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THE MAGAZINE

AUGUST 2025

VOLUME 42 • ISSUE 08

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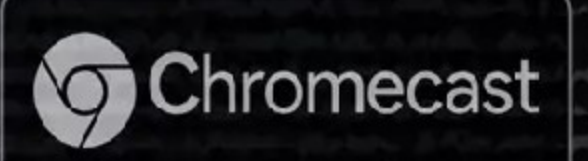
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Gun Digest the Magazine (ISSN 1938-5943) is published monthly by Caribou Media dba Gun Digest Media, LLC. Corporate Headquarters is 5583 W. Waterford Ln., Suite D, Appleton, WI 54913. Periodicals postage paid at Appleton, WI 54913 and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to PO Box 182, Williamsport, PA 17703. Copyright © 2025 Gun Digest Media. GUN DIGEST THE MAGAZINE and its logo are registered trademarks. Other names and logos referred to or displayed in editorial or advertising content may be trademarked or copyrighted. The publisher and advertisers are not liable for typographical errors that may appear in prices or descriptions in advertisements.

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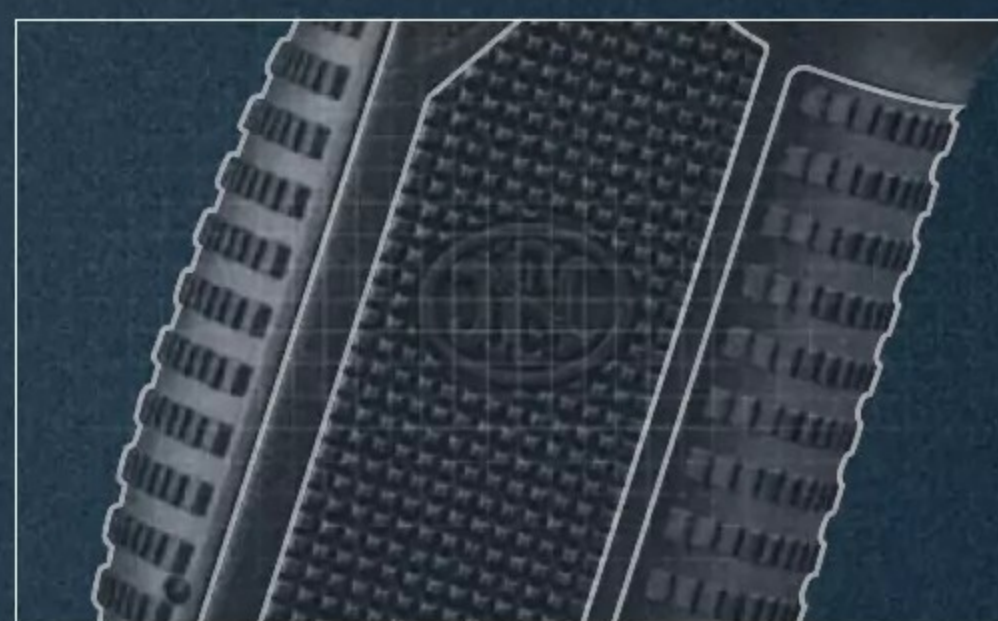
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HOT WHEELS

I took a new shooter to the range a few weeks back, and the experience turned out to be more enlightening than I expected.

As my next-door neighbor, I know this man quite well. And, despite his polite but persistent reminders, it took me longer than I care to admit to put a date on the calendar and actually stick to the commitment. Something always came up for either he or I.

Given this was his first handgun experience, we started small, running CCI .22 LR rounds through a target at about 7 yards. Bulls were punched and smiles ensued. Then, we bumped up to a Springfield 9mm, followed by a couple mags through my Remington Executive .45 ACP. More rounds downrange with more smiles logged.

I'd previously hinted that I had a grand finale in store for him, a subtle warning to save a little in the tank in case he started to feel tired.

When he finally admitted that fatigue was beginning to set in, I pulled "Marge"

from her case and set her on the line. Marge is a .44 Magnum revolver, stainless from fore to aft, with a 6-inch barrel and a whole lot of heft. I love that gun, and it was quite obvious that love at first sight bit him hard as well.

Before ever touching the gun, he admired her clean lines, noting the curves and class in all the right places.

After a bit of coaxing, he cradled her gently, we adjusted his grip slightly to prepare for the recoil, and he cleared Marge's cylinder on the paper target downrange. By the time the final round was sent, I'm sure his enormous smile was dramatically skewing his sight picture.

May every sound you send downrange have the same effect on you. **GDTM**

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Subscription Services

U.S. and Canada: 1 (800) 829-9127

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.243 WINCHESTER SUPER SHORT MAGNUM



HISTORICAL NOTES

Announced in 2002, the .243 WSSM was intended to deliver a new level of long-range performance and accuracy to the .243 chamberings. Cartridge overall length is 2.36 inches, a half-inch shorter than the 2.8-inch length of other short-action cartridges. The .243 WSSM appears in super-short rifle actions, which should improve receiver stiffness and accuracy. The Browning Super Short Magnum A-Bolt, which weighs 6 pounds and uses a shorter action for the 2.36-inch length cartridge, and Winchester's Super Short Magnum Model 70 are currently the only factory-new products available in this round.

GENERAL COMMENTS

The .243 WSSM case does not employ a belt; it headspaces on the case shoulder. For efficient and consistent powder burning, it retains the short-fat cartridge case geometry of the Winchester Short Magnum line. Cartridges were initially

available in three bullet types: 55-grain Ballistic Silvertip, 95-grain Ballistic Silvertip and 100-grain Power Point, but only the two heavy weights have survived. The .243 WSSM shares the same basic cartridge case with the .223 WSSM, also announced in 2002. Like its small-diameter brother, it is suitable for long-range varmint shooting and for

light, thin-skinned game—a good combination cartridge with light recoil.

The .243 WSSM is a fine cartridge, but it appears that all of the Winchester Super Short Magnum cartridges have peaked in terms of interest and availability. **GDTM**

.243 WINCHESTER SUPER SHORT MAGNUM LOAD DATA/FACTORY BALLISTICS

BULLET (GRAINS/TYPE)	POWDER	GRAINS	VELOCITY	ENERGY	SOURCE/COMMENTS
58 Hornady V-Max	BL-C(2)	49.2	4,068	2,129	Hodgdon
70 Nosler Ballistic Tip	IMR4320	45.0	3,663	2,083	Hodgdon
80 Sierra SBT	H414	48.0	3,514	2,191	Hodgdon
90 Swift Scirocco	IMR7828	48.5	3,280	2,148	Hodgdon
100 Speer BTXP	Supreme 780	50.0	3,117	2,155	Hodgdon
95 BST	FL	--	3,250	2,258	Winchester SBST243SSA
100 PP	FL	--	3,110	2,147	Winchester X243WSS

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NEWS FOR THE .32s



The caliber is far from obsolete.

A hundred years before anyone thought about a .32 H&R Magnum, Winchester introduced the .32-20 WCF cartridge for their Model 73 lever-action rifle. The year was 1882, the same year Robert Ford shot Jesse James. The

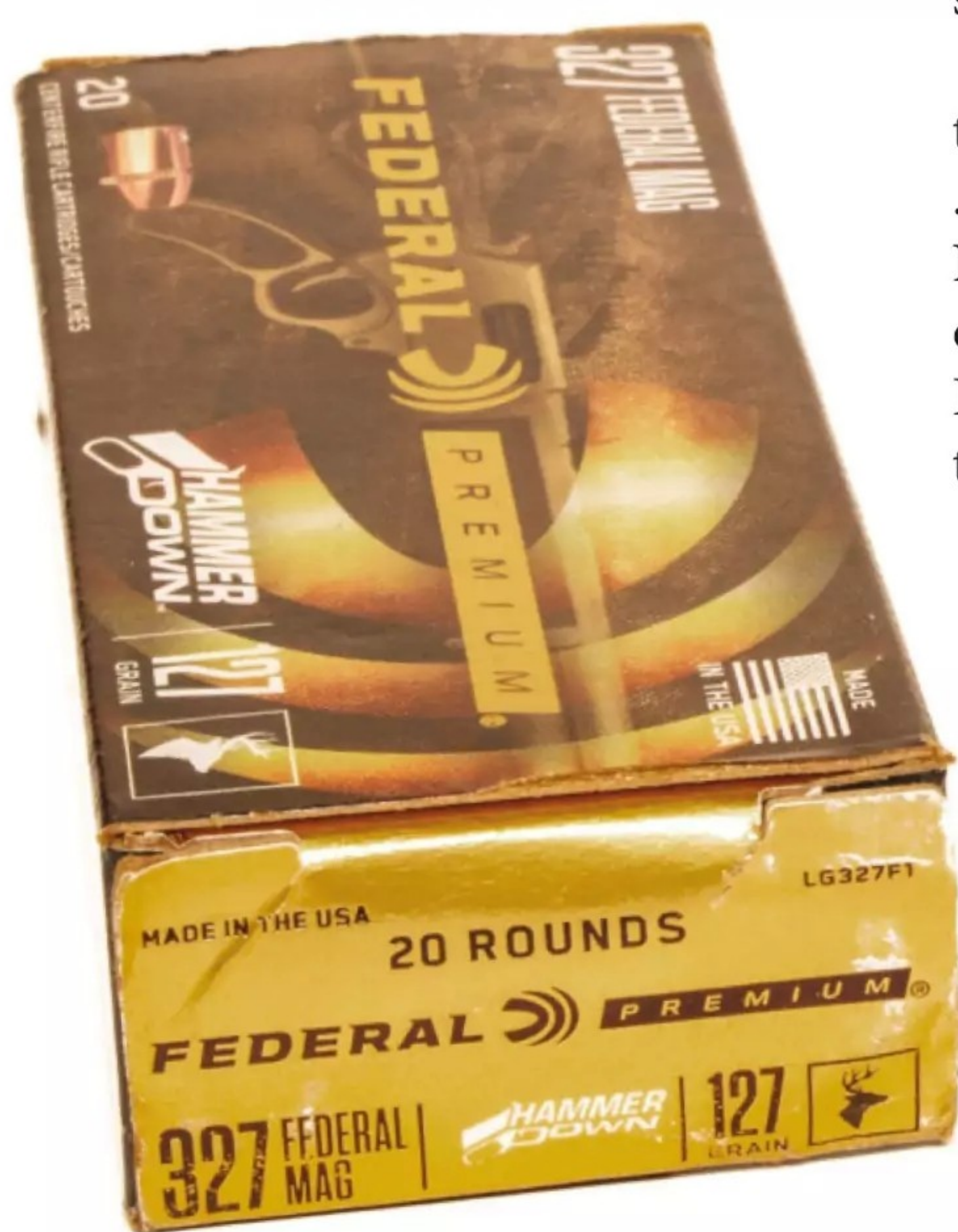
.32-20 soon became very popular in a variety of revolvers, especially Colt's Peacemaker. Elmer Keith even developed an early relationship with the .32-20, shooting cottontails with his granddad and later carrying a 7½ inch Colt in .32-20 while working with a survey crew.

Other 0.32-caliber handgun cartridges, like the .32 Smith & Wesson, .32 Smith & Wesson Long and .32 Colt New Police, were popular with private detectives, cops and target shooters. In 1896, S&W attempted to improve the .32 S&W by lengthening the case

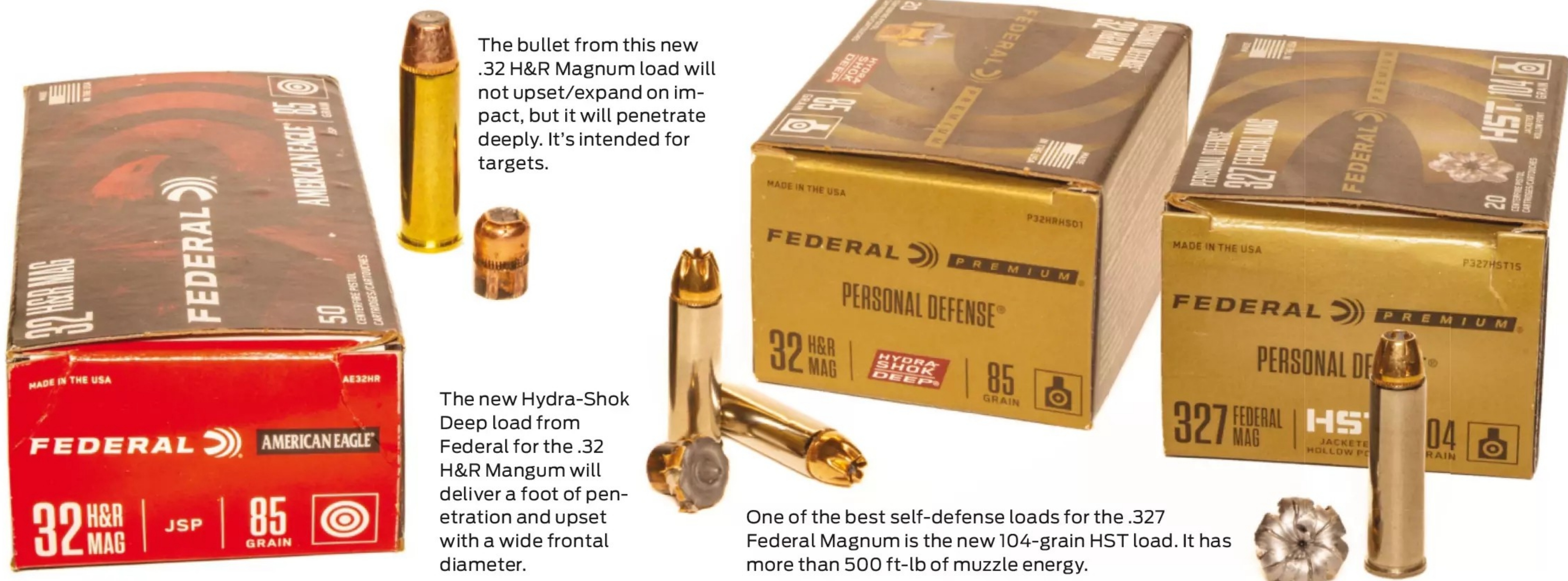
by 0.31 inch. The .32 S&W Long was just as anemic as its parent cartridge, but when Teddy Roosevelt was police commissioner of New York City, he chose Colt's .32 New Police Revolver as the department's issue sidearm. Colt's cartridge was identical to the S&W Long.

Six years later, a 0.32-caliber handgun would make Roosevelt president when McKinley died from complications of his gunshot wound. And, 4 days prior to the assassination, Roosevelt spoke the now famous words, "Speak softly and carry a big stick, and you will go far." Though it's doubtful he was talking about a .32.

Surprisingly, in 1984, Harrington & Richards teamed with Federal and introduced the .32 H&R Magnum for their five-shot model 504, 532 and 586 revolvers. Charter Arms offered the new .32 in their six-shot, Police Undercover Revolver, and, in 1985, Ruger began chambering it in their SP101 and Single Six revolvers. As expected, 0.32-caliber fans were excited by the new cartridge, and as factory loaded,



Though intended for deer hunting with a lever gun, the .327 HammerDown Federal load can work well for self-defense.



The bullet from this new .32 H&R Magnum load will not upset/expand on impact, but it will penetrate deeply. It's intended for targets.

The new Hydra-Shok Deep load from Federal for the .32 H&R Magnum will deliver a foot of penetration and upset with a wide frontal diameter.

One of the best self-defense loads for the .327 Federal Magnum is the new 104-grain HST load. It has more than 500 ft-lb of muzzle energy.

the .32 H&R essentially duplicated the performance of the .32-20.

However, the story line in gun magazines at the time was that the .32 H&R Magnum would outperform standard .38 Special loads. Maybe that's true on paper, but actual terminal performance testing showed otherwise. Ultimately, in 2007, when Federal introduced the .327 Federal Magnum, all but .32 H&R Magnum devotees forgot about the first 0.32-caliber cartridge with "magnum" in the name.

FAR FROM USELESS

That does not mean the .32 H&R Magnum is worthless or not good. In fact, with the most modern ammunition, like the brand-new Hydra-Shok Deep load from Federal, it's a capable self-defense cartridge. I recently tested this just-introduced load in blocks of Clear Ballistics from a 4-inch barreled revolver, and it consistently delivered 12 inches of penetration with an upset diameter of nearly a half inch. That's better than most .380 Auto loads. The Hydra-Shok Deep .32 H&R Magnum load comes 20 rounds to the box, and with a suggested retail price of \$38.99, it will cost you about 2 bucks a pop.

Federal introduced another new .32 H&R Magnum load with the 85-grain HST load, but Federal loads

this one with an 85-grain JSP bullet. It will generate velocities that are nearly identical to the Hydra-Shok Deep load, but the 85-grain JSP bullet will not deform/expand. It is a great practice load, and if you prefer deep penetration to bullet upset, it will easily drive to depths beyond 16 inches. The 85-grain JSP load will cost you about a dollar a shot; a box has a suggested retail price of \$47.99.

When it comes to personal protection with a revolver, the .32 H&R Magnum is not in the same league as the .327 Federal Magnum. The best .32 H&R Magnum loads generate less than half the kinetic energy of good .327 Federal Magnum loads. In fact, some of the best .327 Federal Magnum loads generate more kinetic energy than some well-respected 9mm Luger, .40 S&W and .45 Auto loads. Federal has recently introduced two new .327 Federal Magnum loads, and I tested those right alongside the new .32 H&R Magnum loads.

The first new .327 load is the 104-grain HST. HST ammunition is some of the best self-defense ammo you can find, and the new .327 load did not disappoint. It penetrated to an ideal depth of 14.5 inches, retained 90 percent of its weight, and the bullets had an average recovered diameter of more than a half inch. Based on

terminal performance testing, that is stellar performance, regardless of the cartridge. With a retail price of \$41.99 for 20 rounds, Federal is proud of this load—and they should be. It's one of the best I've seen for this cartridge.

In all, I tested four new loads for the .32 H&R Magnum and .327 Federal Magnum, and the last load tested was the one that really got my attention. It is the .327, 127-grain HammerDown load. Federal designed HammerDown ammunition specifically for use in lever action rifles. Federal tempered the bullets to work at longer-than-revolver barrel velocities, and chamfered the forward edge of the case rim for smoother feeding in lever guns. However, you can still shoot this stuff in a revolver, and out of a 4-inch barrel it passed through the 16-inch block of Clear Ballistics. I was only able to recover the bullets because a panel of soft body armor stopped them. That's fantastic terminal performance for a .32.

I'm confident that, though the new Hydra-Shok Deep load for the .32 H&R Magnum is a practical choice for self-defense, it is not a "big stick." But I'd bet you that if Roosevelt got to see what the new .327 Federal Magnum loads can do—especially the HammerDown load—he might think it would qualify. Remember, he armed New York cops with the anemic .32 Colt. **GDTM**



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A WELL-REGULATED MILITIA

Ignoring the militia clause endangers the right to keep and bear arms.

When Americans debate the Second Amendment, most of the focus tends to center around the individual right to keep and bear arms. This emphasis, especially in post-*Heller* and *McDonald* jurisprudence, is both understandable and historically justified. However, a recurring error—committed even by Second Amendment advocates—is to treat the “militia clause” as a relic or a throwaway preamble. This oversight is more than a mere historical misstep; it’s a strategic blunder that endangers the very right these advocates claim to protect.

As the Tenth Amendment Center has long emphasized, constitutional language should be taken seriously in its

entirety. The Second Amendment begins not with “the right of the people . . .” but with “A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State.” This prefatory clause does more than frame the historical context—it outlines purpose, meaning and limits on government power. Ignoring it concedes too much ground to those who seek to reinterpret the Amendment through a modern, statist lens.

THE MILITIA AS THE ARMED CITIZENRY

Historian and constitutional scholar Stephen Halbrook makes it clear: In the founding era, the term “militia” did not refer to a standing military force or what we now call the National Guard.

It referred to the general body of armed citizens—able-bodied males typically aged 16 to 45—who were expected not only to defend their own communities but also to be the first line of resistance against tyranny. This understanding wasn’t unique to America; it was rooted in English common law and the political philosophy of thinkers like John Locke and William Blackstone.

As Halbrook observes, the militia was not a privileged class of government-trained personnel. It was the citizenry itself, armed and responsible for its own liberty. To that end, citizens were expected to bring their own arms. In this sense, the right to bear arms was not merely an individual liberty—it was a civic duty.

“The Founders feared a professional standing army far more than they feared individual violence. They understood that an armed populace, organized as a decentralized militia, was the surest safeguard against domestic oppression.”

WHY THE MILITIA CLAUSE STILL MATTERS

The tendency to ignore the militia clause arises largely from the (justifiable) desire to assert the Second Amendment as an individual right. But by doing so, modern advocates often detach that right from its original civic and political function: to deter tyranny and resist centralized military force.

The Founders feared a professional standing army far more than they feared individual violence. They understood that an armed populace, organized as a decentralized militia, was the surest safeguard against domestic oppression. When the militia clause is read out of the Amendment, this structural check on tyranny is lost. As a result, the right to bear arms is interpreted narrowly as a private right rather than a public, constitutional responsibility. This limited view makes the right more vulnerable to incremental erosion through regulation, licensing and judicial reinterpretation.

HISTORICAL EVIDENCE: THE MILITIA AND SELF-DEFENSE

Halbrook's historical work underscores the absurdity of the claim that the Second Amendment protects only militia service or that it is moot because formal militias no longer exist. In both English and early American law, the right to bear arms was consistently treated as a natural right, especially for self-defense. Even the infamous 1328 Statute of Northampton—which prohibited armed display in a threatening manner—was interpreted as banning only arms borne "malo animo" (with evil intent). As Halbrook

explains, "the peaceable bearing of arms was not a crime at the Founding or in the early Republic."

Moreover, court decisions from the early 19th century reaffirmed that open carry was a constitutional right, while concealed carry could be regulated. The difference hinged not on whether individuals had a right to bear arms, but how they exercised that right.

THE DANGERS OF DISMISSING THE MILITIA

Modern disarmament efforts often hinge on the claim that the Second Amendment is outdated—that it only applies to now-defunct militias, or to the regulation of state-run National Guards. By discarding the militia clause, gun rights advocates play directly into this narrative. If the militia no longer exists, and the right to keep and bear arms was tied to militia service, then it stands to reason—so the argument goes—that the Second Amendment is a historical artifact with no modern relevance.

However, if the militia is understood as the armed citizenry, as it was in the Founders' time, then the right to bear arms remains as vital today as ever. In an age of mass surveillance, unchecked executive power and militarized law enforcement, the need for decentralized, citizen-based security is not an anachronism—it's a necessity.

STRATEGIC CONSEQUENCES FOR ADVOCACY

To preserve the Second Amendment, advocates must resist the temptation to sanitize it into a purely individualist

doctrine. It is, in fact, both a right and a responsibility. It empowers individuals not merely for private purposes, but to fulfill a public role in the preservation of liberty. This dual nature is not a weakness—it is the source of the Amendment's enduring strength.

By reclaiming the militia clause, Second Amendment defenders bolster the historical and constitutional legitimacy of the right. They root it not in hobbyist gun culture or political identity, which has its place, but in civic republicanism and the broader structure of federalism and limited government.

CONCLUSION: A FULLER READING, A STRONGER RIGHT

The Second Amendment is not ambiguous. It recognizes "the right of the people to keep and bear Arms," and it explains why—because "a well regulated Militia" is "necessary to the security of a free State." This is not incidental. It is a declaration of political philosophy—a philosophy that views the armed citizen as the guardian of liberty, not the ward of the state.

To ignore the militia clause is to amputate a fundamental rationale that justifies the right. Worse, it surrenders rhetorical and legal territory to those who would regulate the Second Amendment out of existence. If we want to preserve the right to bear arms, we must also preserve the principle of the armed citizen—the true militia—without which freedom cannot stand. **GDTM**

About the Author

Alex Ooley is an affiliate attorney with the Armed Citizen's Legal Defense Network. The views and opinions expressed in this article are his own and do not necessarily reflect those of the Network. This article is for informational purposes only and should not be considered legal advice. For specific legal guidance regarding your situation, please consult with a qualified attorney.

FLAIR ON!

A nice little upgrade for your Glock.



Glocks don't have much flair ... and a whole lot of them don't have any. Despite being functionally perfect, it took quite a while for there to be any flair, and there still isn't much. What really caught my attention recently was the comment "Gen 5 Glocks have a magwell flare, not much of one, but there are 24 million Gen 1 through Gen 4 Glocks that have none at all."

The Glock magwell flaring device, the Flarewell, does exactly that. It flares out the magwell opening of your Glock pistol (9mm and 40 frames only) for a faster reload. I know some of you are thinking, "My Glock mags are tapered at the top. That makes reloads fast."

Yes, but would you turn down faster? I thought not.

The process is simple and straightforward. Once you have your Glock apart, and the tools arrayed, heat the bottom edge of your Glock frame. Insert the tool and let it latch onto the magazine catch. Then, use the thumb-wheel to move the swaging edge into

the magazine well opening until you reach the desired amount of flare. The instructions cover it all.

