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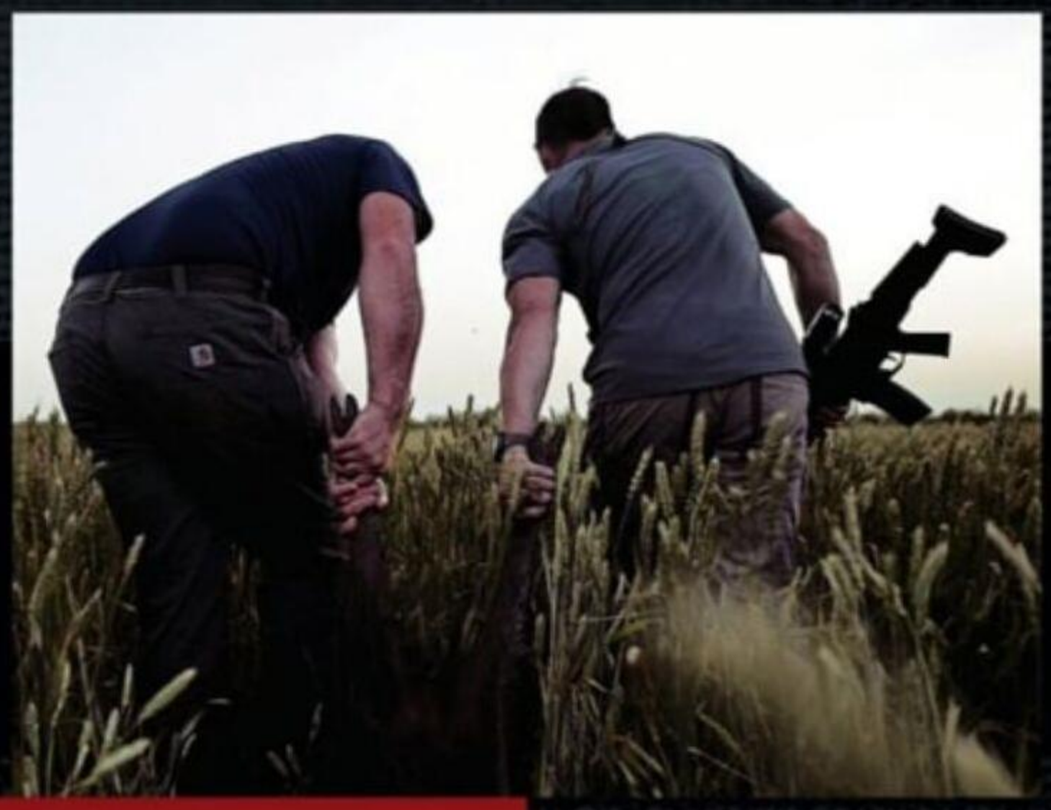

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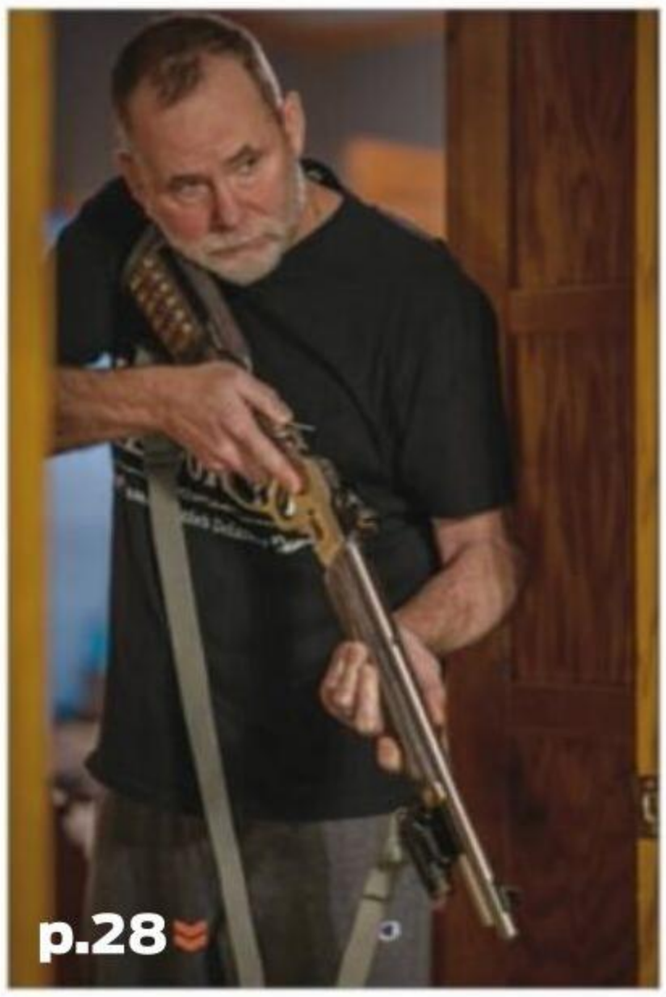

Gun Digest the Magazine (ISSN 1938-5943) is published monthly by Caribou Media dba Gun Digest Media, LLC. Corporate Headquarters is 5583 W. Waterford Ln., Suite D, Appleton, WI 54913. Periodicals postage paid at Appleton, WI 54913 and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Gun Digest Magazine PO Box 182, Williamsport, PA 17703. Copyright © 2026 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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"Your home and property are a form of terrain, just like being in the woods. You have elevations, blind spots, hiding places, areas to protect and others to flee. You might think you know your home very well, but problems arise when you must think of your place as a dynamic environment that can get you killed."

You'll find the above quote buried within one of the features in this issue. As you can imagine, I read thousands of gun articles every year and edit a great number of those pieces. And through all that, this one paragraph struck me. What a powerful statement.

When it comes to defending the loved ones in your home, it's a daunting concept to view your safe space as a dynamic environment that can get you killed. It hurts, but it's true. Every corner, every blind spot … likely everything in the dark. If you're forced into that situation, things will look and feel much differently than they do while you're relaxing in the family room during move night.

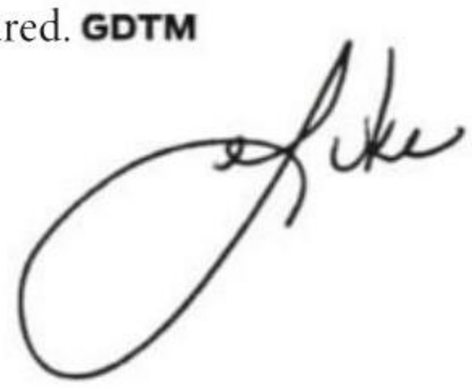
Same location. Completely different situation.

You have to prepare for that. Train for that. And build your gear for that.

This issue is slammed full of tips and nuggets designed to make you better prepared to defend the people you love most within the place where you feel the safest. You know your home better than anyone, but the complacency that comes with that comfort could be the biggest threat to your own safety.

Plan accordingly. Train accordingly. And make sure you and your family have a strategy to keep one another safe.

Remember: Planning doesn't mean that you're paranoid. It means that you're prepared. **GDTM**



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5583 W. Waterford Ln., Suite D
Appleton, WI 54913
Phone: (920) 471-4522 • FAX: (920) 471-0031

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CARIBOU MEDIA GROUP PUBLISHER
JIM SCHLENDER

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
LUKE HARTLE

MANAGING EDITOR
LAURA PELTAKIAN

ONLINE EDITOR
ELWOOD SHELTON

BOOKS EDITOR
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ART DIRECTOR
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COLUMNISTS
RICHARD MANN, PHIL MASSARO, ALEX OOLEY, PATRICK SWEENEY

ADVERTISING SALES

ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER
RYAN FARNER
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rfarner@recoilweb.com

SENIOR ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE
ALEX OSTROWSKI
(920) 212-5677
alex@gundigest.com

SENIOR ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE
DAVID FIGG
(813) 418-1060
dfigg@recoilweb.com

SENIOR ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE
LORI MCDANIEL
(715) 498-3768
lori@gundigest.com

ADVERTISING ASSISTANT
CHING CORNFORTH

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9mm Luger

Forever the Favorite.

HISTORICAL NOTES

The 9mm Luger, or 9mm Parabellum, was introduced in 1902 with the Luger automatic pistol. It was adopted first by the German Navy in 1904 and then by the German Army in 1908. Since that time, it has been adopted by the military of practically every non-Communist power.

The 9mm Luger has become the world's most popular and widely used military handgun and submachine gun cartridge. In 1985, the 9mm Luger was adopted as the official military cartridge by U.S. Armed Forces, along with the Beretta Model 92-F (M-9) 15-shot semi-auto pistol.

GENERAL COMMENTS

Although the 9mm Luger delivers good performance for police, military or sporting use, it was not popular in the United States until years after its inception. The principal reason was that no American-made arms were chambered for it initially. In 1954, Smith & Wesson brought out its Model 39 semi-automatic in this chambering, and Colt chambered its lightweight Commander for the 9mm Luger in 1951. This plus the influx of military pistols chambered for the 9mm greatly increased both popularity and acceptance in this country. Currently, the 9mm Luger is the most widely used cartridge in the United States, though a principal complaint has always been that the 9mm Luger lacks stopping power as a defensive cartridge.

However, the only automatic pistol cartridge with proven stopping power is the .45 Automatic. For hunting use, the 9mm Luger is adequate for most small game, if hollow-point bullets are used. Modern, premium, jacketed hollow-point loads can dramatically improve performance. A variety of 9mm loadings are offered by every major U.S. ammunition maker.

The term "stopping power," as referred to in the above text, is really nothing more than words used to describe something that gun writers have never been able to quantify like they do with velocity and group size. Since the 1980s, when the 9mm became a very popular cartridge for use by law enforcement officers, those who have conducted research into the ability of a handgun cartridge to actually "stop" a bad guy have learned a great deal.

Additionally, modern bullet engineering, combined with the moderately high velocities obtainable with a 9mm Luger, 9mm Luger +P and 9mm Luger +P+ loads has changed not only the outlook on but the performance of the 9mm Luger. Extensive tests in 10 percent ordnance gelatin have shown that many defensive loads for the 9mm expand to a wider diameter and penetrate as deeply as many .45 Auto loads—and they do this with a higher impact velocity, which translates to more tissue destruction. **GDTM**

9MM LUGER (9X19MM PARABELLUM, 9MM LUGER +P) LOADING DATA AND FACTORY BALLISTICS

BULLET (GRAINS/TYPE)	POWDER	GRAINS	VELOCITY	ENERGY	SOURCE
100	Unique	5.1	1,150	294	Hornady
115	Herco	6.0	1,200	368	Speer
115	Bullseye	4.8	1,250	399	Speer, Hornady, Sierra
115	231	5.2	1,150	338	Speer, Hornady, Sierra
124/125	Unique	5.5	1,150	364	Speer, Sierra
124/125	700X	4.3	1,150	364	Speer, Sierra
80 TAC-XP JHP	FL	FL	1,560	433	DoubleTap Factory Load
115 FMJ	FL	FL	1,160	345	Factory load
124 JHP	FL	FL	1,300	465	Buffalo Bore Factory Load
124 FMJ	ML	ML	1,299	465	Military load, U.S.
124 FMJ	FL	FL	1,120	345	Factory load
147 JHP	FL	FL	975	310	Factory load

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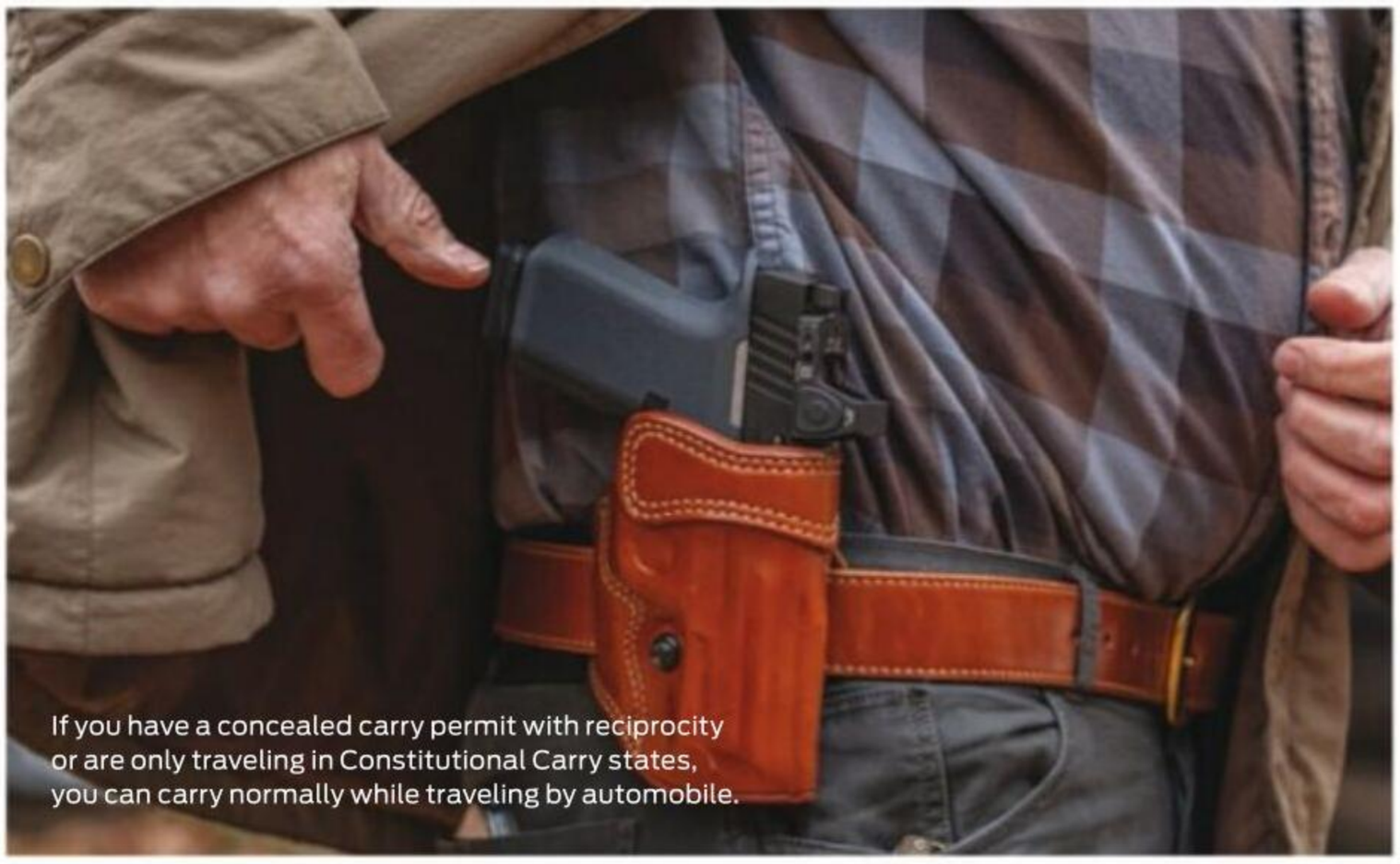
Concealed carry laws vary dramatically from state to state. Very dramatically.

Constitutional carry exists in some states, like my home state of West Virginia. If I'm traveling south, most of those states also have permitless carry, too … but Virginia and North Carolina do not. If I travel north, things change because few of those states have permitless carry and some have no reciprocity with West Virginia.

If you're traveling with a self-defense handgun, it's important for you to know the law in every state you will pass through.



If you have a concealed carry permit with reciprocity or are only traveling in Constitutional Carry states, you can carry normally while traveling by automobile.

POSSESSION/OWNERSHIP

First, I need to qualify everything you're about to read by saying I am not a lawyer, nor do I play one on the television, on the internet or in gun magazines. But I am a former police officer, special agent and a gun owner who has traveled into and through many states with a handgun. I still qualify my advice as something you can trust but that you should verify, because laws change. What I can tell you with certainty is that most of the law associated with firearms transport is black and white, but like with most everything else, some gray exists.

The first consideration when it comes to traveling with a handgun is whether you can legally possess a handgun in the state you're traveling to or through. You must understand that possession and ownership are not the same thing.

