do everything you need in order to properly reload. It is a cost-effective measuring tool.



The Electronic Scale has a touchscreen control, so you can calibrate it and set it up for various units, among other things.

do this if it has been more than a few days since the last use. The OCD among us will do it every time.) Now, while it is sitting there warmed up and ready, set up your powder measure, adjust it to what you want, and drop ten charges into the power pan. Open one of the doors (there are three, so right and left-handers both have options) and place the pan with powder on the scale. Close the door and wait. Give it a moment to settle down and note the weight. Adjust the scale if you need to, dump the powder back in the scale, and repeat. Do this until you have the exact weight you desire.

It would be a good idea to take notes, either in a reloading log book, a log book just for the Precision Lab Scale, or on a 3x5 card that goes into the ammo bin of loaded ammo. As I've said many times, writing was invented for a reason, and that reason is: memories can be flawed. It would be a bad thing to load up a batch of ammo and having traveled a long distance to a major match, find that your memory was faulty, and your ammo is over, under or otherwise not right for the task.

You might think that an enclosure on a scale is an affectation. Well, errant drafts can interfere with your measurement, as the air flowing over the scale can change the apparent weight. If you live in a house that is at

all dusty (and all houses are, just to varying degrees) the build-up of dust can change your measurements over time, and the enclosure will protect the scale if you should happen to be a bit clumsy and drop something, or fumble something. Having an errant bullet fall onto and bang the scale plate might cause a change. Yes, re-calibrating it probably (might, maybe, who knows) will re-set things, but what if it doesn't? The enclosure offers protection from small acts of clumsiness.

The best location for your Precision Lab Scale is close enough to your reloading to make it convenient to use, but far enough away that the regular work of reloading doesn't have it in the way, or close to harm. We all have our own setups and amounts of elbow room, so you will have to figure this one out for yourself.

A quick check on prices tells me that the Precision Lab Scale runs \$420, which some might feel is a bit much "just to weigh powder." Okay, I get it, you need consistency, not absolute precision, because you are going to cross-check your loading efforts with a chronograph. (Aren't you? You should.) In that case, you can settle for the Hornady Electronic Scale, which is a simpler and less-expensive scale (only \$64, last I

checked) that will do lots for you. It has a max weight of 1,500 grains, so you aren't going to give anything up on that detail unless you are loading .50 BMG. It even has a bubble level so you can make it level regardless of your bench top. I have to admit that moving up to or near to the chemistry lab-level of precision and complexity does have its allure, but I also understand budgetary limits.

Whichever one you opt for, get one, because loading ammo without a scale is a form of roulette, where you stand to lose more than just money at the wheel. A prized firearm, perhaps some fingers, who knows what else. Don't gamble, be precise. Even be Precision. **FN**

SPECS	
HORNADY PRECISION LAB SCALE	
Size:	11.25 in. x 11.12 in. x 8.85 in.
Weight:	4.4 pounds
Cost:	\$420
HORNADY ELECTRONIC SCALE	
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Weight:	6.75 ounces
Cost:	\$64
Contact:	Hornady.com



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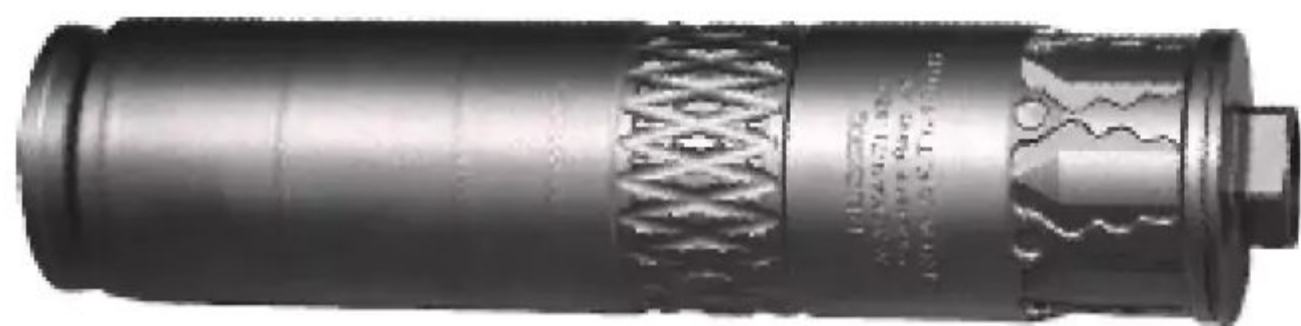
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NEW SUPPRESSORS FOR 2025

The Choices
Are Awesome!

It was time again to make the sacrifice for our readers: endure the hike through the Vegas landscape: dry air, carpet dust, a million square feet of floor to search, all flooded with the latest respiratory plague variant. Yes, the SHOT show. In finding the latest suppressors for your briefing, I will tell you about them in the order in which I encountered them, so as to not influence you as to one or another being more awesome. Because they all are.

Rugged Alaskan Ti .360 (RuggedSuppressors.com)



When you want light, and rugged, you can count on Rugged and their Alaskan Ti 360.

When you go to explore places where there might be bears, you take a bear-sufficient firearm. Okay, you can't pack a 20mm Oerlikon, so you settle for a .338 WinMag. It is made of Titanium it can handle pistols and subguns up to 9mm (obviously) but it is also rated up to .338 Lapua Magnum. It comes direct-thread, but it can be built to work with Rugged's own Ti QD mount. And when you do go and use it on a 9mm subgun or a .300 Blackout, it is full auto rated. It's a lot at \$1,800, but worth it.

US Armament (USArmamentMfg.com)

When it comes to thinking outside of the box, the DeLisle carbine has

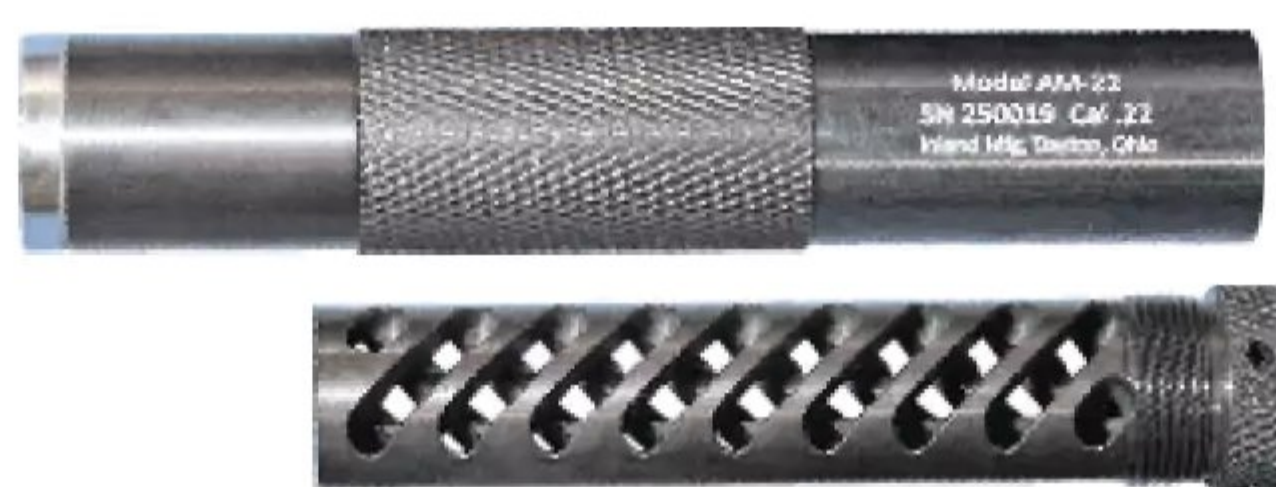


The US Armament DeLisle carbine. As close to original as possible, but better in being quiet.

to be a contender for first place. A rebuilt SMLE, in .45ACP, and integrally suppressed, it is the unicorn of suppressor firearms. Well, US Armament is now making as-faithful-as-possible copies of the DeLisle. Not exact, because we know a lot more about how to make a suppressor effective these days, so US Armament didn't do an exact copy of the internals. What would be the point? But everything else is as close as possible to the originals, of which fewer than 200 were made. Who knows how many survive? Brace yourself, for such exemplary "I've got mine" status will cost you. But the bragging rights, at the gun club? Top-drawer.

Inland Manufacturing PM-22 (Inland-Mfg.com)

The bulk of suppressor sales seem to be for rimfire, and for good reason, it is cheaper to run, cheaper to buy, and giggle-worthy fun. Inland is



Rimfire suppressors are inexpensive, and a lot of fun. Inland is making their PM-22 for even less.

making the PM-22 at a weight of 3.5 ounces, and that is due to the aluminum tube and polymer baffle design. The threaded portion is stainless steel for durability, but the tube is just under one inch in diameter and only five-and-a-half inches long. The price is \$189 (less than the tax stamp) and it works like a charm. There is one detail, however: the polymer baffle assembly has a service life, and you'll need to send it back to Inland for the rebuild. Not a problem, at \$189 MSRP.

Silencer Central Banish 9K (SilencerCentral.com)

The main problem with a pistol suppressor is the need for a booster. This adds weight, and also increases recoil. How to solve that problem? Ask Silencer Central. They 3D print the Banish 9K, out of titanium, and thus make it so light it does not need a booster, and it is quiet, as well. The



The Silencer Central Banish 9K is more, and less. More titanium (as in, all) and less, as in no booster needed.

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You can see the direct-thread attachment, because it does not need a booster to work on a pistol.

direct-thread mount is integral to the suppressor, so there's no added steel of any kind. You even have your choice of thread pitches, the usual American 1/2x28 or the European M13.5x1LH. The total weight is a wispy 2.7 ounces. To keep it short, and quiet, they bumped the diameter up to 1.3 inches, but the overall length is just over four inches.

Jaguar Silencers (JaguarSilencers.com)

Okay, boxes are for storing things in, not shoving them into categories. The Jaguar series of suppressors come



The X Series are larger internally, by means of turning a tube into a tube with a basement.



If you don't want more volume, then Jaguar makes regular tube-shaped suppressors as well.

in two types, the Max Series and the X series. The X is the thing here. Jaguar uses additive manufacturing, 3D printing, to create their silencers. The X series are made as rounded rectangles to get as much expansion volume as possible inside the suppressor, and not make it a sewer-pipe-diameter tube. They are made for hard use, out of Inconel, and this means they are a tad portly, but, at just under 13 ounces for a 5.56 version, not the heaviest ones out there. Available in direct-thread or the new standard HUB thread pitch, they promise to outlast multiple barrels on your AR-15.

Aero Precision (AeroprecisionUSA.com)



The Aero Precision Tephra is an effective rimfire suppressor that can do more than just 22LR. And it looks good, too.

Fresh off of the Lahar 30 introduction, Aero has the Tephra .22 suppressor. Meant for those who spend range session knee-deep in brass, the Tephra has 17-4 stainless steel baffles inside of an aluminum tube. With its stainless baffles, it shrugs off .22LR, and can be used all the way up to a 5.7x28 pistol. At just under five-and-a-half inches, it isn't ultra-compact, but it is only just over an inch in diameter, and you will not find your .22 firearm thrown off-balance by installing the Tephra. You can get it in Black or Kodiak Brown, and the list price is \$375, which is not a big deal in the suppressor market these days.

Griffin Armament (GriffinArmament.com)

Optimus 6 is the name, and printed is the game. With so much long-range precision competition shifting to 6mm cartridges, using

a .30 suppressor might be a hindrance. So, Griffin makes the Optimus 6. It is additive-manufactured, it is made to be used on 6mm rifles and it is made entirely out of 17-4 stainless steel. It is also almost an inch and three-quarters in diameter, for maximum internal volume. The front cap is tuned for flash-killing reduction, and it can be had in one of the two Griffin Armament mount styles, or the industry-standard HUB thread pitch. Your choice of Black or FDE Cerakote, coming soon.

Yankee Hill Machine (YHM.net)

The Yankee Hill V12 is going to make quite the splash at the gun club. It won't be making much noise, just a strong impression. The Victra-12 is a modular shotgun suppressor. You use the YHM Victra mounts and



The new Optimus 6 is made for the growing number of 6mm rifles in use. It can be had in a variety of mounting solutions.



Griffin covers the bases, from HUB threads to proprietary mounts.

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You can build your Victra 12 to the length you want or need, starting from the full-length size that ships.



The 12 mounts in the choke tube threads on your barrel for installation and you use a choke in the Victra to control spread.

screw the mount into the choke tube threads of your shotgun barrel, and if you want choke, then you can do that at the front cap of the Victra-12. As-shipped, it is a twelve-inch package, because shotgun shells, despite not having a high chamber pressure, generate a lot of gas volume. If you want your Victra-12 to be shorter, then you use the rod kit and tools to bring it down to 10 inches, eight or even six inches in length. The rod kits are extra. At \$995 and promising to bring the decibel level down to 135 at the shooters ear, this is as cool as it gets.

Dead Air Silencers (DeadAirSilencers.com)

Working at something for ten years can produce spectacular results. Dead

Air has their Sandman X, an additive-manufactured 7.62 suppressor, made out of Haynes 282 alloy. Haynes makes alloys for use in jet engine turbines, which is a harsher environment than a suppressor interior. The Sandman X can be had with different front caps, to adapt it to various calibers. It is rated up to .300 RUM, and it has the industry-standard HUB thread pattern on the rear. It is built for low back pressure, which

hassle, so the new ones are being made here in the US, in... .300 Blackout. (I can hear the shouts of glee from here.) The suppressor is permanently attached to the barrel, so it is a one-stamp rifle, and that makes it even more cool. The display models were offered in two stock styles (still being worked out) a fixed and a folder. Price as yet unknown, but this level of cool is going to be pricey, but worth it.



▲ Soviet specops, meet American innovators. With a dollop of Swiss suppressor tech in the mix. The BSD is going to be in .300 Blackout, with rumors of other calibers as well.



▲ The Dead Air Sandman X is the result of ten years of experience and testing. You want hard use, here you go.

◀ The Sandman X has different-caliber front caps so you can build it to the caliber you are using.

is greatly appreciated, and you can have it in Cerakote, Black or FDE. It is full-auto rated, and there are no barrel-length restrictions. Depending on how many extras you order on yours, it runs from \$999 to \$1,059.

BSD (BSDFabWorkx.com)

This is a collaboration between B&T (who are making the suppressor part) and BSD Fabrication. The rifle is an updated (but as close to original as possible) VSS Vintorez. The originals were made in 9x39, but sourcing that ammo here would be a

Angstadt Arms (AngstadtArms.com)

The new Reticent series from Angstadt Arms has been designed to produce the most sound reduction possible, but also to dampen the frequency output on each shot. The idea is to not just make it quieter, but to shift the sound so it becomes less identifiable, and on top of all that, it looks different.



The Angstadt Arms Retient is not just a 5.56, but will be available in 7.62 and .36 as well.

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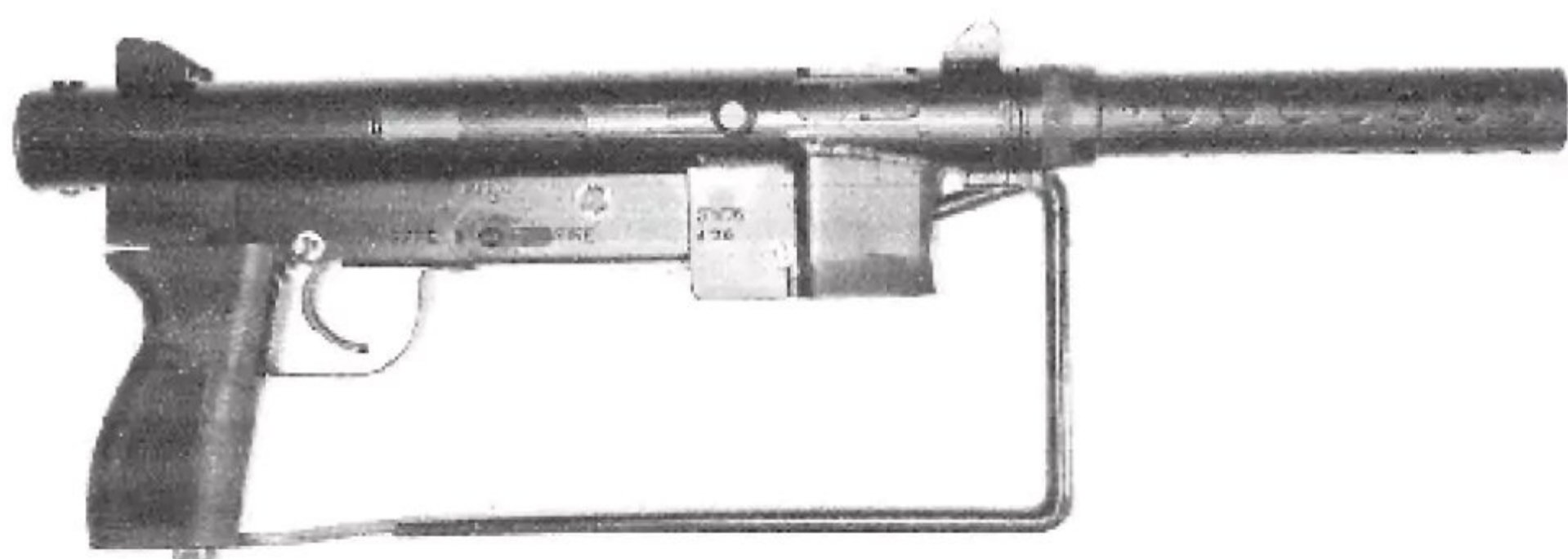
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Daniel Defense (DanielDefense.com)

The newest Daniel Defense is their Soundguard 30, improved. This the SG-30TiL. The “L” indicates that it is longer, being an inch and three-quarters longer than the regular SG-30Ti, and that means even more sound reduction. However, being made out of titanium, it doesn’t add much more weight, tipping the scales with 2.2 ounces more Ti than its shorter brother. Like the shorter SD-30Ti, it is rated from .223 up to 300 PRC, which covers a whole lot of rifles in your rack.



The DD SG-30TiL is longer and quieter, without being so much heavier that you’d even notice.

SilencerCo (SilencerCo.com)

The Scythe-STM in .30 caliber is a stainless-steel version of the Scythe-Ti, meant for hard-use applications. This means no barrel-length restriction, and the STM is even full-auto rated. (The Scythe-Ti is not full-auto rated.) The STM is modular, so when you have it all-up, it is two baffles longer than the Ti Scythe, and when you shorten it, it is one baffle shorter than its Ti brother.



The Scythe-STM is stainless steel, not Titanium, but that means it is a lot more durable.



The STM is modular, so you can make it long or short, handy or quiet, and it works on a host of calibers.



The FD Suppressor mounted on an HK. No need for a booster, as the suppressor uses the accessory rail as the mounting location.



Available for a bunch of Glocks, and an HK 9mm, this is a cool idea, and we hope they expand the offerings.

Durability costs you, as the STM full length is 14.7 ounces, twice the weight of the Ti. But the STM can handle everything from .223 up to .300 RUM, and there’s even an included aluminum Anchor Brake.

Fischer Development (FD-Silencer.at/en)

One of the problems with putting a suppressor on a pistol is that you need an extended, threaded, barrel. Okay, two, since you have to have a booster as well. If you do not (with rare exceptions) the weight of the suppressor will “stall” the pistol in cycling. There are ways around the need for a booster, but there’s still the matter of the extended barrel. Fischer Development solves both problems. Its suppressor attaches to your pistol by means of the accessory rail. By sliding onto and clamping on the rail, they rigidly attach the suppressor to your pistol, without the need for an extended barrel. Since there’s no need for the extended barrel, nor the booster, they took advantage of that and made the suppressor a rectangle, not a tube.

This gives them more volume, to offset the gas losses you’ll have with the clearance needed at the muzzle. It also makes it easier to clean, since you can unbolt the side panel and get in to scrub the interior. Also, as a rectangle and not a tube, you don’t need suppressor-height sights. Your regular ones will work just fine. So far just for various Glocks, and the HK SFP9, but that’s a lot of what you readers shoot.

Kryon Suppressor Shield (Guntology.com)

No, it isn’t a suppressor, but it is a saving-gear-from-your-suppressor accessory from Guntology that you might want. I mean, you’ll really want. Unlike your usual cloth wrapper to keep the heat from your suppressor from melting your gear, or burning you, the Kyron is a rigid shield. It uses an adapter hat that fits on the barrel, then you install the suppressor (or mount) and the shield. Your hot suppressor can’t touch, so it can’t burn stuff. Very neat. One drawback: it doesn’t knock down heat mirage. You can’t have everything, but you can keep your gun cases from melting. **FN**



No, it doesn’t stop mirage, but it does keep your hot suppressor from melting your gun case, or scorching your leg. It will also cool off faster, as well, what with the airflow it gets.

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caused by weary eyes? No, rather the effect came from tiny flecks of silver glinting in the sun.