The amount of flare you need isn't great, so take it easy. I can see some heavy-handed users over-flaring because, well, that's what some people do. Once the polymer cools off it retains the new flared shape, and you are good to go.

BRINGING THE HEAT

As for the heating part, there's two ways of doing this. One is to use a heat gun, evenly playing it over and around the edge of the magwell opening until it gets hot enough to be moved. The other is to use a hot oil bath. Dip the bottom of the frame into the oil (correct temp, please), and leave it there for a few seconds. Then, pull it out, insert the tool, lock and adjust.

One question some might have is if it's permitted in competition. For that

you'll have to consult the rule book of the particular competition you plan to engage in. I can see some allowing it and others not. And most competitions won't even notice it—although other competitors might once you start beating them.

The early adopters and clever among the readership might even get a bit of practice in on their own Glocks, and then set up at the gun club some monthly meeting day or match day, offering to flare Glock magwells for a nominal sum. It won't take too long to recoup your investment in this clever and useful tool.

The investment? It's \$109 for the tool, and shipping is free in the continental United States.



The Flarewell tool looks like some sort of steampunk Glock magazine, but it is meant for your frame, not for ammo.

On the back, it lists the magazines the Flarewell is meant to be used in.



Once the bottom of the frame has been properly heated, you use the thumbwheel to wedge the Flarewell up and flare out the magwell opening of your frame.

Full disclosure: I've known the inventor since we were head-to-head competitors in IPSC in the early days. I don't have any involvement in this enterprise, but I kinda wish I had—it's one of those "Why didn't I think of that?" forehead-slapping ideas. Way to go, Paul.

Now, getting one requires that you be fully conversant in the new digital commerce era. If you have to have it (and I can see a bunch of Glock owners who really do; I have mine), then contact GR9 online. Orders go to gr9.flarewell@gmail.com. You'll need to have a Venmo account, but once you fork over the digital dollars, your Flarewell tool will be on its way within 24 hours.

Flare on, Glocksters. **GDTM**



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LEATHER IS LUXURY

How to care for your natural carry holster.





In the 21st century, a polymer pistol in a plastic holster is the norm. They have excellent retention and have gotten quite comfortable. New manufacturing methods and materials are cheap and accessible. Still, the allure of leather remains, perhaps because humans have been using animal skins longer than we've been using language. Heck, our earliest evidence of leather comes from processing tools that date back over 100,000 years.

There has actually been a bit of a resurgence in leather holsters in recent years because of the vast increase in available pistol make and models, natural materials lending themselves better to universal fits. Leather can also be extremely comfortable compared to plastic. But the upsides are also the downsides.

Like us, leather has a lifespan. A high-quality, cared-for leather holster gains a personality all its own—a companion to the pistol that rides inside. Leather comes from something that was once alive, and in a way, continues to live on through its bearer. The skin can stretch alongside your own. The colors shift with exposure to sun, warm skin and hot barrels. Gun oil and sweat work into the pores, building a bridge between pistol and person—which also means you need to inspect it, care for it and show a degree of consideration you otherwise wouldn't with a plastic fantastic.

No one needs a leather holster in the 21st century, just like how they don't need a mechanical watch, vintage Jeep or custom pistol. Leather is luxury.

What used to be normal—items made from natural materials handcrafted by humans—now represents extravagance in a world that produces piles of plastic. Yes, this article is a bit romantic. No, I'm not saying throw out your PHLster. But there could be a place for some leather in your life, and if you're looking for a gift for someone who's hard to buy for, some of the exotic options outlined here might help.

EXOTICS

The majority of leather items produced in the United States, holsters or otherwise,

come from cows. This isn't surprising, as cowhide is a byproduct of the beef and dairy industry, and America is the largest producer in the world. Of course, bulls aren't your only option. Some manufacturers, like Versacarry, use water buffalo even for their mass-produced models. But if you want something truly custom, you may as well go entirely exotic.

Nestled in the western Carolina mountains is Mayhem Leather Company. This family business specializes in handcrafting custom holsters and other leather items, with a rare eye toward artistry. Mayhem Leather Company not only has some standard holster offerings, wallets and cowboy rigs, but also 1911 grips formed from the likes of ring lizards, peanut spinal stingray and gators.

In terms of exotic leathers, they offer a variety of options ranging from hippo, hornback alligator, ostrich, python, pirarucu, shark, stingray and more. No, you won't find holsters like these at a regular store, just like how you won't find bespoke pistols at any old gun shop. And it's guaranteed that no one is going to have a holster that'll look exactly like the one you have—even if they buy the same make, model and material.

HYBRID HOLSTERS

We can't talk about leather holsters without mentioning hybrids. These designs look for the best of both worlds, the comfort of leather with the retention and rigidity of plastic. Several approaches have been taken with assorted levels of success.

The first generation of the hybrid holster, of which there are still some versions, were plastic shells bolted onto leather backers. There can be issues with backers stretching but the shells staying, affecting retention ability, depending on the quality of construction and type of leather used. Another type is a sort of leather cover for Kydex, like a taco wrap. Most recently, it's been leather holsters with synthetic internal structures for positive retention, and these have been the most promising in terms of looking and feeling like a traditional leather holster.

This DeSantis looks like traditional leather, but there's a synthetic retention yolk inside that clicks onto the triggerguard.



FITTING

Your pistol needs to fit snugly inside your holster yet still be ready to pull. This is the ever-present problem with concealed carry, and why that "Kydex click" brings so many so much confidence.

While an inside-the-waistband design can usually have a little more wiggle room because the pistol is pressed between your body and pants by your belt, overall you're going to want a pistol that fits a little more tightly than you think—that leather is going to stretch with time and use. If it's too tight, don't use any saddle soap or other softeners and don't get it wet. Instead, put your pistol inside a plastic bag, insert it



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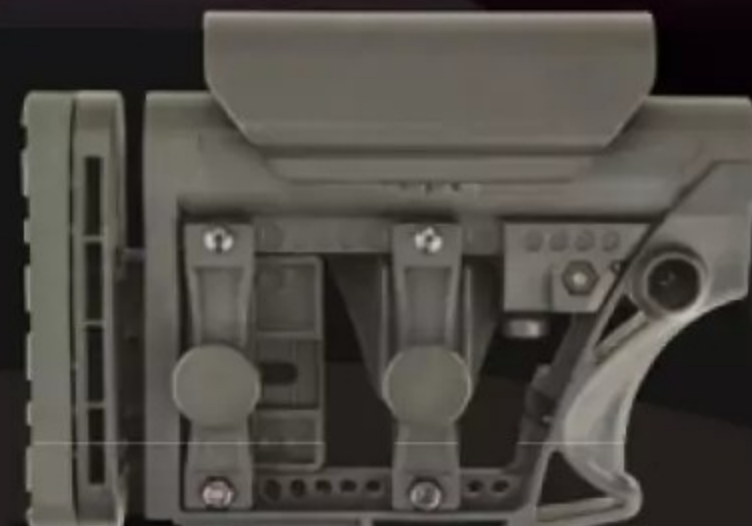
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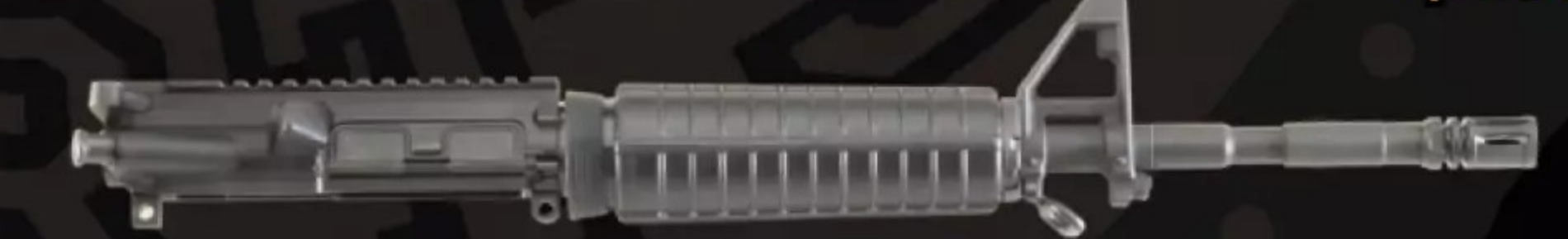


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Exotics like the stingray and alligator shown here really draw the eye.

A tight holster can be remedied with a plastic bag, stretching it just a scooch.



into the holster, and leave it overnight. This will increase the dimensions ever so slightly so it's just right.

Galco Gun Leather sells a product called Draw-EZ to shorten break-in periods, but the very best thing you can do in order to smooth out a leather holster is honest time and repetition.

CARE & INSPECTION

Keep your holster clean. After a long day on the range or running around, a quick wipe down with a clean towel is usually all it needs, but sometimes a little more care is required. The best practice is to only use items recommended by your given maker, lest you weaken the leather by making it too soft. Some light buffing with shoe polish should be A-OK and keep everything looking great. If your holster gets wet, wipe it with a towel, resist the urge to apply heat and let it dry at room temperature overnight.

Heat and direct sunlight will dry, warp and crack your leather. Keep your holsters away from windows, sunrooms and dashboards.

Make damned sure the trigger is properly covered and the leather isn't soft around the trigger—if the leather is soft enough that the trigger can be pressed through the material, it's time to retire that holster. Check any retention devices like snaps or attachments like clips for rust. **GDTM**





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NP3 (Teflon-nickel)

"After 3,000 rounds the Access trigger was just as consistent as the first pull with no failures. Overall, it feels great, has a consistent break, and improved the entire shooting experience. I highly recommend this trigger."

Colin
- Early beta tester

"It's a user-friendly upgrade for any AR build – from the installation to the trigger pull, everything was smooth. No matter the conditions, no matter how many rounds we put through it, the trigger stayed consistent."

Alex
- Early beta tester

"The Access trigger exceeded my expectations. It has a crisp and consistent feel and seems very durable and reliable. Great for building or upgrading on a budget!"

Drew
- Early beta tester

01 Viktos Counteract CCW Duffel Bag

If you ever travel armed, Viktos' new Counteract CCW Duffel Bag is worth a look. When judged as just a duffel, the Counteract is already a nice bag. It boasts a generous 44-liter capacity and is built using strong, weather- and stain-resistant 500D polyester ripstop. It also features a dedicated, vented footwear compartment, a protected laptop/tablet sleeve and removable padded shoulder straps. As a CCW bag, it only gets better: The Counteract has a removable compartment with a CCW pistol tray, a Universal Hookie holster and several interior pockets for magazines and other gear. Oh, and it has lockable zippers, too, so you can fly with it.

MSRP: \$200

02 Rattlesnake Tactical 34-Round 9mm Glock-Pattern Magazine

For a long time, when it came to super-extended 9mm Glock mags, 33 rounds was the ceiling for magazine capacity (not counting drums). Now, you can squeeze in one more round thanks to the Rattlesnake Tactical 34-round mag. Designed in collaboration with Ammunition Depot, the Rattlesnake is compatible with any firearm that uses double-stack 9mm Glock-pattern magazines. Whether you want a spare reload in your glovebox for your little Glock 26 or just something a bit bigger for running your PCC, the Rattlesnake Tactical mag is your ticket. It's been third-party tested for reliability, is made in the U.S. and features a cool snake scale pattern for extra grip.

MSRP: \$19.99

03 B5 Systems Modular Platform Stock

B5 Systems makes some of the most popular AR furniture on the market, but what if you're accessorizing something besides an AR? Plenty of guns these days come with a 1913 Picatinny rail on their rear end for attaching stocks or pistol braces, and now B5 has an option for those models, too. The B5 Systems Modular Platform Stock features a steel hinge that allows it to fold to the left and has an adjustable spring-assisted cheekpiece that adds 0.5 inch of height. It also has five length of pull adjustment positions, a cushioned non-slip butt pad and both traditional and QD sling mounts. It's available in black, FDE, Coyote Brown, OD Green and Wolf Grey.

MSRP: \$200

GEAR TO GET

01



03



02



04 Everyday Armor T-Shirt 360

Premier Body Armor changed the concealable body armor game with its original Everyday Armor T-Shirt, and they just made it even better. The original version included a special, form-fitting T-shirt with two pockets designed to accept Premier's Level IIIA body armor panels. The new 360 version is the same but now features two side pockets and two side armor panels as well. It should be just as easy to conceal as the front/back-only version while providing even more protection. Each set ships with one armor carrier T-shirt, two large Level IIIA armor panels and two smaller Level IIIA side panels.

MSRP: \$380

05 Foxtrot Mike Products RMB

AR-based pistol-caliber carbines are a ton of fun, but they're not known for having the softest recoil impulse. If you'd like to make your PCC less harsh, Foxtrot Mike has a new solution available. Called the Recoil Mitigation Buffer System, or RMB, it features a sliding buffer body, a dampening spring and a durable urethane impact modifier. All put together, it results in the complete elimination of bolt bounce. This simple change provides a much softer and controlled shooting experience and can help facilitate faster, more accurate shooting while plinking at the range or on the clock. If you have a PCC, the RMB seems like a no-brainer upgrade.

MSRP: \$59

06 Banish 30-V2 Suppressor

We were already impressed with the original Banish 30 suppressor, but Silencer Central went and made it better anyway. The Banish 30-V2 improves upon the original design in every way. It's 0.8 inch shorter and 1.8 ounces lighter thanks to its full titanium construction. Does that mean it's not as quiet? Nope, it's even quieter. Rated for .17 HMR up to .300 Weatherby Magnum, the Banish 30-V2 is modular as well, allowing you to bring its length down from 8.17 inches to 6.4 inches. It also uses the industry-standard HUB mount and ships with a 5/8x24 direct-thread mount. Short, light and quiet, it's the perfect hunting companion.

MSRP: \$999

07 New CMP M1 Garands

Fans of the greatest battle implement ever devised have reason to rejoice, as the Civilian Marksmanship Program recently announced new-production M1 Garands. These faithful replicas of the original have all the right stuff where it counts, namely forged receivers that are based on the original drawings and specifications. Other components, like the barrel and smaller parts, will be a mix of commercial reproductions and original GI parts. The first rifles available will be basic .30-06 Springfield models, but the CMP says it hopes to eventually bring other historically relevant variants to market as well. Government stockpiles of original M1s get smaller by the year, so it's great to see the CMP thinking ahead about how to keep the Garand alive after all the surplus GI stocks have dried up.

MSRP: \$1,900







DELIGHTFUL DOZEN

The best 12 revolvers ever made.

When Josey Wales asked those Yankee soldiers if they were "... gonna pull them pistols or whistle Dixie?" he did not care that a revolver was technically not a pistol. For many years, no one else cared either. Practically everyone referred to almost every handgun as a pistol. There have been a lot of great pistols over the years but our focus here is strictly on revolvers—the best dozen revolvers ever made.

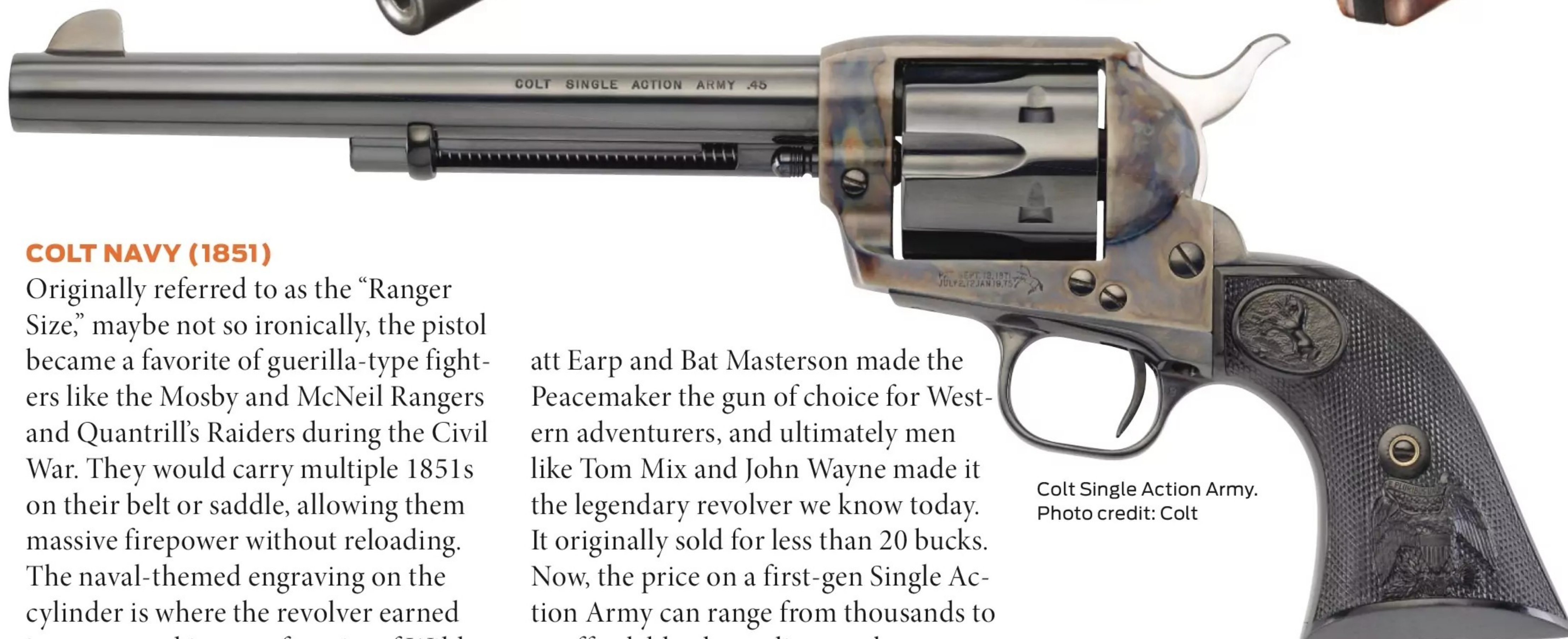
This might sound like an easy list to

complete but when you get into it, it's not. Was the best cap-and-ball revolver the 1851 Colt Navy or the 1860 Army? Was the best Smith & Wesson .357 Magnum revolver the Model 19 or the Model 686? And then you must decide if any of the Ruger double-action revolvers belong on the list, or if the Colt Detective Special deserves to be there as well. You're free to make your own list, but this one is mine. You might not agree, and that's fine; I just don't know how you leave any of these 12 revolvers off any list covering the greatest revolvers ever made.



Colt Navy 1851. Photo: Standard Catalog of Colt Firearms

Smith & Wesson Model M17. Photo credit: Smith & Wesson



Colt Single Action Army. Photo credit: Colt

COLT NAVY (1851)

Originally referred to as the “Ranger Size,” maybe not so ironically, the pistol became a favorite of guerilla-type fighters like the Mosby and McNeil Rangers and Quantrill’s Raiders during the Civil War. They would carry multiple 1851s on their belt or saddle, allowing them massive firepower without reloading. The naval-themed engraving on the cylinder is where the revolver earned its name, and it was a favorite of Wild Bill Hickock. Many were modified after the war to fire a metallic cartridge that became the forerunner of the .38 Special. The Colt Navy might not be the best revolver, but it is one of the most important. Replicas from Uberti sale for a little less than 400 bucks, and you cannot afford an original in working order.

COLT SINGLE ACTION ARMY – PEACEMAKER (1873)

The Colt Peacemaker is the most iconic handgun of all time. It earned fame from coast to coast in America before the turn of the century as Sam Colt’s equalizer, and during the heyday of Westerns on the big screen during the ’40s and ’50s. Early on, men like Wy-

att Earp and Bat Masterson made the Peacemaker the gun of choice for Western adventurers, and ultimately men like Tom Mix and John Wayne made it the legendary revolver we know today. It originally sold for less than 20 bucks. Now, the price on a first-gen Single Action Army can range from thousands to unaffordable, depending on the provenance. A new one will cost you about \$2,300.

SMITH & WESSON M17 (1947)

Also commonly known as the K-22 Target Masterpiece, the Smith & Wesson Model M17 was the first rimfire revolver to gain notoriety. Smith & Wesson intended it for competition shooting, but with its reputation for fine precision and its adjustable sights, it became much more and was a favorite for plinking and hunting. Smith & Wesson discontinued it in 1998, and by this time the semi-automatic rimfire pistol was much more popular. However, shooters demanded the revolver’s return, and Smith & Wesson reintroduced it in 2009. It will forever

be known as one of the greatest rimfire revolvers, and a new one will only cost you about \$1,100. Originals sale for about the same if not double.

SMITH & WESSON MODEL 36 (1950)

Probably better known as the Chief’s Special, this little five-shot revolver in .38 Special became a staple with police officers as a backup gun. I carried one on duty in an ankle holster as late as 1995. It was also a favorite with plainclothes detectives and, as its pseudonym suggests, police chiefs. It was the first revolver Smith & Wesson built on their J-frame, and they introduced it at the 1950 International Association of Chiefs of Police convention. Because it

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Ruger Model Single Six. Photo credit: Heritage Auctions, HA.com



Colt Python. Photo credit: Colt



Smith & Wesson Model 36 Chief's Special. Photo credit: Smith & Wesson

was compact enough to hide in a coat pocket and even a pants pocket, civilians and bad guys loved it too. It's still popular, but now more so in one of its various renditions like the hammerless Model 642, 442 and 640. Depending on model and year of manufacture, expect to pay between \$400 and four times that much. A new Model 36 costs about \$800.

RUGER SINGLE SIX/ SEVEN (1953/2014)

Bill Ruger made history with his standard semi-automatic .22 pistol in 1949, but historically it's no more important than his Single Six rimfire single-action revolver introduced at the height of the Western movie craze. The Single Six allowed everyone an affordable connection to the Old West. It was also important because it was Ruger's first firearm to utilize an investment cast frame. It's been made in countless variations, including several with an additional cylinder in .22 Magnum. In 1984, Ruger offered it in .32 H&R Magnum,

and then, in 2014, a seven-shot version in .327 Federal Magnum. Nine and 10-shot rimfire models also exist. Prices range from around \$800 to a grand.

COLT PYTHON (1955)

Colt produced the Python for half a century and discontinued it in 2005. This pushed prices of existing Pythons through the roof. With its ventilated top rib and full-length underlug (original Pythons had hollow underlugs), the Python is a gorgeous revolver—maybe the best-looking revolver ever made—and many consider Colt's best. It was popular in competition and with law enforcement, but with the rise of the semi-automatic for police use in the 1980s, interest waned. Colt reintroduced what many consider an even better version in 2020, and the Python's popularity

was reignited. Now it's available in blue and stainless steel, with either a 2-, 2.5-, 3-, 4.25-, 5-, 6- or 8-inch barrel. It is the greatest comeback revolver, and originals can cost as much as 4 grand. A new Python sales for about \$1,500.

RUGER BLACKHAWK (1955)

If nothing else, Bill Ruger had a knack for knowing the guns Americans wanted. Following the success of his Single Six rimfire revolver, in 1955, Ruger introduced the Blackhawk. Again, driven by Americans wanting to connect with their inner cowboy, the single-action Blackhawk was a hit, and since its introduction, Ruger has chambered it for 17 different cartridges, from .30 Carbine to .480 Ruger. In less than 20

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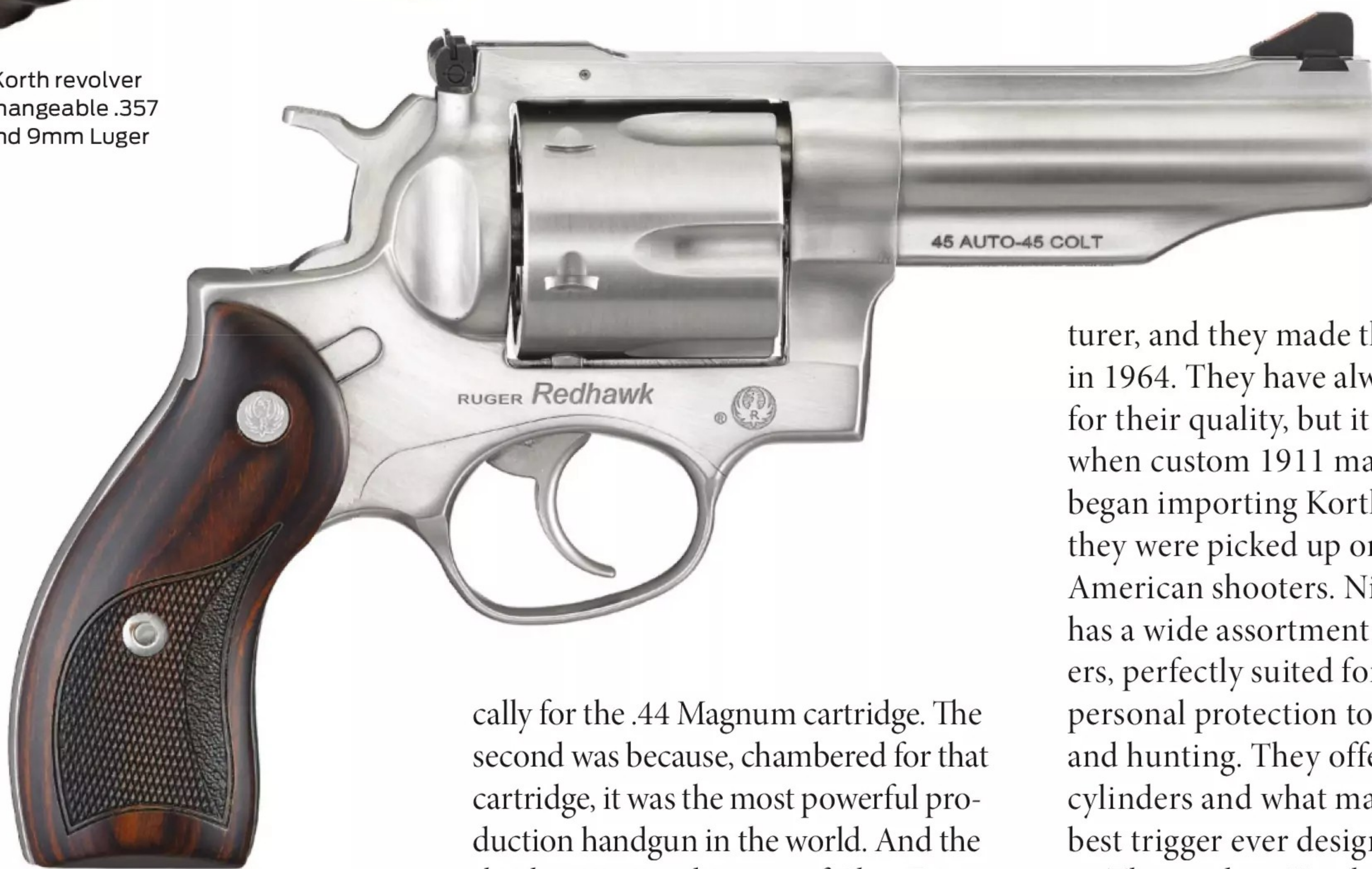
BATTLE PROVEN FOR THIRTY YEARS

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Smith & Wesson Model 29 in .44 Magnum.