For instance, you must be 21 to purchase a handgun in West Virginia, but you can obtain a concealed carry permit for a handgun at age 18. Regarding possession—in general—to legally possess a handgun you cannot answer "no" to any of the disqualifying questions on the ATF Form 4473 that you complete when you purchase a firearm. However, in some states, these prohibitions are extended and can include other disqualifiers and even magazine bans.

The point is, meeting the Federal requirements for possession might not be enough in some states. Do your research.

TRAVELING BY HIGHWAY

If you're traveling through a state that forbids handgun/high-capacity magazine ownership, you should/might still be legal if you lock your unloaded handgun in a case and secure it in an inaccessible location. This practice is protected through a provision of the Firearm Owner's Protection Act (FOPA) 18 United States Code 926A, which is intended to protect firearms owners when traveling throughout the United States with firearms.

However, I say *might* because this regulation is somewhat subject to interpretation. First, because, for FOPA protections to apply, you must be engaging in a lawful purpose, and you cannot extend your stay in the state where the firearm/magazine is illegal by staying overnight.

Essentially, the protection applies while moving, and if you only stop for food, fuel and a brief rest. If you were engaged in an accident, become too ill to travel, or if your vehicle breaks down, a problem could arise. I've heard multiple horror stories related to citizens who believed they were protected by FOPA in states with stringent firearm laws. Even though you're not in violation of federal law, you could still be arrested, charged and convicted of violating state law. This is exactly why I do not travel to New York, with or without a handgun.

If you are traveling by automobile in a state with carry permit reciprocity, be sure to have your carry permit and driver's license with you.

TRAVELING BY AIR

One way to circumvent highway travel concerns with a handgun is to travel by air because you cannot violate the anti-gun laws of a state while airborne. So,

Packing a handgun in a lockable case without ammo and storing it in a locked inaccessible location in your car *should* allow you to travel through states with the protections under FOPA – 18 USC 926A.

If they are lockable, the hard-sided box some handguns come in are sufficient for air travel.

how do you legally fly with a handgun?

You must declare a firearm at check in, and make sure it's inside a locked container that will travel as checked luggage. You must meet the container/case requirements of the airline, and you might be required to show that it's unloaded. This can create some anxiety at the check-in desk, so make sure you communicate effectively with the gate agent.

I suggest you avoid TSA locks, because they're not required and provide minimal security. Also, check in advance with the airline for any additional requirements.

But air travel is not a foolproof way to avoid issues. If you're traveling from and to a state where handgun possession is legal, but you have a layover or you're diverted to a state where handgun possession is not legal, you might have a problem if the layover requires you to reclaim your luggage. Technically, you should still be afforded the protections under FOPA 18 USC 926A, but don't count on it. Make sure your itinerary does not include those states, because air travel is unpredictable.

CARRY PERMIT

Currently, more states have Constitutional carry than not. This is a good and bad thing for gun owners. It's good because it eliminates a restriction on your Second Amendment right and worries about traveling through some states. It's bad because it has led to many gun owners not securing a concealed carry permit—that with state reciprocity can prevent them from running afoul with the law for merely traveling with a handgun. I specifically acquired my carry permit in West Virginia so I could legally carry in Virginia—I only live nine miles from the border.

With carry permit reciprocity for a state you'll be traveling through, you can alleviate some traveling concerns, but that state might also have a magazine capacity restriction. And, as I said at the outset, laws change. As of this writing, legislation is in play in Virginia that would make possession of a magazine that can hold more than 10 rounds illegal, and it would also eliminate carry reciprocity with West Virginia.

The bottom line is that, if you have any doubt about the legality of traveling with a handgun, contact the State Attorney General's office in your state and in any state you're traveling too. While the adage that "forgiveness might be easier to obtain than permission" might work with your wife when you buy a new gun, don't count on it to keep you out of jail if you violate state gun laws. **GDTM**

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TEXT, HISTORY & TRADITION

Why America's gun culture still matters in court.

For decades, courts treated the Second Amendment differently from every other constitutional right. Judges weighed individual liberty against government interests, balancing policy preferences rather than examining history.

That era is over, as confirmed in the *Bruen* opinion.

Today, courts are being asked a simpler, but far more uncomfortable, question: Is a modern gun law consistent with the historical tradition of firearm regulation in the United States? Answering that question requires confronting a reality many would prefer to ignore: American gun culture is not an accident of modernity. It is deeply rooted in law, practice and expectation.

WHEN HISTORY BECAME DECISIVE

Modern Second Amendment litigation now turns on historical grounding. Courts increasingly demand evidence that contemporary restrictions resemble those accepted at the time of the founding. This shift has exposed a serious problem for gun control advocates. Many popular regulatory ideas, like broad public carry bans, categorical disarmament of non-violent citizens and restrictions based on weapon capacity or technology, have little historical precedent.

The record of early America is not one of widespread disarmament. It is one of widespread armament.

WHAT THE HISTORY SHOWS

Colonial and early American laws repeatedly assumed that peaceable citizens would be armed. Governments

"A critical misunderstanding has emerged in the wake of Bruen: the belief that the courts must find an exact historical twin for every modern gun regulation. That is not the standard."

mandated ownership, encouraged carry and punished neglect, not possession.

There is no tradition of banning arms based on their effectiveness. Repeating firearms existed before the Bill of Rights, and no laws restricted their capacity. There is no tradition of prohibiting carry across vast categories of public life. In fact, many public spaces explicitly required arms.

Perhaps most importantly, there is no historical tradition of disarming citizens solely because they were disfavored, unpopular or had committed minor, nonviolent offenses. Disarmament, when it occurred, was temporary and tied to demonstrated dangerousness, not status.

DANGEROUSNESS VS. DISFAVOR

This distinction now sits at the center of modern legal debates.

Historically, communities acted to restrain individuals who posed credible threats of violence. But those actions were narrow, targeted and rooted in specific conduct. They were not blanket prohibitions applied to broad classes of people, as with, for instance, 18 USC 922 (g)(1), which makes it unlawful for anyone "who has been convicted in any court of, a crime punishable by imprisonment for a term exceeding one year" to possess a firearm or ammunition.

Modern laws often invert this principle, imposing lifetime bans based on labels rather than behavior. Courts are increasingly skeptical of that approach, and history gives them reason to be.

ANALOGUES, NOT EXCUSES

A critical misunderstanding has emerged in the wake of *Bruen*: the belief that courts must find an exact historical twin for every modern gun regulation. That is not the standard. History does not operate with carbon copies, and the Supreme Court has been clear that what matters are analogues, laws that reflect the same underlying principle, not merely the same outward form.

But this clarification cuts both ways. While governments need not identify a regulation identical in wording or scope, they must still demonstrate a genuine historical tradition that justifies the modern burden imposed on the right. That requirement has proven difficult because many contemporary gun laws are not modest evolutions of historical practices, but categorical innovations.

For example, founding-era regulations aimed at preserving public order were typically narrow and individualized. Surety laws required a specific showing that a particular person posed a credible threat, and even then, they rarely imposed outright disarmament. Instead, they required financial assurances tied to future conduct. Likewise, "going armed" statutes punished the misuse of arms in a threatening manner, not their peaceful possession or carriage.

By contrast, many modern statutes operate in reverse. They presume dangerousness from status alone, impose lifetime prohibitions untethered from conduct, and apply broadly without individualized findings. The historical record provides little support for that approach. Indeed, the absence of sweeping disarmament laws in a far more violent and unstable era speaks volumes.

This is why history has become such a powerful constraint in modern litigation. It does not merely inform constitutional interpretation; it limits it. Legislatures may pursue public safety, but they must do so within the boundaries of traditions that treated arms as normal instruments of lawful citizenship, not privileges to be revoked by default.

THE MARKETING MYTH FAILS UNDER SCRUTINY

Claims that American gun culture was manufactured by 19th-century advertising also fare poorly in court. Judges are not persuaded by sociological theories when faced with statutes that required firearms centuries earlier.

History shows demand preceding industry, not the reverse. That matters legally, because rights do not arise from marketing campaigns. They arise from our nature, longstanding practice and recognition.

WHY THIS MATTERS BEYOND THE COURTROOM

These legal battles are not abstractions. They shape how millions of Americans live, train and defend themselves.

But they also reveal something deeper: the erosion of historical literacy has consequences. When courts and communities forget what early America actually looked like, policy debates drift into fiction.

The renewed emphasis on history is not a threat to liberty. It is its safeguard.

CONCLUSION: HISTORY HAS ENTERED THE RECORD

For years, history was treated as an inconvenience in Second Amendment cases. Today, it is evidence.

And the evidence is clear. American gun culture was neither marginal nor manufactured. It was foundational. Courts are now rediscovering what early Americans already knew: an armed citizenry was not a problem to be solved, but a solution to be preserved. **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.

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One thing AK shooters and admirers will never stop talking about is durability.

Well, duh. The AK-47 was designed to be used by peasants; simple and strong were built-in.

So was the crappy trigger.

If you want to keep the peasants from accidentally shooting each other while assaulting the fascist positions on the Eastern Front (did the Soviets call it the Western Front?), you give them a trigger with a lot of travel. A lot.

That runs counter to the way we in the West viewed rifles—something you use by aiming and pressing off a shot.

What to do?

Just ask Bill Geissele. He can solve the problem.

What Geissele did was take the packet system that has proven so popular in the AR-15 world and built it for the AK-47. (And the AK-74 as well, just in case you were wondering.)

It's an entirely self-contained set of parts, and since the locations of the hammer and sear are controlled by

The Geissele AK-X comes complete. And because it's a packet trigger, assembly is simply a detail strip and then replacing the AK trigger parts with a packet.

the packet, the dimensions of your AK receiver don't enter into it. As long as your receiver is in spec enough to reinsert the pins, the packet will work. (If your receiver is so out of spec that you can't make the packet go in, your problems are bigger than just a crappy trigger, and Geissele can't solve that one for you.)

What the Geissele-X gives you is a two-stage trigger for your AK. It's clean, crisp, relatively light … and it works like a champ.

Is it something you need? That depends. What other triggers do you use? If you shoot an AK, a Glock and a shotgun with a classic trigger, then no. (Sorry, Bill, I'll explain.) The Glock and the shotgun will have spongy, gritty, crappy triggers. Changing your AK to a Geissele will mean you have to adjust your trigger press from one to the next.

If, on the other hand, your pistol and shotgun have good, clean, crisp triggers, then the AK is the laggard, and you definitely have to upgrade it.

That said, Geissele makes great stuff, and prices it accordingly. The AK-X has a list price of $350. A while back when we were still buying AKs for that much, it would have been more than odd to spend that much on a trigger.

Now, a basic AK made here in the USA runs you a grand. Anything better than vanilla-plain runs more. And you still get the 1947 peasant trooper AK trigger. Why not move into the 21st century and take advantage of Geissele engineering?

I have a new AK in 5.56 NATO on the rack for testing (no commie cartridges here), and the AK-X is perfect for it. Since all my other triggers are nice—not crappy—the Geissele will be perfect. **GDTM**

YOU CANT DO THAT

Keeping your world on the level with MDT's Send It Gen2.

As the trend of demand for higher precision and accuracy continues across firearm types, rifles have become the centerpiece for maximizing that capability. From mile rifles to recce builds, the desire to have consistent first-round impacts continues.

A growing sector of this pursuit of precision is methods to keep a rifle level. But why is holding a rifle in the proper position related to the Earth during the shot process important, you might ask? Here are the answers, and one of the best tools to keep it on the level.

ON THE LEVEL

One of the most significant challenges in LRP, or long-range precision, or ELR, extreme long-range shooting, is gravity. This constant factor is both friend and foe, exerting its influence on everything we do, including bullets. As is now a well-known fact, bullets don't travel in a straight line. Instead, they travel in a relatively predictable arc.

Combine this with what's known as Ballistic Coefficient or BC, which is the effect air has as drag slowing a bullet's velocity. Add in muzzle velocity and bullet spin rate, also known as twist rate, and you can now start to build a consistent mathematical solution to predict the flight path. There's one more wrinkle in this endeavor: environmental conditions.

So now you have the solution to nail a first-round impact, but that's on paper. Once you find yourself in your shooting position, it's time to take into account new problems to be solved, such as firing angle, temperature, air density and wind.

These environmental factors can take years to master, especially wind. There are tools such as a Kestrel to help you mitigate the influence of those factors, but as you're in the process of breaking your shot, there's one factor that we've known about for years; you can now, thanks to technological breakthroughs, see better than ever.

Bubble levels, also known as spirit levels, have been a helpful tool for years. You can purchase them for a few dollars at a local hardware store, and they've stood the test of time. Based on the principle that a bubble suspended in a consistent liquid will always seek the highest point, most bubble levels utilize ethanol both for its low viscosity and resistance to temperature swings.

Where this all comes into play for shooting is that 2 to 3 degrees of cant can produce inches or even feet of left and right dispersion, depending on the distance to your target. Bubble levels have been a valuable tool on rifles for years and remain so to this day. Still, trends in other industries, such as construction and woodworking, have created digital levels to provide further precision even beyond the classic bubble level.

THERE'S A BETTER WAY

MDT saw an opportunity to capitalize on this technology and has created the leading option in digital levels for rifles with the MDT Send It Gen2. With a 16-year pedigree of providing some of the best and most innovative shooting accessories focused on the sweet

science of long-range marksmanship, MDT is uniquely poised to push the envelope when it comes to the ability to achieve first-round impacts at remarkable distances.

The Send It Gen2 pushes that envelop with four different mounting options to ensure that you'll be able to set up your rifle in the way that suits your needs and be able to see the three lights indicating your cant position easily. Sporting the ability to change sensitivity settings quickly, it also gives the level of feedback you want without overcomplicating the process.

The Send It Gen2 uses a CR2032 battery, which has become ubiquitous across the optics space, and has an auto-shutoff feature after 10 minutes of inactivity. It will restart when moved and can be turned off manually as well to conserve battery life further.

In practice, Send It Gen2 is remarkably durable, representing itself well in proofing stages for an upcoming sniper competition at the BRVO Tactical Sierra 1 site in Heber, Arizona. Over hundreds of rounds in 90-degree-plus Fahrenheit temperatures, with winds gusting from 5 to 30 miles per hour, and field shooting positions such as tree branches, rocks and prone off a bipod in moon dust, the three lights were there whenever needed.

A couple of notes for users that can make your life easier. First, the sun in Arizona is brutally bright. The Send It Gen2 instructions are clear and should be read thoroughly. One point they make is that there are rigid light pipes that can be installed to make the red, green and blue indicators more visible.

It's highly recommended you install them unless you're anticipating having to work in a low-light environment. If you would like to remove them in the future, it requires simple disassembly of the unit as if you were going to change the battery, and pushing them out with something like a ballpoint pen. Next, if you choose to use the included fiber-optic line, ensure the lines are securely placed in the Send It Gen2, and use the included shrink wrap to prevent snag hazards on the lines.

By its nature, fiber-optic lines are fragile, so be careful to set them up in the safest manner possible. From experience, I recommend the direct center Picatinny mount setup if you're planning on using these fiber optic lines.

The performance of the MDT Send It Gen2 sets it apart from the rest, but the mounting options put it over the top. It's durable, reliable, compact, versatile and when set up correctly, an ideal solution to your shooting needs. A tool like this isn't for every rifle or shooter, but if you're someone who wants the best chance of a first round and subsequent impacts on target, stepping up your game with the Send It Gen2 will help with that process. **GDTM**

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Store firearms securely, inaccessible to children and unauthorized users.

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01 Nosler ASP Revolver Loads

Nosler's ASP line of defensive handgun ammo stands for Assured Stopping Power, and the cartridges' construction using fine Nosler components like the company's hollow point bullets suggests they live up to their name. Previously only available in autoloading pistol calibers, Nosler recently expanded the line to include three straight-wall revolver calibers as well. These include a 125-grain .38 Special load, a 125-grain .357 Magnum load and a 240-grain .44 Magnum load. If you rely on a wheelgun for defense, you may want to consider loading it with Nosler ASP.