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THE TRANSFERABLE M16

One Machinegun to
Rule Them All



Back in the mid-1950's, Gene Stoner and a few others set out to design an infantry combat rifle that incorporated the latest in aviation technology. The Second World War drove advances in engineering and materials science the likes of which humanity had never before seen. The end result was the Armalite AR-10.

Stoner and Company later shrunk the AR-10 down to accommodate the radically new .223 cartridge, itself also a Gene Stoner contrivance. The resulting AR-15 begat the U.S. government's M16 that ultimately became the longest-serving infantry rifle in American military history. The new SIG M7 Spear is simply a vigorously upgraded version of that same basic design.

The key to the M16 is its modularity. With most firearms, the component that accepts the barrel is typically the serialized bit. By contrast, the M16 lower

receiver is the controlled component. In this case, the same basic lower receiver can be kitted out with a multitude of barrel assemblies, upper receivers, and buttstocks to become a wide variety of weapons. One common lower receiver can therefore become everything from a .22LR plinking toy up through a pistol-caliber submachine gun to a real-deal assault rifle or even a belt-fed squad automatic weapon.

The inaptly-titled Firearms Owners Protection Act (FOPA) outlawed the manufacture of automatic weapons for sale to individuals in 1986. This vile piece of unconstitutional rubbish capped the pool of transferable machineguns at around 176,000. The M16 is one of the more common machineguns in the registry.

Transferable Particulars

There are basically four ways to get into a transferable M16. Each has its



This HK416 parts kit rides on a transferable Wilson Arms M16 receiver Dabbs bought back in 1987. With the AR-15/M16 design, it is the lower receiver that is the actual gun. Everything else is fluff.



Thanks to the modular nature of the weapon, one transferable lower receiver can become a huge number of guns.

own positives and negatives. Factory Colt guns are the safest option. These weapons began as selective fire automatic rifles. Many to most of these guns entered circulation as law enforcement (LE) surplus.

Original Colt markings command a price premium. Those that are marked “Property of the US Government” cost even more. There are even a few exceptional outliers that bear the stigmata of use at nuclear power plants or specific LE agencies. Colt guns will have reliably in-spec receivers and impeccable build quality.

A registered drop-in auto sear (DIAS) is an inspired little widget that fits into the pocket at the rear of a standard semiauto AR-15 lower receiver and does the job of a GI auto sear. Unregistered versions sold freely

prior to November 1981 when the ATF declared them to be contraband machineguns via Ruling 81-4. Sears made before that cutoff were grandfathered so long as you didn’t own an AR-15. DIAS manufactured after the 1981 decision, until the cutoff on May 19th, 1986, had to be serialized and registered as machine guns. Unserialized/unregistered DIASs were made completely illegal with the FOPA even if you didn’t own an AR-15. Yeah, it’s that complicated, but a good many were indeed registered prior to 86.

Registered transferable auto sears can be moved easily from one lower receiver to another. Because of its versatility, a DIAS is often more expensive than a Colt factory gun. A DIAS operates with standard GI fire control parts and offers traditional selective fire operation. It is also nigh indestructible. Broadhead Armory, JCB, and Wilson

Arms made them prior to 1986 along with several other manufacturers.

A registered lightning link (RLL) is a flimsy-looking beast that could be crafted out of sheet steel with some basic hand tools and a little time. The RLL drops into a standard AR lower equipped with stock semiauto internals. This rascal trips the hammer as the bolt goes into battery to create full auto fire. The up side is that, like the DIAS, the RLL moves easily from one gun to another. The down side is that it is full auto only and is the least rugged of the four options. SWD made most of the 900 or so RLLs currently in the registry.

Some of the most common M16 variants are machined conversions of semi-auto AR-15 lowers. Converted Colt SP1 lowers sport Colt markings and quality but use a large-diameter front pivot pin that demands an adaptor

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This original Colt M16 left the factory as a selective-fire assault rifle and was sold by Rock Island Auctions. (Rock Island Auctions)



The registered drop-in auto sear is the most versatile way to get into a full auto M16. This nifty trinket will move to any standard AR lower receiver, but it is expensive. (Rock Island Auctions)



The Registered Lightning Link is a simple stamped steel contrivance. You could hypothetically make one by hand with a Dremel tool and a big hacksaw blade if such stuff were legal nowadays. (Rock Island Auctions)

to accept a GI upper. AR lowers could be converted to machineguns at home via a BATF Form 1 prior to 1986, so lots of people made them.

There weren't all that many semi-auto hosts available back then compared with the number of manufacturers today. The relative longevity, desirability, and cost of these conversions is usually driven by the nature of the original Title 1 AR receiver host. Essential Arms receivers were cast rather than forged and are theoretically not as rugged as those from Schuetzen Gun Works (SGW)/Olympic Arms. SAW, PAWS, Palmetto, and Frankford Arsenal conversions typically used the same Olympic chassis. The Wilson Arms and Armitage International conversions I have seen used EA lowers. Converted Sendra lowers are common as well.

Olympic Arms got better at making lower receivers the longer they did it. Lowers produced right before the 1986 ban are generally prettier than those made years before. EA markings are notoriously crude.

Rewelded receivers can be a crapshoot. Group Industries made 104

transferable lowers out of stainless steel. Though a bit heavy, they are about unkillable.

Details

Converting a semiauto AR-15 receiver was a fairly straightforward chore. A small pocket needed to be milled out in the back of the receiver to accommodate the GI auto sear. Then a single hole was drilled to accept the sear pin. The selective fire GI parts were then just plug and play.

The appeal to an AR receiver conversion is that nothing needed to be timed or fitted. Additionally, the design of the M16 is such that the lower receiver bears relatively little stress. So long as it is not abused, a transferable M16 lower should last about forever.

Even if it is abused, there are a few artisan gunsmiths out there who can repair literally anything. Sienna Armory recently sold a handful of movie-industry surplus transferable M16 lowers on GunBroker that looked like they had been run through some kind of shredder. The rear receiver rings were ripped and crushed. Some ham-fisted actor likely dropped them out of a helicopter, yet these trashed receivers still brought \$18,000 apiece.

The reason this mangled scrap still cost so much is that somebody will weld the broken bits back up and restore them to service for less than an original

undamaged receiver might cost. In this case, you're really buying the registration paper and the raw material.

Prices

According to MachinegunPriceGuide.com, a typical AR-15 receiver conversion was commanding around \$12,000 back in 2003. Nowadays, that



The M16 receiver (left) sports enough space in the rear for a GI auto sear along with the corresponding hole for the pin. Early AR-15s had space here, but manufacturers later added more material to block the insertion of full-auto sears in order to make ATF happy.

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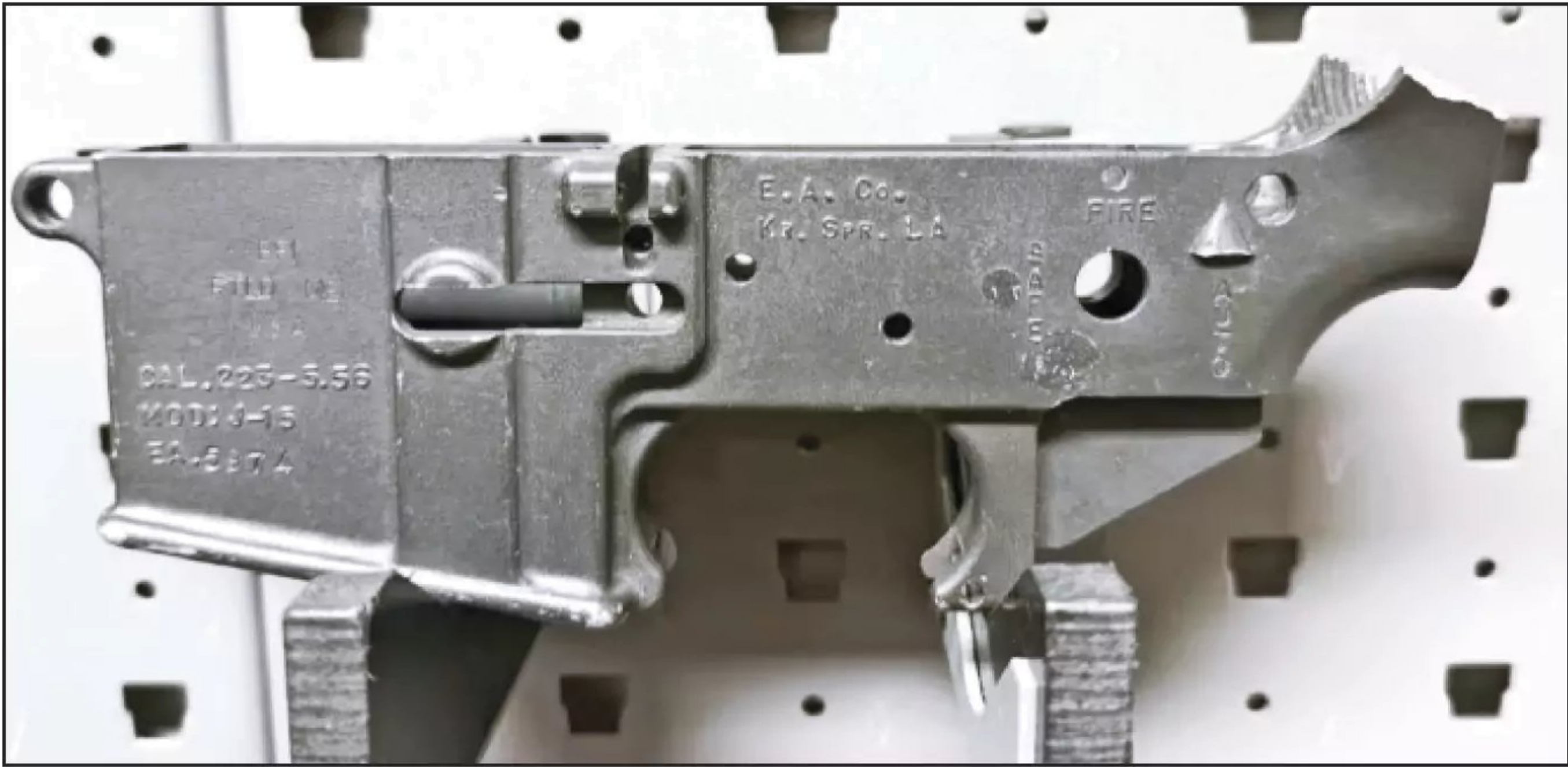
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same gun is running closer to \$30k. RLLs are usually slightly cheaper. I bought my stripped transferable Wilson Arms M16 receiver back in 1987 for \$600 out of *Shotgun News*, the predecessor to the superlative periodical you seem currently to be clutching. That’s about \$1,850 in today’s money.

A Colt M16A1 sold for around \$15,000 in 2003 and hovers around \$42,000 today. Factory-correct M16A2’s are markedly more expensive. The first prototype M4 carbines were developed in 1985. I have seen a couple of unfired factory original pre-86 M4’s for sale with asking prices north of \$100,000.



My old transferable M16 receiver is the hardest-working gun in the safe. Over the years, it has been a wide variety of disparate weapons.



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It must be noted at this time, that the assembly, or possession of all above parts constitute a full automatic fire weapon. Please consult your local B.A.T.F. office concerning possession of such components related to full automatic weapons.

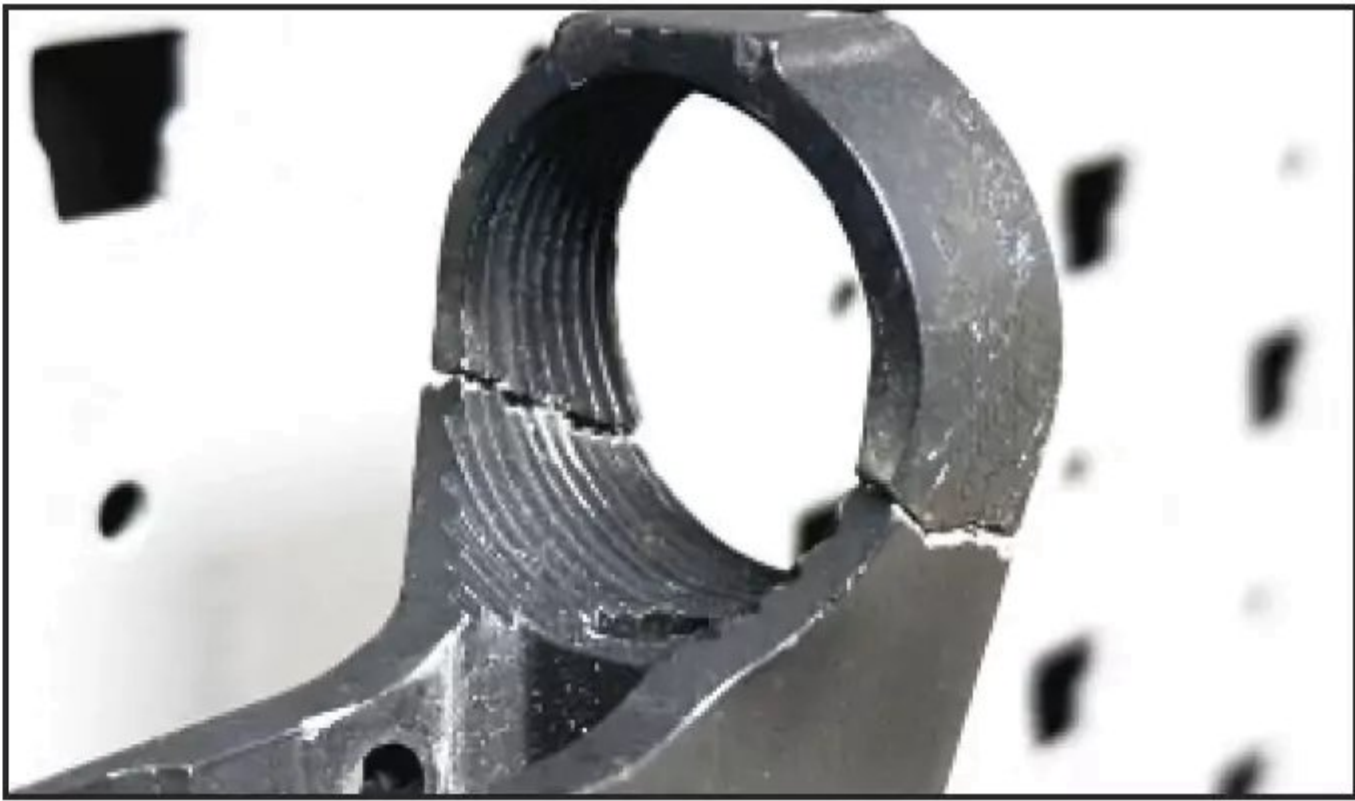


Note ease of installation of AR-15/M-16 drop in auto sear.



Note arrow, in this cutaway receiver, pointing to auto sear just prior to full auto fire engagement.

This retro ad offers unregistered DIAS by RPB for \$29.95 or ten for \$175.



My friend Jonathon Babb at Sienna Armory recently sold several transferable surplus M16 receivers that had been terribly mangled from use in Hollywood movies. However, most anything can be fixed. (Sienna Armory)

In 2003, an RDIAS averaged about \$12k. By the end of 2024 they were averaging \$50,000 or more. Prior to 1981, unregistered versions sold for \$29.95 in *Shotgun News*.

Practicalities

Machinegun prices never go down. The supply is fixed, and demand climbs each and every year. In many ways, the transferable M16 receiver is indeed the ultimate civilian machinegun. Treat it with respect, and that registered lower is unkillable. Should you burn out a barrel or crack a bolt, then you can just punch a couple of pins, drop in a fresh upper, and start over from scratch. As a result, whatever upper is on the gun at the time of sale doesn’t much matter.

Over the past 38 years, my M16 lower has been just about everything. I shot enough raw lead .22 rimfires through a conversion device to occlude the barrel. It has run more 9mm and 5.56mm ammo than I might reasonably catalog. It currently plays host to a demilled HK416 parts kit that is pretty sweet. These original German HK parts are essentially unobtainable, but Brownells will sell you exactly the same thing brand spanking new at a reasonable price.

My M16 receiver and my wife are the only two really good investments I ever made. I’d love to be able to go back in time to 1987, go without food for a year, and pick up half a dozen more. However, I can’t much complain. That high-mileage M16 is indeed the ideal machinegun. **FN**

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After the war, several armies developed new “anti-tank rifles.” Before the outbreak of WWII, Poland, Great Britain, Finland, Japan, Italy, Germany and Switzerland had adopted anti-tank rifles firing armor piercing

cartridges ranging from 7.9mm to 20mm. Some were “man portable” while others required a crew to operate and move them. The U.S. Army felt that their .50 caliber Browning machine gun served the same purpose and thus did not seek a large caliber “rifle.”

The British anti-tank rifle—initially dubbed the Stanchion Rifle—was developed by Captain H.C. Boys, the Assistant Superintendent of the Small Arms Factory at Enfield. Captain Boys died only a few days before his weapon was adopted into British mili-



The German Tankgewehr M1918 was the first anti-tank rifle.

tary service in 1937, and it was renamed in his honor as the Rifle, Anti-Tank, .55in, Boys, Mark I. In some publications it is often misspelled as Boyes.

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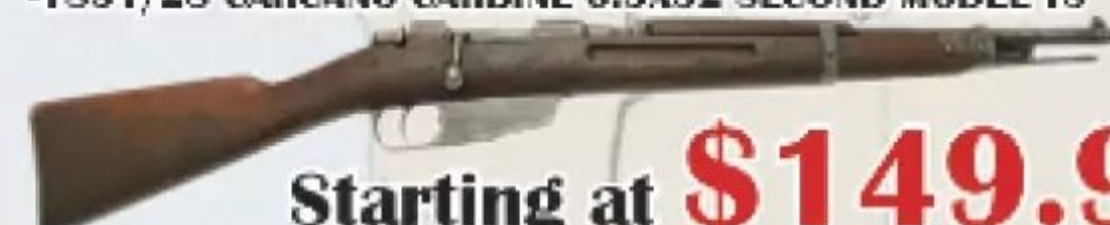
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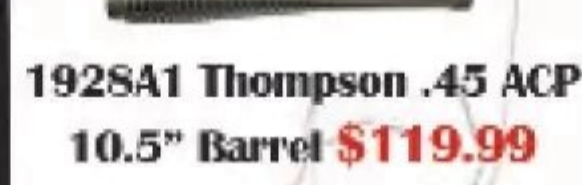
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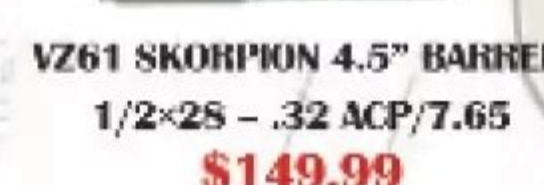
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The Mark I* gun's most distinguish feature was its T-shaped monopod. Note the wooden cheekpiece and large rubber recoil pad. (Morphy Auctions)

While considered “man portable,” the Boys was a massive weapon measuring over five feet in length and weighing 35 pounds.¹ It was a bolt-action design with a top mounted, detachable, five round magazine. The rather massive, cock on closing bolt used six interrupted tread locking lugs and dual extractors and a large ring-shaped cocking piece. Ejection of spent cases was downward through an opening in the receiver.

Because of the top mounted magazine, the sights were offset to the

left. The Mark I gun's rear consisted of an aperture adjustable for 300 and 500 yards while the front was a hooded blade. The later Mark I* guns had a simple aperture fixed for 300 yards.

To help alleviate its heavy recoil, the entire upper receiver and barrel unit was allowed to slide along rails in the frame to impact against a shock absorber attached to the rear of the rifle while a soft rubber recoil pad and a second pistol grip helped the gunner

to control the gun. A walnut cheek piece was fitted to the left rear of the rifle to ensure that the firer placed their head in the proper position to avoid injury.

Two types of muzzle brakes were fitted. Mark I guns utilized a slotted, circular unit which was unpopular as it blew debris and powder gases into the firer's face and had severe concussion.² That on Mark I* guns was a straight unit with 10 vents on the sides, which diverted powder gases to the sides. Lastly, it was fitted with a rather complicated T-shaped monopod which was replaced with a more stable folding bipod on Mark I* rifles.

The .55 Boys' cartridge was based upon the French army's 13.2x99 Hotchkiss machine cartridge necked up to .55 caliber and used a bottlenecked, belted case 99mm long.

The first variant of the .55 Boys, the Mark I, used a 926-grain hardened-steel-core bullet with a lead



The bolt used six interrupted tread locking lugs, dual extractors, and a large ring-shaped cocking piece. (Morphy Auctions)



Close up of the Mark I receiver with the bolt open. (Morphy Auctions)



The Mark I* Boys used a slotted, circular muzzle brake. (Morphy Auctions)



The Mark I* guns used a muzzle brake with 10 vents.