A modern Korth revolver with interchangeable .357 Magnum and 9mm Luger cylinders.



Ruger Redhawk. Photo credit: Ruger

years, Ruger sold more than a million single-action revolvers. The Blackhawk is the most widely produced and most popular centerfire single-action revolver, ever. A new one will cost between \$800 and \$1,000.

SMITH & WESSON MODEL 29 (1955)

The Smith & Wesson Model 29 is a historic revolver for three reasons. The first was because Smith & Wesson built it specifi-

cally for the .44 Magnum cartridge. The second was because, chambered for that cartridge, it was the most powerful production handgun in the world. And the third reason was because of Clint Eastwood or more specifically, his character Harry Callahan in the movie *Dirty Harry* used one. Practically speaking, with its original 5-inch barrel, the Model 29 was too large for anything other than hunting, but that did not stop shooters from buying it and even carrying it, to emulate Eastwood's rouge detective. New model 29s cost about \$1,400.

KORTH (1979)

Korth is a German handgun manufac-

turer, and they made their first revolver in 1964. They have always been known for their quality, but it wasn't until 2016 when custom 1911 maker Nighthawk began importing Korth revolvers that they were picked up on the radar of American shooters. Nighthawk now has a wide assortment of Korth revolvers, perfectly suited for everything from personal protection to sport shooting and hunting. They offer easy-to-change cylinders and what many consider the best trigger ever designed for a revolver. The modern Korth is a masterpiece of mechanical engineering, and they come with a price tag to convince you of that fact. Prices start around \$3,700.

RUGER REDHAWK/SUPER REDHAWK (1979/1987)

The Redhawk was Ruger's first big-bore double-action revolver, and they offered it in—most notably and first—.44 Magnum. It features triple lock action that locks the cylinder in at the front, rear and bottom, and it is still in

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Freedom Arms Model 83.
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*Gun Digest Book of Hunting
Revolvers*

Ruger Super Redhawk.
Photo credit: Ruger

Smith & Wesson
Model 686. Photo
credit: Smith &
Wesson

production in several variations to include the Super Redhawk (1987), which has a larger and stronger frame and, except for the Alaskan Model, an integrated scope base. The Redhawk and Super Redhawk have become one of the most popular handguns of all time for big game hunting and bear defense. New Redhawks and Super Redhawks retail for around \$1,400.

SMITH & WESSON MODEL 686 (1981)

Over the years, many Smith & Wesson revolvers have been very popular with law enforcement, from the Model 10 K-frame (1899), through the Model 19 K-frame (1957) and up to 1980

when Smith & Wesson introduced the Model 686 L-frame, which was the last great police revolver. The 686 was a stainless steel version of the 586, and it quickly became the revolver of choice for cops. The stainless steel resisted corrosion, and the full underlug added weight to help with the recoil of full-power .357 Magnum loads. It also helped steady the handgun for accurate shooting. However, in less than two decades, the auto pistol pushed the 686 aside. It remains, however, as one of the ultimate revolvers in .357 Magnum, and a new one will set you back about \$900.

FREEDOM ARMS MODEL 83 (1983)

While Korth revolver might be the most precisely engineered double-action revolver, the Freedom Arms Model 83 holds that distinction among single action revolvers. The five-shot Model 83 originally gained fame as the first commercially made revolver chambered for the very powerful .454 Casull cartridge. The Premier Grade Model 83 is now available in .357 Magnum, .41 Magnum, .44 Magnum, .454 Casull, .475 Linebaugh and .500 Wyoming Express. Prices start at \$3,413, and the Model 83 is worth every penny. **GDTM**



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From “bunny fart” plinking loads to true dangerous game ammunition, there’s a .45 Colt load to meet your needs.

While picking my first handgun, I didn’t opt for a compact carry gun or one of the ever-popular .22 LR options—both target rimfire revolvers and autoloaders are a ton of fun—but instead wanted a long-barreled, rock-solid, single-action gun that I could use to hunt both deer and bear here in my native New York. I chose a Ruger Blackhawk in .45 Colt in a stainless finish, with a 7½-inch pipe.

Among the more popular revolver cartridges, the .45 Colt offers quite the flexible package, giving the shooter what might seem like three different cartridges rolled into one. Adopted by the U.S. Army in 1873, it served as our official military sidearm until 1892 (though remained in use until 1896) and would go on to inspire one of the most popular handgun cartridges ever.

153 YEARS STRONG

Looking at the design, it’s simple yet ef-

fective. The .45 Colt is a rimmed case—though that rim is not as large as most rimmed designs—with a straight-walled body. The case measures 1.285 inches long, with a maximum cartridge overall length of 1.600 inches. Considering the fact that the cartridge is over 150 years old, it works just as well as it did during the 1870s, with modern metallurgy allowing the performance level to far exceed the original design specs.

The “Long Colt” nomenclature has never been an official part of the cartridge’s name; it was just a means to differentiate the longer Colt case from the shorter .45 Schofield, commonly chambered in the Smith & Wesson revolver of the era. Just as the .38 Special cartridge can be fired in a .357 Magnum chamber, the .45 Schofield ammunition can be safely fired in a .45 Colt handgun.

The original iteration of the .45 Colt saw a 255-grain lead bullet of 0.452-inch diameter seated more than 40 grains of black powder, fired at a muzzle velocity of 1,050

fps. The recoil was deemed too severe for the average soldier and was subsequently reduced to 855 fps. That classic combination would be the rough model for John Browning’s .45 ACP design, which remains one of the best-selling handgun cartridges to this day. There is absolutely nothing wrong with the classic load, as it’s mild enough for accurate shooting, yet potent enough to handle defensive situations as well as some hunting, at sensible ranges.

This load, or those which are similar in basis, remain available to this day. Federal offers a 225-grain lead semi-wadcutter hollow-point at 830 fps, Hornady loads a 255-grain round-nose lead bullet, which they advertise a muzzle velocity of 725 fps from a 4½-inch barrel, but will get closer to 800 fps from a longer barrel, and Remington’s Performance WheelGun line sees a 255-grain lead semi-wadcutter at 830 fps, and a 250-grain lead round nose at 750 fps. Buffalo Bore ammo offers the 255-grain soft-cast lead bullet at 1,000 fps, mimicking that original .45 Colt load,



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Consult and comply with any and all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, requirements, and/or restrictions, including but not limited to those regarding the purchase, ownership, use, transport, and carrying of a firearm. Not all products are available in all states or jurisdictions.

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The .45 Colt can be wonderfully accurate, engendering all sorts of confidence in the shooter.

Despite the lightweight bullet and significantly reduced muzzle velocity, I found the bullet would actually penetrate a piece of 2x6 yet is easy enough on the hands and wrist so that even young shooters can accurately place their shots. Choice's light load makes for a great afternoon of plinking and can just as easily be used to dispatch varmints and other garden pests.

And, if a single projectile doesn't seem like the proper choice for small critters at close range, CCI loads a trio of shotshells for the .45 Colt, including the original Pest Control load using 150 grains of No. 8 shot at 1,000 fps, the Big 4 load using 140 grains of No. 4 shot at 800 fps, and the latest, the HEVI-Bismuth that uses 130 grains of No. 8 Bismuth shot at 1,050 fps for a nontoxic option. DoubleTap offers their DT SnakeShot, using a charge of No. 9 shot over a 70-grain hardcast projectile, for a "best-of-both-worlds" approach.

while Choice Ammunition loads their Hi-Tek coated 255-grain lead bullet at 830 fps.

If you prefer the jacketed bullets—whether for their additional structural integrity or for the ease of cleaning your barrel—there are many ammunition choices loaded at the original velocity. Federal's American Eagle line gives an affordable option, seeing a 225-grain jacketed hollow-point at 860 fps, and Winchester has a 250-grain semi-jacketed bullet in their Big Bore ammo line, at 845 fps.

If you choose to, or are legally required to, use a lead-free bullet, there are options available, such as the Barnes Pioneer line that sees a 200-grain XPB copper hollow-point load at 850 fps. Buffalo Bore loads the 225-grain Barnes XPB to 1,000 fps in their Standard Pressure line. All of these loads should be safe in any era of .45 Colt handgun, but beware that there are many hotter loads on the market—with most being labeled either +P or specified for use in particularly strong modern firearms—which change the capabilities of the .45 Colt.

NEW LIFE WITH NEW AMMO

But, before we look at the fastest, hottest loads for the venerable cartridge, there are loads that are perfect for both plinking as well as training with your new handgun.

Choice Ammunition loads their Hi-Tek 180-grain coated lead bullet to a mere 460 fps, offering an option with minimal recoil and report, perfect for training purposes.



Another .45 Colt cartridge, happily nestled in the chamber of the author's Ruger Blackhawk.



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DoubleTap's load makes an excellent choice for camping and hiking, for all sorts of threats, from two-legged, to four-legged to no-legged.

Looking at those loads that exceed the original performance levels, you will find a wide selection of projectiles and velocities. While the .45 Colt didn't have the same rifle/handgun combination that Winchester's .44-40 WCF did, there have been many lever guns made recently for the bigger Colt cartridge. Hornady extended their LeveRevolution series—the one that uses the FTX spitzer with the pliable polymer tip to allow improved Ballistic Coefficient in tubular magazine guns—to include a 225-grain offering in .45 Colt at 960 fps in a handgun, and you'll get considerably more in a carbine or rifle.

Federal has also seen the wisdom of a

loads for the .45 Colt, in the +P guise, including the 225-grain Barnes XPB loaded to scream at 1,500 fps and the 300-grain monometal wide, flat nose at 1,300 fps or so, generating 1,100 ft-lb of energy. The velocity attained by this latter load, and the construction of this bullet result in very deep penetration, and for the handgun hunter serious about using a .45 Colt on thick-skinned game like any of our wild bovine or big hogs, this is a load to look long and hard at.

The Buffalo Bore .45 Colt +P Deer Grenade load is built around a 260-grain medium cast lead hollow-point gas check bullet, at a muzzle velocity of just above 1,500 fps. Offering a quick energy transfer, this load is hard enough to give good penetration, yet soft enough to give rapid expansion. The gas check will significantly reduce fouling, with recovered projectiles

often doubling in caliber.

Doing double duty as a defensive/hunting load, Choice Ammunition's Bear Defense load is one bad hombre—it uses a 325-grain hard cast, flat-nosed, gas check bullet at a muzzle velocity of 1,350 fps, generating over 1,300 ft-lb of energy. For a sub-magnum cartridge, that's a pretty impressive set of figures. My Blackhawk will put three of these in a 2-inch group at 40 yards, which is about as far as I feel comfortable shooting an iron-sighted handgun. I've shot a bunch of this ammo through my Blackhawk, where the recoil is eye-opening but manageable, and in the Freedom Arms Packer snubnose, it's just plain snotty, but it surely gets the job done.

Lastly, though the .45 Colt might not be the first choice as a defensive handgun cartridge, it will certainly save your bacon. Think of it this way: Few people would



.45 Colt rifle, by including the cartridge in their HammerDown ammunition line, with a 250-grain bonded core bullet developing over 1,000 fps in a 20-inch barrel. At reasonable distances—say woods hunting for whitetails, bears over bait or close-in hogs—the .45 Colt could be a whole lotta fun, with minimal recoil.

Stepping up to the heaviest end of the spectrum and looking at the loads that require a gun of tougher build than the standard Single Action Army and its clones, you'll see loads that come much closer to the Colt-inspired .454 Casull. Buffalo Bore has some very interesting



(Top left) Like to hunt dangerous game with a handgun? Buffalo Bore has you covered. This .45 Colt load with the 300-grain monometal projectile will penetrate thick hide and bone.

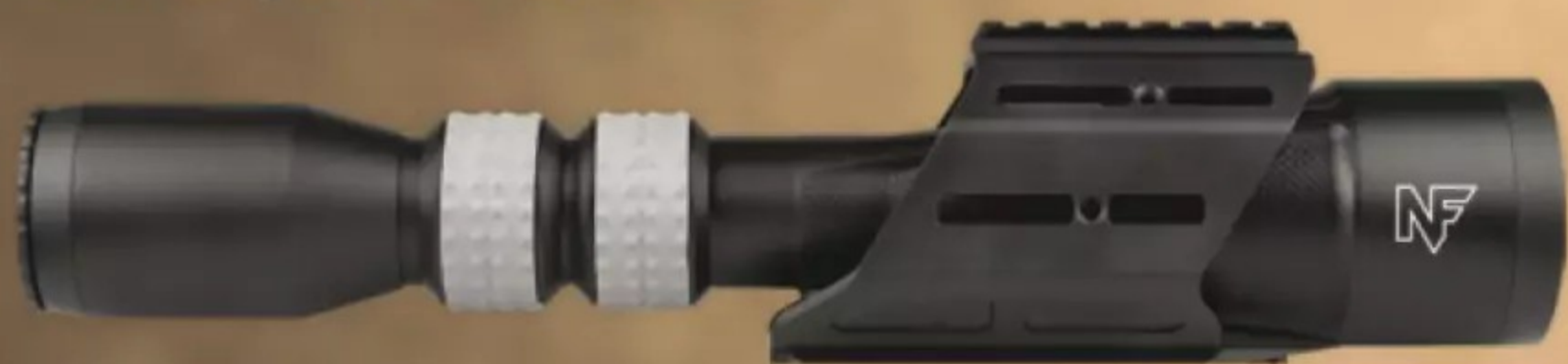
(Top) Federal's "blue box" line includes an affordable 225-grain lead semi-wadcutter that's equally at home at the range as it is in the deer woods.

Choice Ammunition's Bear Defense Load is a formidable product. In a snub-nosed gun like this Freedom Arms Packer, it can rattle your fillings.

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have an issue with the defensive capabilities of the .45 ACP, which is the ballistic twin of the .45 Colt, so except for the rate of fire and magazine capacity, they're pretty similar. Federal loads their 210-grain Hydra-Shok Deep, Hornady offers the 185-grain FX in the Critical Defense line and Underwood Ammo loads that nasty 135-grain Lehigh Defense Xtreme Defender monometal at 1,410 fps. If the gun fits you, and you are comfortable and confident using it, I have no issues with the .45 Colt as a choice of defensive cartridge. From the standard jacketed hollow-point bullets to the bonded core stuff, there are many different choices in .45 Colt that make a sensible defensive choice.

ROLLING YOUR OWN

For handloaders, the world opens wide, as the .45 Colt has all sorts of component bullets to choose from. From the homemade cast bullets, to the surplus FMJs to the cup-and-core jacketed stuff, up through the bonded core and monometal premium choices, .45 caliber is among the most popular of handgun diameters, and there should be no lack of available components.

Swift makes a revolver variant of their excellent A-Frame bullet, Hornady offers the XTP and XTP Magnum bullets, Sierra has some great choices, and that Barnes XPB is a nasty chunk of copper. Grab

a good set of dies—I prefer Redding or RCBS—keep your brass trimmed as uniformly as possible to allow for a consistent roll crimp and you'll find all sorts of reliable data for the old warhorse.

Dick Casull's brainchild—the .454

Handloading the .45 Colt isn't a difficult prospect, but you'll want to be sure and use a good roll crimp on the case mouth, so your projectiles don't pull outward during recoil.

Yet another hand-loaded 255-grain lead bullet destined for greatness.

Casull—is an elongated version of the .45 Colt, with a thicker case, higher pressure limit and a small pistol primer instead of a large one. Just as the .45 Colt can safely shoot the .45 Schofield ammo, the .454 Casull is capable of shooting all three. Why not just shoot a Casull? Well, the revolvers chambered for the Casull are, generally, a bit heavier and bulkier than those chambered for the .45 Colt.