MSRP: $28 for .38 SPL // $29 for .357 Mag. // $32 for .44 Mag. // all per 20-round box

02 Mossberg 990 SPX SBS

The recent changes in NFA tax stamp pricing have ushered in a new era of factory short-barreled rifle and shotgun options, and one of the coolest to come out this year is from Mossberg. Listed in their catalog as the 990 SPX Magpul Class 3, this 12-gauge semi-auto SBS features a handy 14.75-inch barrel and a capacity of 5+1. As long as you're willing to do the Form 4 paperwork and wait a little bit, this little shotty with a Magpul stock, M-Lok forend, ghost ring sights and optics-ready receiver may be one of the best new home defense options available.

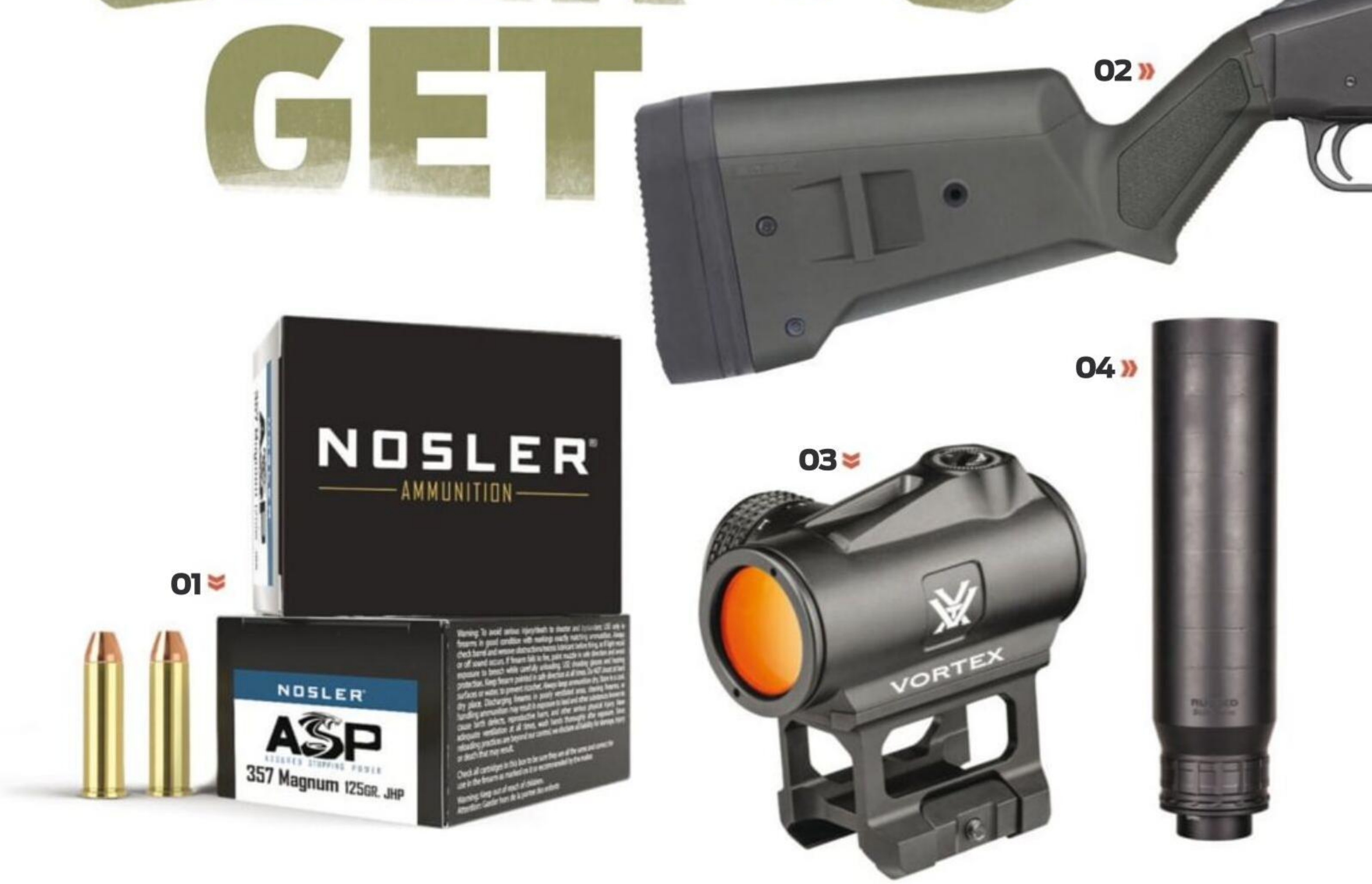
MSRP: $1,310

03 Vortex Triumph Red Dot

Good quality red dot sights have become so affordable and prolific these days that there's less and less reason not to put one on just about every gun you own. If you still have a carbine or PCC in the safe that's only wearing irons, Vortex's new Triumph may be worth slapping on it. Very reasonably priced, the Triumph features a 2-MOA red dot reticle, nine daylight brightness levels, two night-vision-compatible levels, motion activation and an automatic shutoff feature after 10 minutes of no movement. For compatibility with a wide range of firearms, each optic ships with a lower-third co-witness mount as well as a low mount.

MSRP: $150

GEAR TO GET



04 Rugged Suppressors Sub9

MP5s, 9mm ARs and 9mm AKs—PCCs of all stripes are in a bit of a golden age right now. Not only is this class of gun super fun and affordable to shoot, but they also make great home defense options, especially when paired with a suppressor. Rugged's new Sub9 was tailored specifically to do that job and to do it very well. Full-auto rated and optimized for subguns, the Sub9 uses coaxial chambers to efficiently minimize sound and gas blowback while keeping the overall package compact at just 6.8 inches. It ships with a Rugged Universal 3 Lug mount that can mate with any HK-spec 3-lug system, but it's HUB-compatible as well to keep mounting options versatile.

MSRP: $950

05 Magpul Full-Size Ruger RXM Grip

One of the hottest new trends in the handgun space is removable serialized fire control systems for increased modularity. Ruger calls the one in its RXM the Fire Control Insert (FCI), and combined with Magpul's new frame size options, it's allowing for some pretty cool things. The standard RXM is Glock 19-sized, but by swapping your FCI into this new full-size Magpul EHG RG9 grip, your RXM will have a G19-length slide on a G17-size frame. This will provide more grip real estate and a cleaner look when running 17-round mags. Speaking of looks, the grip is available in black, FDE, OD green and Stealth Gray.

MSRP: $40

06 Hogue M-Lok Overmolded Hybrid Forend Grip

When it comes to both handgun and rifle grips, Hogue has long been a go-to option. The company's overmolded products provide a soft rubber texture that's easy and comfortable to squeeze hard and get a solid, no-slip purchase on. Now, Hogue is adding the same overmolded grip option for the forend of your AR or other M-Lok compatible firearm. Better yet, it's not just a simple vertical foregrip; it's a hybrid design that also allows for a 45-degree hold. The grips are available in black, FDE, OD green and Slate Grey to match the look of your rifle.

MSRP: $40

07 CCI Blazer Brass Clean-Fire Suppressor Ammo

Whether we're plinking or training, suppressors make it a better experience. With enough shooting, however, they get dirty and lose effectiveness, and anybody who's ever cleaned a can will tell you it's a messy and not fun process. Solution? Shoot the cleanest ammo you can, and CCI has just introduced a new line specifically catered to that purpose. Called the Blazer Brass Clean-Fire Suppressor line, it's loaded to subsonic velocities and uses clean-burning powder, lead-free primers and TMJ (Total Metal Jacket, meaning the lead core is fully enclosed) projectiles to minimize fouling. The cherry on top is that it meets the power factor requirements for competitive shooting use. Initial load offerings include 147-grain 9mm, 180-grain .40 S&W and 230-grain .45 ACP.

MSRP: $21 for 9mm // $32 for .40 S&W // $36 for .45 ACP, per 50-round box

07

ACT LIKE YOU'VE BEEN THERE

When it comes to defending your home, you must train like you intend to fight.

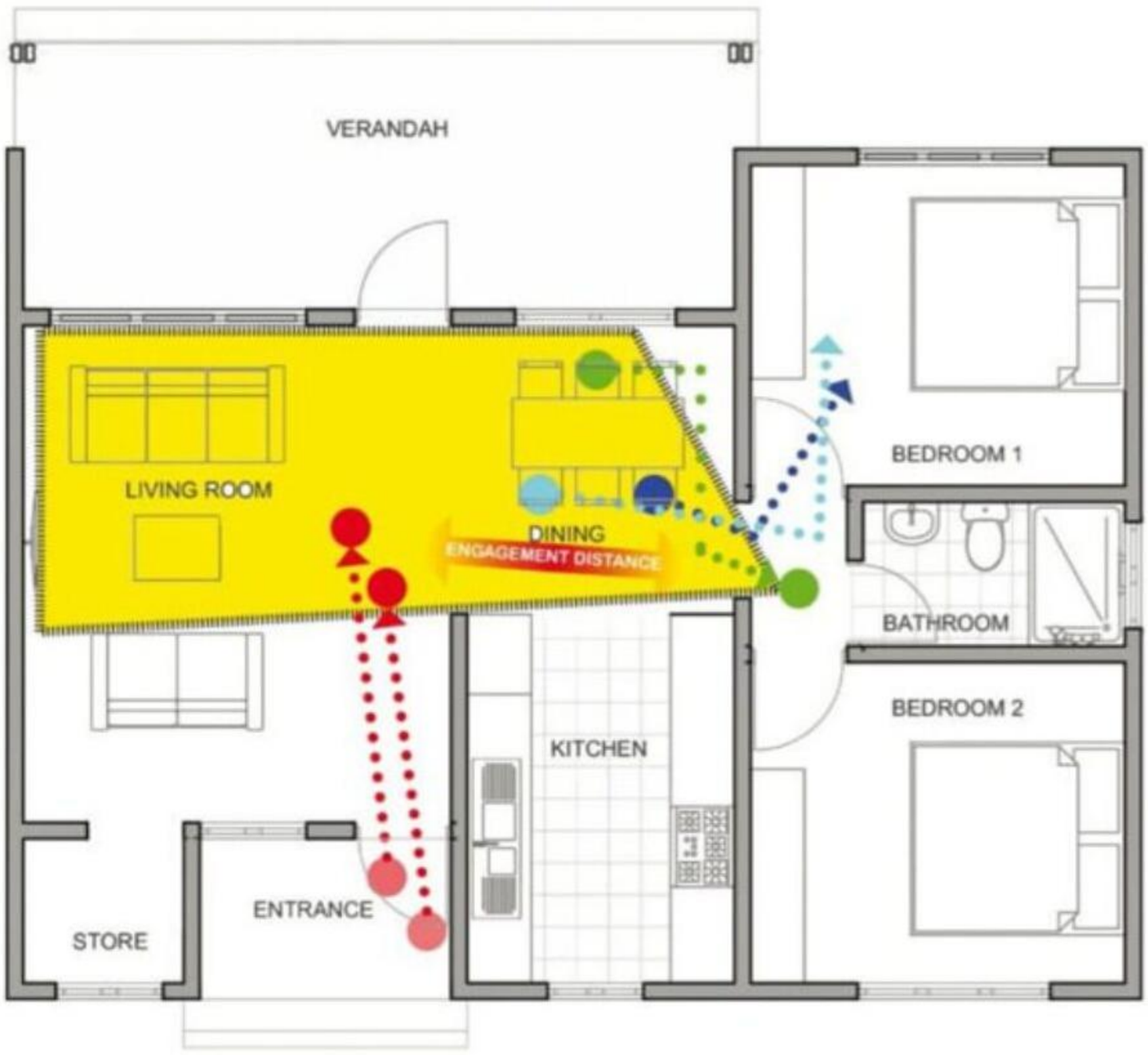
In 2013, I hunted with some American war fighters on the U.S. Army's base in Hohenfels, Germany. That was an interesting experience—a story for another time—and it has nothing to do with home defense. However, while I was in Germany, I went to a Pond Training Academy. At that time, Pond was conducting some of the security at the gates to the Hohenfels Army base, and in the Pond Academy, they had a unique shooting range.

That shooting range does have something to do with home defense.

In the basement of the academy, they had a video range, where they would play video on the large movie screen and cadets could engage targets in the video. A unique light system marked their shots, and the video could be replayed to see where they hit. This was a very cool range experience, and I got to shoot on it with a rifle and with a handgun.

HOME DEFENSE PLAN

This is a very simplified home defense plan but illustrates most considerations and shows what a range card looks like.



HOME INVADER #1 & #2

Home invaders breach front door moving into open space to take control of the home.

WIFE

Move quickly to safe area and call 911.

SON

Move quickly to safe area.

YOU

Stand and move towards cover or concealment (behind son and wife) while drawing your pistol and preparing to engage.

RANGE CARD

Identifies areas you can effectively engage from your anticipated defensieve spot.

If your plan is to gain cover or concealment behind a barrier/wall, practice shooting from behind a barricade.

With the rifle, I shot running boar targets, and with the handgun, I shot cartoons. (In Germany, it was against the law for non-security or law enforcement to shoot at humanoid targets.) The video range training for the Pond security cadets was custom tailored to the job they were going to perform.

The academy had video of the gates at Hohenfels base where the Pond officers worked, and in this video they had various scenarios on film for the cadets to respond to with firearms. Talk about training like you intend to fight, this video system put the security officers in the field where they would actually be working and allowed them to respond to nefarious actions like they might have to in real life.

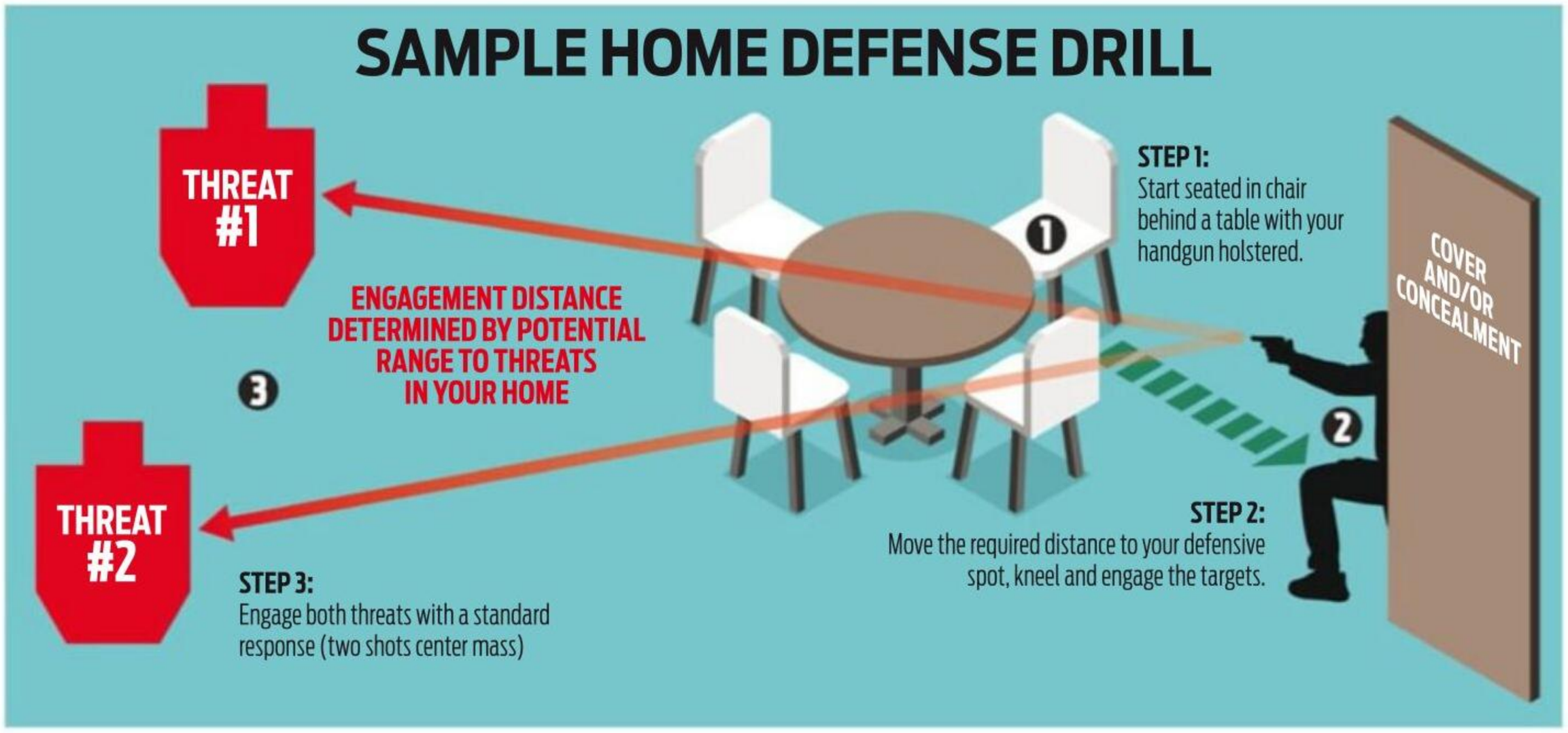
Training like you intend to fight is nothing new. The U.S. Army and American law enforcement switched to humanoid targets a long time ago. At Gunsite, Jeff Cooper began crafting shooting drills that mirrored real-life and/or imagined incidents, and ever since then combat pistol competitions have been built around theoretical—but of course highly unlikely—self-defense scenarios.