▲ Comparing a .50 BMG (left) to the .55 Boys.

► 1939. Swedish volunteers during Finland's Winter War armed with Boys Anti-Tank rifles.





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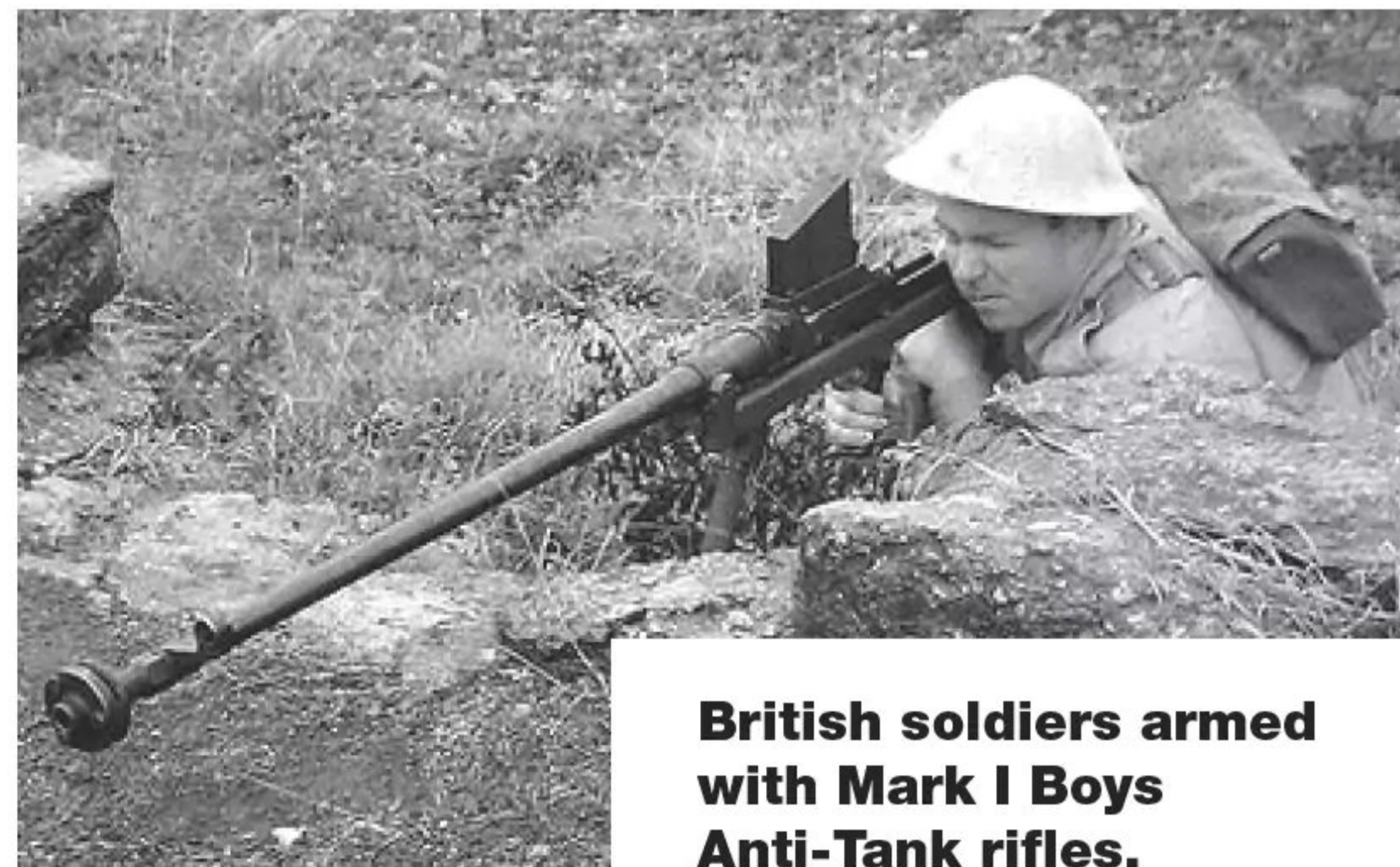
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sleeve, covered with a steel jacket had a velocity of 2,450 fps. A ball and tracer version of this round was also developed, along with a practice round featuring an aluminum core.

The improved Mark II loading enhanced the round's velocity and penetration. Its 765-grain tungsten cored bullet achieved a muzzle velocity of approximately 3,100 fps and was capable of penetrating 0.91 inches of armor at 100 yards, 0.82 inches at 300 yards and 0.74 inches at 500 yards.

Production began at Enfield and Birmingham Small Arms (BSA) in 1937.

The Boys first saw action in 1939 with the Finnish army during the Winter War with the USSR. Britain donated 100 guns, and the Finns obtained several hundred more from Germany which saw service during the Continuation War with the

Soviets. The weapon was effective at penetrating the armor of the Soviet BT and T-26 tanks, but the Finns found that they needed to aim for the crew positions in order to get the best use out of the gun.

In 1939, the British first used Boys guns in the Norwegian campaign. In France, the Boys performed adequately against the thinly armored Panzer I, II and IIIs but were unpopular with the troops due to their weight recoil.

Anti-tank rifles work by hitting critical parts of the tank which are thus disabled. They do not have any explosive filler to destroy a tank through explosive like anti-tank guns. This meant a tank could take several hits before stopping (if it stopped at all?). During the evacuation of Dunkirk, large numbers of Boys guns were left at the high tide mark of the beaches.

The Boys saw service with British, Australian, New Zealand, and Commonwealth forces, which attempted to stem the Japanese onslaught through the Pacific theater where they proved somewhat effective against the lightly armored Japanese tanks.

During the fighting in the North African desert, it fared well against Italian tanks such as the FIAT M13/40 with its 30mm frontal armor, but proved ineffective against the improved German Panzer III and IV. After the North African campaign, British forces conducted a study in which they concluded that "...no Boys had successfully engaged a tank."³

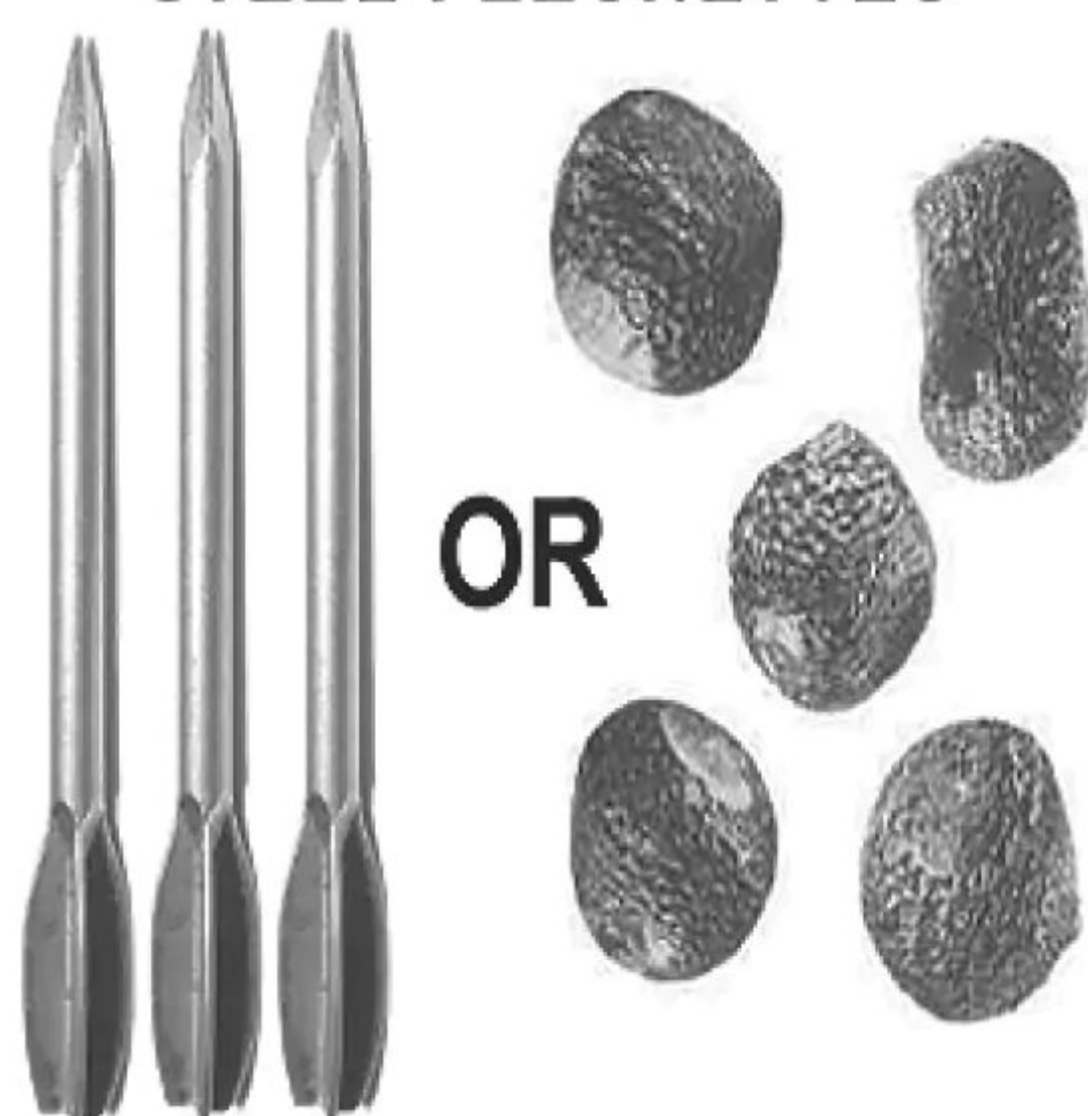
In 1942, the Canadian firm of John Inglis, Ltd. began manufacture of Mark I* Boys and were responsible for the Mark I* modifications.

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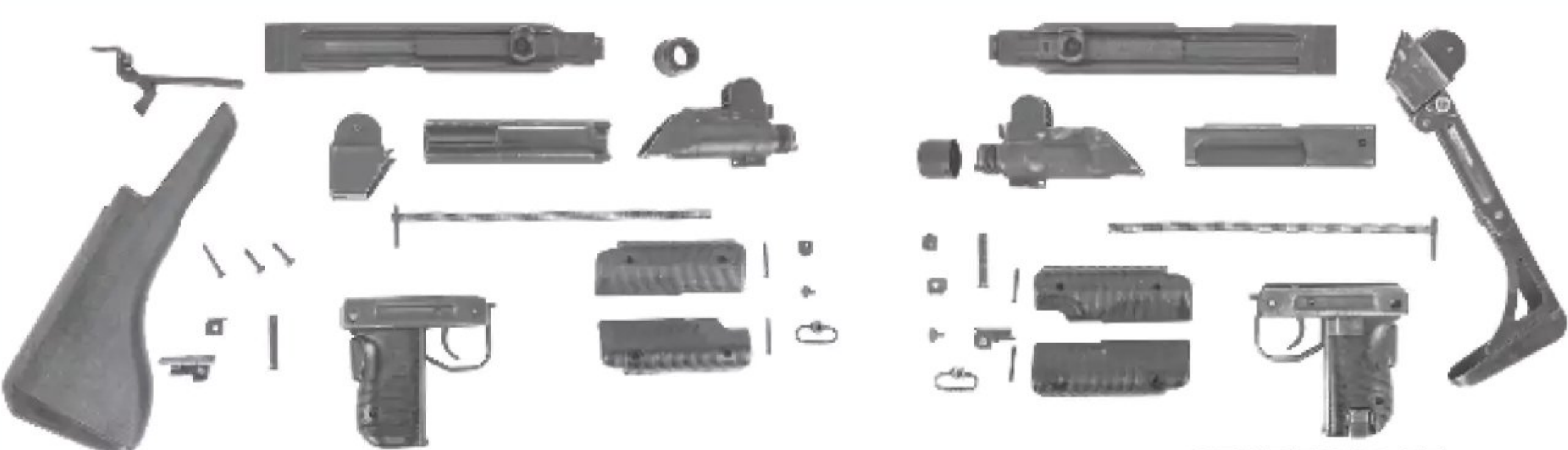
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An Inglis-made Boys Mark I* rifle. Note the bipod, muzzle and rear sight. (Rock Island Auction Co.)



A Long Range Desert Group truck equipped with a Boys Mark I rifle and a Lewis gun.



British armored cars equipped with Boys Anti-Tank rifles.



Mark I* rifles prior to the attack on Pearl Harbor. They saw limited use by the Marine Raiders against enemy bunkers, and aided in the destruction of two seaplanes during the famous raid on Makin Island.⁴ The U.S. Army's 1st Ranger Battalion was also equipped with Boys, but they were never used in combat.

The Boys rifle was also used by Greece during the Greco-Italian War (1940–1941) and Greek Civil War (1943–1949). 1,786 Boys anti-tank rifles were ordered by Greece for the direct anti-tank protection of the infantry.

Boys rifles were also used by the Chinese Nationalist Army during the late Second Sino-Japanese War (1937 – 1945) in both China and Burma. Under the Lend-Lease Program, Britain supplied the USSR with 3,200 Boys guns, numbers of which came fitted to Bren Gun Carriers that the Soviets also received. The Wehrmacht issued guns they captured at Dunkirk and in North Africa as the 13,9mm Panzerbüchse 782(e).

The Boys rifle was also used by the Philippine Army and Philippine Constabulary during the Second World War against the Japanese occupation and to aid the Allied liberation. In the post-WWII era, they were used during the Hukbalahap Rebellion against the Hukbalahap Communist fighters in Central Luzon and by the Philippine

U.S. Marines equipped with Boys Mark I* Boys rifles.

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1945. Nationalist Chinese soldiers manning a Boys Mark I* rifle.



A WWII German soldier firing a captured Boys Anti-Tank rifle.



◀ Red Army soldiers in a Lend Lease supplied Bren Gun Carrier equipped with a Boys rifle.



◀ Post-WWII Irish soldiers training with a Boys Mark I* rifle.



1948. Israeli fighters cleaning weapons including a Boys Mark I* rifle.

were widely distributed during and after the war to various Allied and Commonwealth armies.⁵

Some turned up in Palestine in the hands of Jewish fighters during Israel's fight for survival. The last notable use of the Boys occurred In September 1965 when members of the IRA hit the British fast-attack patrol boat HMS Brave Borderer with a Boys rifle, crippling one of her turbines while she was paying a visit to Waterford, Ireland. **FN**

1 British and American troops called it the "Elephant Gun," the Australians named it "Charlie the Bastard," while the Canadian's knew it as the "Jinx."
2 To see the violent firing of the Boys I suggest you check out Ian McCollum's website: www.forgottenweapons.com/boys-mk-i-anti-tank-rifle-at-the-range/
3 <https://tanks-encyclopedia.com/ww2/gb/Boys-anti-tank-rifle.php>
4 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Raid_on_Makin_Island
5 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boys_anti-tank_rifle
6 Specifications for the Mark I* gun was almost identical.

SPECIFICATIONS	
RIFLE, ANTI-TANK, .55IN, BOYS, MARK I ⁶	
Action:	Bolt action, magazine fed
Caliber:	Cartridge, SA, Anti-Tank, .55 inch, Boys
Overall Length:	63.5 in.
Barrel Length:	36 in.
Weight:	35 lbs.
Sights:	Front: blade; Rear: aperture adj. for 300 and 500 yards
Magazine:	5-round detachable box

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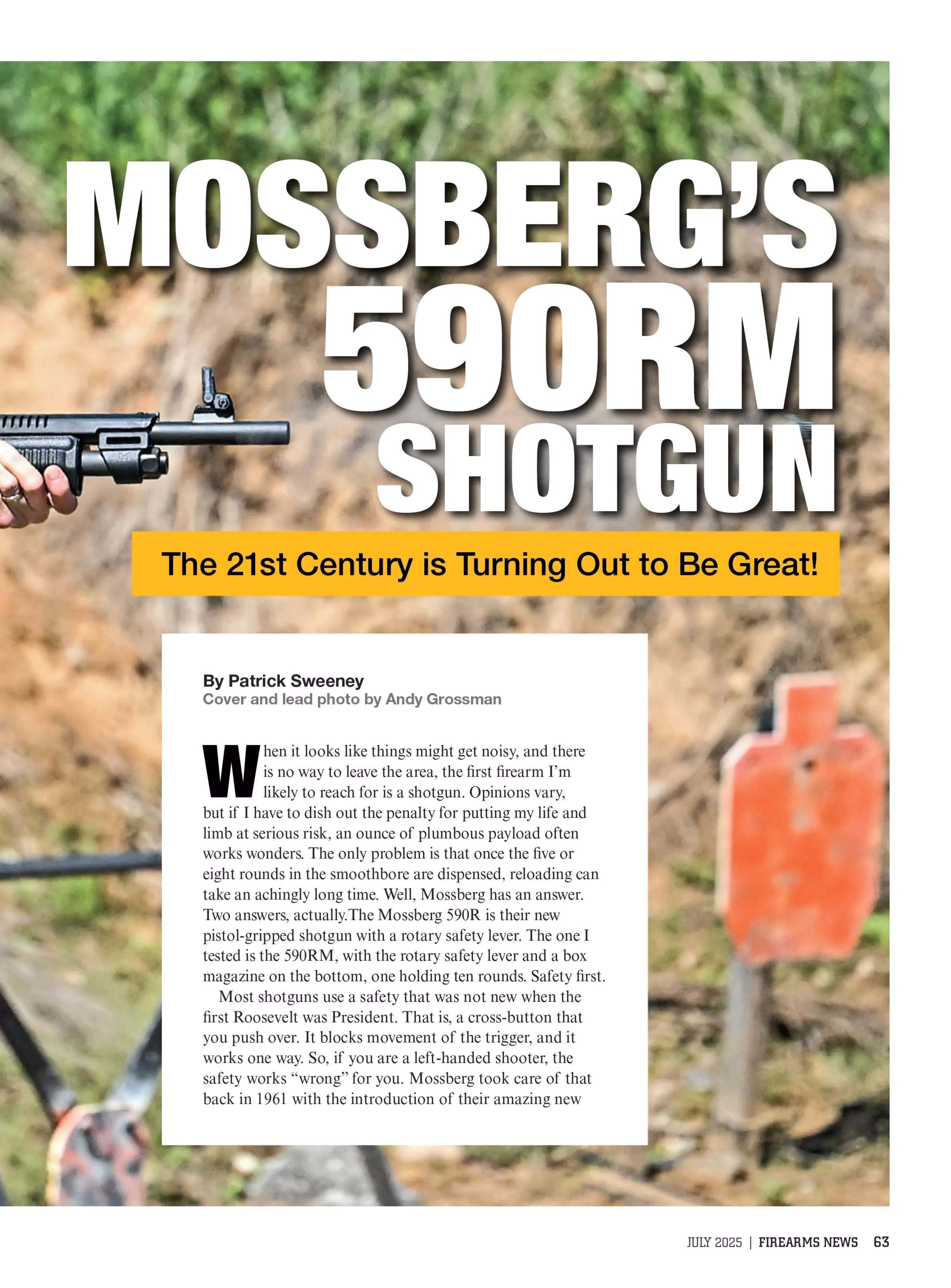
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MOSSBERG'S 590RM SHOTGUN

The 21st Century is Turning Out to Be Great!

By Patrick Sweeney

Cover and lead photo by Andy Grossman

When it looks like things might get noisy, and there is no way to leave the area, the first firearm I'm likely to reach for is a shotgun. Opinions vary, but if I have to dish out the penalty for putting my life and limb at serious risk, an ounce of plumbous payload often works wonders. The only problem is that once the five or eight rounds in the smoothbore are dispensed, reloading can take an achingly long time. Well, Mossberg has an answer. Two answers, actually. The Mossberg 590R is their new pistol-gripped shotgun with a rotary safety lever. The one I tested is the 590RM, with the rotary safety lever and a box magazine on the bottom, one holding ten rounds. Safety first.

Most shotguns use a safety that was not new when the first Roosevelt was President. That is, a cross-button that you push over. It blocks movement of the trigger, and it works one way. So, if you are a left-handed shooter, the safety works "wrong" for you. Mossberg took care of that back in 1961 with the introduction of their amazing new



The Mossberg 590RM offers both an ambi safety and a ten-shot box magazine.



◀ The safety lever rotates, it is on both sides, and it is very convenient to your shooting thumb.



▲ The magazine catch is a big lever in back of the magazine itself. To reload, grab the magazine so you pinch the lever, and rock the mag. Also, note the magazine reinforcement ribs, inserted into the receiver slots. Good engineering, that.



Here you can see the meeting of the stock and the receiver, and the modifications Mossberg had to make to the 590 design to fit the stock on. Well done, Mossberg.