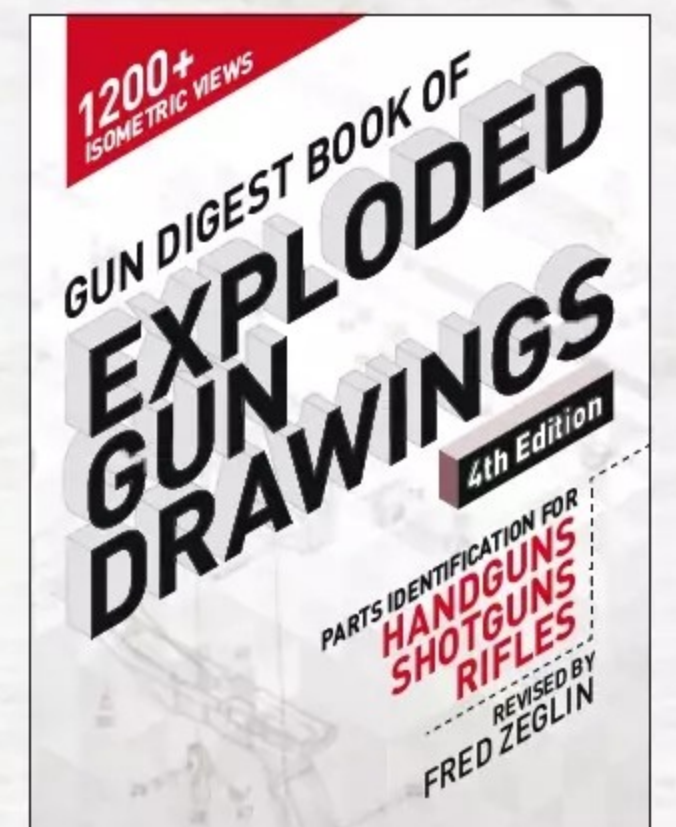
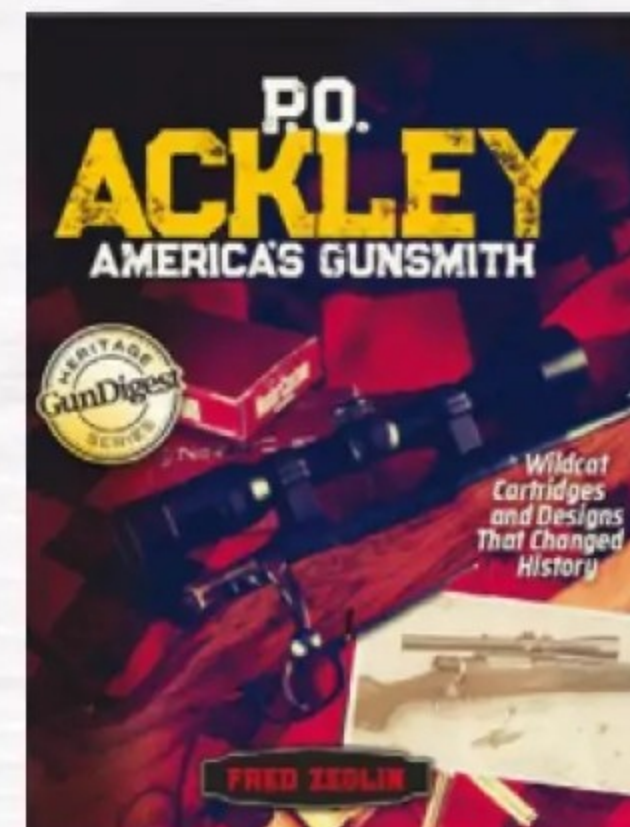
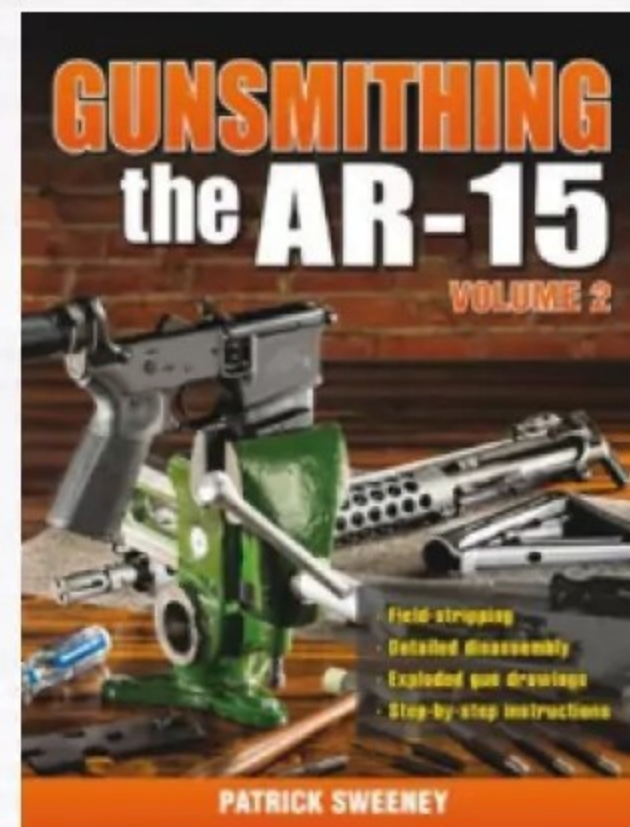
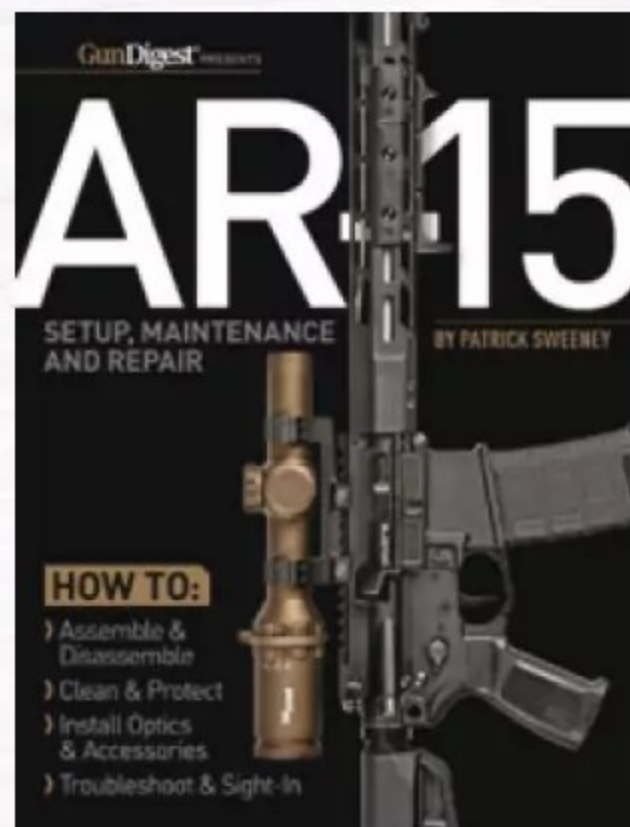
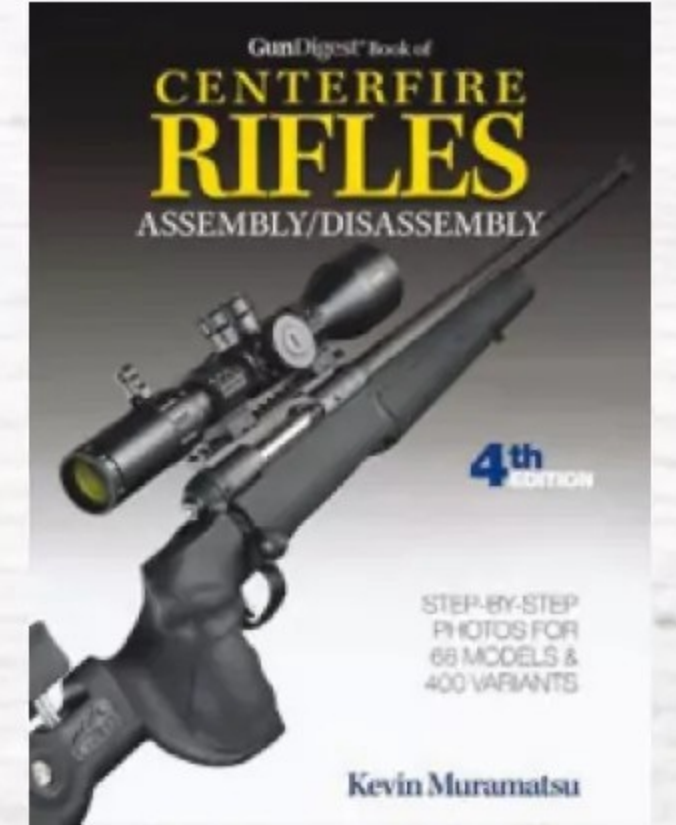
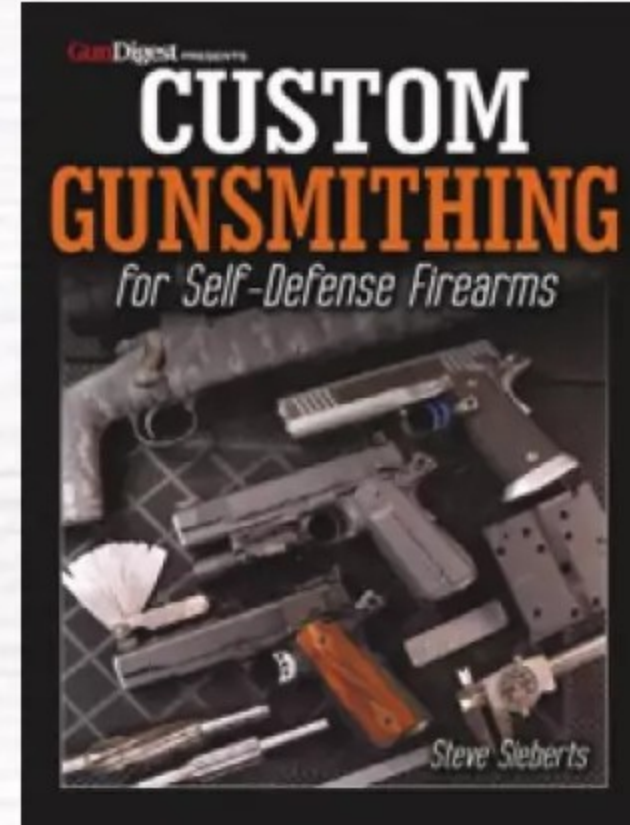
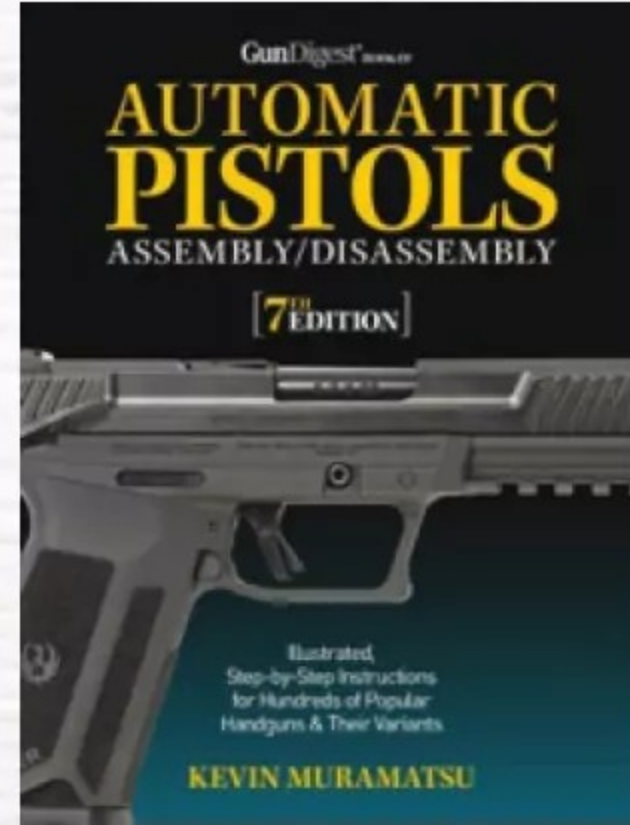
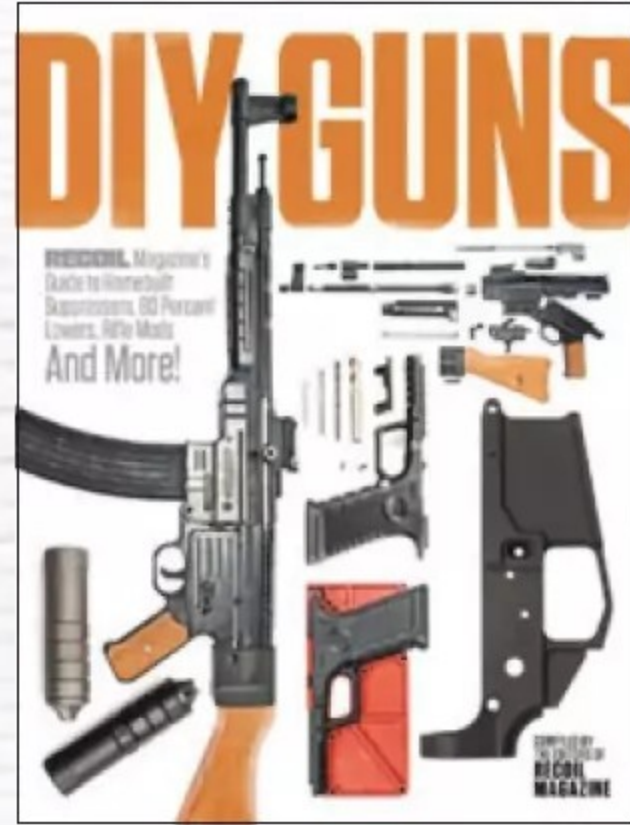
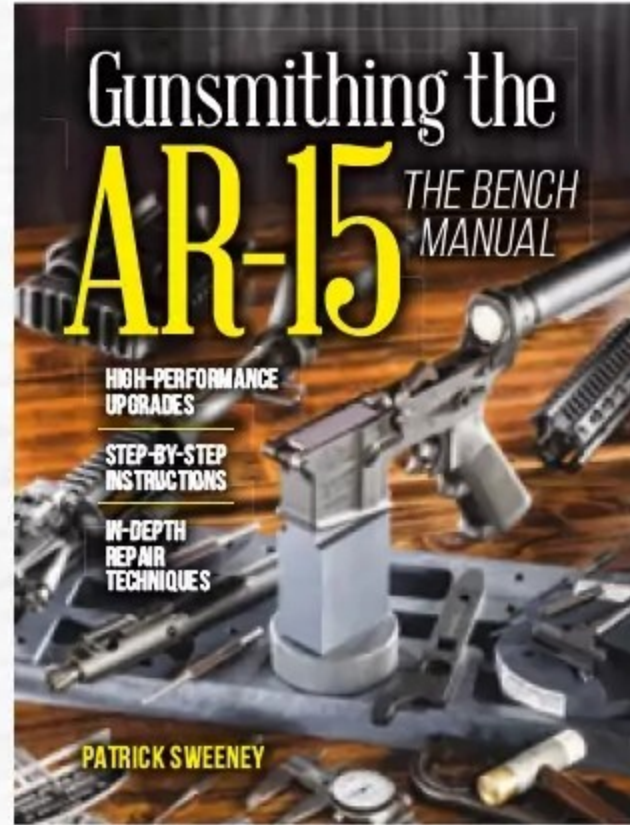
If you intend to regularly pursue large and dangerous game with a handgun, the Casull might make more sense, as it can run at a higher pressure, and will give you more velocity. But for the day-to-day ease of use and comfort of carry, it will be really hard to beat a good old revolver chambered in .45 Colt. It can roar like a lion, being "enough gun," yet can be as meek as lamb with the cowboy action loads. It can offer years of fun with affordable cast bullets yet be relied upon to cleanly take large game species.

Sometimes a designer gets things right the first time; I believe the .45 Colt undoubtedly falls into this category. **GDTM**



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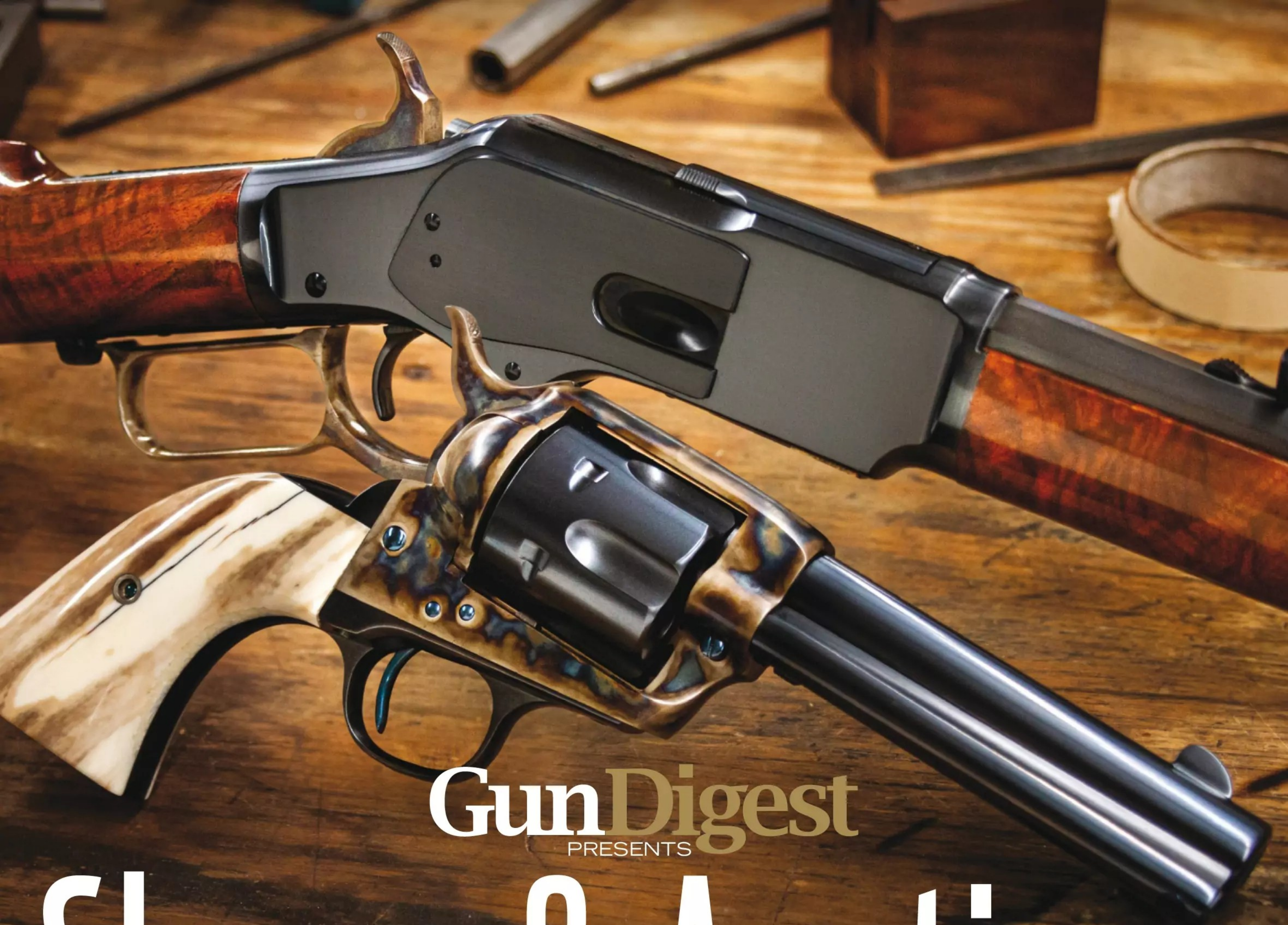


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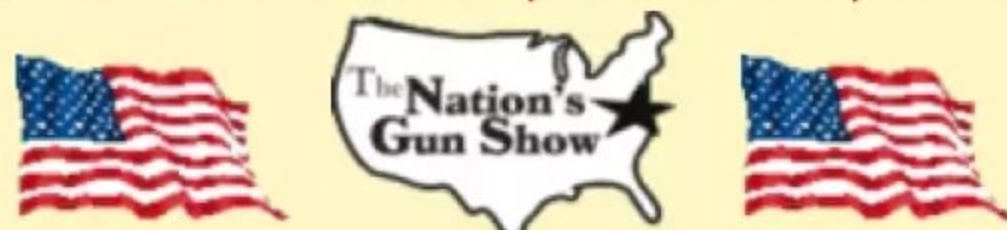
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- 14-Y Colt .22 LR "Official Police" Post War Double Action Revolver 6" tapered barrel with mint bore, fixed sights, 98% original blue with light thinning towards muzzle, service hammer, checkered trigger, black pebble grain Hogue monogrips, excellent function, manufactured 1948 (C&R)\$585
- 15-Y Colt .38 Special "Officers Model Match" Double Action "Fifth Issue" Revolver 6" tapered heavy barrel with bright excellent bore, 98% original blue, light drag line and high edge wear along cylinder and at muzzle, pinned front undercut sight with fully adjustable "Accro" rear sight, original checkered Walnut target grips with silver medallions, excellent function, manufactured 1959 (C&R)\$875
- 16-Y Colt .38 Special "Officers Model Target" Revolver 6" barrel with bright excellent bore, 95% original blue showing some light scratches, fading on front strap, light silvering on sharp edges, front adjustable sight with red bead, adjustable U-notch rear sight, checkered Walnut grips with some chipping around the bottom edges, both grips are serialized to revolver, 97% fire blue showing on checkered hammer, light oxidation on hammer sides, excellent function, manufactured 1911 (C&R)\$695
- 17-Y Colt .32 New Police (.32 S&W) "Police Positive Model" Revolver 4" barrel with very good bore with areas of pin prick pitting but overall strong rifling, fixed sights, 95% original blue showing high edge silvering and gray patina, good unnumbered checkered wood service grips with Colt medallions showing light dents and smoothing, super tight lockup and timing, manufactured 1939 (C&R)\$395
- 18-Y Davis Industries .22 Winchester Magnum "Model DM-22" Over / Under Derringer 2 1/4" barrels with very good bores, 99% original bright nickel, mint smooth laminate wood grips, push button safety, works fine looks new (C&R)\$225

- 19-Y E.A.A. .38 Super "Model 38 SA" Double/Single Action High cap Auto Pistol 4 3/4" barrel with mint bore, fully adjustable target style rear sight, 1/8" blade front sight, 99% original matte black finish, checkered dark Walnut grips, 18 shot magazine, a heavy hitter in like new condition\$565
- 20-Y Excam .38 Special "Tanarmi Model T38" Over / Under Derringer 3" barrels with excellent bores, 99% original black finish, mint checkered white plastic grips, thumb safety, as new in original 2 piece box with manual\$235
- 21-Y Excam .38 Special "Tanarmi Model T38" Over / Under Derringer 3" barrels with excellent bores, 99% original black finish, mint checkered white plastic grips, thumb safety, as new in original 2 piece box with manual\$235
- 22-Y F.I.E. .38 Special "The Standard" Model Double / Single Action Revolver 2" barrel with mint bore, fixed sights, 6 shot pull pin solid frame revolver, 99% original black oxide finish, mint checkered brown plastic round butt grips, as new in original red two piece box with matching end label and all paper work\$265
- 23-Y Harrington & Richardson .22 LR "Model 922" Solid Frame Double Action 9 Shot Revolver 6" round barrel with mint bore, 98% original blue, fixed sights, mint variegated gray H&R logo grips, looks and functions as new, comes in original gold box with manual and cleaning brush, box is a bit tattered but still marked nicely, collector quality (C&R)\$235
- 24-Y Harrington & Richardson .32 S&W Long "Model 732" Double Action Swingout Cylinder Revolver 2 1/2" barrel with mint bore, fixed sights, 95%+ original blue, sides of hammer show light pitting, mint H&R logo checkered black plastic grips, 6 shot cylinder, excellent function (C&R)\$245
- 25-Y High Standard .22 LR "Model D-100" Over/Under Derringer Pistol 3 1/2" barrels with mint bores, 98% original blue, fixed sights, smooth white plastic grips, would be mint overall except for some light peppering on sides of barrels, comes in an original flip top red jewelry style case, manufactured 1966 (C&R)\$325
- 26-Y High Standard .22 LR "Model 101 Duramatic" Auto Pistol 4 1/2" barrel with mint bore, 99% original bright blue, fixed sights, mint oversize wrap around checkered brown plastic grips, made in 1970, looks near new (C&R)\$315
- 27-Y High Standard .22 LR "Model 101 Supermatic" U.S. Marked clip feed Auto Pistol 6 3/4" barrel with excellent bore, 95% original bright and matte blue, excellent checkered brown plastic thumbrest grips, push button takedown, no weights or filler strip on bottom of barrel, (2) factory slot cuts for compensator equipped barrel (none provided), excellent High Standard marked blued clip, excellent function, made in 1956, (1) of (3700) made for U.S. military (C&R)\$725
- 28-Y High Standard .22 LR "Model H-D Military" Clip Feed Target Auto Pistol 6 3/4" barrel with bright excellent bore, front 1/8" blade sight, fully adjustable rear sight, 95% original blue with some light muzzle wear, light peppery pin prick pitting and light scratches on barrel, original checkered Walnut grips, comes with one original magazine that shows finish wear, manufactured 1948 (C&R)\$575
- 29-Y High Standard .22 LR "Field King 1st Model" Auto Pistol 6 3/4" bull barrel with excellent bore, 97% original bright blue, lever takedown, blade front and replacement fully adjustable "micro" rear target sights, minty checkered brown plastic thumbrest grips with logos, excellent two tone magazine, excellent function, made in 1953 (C&R)\$455
- 30-Y High Standard .22 LR "Sport King SK-100 Series" Auto Pistol 4 1/2" barrel with excellent bore, 97% original blue with a couple tiny spots of light pitting, fixed sights, excellent checkered brown plastic thumbrest grips with cast in high Standard logos, excellent full blue magazine, made in 1956 with push button takedown (C&R)\$365
- 31-Y High Standard / Mitchell .22 LR "Victor II" Target Clip Feed Auto Pistol 5 1/2" barrel with mint bore, front Patridge sight with adjustable bridge mounted rear sight, bright and matte stainless steel finishes are like new, gold plated trigger, slide release and magazine release, comes with one 10 round magazine marked "Mitchell Arms", checkered Walnut target grips, stippled front and backstrap, comes with original matching box with end label, excellent function, manufactured 1993-2000\$585
- 32-Y High Standard .22 LR "Sentinel Deluxe" Double Action Swingout Cylinder R-106 9 Shot Revolver 4" barrel with mint bore, fixed sights, 98% original blue, mint checkered brown plastic grips, excellent function, made in 1967 (C&R)\$425
- 33-Y Hopkins & Allen .32 S&W Short "Model XL-8" Double Action Solid Frame Revolver 2 3/4" octagon barrel with very good bright bore, 98% original bright nickel, folding hammer, excellent original mother of pearl smooth grips, fixed sights, matching numbers, looks near new but trigger return spring is broken (C&R)\$325
- 34-Y Iver Johnson .32 S&W Short "Hammerless Safety Trigger Top Break" Double Action Revolver 3" ribbed barrel with excellent bright bore, fixed sights, 85% original nickel finish with a couple flaked off patches on left side, 90% blue and case color, good "owl" logo hard rubber grips with a chipout at locating pin on left panel, works but trigger return spring is broken (C&R)\$165
- 35-Y Iver Johnson .32 S&W Short "Safety Hammer" Double / Single Action Top Break Revolver 3" ribbed barrel with excellent bright bore, 98% original bright nickel, case color and blue, mint "owl" logo hard rubber grips, looks near new in it's original flip top box with barely visible end label and missing front top strip (C&R)\$285
- 36-Y Iver Johnson .32 S&W Long "Model 67-S Viking" Top Break Hand Ejecting Double Action Revolver 2 3/4" barrel with mint bore, adjustable front and rear sights, 97% original blue, showing peppery pin prick pitting along front sight, 97% case colors on hammer and trigger, one piece white plastic wrap around grips with left side thumb rest and on right side has a gold colored IJ "owl" medallion, excellent function, manufactured in 60's or 70's (C&R)\$235

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37-Y Iver Johnson .32 S&W Long "Auto Ejecting Safety Hammer Top Break" Revolver 3" ribbed barrel with fair pitted bore, fixed sights, 92% original nickel finish that is flaking, blued triggerguard going brown, early style checkered hard rubber "owl logo" grips, serial number on triggerguard, patent date on butt, good but stiff functioning action, manufactured 1909 (C&R) \$145

38-Y Iver Johnson .38 S&W "Safety Hammer Top Break" Double/Single Action Revolver 5" ribbed barrel with excellent bright bore, 98% original bright blue on triggerguard, 98% original bright nickel on frame and 80% case color on hammer and trigger, very good smooth Walnut "high hold" optional grips with some flakes of varnish missing, excellent function both single and double action, crisp auto ejection and good timing and lock up, collector quality (C&R) \$265

39-Y Iver Johnson .38 Special "Bulldog Model" Solid Frame 5 Shot Pull Pin Revolver 2 3/8" barrel with mint bore, 99% matte blue finish, case colored hammer, mint "IJ" logo small plastic grips, excellent function, one of the last models from the old Fitchburg, MA factory in 1971 (C&R) \$245

40-Y Japanese 8mm "Nambu Type 14" Late War Auto Pistol 4 1/2" barrel with very good bright bore, 96% original late war rough blue finish, all matching except for correct style and type blued aluminum bottom magazine, excellent slant grooved Asian hardwood grips with matching numbers, round knurled cocking knob, "Nagoya 2nd series" marked with "Showa" dynasty date of June 1944 (Showa 19.6), excellent function, all correct and original in excellent overall condition (C&R) \$875

41-Y Jennings .22 LR "Model J-22" Single Action Auto Pistol 2 3/8" barrel with mint bore, 99 1/2% original black Teflon finish, fixed sights, mint checkered black plastic grips, as new in original two piece box with all paper \$225

42-Y New England Firearms / Harrington & Richardson .22 Winchester Magnum "Model R-22" Swingout Cylinder Double / Single Action Revolver 2 1/2" heavy round barrel with mint bore, fixed sights, 6 shot cylinder, 99 1/2% original blue, mint smooth Walnut grips with "NEF" gold medallion, excellent function both single and double action, as new in original matching end label box and paper work \$365

43-Y Ruger .22 LR "New Bearcat" Single Action Revolver 4" barrel with mint bore, 99 1/2% original blue, all steel construction, fixed sights, cylinder marked ".22 LR" with no firing pin groove (only 5 known in this serial range), mint nicely grained two piece Walnut smooth grips with silver medallions, made in 1996 and comes in its original plastic case with owners manual and brass padlock, also has outer shipping sleeve with matching end label, collector quality \$825

44-Y Ruger .22 LR "Old Model Bearcat" Boxed Single Action Revolver 4" barrel with mint bore, 99% original blue with brass anodized aluminum triggerguard, mint smooth Walnut grips with silver eagle medallions, excellent function, made in 1968 and comes in its original red and black two piece box with matching serial number on side plus instruction sheet and registration card, box is excellent, collector quality (C&R) \$675

45-Y Ruger .22 LR "Old Model Super Bearcat" Single Action Revolver 4" barrel with mint bore, 99% original blue on steel frame, cylinder and blued triggerguard, mint smooth Walnut grips with silver eagle medallions, as new overall and comes in original "Super Bearcat" two piece red and black box with matching serial number, instruction sheet and registration card, collector quality, made in 1973 (C&R) \$725

46-Y Ruger .22 LR "Old Model Super Bearcat" Factory error Single Action Revolver 4" barrel with mint bore, and no barrel markings, steel frame instead of anodized alloy of earlier Bearcats, 99% original blue including the triggerguard, mint smooth Walnut grips with silver eagle medallion grips, as new overall and comes in an original "Super Bearcat" two piece red and black box with an illegible serial number on side, good solid box with edge wear, revolver is like new collector quality, 1972 manufactured (C&R) \$700

47-Y Ruger .22 LR "Single Six Model" Single Action Revolver 5 1/2" barrel with mint bore, fixed front and drift adjustable rear sights, 99% original blue, 3 screw unconverted frame, mint checkered black plastic grips with "black eagle" medallions and excellent early feature single six in collector quality condition, made in 1958 (C&R) \$675