It's a training concept that's very old and one that's routinely used in sports: You practice like you intend to play.

How does all this dovetail into home defense? Well, it's very simple.

If it's your desire to be able to defend your life and the lives of your loved ones in your home, you should train for that exact circumstance. Sure, shooting a handgun, shotgun or carbine is the same no matter where you're shooting them—sights on target/trigger press—but practice and training for the exact situation you might have to encounter goes a step further. Of course, you cannot

Your planning, training and live fire should incorporate how to utilize the concealment and cover you have identified.



This live-fire drill is a companion to the home defense plan also illustrated. It replicates the potential shooting scenario detailed in the plan.

go to some video range where there will be a video of your home with bad guys attacking you and for you to shoot at.

But you can simulate the experience.

MAKE A PLAN

The first thing you need to do is make a plan, and the plan needs to be multi-faceted to include various points of potential entry, various locations you would likely respond from, and it needs to address not just you, but everyone in the household. If someone busts through your front door while you're eating dinner, how do you respond and what should everyone else in your home immediately do?

A book could be written about proper planning and all the variables for dealing with a home invasion. There are so many different homes containing so many different family units that could be attacked, from so many different points of entry, that proper planning just cannot be covered in this format. However, we can look at a hypothetical situation and examine how we might create a training program to help us prepare for it.

SITUATIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

Let's imagine you live in a home with a floor plan as shown. Let's also imagine you want to devise a plan to deal with a two-attacker home invasion through your front door while you're eating dinner. And finally, let's assume your home is occupied by you, your wife and your 6-year-old son. The first thing I would do is invite two of my shooting friends over for dinner, but before dinner I would let them play the bad guys and walk through a home invasion scenario several times. This will give you some insight as to what the attackers' movements might be as well as what your response could be.

Where you will keep your gun at home will directly influence any home defense plan you make.

The goal here is three-fold. First, you want to familiarize yourself and your family with how everything might unfold. Secondly, you want to devise your plan of response. And finally, you want to identify the locations, situations and targets you might have to engage. Essentially, you are creating a mental video you can play out at the range. Granted, this is a very simplified plan and as with most tactical considerations, there is always more than one answer. However, it serves to illustrate the point.

MAKE A RANGE CARD

A range card is a standard shooting tool used by the military and snipers. It details your field of fire and where potential targets are. In a combat situation, the actual range—distance to targets—is important, but in a home defense situation it's generally not. You want to create a range card that will detail your planned point of defense and the potential locations of possible threats. Drawing it out is not a bad idea, because it can help you illustrate your plan to other family members, but in most cases a mental picture is sufficient.

When you're creating this range card, you should also take note of the cover and concealment you and your attackers might use. For example, if there is a dividing wall the attacker might hide behind, is it a solid wall or just a shell wall? If it's solid, you cannot shoot through it, but if you see an attacker duck behind a shell wall, you can. Most furniture will not stop bullets, and while it can provide concealment, it is not cover.

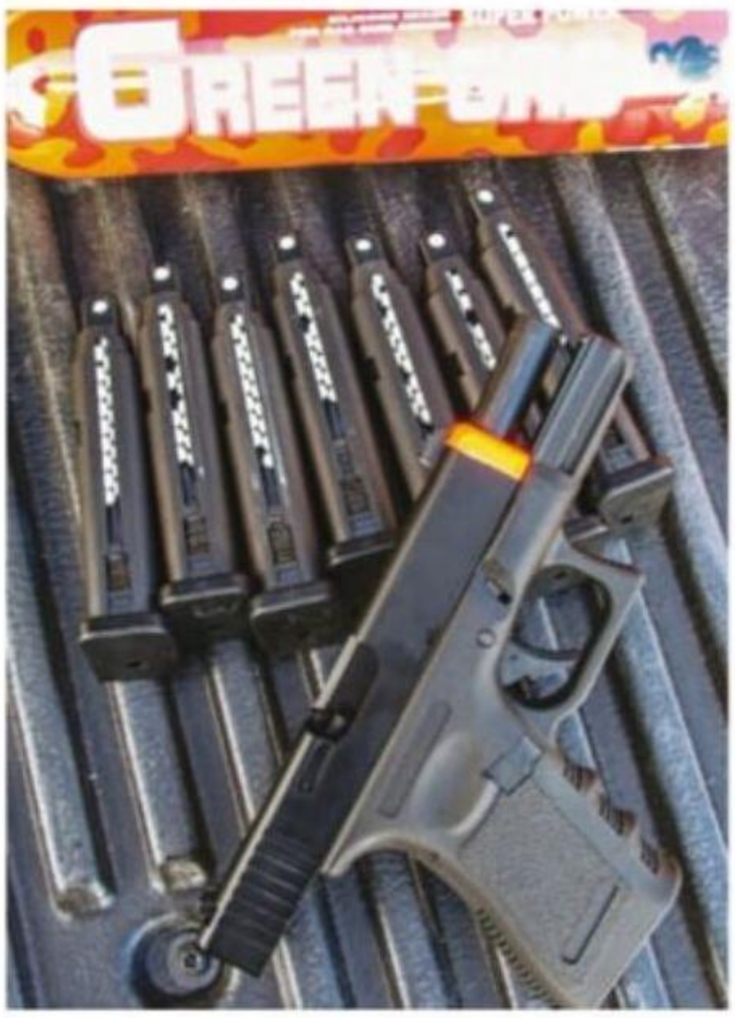
LIVE FIRE

Once you have a range card, go to the range and practice the shots you will probably need to make, at the distances relative to your home. When you're competent at getting hits, set up a stage reflecting the situation and the range card, and run through it while engaging the targets. Start slow, like a walkthrough, and then advance to real time. The training stage example below assumes you are wearing your home defense handgun in a holster while you're eating dinner.

However, when you make your plan, consider situations and build a range card, and do it realistically to represent where your gun might be in a real-life situation. If you keep your gun on top of the refrigerator, in the nightstand, or maybe in a gun safe, all this needs to be reflected in

Practice executing your home defense plan with the gun(s) you will actually use.

Air-soft guns can offer a realistic experience, and through force-on-force exercises, they can highlight flaws in your plan.



Home defense can be inside or outside. One plan is not enough. You need to have a comprehensive multifaceted plan.

your plan and range card, and it will dictate your plan … and ultimately the training stage you set up.

FORCE ON FORCE

Once you have worked through the training stage at the range that will likely replicate a real-life home invasion, you should then do a walk-through at home, with your family and your two shooting friends. Invite them over for dinner again and simulate the scenario. If you're smart, you will arm yourself and your friends with airsoft guns and give everyone a face shield. This not only adds some fun to the exercise, but it also adds adrenalin and can highlight flaws in your plan that might cause you to rethink everything.

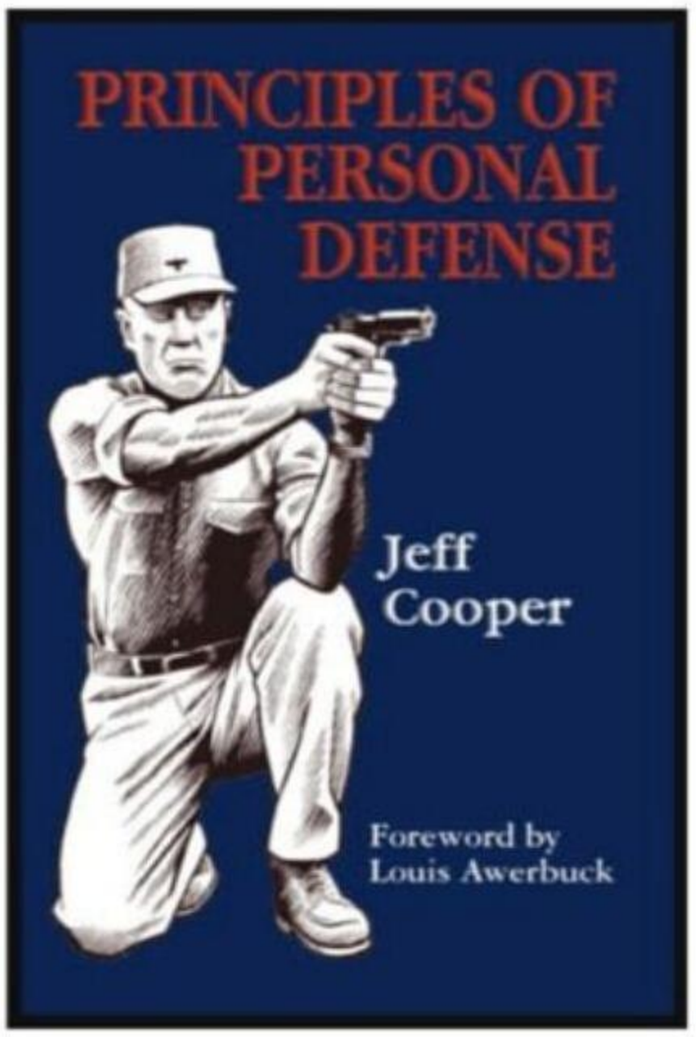
Depending on the situation and where you keep your gun, the best plan may be to retreat to another room that is easier to defend. It might make you rethink where everyone normally sits at the dinner table. One thing you want to do is require your wife and son to react as planned when the exercise begins. Where do they go, where is the phone to call 911, and who is going to make the call?

TRAIN LIKE YOU'LL FIGHT

The underlying premise here is to evaluate the unknown. You and your family are mostly finding answers for questions that might be asked. As Jeff Cooper explained in his book, *Principles of Personal Defense*: "Short of extensive personal experience, which most of us would rather not amass, the best way to cultivate such tactical decisiveness is through hypothesis: 'What would I do if ... ?' By thinking tactically, we can more easily arrive at correct tactical solutions, and practice even theoretical practice tends to produce confidence in our solutions, which, in turn, makes it easier for us, and thus quicker, to reach a decision."

Unfortunately, few if any of us have access to a video range, where we can watch and shoot at the screen where images of our own home being invaded is playing out. But we can plan and train accordingly. This is not a new or revolutionary concept. If you train like you'll fight, you will fight like you have trained. And if you trained well enough, you'll win. **GDTM**

You need to know who is going to call 911 and make arrangements for a phone to be where they are going to safety.



Principles of Personal Defense by Jeff Cooper.

INSTINCTIVE SHOOTING FOR TACTICAL DEFENSE

Learning to shoot sporting clays to become a better defensive shooter.

For years now, I have been saying that anyone wanting to up their tactical shotgun game should be training in clay sports, such as skeet, trap and sporting clays. However, unfortunately, a lot of tactical shotgun courses have people training on static targets … but shotguns excel at hitting moving targets and are perfect for learning instinctive shooting.

Instinctive shooting teaches a shooter to break free from sights and optics. That's right: Say goodbye to red-dots, ghost rings and rifle sights.

Many might find not using sights hard to believe, but ask yourself this: If a clay shooter can hit a target 4 inches in diameter moving upward of 42 miles an hour at more than 37 yards away, how hard would it be to hit a man-sized target?

If instinctive shooting made you faster and allowed you to be more aware of your surroundings, would it not be worth trying? First, let's look at how to learn instinctive shooting. Then, let's look at the benefits and, lastly, some of the drawbacks.

WHAT IS INSTINCTIVE SHOOTING?

Instinctive shooting is the process of getting your firearm to shoot where you are looking. The two main drivers behind this are muscle memory and focus. To get your shotgun to shoot where you're looking, you must first master the process. Through extensive practicing, you will build the muscle memory needed to start down the path of instinctive shooting.

LEARNING TO SHOOT INSTINCTIVELY

There are three main areas we must master to become proficient instinctive shooters, each of which are about building the basic foundations of a set of muscle memories for shooting. Once we have mastered these three areas, they will combine seamlessly into our instinctive shooting routine.

Our three foundational skills: gun mount, stance and vision control (awareness).

1. WHERE IS YOUR GUN?

If you want your gun to shoot where you are looking, you must know where your gun is pointing. To master this, a consistent gun mount is key, meaning your gun must be in the same place every time. You should be so accustomed to your gun that you can feel almost down to a fraction of an inch whether it's mounted correctly.

I can't tell you the number of times I have shouldered my shotgun, felt it was off and decided to shoot at a flying target anyway, only to miss the target. Keep in mind that I'm shooting at a much smaller target than a person. On larger targets, you can still hit with a bit

(far left) Gun up, as we can see, is your regular mounted position. It's key your stance is balanced so that your core it free to move.

(left) The gun, in the down position, is just alongside your chest; eyes open with a soft focus to take in as much of the periphery as possible. Don't tuck the butt of the gun under your arm. If you need to rest the stock on something, let it be your bicep until you are ready to bring the gun up.

(below, left) We can see the gun in the down position opens up your field of vision. You don't even have the gun in your way and aren't likely to get locked into tunnel vision.

(below, right) The gun mounted after the shooter has spotted a potential threat. In the process of mounting the gun, the shooter merges their direct focus and movement.

of variance based on how you mount the shotgun, but don't get too crazy. Here is where shooting clay sports helps, because that discipline isn't about putting the gun up and emptying it—clays are about multiple stations and mounting the shotgun multiple times, which helps create that muscle memory.

Also, shooting flying targets makes repetition less monotonous. To speed up the progress, you can just practice at home by putting the gun up and pointing at a Post-it on the wall. A good training technique is the rule of 21 times, for 21 days, to start.

2. PROPER STANCE

Our second foundational skill is stance. Imagine making your body and gun into a tank's turret. At the point your gun is mounted, you have four points of contact and full control of the muzzle. Yet, what good would a turret be if it could not move freely?

Each person has a bit of variation on how they stand, but the goals are always the same: You want to stand in a way that you're stable and well balanced, and at the same time your core has enough mobility so that you can pivot to acquire targets. A smooth-moving core creates greater accuracy. You should never be throwing your arms, as it will break your mounting position.

Practice these together, mount and stance, by mounting the gun and moving it horizontally and vertically. Taking the time to practice at home will reinforce your live-fire sessions and speed up mastering the shotgun.

Remember: You want to move using your core and your legs, not your arms.

3. WHERE YOUR EYES ARE LOOKING

The goal of instinctive shooting is to get the gun to shoot where your eyes are looking. Part of that is acquiring the target with your eyes.

Often, when shooters use sights/optics on a firearm they will get tunnel vision. By using a technique called "soft focus," you can prevent getting tunnel vision. Soft focus allows you to survey a large area by simply using your eyes, which uses the techniques of not using a detailed focus and instead using a wide focused peripheral gaze.

Once a potential target is detected, you switch to an intense detail focus and assess the target: Is the target a threat or not a threat? All the while, you are merging your muscle memory to mount your shotgun to the point your eyes are looking.