► The stock incorporates QD sling swivel sockets, for them that wants to use a sling.

shotgun, the Model 500. It not only had an aluminum receiver (unheard of!), but the top-mounted safety meant two things: it worked just fine for both right and left-handed shooters, and of equal importance, you could see if it was on or off. With the cross-button safety, you have to either rotate the shotgun to look, or fumble around with a fingertip and feel if it is on or off. Neither is entirely satisfactory,

and it was only because there was no other choice that we all got accustomed to it. Well, no more, post-1961. The new rotary safety is mounted on the side of the receiver, and it, well, rotates to select safe or fire. It is ambi, that is, it exists on both sides of the receiver. The receiver is a modified Model 500 (which has itself changed little in the ensuing six decades) with a pistol grip and an adjustable stock. Both of those required other mods as well. The pistol grip incorporates the regular trigger housing of the



The left side lacks an ejection port, but it has a safety lever.

Model 500 but modified to have a tab to bolt on an AR-15 pistol grip. If you don't like the pistol grip the 590RM comes with (and I don't, one of the few points of disagreement between me and Mossberg), then you simply take it off and replace it. The rotary safety is positioned above and just a bit forward of the pistol grip, in the perfect place for your thumb to actuate it.

The stock also required a change in the receiver. The 500 uses a regular stock, and the angle for the stock bolt means an angled back face. The 590RM stock extends directly

back from the receiver, so Mossberg changed the back of the receiver to attach the stock and to provide lateral support for it as well. Oh, and the stock also incorporates QD sling swivel sockets, so you can sling your 590RM should you feel the need. The stock is adjustable for length of pull, and it also incorporates a recoil pad suitable for the force of a 12-gauge payload.

The receiver of the 590RM also incorporates a Picatinny rail. Here, you can mount iron sights (the 590RM comes with them) or optics of some kind. The rail is only from



Almost regardless of the choke used, I've always had tight patterns from the Hornady Critical Defense load.



The recoil of the straightline stock differs from that of a classic shotgun stock.



The stock is adjustable for length of pull. It has a thick recoil pad on the back, and it is built to take 12-gauge recoil.



The forearm is robust, non-slip, and has lips front and back. This is excellent.



◀ The front sight is clamped to a base that is copper brazed to the barrel. If you don't like this Magpul, swap it for something else.

▶ The 590RM barrel is threaded for screw-in choke tubes and Mossberg chokes are plentiful.



the rear of the receiver where it meets the stock assembly, to just short of the front edge. It is not the full length of the barrel. The barrel is covered with a heat shield, an interesting addition, and a clear demonstration of the intent of Mossberg for the 590RM: defense. The rail and the barrel come ready for sights and the set included with the 590RM are Magpul. These are the MBUS 3, spring-loaded to pop up when you press the tab. So, you can have the 590RM racked or stored with the sights folded, and in a moment's notice have them upright and

ready for use. The rear is bolted to the receiver rail, while the front is clamped onto a base that is copper-brazed to the barrel. If you want something else, it is easy enough to dismount the Magpul sights and install something else, or go optics, since there's a rail right there.

The barrel has an extension inside the receiver, one that the bolt locks to, so the receiver doesn't take the forces of firing, just recoil. It is held on the same way as the Mossberg 590: with a cap that screws over the barrel hoop, the hoop riding over and around what would otherwise be the magazine tube. The barrel is threaded for screw-in choke tubes and the Mossberg pattern is so common that you can practically buy them at your corner gas station. (In



The magazine is robust. It is an assembly of several sturdy parts, and if you ever run out of ammo you can use this as an impromptu impact weapon.



The magazine (and the 590RM) only accepts regular 12-gauge shells, not the magnums. Fine by me, I don't need three-inch magnums.



Pump fast, and the next one is ready before the previous empty is below your elbow.

some rural areas, that might actually be the truth.) The barrel hoop also incorporates an M-LOK slot on each side.

But the big news for the 590RM is the magazine. With additional modifications to the receiver, Mossberg found a way to secure a ten-shot magazine to the bottom of the receiver. They did this with three modifications. First, the front of the receiver, at what would otherwise be the magazine tube, they found a way to secure a front lug on the magazine in place. Next, they made further modifications to the trigger housing and put a magazine latch on there, complete with a big paddle to unlock it when you need to reload, and lastly, they put ribs on the magazine and corresponding slots on the receiver, to give the magazine support during recoil. Ten rounds of twelve gauge, hanging below the receiver creates a lot of leverage during twelve-gauge recoil. Without those slots, the magazine weight could make it rock, wear the locking shoulders, and then fall out. That would be bad, and Mossberg solved the potential problem.

The magazine is a solid assembly of various parts. The upper section with feed lips, the taper, and the main body, are all bolted together with the midsection, to create a magazine that could be used as an impromptu impact weapon if you ever run out of twelve-gauge ammo. There's even a sliding baseplate that comes off to clean the magazine.

Now, just in case you need a refresher, the 590RM is a pump-action shotgun. Derived from the 500 by way of the

590, it is not a self-loader. You still have to do the work of running the gun. Mossberg has redesigned the forearm, and it has lips front and back, as well as big ribs to afford a non-slip grip. This one should be on all pump shotguns.

Loading the magazine also takes a certain knack. It accepts 2³/₄-inch shells only. I suspect that try as the Mossberg engineers might, getting a magazine to accept and feed properly both 2³/₄- and three-inch shells proved impossible. I, for one, would not pass over a shotgun, the 590RM or any other, were it restricted only to 2³/₄-inch shells. I'm not sure I dislike anything enough to discharge ten three-inch shells of buckshot or slugs at it out of a pump shotgun. As the 590RM is clearly not a goose gun (the ten-shot magazines pretty much moves it out of that category), three-inch shells are not for me.

The feed lips are very short. To load, you have to use the round you are loading to press down the one already in the magazine. I found that when using skeet or trap loads, with their low-base metal, the extraction rim hit the front edge of the shell rim, and kept me from sliding it back,. I found that placing the magazine on the bench, and pressing the top shell down a bit with my left index fingertip gave me enough clearance to slide in the next shell with my right. High-brass shells did not pose the same problem.

I began the journey of three-gun and bowling pin shooting with a Mossberg 500, so I am familiar with how they work. The 590RM works just like the older ones, with one



Even on a bright sunny day, the muzzle flash from a twelve gauge can be caught by the camera.

change: the pistol grip. The Magpul MOE has the high-and-back extra flange on the back of the pistol grip that a lot of shooters like. And I hate it. I find I much prefer to have my firing hand as high up on a pistol grip as I can get it, and the flange pushes my hand down, also changing the angle of my arm and elbow position, but that's the beauty of the Mossberg approach. Since the pistol grip is bolted onto the trigger assembly, you can change it to whatever you want to.

The straight-line stock also changes the nature of the recoil. If you have spent your whole shooting life using a regular shotgun stock, the straight-back stock of the 590RM is going to be different. Not bad, not worse, but different. The adjustable stock means you can change it to accommodate shooters of different heights. Me, of course, I run all such stocks all the way back, as I crawl a stock like there's no tomorrow and if I don't, I can end up with my nose on the receiver. In .223, that's not a big deal. 12 gauge? You bet it would be.



Choose your buckshot and then adjust the choke tube to get the pattern you want.

As far as performance, what can I say? Mossberg has made millions of Model 500 and Model 590s, they know how to make them reliable, and this one certainly was that. Back in the old days, we'd fuss over various buckshot and slug loads to find the one that that particular shotgun performed the best with. (Every shotgun seemed to be a law unto itself back then.) Today, we flip that on its head. Now you pick the load that delivers the performance you want, and then experiment with choke tubes until you get the pattern you desire. Me, I just used the choke tube that was in the 590RM when it arrived, and found it worked just fine.



Andy Grossman

As to reloading the 590RM, that was another new task to learn. In 3-Gun competition, the shotgun portions of a stage are the “who reloads fastest, wins” sections. On the 590RM, it was much more like reloading a battle rifle: reach up, grab magazine and tab, squeeze, rock and drop. Grab the next magazine, insert front, rock and lock. If you’ve ever worked an AK, FAL, M1A, G3 or the like, you know the drill.

So, should you run right out and buy a 590RM? The magazine is attractive. And if you have to have that, then the answer is simple. If you do not need a ten-shot box magazine, there is also an answer. The 590R is the same shotgun with rotary safety and all the other extras, but not the magazine. It is a regular feeds-from-the-tube pump

MOSSBERG 590RM CHRONOGRAPH AND ACCURACY DATA		
Ammunition	Velocity (fps)	Pattern Avg. (in.)
Sellier & Bellot 00 buck	1,239	5.5
Winchester Super X 00 buck	1,317	6
Hornady Critical Defense 00 buck	1,543	4.5
Federal Force X2 00 buck	1,251	4.5
Pattern results were to be averages of four shots at 10 yards off a Champion shooting rest. Velocities are averages of five shots measured on a Labradar chronograph set to read 15 feet from the muzzle.		

shotgun, and you can have it that way if that is your preference. Mossberg, while pushing boundaries is very accommodating, God bless ‘em. **FN**

MOSSBERG 590RM	
Type:	Hammer-fired pump action
Caliber:	12 Gauge, 2¾ in.
Capacity:	10+1 rounds
Barrel:	18.5 in.
Overall Length:	36.9 in.
Weight:	8 lbs.
Finish:	Black anodized, black oxide steel
Furniture:	Adjustable stock, pistol grip
Sights:	Magpul MBUS 3, top Picatinny rail
Trigger:	5 lbs. 7 oz.
MSRP:	\$1,190
Contact:	Mossberg.com, (203) 230-5300

SOURCES
Federal Ammunition, FederalPremium.com, (800) 831-8100
Hornady Ammunition, Hornady.com, (800) 338-3220
Sellier & Bellot Ammunition, SellierBellot.us
Winchester Ammunition, Winchester.com



The Black Widow Mk.III was conceived to be a packable, compact but configurable personal defense weapon and short barrel rifle for close protection and short-range engagements of enemy personnel that would be easy to familiarize with by users who already had experience with platforms such as the M4 carbine or Heckler & Koch's roller-delayed weapons.

In recent years, Poland has been at the forefront of European development in small arms. A combination of relatively favorable gun laws compared to the European average, an entrepreneurial mindset free from the constraints of the long-gone communist shackles, and the close proximity to the increasingly aggressive Russian neighbor, spurred Poland to become a powerhouse in the development and production of armament for all levels of defense—personal *and* national.

It's in this context that two designers, Przemek Jaworski and Rafał Cygański, started a project aimed at developing a short-barrel, intermediate caliber rifle that could potentially replace the sub-machine gun in close combat, close protection, clandestine operations and other similar duties, that could be easily carried into (and deployed from) a backpack, and used within the tight confines of a building, an aircraft, or from inside a motor vehicle.

J&C ARMAMENT BLACK WIDOW Mk.III

THE AR-15-LOWER COMPATIBLE PISTON-DRIVEN PDW FROM POLAND



Manufactured by a Relatively Small, Independent Company in Poland, the Black Widow Mk.III Is a Gas Piston Operated PDW/SBR Compatible With AR-15 Lower Receivers and Accessories That Aims at Providing Versatility and Reliable Operation for Professional and Civilian Users Alike

By Pierangelo Tendas

All photos by J&C Armament, courtesy of Rafał Cygański

Sure thing, the market is full of rifle-caliber PDWs and SBRs; not many, however, are manufactured in Europe, based on an indigenous design rather than the usual AK or AR pattern, and overcome at least in part the drawbacks of the most common short barrel rifles. A firearm like the one envisioned by Jaworski and Cygański would thus enjoy a potentially *huge* market in Europe, particularly within the law enforcement community.

In most of Europe, submachine guns (not rifles, much less shotguns) are the to-go patrol weapon for law enforcement, with limited adoption of semi-automatic, short-barrel pistol-caliber carbines in countries such as Great Britain. However, a series of relatively recent high-profile events, last but not least the Charlie Hebdo and Bataclan attacks in Paris back in 2015, highlighted the insufficiency of pistol-caliber firearms against attackers often armed with AKM-pattern full-automatic weapons and equipped with body armor.



First manufactured in 2022, and officially introduced at the 2023 edition of MSPO, the Black Widow Mk.III by J&C Armament offers a Polish-made, European alternative to American PDWs based on the AR-15 platform.

Although not common, when gun crime happens in Europe, it is often crazy even by American standards.

The Black Widow: It's Small, But It Bites...

The work on the platform, dubbed the “Black Widow,” started in 2019 at J&C Armament (J&C standing, of

course, for Jaworski and Cygański), and by early 2020, the first working prototype had been cobbled together. The prototype, called the Mk.I, was initially meant to test the viability of the working system, and in that scope it has so far fired over 30,000 rounds.

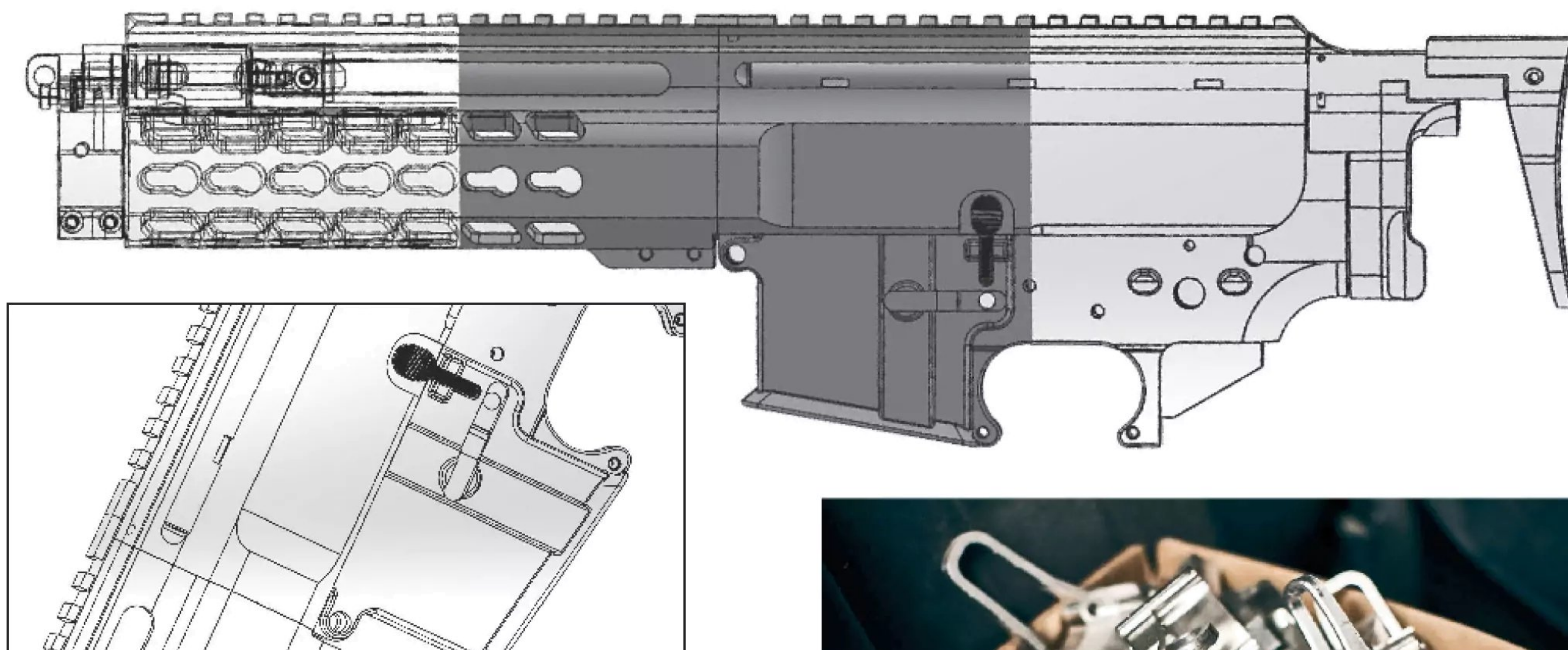
Of course, the prototype was not without its flaws, and the project was refined in a pre-production model (the Mk.II) before being finalized: the Black Widow Mk.III was first showcased in selected occasions in 2023 and made its official debut at the MSPO expo in September that year.

The J&C Armament Black Widow Mk.III is a short-barrel rifle chambered in 5.56x45mm NATO, available in select-fire variants for MIL/LE/Govt. sales and in semi-automatic variants for commercial sales to law enforcement agencies, private security, and civilians.

The European firearms directive provides that any firearm shorter than 601 mm (23.66") overall *and* with a barrel shorter than 301 mm (11.85") is to be considered a handgun, while anything longer is to be considered a long gun. The intended shooting position (eg. if a firearm is “originally intended to be fired from the shoulder”) is irrelevant, and so is the presence of a stock or the absence thereof: if a firearm *does* have a stock, it has to be shorter than 23.66 inches overall with the stock folded or collapsed in order to be considered a handgun.



Przemek Jaworski and Rafał Cygański started the Black Widow project in 2019; the project has since gone through not less than two prototype iterations before reaching the commercial variant, dubbed the Mk.III.



The Black Widow Mk.III was conceived from the ground up to be compatible with as many components of the ubiquitous M4 carbine as possible; these include the rotating bolt and the entire lower receiver assembly.

The absence of the “short barrel rifle” category typical of the 1934 NFA, and of the restrictions thereof, does indeed open the civilian markets in Europe to short-barrel rifles for uses like home or property defense, for which the Black Widow Mk.III appears to be very well versed.

The Black Widow Mk.III is almost entirely CNC machined out of a solid billet of 7075-T6 aircraft-grade aluminum alloy; alternatively, customers can request it be machined in Grade 5 titanium, which shaves off a few grams from its already low weight of 5.5 pounds (around 2,5 kilograms when empty on average). The barrels, bolt carrier group, and other pressure-bearing components are instead manufactured out of steel with no less than three types of steel being employed by J&C Armament: 42CrMo4 (one of the most used all around the world for gun barrels), H10s2, and WNLV, which is the Polish



All components of the Black Widow Mk.III are manufactured in-house by J&C Armament using state-of-the-art CNC machinery.

denomination for W500 tool steel alloy, used for parts that require high mechanical properties and high resistance against deformation at high temperatures.

The handguard is a separate component, its top portion forming the front part of the full-length MIL-STD 1913 Picatinny rail that replaces any factory sighting system,



Right side of the Black Widow Mk.III in its baseline version, called the “Short,” and available in two barrel lengths as well as with a PDW stock that can extend to three different positions.

A Black Widow Mk.III Short built on an Aero Precision lower receiver; the Black Widow upper doesn't require a modified lower, so it can be purchased as a ready product from J&C Armament or as a conversion upper for pre-existing lowers.

J&C ARMAMENT BLACK WIDOW Mk.III



The Black Widow Mk.III “Super Short” is a collapsible stock variant of the design, available in two barrel lengths, ideal for operation within the confines of a vehicle.

allowing users to install their favorites instead. A set of M-LOK or KeyMod slots (customer’s choice) at 3, 6, and 9 o’clock provide plenty of room for additional rail segments for accessories.

The two nuts at the rear bottom portion of the hand-guard represent the securing point for the barrel, which is otherwise free to float. Barrels are available in different lengths, depending on the variant, but all are Government/SOCOM profile and chrome-lined, with an external QPQ treatment (a.k.a. Tenifer, or Melonite) treatment and a removable two-port muzzle brake installed on a suppressor-compatible $\frac{1}{2}\times 28$ muzzle thread. With a 1:7-inch twist rate, it can properly stabilize basically all 5.56x45mm NATO and .223 Remington loads currently available.

J&C Armament offers the Black Widow Mk.III in a standard MIL-STD hard-anodized black finish. Alternatively, a flat dark earth Cerakote is also available.

Three Variants, Same Gas System

All the variants of the Black Widow Mk.III platform are based on the same working system: a proprietary take on the familiar short-stroke gas system, with the gas valve pinned to the barrel and with no connection to the receiver so that the barrel itself is fully free floating.

The rotating bolt of the Black Widow Mk.III is literally just an AR-15 bolt; the bolt carrier group is a shorter version of the standard AR-15 bolt, without a gas key. In its lieu, we find an op-rod riding it, on which the piston impinges. The return spring and recoil buffer ride within, and all are located in the upper receiver, making standard AR buffer tubes redundant.

The gas system is sealed, to prevent foreign objects from penetrating and obstructing normal operation, and is carbine-length on all variants for a better handling of the time-pressure curve, improving reliability and controllability



The J&C Armament Black Widow Mk.III “Regular” comes with an M4-type adjustable buttstock and two barrel lengths, one of which is 16.5 inches, making it the big one of the bunch, configurable as a regular assault rifle or an assault carbine at user’s will.



► A Black Widow Mk.III field-stripped: J&C Armament decided to use a standard AR-15 bolt in a proprietary shortened bolt carrier, on which a (likewise proprietary) short stroke gas piston operates.

► The upper receiver of the J&C Armament Black Widow Mk.III is machined, and features QD sling swivel cups on both sides.