48-Y Sig Sauer 9mm Para "Model P320 Compact" Auto Pistol 3.6" barrel with mint bore, (3) dot "Siglite" replaceable fixed sights, 99%+ original black finish, double action only, 10 shot magazine, Massachusetts compliant, like new overall \$565

49-Y Smith & Wesson .22 LR "Model 63" Stainless Steel Double Action Revolver 4" pinned barrel with mint bore, ramp blade orange insert front sight and fully adjustable target style rear sights, all stainless surfaces are like new, square butt frame kit gun, made around 1980 and shows little actual use \$795

50-Y Smith & Wesson .38 Special "Model M&P / Pre Model 10" Commercial 5 Screw Revolver 4" pinned tapered barrel with mint bore, 98% original period blue, fixed sights, all matching numbers including checkered Walnut, diamond center square butt grips with silver S&W medallions, made late in 1945 (just shy of 1,000,000 serial number), 98%+ original rich colorful case colors on hammer and trigger, excellent function with only wear showing a bit at muzzle and on right side grip panel, collector quality, correct lanyard at butt (C&R) \$785

51-Y Smith & Wesson .38 Special "Model M&P / Pre Model 10" Double Action Revolver 4" pinned tapered barrel with mint bore, 98%+ original period blue and case colors, fixed sights, all matching numbers including checkered Walnut, diamond center "Magna" grips, 1st year of "C" prefix numbering, 1947/48, collector quality (C&R) \$895

52-Y Smith & Wesson .38 Special "Model 37" Airweight Double Action Revolver 2" pinned barrel with mint bore, fixed sights, 96% original bright blue with some silvering on sharp edges of alloy frame. 98% case colors, round butt "J" frame with checkered Walnut non matching grips with silver S&W medallions, excellent function and nice looking, made in 1973 (C&R) \$495

53-Y Smith & Wesson .38 Special "Model of 1905 3rd Change" Target Revolver 6 1/2" pinned barrel with mint bore, (5) screw frame, 92% original blue with almost all loss on flaking blue on logo sideplate, "Paine" bead front and fully adjustable target factory sights, all matching numbers, unnumbered checkered, diamond center Walnut grips with gold S&W logo medallions, period grip filler just behind triggerguard, 95% original case color on fine checkered hammer and trigger, excellent smooth function, made in 1909 and rare in any condition, collector quality (C&R) \$1295

54-Y Smith & Wesson .38 Special "Military & Police Model of 1905 4th Change" Double Action Revolver 6" pinned barrel with mint bore, fixed sights, (5) screw frame, all matching numbers, excellent unnumbered, checkered Walnut, non-medallion Walnut grips with diamond center, 97% original period blue and slightly faded case colors, excellent function, made around 1926 in near new collector quality condition (C&R) \$875

55-Y Smith & Wesson .38 Special & U.S. Service CTG's "Model Military & Police" (Model of 1902) 2nd Model Double Action Revolver 5" pinned barrel with excellent bright bore, pre 5 screw 4 screw round butt frame, 95% original bright blue with thinning and graying straps and some tiny pin prick spots of pitting on sharp edges, all matching numbers, unnumbered mint checkered black hard rubber grips with S&W logos, 95%+ nice bright case color, made in 1903, super looker, perfect function, collector quality (C&R) \$1050

56-Y Smith & Wesson .38 Special & U.S. Service CTG's "Model 1902" Second Model 1st Change Revolver 6 1/2" pinned barrel with excellent bright bore, pre 5 screw 4 screw frame, 95%+ original blue with some small pin prick pits on frame and sideplate, 60% case color, hammer shows a replaced firing pin, these early models used a secondary leaf style trigger return spring pinned to front strap the spring on this gun is broken resulting in a light trigger return (still functions fine in double and single action) round butt "Mother of Pearl" grips are genuine with fiery look and one small chipout on upper edge on left panel, made around 1903 and needing only a little mechanical or good cleaning and lubricating attention (C&R) \$895

57-Y Smith & Wesson .38 S&W "38 Safety Hammerless 3rd Model" Top Break Revolver 3 1/4" ribbed barrel with mint bore, fixed sights, push down catch in top strap for opening, 5 shot fluted cylinder, 98% original bright nickel, blue and case color, grip safety, mint checkered black hard rubber S&W logo grips, all matching numbers, excellent function, made around 1894, collector quality (Antique) \$750

58-Y Smith & Wesson .357 Magnum "Model 686-4" Stainless Double Action Revolver 4 1/16" heavy full underlug barrel with mint bore, red ramp/white outline factory target style sights, all stainless surfaces are in excellent condition, mint "Hogue" mono grip, finger groove, wrap around, stippled rubber grips with S&W logo on both panels (S&W original equipment), 98% case colors on standard hammer and smooth trigger, made in 1996 and shows little actual use a very nice "L" frame heavy duty revolver \$695

59-Y Smith & Wesson .455 Mark II Cal. "Hand Ejector 2nd Model" WW-I Revolver 6 1/2" pinned barrel with mint bore, 5 screw frame, WW-I purchase by Great Britain with crossed pennants, broad arrow, crown over "V5, E and II" proofs plus small proofs on other parts, 95% original bright blue and faded case color, very good checkered Walnut diamond center grips with gold S&W medallions, lanyard at butt, excellent function, made around 1916 and not often seen unmodified and in this condition (C&R) \$1285

60-Y Star 9m Largo "Model A Super" Auto Pistol 5" barrel with excellent bore, fixed sights, 96%+ original blue, checkered Walnut grips are excellent, looks and functions near new, comes in a plain cardboard box with manual written in Spanish, loaded chamber indicator and magazine disconnect, cleaning rod and spare magazine in box (C&R) \$585

61-Y U.S. Revolver Co. (Iver Johnson) .32 S&W Short Double / Single Action Hammer Top Break Revolver 4" ribbed barrel with excellent bright bore, fixed sights, 90% original nickel with loss on sharp edges (especially the rib), U.S. logo hard rubber grips with chipouts at both locating pins, needs trigger return spring (C&R) \$145

CENTERFIRE RIFLES

62-Y Action Arms / IMI .357 Magnum "Timber Wolf" Model Slide Action Carbine 18 1/2" barrel with mint bore, 98% original bright blue, white line blade front sight, adjustable sporting open rear sight plus integral receiver mounted rail for Weaver style rings, mint circular grooved slide handle and dark hardwood straight grip stock with factory serrated black rubber buttplate, 10 shot tubular magazine, near new overall with excellent function, comes with original box \$925

63-Y Carl Gustafs 6.5x55mm "Model 1896" Swedish Mauser Bolt Rifle 30" barrel with mint bore, 97% arsenal blue finish, front post sight with protected cover, tangent rear sight, bolt in the white, all matching numbers, straight grip hardwood stock and handguard, manufactured 1908, excellent function (C&R) \$785

64-Y Enfield .303 British "No. 4 MK1* Sporter" Clip Feed Bolt Rifle 23 1/2" barrel with very good bore, 98% nice quality rebuild blue, military blade front and (2) position peep rear sights, very good original cut down stock in sporter configuration with sling swivels, brass "trap" buttplate and 5 shot magazine, manufactured 1945 by Long Branch, excellent function \$295

65-Y Harrington & Richardson .308 Winchester "Ultra Rifle" Clip Feed Auto Rifle 22" barrel with excellent bright bore, 98% original bright blue, ramp bead front and "Williams" fully adjustable sporting open sights, (no hood on front), excellent Walnut pistol grip stock with rollover Monte Carlo cheek piece, contrasting wood grip cap, swivel "eyes" and "H&R" logo thin rubber buttplate, Weaver rail installed on receiver using factory holes, 5 shot magazine excellent function (C&R) \$665

66-Y Japanese / Tokyo 6.5mm "Type 38" Sporterized Bolt Rifle 21" barrel with fair pitted bore, 97% arsenal blue showing some thinning on mid barrel, bent bolt, receiver shows good unstruck mum, two piece hardwood stock showing heavy cleaning, no handguard, steel buttplate, no dust cover, raised ramp front sight, rear folding leaf sight graduated to 2400 meters, comes with leather sling, excellent function (C&R) \$275

67-Y Japanese 6.5mm "Type 38" Smooth Bore Training Bolt Rifle 31 1/2" barrel with good bore, 95% arsenal blue thinning to brown with receiver showing gray, no mum or receiver markings present, plum style bolt handle, knurled safety indicator knob, single screw front barrel band, no cleaning rod, inverted "V" front sight with folding leaf rear sight graduated to 2400 meters, steel buttplate, smooth hardwood two piece stock with finger groove and handguard, excellent function (C&R) \$280

68-Y Japanese / Mukden 6.5mm "Type 38" Bolt Rifle 31 1/4" barrel with bright excellent bore, protected front inverted "V" front sight, folding leaf rear sight graduated to 2400 meters, ground mum, 90% arsenal blue finish with peppery pin prick pitting, receiver stamped with characters signifying "type 38", knurled safety with small tang, two piece hardwood stock with finger grooved and handguard, stock shows dings and dents, steel buttplate, bolt matching serialization to rifle, all matching, manufactured 1938-1944 (C&R) \$425

69-Y Mannlicher Schoenauer .308 "Model 1956 MC" Bolt Carbine 20" barrel with bright excellent bore, 95% original blue showing light scratches, light high edge wear, very light peppery pin prick pitting on floorplate, raised front brass blade sight, express rear sight, receiver has scope base mounted and left side of receiver drilled and tapped not plugged, for Griffin and Howe scope base, full length checkered pistol grip stock with high cheek piece, black rubber butt pad, white line spacer with black grip cap, single trigger, spoon bolt handle, sling swivels, excellent function, toe line on stock shows repaired crack, manufactured 1956-1961 \$895

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102-Y Savage .22 LR "Sporter Model" Clip Feed Bolt Rifle 25" barrel with very good bore, 95% original blue taking on a brown tinge, factory blade front sight but no dovetail open rear, a "ranger" 4x target style scope is installed using target scope blocks and external adjusting rear base, excellent early style Walnut pistol grip stock with grooved forend, 1 1/4" sling swivels and steel buttplate with "Savage for quality" Indian head logo, excellent function (C&R)\$365

103-Y Savage .22 S, L, & LR "Model 3-D" Single Shot Bolt Rifle 24" barrel with mint bore, 97% original blue just starting to fade, factory sporting open sights, excellent figured dark Walnut pistol grip stock with serrated black hard rubber buttplate, a classic full size single shot in excellent condition (C&R)\$185

104-Y Stevens .22 S, L, & LR "Model 87-B" Tube Feed Auto Rifle 24" barrel with mint bore, factory sporting open sights, 98% original bright blue, excellent hardwood pistol grip stock with serrated black hard rubber buttplate, some minor nicks and scratches and a coat of extra clear finish, excellent function\$195

105-Y Stevens .22 LR "Favorite Model 1915" Single Shot Dropping Block Rifle 24" round barrel with very good bright bore, 90%+ original blue, front sight is missing its bead, rear sight is a Marbles sporting open type, very good Walnut straight grip stock with Stevens logo, hard rubber buttplate with a chunk missing below bottom screw, excellent function (C&R)\$265

106-Y Stevens .22 LR "Favorite Model 1915" Single Shot Dropping Block Rifle 24" octagon barrel with very good bright bore, 97% restoration quality refinish blue and dark muted case color, excellent refinished Walnut straight grip stock and forend, Stevens logo is "S" shape minty hard rubber buttplate, excellent function (C&R)\$265

107-Y Stevens / Springfield .22 S, L, & LR "Model 53-B" Single Shot Bolt Rifle 24" barrel with good bore, showing a bulge ring about 2 1/2" from muzzle, thinning blue to gray with scattered pin prick pitting, replacement front and rear sights, refinished stock showing staining, dings and dents, barrel bolt is a new replacement bolt, black plastic buttplate shows non professional fitment, excellent function, stock shows "FCT" carved into left side (C&R)\$85

108-Y Stoeger /Uberti .22 LR Model 2200 "Silver Boy" Tube Feed Lever Rifle 19" barrel with mint bore, 99% original blue and nickel finish, fixed sights, top receiver drilled and tapped, smooth Walnut straight grip stock and forend wood, original black plastic buttplate, comes with Weaver rail and screws, original cardboard box, box has matching side label to rifle, manufactured 2012\$495

109-Y Weatherby .22 LR "Model XXII" Clip Feed Auto Rifle 24" barrel with mint bore, 97% original blue and black anodized finishes, barrel shows some scratches and thinning at muzzle, front blade brass bead sight is missing hood, express leaf rear sight, grooved receiver, Walnut skipline checkered pistol grip stock with rosewood forend tip and grip cap, both with white line spacers, brown rubber Weatherby buttplate with white and black spacer, comes with one 10 round magazine, sling swivels, excellent function, stock shows dings and dents, manufactured 1967-19714 in Japan (C&R)\$745

110-Y Western Field (Mossberg 346) .22 S, L, & LR "Model 842" Tube Feed Bolt Rifle 24" barrel with mint bore, 99% original blue, factory open sights plus a 4x30mm Western Field scope on grooved receiver, minty Walnut pistol grip stock, as new overall, made around 1960 (C&R)\$375

111-Y Western Field .22 S, L, & LR Appears to be a Prewar Savage 25 Pump Rifle 24" octagon barrel with very good bore, 95%+ original blue going brown, factory open sights, excellent Walnut pistol grip stock with smooth blued steel buttplate, excellent circular grooved pump handle, excellent function\$295

112-Y Winchester .22 LR "Model 63" Auto Carbine 20" barrel with excellent bore but shows a slight bulge 2" from muzzle, 97% original blue on barrel with 85%+ on action showing thinning blue going gray along high edges and on bottom of action and triggerguard, original front blade sight, rear sight removed and filled with a dovetail blank, barrel and action drilled, tapped with Weaver scope bases mounted, mounted is a Weaver J4 scope that has plain crosshairs with partly cloudy optics, smooth Walnut pistol grip stock and forend that show normal wear, dings and dents, steel buttplate, excellent function, 2nd year production, manufactured 1933 (C&R)\$675

113-Y Winchester .22 LR "Model 74" Butt Tube Feed "Pre War"Auto Rifle 22" barrel with excellent bore, 97% original blue, open factory sights, smooth Walnut pistol grip stock, steel buttplate, excellent function, "pop out bolt" for maintenance, manufactured 1942, collector quality (C&R)\$375

114-Y Winchester .22 LR "Model 77" Clip Feed Auto Rifle 22" barrel with bright excellent bore, 90% original blue with some light thinning mid barrel, scattered light pin prick pitting, grooved receiver shows some signs of reapplied blue over pin prick pitting, original sights, Weaver B4 scope mounted, scope has plain crosshairs, clean clear optics, smooth Walnut pistol grip stock with plastic triggerguard and original buttplate, stock shows light wear, dings and dents (C&R)\$345

115-Y Winchester .22 L & LR "Model 290 Deluxe" Tube Feed Auto Rifle 20 3/4" barrel with bright excellent bore, 98%+ original blue showing some light scratches along barrel, original fixed sights, grooved receiver, press checkered Walnut pistol grip stock and forend, white line spacer with black serrated Winchester buttplate, excellent function, manufactured 1965-1973 (C&R)\$325

116-Y Winchester .22 S, L, & LR "Model 72 Target" Tube Feed Bolt Rifle 25" round tapered barrel with mint bore, 98%+ original bright blue showing some light thinning near barrel address and light scratches, "No. 97" front bead on ramp with removable "hood" sight cover, "No. 80" peep receiver mounted sight with graduated windage and elevation adjustments, (no dovetail on barrel) minty Walnut pistol grip stock with black hard rubber Winchester logo buttplate, bolt cocks on opening, positive twin extractors, side lever safety locking both bolt and trigger, excellent function, looks near new overall, collector quality (C&R)\$485

117-Y Winchester .22 S, L, & LR "Model 72A / Grooved Receiver" Tube Feed Bolt Rifle 25" barrel with mint bore, 97%+ original blue with some very light scattered pin prick pitting at muzzle, original open sporting sights, nickel plated bolt, triggerguard and trigger, original Winchester logo plastic buttplate, excellent function, manufactured around 1957, shows little actual use, collector quality (C&R)\$485

118-Y Winchester .22 S, L, & LR "Model 141" Butt Tube Feed Bolt Rifle 21" barrel with mint bore, 98% original blue finish, sporting open sights, grooved receiver mounting a period "Weaver D4" scope, scope has plain crosshairs, clear optics, smooth Walnut pistol grip stock showing some finish wear along heel, black plastic buttplate, excellent function (C&R)\$255

119-Y Winchester .22 S, L, & LR "Model 06" Takedown Pump Rifle 20" barrel with good, lightly pitted bore, front "number 2" Marble's sight, Marble's sporting open rear sight with elevator, 95% re-blue finish on all metal surfaces, smooth Walnut straight grip stock and small grooved forend are also refinished, manufactured 1910 and still woks fine (C&R)\$395

120-Y Winchester .22 S, L, & XL "Model 1904" Single Shot Bolt Rifle 21" barrel with excellent bore showing some light pitting toward muzzle, original open sporting sights, 95% original blue with spots of peppery pin prick pitting, also shows some scattered light scratches, smooth gumwood straight grip stock with crescent buttplate and curved "S" shaped extended triggerguard, both buttplate and triggerguard are toned to gun metal gray with little or no old case colors left, both show spots of brown pin prick pitting lightly scattered throughout, manufactured 1914-1927 (C&R)\$395

121-Y Winchester .22 Short "Model 1885" "U.S. Marked" Winder Low Wall Musket 28" barrel with excellent bright bore, 98% nice period refinish blue, stanchion mounted blade front sight and Lyman "climbing Lyman" fully adjustable peep rear sight, mint refinished Walnut straight grip stock with forend grapping groove, 1 1/2" sling swivels and blued steel carbine style buttplate, "U.S." and "ordnance bomb" marked upper tang, excellent function, clear sharp markings, super looker, made in the 1920's (C&R)\$975

SHOTGUNS

122-Y Crescent Arms .410 Gauge "Davis Certified" Model Single Shot Shotgun 3" chamber, full choke, 26" barrel with mint bore, 98% original bright blue, 98% nice colorful case hardened receiver, very good Walnut pistol grip stock with some storage scratches in finish, original checkered brown plastic buttplate, made in Norwich, CT., excellent function and sharp looking (C&R)\$295

123-Y Harrington & Richardson 16 Gauge "Model 120" Tube Feed Bolt Action Shotgun 26" barrel with good bore, 2 3/4" chamber and improved cylinder choke, 95% original blue, good Walnut pistol grips tock with (2) cross pins at wrist for unknown reason (not cracked or broken), original vent rubber recoil pad has gone hard, looks good and works fine (C&R)\$135

124-Y Iver Johnson 16 Gauge "Champion" Single Shot Shotgun 30" barrel with good bore, 2 3/4" chamber and fixed very tight full choke, 95% original blue, and 80% original dark case colors, very good dark Walnut pistol grip stock with "owl" logo hard rubber buttplate, front bead is missing, works fine and looks very good with a few spots of white paint on wood, looks like a turkey shoot winner (C&R)\$285

125-Y Marlin 20 Gauge "Model 55" Clip Feed Bolt Shotgun 18 1/2" cut barrel with mint bore, fixed cylinder choke, 3" chamber, re-blue finish, single brass bead front sight, smooth Walnut pistol grip stock with red rubber recoil pad, 2" crack at heal, comes with a 2 round detachable magazine, excellent function, manufactured 1950-1965, these make wonderful deer slug shooters (C&R)\$165

126-Y Mossberg 20 Gauge "Model 185D" Clip Feed Bolt Shotgun 26" barrel with bright excellent bore, 98%+ original bright blue, factory screw on Mossberg choke with modified tube installed, 2 3/4" chamber, single brass bead front sight, mint smooth Walnut pistol grip stock with Schnabel forend, black plastic finger groove triggerguard that is flush fitted to grip, black serrated plastic buttplate, comes with one magazine, green gem at safety lever is missing, excellent function, these are great multi purpose shotguns for all hunting purposes, shows little or no actual use (C&R)\$235

127-Y Marlin 12 Gauge "Model 17" Slide Action Shotgun 28" barrel with good but dirty bore, cylinder choke, someone painted the entire metal surface in black paint which is now flaking off, good sound straight grip Walnut stock with serrated hard rubber buttplate, looks terrible but works fine (C&R)\$135

128-Y Mossberg 12 Gauge "Model 500A" Slide Action Shotgun 28" barrel with wide (2) bead vent rib, 3" chamber and screw in improved cylinder Mossberg "accu choke" tube, 98% original blue, excellent Walnut pistol grip stock with impress checkering and hardened vent rubber recoil pad, works fine\$325

129-Y New England Firearms 12 Gauge "Pardner" Top Break Single Shot Shotgun 27 1/2" barrel with 3" chamber and modified choke showing a bright excellent bore with light skid marks, single brass bead front sight that sits flush with barrel, 98% original blue and fancy tiger stripe grain, 95% case colors on the receiver, lever style barrel opener and ejector, smooth Walnut pistol grip stock and forend wood stock looks to have a repair along back tang, black plastic buttplate\$135

130-Y Sears (Mossberg) 12 Gauge "Model 446.511761 (500 ALS)" Slug Gun 2 Barrel Pump Shotgun 18" smooth bore slug barrel with fixed cylinder choke, 2 3/4" chamber with excellent bore, spare 28" plain barrel with fixed modified choke, 2 3/4" chamber with excellent bore, 99% original blue, raised front sight, folding leaf rear sight, top of receiver is factory drilled and taped for scope bases, smooth Walnut pistol grip stock with rubber recoil pad, grooved forend wood, excellent function, manufactured 1977-1980\$315

131-Y Sears (Savage) 410 Gauge "Model 101.100/96 Single Shot Top Break Shotgun 26" barrel, 3" chamber with fixed full choke and bright excellent bore, 97%+ original blue on barrel, receiver shows 98% black enamel finish with loss along sharp edges, smooth hardwood pistol grip stock and forend, black polymer buttplate, push button barrel release, extractor, rebounding hammer, functions properly (C&R)\$155

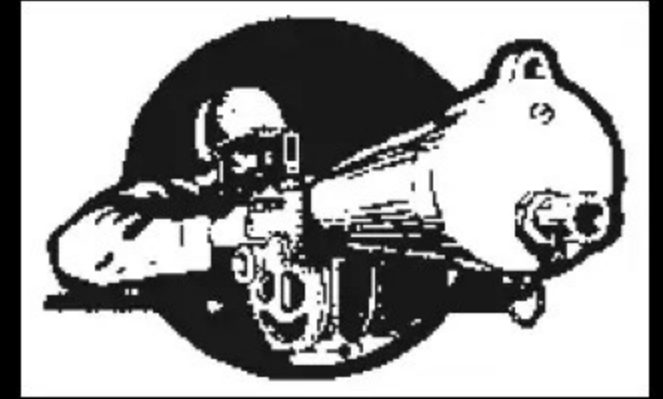
132-Y Smith & Wesson 12 Gauge "Model 1000-S" "Skeet" Autoloader Shotgun 25" vent rib barrel with mint bore, 2 3/4" chamber, skeet choke, (15) slot cut factory compensator and glow bar front sight, 99% original blue with roll engraved receiver, minty dark Walnut, nicely grained pistol grip stock with cut checkering, "S&W" logo plastic grip cap, S&W logo black plastic buttplate and a nice oil finish, looks near new with a steel receiver, excellent function and a super autoloader ready to go on the skeet field\$595

133-Y Winchester 16 Gauge "Model 1912" Early Pump Shotgun 26" plain barrel with very good bore, 2 3/4" chamber and full fixed choke, 60% thinning/graying original blue, no pitting just field use wear, plain pistol grip buttstock with logo hard rubber buttplate, pump handle is very good with checkering and finer grooves, made in 1915 and still works fine (C&R)\$235

134-Y Winchester .410 Gauge "Model 37A" Single Shot Shotgun 26" barrel with mint bore, 3" chamber and fixed full choke, 98% original bright blue, roll engraved receiver, gold trigger, excellent hardwood pistol grip stock with impress checkering showing a little loss of finish scattered about, checkered black plastic Winchester logo buttplate, marked "Winchester" over "New Haven, Conn." on right side of barrel, excellent function\$285

135-Y Winchester .410 Gauge "Model 41" Single Shot Bolt Shotgun 24" barrel with excellent bright bore marked "full" choke, 95% original blue with triggerguard going brown, factory bead front and tiny open rear sights, very good Walnut pistol grip stock that shows hunting use nicks and dings, wood has been cleaned at some point, "Winchester Repeating Arms" logo checkered hard rubber buttplate, excellent function (C&R)\$375