Said another way, you do not look down the sights: The barrel will always be in your peripheral vision, but don't use it to aim, which is called the sight picture. As you build repetition with that sight picture by shooting clays, every time you hit a clay you should re-play the hit in your mind, getting used to what the picture looked like.

Due to the size of the target and speeds, it will take a bit. Once you start hitting them, larger and slower targets will seem like child's play.

(above) The first thing to take notice of is the cheek weld. A properly placed cheek weld is key to being able to be set free of your sights. That cheek weld is what aligns you with the barrel. Secondly, the grip on the fore end is firm, but it is not a death grip. If the front grip is too tight that will cause the rest of your grip to be too tense.

Here we are looking at the location of the shotgun butt in the gun down position. The butt should be pressed against you side of your chest, so the path to bringing the gun up is consistent. Don't put it under your arm and don't press it hard into your side.

THE FLOW

Many people in sports refer to flow as "the zone." In psychology, it's called "the flow." The term *the flow* was first used by a psychologist named Mihaly Csikzentmihalyi. Flow is what takes over when instinctive shooting takes place. Many misunderstand the flow as the state you must be in. To be in a state of flow for long periods of time is difficult. For this discipline, the flow is a state that you are looking to enter for that brief moment during which you are actually shooting at a target. The flow is the culmination of your subconscious brain being trained in shooting so well it pushes your conscious mind aside and says, "I got this." Some might understand it using the example of drawing your pistol from the holster. If you consciously think about it, you might fumble or struggle with the action. If you have practiced your draw enough, you will be able to draw the pistol from your holster and shoot fast and accurately on muscle memory alone. You don't have to walk around all day being in a state of flow—just at the moment you need it.

After you have these three foundational skills down, you just need to practice while coordinating them together until they become second nature.

THE ART OF THE GUN DOWN

Imagine increasing your field of vision with the goal of a faster reaction time. If you need to take in a greater field of vision, gun down is a tool to keep in your arsenal.

Gun down is simply starting from a low position, with the butt of your shotgun no lower than the side of your chest. With the shotgun down, you can now move your head freely while using a soft focus to look for threats, which will avoid tunnel vision.

If a threat is spotted, transition to focusing on the threat. Muscle memory will take over, and you will mount the gun while focusing on the threat. As your eyes focus on the threat, your gun will come up to its established mounting point. Once you get a solid cheek weld, you will be on target. If you need to engage multiple targets, you can simply move your core to bring them into your sight picture.

BENEFITS OF FOUNDATIONAL SKILLS

The first benefit is faster target acquisition. If you have mastered the basics, your muscle memory will be established, and your reflexes can take over. Moving instinctively is not only fast, but it can remove the conscious reactions to distractions and fear. Your body is on autopilot; therefore, your actions will come effortlessly, leaving little space for distraction.

The same can apply to fear. With instinctive shooting, you have set a series of actions into motion that can be hard to stop (one of the downsides I will go into). So, even in the confusion of gun fire, you will fall back on this training, and your muscle memory will take over.

As I have referred to before, static targets don't prepare you for a variety of target scenarios. Clay targets present you with unpredictable target presentations. The angle, speed and range of the target can change. You learn to quickly adapt to these changes, which I believe better parallels actual defensive situations.

PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT

Clay sporting rounds can offer anywhere from 25 to 100 shots. In trap or skeet, a round consists of 25 targets.

THE RULE OF 21

The rule of 21 is what I follow to get a good start of committing something to muscle memory. Doing something 21 times each day for 21 days will commit that action to muscle memory. Here's how:

For the first week, mount your shotgun; if it's off, make a correction. Practice mounting 21 times. For the second week, you mount your shotgun 21 times; each time you put it up correctly you get to count it. When you make a mistake, don't count it; instead, repeat that time. During the third week, if you make a mistake you have to start counting to 21 all over again.

So, let's say you have successfully put your gun up 18 times and on your 19th attempt you screw up. Well, you're now back to zero. Do this and you will have this action committed to memory when your shotgun is in the right place. We can still make mistakes, but running this drill will cut down the frequency.

Notice the arch your body can comfortably swing across. With instinctive shooting, it is important to stay relaxed, allowing your body movement to be smooth. Smooth motion equals accuracy and speed.

Keep your stance stable and balanced, and your core will be able to move freely. In the second picture, you can see with a closer stance that you can easily pivot by just sliding your back foot a few inches. The stance in the second frame opens your arch up to the right.

And no one says you must shoot just one round, either. When I shoot trap to build my endurance for competition, I shoot no less than four rounds, which is 100 targets. If I catch a hot streak, I will end up shooting until I miss a target.

In sporting clays, you can shoot 50 or a hundred targets. By practicing these sports, you're going to become much more familiar with your firearm. The best sport out of the three to learn loading cycling and dealing with any malfunction is sporting clays. Sporting clays presents two different targets at each station. Each set can be shot calling for one after another or in true pairs, meaning one call starts the pair sequence forcing to shoot both targets without a break between.

You need not be a hunter to reap the benefits and skills gained from this type of practice.

THE CONS OF INSTINCTIVE SHOOTING

Instinctive shooting can be so embedded in your shooting routine that you have to remember to slow yourself down. You know the old saying, "If the only tool you have is a hammer, you tend to see every problem as a nail?" The saying is not an exact match for this problem, but if your body is tuned to instinctive shooting, you have to be careful that everything doesn't become a target.

Sometimes, people don't realize how powerful instinctive shooting is. You can respond to stimulus before you even realize it. Sure, everyone wants to be the fastest gun in the West, but we must also be moral and responsible for our actions. That is why instinctive shooting is only part of your arsenal of shooting tools.

SHOOTERS CAN'T LIVE ON INSTINCTIVE SHOOTING ALONE

If you want to improve your tactical shooting, you need to practice tactical shooting. Instinctive shooting, as I have said, is only one part of it. Keep doing tactical drills. Practice shooting from around cover and in different body positions. Clays don't give you the experience of moving with a gun at the ready. Techniques like pieing around corners or entering a room still need to be practiced. Most importantly, use your tactical shotgun as much as possible. Every shotgun fits differently. Every shotgun can shoot to a different point of aim … even if they are the same model. Tactical shotguns are more flat shooting, whereas shotguns made for certain clay sports can shoot high. Different ammo patterns differently out of each gun.

Practice with *your* gun. **GDTM**

+

As a reminder, clothing matters. I shoot year-round. At times, there have been snow squalls and down-pouring rain. As the seasons change, so does my clothing. In the wintertime, I get used to shooting with thick layers on. In the summer, I am down to a T-shirt. Believe it or not, my shooting takes a hit each season change until I am used to the clothing. Therefore, practice shooting or at least mounting your shotgun in all seasons so you get used to the feel. We don't have the ability to choose when and under what conditions trouble finds us, but we can prepare ourselves to adapt.

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MUSINGS ON HOME SECURITY

Things to consider when building a home defense gun.

An AR with a suppressor can be quite long and unwieldy. Since ARs are usually compared to others of their kind, the author threw in a new CMP M1 rifle to show the scale. Adding frontal length and weight dramatically influences maneuverability. In fact, the M1 isn't the heaviest rifle in this photo.

When things go bump in the night, there are of course some things to consider before you start bumping back. The gun community has been a mixed bag of sorts lately with products and technology coming out at a blistering rate thanks to changes in legislature and the expansion of the broader consumer base. There are more gun owners on a much wider spectrum of diversity than ever before, and this has inadvertently led to less tribal knowledge, less general understanding of technology and a "too many cooks in the kitchen" situation with the spread of information.

Something I've paid a great deal of attention to in the past few years has been the growing number of so-called experts who are little more than entertainers in tactical kit. Somehow, each of these guys is former special forces, a SEAL team member, SWAT sniper … whatever. I know and work closely with all of the aforementioned characters, and most things being promoted by entertainers are just straight-up fictional, and in many cases, simply there to encourage people to buy their snake oil.

Self-defense isn't a cookie-cutter thing, and a lot of what is being marketed to you are gimmicks. So, let's break it down a little bit: Here are the major considerations you must address before building out a gun for your home defense needs.

THE TERRAIN

Your home and property are a form of terrain, just like being in the woods. You have elevations, blind spots, hiding places, areas to protect and others to flee. You might think you know your home very well, but problems arise when you must think of your place as a dynamic environment that can get you killed.

Think about this: It's dark and you've had a late night, watching movies with the wife. She's doing something or other in the house, but you're having a drink before bed and wander into the garage for a minute … and suddenly you hear a window

break and she starts screaming. Where are the kids? Is this a prank? Where is your gun? You also don't know exactly where your wife is. Is she in the bathroom down the hall or in the master bedroom? Could she be downstairs?

Your home has now become a three-dimensional space with an unknown threat. Now, you need to navigate this to keep everyone safe. It could be a bear depending on what part of the country in which you reside, or maybe a guy obsessed with your teen daughter. Predator or pervert, you've got to make some fast decisions.

Knowing your terrain and how to navigate in an environment where your kids will likely be awake now, confusion abounds and dangers are unknown. What you do next will be important. Locating your family members is critical—bullets don't care who is behind that thin sheet of drywall. Homes are very easy to shoot through. You can't just start shooting until you are line of sight with a threat, and that can be difficult in any structure.

Knowing your layout, location of weapons and the locations of your family members are very critical to keeping everyone safe. Once a gun is in play, your structure is no longer safe for anyone; it's the fact of firing in a home. Even if they are directly behind you, the danger of incoming fire is present as well. You need to find places you can defend that also don't endanger your loved ones, which can be difficult in most homes.

So, with all this front of mind, are you building out a home gun because you like it … or because you've done the homework and it's suited to your specific home terrain?

CALIBER AND SIZE

It's my belief that any self-defense pistol set up for use in the home should be able to be operated at least by the adults in the household, and the older children should have general knowledge and training with it as well. In general, this means that whatever pistol I set up should feature ambidextrous controls. For instance, many members of my family are left-handed, whereas I am right-handed. Any gun used for defense should at least be able to be trained on with the weak hand. Many pistols out there today are effectively ambidextrous; this set of features is no longer difficult to find.

There is a prevailing belief that "nightstand" pistols can be larger and more powerful, but I don't agree with this. Being easy to handle and fire is much better than greater power. If your wife has a hard time operating a semi-automatic pistol, but has an easy time with a revolver, a revolver should be what you train and practice with. If you're incapacitated or shot, the last thing you want is your wife unable to chamber a round or manipulate all the controls.

Suppressors on pistols in the home … well, I'm not convinced it's a smart move. As suppressors are gaining popularity, they have definitely found their way onto home defense pistols, but it's not all roses. I am not a big fan of them from the perspective that they tend to add a lot of forward weight, are harder to point and handle, and can adversely affect reliability. As a generality, they are going to basically double the length of your pistol, and suppressors, while reducing noise, can interfere with lights and optics. If you want to do this, you need to spend a lot more time practicing and training with your setup … in the dark.

ONBOARD TECHNOLOGY

Take note: Smoothly operating technology is something that is more important than the most advanced technology. If you are equipping your pistol with a red-dot, light and all the bells and whistles, it better not be too complicated to use if you are incapacitated. There is absolutely nothing wrong with a regular 1911 and a flashlight; you've been coerced into believing that all of the stuff needs to be in one place.

The shooting industry, unfortunately, does a good job gaslighting people into buying more products because that's what instructors in the military use, but you're not going to have the support of those people or that military industrial complex when something bad happens at your house. If it's too complicated for all of your family members to use, don't use it. If your wife has a hard time using a pistol-mounted red-dot, don't use it.

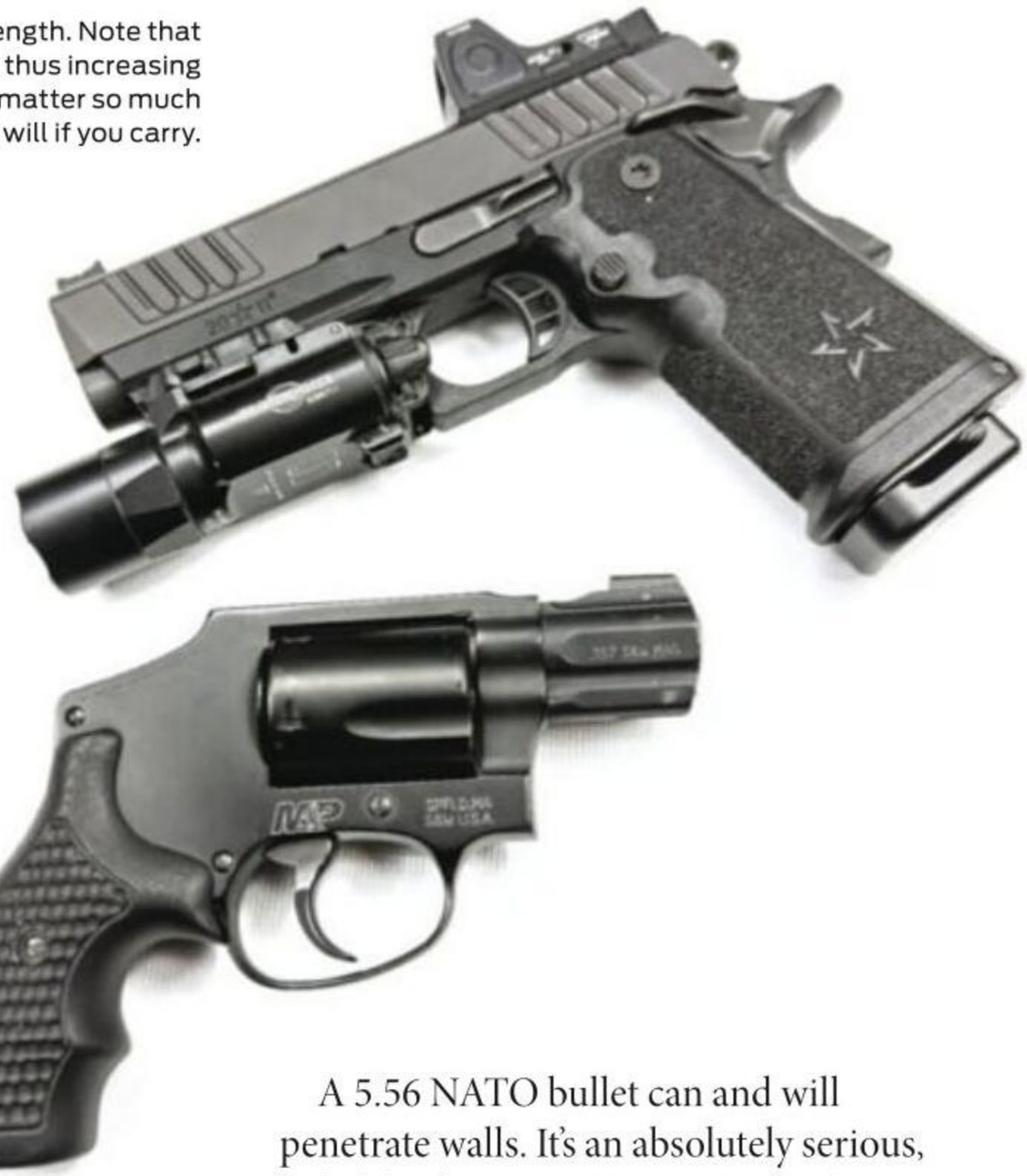
I don't have the answer for what's best for you. But I can tell you that overdoing it is a recipe for disaster, considering that there is a steeper proficiency curve the more items you add onto your pistol.

SAFETY FEATURES AND STORAGE

A big part of owning a gun is being safe about it. Just like racing to put all of the possible accessories onto your gun is something of a fool's errand, if you can't master the basics, getting all that equipment and then simply leaving it in a drawer unattended is a pretty bad option—even if it's just from an investment standpoint.

As mentioned, complicated features can lead to liabilities, but complicated storage can lead to inaccessibility. There is a pretty wide margin between leaving a loaded pistol out in the open and leaving it empty in a safe. Today, there are quite a few options for safe storage, and our community has been slowly embracing them, among these are keypad and biometric options that allow quick access but remain secure.