Being built on a standard AR-15 lower, the Black Widow Mk.III will accept all AR-15 compatible grips; each model comes standard with a MagPul MOE grip from factory.

in full-automatic fire, which in the select-fire versions of the platform runs at a smooth 500/550 rounds per minute.

The charging handle is located within the handguard, is non-reciprocating, and upon field stripping, it can be removed to be reassembled to the opposite position for left-handed or right-handed operation. The gas valve, located right up front, can likewise be fully disassembled upon field-strip for cleaning and maintenance.

The gas valve can be adjusted manually with four positions, the first two being for normal-pressure ammunition (or for normal working conditions), and for high-pressure ammunition or adverse working conditions, while the third is dedicated to subsonic ammunition, for better performance when running the Black Widow Mk.III with a can.

The fourth and final position closes the gas valve completely, turning the gun into a single-shot manual repeater.

While that provision, in the past, was privy to infantry rifles for the use of rifle grenades, on the Black Widow Mk.III it has a very different role: blocking the movement of all



◀ The interface for J&C Armament's PDW-type stock plugs on to the rear of the upper and lower receiver and does not require modification to the lower; the stock must be fully extended for field-stripping, which is otherwise identical to a typical AR-15.



The J&C Armament Black Widow Mk.III is chambered for 5.56x45mm NATO and will feed through standard AR-15 magazines (a.k.a. "STANAG 4179" magazines), of any make and material, making it even easier to operate.



A valve at the front of the handguard allows the gas piston to be adjusted on four positions, including one dedicated to running silencers. The charging handle is located above the barrel and is reversible for left-handed operation.

parts, it removes any factor that can disrupt accuracy when a critical single shot has to be taken.

Additionally, with the loading cycle blocked, the Black Widow Mk.III loaded with subsonic ammunition and equipped with a sound suppressor becomes extremely silent (once again, for critical single shots), reminiscent of the reason why the US Navy SEALs' Mk.22 Mod.0 "Hush Puppy" pistol during the Vietnam War was equipped with a manual slide lock.



Outside of the charging handle, all controls on the Black Widow Mk.III are exactly the same as on any M4 carbine; virtually, the Black Widow Mk.III can be configured to be completely ambidextrous.

Three variants of the Black Widow Mk.III are available so far, dubbed respectively the "Regular," the "Short," and the "Super Short." The "Regular" is available with



The "Super Short" Black Widow Mk.III demonstrates all the potential of such a compact platform; the proprietary gas system and BCG does not require a recoil buffer protruding behind the lower receiver, making the entire platform extremely compact.



◀ **A Black Widow Mk.III used in training as it was originally meant to be: as a personal defense weapon for close protection details who may have to engage targets from within the tight confines of a vehicle. This particular sample is built on a Diamondback Firearms lower receiver.**

A Touch of Familiarity

Despite aiming at providing an alternative to the AR-based short barrel rifles all too common on the market today, the fine folks at J&C Armament do recognize the advantages of the AR platform in terms of availability of parts, familiarity among sport shooters and professional operators, and ergonomics. As such, they opted for building the Black Widow

Mk.III on an unmodified AR-15 lower receiver.

This allows the Black Widow to retain the same configuration of controls as any AR variant, the only exception being the charging handle, reminiscent of Heckler & Koch's roller-delayed weapon systems or, in more recent times, the Faxon Firearms ARAK-21. Virtually, the controls on the lower receiver can be configured to be completely ambidextrous.

Additionally, the Black Widow Mk.III is compatible with AR-15 rotating bolts, trigger groups, and of course magazines, and is available both as a ready firearm or as

a 10.3- or 16.5-inch barrel and comes equipped with a standard M4-type collapsible buttstock and buffer tube. The "Short" model is available with 10.3- or 14.5-inch barrel options, while for the "Super Short" customers have a choice between 10.3 and 11.5 inches. The "Short" and "Super Short" models come with proprietary collapsible PDW-type stocks designed and built by J&C Armament to reduce overall size. Outside of the tight confines of these three main variants, however, the Black Widow Mk.III can be configured basically in any possible way, mixing stock types and barrel lengths at the user's will.



The J&C Armament Black Widow Mk.III is compatible with semi-automatic or select-fire trigger groups, thus remaining viable for professional operators and for commercial a.k.a. civilian sales alike.

J&C ARMAMENT BLACK WIDOW Mk.III



◀ The gas system is carbine-length on all variants of the Black Widow Mk.III, to optimize performance. The machined handguard is available with M-LOK or KeyMod interfaces, depending on the user’s needs and preferences.

▼ The Black Widow Mk.III is also available in a “Titanium” version, with its upper receiver being manufactured out of a single block of titanium, shaving off up to 13 oz. from the overall weight.



a conversion kit for existing AR-15 lowers, since it field strips like an AR-15 and requires no modification to the lower—not even when using the proprietary stocks developed for the “Short” and “Super Short” variants. As of today, J&C Armament manufactures the Black Widow Mk.III only in 5.56x45mm NATO; variants in 6.5 Grendel and .300 Blackout are planned to be introduced by the end of 2024. A 9mm Luger version is planned for 2025.

The Black Widow Mk.III isn’t a cheap gun: the starting price is 11,900 Polish Złoty, equivalent to approximately 2,700 Euro or \$2,900 USD, with the final price depending on any special custom requests. After all, it’s a Polish industrial product, and the Poles, like the Czechs, are well known for doing great things in terms of machining, and being very proud of that. Mass production and an increase in request, particularly on export markets, may one day lead in a price decrease. **FN**

**If the Trump Administration eliminates the 1989 imported assault weapons ban, which it can do without Congress, U.S. gun owners may get to purchase these and other similar products.*

BLACK WIDOW Mk.III	
Type:	Assault rifle / Short-barrel rifle / Personal defense weapon
Caliber:	5.56x45mm NATO
Capacity:	STANAG 4179 / USGI magazines of any make and capacity
Operation:	Semi-automatic, gas-operated, piston driven w/h adjustable gas system (select-fire models offered to approved entities)
Cyclic Rate:	500/550 RPM (select-fire variants)
Weight:	Starting at 5.95 lbs., depending on configuration
Finish:	Hard anodized black or Cerakote FDE
Grips:	Vertical, polymer (MagPul MOE)
Sights:	None from factory; MIL-STD 1913 Picatinny rail for optics or back-up iron sights
Barrel Length:	10.3 in., 11.5 in., 14.5 in., 16.5 in. 6 grooves, RH – 1:7 twist
Overall Length:	Min. 19.4 in., depending on the configuration
Trigger:	Single-action
Contact:	JCArmament.com *



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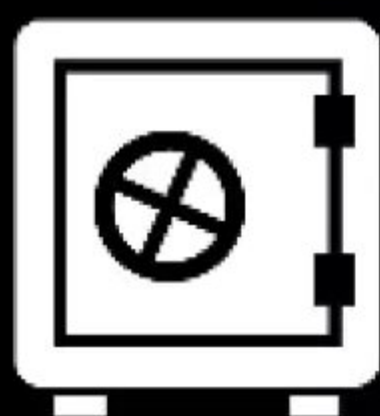
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CANiK has seen huge success in the past few years with their Mete MC9 line, and this, the Prime, is the newest, most tricked-out, and first one built in the U.S. Tarr compares it to the solid MC9L.

CANiK'S MC9L AND MC9 PRIME PISTOLS

Blue Collar and Black-Tie Carry Guns

By James Tarr

CANiK USA is a partner with both Century Arms and CANiK Arms in Turkey. CANiK Arms is a division of Samsun Yurt Savunma Sanayi (SYS), one of Turkey's biggest defense contractors. Their original TP-9 is what got them traction in America, and was the reason for their success here—it has decent ergonomics, a good trigger, was very reliable, and surprisingly inexpensive. It was the base gun for the CANiK TTI Combat, which set sales records when it was introduced at the 2024 SHOT Show.

However, the TP-9 is a full-size gun, and even if you cut down the slide and frame it is still thick, and “carry guns” are what currently drive the American market. So, in 2023 CANiK introduced their Mete MC9, a micro-compact 9mm which uses the same TP9 magazines but has a much slimmer frame and slide. It has seen



The Mete MC9 Prime (left) is the MC9 platform maximized in just about every way you can imagine. But you're going to pay for those upgrades. The MC9L on the right is less expensive while still offering a host of features.



Whether you're buying the Mete MC9 Prime (left) or the MC9L (right), the pistol comes as part of a package which includes everything seen here. You get multiple magazines, backstraps, and a holster.



The MC9L has a 3.18-inch barrel but a full-length grip that easily fits all your fingers, and takes flush 17-round magazines.



Interchangeable backstraps, forward cocking serrations, a great trigger pull, and a reasonable price explain the popularity of the MC9L.

perhaps even more success than their larger guns, and they now offer multiple variants.

The original Mete MC9 paired a 3.18-inch barrel with flush magazines that held 12 rounds. The MC9L increased the length of the grip so that flush magazines held 17 rounds. The MC9LS paired the L frame with a longer 3.64-inch barrel. And now the newest iteration of the MC9 is the Mete MC9 Prime, which is a 1. A very tricked out and fancy version of the MC9LS that is also 2. The first and only Mete MC9 made in the U.S.—at CANiK USA's facility in West Palm Beach, Florida.

For this article, I wanted to compare the basic Mete MC9L with the brand-new MC9 Prime which, like the

CANiK TTI Combat the year before, was perhaps the most talked-about pistol at SHOT Show.

Mete MC9L

This is a polymer-framed striker-fired 9mm. It sports the original 3.18-inch barrel of the MC9, but the height has increased from 4.52 inches to 5.43 inches as flush magazine capacity was increased from 12 to 17.

This micro-compact to not-so-micro evolutionary arc is the same one we've seen a dozen times in the past decade, and it happens for a reason. Micro-compact pistols (CANiK MC9, SIG P365, Taurus GX4, etc.) are easy to carry and conceal, but if you actually take them to the range, you'll find they're not that pleasant to shoot. The biggest issue is the short grip. Lengthening the grip



The sights on the optics-ready MC9L are basic, but they work. Steel and dovetailed into place, with a big white dot on the front sight.

If the striker is cocked you will see it—and the red dot on the tip—protruding from the rear of the slide. If you pop off the cover plate the slide is cut for direct mounting of optics using the Shield RMSc footprint.





The MC9 series of pistols are slimmer than the full-size TP9 variant pistols which came before, while using the same magazines. They carry concealed very nicely.

so that you can get your entire hand on it so drastically improves the shooting experience that Most people don't mind that the longer grip is a bit harder to conceal, and thus, we get the MC9L.

While "mete" (pronounced meet) is an English word which means to dole out or give out by measure, this Turkish-built pistol is the Mete. Mete is a Turkish name, pronounced meh-tay, which means brave, hero, or valiant.

The Mete MC9L is available in black, FDE, or two-tone with a black slide over an FDE frame. It is 6.27-inches long, 5.43-inches tall, 1.18-inches wide, and 22.2 ounces with an empty magazine in place. Let me point out that every Mete MC9 pistol is sold as a package, and when you buy the MC9L you get the pistol, two 17-round magazines, a magazine loader, three backstraps, an IWB holster, a cleaning rod, and a disassembly tool, all in foam cutouts inside a lockable hard case.

At the rear of the chamber, you'll see a pivoting loaded chamber indicator. The slide of the MC9L isn't that wide, so the slide serrations aren't very deep, but they are plentiful and wide-bottomed, which tends to give them a little more grip, and you won't have problems working the slide against the dual recoil spring setup.

Sights on the MC9L are steel and dovetailed into place. The front sight has a sizable white dot, and the rear is plain black and serrated. The slide is optics ready, and cut for mounting of optics which use the Shield RMSc footprint. CANiK USA does sell the MC9L with a factory-mounted optic as a package, their MECANIK M01 red dot. The slide cover is steel if you choose to run the iron sights.

When the striker is cocked, the back end of the stainless-steel striker, with a red dot, is visible at the rear of the slide. Trigger pull on this pistol is excellent, which is one of the reasons why CANiK pistols have been so popular. After a long take-up, trigger pull on our sample was a relatively crisp 4.5-lbs—very shootable. The short reset

was a very nice added bonus. The trigger itself is polymer with a curved stepped face and a red pivoting safety lever in the front.

The slide release is bilateral, long extended steel levers, and both levers work to release the slide. The magazine release is a steel rectangular button, horizontally serrated. It is reversible, but it takes a bit of work and probably a pair of needle-nose pliers to pop the spring in and out. At the front of the frame is a three-slot MIL STD M1913 "Picatinny" rail for mounting a light if you wish.

The textured sections on the grip are more aggressive than they look. While there's nothing wrong with them, I do wish the texturing was more aggressive, and there wasn't so much smooth non-textured area on the grip. The magazine well opening in the frame is nicely beveled. The magazines are steel with numbered index holes on the back and polymer base pads. Overall, the MC9L provides solid looks and features—nothing fancy, just everything you need and nothing you don't in a pistol sized right for concealed carry.

MC9 Prime

The CANiK Mete MC9 Prime is basically the MC9LS maximized to its fullest potential in looks and performance. This pistol is a product of CANiK USA, and it is the first and only MC9 manufactured in America. It sports a ported barrel, aluminum magazine well, improved trigger/trigger pull, improved grip texturing, improved slide serrations, and upgraded sights, among other things.



CANiK's MC9 Prime is the same size at the MC9LS, but with pretty much every bit of the pistol upgraded.



Enhanced grip texturing and slide serrations, improved trigger/trigger pull, ported barrel, and solid looks are only part of the improvements to the Prime compared to standard MC9 pistols.



The Prime's barrel has three ports which vent up through the slide. They reduce muzzle rise but work best with higher-pressure ammunition.



The polymer frame already has a nice integral mag well, but the removable aluminum mag well enlarges it even more.



The cutout in the top of the slide reveals the PRIME etched into the top flat of the barrel. This is just one more thing that makes Tarr think the Prime looks like a far more expensive pistol than the price tag suggests.



The trigger on the Prime is aluminum, wide, and has a gold anodized safety lever in the center that is diamond checkered. It breaks at 90 degrees. While it's only a tiny bit lighter than the standard pull, it is shorter and crisper.

It was designed after several years of consumer feedback and recommendations. There are two versions, the standard version as seen here, and one which comes from the factory with CANiK's new MECANIK M04 enclosed red dot optic, which isn't yet available as I write this.

The height/grip length/capacity on the Prime is the same as with the MC9L, but the barrel has been stretched from 3.18 to 3.64 inches. Overall, the pistol is 6.73-inches long, 5.43-inches tall, 1.18-inches wide, and 23.5-ounces with an empty magazine in place.

The barrel has four flats machined into it. They reduce weight, but also add looks and character. Those flats do not extend all the way to the muzzle, though. The last 0.8 of-an-inch or so of barrel is left round, and three small oval ports are cut into it, at 10:30, 12, and 1:30. The front sight is moved back a little over half an inch on the slide to make room for the vent holes for those ports. Atop the slide, behind the front sight, is a rectangular cutout which reveals the top flat of the barrel, on which is etched PRIME, the word visible when the slide is forward. There are also cutouts on the front of the slide which reveal a bit of the barrel, and give the pistol even more character.

Compared to the MC9LS the Prime has more slide serrations and they are more aggressive, cut deeper into the slide. The side of the barrel's chamber sports some decorative cuts designed to mimic the slide serrations.

The sights on the Prime are a distinct improvement as well. The Prime is equipped with steel-bodied Night Fision day/night sights. The dovetailed front sight has a tritium insert around which you'll see a bright orange circle—between the two the sight is visible in any light. The rear

sight is serrated and has tritium inserts to either side of a standard notch. The slide is again cut for direct mounting of optics which use the Shield RMSc footprint.

Just like the MC9L, the Prime ships out as a package—you get the pistol, two 17-round magazines and a magazine loader, three backstraps, the removable aluminum magazine well, a polymer G-Code IWB/OWB holster (with belt clip and paddle), adjustment tool, trigger lock, and cleaning rod, all of which fit into foam cutouts inside a very nice Pelican-style lockable case.

While the trigger pull on the MC9L is good, it's better on the Prime. Not only is it a hair lighter, and crisper, the trigger itself is superior. The trigger has a black aluminum body, is wide, and has a flat face. The pivoting safety lever is nearly the width of the trigger and has aggressive diamond texturing to keep your fingertip in place. The lever is gold anodized, and the trigger breaks right at 90-degrees. Reset on this trigger is exceptional—it's advertised as only being 1.3mm, and that's no lie.

The interesting thing is even though the barrel on the Prime is half an inch longer than that of the MC9L, the frame rail is exactly the same length. That's because the

CANiK'S MC9L AND MC9 PRIME PISTOLS



The biggest complaint about the texturing on the standard MC9 pistols (MC9L on the left) was that it didn't cover enough real estate and wasn't quite aggressive enough. CANiK nearly overcompensated with the Prime.



The extra slide serrations are functional and look good. The cutouts in the front of the slide which show off the muzzle look cool but don't really do anything.

trigger guard on the Prime is longer—rectangular, as opposed to the nearly-square model on the MC9L. This improved trigger guard was first seen in CANiK's Mete SF. Also seen in that gun, and brought over to the Prime, is the integral flared magazine well. The polymer frame is nicely flared and beveled to speed/smooth reloading even before you add in the removable aluminum magazine well.

The Prime's frame is very aggressively textured everywhere you might be touching it. The texturing on the sides

of the frame goes up all the way to the top, with no gaps. The texturing on the backstrap and the front of the gun is more aggressive than on the sides to help lock your hand in place. There are small textured pads on either side of the frame above the front of the trigger guard, for the thumb of your support hand, and the front of the trigger guard is textured as well.

The backstrap installed on the pistol, as shipped, is a bit more arched, and there is a threaded hole at the base of it—the aluminum mag well slides onto the frame, and then



The MC9L is small enough to conceal under just about any clothing while providing you 17+1 rounds onboard and a very good trigger pull. Modern carry guns are so incredibly capable.



The Prime still has the MC (for micro-compact) in its name, but it is truly just a compact gun, and you'll need a holster and a good covering garment to properly conceal it.

a screw goes up through the mag well into the backstrap, securing it in place. A second backstrap is the same length and works the same way with the mag well, but it is not as arched. The third backstrap is meant to be used if you decide you don't want the frame equipped with the aluminum magazine well.



With the gold trigger, and the texturing, and the fancy slide cutouts, Tarr thinks the MC9 Prime looks like a black-tie carry gun and expects CANiK USA to sell a lot of them.

At the Range

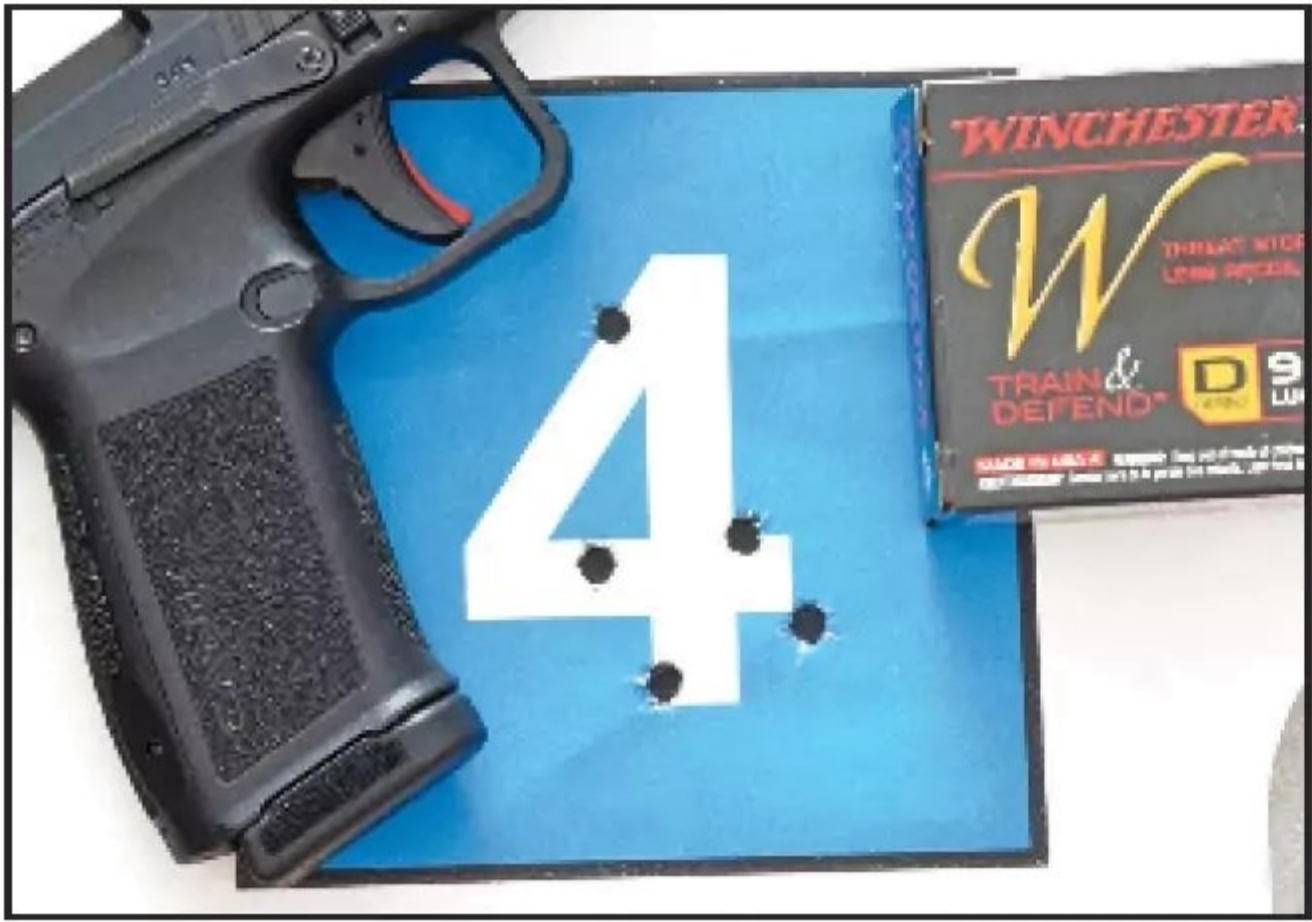
CANiK pistols, both the MC9s and the larger pistols, have all had better-than-average trigger pulls, which is a big reason for their popularity. A good trigger pull—short, crisp, and light—is a far better choice if you want to increase your speed and accuracy than screwing a red dot atop your pistol, but I digress.