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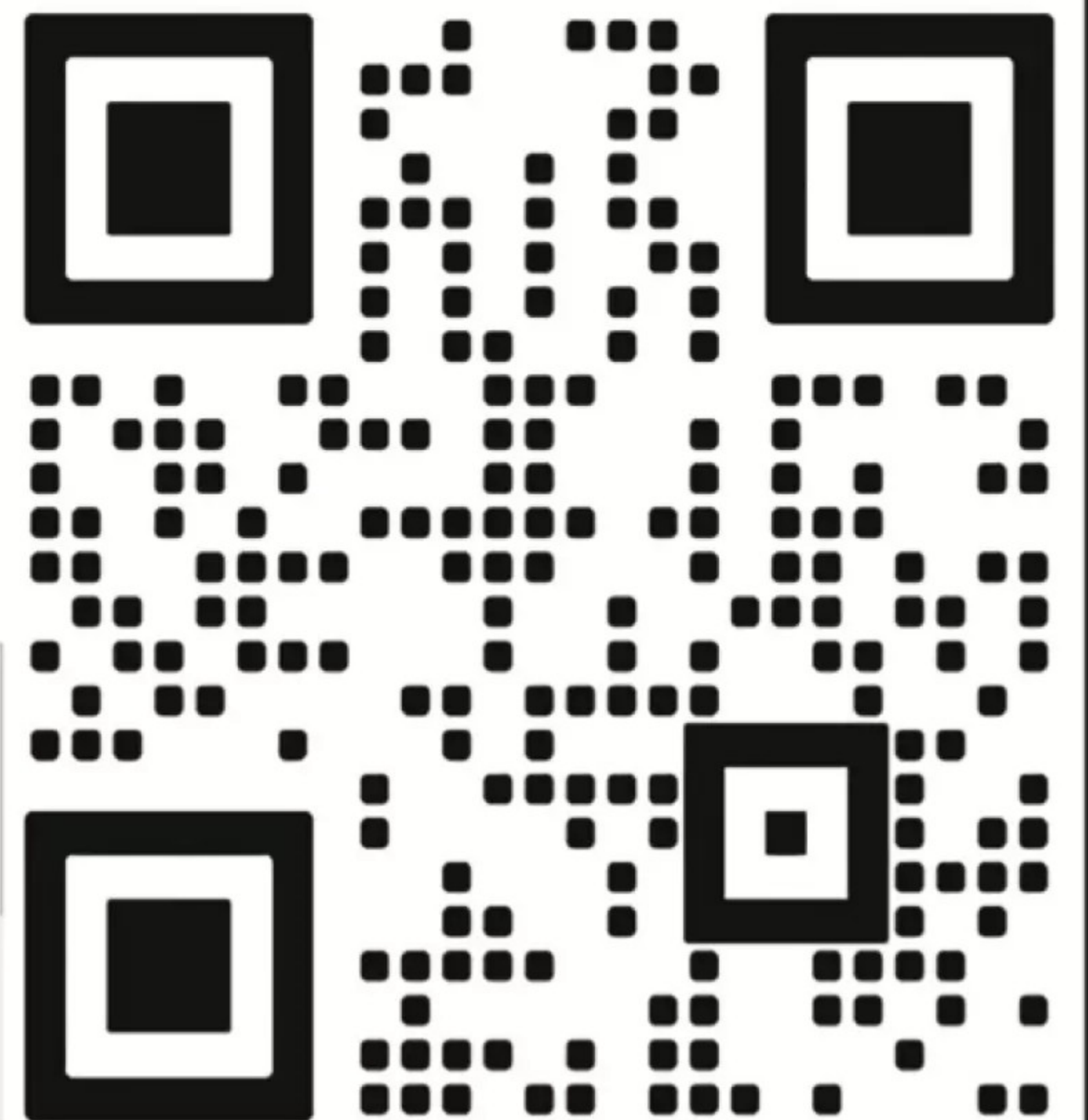
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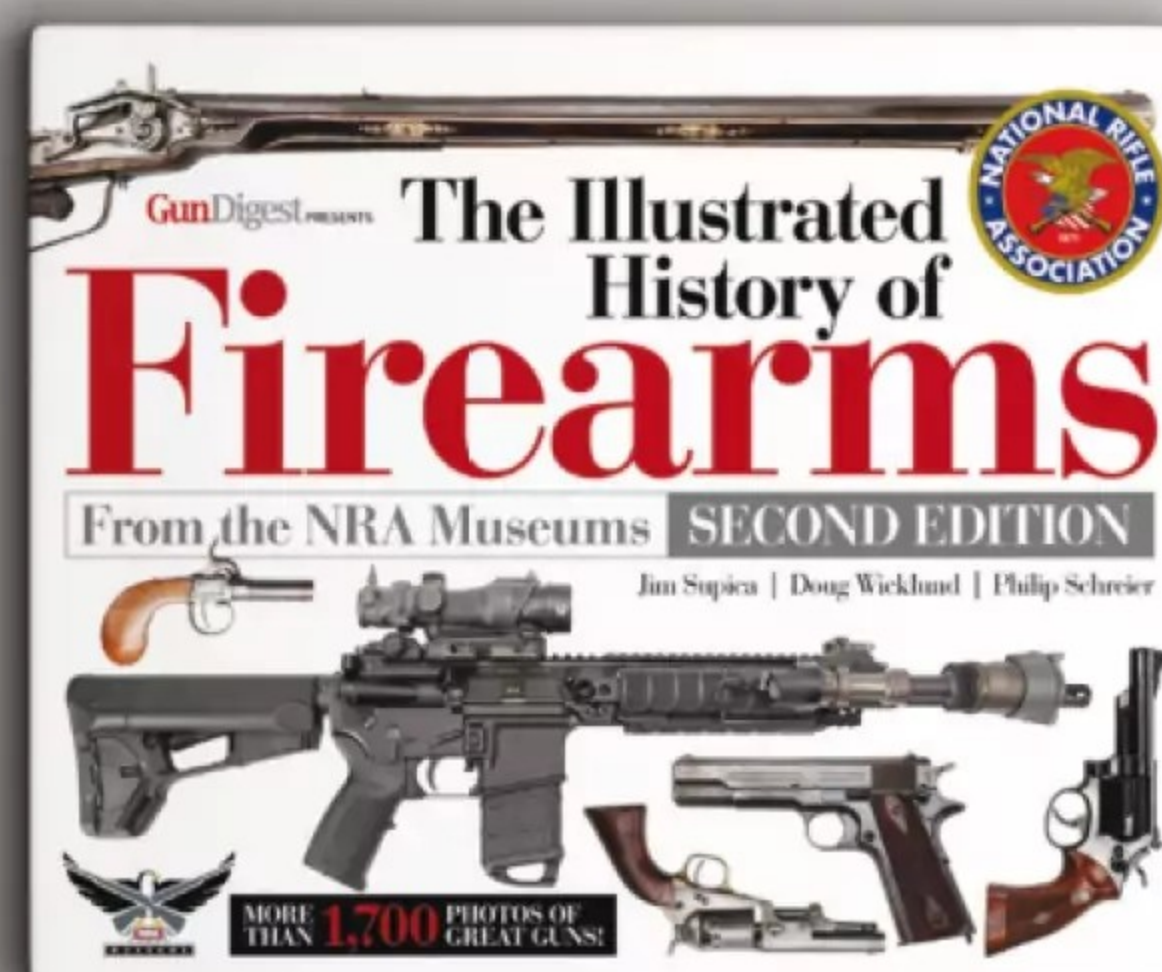
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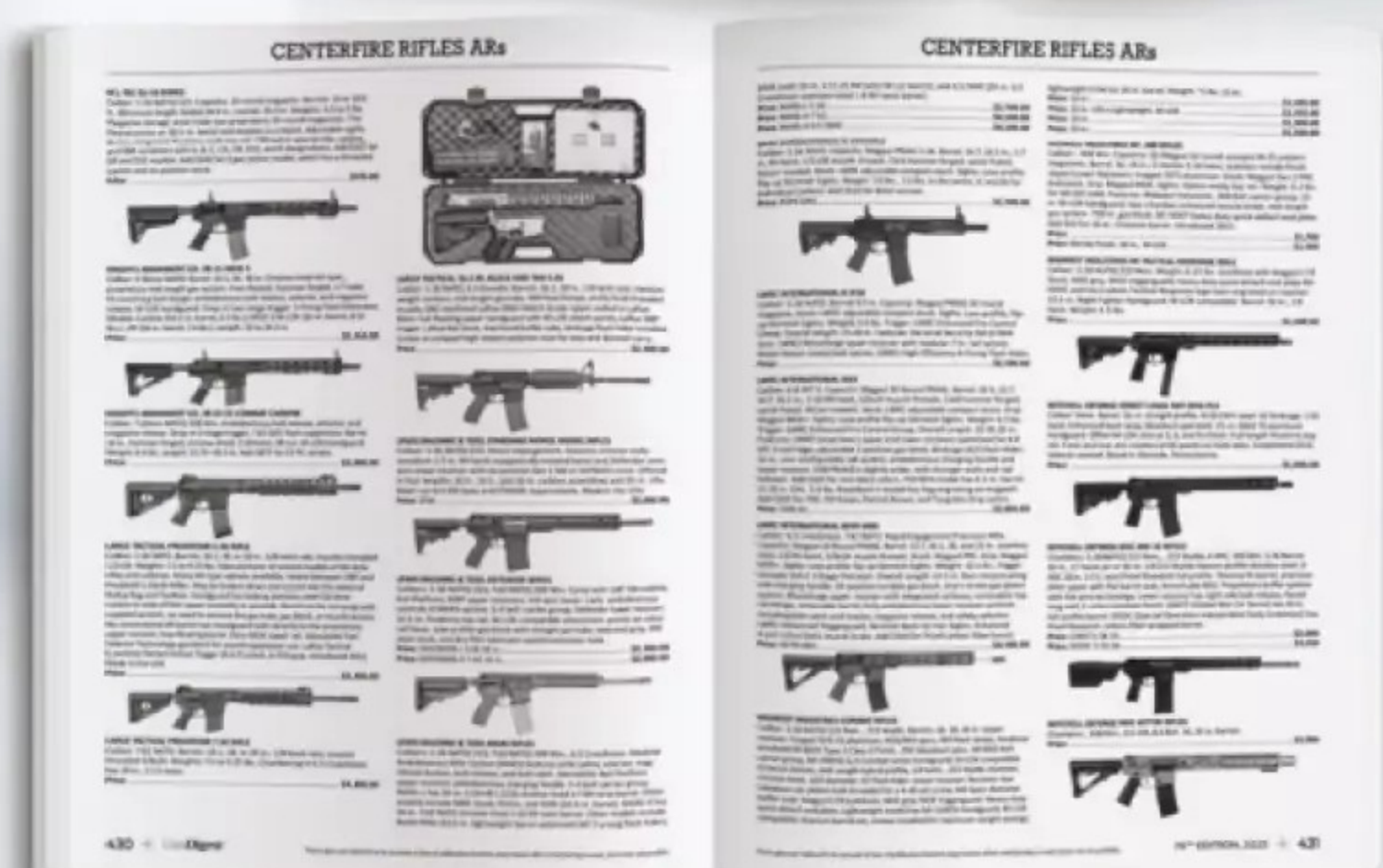
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A hand is shown holding a rifle mounted on a bipod. The rifle is a Christensen's Evoke Hunter, featuring a tan barrel and a black receiver. The bipod is black and has "SPARTAN" and "javelinbipod.com" printed on it. The background is a blurred green forest. At the top of the page, there is a decorative horizontal line with a repeating diagonal pattern.

THE RESURGENCE OF VALUE

Christensen's Evoke Hunter is entry-level and feature heavy.



In 1979, I purchased my first center-fire rifle. (My dad actually bought the rifle because I was not old enough, but I paid for it with money I earned from a paper route.) It was a brand-new Remington Model 700 ADL, and it cost \$223. Based on inflation, today that rifle would cost about \$981. That rifle shot well but it was plain-Jane with a walnut stock and blued steel. It did not have any of the modern and cool fea-

tures hunters want today, like a synthetic stock and Cerakote finish resistant to the elements. It did not have a detachable magazine, a scope rail, a threaded muzzle or brake, or a bipod attachment point. The new Evoke rifle from Christensen Arms has all those things and a retail price of \$898.99.

Modern manufacturing techniques have reduced the cost of making firearms, and the demands of hunters have

increased the standard features we now expect to see on a new rifle. Christensen Arms has been listening to what hunters want in terms of both features and price, and their new Evoke rifle is a manifestation of that. I recently tested one of the Evoke rifles chambered in 6.5 Creedmoor, and Christensen Arms is clearly onto something.

THE DETAILS

Christensen Arms announced the Evoke rifle in 2024, but samples did not make it out of the factory until early 2025. While visiting Christensen Arms last year, I saw a prototype of the Evoke, but between then and now the design changed just a bit. Christensen Arms pioneered the carbon-fiber-wrapped barrel, and then they perfected it. As an entry-level rifle, the Evoke comes with a 416R stainless steel barrel, but this barrel is button rifled and hand-lapped at the factory. The barrel also has the muzzle threaded at a $\frac{5}{8}$ x24 pitch and the rifle comes standard with a removable, stainless steel, premium RFR muzzle brake.

Barrel lengths range from 16.25 to 22 inches depending on the cartridge. The 7mm Backcountry is available with either a 16.25- or 20-inch barrel, and the 6.5 PRC, .270 Winchester, 7mm Remington Magnum, 7mm PRC, .30-06, .300 Winchester Magnum, .300 PRC and .375 H&H all come with a 22-inch bar-

Some magazine removal issues occurred with the test rifle, but only when the magazine was forcefully inserted into the magazine well.





rel. Evoke rifles in .243 Winchester, 6.5 Creedmoor, .308 Winchester and .450 Bushmaster have a 20-inch barrel, and the .350 Legend is the only Evoke with an 18-inch barrel. Regardless of the chambering, all barrels are fully free-floated.

Christensen Arms attaches the barrel to a newly crafted action that they designed in-house at Christensen Arms. It has a bolt with a radially fluted body, two lugs, a 90-degree throw, and a M16/Sako-style extractor and a plunger ejector like on that first Remington 700 I bought more than 40 years ago. Regardless of the cartridge the Evoke is chambered for, the action is the same size. It does not come in short, long and magnum lengths. This adds weight for short-action cartridges, but it does reduce manufacturing costs. The bolt handle has an octagonally shaped knob that's a tad bit—but not too much—oversized. It seems just about perfect for fast and positive bolt operation.

The rifle feeds from a detachable polymer magazine made by MDT, and it has a three-round capacity, regardless of the cartridge. You release the magazine by pushing a lever in the trigger guard. Also, inside the trigger guard, you'll find an adjustable TriggerTech trigger. The trigger on the test rifle broke crisp and clean at about 3 pounds, and I left it throughout all testing.

The Evoke's barreled action is housed inside a synthetic polymer stock. There are actually four versions of the Evoke, and the different stocks are what set them apart. On the standard Evoke, the stock is a flat OD green color. The Mossy Oak version of the Evoke, which has a retail price of \$948.99, has a stock with the Mossy Oak Bottomland camo finish. Next is the Hunter version of the Evoke. Christensen Arms finishes the Hunter's stock with one of their own camo patterns, and it retails for \$998.99. The final version of the Evoke is the Precision

model. It retails for \$1,048.99; it's the most expensive of the four, but it has Christensen Arms' hex camo pattern, and it also comes with an adjustable carbon-fiber cheek riser.

All versions of the Evoke include a short, three-slot, Picatinny rail section at

the tip of the forend, and this rail section has an integral sling mount attachment point. All Evoke rifles also have what Christensen Arms calls a hybrid grip angle that's nearly perpendicular to the barrel. A very neat and attractive feature of the Evoke's stock is the texturing on



In addition to coming out of the box with a threaded muzzle, the Evoke also comes with a removable, stainless steel, premium RFR muzzle brake.



The radial fluted bolt on the Christensen Arms Evoke rifle has a bolt handle perfectly sized for positive and fast operation.



The bolt on the Christensen Arms Evoke has a plunger-style ejector and an extractor that's kind of a cross between an M16 and Sako-type extractor.

CHRISTENSEN ARMS EVOKE HUNTER



LENGTH: 42 inches

WEIGHT: 7.69 pounds (as tested)

BARREL: 16.25 to 22 inches depending on chambering, with 5/8x24 threaded muzzle and RFR brake

ACTION: Two-lug, 90-degree bolt action

TRIGGER: Adjustable TriggerTech

CAPACITY: 3+1 detachable MDT polymer magazine

FINISH: Cerakote

STOCK: Synthetic/polymer

CHAMBERINGS: .243 Winchester, 6.5 Creedmoor, 6.5 PRC, .270 Winchester, 7mm Remington Magnum, 7mm PRC, 7mm Backcountry, .308 Winchester, .30-06 Springfield, .300 Winchester Magnum, .300 RPC and .350 Legend

PRICE: \$898.99

SHOOTING RESULTS

LOAD	VEL	SD	ENG	PRECISION
Remington 129-grain Core-Lokt Tipped	2,992	27	2,564	1.13
Nosler 140-grain Whitetail Country	2,723	14	2,305	1.21
Hornady 143-grain ELD-X Precision Hunter	2,736	6	2,377	0.61

Notes: Muzzle velocity (VEL), standard deviation (SD) and energy (ENG) were established by firing 10 shots over a chronograph. Reported (PRECISION) reflects the average of three, five-shot groups with each load from a sandbag rest at 100 yards.

AVERAGE: 0.98

and important is the fact the Evoke rifle—regardless of the version—comes with a three-shot, sub-MOA guarantee and a limited lifetime warranty.

RANGE TIME

Before I get into the shooting, I want to address the only issue I experienced with the rifle. Sometimes I struggled to remove the three-round MDT magazine. I could clearly see when I depressed the release that the latch freed the magazine, but sometimes the magazine was just damned stubborn and did not want to come out. At other times it was easy to remove.

Upon further investigation I discovered that I only had the magazine removal issues when I aggressively inserted it. Then, the front of the magazine went just a tad too far in. However, regardless of how I inserted the magazine, it always fed cartridges without failure. If I gently

inserted the magazine, it was easy to remove, but not a drop free. I'm not a fan of a drop-free magazine on a hunting rifle, because I've seen that lead to trouble too many times. Is this an issue endemic to all Evokes? I don't know, but it's something you can check when handling an Evoke before you buy it.

At nearly 7½ pounds, the Evoke is on the heavy side, but I thought the rifle balanced well with a bit of muzzle heaviness for offhand shooting. The 20-inch barrel on the 6.5 Creedmoor version is suppressor friendly, and, as you would expect, a suppressor made the Evoke even more muzzle heavy. Is a muzzle-heavy rifle a bad thing? Yes and no. Muzzle heaviness can help you when shooting off-hand and seems to help stabilize a rifle a bit when shooting from a rest. The only time it becomes a hindrance is when you're trying to handle the rifle swiftly or when trying to track a moving animal for a

the grip panels at the grip and along the forend. Not only does this texturing look good, but it also provides a very sure gripping surface when the rifle is wet. I know this as fact because during the first range session with the rifle, a downpour nearly drowned me and the rifle. Finally,

The Evoke is a new entry-level rifle from Christensen Arms, and it's loaded with the features many modern hunters want.



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The new Evoke rifle from Christensen Arms comes with a lot of features modern hunters demand.

The polymer stock on the Evoke rifle features a near vertical grip, finished with a very attractive and useful texturing.

For those who like to shoot from a bipod or tripod, they will really appreciate the integral section of rail on the tip of the Evoke's forend.

shot. If you have no plans to shoot at moving critters, and if you always at least intend to shoot from a rest, it will not negatively impact your shooting at all.

Speaking of shooting from a rest, the short section of Picatinny rail that's integral to the Evoke's forend was perfect for bipod or tripod attachment. I attached a Spartan Precision Pic rail adapter and did a lot of shooting from their Ascent tripod and their Javelin bipod. If you like to shoot with either a tripod or bipod, you will really, really, appreciate this rail section because it greatly simplifies the process. That short section of Picatinny rail remained solidly attached to the Evoke's stock throughout all the shooting.

I tested three loads in the Evoke for precision while shooting from a sandbag rest at 100 yards, by firing three, five-shot groups with each load. Two of the loads tested averaged just a bit more than an inch, but the rifle really liked Hornady's 143-grain ELD-X Precision Hunter load. Every group fired with that load was less than an inch and the average for three, five-shot groups was a very respectable 0.61 inch.

THE LAST WORD

Like with all rifle manufacturers that offer an affordable, entry-level rifle, I'm sure Christensen Arms hopes that those who purchase an Evoke may someday upgrade to another, higher-end, Christensen Arms rifle like the Ridgeline FFT, which costs about twice as much as the Evoke. That might very well happen, especially since the Ridgeline FFT rifle is noticeably lighter. However, a lot of hunters might very well be content with their Evoke and never purchase another rifle. I think this is a practical possibility, especially if the magazine issue I experienced was just a fluke with the test rifle and not representative of the entire line.

Any way you look at it, the Christensen Arms Evoke is a great representative of how hunting rifle manufacturing has evolved. Christensen Arms has loaded this rifle with many of the features the modern hunter expects, it shoots well, and Christensen is offering it at a fair and reasonable price. **GDTM**

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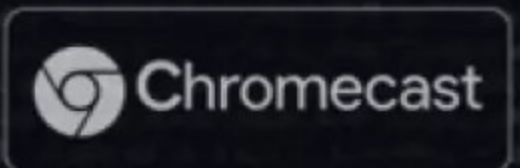
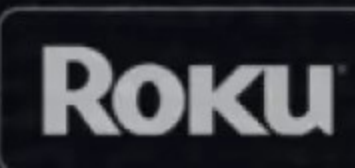
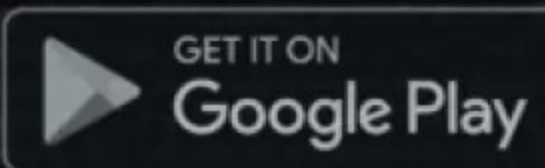
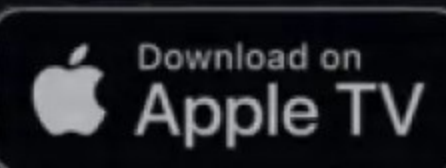
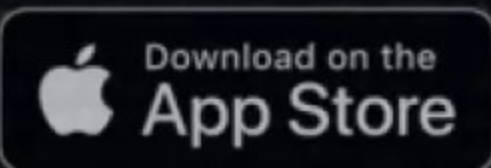
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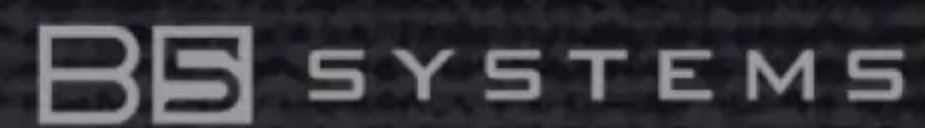
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THE ART OF TORQUE

Screwing parts on guns requires finesse & attention to detail.





The Faxon FX7 in 6 GT is a great long-range platform, especially in an MDT chassis. All the bells and whistles on this gun, from the M-Lok accessories to action screws, Vortex optics package in ADM mount, and the suppressor mount will use different torque specs.

Assembling guns and optics is one of those things that seems to generate a lot of controversy. There are some right ways and some wrong ways to do things—and this, of course, has led to people performing some rituals bordering on voodoo. Everyone seems to have their own way of doing things.

Assembling bolt guns, AR rifles and optics isn't magic—though there are some considerations that you'll want to make as you go about the process. The main factor

to consider is proper torque on your parts and screws, something that has eluded many people over the years.

THE MYSTICS

Gun culture has bred some very interesting subcultures over the years, and many

of these subcultures have become much more intense than just circles of hobbyists. You end up seeing this much more commonly in the old-world way of doing things, where we were working with a limited amount of knowledge and a limited number of available guns. This isn't to say that the old timers had it wrong; they just didn't have standardized parts and a massive aftermarket that peer-reviews itself against consumer demand to deliver more

These are some tools that count as dangerous for many guns during assembly. You can generate a lot more force than you may imagine with simple had tools.

A kit from Fix It Sticks: This little pouch has a myriad of tools that will keep your guns in running condition.

Mounting thermal or night vision, in this case an Armasight Jockey, onto rails and in front of day optics requires high repeatably in mounts and screw tension to achieve the best results. The rifle is a 6mm ARC from PWS and has a slew of advanced features and optics from Vortex.



and more cutting-edge products.

Yet, the lingering effects of these old days remains.

If you wanted a custom hunting rifle, the fashion of the day was to modify military rifles, mainly Mauser, Enfield and Springfield variants. These guns were cheap, ammo was plentiful, and above all they were reliable. The military features were honestly never a problem for accuracy. I personally own and fire many guns over a century old and in full military stocks and had shot in the CMP National Matches at Camp Perry for over 20 years. The limiting factors are scope mounting and iron sights, not necessarily the potential mechanical accuracy of the rifle.

Nevertheless, the gunsmithing boom of the post-World War II era saw most of what we today call “Fudd Lore” propagate.

Our modern day has seen the end of many so-called necessary processes for both guns and optics: bedding actions and lapping scope rings are functionally unnecessary. Because most of our barrels for pistols, bolt guns and AR platforms come pre-headspaced and ready to use out of the box, we have the luxury of needing a few tools to accomplish our own “custom” builds to suit our needs right on a bench top.