Pistol lights vary quite a bit in size and length. Note that some of these stick out past the muzzle, thus increasing length. The size of light you use doesn't matter so much in a drawer, but it will if you carry.



Despite being a reliable self-defense tool for generations, the fashion in pistols has swung away from the humble "snub-nose" revolver to guns like the Staccato. In a long survey of self-defense trainers, most won't even teach the pocket revolver, and some don't even want them in classes.

These are not exactly gun safes and should not take their place, but they do keep unwanted users from gaining immediate access. I strongly recommend looking into options from Hornady.

Additionally, there's a bit of a debate about manual safeties and their advantages … and disadvantages. Most striker-fired pistols don't have an easily verifiable way to show if the pistol is loaded or empty. Guns that have both striker fire mechanisms and manual safeties are not as common as those that have exposed hammers, such as a 1911. It's very easy to, even from a distance, see if the 1911 is ready to fire.

Manual safeties are definitely a bonus for safety in the home; however, they are one more thing to keep in mind under stress. You will find that there are a variety of schools of thought that go into this, and at the end of the day you're going to have to figure out what's best for you and your family.

THE BIG QUESTION

Home defense rifles are not a new concept, but their expanding popularity in recent years has led to a lot of disinformation. A big one I hear is that 5.56 NATO is not "good at penetration" and is pretty safe to use in a standard residential structure. I've even heard from experts that it's safer to use than high-mass pistol rounds, such as 9mm or .45 ACP. This is simply not true.

A 5.56 NATO bullet can and will penetrate walls. It's an absolutely serious, lethal, high-penetration cartridge (as always, bullet dependent) that can very easily do damage several rooms over.

The same concepts apply to shotguns: Shotguns are some of the worst offenders for multi-wall penetration. Despite the fact that they have been the quintessential home defense firearm for generations, it's the fact that they have been around so commonly that led to this, not out of any real purposeful design. If a shotgun is what you have, again, training and situational awareness are paramount.

Any rifle cartridge you use is going to be considerably more powerful than your home materials can withstand—7.62x39, .308 Winchester, 6.5 Creedmoor, you name it. A while ago on these pages, I wrote about a concept that I dubbed Schrodinger's bullet, where we basically ask a bullet to kill a bad guy, but not cause excessive penetration in walls or create liability for nearby individuals. We are asking too much of bullets if that's the case. There is no such bullet that will simply stop in a bad guy that can't first make it through clothing to his vital organs.

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To mount a flashlight or to not mount a flashlight, that is the question. There are benefits to having a light on your gun, but there are also many tactical advantages to having a handheld—namely you won't have to have your gun pointing at every place you need to scan, like places that may contain friendlies.

Suppressors add a lot of length to handguns. Note here that it's almost like having the length of another 1911 off the muzzle. Added length can be a problem in close quarters.

by accident. Expect any home defense setup to go through walls—period.

WATCH YOUR WEIGHT

Many shooters have become obsessed with taking up every bit of real estate on a long-gun these days. I tend to trick out my field rifles. I simply like good-looking guns. However, I would be lying if I told you that these were ideal setups for home defense.

The rifle featured in this article is a PWS chambered in 6ARC and features an 18-inch barrel, a suppressor, a thermal optic from Armasight and a day optic package from Vortex. This rifle, loaded, weighs 16 pounds and is a rifle I used for hunting and usually off of a tripod. Despite the fact that it looks like a useful setup, it's not easy to move around the home with. The optics on this rifle alone account for several pounds, and the suppressor adds weight and length to the front of the rifle.

It used to be taught that you wanted a compact package that you could operate off of either shoulder, and it would be light and handy. Most of my friends' home defense rifles are so encrusted in gear that they're approaching boat-anchor territory. The overly commercialized industry and gear-junkie instructors would have you preparing to invade Afghanistan again with what is commonly being pushed.

On the other hand, a bone-stock M16 A1 weighs less than half of this despite being "outdated." In our day and age, iron sights are often completely overlooked for more complicated optics. However, in doing shoot houses and other training exercises, there is no real difference in speed between dots and irons inside close quarters. But I did notice LPVO optics are decidedly slower, yet do offer advantages the second you enter open areas. Weight as a consideration needs to be addressed: The more you add to a rifle, the harder it will be to operate by family members.

Less clutter and more function are exactly where you should start.

SLINGS AND THINGS

There is debate around accessories like slings on rifles and shotguns for the home. I've heard both camps, and I can see all the sides. One says yes to slings because you can have a gun handy if moving kids or an injured person. On the other hand, they are easy to catch on things, grab onto and can generally snag easily while moving.

This is one you're going to have to determine for yourself, but my middle ground is to have a sling that is tightly secured to the gun but easily deployed. Likewise, it would be a good idea to attach a tourniquet to the stock as well.

Lights and lasers are a mixed bag. A good defensive carbine is benefited by a light, although it does give your position away and can wash out optics in closed spaces. I'm not a big fan of lasers, as visible day lasers are not as fast or easy to use as you might expect, and infrared lasers require you to cut your power and put on your NVDs. I know some guys who do, but it's a lot to go through when you're already in an emergency and seconds count.

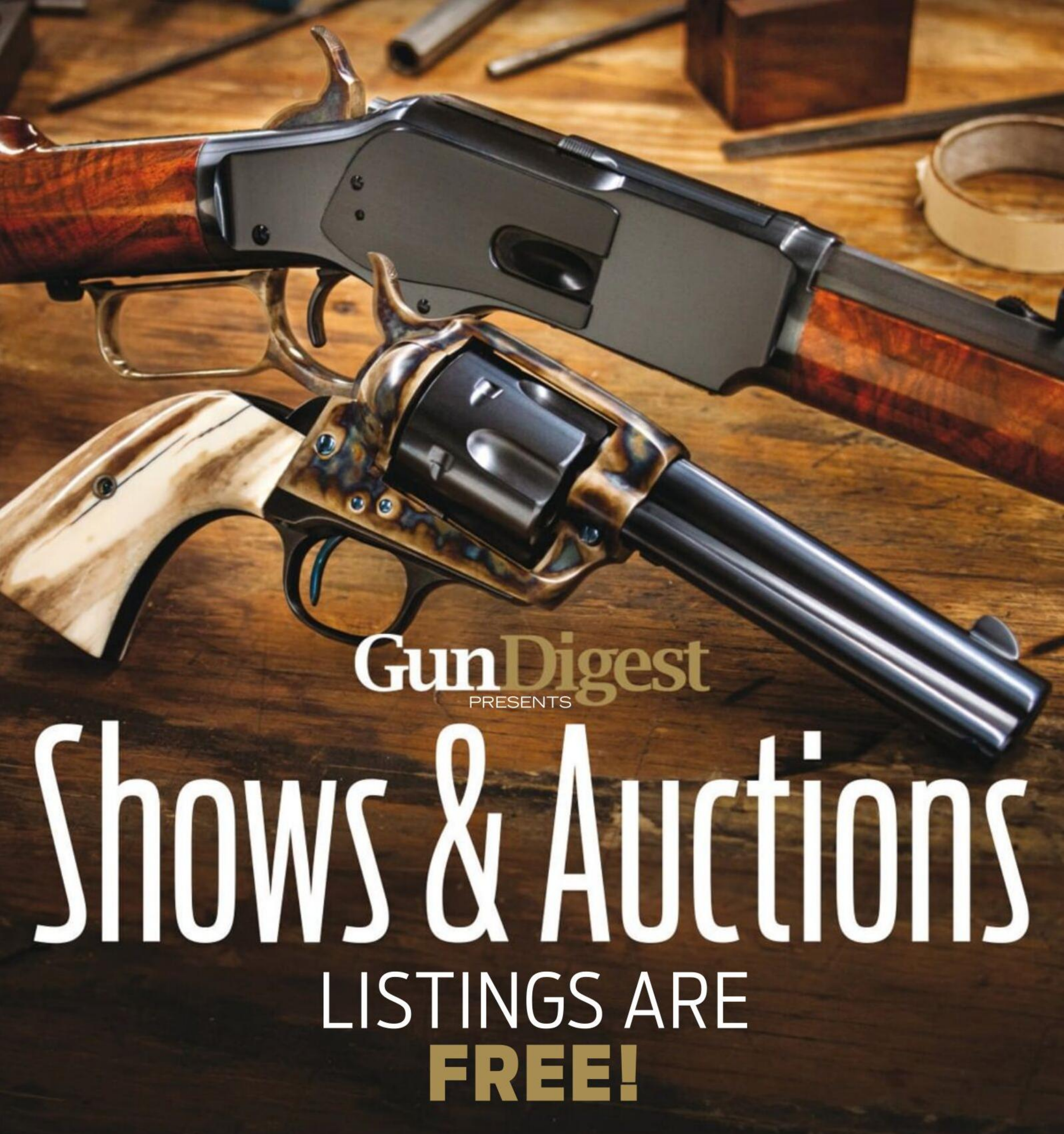
PREPARING FOR REALITY

If you're a student of history or are the victim of your upper-level management handing out copies to promote sales strategy and synergy in the office, Sun Tsu's *The Art of War* talks about the need to prepare accordingly for conflict, not about every kind of sword or spear. While the book could more easily be summed up as a collection of common-sense anecdotes repackaged for sheepdog guys to start PowerPoint presentations, there is a shocking lack of basic common sense in home defense instruction and training.

We've been looking at the wrong things in the wrong ways, and it's a shame. You should be building a gun for your own exact reality, not warfare or team exercises despite how cool they look. Traumatic injury training is lacking virtually everywhere. Common sense says you have a weapon that causes harm, yet we don't emphasize that angle.

Take a minute and look at your terrain, your rooms, and your strong and weak points. Think about whether you'd have to carry a child or if you get stabbed. Where are your medical supplies? Do your kids know how to stop bleeding? What if your toddler is shot? Grim, right? That's reality, and adding more accessories to your gun isn't going to teach your wife to pack a gunshot wound with underwear.

Building a gun is the last thing you need to worry about in defending yourself—surviving is. Your guns should be simple, reliable and not just for you. You might be the one who needs defending in the end. **GDTM**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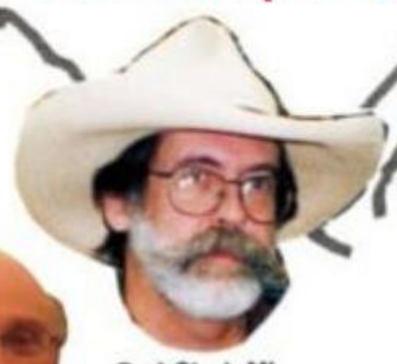
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PISTOLS AND REVOLVERS

1-H Colt .45 ACP "Model 1911/Model of 1911 U.S. Army" Pre WW-I Auto Pistol 5" WW-II High Standard replacement barrel with excellent bright bore and marked "HS" and "P" on lug, frame shows 97% original blue with a few specks of light pitting on grip safety and smooth straight lanyard equipped mainspring housing going a little dull, minty checkered hammer and safety lever, inside top of frame next to dis-connector pin are the letter "H" and "R", small "GHS" inspector mark on left side of frame above clip release button, slide is marked "model of 1911 U.S. Army" on right side with a spot of light pitting over letters "mod.", correct rear sight but front "shaved" a bit for vertical adjustment, "H" marked above firing pin retaining, all correct small parts, two tone magazine lanyard loop magazine shows faded blue but nice two tone heat treatment line, original large diamond screw escutcheons with left side panel showing more wear on wood and fastening screws than minty right side panel and screws, a super looker in collector quality condition, made in 1915 with only the barrel being a WW-II replacement, made in 1915, collector quality with some minor issues (C&R) $4795

2-H Colt .22 LR Officers Model Target Single / Double Action Revolver 6" barrel with excellent bright bore, 92% original blue with cylinder going a bit gray, checkered backstrap and trigger, original service style checkered Walnut grips with silver medallions, left grip has a repaired section on lower front, adjustable front and rear target sights, manufactured 1941 (the last of the old model styles), excellent function and nice looking (C&R) $785

3-H Colt .38 Special "Official Police Model" Single / Double Action Revolver 6" tapered barrel with mint bore, 95%+ original blue with most loss on cylinder "drag" line and some thinning on straps, fixed sights, mint original checkered brown plastic "Coltwood" grips with rampant horse logos cast in, excellent smooth function, timing and solid lockup, made in 1950 (C&R) $525

4-H Erma .22 LR "Luger Model" Auto Pistol 4 ½" barrel with mint bore, fixed sights, 97% original bright blue with a few tiny flakes missing from sharp edges, very high quality by early "Erma Werke", mint checkered brown plastic grips, 10 shot black plastic bottom magazine, has the real look and feel of a standard P-08, super looker, made in 1964 (C&R) $475

5-H Harrington & Richardson .22 LR "Model 922" Single / Double Action Solid Frame "Pull Pin" Revolver 6" barrel with excellent bright bore, 92% original blue with most loss on cylinder, fixed sights, excellent checkered Walnut target style original extension grips, excellent function (C&R) $185

6-H Harrington & Richardson .22 LR "Trapper" Model Double / Single Action Solid Frame "Pull Pin" Revolver 6" round barrel with excellent bright bore, 98% original blue and case color with a scattering of very fine pitting on barrel and hammer (almost invisible), mint checkered Walnut oversize original grips, 7 shot cylinder, excellent function, not often seen in this condition, very sharp looker (C&R) $325

7-H Harrington & Richardson .38 S&W (Not Special) "Model 925" Single / Double Action Top Break Revolver 4" ovoid barrel with mint bore, 98% original bright blue with thinning on backstrap, adjustable blade front sight and square notch windage adjustable rear sight, excellent checkered Walnut diamond center grips with gold H&R logo medallions, 5 shot cylinder, excellent function, Worcester, MA made gun, collector quality (C&R) $465

8-H High Standard .22 LR "Model H-D Military" Auto Pistol 4 ½" heavy barrel with excellent bright bore, blade front and fully adjustable rear sights, 96% original blue showing some sharp edge silvering and a little fading, excellent full checkered Walnut grips, excellent (2) tone 10 shot magazine, made in 1949 and comes in its original flip top box with yellow end label, excellent function, box contains all paper work along with a separate sheet of paper detailing how to adjust the rear sight (C&R) $595

9-H High Standard .22 LR "Model H-D Military" Auto Pistol 4 ½" heavy barrel with mint bore, blade front and fully adjustable rear sight (with instructions on how to adjust rear), 97% original blue with a little thinning on sides of barrel and straps, excellent full checkered Walnut grips, excellent (2) tone magazine, perfect function just a little shy of collector quality, made in 1946 and comes with a separate sheet of paper detailing how to adjust the rear sight (C&R) $485

10-H High Standard .22 LR "Model S-101 Supermatic" Target Auto Pistol 4 ½" heavy push button release barrel with mint bore, ramp blade front and fully adjustable rear target sights, 99% original blue, mint checkered brown plastic thumbrest grips with logo eagle, excellent function, missing its lower barrel filler strip, made in 1957 and looks near new, collector quality, comes with (1) Hi-Standard marked 10 shot magazine (C&R) $525

11-H High Standard .22 LR "Model SK-100 Lightweight Sport King" Auto Pistol 4 ½" barrel with mint bore, fixed sights with drift adjustable rear, 98% original blue with push button barrel release, mint checkered brown plastic thumbrest grips with Hi Standard eagle logo, excellent function, collector quality, made in 1959 and looks unused (C&R) $415

12-H High Standard .22 LR "Supermatic Citation" Military Style Target Auto Pistol 5 ½" bull barrel with mint bore, barrel has notched cut-outs for compensator plus drilled, tapped and plugged by factory weights (no accessories provided), blade front and "bridge" type target fully adjustable sights, 98% original blue, nickel plated serrated adjustable trigger and magazine release, push button barrel release, mint checkered Walnut thumbrest grips, excellent function, made in Hamden, CT in 1974 (C&R) $695