I'm not so old that I've stopped learning, and while I knew from my competition days that reduced reciprocating weight equates to reduced felt recoil/muzzle rise, my brain didn't transfer that from competition over to carry guns. But the huge popularity of the Glock 19X, and then the 43X set off a lightbulb in my brain. These pistols paired shorter slides with full-length grips (like you see with the MC9L). Not only does this allow you to get your whole hand on the gun, but the lighter slide seems to generate less of a recoil impulse. Which is a long way of saying that the MC9L was a lot of fun to shoot, and as a carry gun is very capable.

The big white dot on the front sight is easy to see in various lighting, and because of the full-length grip you can shoot it nearly as well as a full-size gun. Hammering steel and running speed drills on silhouettes was nothing but fun. The MC9L gives you everything you need in a concealable carry gun, including a holster. But...the MC9 Prime truly outclasses it in every way. The Prime looks better, feels better in your hand, and shoots better. Better



All the MC9s take apart the same way, and all sport dual recoil springs to soften recoil and increase the life of the pistol.



This was the best group out of the MC9L, a 2¼-inch group from 147-grain Winchester JHPs.



Black Hills' 124-grain JHP+P produced the single best group in the MC9 Prime, this 2.1-inch group. It and most other ammunition averaged three to four inches at 25 yards.

CANiK METE MC9L PISTOL					
Load	Bullet Weight (gr.)	Velocity (fps)	ES	SD	Best / Avg. Group (in.)
SIM-X DefenseCore	45	2,112	44	26	3.1 / 3.8
Hornady Critical Defense	115	1,083	33	20	2.7 / 3.5
Winchester FMJ	115	1,074	39	27	3.0 / 4.0
Black Hills JHP+P	124	1,142	22	11	2.6 / 3.2
Hornady Subsonic XTP	147	885	26	10	2.3 / 3.1

Accuracy results are the averages of four five-shot groups at 25 yards from a sand-bag rest. Velocities are averages of ten shots measured with an Oehler Model 35P 12 feet from the muzzle.

CANiK METE MC9 PRIME PISTOL					
Load	Bullet Weight (gr.)	Velocity (fps)	ES	SD	Best / Avg. Group (in.)
SIM-X DefenseCore	45	2,149	52	28	3.0 / 3.7
Hornady Critical Defense	115	1,093	34	21	2.5 / 3.1
Winchester FMJ	115	1,083	39	28	3.1 / 4.0
Black Hills JHP+P	124	1,159	24	16	2.1 / 3.2
Hornady Subsonic XTP	147	898	29	13	2.5 / 3.0

Accuracy results are the averages of four five-shot groups at 25 yards from a sandbag rest. Velocities are averages of ten shots measured with an Oehler Model 35P 12 feet from the muzzle.

One final note—both pistols pretty much give you everything you need in a carry gun, including a holster.

sights, better trigger pull, the extra grippiness in the grip I just love, the magazine well...plus the look of it. It costs more, but you definitely are getting something for that extra cash. I did a few drills with both pistols, and between the slightly better trigger pull and the reduced muzzle rise from the ports I was 5+% faster with the Prime and about 5% more accurate at that speed.

The ports in the barrel are small and don't do a lot, but shooting it side-by-side with the MC9L I was able to see a reduction in muzzle rise—although how much depended on the load. Ports/compensators work off pressure. Light bullets travelling fast generate more pressure than heavier slower bullets, and often with ports/comps you'll find that hot +P ammunition generates no more muzzle rise than standard pressure ammo, because it better activates the comp. At the range, the ports had very little effect when shooting 147-grain subsonic ammo. You could see and feel the ports working, however, when you moved over into lighter/faster bullets, and muzzle rise by reduced by a quarter or a third—50% when shooting the hypervelocity SIM-X DefenseCore. The muzzle will be back down out of recoil before you're even off the trigger and ready to fire a second shot, but the

advantage of a comp/ports is reduced disturbance to your sight picture.

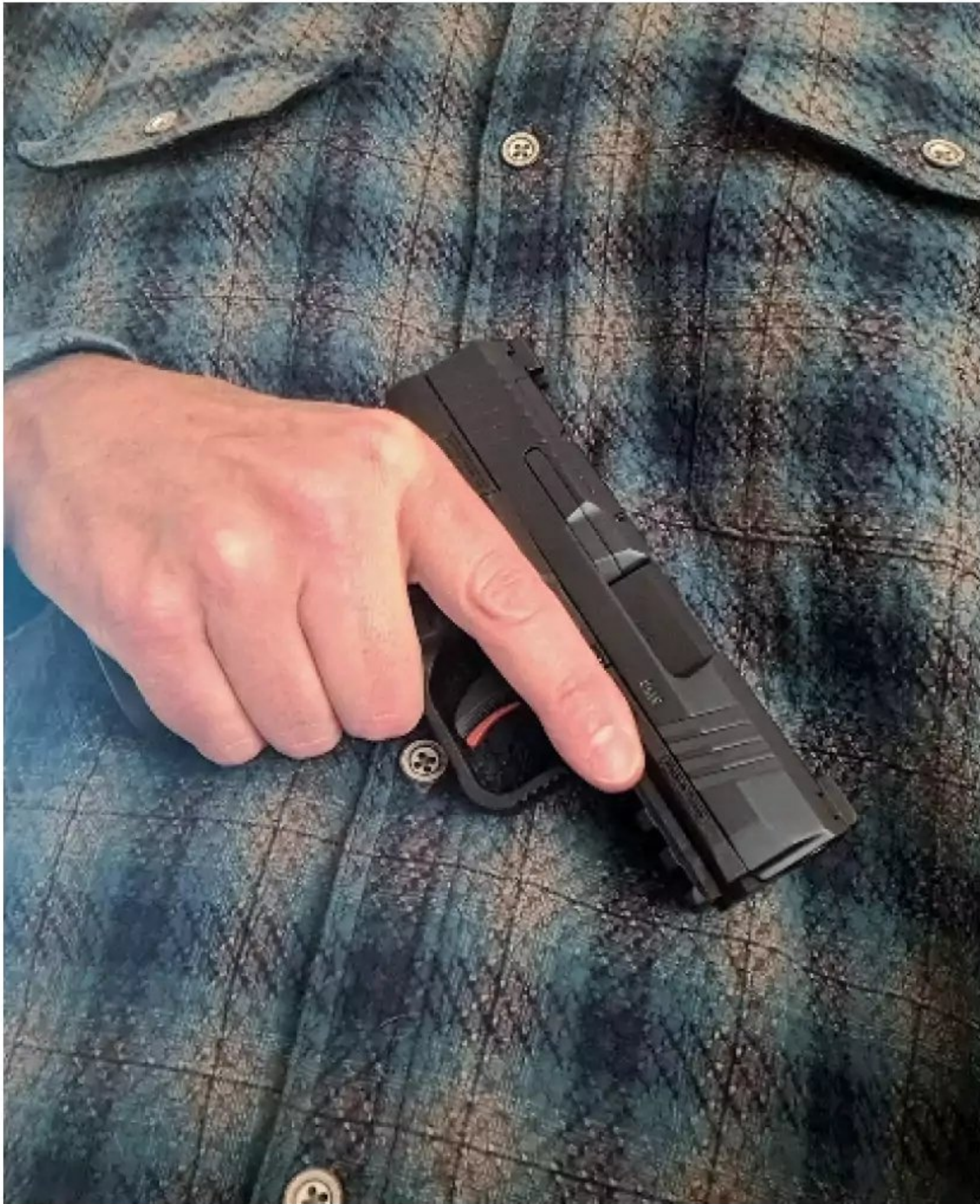
The MC9 Prime is \$150 more than the MC9L, and the question is whether or not the improvements to the looks and performance of the MC9L are worth that much to you. \$150 is basically the cost of a good set of tritium night sights, so it's like CANiK is throwing in the rest of the Prime upgrades for free, and, at \$699, the Made-in-the-U.S. Prime is basically the price of a box-stock Glock. I think the Prime is worth it, and all of the upgrades and improvements to it make sense and work. I also think that if you buy the very capable MC9L you should take that \$200 in savings and spend it on ammo and range fees, as you should be spending far more money on ammo than you do on your gun, if you want to get and stay good. Unfortunately, the people who go for "price point" guns usually don't do that, but I will continue to preach religion to the heathen masses.

One final note—both pistols pretty much give you everything you need in a carry gun, including a holster. Both pistols were 100% reliable in my testing, which is by far the most important criterion in a carry gun. However, there is one aftermarket accessory you might want to



One available aftermarket upgrade for your MC9 is the brass backstrap from Taylor Freelance. The extra weight on the back end makes a surprising difference in handling.

The MC9L seems like the perfect blue collar carry gun, providing everything you need and nothing you don't.

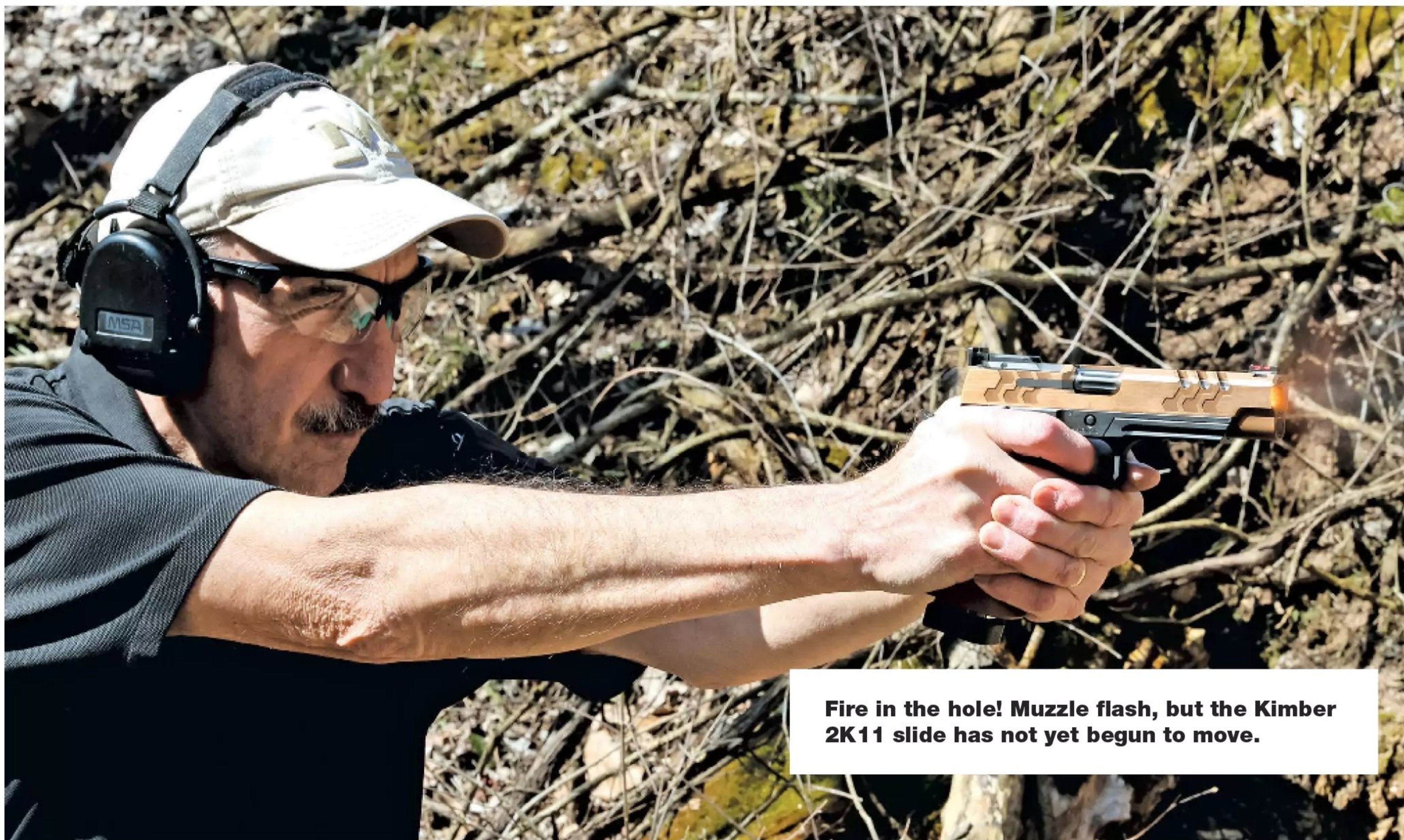


consider if you're picky enough to want the Prime, or are looking to upgrade your MC9L. That is the brass backstrap for the MC9 L, LS, or Prime from Taylor Freelance (TaylorFreelanceStore.com). Available either in natural brass or black, it is nicely checkered, works with the aluminum magwell on the Prime, and more importantly adds 3.1 ounces of weight to the back end of the gun. That weight really seems to change the handling of the gun and in a very good way, completely eliminating the muzzle heavy feel you get with so many polymer-framed guns.

There are so many capable carry guns on the market that the choices can be overwhelming. The market was already crowded when CANiK jumped in with the MC9—so you should understand that its success is a sure sign it's a stand-out. And the Prime is more than worth the larger price tag. **FN**

CANiK METE MC9L PISTOL	
Type:	Striker-fired semi-auto
Caliber:	9mm
Capacity:	17+1
Barrel:	3.18 in.
Length:	6.27 in.
Height:	5.43 in. (with magazine inserted)
Width:	1.18 in.
Weight:	22.2 oz. (w/Unloaded Magazine)
Slide:	Steel
Finish:	Nitride
Grip:	Polymer
Sights:	Steel, white dot front, serrated notch rear
Trigger Pull:	4.5-pounds (as tested)
Safety:	Trigger lever, striker drop safety
Price:	\$499
Accessories:	Two 17-round magazines, three backstraps, magazine loader, trigger lock, holster, cleaning rod, lockable hard case
Contact:	CanikUSA.com

CANiK METE MC9 PRIME PISTOL	
Type:	Striker-fired semi-auto
Caliber:	9mm
Capacity:	17+1
Barrel:	3.64 in.
Length:	6.73 in.
Height:	5.43 in. (with magazine inserted)
Width:	1.18 in.
Weight:	23.5 oz. (w/Unloaded Magazine)
Slide:	Steel
Finish:	Nitride
Grip:	Polymer
Sights:	Night Fision day/night sights, orange front w/tritium, plain black w/tritium
Trigger pull:	4.5-pounds (as tested)
Safety:	Trigger lever, striker drop safety
Price:	\$649
Accessories:	Two 17-round magazines, three backstraps, magazine loader, trigger lock, holster, cleaning rod, removable aluminum mag well, lockable hard case
Contact:	CanikUSA.com



Fire in the hole! Muzzle flash, but the Kimber 2K11 slide has not yet begun to move.

KIMBER'S 2K11

TARGET PISTOL

The .45 Is Still King

By Patrick Sweeney

The big complaint about using a pistol in .45 (besides the recoil which is a non-issue if you do it right) is capacity, or rather, the lack thereof. For a lot of shooters, “only” eight shots of .45 ACP just doesn’t seem like enough. So, 36 years ago when the “hi-cap” 2011 platform appeared via Para Ordnance, and a year later through Chip McCormick who offered STI frames, the .45 shooters rejoiced. Just as quickly, we built those early frames (only offered as frames and magazines when they first appeared) into .38 Supers and 40 S&W competition guns.

Kimber has leapt into the double-stack market with their 2K11, and in typical Kimber fashion they passed right over all the less-capable options and have delivered a pistol with everything you need or want on it.

The heart of the 2011 design is the two-piece frame. On top you have the stainless steel rails and fire-control holding section, and below is the magazine-holding section. The original 2011s (and many still today) have the lower



The Kimber 2K11 is a full-sized .45 with a lot of capacity. And blinding good looks.

The Kimber 2K11 has an ambi thumb safety, but right-handed controls for all the rest, as a classic 1911 should.



There is, of course, an accessory rail, for light or laser.



The slide has both cocking serrations and through-cuts to adjust mass and balance.



The barrel does not have a bushing; it is coned and locks up directly to the slide.

frame made out of some sort of reinforced polymer. Well, not Kimber. That part is aluminum. Machined, sculpted, blended to be ergonomic and given a non-slip texture, it is mated with an aluminum mainspring housing. This makes the lower frame even more stout and rigid than the polymer ones, but it does add a tad more weight.

So, that part out of the way, what does the 2K11 have, and why am I testing one in .45? The last part first: because I can. I checked my worklist, and the bulk of what I have been testing has been in 9mm. As in, a ratio of more than ten to one. I needed to get back to the .45, and there's also the matter of function. If a double-stack works in 9mm, we all yawn, but one that works on .45 is notable. In the single-stack 1911, the opposite used to be the case, but we are now in the 21st century, people have to be reminded. If someone wants to carry a .45, but wants more rounds, this is the way to do it.

The 2K11 stainless slide differs from the traditional in a few ways. First of all, the sights. Out front is a fiber optic blade. The rear sight is an adjustable sight, built into the optics cover plate on the rear of the slide. If you want to go red-dot, you lose the rear sight, but that doesn't seem to be a concern among a lot of younger shooters. Those of us who remember when sights died on a regular basis are a bit more willing to include a back-up rear sight.

The slide has a modified cut on the front to blend with the frame and its accessory rail, and the Kimber cocking serrations are angular, involved, and work extremely well. In addition, there are through-cuts on the slide at the front cocking serrations to adjust mass and balance. The ejection port is generous, and behind it is an external extractor. Through the ejection port, you can see that the chamber has been fluted. The stainless steel barrel does not use a bushing at the front end, it is machined with a cone to lock up directly to the slide. This requires a revere plug for the recoil spring, and here Kimber has made the plug with an upper boss that fills the gap between the recoil spring tunnel and the barrel tunnel. The muzzle is deeply beveled to protect the crown. One aspect of the 2011 design is that it is easy to make one frame to fit them all, with an integral feed ramp cut. Then, the barrel and its integral ramp can



The rear sight is on the cover plate for the optics installation. Remove it to install the optics and you lose the rear sight.



◀ Ever wonder why IPSC in the old days used the 200-grain lead semi-wadcutter. Accuracy like this is why.

► The trigger is PVD coated like the slide and mag funnel. The lower frame is both lifted and sculpted back to provide a better grip.



be any caliber needed, with the matching slide. So even though a .45 ACP doesn't really need a supported chamber, the 2KK11 gets one.

The recoil spring assembly is a clever upgrade from Kimber. Usually, you'll need a bent paperclip to lock the plug in place on the guide rod during disassembly. Instead, Kimber makes the rod in two pieces, with the join of the two pieces off-center. Once the slide is locked back, grab the front of the rod and rotate it. It will rotate eccentrically, and when you ease the slide forward it will stop on the now off-center front half. A clever approach to avoiding



The mainspring housing is flat, checkered and aluminum. The grip safety has a "speed bump" on the bottom.



The Stan Chen mag funnel is low-profile compared to competition funnels. It has the same pattern as the cocking serrations cut into it.



The mag funnel is generous, but not so big it is like you're trying to conceal a medical device on your belt.

the "Where is the darned paperclip?" problem, and one Kimber has applied for a patent on.