However, there are still tools that the

tasks at-hand today demand, namely applying consistency in force and torque for assembly. In this modular era, you still need to have skill to pull off some of these things, and doing it wrong can cause a fair bit of damage to your gear.

DON'T GET SCREWED (LITERALLY)

Most rifles today are assembled with several threaded parts that require a knowledge of torque to install correctly. The AR rifle, for instance, has screws all over it, from grip screws to the buffer tube, muzzle and upper receiver. Because the AR is largely aluminum or some blend of metal incorporating it, we need to be really careful to not cause damage to it, as this is not exactly hard metal and is quite easily damaged. Yes, it is fully possible to assemble an AR too loosely, but you'll notice the wiggle right away.

The only part that I've seen come loose more than a handful of times is the buffer tube castle nut. The part that I've seen installed far too tight is the barrel nut.

People get really upset with this part and sometimes try to force it to index. Don't do this. There are companies that make shims, and it is very possible to shear the front off of your upper.

In my many years of building AR platform rifles, this is an area in which I have made mistakes. Making the barrel nut tighter doesn't mean you're going to make your upper more secure; in fact, you're putting a lot of stress on a relatively thin piece of metal by cranking too aggressively. The AR barrel is already headspaced to the barrel extension, not the upper receiver. The barrel nut simply holds it in place.

Likewise, the other parts on the AR don't need to be adjusted with a cheater bar: You don't need to get most of the threaded parts over hand-tight. For instance, there is no reason to apply 100 ft-lb to the grip screw. When I build an AR, I never apply more than 65 ft-lb to anything. You can break or damage parts very easily, and to make it worse, the harder you go the more deformed the threads



Tightening castle nuts can be done with small tools as well as big ones ... although it is far easier to damage parts with more leverage.



This Geissele handguard has recommended torque specs engraved.

LOCTITE

I get asked a lot about Loctite. A number of thread lockers are out there, but Loctite is the most well-known brand, and I think the best. That said, if you want to seriously damage your guns, start a Loctite crusade. Not every part needs thread locker, and in many cases, people seriously overestimate how few times a properly fitted screw will start to loosen.

I use Loctite Blue on many parts that are not under heat stress, such as action screws on bolt guns and on occasion a minor dab on ring cap screws, but this is rare. Loctite Red is one that I use only on suppressor mounts and receiver screws for scope mounts I absolutely don't want moving or being removed. I use Loctite Red on my suppressor mounts because I don't want to have my mounts come off with my cans, simple as that.

I never use Loctite of any kind on suppressors or anywhere on an AR except installing a muzzle device that will be interacting with a suppressor. Never use it on a bolt-action barrel or on an AR barrel nut. You need heat to get the threadlocker to soften, and the metals used in these places shouldn't get exposed to a torch.

Play it safe and, if you have a doubt about threadlocker, don't use it.



can get, making a rebuild or parts swap difficult.

Many people don't realize you can very easily apply, potentially, hundreds of pounds of force on a screw with just your hands. Crushing things together deforms them, and this will come into play far more as you keep reading.

People who are unfamiliar with guns think they are indestructible, but in reality many guns and optical assemblies are quite delicate. You can damage a \$2,000 rifle by over tightening the action screws. If they are specced out for 65 pounds, don't make it 200 just to make it stronger—that doesn't work that way.

In this article, we see an MDT chassis, and it comes with explicit instructions to tighten action screws to 65 pounds. When you tighten to this amount, you can make note that you can obviously go a little more, but don't. These are hardened steel screws going into a hardened steel action, sandwiching an aluminum chassis. You can, in fact, create crushing damage to all parts involved by going too hard. If things are too loose, you'll induce damage by simply beating the parts to death under recoil. Scopes are a big one here; a loose scope is typically going to be a broken scope. Withstanding recoil is what they are designed for and should have no movement front-to-back.

BOLT IT ON

Bolt-action customization is a growing trend for home builders. Where this used to be the territory of the AR,

many bench tops are now equipped with barrel vices for installing barrels onto receivers. Several companies offer pre-fit barrels that work with their own receivers and some aftermarket as well. The three main brands I use are Faxon, Aero and Zermatt.

It's much easier to get involved in the bolt gun trend than ever before. The main accessory you'll need is a barrel vice, which will bolt to your bench and then clamp around the barrel. I use an off-the-shelf model from Brownells with wooden inserts.

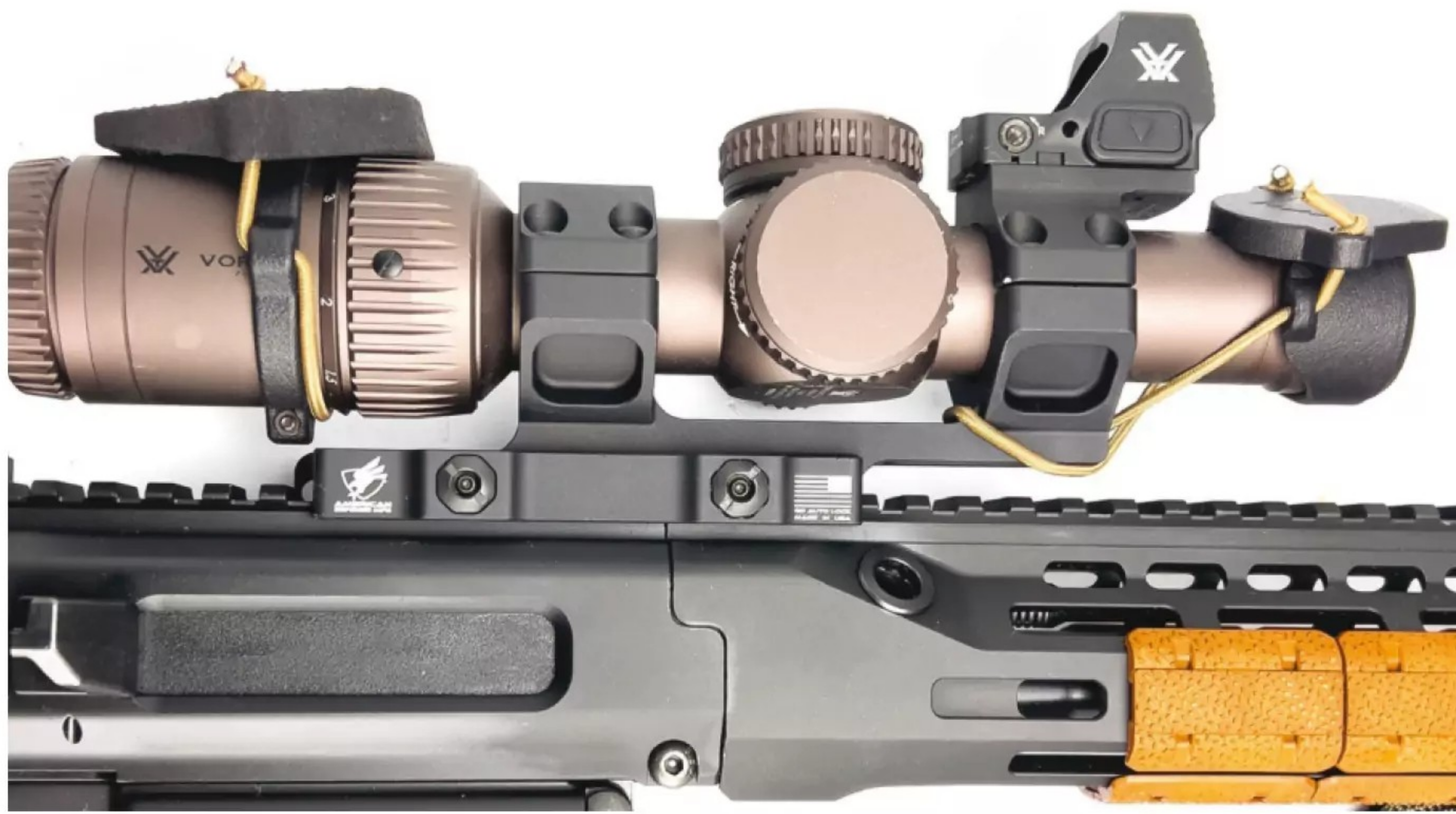
The next things you'll need are action-specific wrenches. Usually, the company that makes the action has their own wrenches. For instance, I have one each for Faxon and Aero that insert into the receiver, allowing the use of a ratchet to turn the action at its lugs. Do not ever attempt to put a screwdriver or file to pry into the ejection port and tighten it down—this is dangerous. You'd be surprised at how easy it is to bend or break a receiver.

Most barrels aren't held on with a million pounds of force either, usually just around 65 to 70 pounds. This might seem light, but we're dispelling the old knowledge at the same time as we're making progress. The old-world guns were sometimes cryogenically bonded with their barrels, meaning the barrels were installed on the receivers after being essentially shrunk in a deep freeze and then timed to the action. As it heated up, it swelled into the



Pictured here is a highly destructive item that can cause serious damage to your property. The other is Hornady 6 GT match

This Vortex 1-6 with a piggybacked Vortex red dot in an ADM mount has several types of screws and levers, all of which need to be adjusted to different specs. Be careful to use the correct torque specs for each type.



receiver ... thus bonding them. Getting these barrels off an action was usually destructive to the barrel and not great for the actions either.

About half of my actions have integral optic rails machined directly in. Others like legacy Rem 700 and even new Zermatt actions have a separate scope rail. This isn't a big deal, but it does also come with some interesting problems. These screws are often very delicate and easily damaged. The very small size and fine thread makes for a bad day if you strip them out. Being careful and closely following recommended torque



I want on the rail and move the rings to where they look and function best. The ring nuts should be on the same side. Then, I put the ring caps on and again only loosely tighten them to where I can still move the scope to level it. Next, I push each ring forward in its rail slot and tighten them down to recommended poundage. After, I level and finalize placement of the scope and again follow recommended poundage to slowly tighten each screw down. I only do one ring at a time to prevent excess movement. Do not try to “crush” the rings down.

If you're using a mount, the same thought processes apply, but you'll want to install and tighten it to the receiver first, be it with QD levers like on my ADM mounts here or classic nuts like on the Badger Ordnance. I again repeat my ring cap steps after leveling it out. To make things faster for myself, I use an old forend on a tripod to create a perfectly flat, uniform plane for all my QD and one-piece mounts. This has bubble levels all over it and allows me to quickly get a reticle leveled without having to try to put levels on my guns. This is a uniforming method that works really well. All you need is a tripod, little ARCA plate and an AR forend with some rail-mounted bubble levels.



Fix It Sticks torque limiters come in various poundage, and you'll want to make sure you have the right one for your task.

Special products often have special tools. For instance, the Vortex Impact 4000 range-finder has a special nut key to tighten it on.



Handguns also benefit from specialized tools, and nowadays as we mount optics to slides, the need to limit torque and keep fine screws from damage is only increasing.

settings is critical here. This is the one area on a bolt gun that I do use strong Loctite, but that is a personal choice, and I tend to leave my optic bases in place once they are installed. I treat this as a permanent situation. You will absolutely want to use a torque limiter even if you are working with Loctite.

SCOPE MOUNTING PROBLEMS

Scope mounting should be done from the ground up. There are schools of thought that say otherwise, but I treat it as radiating from the receiver. Once your base is installed, you need to install the rings to the base—but only loosely. I typically set my scopes where

PLAY IT SAFE

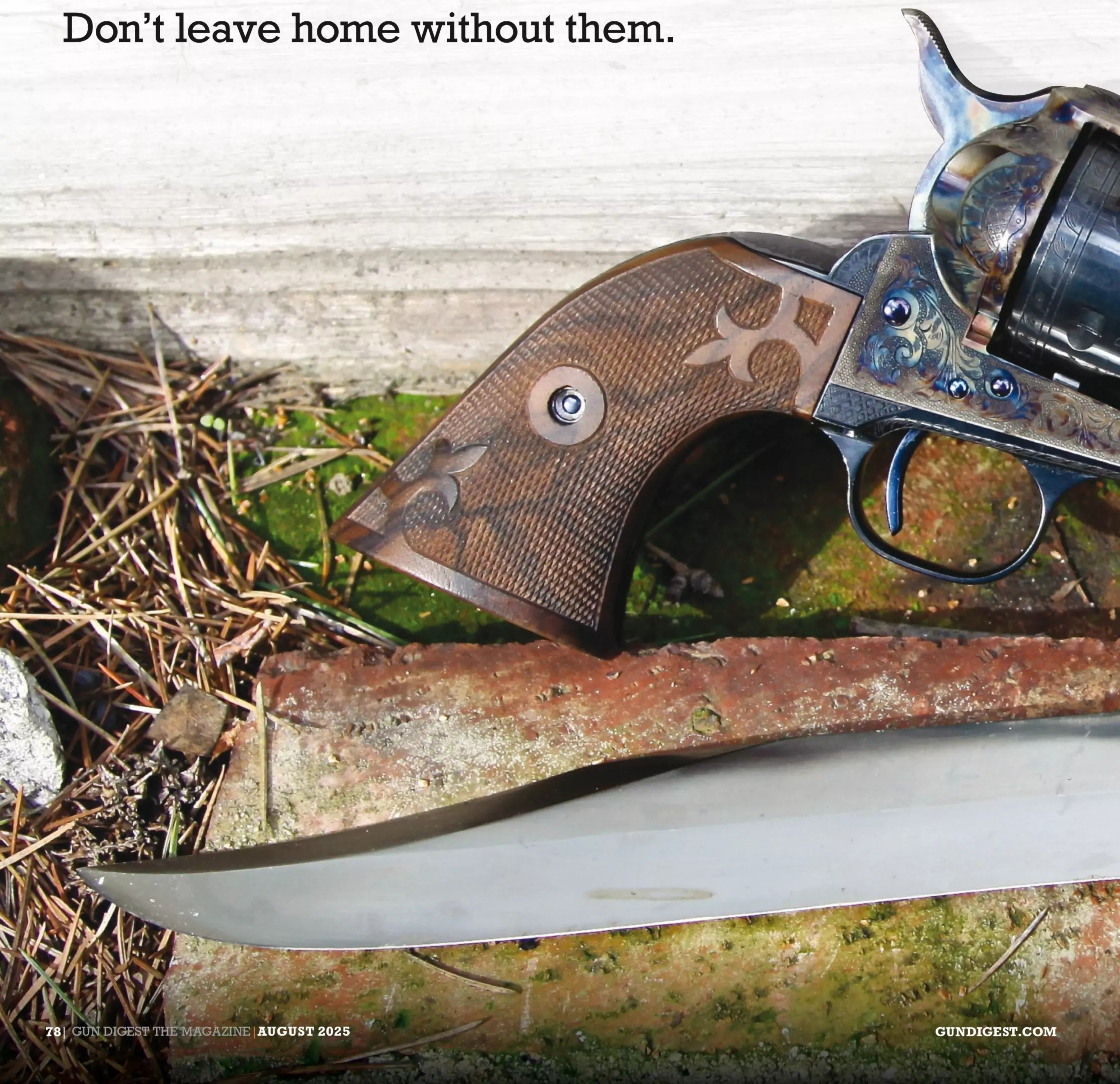
The main takeaway you should get from this rambling prose is to take it easy with your gear and follow recommendations. Under-tight screws create unsafe situations, loss of accuracy and damage to parts. Over-tight parts are prone to breakage, inconsistent accuracy and damage during both assembly and disassembly.

The middle road here of getting it right is still an art. Sure, some barreled actions may shoot better at a higher level of torque, but don't assume that you need to go from 65 pounds to 130 just to make it “better.”

When it comes to torque, more is rarely better. Follow the recommended specs on your parts and enjoy the pleasures of building. **GDTM**

CAMPFIRE HANDGUNS

Don't leave home without them.



The night was bitterly cold and pitch black except for the faint silvery starlight that helped guide my horse and me down the steep mountainside. We made our way toward the distant glow of what I knew to be our base camp on this, my third unfruitful day of a Rocky Mountain elk hunt. Upon nearing the welcome glow and warmth of the campfire, I reined up, drew my still unfired .54-caliber Hawken from its saddle scabbard and dismounted just as the camp cook came running out of the tent screaming, "That gosh-darned, son-of-gun field mouse has been in the flour sack ag'in and they ain't gonna be no biscuits if this keeps up!"

Of course, he didn't say, "Gosh-darned, son-of-a-gun." He used words that were more of a colloquial nature. But the message was clear enough when I entered the tent and saw several small holes gnawed in the flour sack. And as if to torment poor "Cookie" further, the tiny field mouse poked its head out from around the flour sack at that very moment and stared at us.

"Let me handle this," I whispered as I silently sat down on a bench, quietly cocked the hammer of the Hawken, and set the rear trigger. Then, slowly raising the rifle to my shoulder and lining up the rear buckhorn sight with the front blade until it was perfectly positioned on the field mouse, I touched off the shot. The voluminous roar of the Hawken was accompanied by a thick,

white tent-filled cloud of FFG smoke that momentarily obscured everything from sight. But as the haze slowly drifted out the open tent flap into the night, we could barely make out what little remained of our furry antagonist.

I admit this was a case of being overgunned for the occasion, but at the time, the Hawken was all I had. Much later, I found myself lamenting that I hadn't brought my Smith & Wesson K-22 along on this hunt, as it clearly would have gotten the job done just as efficiently and much less dramatically. Since then, I have always packed a pistol along on any outdoor outing where it's legal to do so.

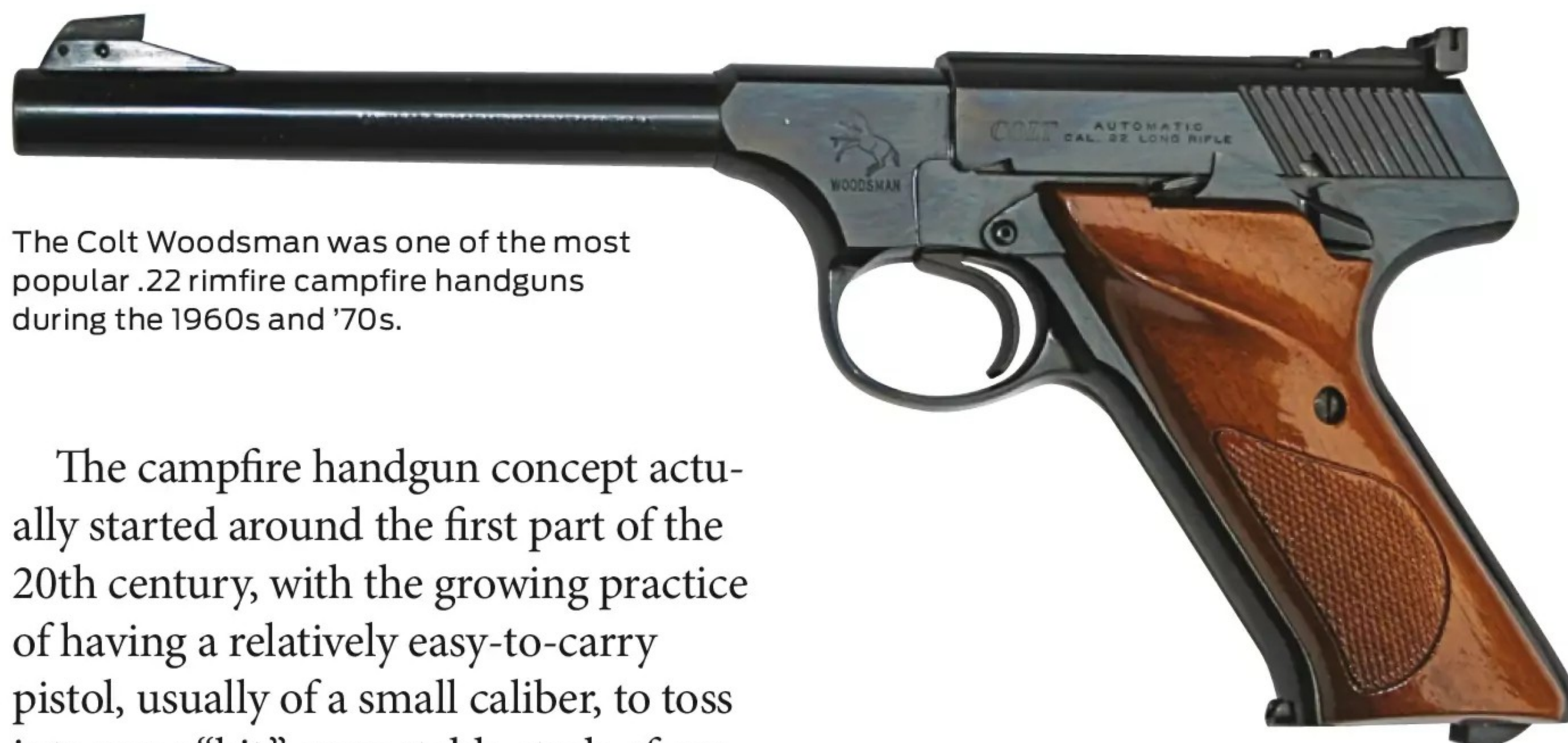
I'm not talking about hunting handguns here. In fact, it is just the opposite, as many of those big-bore bruisers are often too bulky for a hip holster and, outfitted with a scope or other



Some might think this "C" engraved, blued and casehardened Standard Manufacturing Single Action with *fleur-de-lis* grips might be too pretty to take on a hunting trip. However, Hacker finds it makes for an ideal campfire handgun, where it's not exposed to the scratching and dinging hazards of the trail and instead earns bragging rights during informal target practice afterward. Despite being collectible, he also finds his Randall Sportsman's Bowie just as useful. All Photos: Rick Hacker

sighting reticle as many of them are today, too awkward to toss in a backpack or tuck away in your bedroll. Rather, I'm referring to "campfire handguns," one essential tool many outdoorsmen and women never think about or take with them when hiking or hunting or just to accompany them on a picnic in the woods. And as such, they don't realize their omission until they need it. Or wish they had it. Or until it's too late.

More specifically, these are those handy sidearms—single-actions, double-actions, or semi-automatics—that many of us pack on our hips when we're back at camp and not otherwise lugging around a heavier and more cumbersome rifle or shotgun. Campfire handguns don't take up much room in a backpack yet are a source of comfort when outdoors, especially when unwanted critters—whether on four legs, two, or slither—invade our space. Yes, campfire handguns can be a definite source of self-protection and leisure-time enjoyment, such as après-hunt plinking. And while grabbing a .30-'06 to eradicate a food-nibbling squirrel (or using a big-bored muzzleloader as I did) may be the ultimate form of overkill, drawing a .22 and dispatching the little thief is not only more effective but, in many ways, can be a form of therapy, especially when we haven't pulled the trigger on anything else thus far on a hunting trip. This, again, brings to mind that particular elk hunt.



The Colt Woodsman was one of the most popular .22 rimfire campfire handguns during the 1960s and '70s.

The campfire handgun concept actually started around the first part of the 20th century, with the growing practice of having a relatively easy-to-carry pistol, usually of a small caliber, to toss into your "kit," or portable stash of supplies that you carried for the day, which was often a saddle bag, fishing creel, tackle box, or even a lunch bucket. Although the term soon morphed into widespread usage, it got official recognition in 1936 when Smith & Wesson introduced the 22/32 Kit Gun, a .22 rimfire double-action revolver built on a slightly larger .32-caliber frame. Eventually discontinued due to lagging sales coupled with World War II, this style of handgun (medium frame, small caliber) was reintroduced in 1953 in an improved model as S&W's "22/32 Kit Gun, Model of 1953." Thus, the kit gun nomenclature was officially re-established for a new generation of shooters. Today, Smith & Wesson still makes a dramatically updated version of this trend-setting pistol as its eight-shot Model 317 Kit Gun. Of course, nowadays, numerous other handguns qualify for the title of kit gun. However, that term has matured to include some

larger-framed and bigger-caliber versions to become campfire handguns.

But from the 1920s through the '50s, some .22 rimfire pistols seemed tailor-made for outdoor outings. Back then, various models of the Colt Woodsman and Hi-Standard semi-autos were some of the most popular guns with which to punch holes in tin cans, not to mention rabbits, squirrels and prairie dogs. After all, if you didn't hit your target with the first shot, you would have a magazine full of repeat shots to continue trying your rapid-fire luck with low-cost .22 rimfire cartridges.

But beginning in 1949, these guns gradually gave way to ones like the more affordable Ruger Standard—the gun that launched Sturm, Ruger & Co. into the stratosphere of success. At the time, a High Standard G-B Hammerless was selling for \$50, and Colt's fixed-sight Sport Model Woodsman went for approximately \$69, but the original version of Ruger's first .22 semi-auto listed for only \$37.50. Today, that gun is still in the line, although it has undergone several changes. As of this writing, it currently exists as the 75th Anniversary Mark IV and various Tactical and Competition models exist. But countless numbers of the original versions of Colt, Hi-Standard, and Ruger .22 semi-automatics are still found as regular staples in backpacks and camping gear throughout the country. However, some of these earlier guns have also attained collectible status.

The aforementioned S&W K-22 revolver is also in the category of campfire handguns turned collectible, as is the



Hacker is a big fan of packing his 4-inch-barrel S&W Model 29 in camp when you don't know who or what might show up.