13-H High Standard .22 LR "Supermatic Citation / Model 107 Military" Left Handed Target Auto Pistol 5 ½" bull barrel with mint bore, push button release, barrel cut-outs for compensator and drilled, tapped and plugged for weights (non present), target style 1/8" ramp blade front and fully adjustable "bridge" style square notch target rear sight, 99% original blue, adjustable serrated trigger, stippled front and backstrap, mint checkered Walnut factory thumbrest grips for a left handed shooter, as new overall, showing little or no use, made in 1972 with rarely found factory left hand grips (C&R) $750

14-H High Standard .22 LR "Supermatic Trophy" Target Auto Pistol 7 ¼" fluted barrel with mint bore, ramp blade front and "bridge" type fully adjustable target rear sight, target crowned barrel with side cuts for compensator and drilled, tapped and plugged holes for weights on bottom (no accessories provided), 99% original blue with gold accents on grooved adjustable trigger, safety and magazine release, made in Hamden, CT with military style grip, mint checkered Walnut thumbrest grips, an early "ML" prefix serial number pistol, collector quality very high end target pistol made in 1975 (C&R) $795

15-H Iver Johnson .22 LR "Model 55A Target" Double / Single Action Solid Frame "Pull Pin" Revolver 6" barrel with mint bore, 98%+ original blue and case color, fixed sights, 8 shot cylinder, mint checkered brown plastic thumbrest grips with "owl" logo, comes in original brown cardboard box with Iver Johnson logo on cover, near new collector quality (C&R) $325

16-H Japanese 8mm Nambu "Type 14" Large Trigger Guard Clip Feed Auto Pistol 4 ½" barrel with fair pitted bore, nice arsenal refinish blue, fixed sights, very good serrated hardwood grips, one aluminum base non matching magazine, magazine latch is worn and needs to be replaced otherwise functions normally, matching numbers "Chuo Kogyo Arsenal" manufacture in 1939 with "14.9" Showa" manufacturing date (C&R) $655

17-H Maadi Co. of Egypt 9mm Para "Helwan" Model Auto Pistol 4 ½" barrel with mint bore, 99% original blue, fixed sights, perfect function, the Helwan is a licensed copy of the "Beretta brigadier 1951", as new in original box with spare magazine, cleaning tools, operating manual and import certificate dated 05/05/1997, box is serial number matched to gun $400

18-H OMC .380 ACP "Backup Model" Stainless Pocket Auto Pistol 2 ½" barrel with excellent bore, fixed sights, all stainless construction with bright sides on slide and darker matte finish on frame, just a few light scratches on metal, mint smooth Walnut grips, loaded chamber indicator and manual as well as grip safety, looks good works fine $245

19-H Palmetto 9mm "Dagger Compact" Auto Pistol 4 3/8" threaded barrel with mint bore, Sylvan Arms clamp on compensator on barrel, mint "forest green" slide and black polymer lower, factory fixed open sights plus a "Holosun" red projection beam sight, black textured grip, front rail with "Stream light TLR-7A" high intensity flashlight, comes with one Glock 14 round magazine and one original Palmetto 17 round magazine, both beam rear sight and flashlight work fine, comes in its original compartmentalized soft zipper case with owners manual, and packaging for added accessories $695

20-H Remington 7mm IHMSA Cal. "Model XP-100" Single Shot Bolt Action Pistol 14" tapered stainless steel barrel marked "J.B. Dever" over caliber marking, stainless triggerguard, blued receiver with 99% original finish, fully adjustable pivoting hood rear sight and long tube blade front sight plus drilled, tapped and plugged (factory) for receiver sights and optical rail, excellent smooth black nylon pistol grip stock, super trigger pull, shows little actual use $745

21-H Remington. .380 ACP "Model 51" Pocket Auto Pistol 3 3/8" barrel with bright excellent bore, 97% original blue with thinning along back strap, front strap shows small spots of silvering, some high edge wear along slide, mint "fire blue" on safety lever, black checkered hard rubber "Rem UMC" logo grips, comes with one factory magazine, excellent function, manufactured 1932, collector quality, only about 1000% better than what is being made today (C&R) $725

22-H Ruger .45 ACP "Model SR-1911 Commander" Auto Pistol 4 ¼" barrel with mint bore, all stainless construction with black oxide controls and sights, (3) green dot low profile combat sights, skelotenized spur hammer and adjustable trigger, factory oversized safety and full beavertail grip safety, extended magazine release, all external surfaces are like new, mint large diamond checkered "Cocobolo" wood grips with Ruger Phoenix medallions, comes with (1) original Ruger stainless 7 shot magazine, made in 2016 and looks new $895

23-H Ruger .22 LR "Old Model Bearcat" Letter Series Single Action Revolver 4" barrel with mint bore, 99% original blue and brass plated triggerguard, "staked" front sight and grooved top strap sight, excellent roll engraved cylinder scene, mint epoxy resin Rosewood (2) piece grips, second year production, "1959" and "M" prefix serial number, near new condition with a little staining on sides of hammer and some small storage dings in metal, collector quality with all correct features and excellent mechanical condition, comes with factory letter, no box or paper (C&R) $785

24-H Ruger .22 LR "Old Model Bearcat" Letter Series Single Action Revolver 4" barrel with mint bore, 99% original blue and brass plated triggerguard, "staked" front sight and grooved top strap sight, excellent roll engraved cylinder scene, mint epoxy resin Rosewood (2) piece grips, second year production, "1959" and "N" prefix serial number, near new condition with a little staining on sides of hammer and some small storage dings in metal, collector quality with all correct features and excellent mechanical condition, comes with factory letter, no box or paper (C&R) $785

25-H Ruger .22 LR "Old Model Super Bearcat" Single Action Revolver 4" barrel with mint bore, 98% original blue, fixed sights, nice cylinder scene on un-fluted cylinder with a little gold fill on rolled engraving, brass anodize triggerguard, shows just a little handling wear, excellent dark Walnut smooth (2) piece grips with silver medallions, made in 1971, comes in original (2) piece box (C&R) $565

26-H Ruger .22 Winchester Magnum "Model LCR" Double Action Only 6 Shot Hammerless Revolver 1 7/8" barrel with mint bore, 99% original matte blue finish, single white dot mirror front sight and top strap groove rear sight, mint Ruger wraparound rubber finger groove grips, excellent function, made in 2013 and comes with a high quality Safariland M&P model leather holster for belt wear $695

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27-H Ruger 9mm Para "Security Nine Compact" Auto Pistol 3.41" barrel with mint bore, white dot front and white outline drift adjustable rear sights, nylon textured grip frame with factory "Hogue" grip sleeve, (1) 10 shot double stack magazine with finger rest bottom and spare plain bottom in original white flip top box with Ruger cable lock and paper, matching end label $375

28-H Russian 7.62x25mm "Model TT-33 Tokarev" Military Auto Pistol 4 ½" barrel with good strong but pitted bore, fixed sights, very little original blue but only minor scattered pitting, "Izhevsk" (triangle in a circle) proofed on 1948 dated frame with matching slide, excellent serrated black hard rubber grips with "CCCP" in a circle surrounding a (5) pointed star marking, lanyard on lower right side of frame on left side, mismatched 8 shot WW-II blued steel magazine with flat follower and lanyard loop bottom, excellent function but hold open lever is a bit worn, 1948 marked after serial number (C&R) $495

29-H Sig Sauer .40 S&W "Model P229" Single / Double Action Auto Pistol 4" barrel with mint bore, stainless slide and black alloy frame show near new condition surfaces, (3) dot "Siglite" low profile sights, mint soft textured, finger groove, black original grips, 10 round blued magazine, looks and functions near new $595

30-H Sig Sauer 10mm "Model P320 XTEN" Auto Pistol 5.1" barrel with excellent bore, 99% original "black Nitron" finish optic ready slide with factory "X-Ray 3" sights plus factory accessory Picatinny rail on frame, comes in original box with (7) factory 15 round magazines, shows little or no actual use, the 10 mm is a real powerhouse of a round $755

31-H Smith & Wesson .22 LR "Model 46" Target Auto Pistol 7" barrel with mint bore, 96% original blue (correctly duller than blue on model 41) with some small loss on slide rails both left and right sides, early style target sights with fully adjustable rear, excellent checkered Walnut thumbrest grips are not original to gun (should by nylon grips in same pattern as wood), excellent function, made around 1960 as a less expensive alternative to the "model 41" but now valued as a collector item (C&R) $1095

32-H Smith & Wesson 9mm Para "Model 39-2" SA / DA Auto Pistol 4" barrel with mint bore, 97% original bright black anodized alloy frame and blued slide getting just a bit thin and graying at muzzle on right side, original blade front and windage adjustable rear sights, excellent checkered Walnut grips, spur hammer, hammer drop safety, works perfectly both single and double action, made in 1976 and comes in original (2) piece matching box with reinforced corners, spare magazine and paper (C&R) $795

33-H Smith & Wesson 9mm Para "Model SW-1911 Pro Series" Stainless Auto Pistol 5" barrel with mint bore, (3) white dot combat low profile sights, all stainless surfaces are like new, skeleton spur hammer, light weight alloy adjustable trigger, ambidextrous safety, beavertail grip safety, fine checkered front and back straps, beveled magazine well with (2) "Wilson Combat" bumper bottom magazines, stippled wood grain grips, excellent function with great trigger, as new in original case with spare magazine, takedown tool, cable lock and all paper $1185

34-H Smith & Wesson .45 ACP "Model M&P 45 M2.0" Autoloader Pistol 4.6" barrel with mint bore, 99 ½% original black finish, (3) white dot low profile combat sights, short Picatinny rail on bottom front of frame, as new in original flip top box with matching end label, (2) 10 shot magazines, extra backstrap inserts, cable lock and all paper $465

35-H Smith &Wesson .22 LR "Model 34-1" (Model of 1953 22/32 Kit Gun) Revolver 4" pinned barrel with mint bore, 99% original bright blue and case color, blade front and fully adjustable rear sights, mint checkered Walnut round butt grips with S&W medallions are numbered to gun, looks and functions as new, comes in original (2) piece box with reinforced corners, with owners manual and matching end label, made around 1966, collector quality (C&R) $795

36-H Smith & Wesson .38 Special "Model 36 Chiefs Special" Revolver 1 7/8" pinned barrel with mint bore, fixed sights, ramped flat latch, slightly "bobbed" hammer, 90% case color, 95% original blue with a little graying at tip of muzzle, "Uncle Mike's" finger groove "boot grips", excellent function, made around 1965 (C&R) $375

37-H Smith & Wesson .38 Special "Bodyguard Airweight" (Pre-Model 38) SA / DA Revolver 2" pinned barrel with mint bore, fixed sights, 98% original blue on alloy frame and steel barrel and cylinder, 98% case color hardening on hammer and trigger, ramp flat latch, mint checkered Walnut round butt grips with diamond center and S&W medallions, matching number on right panel, perfect function, only defect is a light spot on one side of cylinder from lying in a box but still collector quality, made in 1956 (C&R) $795

38-H Smith & Wesson .357 Magnum "Model 37 Chiefs Special Airweight" Revolver 2" barrel with mint bore, fixed sights, 95% original blue with sharp edges of alloy frame silvering from holster carry, 95% faded case colors, excellent function, mint smooth rosewood round butt grips with finger grooves, not original grips but sharp looking and nice feel, made around 1981 ..... $495

39-H Smith & Wesson .380 ACP "Bodyguard 380" Sub Compact Double Action Only Auto Pistol 2 ¾" stainless steel barrel with mint bore, fixed sights plus integral "insight" red laser, 99% original black finish on synthetic polymer frame with finger groove grips and "S&W" logo, comes with (2) 6 shot magazines, in original black plastic case with accessories but no manual, laser works but dim due to weak battery $285

40-H Walther .22 LR "Model P22 Target" Single / Double Action Auto Pistol 5" barrel with mint bore, 99% original black matte finish, (3) white dot low profile sights plus lower accessory picatinny rail, cogged hammer, slide mounted safety shows little actual use, comes in original black plastic case with a few accessories but no owner's manual $285

41-H Wichita Arms Co. .308 Winchester "Silhouette Model" Single Shot Bolt Action Pistol 15" tapered barrel with mint bore, 98%+ original blue, "Wichita" marked fully adjustable rear sight and "Globe" style replaceable insert front sight plus factory drilled, tapped and plugged for optics and other side mount accessories, excellent smooth dark Walnut pistol grip stock, serrated trigger, looks and functions near new, discontinued in 1994, contrasting wood grip cap on wood, awesome looking, a 4 ½ pound handful that probably shoots lights out $1195

CENTERFIRE RIFLES

42-H Finnish / Tika Arsenal 7.62x54 "Model 27" Mosin Nagant Bolt Rifle 27" barrel with fair pitted bore, 80% thinning arsenal blue, original sights, shows some small arsenal replacement parts, bolt serialized to rifle, fixed magazine is not serialized to rifle, smooth hardwood straight grip stock and handguard, left side of buttstock is carved with letters "L.H. 1/1 P.R." manufactured 1932 and still functions fine (C&R) $495

43-H Harrington & Richardson 45/70 "Commemorative Officers Model 1873" Trapdoor Rifle 26" round barrel with mint bore, 98%+ original bright blue with mint case colors on engraved receiver, lockplate and bolt, bolt is marked "U.S". over "Model 1873", lockplate is marked "U.S. Springfield with national eagle", front bead sight with flip up tang peep sight with large disc iris, checkered dark Walnut straight grip stock with case colored engraved trigger guard shows some light scratches, bottom of stock shows circle "P" cartouche, (U.S. marked) scrolled engraved, case colored Butt plate shows 98%+ case colors, comes with light colored brass tipped cleaning rod, like new condition overall, excellent function, collector quality, and a super looker $925

44-H Japanese / Kokura 7.7mm Japanese "Type 99" Bolt Rifle 25 ½" barrel with good bore showing light scattered pitting, 97% arsenal blue finish, inverted "V" front sight, fixed "peep" rear sight, ground mum, no other markings, correct two piece hardwood stock and handguard, stock looks to be refinished, no buttplate, sling swivels, excellent function, looks like an early "last ditch" model (C&R) $320

45-H Krag (Norwegian) Jorgensen 6.5x55mm Sporterized Bolt Rifle 25" barrel with mint bore, 98%+ nice refinish blue, ramp bead front and Williams "peep" rear sights, matching bolt, minty Walnut pistol grip stock with cut checkering, cheekpiece, grip cap, Winchester black hard rubber logo buttplate, wood work is elegant and top quality receiver is dated "1917" with Norwegian royal crown proofs, excellent function in a nice light recoiling caliber that is noted for its accuracy, has a small compass inletted in rear of top comb of stock (C&R) $645

46-H Mauser .308 Winchester "Model 1916" Spanish Short Bolt Action Rifle 22" barrel (stepped) with mint bore, military style wing protected front sight and tangent rear graduated to 2000 meters, 95%+ arsenal refurbish blue, non marked front receiver bridge, all matching numbers, good Walnut straight grip stock with side mount swivels and smooth steel buttplate, excellent function (C&R) $295

47-H Mossberg .243 Winchester "Model 800B" Bolt Action Rifle 22" barrel with mint bore, 98%+ original blue, ramp bead front and folding open rear sights plus a "Pic" 4x32mm scope with plain crosshairs mounted on factory drilled and tapped receiver using Weaver 2 piece bases and Weaver 1" rings, push button release hinged floorplate, sliding thumb operated tang mounted safety, excellent function, minty plain Walnut pistol grip stock with grip cap, serrated black plastic buttplate, factory 1" swivels and black nylon "cartridge carry" sling, made circa 1969 (C&R) $425

48-H Remington 5mm Remington Magnum "Model 592M" Tube Feed Bolt Rifle 24" barrel with mint bore, 98%+ original blue, factory open front (no rear) sights plus a Redfield 2-7x34mm scope with tactical reticule mounted on grooved receiver with 1" rings, minty figured dark Walnut pistol grip stock with Monte Carlo, logo grip cap with 5mm Rem Mag logo and checkered black plastic buttplate, looks and functions as new, collector quality, manufactured 1971 (C&R) $695