On the frame, the steel portion of the assembly holds the hammer, sear, disconnect, thumb safety and slide stop lever, as well as the accessory rail on the dust cover. The thumb safety is an ambidextrous set, and the grip safety is a hi-ride with speed bump at the bottom. The trigger rides in the lower half of the frame assembly, along with the magazine catch. The trigger is aluminum and has a flat blade.

The lower half of the frame is machined with a checkering pattern on it, and the front strap has been both lifted (up behind the

trigger guard) and slimmed back. This provides a groove for your second finger to ride in and allows you to get higher on the frame than you otherwise would, this being a double-stack frame and all. Down at the bottom of the frame, Kimber has installed a Stan Chen Custom one-of-a-kind mag well funnel. The funnel has the same cocking serration pattern machined into it, not deeply, but enough to notice. Now, in a double stack pistol, a mag funnel isn't really a needed thing. The wedge shape of the magazine top makes it a fast reload even without a funnel. And a lot of funnels, coming from the competition need, are so large that trying to wear a pistol with one is like hiding a medical assistance device under your coat. Not so with this one. Stan knows how to make a funnel improve reloads without looking like a belt-mounted goiter. In fact, by making it not be a problem at all for everyday carry. One detail to notice is the bottom rear edge of the funnel. Exactly, there isn't one. Here the mag funnel has been beveled to keep that edge that would otherwise be there from printing. And all the

edges have been rounded, to reduce or prevent abrasion of clothes. As a last detail, the slide, trigger and mag well funnel all receive a Coyote PVD finish. The 2K11 comes with three full-sized magazines, each holding 13 rounds. So, if you wanted to wear them all, you'd be packing 40 rounds of .45 ACP of the flavor you favor.

I was prepared for some fun testing and some excellent performance, but the 2K11 outdid even my expectations. Look, a five-inch 1911 is going to wring just about as much velocity out of any .45 ACP load you care to use.



The Kimber 2K11 uses double-stack magazines and it almost doubles the capacity over a single-stack 1911.



The guide rod is built as a two-piece rod, with an eccentric connection. Rotate it and you lock the spring and retainer for disassembly.



The Kimber 2K11 comes with three hi-cap magazines and it comes apart much like any other 1911. But with a clever trick.

Ammunition manufacturers have known how to load the .45 for a 1911 since, well, 1911. And if you want it, the +P loadings do add a useful dollop of speed to whatever bullet you are hurling. This happens at the same time that the known accuracy factors of the 1911 have been understood for as long as the proper loading data has existed. The short answer: lots of power accurately delivered. I also found that while I had been spending lots of time with 9mm europellet pistols, I had let my supply of the manly cartridge get rather sparse. (Time to re-order.) However, the ones I did have demonstrated the superb .45 ACP accuracy we can count on. In particular, the Hornady XTP bullet 200-grain load shows why the XTP (albeit in 9mm there) is the top choice for those trying to do well at the Bianchi Cup. And the good old 200-grain L-SWC that IPSC was built on proves once again why we all flocked to it back then. My diminishing supply of Black Hills ammo with that bullet produced brag-worthy groups.

This was aided by the brilliant trigger in this 2K11. Kimber specs the trigger pull as being between three and four pounds. Well, this particular one dropped the hammer consistently at three pounds, two



The 2K11 with its magazines, adapter plate, extra fiber rods, lock, all the goodies in a zippered range bag.



Accuracy like this is hard to resist. And not uncommon in a 1911 in .45 ACP.



Hornady strikes again, The XTP bullet is renowned for its accuracy.

KIMBER 2K11 CHRONOGRAPH AND ACCURACY DATA					
Ammunition	Bullet Weight (gr.)	Velocity (fps)	ES	SD	Accuracy (Avg. & Best) (in.)
Hornady XTP	200	898	59	22.8	1.7 / 1.5
Black Hills L-SWC	200	819	55	25.8	1.7 / 1.4
Winchester Ranger JHP+P	230	890	23	8.8	1.8 / 1.5
Winchester FMJ	230	812	37	18.6	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 Labrador chronograph set to read 15 feet from the muzzle.					

KIMBER'S 2K11 TARGET PISTOL



There's a bullet streak ahead of the muzzle, on the way to the target. Lucky timing at 1/1000th of a second.



◀ The Falco is cut to accommodate a red-dot optic on your Kimber.

▼ Full bullet weight, +P power, and accuracy like this. The Kimber 2K11 delivers.



ounces. I might feel that that is a bit too light for everyday carry and would look to bump that up to more like three-and-a-half pounds, but to compete with, and to punch groups that make other shooter jealous, boy is it good.

When I opened the package to do the paperwork, my first impression was, “Well, this is a bit too much.” You can have the 2K11 in several finishes. There’s the Stainless Target, which is pretty self-explanatory. Then, there is the base 2K11, done up in Black DLC except for the barrel, which receives a Coyote PVD finish. And then the Target, with two choices here. One is the iron sight version (the one sent here) or you can have yours with a red dot installed. The Target has the slide, trigger and Stan Chen mag well funnel treated to a Coyote PVD finish, while the barrel, upper frame and the small parts black, in a DLC treatment. At first glance, just a little bit bling-y.

SOURCES	
Black Hills Ammunition	Black-Hills.com, (605) 348-5150
Hornady Ammunition	Hornady.com, (800) 338-3220
Falco Holsters	FalcoHolsters.com, (800) 490-7147
Winchester Ammunition	Winchester.com



The Falco hybrid OWB would be perfect for daily carry of the Kimber 2K11.

Then I tried the trigger. Oh my. Three pounds, two ounces, clean and crisp, and a joy to use. It is a part of the superb accuracy I saw while testing the 2K11, and it made mowing down plate racks easy. Now, all this joy does not come cheap. You get the 2K11, three magazines, extra fiber optic rods to put into your front blade, and an optics adapter plate from C&H Precision for an RMR footprint red-dot sight. If you just have to use some other optic, then Kimber has plates for RMSc, DPP, Acro, and 509T available. All this is a zippered Kimber-logo carry bag.

Kimber makes sure things are done right. The box that arrived here had a masking tape strip on the end, and written on it was “Demo gun, live FP.” I don’t think there’s a gun writer out there who hasn’t gotten a test gun with a clipped or not-present firing pin in it, which is always a hassle. Kimber made sure it wasn’t a hassle.

To top things off (or to nestle them on your belt), a Falco hybrid OWB holster, made to accommodate the rail, and with a thumb guard to keep the slide and safety off of your shirt would be a perfect daily carry ensemble. The holster is also cut to clear a red-dot optic, should you go that route. Power, accuracy, good looks, utter reliability and more than enough capacity, what more can you ask for? **FN**

SPECIFICATIONS KIMBER 2K11	
Type:	Hammer-fired semi-automatic
Caliber:	.45ACP (also 9mm)
Capacity:	13+1 rounds
Barrel:	5 in.
Overall Length:	8.6 in.
Height:	5.75 in.
Weight:	40 oz.
Weight:	Coyote PVD & type III anodizing
Grips:	Aluminum module
Sights:	Fiber optic front, adjustable rear on optics plate
Trigger:	3 lbs. 2 oz.
MSRP:	\$2,699
Contact:	KimberAmerica.com, (888) 243-4522

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THE DP28 LIGHT MACHINE GUN:

By Oleg Volk

“Stalin’s Record Player”

DP28 is the most recognizable Soviet light machine gun, and their first successful indigenous design. (Oleg Volk)

DP27, Degtyareva Pekhotnij or Infantry (machine gun) by Vasily Degtyarev, was the main light machine gun of the USSR and its allies from the early 1930s until late 1940s. In the West, it is more often known as DP28. This weapon, second only to PPSH in media and lore popularity, remains in sporadic military use in Ukraine and several African countries even today. What made this firearm so enduring?

After the Great War, two most widespread light machine guns were the abominable Chautchaut and the famous Lewis. In addition, several countries endeavored to lighten the Maxim gun by reducing or deleting the water-cooling jacket and adding a bipod.

Vasily Degtyarev, an old-school firearm designer, made his version of lightened Maxim too, but continued to work on the problem of providing portable squad-level firepower. In 1926, he began testing a weapon that appeared to be fan art based on the Lewis machine gun, but the outward appearances were deceiving. While both long-stroke gas operated weapons used pan-shaped top-mounted magazines, that’s where the similarities ended. The Lewis 47-round



Vasily Degtyarev, one of USSR’s most prominent gun designers. (Oleg Volk)



The distinctive pan magazine. (Oleg Volk)



DP28 bolt with flaps in the spread, locked position. (Oleg Volk)

pan magazine had no spring and was rotated by the action. The DP pan magazine, of identical capacity, used internal clockwork that rotated the pan and pushed cartridges to the feed lips. The Lewis used a rotating bolt while the DP used a clever linear bolt with two locking flaps that fit in the recessed of the beefy steel receiver.

Lighter by about five pounds, DP was also much simpler than the Lewis despite slightly higher parts count, and it came with a vastly better bipod. Like the Lewis, the DP design was eventually diversified for tank and aircraft use.

In terms of design and use niche, the DP was much closer to the Czechoslovak ZB26 and British Bren that stemmed from it, also to the Vickers-Berthier. Like the Bren, the DP was eventually developed into a belt-fed variant. Production numbers were higher, around 800,000 DPs were built by 1946, making it a more common weapon than any of its contemporaries. In addition to allies, it was actively used by USSR's enemies. Finns, in particular, captured so many DPs that it became the de-facto standard service LMG in preference to Lahti-Saloranta M26.

■ Features

The weapon fires from an open bolt to reduce mass and to facilitate barrel cooling. Instead of a fire-mode selector, it uses an odd grip safety located just behind the trigger guard. With slow 550rpm rate of fire, a dedicated semi-automatic mode is unnecessary.

The combination of a long 24-inch barrel, and a reversible cone-shaped flash hider, is quite effective at minimizing the muzzle blast. The long-stroke action and considerable weight reduce recoil to a very gentle push, although some skill is required to keep the gun on target during longer bursts. Recoil is also minimized by the use of an adjustable gas regulator. Ejection is straight down, with gravity assisting. A robust centrally located fixed ejector blade kicks out the spent cases with authority.

Sights are graduated all the way out to 1,500 meters, which was highly optimistic. Effective range is estimated to be half that distance, and that distance under ideal conditions. Windage adjustment is done by moving the front sight base using a slotted screw. Initial zeroing is



The DP28 bipod is sturdy but non-adjustable for length. (Oleg Volk)

► **The grip safety was deleted in later models. (Oleg Volk)**





It's easy to fire single shots with this weapon, thanks to the slow cyclic rate and a good trigger. (Oleg Volk)



Cone-shaped flash hider, removable for transport. (Oleg Volk)

done by turning the front sight post to regulate the point of impact.

The DP uses an interrupted thread to retain the barrel in the receiver. While that makes it easy to remove, the barrel was never intended to be field-swappable for cooling purposes. A Soviet army LMG team consisted of two men,

the gunner, and the assistant. Since the ready set of loaded magazines seldom exceeded four, the assistant gunner's task was as much reloading the pans with loose cartridges as anything else. Absence of a dedicated spotter limited practical accuracy despite excellent mechanical qualities of the gun itself. It is not surprising that the report detailing the findings from the 1938 USSR-wide army war games judged the vast majority of gunners as unable to hit a point target at 300 meters.

Convergent evolution made tank versions designated as DT, and an aircraft version designated as DA. The DA used an aircraft flexible mount, which made it resemble the Vickers-K light machine gun quite strongly. The DA and DT used 63-round multilayer pan magazines of



Even long bursts can stay on target at short to medium ranges. (Oleg Volk)



The gas regulator is easily adjustable, allowing reliability with less reciprocating mass. (Oleg Volk)



Centrally-located fixed ejector over the wide ejection port. (Oleg Volk)



Long sight radius maximized the accuracy potential of this weapon. (Oleg Volk)



A long interrupted thread ensures consistent barrel positioning. (Oleg Volk)



The front sight, and its base, sport hashmarks for repeatable adjustments. (Oleg Volk)



Ingenious but flawed, the PD28 pan magazine. (Oleg Volk)

smaller diameter than the original 47-round pan. The aircraft version was unsuccessful due to low rate of fire, while tank variant proved quite long-lived. It dispensed with the barrel shroud, but came with a bipod for dismounted use, should the tank, or the armored car, be disabled. In

a further bit of convergent evolution, late 1940s versions of both infantry and tank DPs were converted to belt feed under RP46 designation.

The pan mechanism was, from the start, the most controversial element of the design. Compared to box



Hip-firing is effective enough for CQB. (Oleg Volk)

THE DP28 LIGHT MACHINE GUN



◀ Making the bolt handle integral to the carrier simplified manufacturing but added a rapidly moving hazard. (Oleg Volk)



▶ Safety vents. (Oleg Volk)

magazines, held double the ammunition at the cost of greater overall weight and slower re-loading. Unlike the MG13's 25-round box magazine, the pan magazine was centered and didn't affect gun balance. Unlike ZB26, Bren, and Vickers-Berthier top-mounted 20-round box magazines, the pan didn't obscure gunner's vision or make his position more obvious to enemy observers. However, pan magazines were awkward to handle and added a lot of parasite weight to the ammunition, about 2.2 pounds more

than the same 47 rounds if belted. At the time, USSR had no ability to make metallic ammunition belts, so that wasn't a realistic alternative. Pan feed was also simpler



DP28 from various angles. (Oleg Volk)

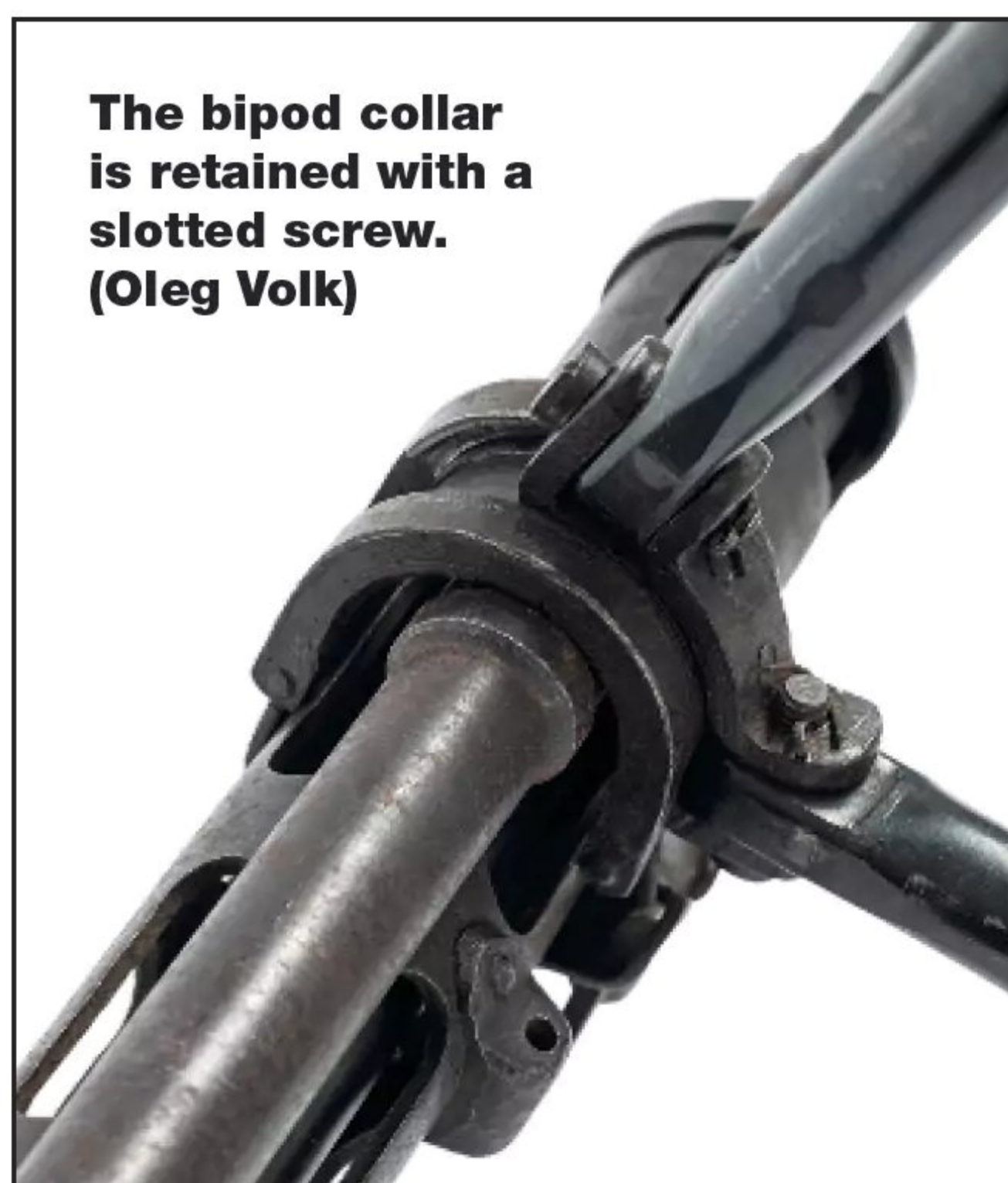
with the bolt pushing the rimmed cartridge without it having to be withdrawn backward from the belt first. The belt feed module of RP46 added 5.5 pounds to the weapon, and a long non-disintegrating 250-round belt would protrude from the side of the gun as ammunition from the large, attached box was consumed.

Unlike Bren, DP wasn't readily hand holdable. A tall person could fire it from the hip by grasping one of the



◀ Redesigned controls of the DPM. (Oleg Volk)

▶ The recoil spring housing: scary-looking but not actually problematic. (Oleg Volk)



The bipod collar is retained with a slotted screw. (Oleg Volk)



▲ Lower half of the gun, separated for maintenance. (Oleg Volk)

the Mosin bolt-action rifle has no provision for handling gas leaking from a ruptured case head, while DP28 uses a three-hole vent on the underside of the bolt.

Although open bolt operation, low rate of fire, and magazine feed kept DP from ammunition cookoffs, the barrel did get hot enough to affect the functionality of the recoil spring wrapped around the piston under the barrel. As a result of combat experience, DP27 was redesigned extensively and became DP Modernized (DPM) in 1943,

an ugly but highly functional backwards-compatible refinement. The grip safety was deleted in favor of a rotating safety similar to the of the SKS, and a pistol grip was added. The recoil spring got relocated to a cooler spot in the back of the receiver, contained in a knurled protruding tube in front of the shooter's face. Contrary to the appearances, it doesn't actually punch the gunner during recoil.



◀ Fieldstripping and reassembly are simple, a great advantage for a mostly peasant conscript army. (Oleg Volk)

bipod legs, but there was no place under the receiver or the barrel shroud where support hand would be safe from ejecting fired cases or from the reciprocating bolt handle.

In general, DP28 was designed with safety in mind to a greater extent than earlier Russian arms. For example,



■ **Disassembly**

Disassembly for cleaning is very simple. First, removed the tripod held by a collar fitted around the barrel shroud. Take-down latch on the right rear of the receiver is threaded, comes out once spun counterclockwise. Lower receiver with the trigger group and the attached buttstock separates from the upper receiver.

The bolt retaining latch just forward of the charging handle is pushed forward and turned a quarter-turn to point downward. That permits the bolt, the bolt carrier, and the integral piston to be withdrawn out of the back of the receiver. At that point, the bolt just lifts off the carrier. The firing pin comes out of the back of the bolt, locking flaps out of the sides. When assembled, all those parts are retained by the sides of the receiver rather than by pins. Squeezing retention buttons on both sides of the receiver front allows the barrel and the gas block to rotate counterclockwise (as viewed from the back) to unlock from the interrupted threads. The barrel then slides forward. That is all that’s required for detailed cleaning. The design is extremely clever in its simplicity. The thick steel receiver is the only complicated part in the entire gun.

■ **Range Time**

At the range, DP28 and DPM are both crowd pleasers. Low recoil and simple manual of arms means that almost anybody can operate them effectively. We repeated the old Maxim demonstration of chopping down a tree, but it took more than one magazine. Considerable penetration of 7.62x54R cartridge demonstrated why the slightly lighter but much less powerful 7.62x39 RPD did not replace DP in army use. For a while, the lighter DP and wheeled mounted SG43/SGM coexisted, until the belt-fed Kalashnikov PK machine gun replaced both during the 1960s.

Reliability was excellent, so long as good quality new production or surplus ammunition was used. Some surplus ammo jammed persistently, and that showed the other downside of pan magazines: clearing jams with them isn’t always simple. Taking those magazines apart for cleaning is even harder due to the strong clock spring inside and having to arrange several

◀ **Forged receiver of the DP28. (Oleg Volk)**



Pan magazine, look from the bottom. (Oleg Volk)

dummy cartridges acting as the magazine follower in just the right order.