This Ruger Super Single Six Convertible, with its adjustable sights and extra .22 Mag cylinder, is an ideal campfire handgun.

early Ruger Flatgate Single Six, which first appeared in 1953 and was initially priced at \$57.50. Many modern-day shooters don't even know of its existence, as it only lasted for four years, after which it began being made with a more traditionally styled rounded loading gate. To its credit, the Ruger Single Six is still in the line and, for me, is one of the best campfire guns you can take along on a fishing or hunting trip (especially the Super Single Six Convertible, which has an extra cylinder chambered in .22 Magnum). And let us not forget the Colt Frontier Scout, a scaled-down .22 rimfire version of the famed Single Action Army, produced from 1958 until 1986; it was a go-to thumb-buster for many who couldn't opt for the pricier SAA. Those vintage guns still serve that purpose today, although I have seen more than one three-digit offer being made to a fellow hunter who just happened to bring his Scout along as a campfire handgun.

In 1973, Ruger revamped its line to include the New Model Single Six, which features a transfer bar that enables the gun to be carried with six rounds instead of five. Now, there is even a New Model Single Seven and a New Model Single Nine, giving you even more thumb-cocking fun without reloading after the sixth shot. But for me, one of the most fun campfire guns is the Ruger Bearcat, a compact, fixed sight .22 sixgun that—especially in its

stainless steel configuration—can be tossed in a tackle box or slid into a coat pocket with nary a care. And Ruger's new .22 Wrangler, which combines zinc and aluminum to keep costs and weight to a minimum, is one of the newest and most economical campfire revolvers yet.

Of course, .22 rimfire handguns are the most cost-effective ways to plink away at tin cans and sticks and, yes, even pieces of leftover fruit (hollowpoints

and oranges at 20 paces, anyone?), but bigger-bored handguns, such as a .44 Special, .45 Colt, or even a .44 Magnum can be much more effective on larger furbearers and other unwanted visitors who may have more than a few nibbles of crackers on their mind.

For example, as the only non-Texan member of a ragtag deer hunting group known as the Rio Concho Association, I used to pack a .44 Special Smith & Wesson Second Model Hand Ejector on our annual deer hunts in Texas. Inasmuch as we were hunting on a ranch owned by one of the Association's members and since deer season overlapped with turkey season and javelinas were rampant, there was no telling what one might encounter as we traipsed through the scrub brush. On subsequent hunts, I often took one of my S&W Model 29s, usually loaded with .44 Specials but sometimes stoked with full-powered .44 Magnums, depending upon what I was hunting and where. In truth, I am rather partial to bigger-bored campfire handguns—or at least I was until the current availability and



The Lipsey's Ruger Shopkeeper is a limited edition of the Bearcat. It features a bird's-head grip and a shorter 3-inch barrel, making it an ideal close-range campfire handgun.



The single-action Ruger Blackhawk is a highly versatile campfire handgun. It's available in .357 Magnum (shown), .41 Remington Magnum, .45 Colt and .30 Carbine and is compatible with certain rifles.

ammo cost have made me think twice about each campside shot I take.

In my opinion, double-action revolvers require a bit more care than single-actions as campfire guns, as cylinder latches can be accidentally opened on some DA guns as they are shoved into pouches and backpacks. So, I advise keeping these wheelguns in a holster, whether on your belt or stored in your pack, and a pistol case is ideal for transporting handguns safely to your campsite. Galco and 1791 both make revolver and semi-automatic leather holsters with quick on-again-off-again steel belt clips for those times when you want to shuck your handgun quickly and easily and, just as quickly, reattach it to your belt. For those occasions, I've recently been using 1791's new IWB Fair Chase Deer Hide Holster for my Smith & Wesson Model 36 with its rarely encountered 3-inch barrel.

Since semi-autos are sometimes more complicated to operate than revolvers, they require more diligence in their campsite use. For example, by simply swinging out the cylinder on a double-action revolver, one can quickly confirm whether or not the gun is loaded. However, an "empty" semi-automatic pistol might still have a round in the chamber even though the magazine has been removed. Leisure shooting is no

time to let your guard down or ignore the basic rules of gun safety.

This might be a good place to caution picnickers and hunters who will be away from their campsites for any length of time to keep their handguns out of sight and secure them from unwanted access, as visitors to your camp may not be just "visiting," but are more intent on looting. It's a sad commentary, but some people steal things when you're not around. That means

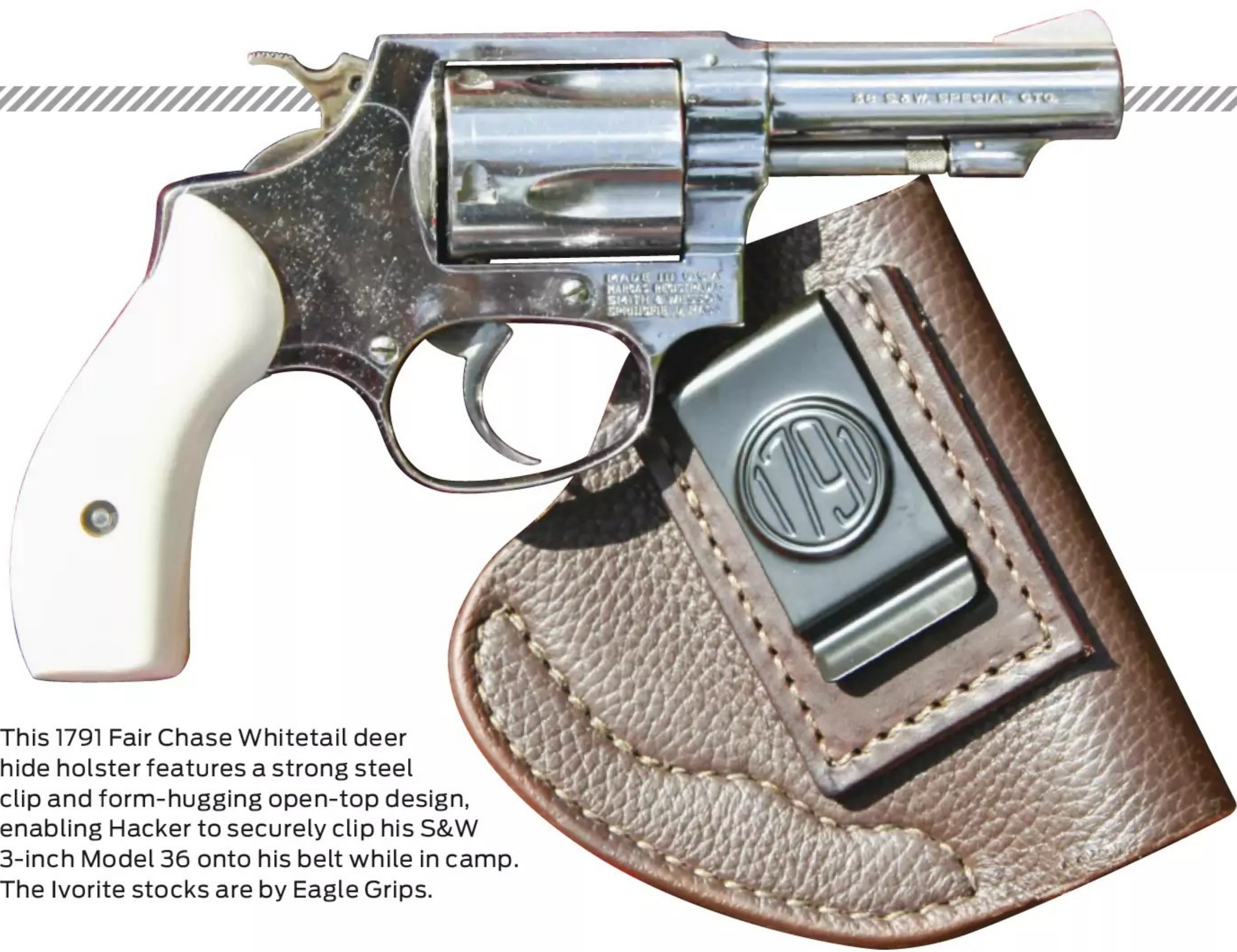
either taking the gun with you, locking it in the glove compartment of your car or truck, or, better yet, securing it in an attached gun safe that is permanently installed in your vehicle. But sometimes, this isn't always feasible in a wilderness camp where the terrain isn't conducive to four-wheel drive, or vehicles aren't allowed. In that case, the only other option is to clandestinely hide the handgun while away from your campsite. However, speaking from personal experience, there is such a thing as hiding it too well.

Once, on a deer hunt with one of my buddies in the rugged mountains on the eastern side of the Sierra Nevadas, we had to hike in for two hours to get to where the "big bucks" were. That meant packing in with all our gear, including my pre-64 Winchester Model 70. But I also took a 3-inch-barreled Third Model Colt Single Action Army Sheriff's Model for my campfire handgun, rationalizing that the shorter barrel would cut down weight. The fact is, I just wanted to have that gun along on this hunting trip.

When it came time to start hunting at the break of dawn, I began worrying about leaving that highly desirable Sheriff's Model in camp, even though



Kimber only made its excellent 1911-styled .22 Rimfire Super from 2004 to 2015 but currently produces the .22 Rimfire Compact and .22 Rimfire Target Conversion Kits for many of its .45 ACP pistols, turning them into economical guns for informal campfire plinking.



This 1791 Fair Chase Whitetail deer hide holster features a strong steel clip and form-hugging open-top design, enabling Hacker to securely clip his S&W 3-inch Model 36 onto his belt while in camp. The Ivorite stocks are by Eagle Grips.

we were in an extremely remote area. In fact, during our hunt, we discovered an old cowboy's grave from 1910 that had never been touched. Nonetheless, I hid the sixgun so well that I couldn't remember where I had hidden it when we returned to camp after a grueling day climbing over rocks and battling through blowdowns! I spent the better part of the night looking for that sixshooter and finally had to wait until daylight to continue my search when I found it securely ensconced in the crotch of an old, weathered tree. It cost me half a day's hunting, but I didn't lose my campfire handgun.

By far, the safest handgun to have in camp is a single-action revolver, as, assuming the hammer is resting over an empty chamber (on non-transfer bar models), there is no way the gun can be fired unless the hammer is manually pulled back and the trigger depressed. Naturally, one of my favorite single-action revolvers is the Colt Peacemaker, which, if you think about it, started as the first popular campfire handgun over a century ago. However, as the value and scarcity of these SAAs have grown over the years (have you priced a Third Generation Colt SAA lately?) I find myself opting for alternatives. One of the best is the extremely well-made Standard Manufacturing Single Action, an identically proportioned mirror image of the SAA. Yes, they cost about as much as a factory-new Colt SAA, but

they are much more readily available and boast all-steel parts. It is a solid, quality gun in every respect, and my engraved .45 version, with its 4¾-inch barrel, is destined to continue with me on many of my campfire handgun adventures, maintaining a tradition I started over 40 years ago.

In fact, the first campfire handgun I ever took with my hunting rifle was a first-generation Colt Single Action Army, which proved its value right out of the starting gate on a big game hunt in the Cedar Flats area of Arizona. Late one night, induced by nature's call, I was compelled to leave the sanctity of my warm sleeping bag. Not wishing to take my Winchester 71 on what would invariably be a two-handed endeavor, I grabbed the .45 Colt instead and ventured into the blackness outside my tent. The unmistakable "whirr" of a buzz-worm ("rattlesnake" to you flatlanders) prompted me to freeze in my tracks instinctively. My flashlight immediately confirmed my fears, for the culprit was starting to coil and getting ready to strike. Barely able to use the Peacemaker's rudimentary sights, I fired three quick shots as fast as my thumb could work the hammer. Honesty compels me to admit that only one of those shots hit its mark, but it made me a believer in the value of always taking a campfire handgun along on hunting and camping trips. **GDTM**

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HI HO, SILVER!

Henry Repeating Arms' Long Ranger: The 6.5 Creedmoor gains leverage.

The 6.5 Creedmoor, the world's most popular rifle cartridge choice, doesn't need any help making new friends. Regardless, Henry Repeating Arms, a company that prides itself on its all-American firearms "DNA," did just that when it introduced the low-recoiling, flat-shooting, .264-caliber cartridge to one of America's final firearms frontier void of the Creedmoor hype. It was a good idea.

You're welcome, lever-action crowd.

Henry's firearms platform of choice for this introduction, the Long Ranger,

made perfect sense to me. The Long Ranger is the redheaded stepchild of the lever-action rifle world, because it feeds its action cartridges from a box magazine instead of a tube.

Now, the folks at Henry absolutely know how to make fantastic traditional, tube-fed lever-action rifles, but that's not really the point right now. No, the "point" here can be found at the end of the bullets that a rifle such as the Long Ranger can use over traditional tube-fed lever-action rifles.

This nontraditional twist to the lever-action rifle design defeats a lever-action rifle's Achilles' heel for long-range shooting potential, which rests in the bullets and not the action, due to the need to limit the use of round- or even flat-nosed bullets in a tubular magazine.



Once shooters can use long-range cartridges with long-range, spire-pointed bullets, there's no reason, mechanically speaking, that a lever-action rifle can't be a long-range weapon—no matter how much of a bad taste it leaves in the mouth of many lever-action purists who refuse to digest the reality that lever-action rifles can, and should, shoot long-range cartridges such as the .308 Winchester, .243 Winchester—and, yes, the 6.5 Creedmoor—in their rifles.

UPPING THE MAX EFFECTIVE RANGE

“The notion that we ‘ruined’ this cartridge by putting it into a lever-action platform is, of course, ill-conceived,” said Henry Repeating Arms’ Daniel Clayton-Luce. “Our Long Ranger rifle uses a six-lug rotary locking head at the bolt face, so it locks up just like a bolt-action. This, in conjunction with a free-floated sporter barrel and a gear-driven bolt, means that we’re taking full advantage of the cartridge. We didn’t cut corners here just to

add a hot, new caliber to our lineup. We knew we wanted to add 6.5 Creedmoor to our lineup, but we also wanted to make sure we did it correctly.”

The Henry Long Ranger lever-action rifle isn't new for 2019; Henry has been making them for quite a while. What's new—but not a shock to anyone who pays attention to rifle cartridge sales charts—is adding the 6.5 Creedmoor for 2019.

“As with almost everything that we build, it's because our customers requested something that could reach out a bit farther than the .30-30 and .45-70 that we carried before the release of the Long Ranger rifle,” said Clayton-Luce. “Obviously, those are two great, capable cartridges, but they fall short beyond 200 yards. For those looking to hunt with a Henry in areas that require shots past that distance, the Long Ranger is a great choice. With the release of this platform, we took the max effective range of our product line from 200 yards to beyond 500 yards. It's a huge step up in performance.”

The Long Ranger lever-action rifle was the perfect choice for the world's first production model lever-action rifle chambered in 6.5 Creedmoor, because the only tradition Henry insisted it have was the Henry all-American-built genetics. Thus, it could absolutely utilize the full potential of the long-range 6.5 Creedmoor.

The rifle operates, as I've stated, with a removable box magazine that feeds the lever-operated, six-lugged rotary bolt for a consistent, tight and reliable lockup like a bolt-action rifle. The 6.5 Creedmoor version of the Long Ranger sports a 22-inch, 1:8-twist rifle barrel; and, believe it or not, when the trigger is pulled and the firing pin engages the primer on the 6.5 Creedmoor cartridge, it sends a ballistically high-coefficient, pointed, and maybe even boat-tailed, bullet down the barrel that neither knows nor cares that a follow-up shot will come from a lever-action and not a bolt-action. I know the Wyoming pronghorn I shot at 187 yards didn't care; nor did the sub-MOA 100-yard groups I shot with both Hornady



The Henry Repeating Arms Long Ranger is now available in 6.5 Creedmoor.

The Henry Long Ranger is fed via box magazine rather than the conventional tube mag.

and Federal factory ammunition. My chronograph didn't care either. In fact, there's no asterisk in the Magneto Speed manual for adjusting velocities because of the gun's action. The speeds I got were what they ought to be for a 22-inch-barreled rifle.

The bottom line is that the 6.5 Creedmoor in a lever-action rifle that can use the cartridge's high-BC bullets with a proper barrel length to gain factory-standard velocities works quite well—and fast. How fast? The lever-action rifle won the West, didn't it? Hell, quite a few cowboys probably could have lived a little longer if their lever-action rifles could reach out and touch threats at 600 to 1,000 yards as the 6.5 Creedmoor can and does.

NO CHEESE JOKES, PLEASE

Let's take a closer look at the Henry Long Ranger chambered in 6.5 Creedmoor from Henry Repeating Arms. The rifle is built in Wisconsin (save the cheese jokes. This rifle *shoots*).

The lever-action rifle features side cartridge ejection, which makes it easier to mount an optic. It has a lightweight, aerospace alloy receiver, is drilled and tapped for scope

mounts and, as I mentioned earlier, uses a steel-bodied, flush-fit detachable magazine. My review rifle came without iron sights, but you can order your rifle with them installed.

My rifle's sights were a little different than OEM, however. I had the luxury of having my Henry Long Ranger sent to Andy Larsson, owner of Skinner Sights. He customized the rifle with a Ruger No.1 front sight and his Skinner Express quick-detachable sight with integral rear peep. Built to use South Carolina-manufactured Talley's Quick Detachable Rings, Montana-made Skinner Sights' optics mounting system allowed me to mount an Oregon-made Leupold VX3i 4.5-14x40mm rifle scope and still have quite usable mechanical sights at the ready for a scheduled Wyoming pronghorn hunt with the rifle.

The Larsson customization didn't end with sights, however. Andy's wife, Sheila, officially named the rifle "Vic Moretti," after the fiery woman deputy in the popular Western book and television series, *Longmire*. Sheila's logic was that the rifle's first hunt was in Gillette, which isn't far from Buffalo, Wyoming, where *Longmire* is (fictionally) based. The rifle featured a free-floated,

22-inch barrel sandwiched between a two-piece, oil-finished American walnut stock with laser-cut checkering, sling swivel studs and a black solid-rubber recoil pad.

BOY, DOES THIS RIFLE SHOOT!

How did the rifle perform? I tested it in two places: Manassas (Virginia) and Gillette (Wyoming). In Virginia, the rifle grouped a bit just south of 1-inch groups to just north of 1.5-inch groups at the rifle range. Factory



HENRY LONG RANGER

BARREL LENGTH: 22 inches
 Barrel Type: Blued steel
 Rate of Twist: 1:8
 Overall Length: 42.5 inches
 Weight: 7 pounds
 Receiver Finish: Hard-anodized, black
 Rear Sight: None
 Front Sight: None
 Scopeability: Drilled and tapped
 Scope Mount Type: Included
 Stock Material: American walnut
 Buttplate/Pad: Black solid-rubber recoil pad
 Length of Pull: 14 inches
 Safety: Transfer bar
 Best Uses: Target/hunting/large game
 Embellishments/Extras: Swivel studs; removable magazine; hammer extension and scope mount included
 MSRP: \$1,066

The author's rifle wears a Leupold VX3i 4.5-14x40mm optic mounted in Talley rings and attached to a Skinner Sights Skinner Express mount. The 6.5 CM lever gun uses a six-lug rotary bolt to chamber the magazine-fed cartridge.



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The author's Henry Long Ranger uses Talley Quick-Detach Rings, which enabled him to choose either the Skinner Sights peep system or the Leupold VX3i 4.5-14x40mm riflescope.

ammunition included Nosler, Hornady, Barnes, Federal and Black Hills.

Which ammunition shot best? It was the Hornady Precision Hunter 143-grain ELD-X loads, which averaged 2,693 fps and a best three-shot group of 0.880 inch. Right behind the Hornady 143-grain ELD-X loads were the steadfast Federal Fusion 140-grainers, which scooted a bit faster (2,711 fps), but grouped a pronghorn hair wider at 0.988 inch. The Barnes 127-grainers, Nosler 140-grainers and Black Hills 140-grainers all grouped over an inch. Of note is that the Barnes loads improved dramatically the more I shot the gun. After

about 200 rounds into the use of the rifle, the Barnes 127-grain groups dropped from nearly 2 inches to just about 1.25 inches.

The Gillette, Wyoming, test was a bit simpler. I tested the rifle once on a mature pronghorn buck at 187 yards, and the rifle grouped the Hornady 143-grain ELD-X bullet "minute-of-lungs." Now, 187 yards on a pronghorn isn't exactly a valid "long-range" test of the Long Ranger or the 6.5 Creedmoor, but that's not the point.

Regardless, you can decide for yourself which of these two tests makes a difference to you ... but I'd grade both as "passed." **GDTM**



The magazine is the key to the Henry Long Ranger's use of cartridges with pointed bullets such as the 6.5 Creedmoor. The side ejection on the Henry Long Ranger enables the shooter to mount both mechanical and optical sights, such as this Skinner Express peep sight and the Talley/Leupold riflescope combination on the author's rifle.

HENRY'S SIDE GATE LEVER ACTION ADDS .45-70 GOVERNMENT AND .410 BORE CHAMBERINGS

Henry Repeating Arms' Side Gate Lever Action rifle is both a tube-fed and side gate-loaded lever-action rifle that was once only available in .38-55, .30-30 Winchester and .35 Remington. As of November 1, 2019, Henry began offering the .45-70 Government and the .410 Bore as two more choices for lever-action fans who want the side gate.

NEW FROM HENRY REPEATING ARMS

CLASSIC LEVER-ACTION .22 LR SHOTSHELL

Henry Repeating Arms has released an 18.5-inch, smooth-bored .22 LR lever-action rifle designed to maximize the use of .22 LR shot shells. According to Henry, by using a smooth bore, the barrel is better able to group the shotshell pattern for a more effective pattern.

BARREL LENGTH: 22 inches

Barrel Type: Blued steel

Rate of Twist: 1:8

Overall Length: 42.5 inches

Weight: 7 pounds

Receiver Finish: Hard-anodized, black

Rear Sight: None

Front Sight: None

Scopeability: Drilled and tapped

Scope Mount Type: Included

Stock Material: American walnut

Buttplate/Pad: Black solid-rubber recoil pad

Length of Pull: 14 inches

Safety: Transfer bar

Best Uses: Target/hunting/large game

Embellishments/Extras: Swivel studs; removable magazine; hammer extension and scope mount included

MSRP: \$1,066

LEVER GUNS



CLASSIC

01 Henry Big Boy Steel Carbine

Henry and lever-action rifles go together like chocolate and peanut butter, so you shouldn't be surprised to see Henry topping this list. And, in the words of one of GDTM's columnists and feature writers, "I've been a fan of the .327 Federal Magnum cartridge since its inception." This rifle is a sweet-shooting little carbine that comes with a ladder-style leaf rear sight and a brass-beaded front. Perhaps the top feature is the lack of an extra safety: The hammer and trigger are the safety—which is exactly the way a lever-gun should be. But don't let the "Steel" designation in the rifle's name fool you: The rifle, as well as the .327 Federal Mag. cartridge, are capable of taming so much more than targets.

MSRP: \$893

MODERN TOUCH

02 Marlin 336 Dark Series

According to GDTM Editor-in-Chief Luke Hartle, "The Marlin 336 Dark is making lever-guns cool again." The most noticeable feature is as functional as it is stunning: a hard-coat textured paint on the stock. Others include a black, Parkerized metal finish, XS Sights' Lever Rail and a 16-inch barrel with a threaded muzzle. It even comes with a paracord-wrapped big-loop lever and sling. This is an extremely handy and rugged rifle that's feeding into the small—but quickly expanding—trend of shooters who want a legacy platform with a modern look.

MSRP: \$949

CUSTOM

03 Marlin Custom Shop 1895 Modern Lever Hunter

The 1985 Modern Lever Hunter is one of the Custom Shop's top sellers. It's configured very similarly to the Model 1895 SBL, but it's shipped with a tuned action and a variety of finishes on the metal and wood to suit your palate. This is another of Richard Mann's top pics, and the one he shoulders is covered in Cerakote: It's black on all the metal parts and sports a cool, unique camo pattern on the stock. However, you've got all kinds of options. The Custom Shop fits this gun with an XS Sights Lever Rail, but for those of you who refuse to run anything but iron atop your lever gun ... well, rumor has it that XS Sights knows what it's doing in that arena, too.

MSRP: \$1,999 (varies with options)



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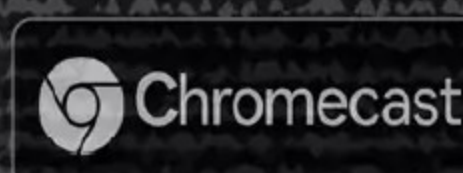
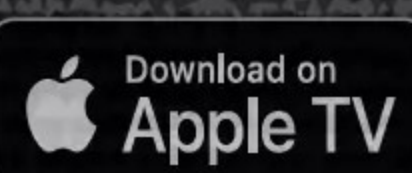
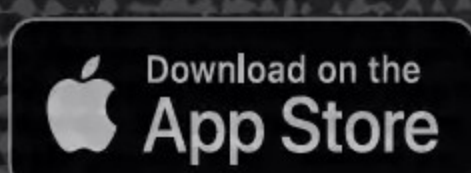
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