■ **Final Thoughts**

Unlike Lewis, Bren, and MG42, DP was never made in alternate calibers. It was, however, exported worldwide. Even today, it may be found in active war zones—it helped that the Soviet government actively exported and gifted small arms and ammunition, DP28 among them, to every nominally communist regime and insurgency around the world. It is equally popular with movie makers, playing not only itself but, with a fake barrel shroud, standing in for Lewis LMGs in quite a few 20th century Eastern Block film production.

Be sure to watch Oleg Volk’s video shooting the DP28 at [FirearmsNews.com](https://firearmsnews.com). Just search DP28 in the search bar at the top of the page. **FN**

DP28 LIGHT MACHINE GUN	
Cartridge:	7.62x54mmR
Feed System:	47-round pan magazine
Action:	Gas-operated, flapper locking
Rate of Fire:	550 rpm
Muzzle Velocity:	2,760 ft/s
Effective Firing Range:	800 m
Weight:	20.1 lbs. (unloaded), 25 lbs. (loaded)
Length:	50.0 in.
Barrel Length:	24 in.
Sights:	Adjustable iron sights, front post and range-adjustable rear notch



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Coalition,” co-chaired by Donald Trump Jr., and then 2020’s and 2024’s “Gun Owners for Trump” announcements. The thing is, they only proved to be campaign publicity releases instead of working advisory groups comprised of Second Amendment leaders, scholars, and lawyers who had the pulse of their supporters, knowledge of the issues, and the president’s ear.

Replacing Joe Biden’s Office of Gun Violence Prevention with an Office of Second Amendment Protection, with liaison members like new ATF Chief Counsel Leider, would mean no more surprises, no more cognitively dissonant legal positions, and no more disheartening gun owner who are feeling used, abandoned and betrayed.

ADDENDUM: After this draft had been submitted news reports

announced that “The Supreme Court sided with the federal government’s effort to regulate so-called ghost gun kits” in the case of *Bondi v. Vanderstok*. How DOJ squares that with President Trump’s campaign pledge that “Every single Biden attack on gun owners and manufacturers will be terminated on my very first week back in office, perhaps my first day,” has not been stated. **FN**

DOJ DECLINES TO SEEK SCOTUS CERTIORARI IN *RANGE V. BONDI*

Another Roadblock for Democrats Seeking Ultimate Authority to Disarm Americans

By Darwin Nercesian, News Field Editor



(Shutterstock/SHOWROV11)

The Department of Justice (DOJ) has decided not to seek certiorari in *Range v. Bondi*, declining to pursue a reversal of a Third Circuit Court of Appeals decision that restores the right to purchase and possess firearms to Bryan David Range, a Pennsylvania man who pleaded guilty in 1995 to one count of making a false statement to obtain food stamp assistance. Brought during the Biden administration, the case was formerly known as *Range v. Garland*. While this is a victory for the Second Amendment, it is a narrow one that only applies to the Third Circuit, consisting of Delaware, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. The ruling even more narrowly applies to Range himself, creating precedent without adopting a more definite standard of dangerousness as the “touchstone” for rights removal, kicking the indeterminacy can of the history-and-tradition test down the road.

In 1995, when Range was earning approximately \$300 per week, his wife applied for food stamp assistance, failing to list her husband’s income. Range took responsibility for the omission, which, under Pennsylvania law, at the time qualified as a first-degree misdemeanor punishable by a maximum of five years’ imprisonment. Although he never went to prison, the conviction triggered the application of § 922(g)(1), which Range claimed he had not been made aware of by the prosecutor or judge at the time of pleading. This would result in a lifetime firearms and ammunition possession ban. He only discovered this after researching two denials of subsequent attempts to purchase a gun.

The problem with § 922(g)(1) is that it makes it “unlawful for any person... who has been convicted in any court, of a crime punishable by imprisonment for a term exceeding one year” to “possess in or affecting commerce, any

firearm or ammunition.” § 922(g)(1) applies this standard without respect to non-violent offenders who have not been deemed a danger to society, a disparity in the law that Range correctly asserted as a violation of his Second Amendment rights when he filed suit in the District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania in 2020.

The lawsuit did not vindicate Range, as the late Judge Pratter applied *Binderup v. Attorney General*, the Third Circuit’s test to determine whether a crime is serious enough to warrant a ban on firearms possession, granting summary judgment to the government and dismissing Range’s challenge. Range appealed later that year to the Third Circuit Court of Appeals. Between filing and the Third Circuit hearing the case, the United States Supreme Court issued the landmark ruling in *New York Rifle & Pistol Association, Inc. v. Bruen*, which established a history-and-tradition test that

abrogated the seriousness standard in *Binderup*. Nonetheless, a three blind mice panel of “judges” unanimously used a perversion of *Bruen* to affirm the district court’s ruling that the application of § 922(g)(1) as applied to Range was Constitutional.

Range then petitioned for an en banc hearing in front of the full Third Circuit Court of Appeals, which was granted and ultimately resulted in the decision being reversed and remanded on June 6, 2023, so the district court could grant declaratory judgment in Range’s favor. The decision held that Range was one of “the people” protected by the Second Amendment, and that the government did not meet the burden of establishing that § 922(g)(1), as applied to Range, was consistent with the history and tradition of firearms regulation in the United States.

Under then-Attorney General Merrick Garland, the DOJ petitioned the Supreme Court for a writ of certiorari on October 5, 2023, after Justice Alito granted a one-month extension on the deadline. The government requested a plenary review to determine whether the lower court’s conclusion on the law is correct, but added that if such a review were declined, the High Court should Grant, Vacate, and Remand (GVR) the case back to the Third Circuit Court of Appeals. That’s precisely what happened, as the Supreme Court granted the petition, vacated the judgment, and remanded the case back to the Third Circuit Court of Appeals on July 2, 2024, for further consideration in light of *United States v. Rahimi*.

On December 23, 2024, the Third Circuit Court of Appeals upheld its previous ruling, this time with an overwhelming 13-2 majority of Republican and Democrat appointees. Only judges Patty Shwartz and L. Felipe Restrepo, both Democrats, dissented. Shwartz wrote an astonishingly terse dissent, citing a historical tradition of disarming “Native Americans, Blacks, Catholics, Quakers, loyalists, and others” because they were thought to be disloyal.

“No matter how repugnant and unlawful those bans are under contemporary standards, the founders categorically disarmed the members of those groups because they were viewed as disloyal to the sovereign,” Shwartz wrote, not realizing that she was trying to justify a history and tradition argument using precedent she ironically referred to as “repugnant and unlawful.”

Regardless, the en banc panel concluded that Rahimi had granted the government authority to disarm only those people deemed “physically dangerous,” a category in which Range had never been adjudicated or charged with. This is the real question: whether vague and arbitrary standards allow perverse interpretations of the law to grant government authority to disarm citizens, or whether the law is backed by logic and accountability. Of course, none of this means anything to Democrats who have never seen a gun control measure they weren’t in love with, as, for them, the disarmament agenda far exceeds any obligation to reason, the law, or the Constitution.

Right around that time, the nation was preparing for the second inauguration of President Donald Trump, who initially caused concern among conservatives with his appointment of Pam Bondi as United States Attorney General. While Bondi was Florida’s attorney general during Trump’s first administration, her backing of the state’s “stand your ground” and “castle doctrine” laws was heavily overshadowed by her support of red flag laws and banning 18-to-20-year-olds from purchasing firearms as a knee-jerk reaction to mob backlash after the Parkland shooting. But let’s face it, both Trump and Bondi have had a tenuous history with the Second Amendment, which has caused them to be on the wrong side of the debate more times than not.

With President Trump recommitting to Americans on the Second Amendment, and Bondi seemingly walking in lockstep, the current

administration had a slow start out of the gate, but has been dialing up the pressure in recent months after the President’s February 7 Executive Order, Protecting Second Amendment Rights. While we await Bondi’s report on the status of the Second Amendment and analysis of government infringement upon the Constitutionally enumerated right to bear arms, the DOJ has taken steps that indicate it is working to that end, including repealing the Biden-era zero-tolerance policy with FFLs, re-opening the rights restoration process for individuals to petition for restored gun rights, opening investigations into states and agencies accused of gun rights violations, and establishing a Second Amendment Task Force.

The DOJ struck again with Range, allowing an April 22 deadline to file for certiorari to pass, letting stand the Third Circuit Court of Appeals’ latest reaffirmation of its ruling. The result is a precedent in favor of non-violent offenders not automatically being stripped of their Second Amendment protections for life. The precedent does not alter cases in outside jurisdictions, and while it may apply to similar cases that arise within the Third Circuit, the ruling does not define dangerousness as a standard for the application of § 922(g)(1) across the country, as it creates a circuit split by conflicting with rulings on the same issue in other circuits. Unfortunately, it would take a legislative change or a ruling from the Supreme Court to turn that corner, neither of which I am confident Congress or the sitting Justices will take on to the satisfaction of Second Amendment supporters. **FN**

Darwin Nercesian is a long-time gun rights advocate and shooter of targets far, far away. As a News Field Editor at *Firearms News*, Darwin writes about the Second Amendment, firearms, and related gear. Follow him on Instagram, X, and YouTube @DFOE_Official.

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GOSAFE ACT INTRODUCED TO BAN SEMI-AUTOMATIC FIREARMS WITH DETACHABLE MAGAZINES



(Shutterstock/Karen Roach)

But Democrats Say to Trust Them and That They're Not Coming for Your Guns...

By Darwin Nercesian, News Field Editor

The treason is strong in Democrats, as the House and Senate get acquainted with the Gas-Operated Semi-Automatic Firearms Exclusion (GOSAFE) Act. The measure intends to outlaw all semi-automatic firearms that feed from a detachable magazine, eliminating most modern rifles and handguns on the market, especially those commonly owned for self-defense.

Known in the House as H.R. 2790 and in the Senate as S.1370, the GOSAFE Act feels like a federal version of Colorado's SB25-003, which was recently signed into law as a back-door permit-to-purchase scam, but had its origins steeped in the almost identical nonsense this dumpster fire seems intent on burning.

Introduced by Senator Martin Heinrich of New Mexico and Representative Lucy McBath from Georgia, who didn't get the memo that Colorado replaced its version of this abomination because legislators knew it was too extreme for Governor Jared Polis to sign into law, the GOSAFE Act summons pure audacity with its subversive defiance of the United States Constitution. The bill also flips the bird at the Supreme Court, as it ignores any consistency with the

historical tradition of firearm regulation as required by the landmark 2022 decision in *New York State Rifle & Pistol Association, Inc. v. Bruen*.

In its perversion of the Second Amendment, the GOSAFE Act would limit Americans to semi-automatics with low-capacity fixed magazines, revolvers, single/double-shot firearms, and manually cycled bolt, lever, or pump actions. The bill targets firearms with any manner of detachable magazine that operate via direct impingement, short or long-stroke gas piston, blowback, or recoil-operated systems, with exemptions for rimfire chambered firearms in .22 caliber or smaller. It also carves out exceptions for shotguns, rifles, and handguns that feature permanently fixed magazines, with capacities limited to ten rounds or less for shotguns and rifles and fifteen rounds or less for handguns.

Senator Heinrich regaled New Mexico anti-Second Amendment sycophants about how GOSAFE targets "underlying mechanical principles that make some firearms so much more dangerous, while still protecting Americans' right to own a firearm for legitimate self-defense, hunting, and sporting purposes."

But who is this clown to decide what a legitimate self-defense, hunting, or sporting purpose is? Certainly, such restrictions would end most of the sporting competitions I participated in growing up, but the Second Amendment isn't about competing or hunting. It is about preserving life in the face of a tyrannical government, much like the one Führer Heinrich is helping to establish. With the Founders intending to place citizens in a defensible position to replace such a government, any argument that handicaps Americans against the capability of authorities working at the behest of those claiming to represent the public is illiterate at best and boldly treasonous at worst.

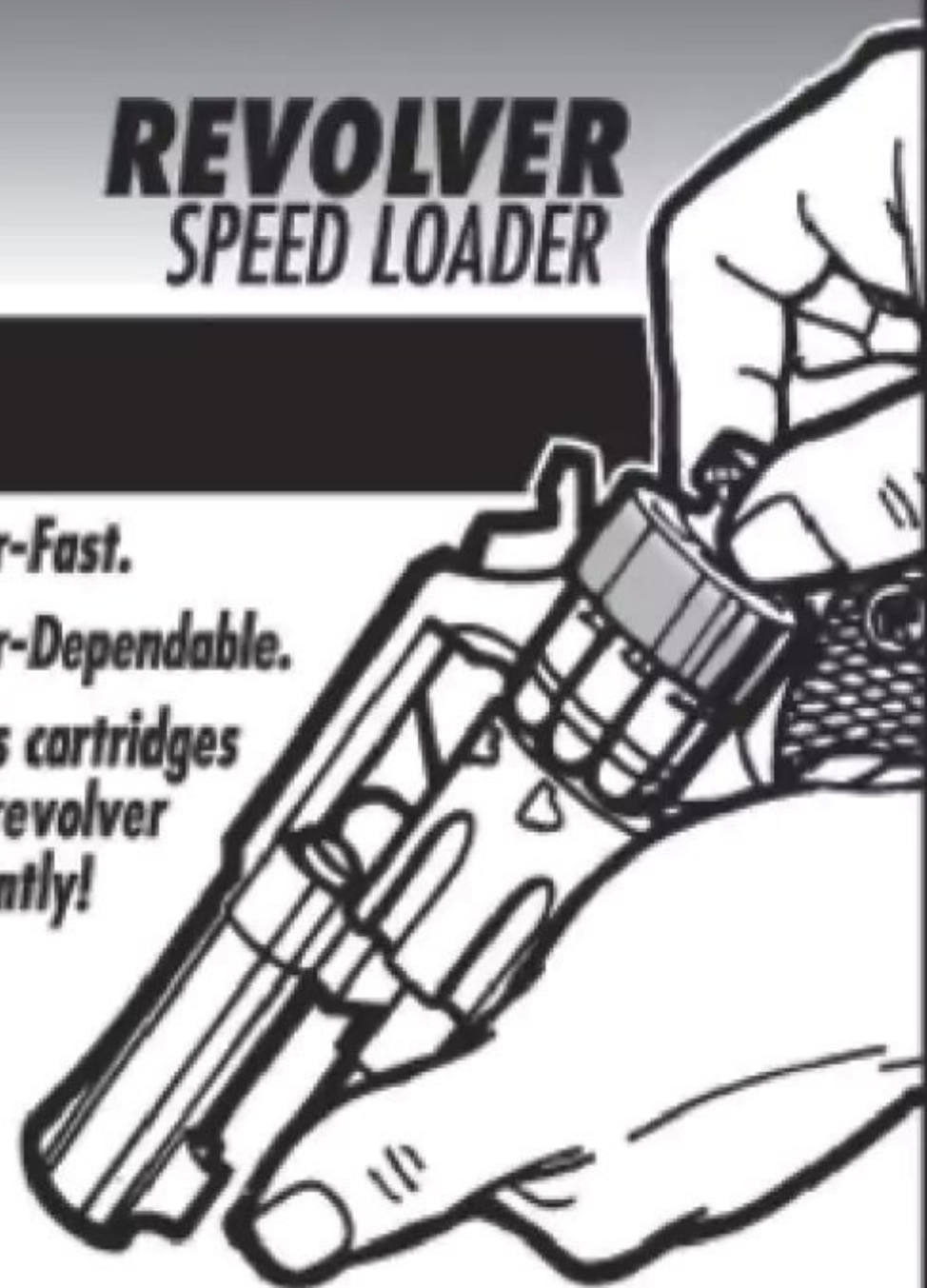
The GOSAFE Act has garnered endorsement from the usual brown shirt brigades like Everytown, Giffords, March for Our Lives, and Brady, with twenty-six Democratic co-sponsors in the House and thirteen in the Senate, including Independent Senator Angus S. King Jr. of Maine. With Republicans holding a very narrow majority in both chambers and having the propensity for crossing the aisle mysteriously on controversial gun control measures, passing the GOSAFE Act is not entirely out of the question.

[Cont. to page 106]

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I know what you're thinking. President Trump would veto the measure anyway. If I had to bet on that today, I'd agree, but it is important to recall an August 2019 conversation in which Trump told aides, "I don't know why anyone needs an AR-15," while flying on Marine One to the White House, according to someone in attendance. Of course, this came after the 2018 uproar, as conservatives were already upset with Trump's willingness to take a look at Diane Feinstein's proposed assault weapons ban.

Democrat-run states and their federal colleagues in the House and Senate have stepped up the gun

control agenda since President Trump took the helm for a second term. I am not sure how this plays for them leading up to the midterm elections, as the 2024 Presidential election put them on blast as to the nation's ebb towards individual liberty after four years of Biden administration authoritarianism and the weaponized use of the Department of Justice and federal agencies. Democrats spent that time not only attacking the Second Amendment, but also did all they could to stamp out the First Amendment. The problem, however, is that Americans historically demonstrate short memory between election cycles,

which, combined with short-sightedness, keeps the United States in a perpetual cycle of one-step-forward, two-steps-back politics, and there's some pretty easy math available for anyone interested in finding out where that disaster leads. **FN**

Darwin Nercesian is a long-time gun rights advocate and shooter of targets far, far away. As a News Field Editor at *Firearms News*, Darwin writes about the Second Amendment, firearms, and related gear. Follow him on Instagram, X, and YouTube @DFOE_Official.

NYPD BANS FIREARMS AT JEWISH PARADE TARGETED BY ISLAMIC EXTREMISTS

By Yonatan Stern

The Israel Day Parade is a yearly event that has been held in New York City every year since 1964. It is a day where Jewish New Yorkers and Pro-Israel Christians celebrate Israel and everything Israeli, with many schools and youth groups marching down 5th Avenue with floats, flags, and music.

Traditionally, many groups marched with rifles in the parade, and while the carrying of concealed firearms has always been heavily restricted in New York City, there was never an outright ban on legal weapons at this, or any other parade.

This year, apparently for the first time, legal firearms have been explicitly prohibited at the Parade, both for private citizens, as well as for armed security guards.

This comes at a time of unprecedented antisemitism in the US, specifically in New York City, with violent, pro-Hamas Islamist groups regularly targeting Synagogues, Jewish neighborhoods, and Jewish events with harass-



New York City, NY - May 15, 2021: Pro-Palestine, anti-Israel protesters hold a rally in New York City during fighting between Israel and Hamas in the Gaza Strip. (Shutterstock/Wirestock Creators)

ment, threats, violence and intimidation. These groups have identified the Israel Day Parade as a prime target, with a large concentration of "Zionist Infidels" in one place to attack.

It is no coincidence that terrorists, criminals and mass shooters specifically target areas designated as "gun free zones" to carry out their mayhem, as they know victims cannot shoot back.



Armed Betar USA members marching in the Israel day Parade in 1977. (Photos credit: Betar US, a division of Betar Worldwide)

The 2022 Bruen Decision overturned New York's restrictive "may issue" permitting system, and New York City residents with no criminal record and a clean bill of mental health are now able to obtain CCW's for self-defense. However, even these heavily-vetted, licensed gun owners are prohibited from defending themselves at this parade, which the NYPD knows full well is a prime target for Hamas, Antifa, and radical organizations.

Betar Zionist Youth Movement is one of the groups that will be marching in the parade, and has been doing so since the first parade in 1964. Aside from being pro-Israel, Betar is extremely pro-2nd Amendment, and in previous years, Betar marched with rifles, with members feeling secure in their ability to defend themselves if the need arose.

Betar posted on X about the new NYPD regulations prohibiting guns at the parade, which immediately sparked outrage in the Jewish community, as many New York Jews now carry, and an edict prohibiting weapons at this event makes many in the community feel that the NYPD and NYC government is intentionally enabling antisemitic groups to target the NY Jewish community.

In an email to *Firearms News*, Betar Spokesman, Jonathan Levy said that there is, *"Terrible danger for Jews to gather in NYC without legal weapons being permitted at the least for the largest gathering of Jews in America. As Jews are unsafe in NYC generally with a low level of faith in the NYPD, we are disappointed that this is the case,"*

The NYPD did not respond to *Firearms News'* request for comment on this matter.

The US Constitution guarantees Americans of all faiths Freedom of Religion, Freedom of Expression, and the Right to Bear Arms. Situations like these remind us that the 2nd Amendment is there to ensure that the people don't lose their other rights.

In New York City, there clearly is a very long way to go until average citizens can enjoy life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. **FN**

About the author:

Yonatan Stern, is an IDF veteran and professional firearms instructor. He is the director of Cherev Gidon Israeli Tactical Training Academy in Honesdale, PA. Yonatan can be reached at: mefaked@cherevgidon.com

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www.TheCarolinaTrader.com**

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"An instance within the memory of some
 of this house will show us how our militia
 may be destroyed. Forty years ago, when
 the resolution of enslaving America was
 formed in Great Britain, the British Parlia-
 ment was advised by an artful man, who
 was governor of Pennsylvania, to disarm
 the people; that it was the best and most ef-
 fectual way to enslave them; but that they
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