49-H Remington 30/06 "Model 770" Bolt Action Parts Only Rifle 22" barrel with mint bore, barreled receiver with no other metal parts, stock appears to be from a Remington 700 BDL with skipline checkering, black forend tip, grip cap with a crack at (1) mounting screw, cut for a hinged floorplate, Monte Carlo, added Pachmayr vent recoil pad and swivel "eyes" wood has nice color and light figured with hunting nicks and dings, wood does not appear to have been cut $75

50-H Remington 30/40 Krag (.30 U.S.A.) Model 1899 Sporterized Clip Feed Bolt Rifle 26" barrel with excellent bright bore, 98% of what appears to be original bright blue, ramp blade front sight and "Lyman" lever style flip down (2) position iris receiver sight, holes for original rear sight are open, one barrel band just forward of rear sight holes, rear sling swivel present but no forward swivel, very nice original straight grip stock with shortened forend, filled in wiping rod slot no upper wood and original steel buttplate, no magazine but these function as well as single shots as there is a magazine cutoff present in original design, complete bolt, excellent function (C&R) $695

51-H Remington 30/06 "Model 1903-A3" WW-II Era Bolt Rifle 24" barrel with mint (2) groove bore, 98% nice mix of blued and parkerized parts, all correct stamped parts, barrel is marked "RA-8-43" with flaming "bomb" proof, bolt is all "R" marked, very good dark Walnut straight grip stock with "RA" crossed cannons, "FJA" cartouche and circle "P" firing proof, all correct swivels and green cloth sling, "trap" style buttplate, original military sights, all correct and not import marked, very sharp looking, collector quality (C&R) $1025

52-H Ruger 25/06 "Model No. 1 KI-BOZ Stainless" Single Shot Dropping Block Rifle 26" barrel with mint bore, quarter rib with no open sights but a very nice "VX-3 Leupold" 1.5-5x25mm scope with duplex reticle and super clear glass, mint laminate green/black pistol grip stock with grip cap, solid black rubber logo buttpad, factory swivels and as new appearance overall, made in 2001 ..... $1195

53-H Spanish Mauser 7mm "Model 1916" Bolt Rifle 22 ½" barrel with good, lightly pitted bore, 90% arsenal blue showing brown patina on barrel, bayonet band, barrel band / sling swivel, factory tangent rear sight graduated to 2000 meters and wing protected inverted "V" front sight , receiver shows an "XX" mark on front bridge, mismatched bolt, Walnut straight grip stock with hinged push button release floorplate an unrepaired crack along the top of wrist, steel buttplate, old original military style side mount leather sling, excellent function, manufactured 1930, a nice little "backup" short rifle in a nice light recoiling caliber (C&R) $285

54-H Spanish 9mm Bergman "Destroyer" Civil Guard Bolt Carbine 21 ½" barrel with excellent bright blue, 95%+ original bright blue, most blue loss shows as fading on forward part of barrel, nice sharp markings on receiver bridge, ladder style carbine rear sight graduated to 700 meters, very good pistol grip Walnut stock with side mount swivels and steel buttplate, matching numbers, made in 1956 and works perfectly, no recent import marks, comes with (1) 6 shot original magazine (C&R) $495

55-H Swiss Military 7.5x55mm Swiss caliber "Model K-31" Straight Pull Bolt Rifle 25.65" barrel with excellent bright bore, 97% original blue, all matching parts, windage adjustable "wing" protected blade front sight and tangent style ladder rear sight graduated to 1500 meters, nice "Swiss cross in shield" on receiver bridge, very god original stock with side mount swivels, wiping rod, and steel buttplate with owners name on small slip of paper under plate, excellent function (C&R) $795

56-H Swiss Military 7.5x55mm Swiss caliber "Model 1911" Straight Pull Carbine 23 ¼" barrel with excellent bright bore, 97% original bright blue with most loss on front receiver bridge, all matching numbers, adjustable "wing" protected windage adjustable blade front sight and tangent style "ladder" rear sight graduated to 1500 meters, near excellent Walnut pistol grip stock with finger groove forend, side mount swivels, bayonet fixture, wiping rod and steel buttplate, excellent function, made in 1927 (C&R) $695

57-H U.S. Government / Harrington & Richardson 30/06 "Model M-1 Garand" Korean War Vintage Auto Rifle 24" barrel with excellent bright bore and marked "HR/3-54" all parts H&R marked including trigger housing group, bolt, rear sight and small parts, very nice dark Walnut pistol grip stock with only marking a boxed "P" just barely visible on underside of pistol grip, trap style buttplate and all swivels, 95% original parkerized finish, small import mark on left side of receiver, excellent function and sharp looking (C&R) $1485

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58-H U.S. Government / Springfield Armory 30/06 "Model 1903" Arsenal Rebuild Bolt Rifle 24" barrel marked "SA / Ordnance bomb / 7-42" with a very good but lightly pitted bore, original front blade sight, 2nd variation 1905 style rear sight with windage knob and graduated to 2750 yards with notched top, 1903 bayonet fixture along with stacking swivel, mid barrel band swivel and rear sling swivel, arsenal rebuild Parkerized finish on barrel, receiver and checkered trap style buttplate, correct 1903A3 style stamped sheet metal trigger guard / floorplate, smooth Walnut "C" type pistol grip stock and handguard, cleaning kit in butt of trap style stock, low number receiver, stock has circled "P" on inside of grip but no other cartouches are visible, functions fine (C&R) $725

59-H Winchester 30/30 "Model 94" Wells Fargo & Co. 125th Year Anniversary Edition Saddle Ring Lever Carbine 20" barrel with mint bore, blade front sight, open factory sporting rear sight, 95% original blue with some pitting below rear sight where it meets with barrel, forend appears to have some light moisture as well, factory "antiqued" engraved receiver for that old western look shows a brushed brown / silver finish with some pin prick pitting on blued saddle ring, checkered Walnut stock with fancy figure and inset commemorative coin, toe has slight chip, clear coat on stock showing some dry cracking in areas, blued buttplate with some pin prick pitting, manufactured 1977 ..... $635

RIMFIRE RIFLES

60-H Browning .22 LR "Grade I" Butt Tube Feed Auto Rifle 19 ¼" barrel with excellent bright bore, bead front sight, sporting open rear "wheel adjustable" rear sight and grooved receiver, 90%+ original blue on factory engraved receiver, 98% blue on barrel, very good+ nicely colored and lightly figured English Walnut pistol grip stock with cut checkering and added swivel "eyes", early "T" prefix serial number, made around 1959, excellent function, showing field use but no abuse (C&R) $525

61-H Cooey .22 LR "Model 39" Single Shot Bolt Rifle 22" barrel with excellent bright bore, 98% original bright blue, dovetail bead front and sporting open elevation adjustable screw fastened, rear sights, excellent Walnut pistol grip stock with smooth blued steel buttplate, missing its bolt, super looker, made in Canada (C&R) $95

62-H Cooey .22 LR "Model 60 Repeater" Tube Feed Bolt Rifle 23 ½" barrel with mint bore, 98% original bright blue, dovetail blade front and sporting open rear sights, excellent Walnut sporter style pistol grip stock with smooth blued steel buttplate, near new looking and function (C&R) $395

63-H Cooey .22 LR "Model 82" Single Shot WW-II Canadian Bolt Action Training Rifle 26 ½" barrel with mint bore, 97% original blue, "wing" protected blade front sight and elevation adjustable sporting open rear sight, near mint full length pistol grip stock sheet metal front cap, 1 ¼" sling swivels, blued sheet metal triggerguard and blued smooth steel buttplate, correct serial number placement on bottom of pistol grip, Canadian government stamp on top of front receiver bridge and tiny "broad arrow" mark on bolt flat, collector quality in near new condition (C&R) $575

64-H Cooey .22 LR "Model 82" Commercial Single Shot Canadian Made Bolt Rile 26 ½" barrel with mint bore, 98% original blue, "wing" protected blade front sight and sporting open rear sight, mounting block for "peep" sight is missing, mint nicely finished Walnut pistol grip stock is un-numbered, blued steel mostly sheet metal hardware, 1 ¼" original sling swivels, excellent function, no broad arrow or government proofs, sharp looking (C&R) $295

65-H High Standard .22 high speed Short, long & Long Rifle "Sport King Field Model A-103" Tube Feed Autoloader Rifle 22 ¼" barrel with mint bore, 98%+ original bright blue, factory blade front, sporting open rear sights plus grooved receiver, minty lightly figured and nicely colored Walnut pistol grip stock with brown plastic, serrated High Standard logo buttplate, looks and functions as new, collector quality made circa 1962 (C&R) $245

66-H High Standard .22 S, L, & LR "Model A1041 Sport King Special Deluxe" Tube Feed Autoloader Rifle 22 ¼" barrel with excellent bore, 98% original blue, factory sporting open sights plus grooved receiver, excellent dark figured Walnut pistol grip stock with fancy impress checkering at grip area, Monte Carlo, grip cap and logo serrated black plastic buttplate, made between 1966-1971, no serial number so 1966-1967, excellent function and super looker (C&R) $265

67-H High Standard .22 High Speed Shorts, Longs, & LR "Model A-102 Sport King" Autoloader Carbine 18 ¼" barrel with excellent bright bore, 98% original blue, dovetail bead front, folding open sporting rear and nice period "J.C. Higgins" marked 4x .22 scope in Weaver style rings on grooved receiver, (scope is a Weaver made for Sears), excellent dark Walnut straight grip stock with barrel band, factory sling swivels and brass plated carbine buttplate, scope shows brass plated High lights on ocular retainers, looks super and works fine, made circa 1965 (C&R) $325

68-H J.C. Higgins / High Standard .22 LR Only "Model 25 (High Standard Sport King)" Auto Rifle 22 ¼" barrel with mint bore, factory sporting open sights and grooved receiver, mint light-colored figured Hickory stock with J.C. Higgins logo buttplate, works fine, looks near new, made circa 1966 (C&R) $159

69-H J.C. Higgins / High Standard .22 LR Only "Model 25 (High Standard Sport King)" Auto Rifle 22 ¼" barrel with mint bore, 98% original blue showing a little peppery pitting from poor storage, factory sporting open sights and grooved receiver, very nice looking stained light colored Hickory stock with nice figure and J.C. Higgins buttplate, wood shows small spots of missing finish from same poor storage, manufactured circa 1966, excellent function (C&R) $175

70-H J.C. Higgins / High Standard .22 LR Only "Model 25 (High Standard Sport King)" Auto Rifle 22 ¼" barrel with mint bore, 95% original blue showing a little peppery pitting from poor storage, factory sporting open sights and grooved receiver, very nice looking stained light colored Hickory stock with nice figure and J.C. Higgins buttplate, wood shows small spots of missing finish from same poor storage, manufactured circa 1966, excellent function (C&R) $175

71-H Marlin .22 S, L, & LR "Model Golden 39A" Lever Rifle 24" barrel with mint bore, 98%+ original blue, factory open sights (missing hood on front sight) plus a Weaver "Marksman" 4x32mm scope using a Weaver rail and rings mounted using factory drilled and tapped holes, minty light color Walnut figured pistol grip stock with grip cap and logo plastic buttplate, original sling swivels with good leather sling, "JM" marked barrel, excellent looker and function $795

72-H Mossberg .22 S, L, & LR "Model 352-KB" Clip Feed Auto Rifle 18" barrel with bright excellent bore, metal surfaces show a faded blue going brown, open sporting factory sights, smooth Walnut Monte Carlo pistol grip stock with black synthetic folding fore grip, grooved receiver, black plastic finger groove triggerguard, one factory magazine, excellent function, manufactured 1960-1971 (C&R) $195

73-H Mossberg .22 S, L, & LR "Model 320-KA" Grooved Receiver Bolt Rifle 24" barrel with mint bore, 90% original blue with an area on center of barrel that is thinning to gray, light peppery pin prick pitting along barrel, original sights, grooved receiver is mounted with a Mossberg No. M4D scope, scope has plain crosshairs and good optics, original rubber scope eye cup is now hardened and cracked, smooth Monte Carlo pistol grip stock with black plastic buttplate and plastic finger groove triggerguard that has pulled away from stock, excellent function, manufactured 1960-1969 (C&R) $235

74-H New England Firearms .17 HMR "Model SS1" Sportster Single Shot Break Action Rifle 22" heavy barrel with excellent bore, 98% blue, mounted scope rail, parkerized receiver showing some light marks, textured black synthetic stock with rubber recoil pad and sling studs, comes with original box $185

75-H Remington .22 LR "Model 522 Viper" Parts Only Clip Feed Auto Rifle 20" barrel with mint bore, no open sights and drilled and tapped holes at rear for rear sight, excellent upper receiver with no internal parts, black synthetic pistol grip stock with impress checkering is perfect, no clip $35

76-H Remington .22 LR "Model 522 Viper" Parts Only Clip Feed Auto Rifle 20" barrel with mint bore, no open sights and drilled and tapped holes at rear for rear sight, excellent upper receiver with no internal parts, black synthetic pistol grip stock with impress checkering is perfect, no clip $35

77-H Remington .22 Short "Model 24" Butt Tube Feed Takedown Auto Rifle 19" barrel with good bore, 80% blue going brown on barrel with receiver showing gray / brown with scattered pin prick pitting, original open sights, smooth Walnut pistol grip stock and Schnabel forend, excellent function, manufactured 1922-1935 (C&R) $285

78-H Remington .22 S, L, & LR "Model 12" Takedown Tube Feed Pump Rifle 22" round barrel with fair pitted bore, factory original sights, 80%+ original blue with the barrel thinning to brown / gray, shows muzzle silvering, scattered light pin prick pitting along magazine tube, smooth Walnut straight grip stock and grooved small "corn cob" style forfend, Butt plate is correct style and type but not properly fit, wood shows normal wear, manufactured 1906-1936 (C&R) $245

79-H Ross Rifle Co. .22 LR "Model 1912" Single Shot Straight Pull Bolt Action Training Rifle 21 ¼" barrel with excellent bright bore, simple blade front and non adjustable open rear sight (no peep sight at rear), odd mechanism required a bolt release lever in front of triggerguard to be activated by closing bolt or opening on an empty or loaded chamber, excellent dark Walnut pistol grip stock with forend cap having a swivel and what looks like a bayonet mount, ¾" swivels front and rear, correct "trap" style buttplate with brass trap door, works fine with commercial serial number (C&R) $795

80-H Ruger .22 LR Model 10/22 Clip Feed Auto Rifle 18 ½" barrel with mint bore, 98% factory black matte finish, front bead, folding leaf rear sight, mounted scope rail, smooth pistol grip stock, crescent plastic buttplate, comes with one magazine, excellent function, manufactured 2008 ..... $250

81-H Ruger .22 LR "Early Model 10/22" Standard Auto Carbine 18 ½" barrel with mint bore, 97% original blue, factory bead front sight and slot blank in rear dovetail plus a Bushnell "Banner II" 1.5-4x32mm scope in Redfield 1" "swing over" rings and Weaver style rail, very good dark plain Walnut pistol grip stock with blued steel carbine buttplate, wood shows light field use nicks, dings and scratches, made in 1965, excellent function with (1) 10 shot magazine (C&R) ... $375

82-H Sears (High Standard) .22 S, L, & LR "Model 25" Tube Feed Auto Rifle 22" barrel with mint bore, factory open sights and grooved receiver, 98% original blue with some scattered light pitting, minty attractive light colored hickory pistol grip stock with a few storage bruises and a black plastic logo buttplate, excellent function (C&R) $210

83-H Sears, Roebuck & Ted Williams / Sears / Ithaca .22 LR "Model 340.530430" Single Shot Lever Carbine 18" barrel with bright excellent bore, 90% original blue with scattered pin prick pitting, 97% black enamel finish on action, lever and barrel band, blonde colored checkered Elmwood straight grip stock and forend wood, manufactured 1969-1976 ..... $215

84-H Winchester .22 LR "Model 74" Butt Tube Feed "Pre War" Auto Rifle 24" barrel with bright excellent bore, 90%+ thinning finish showing scattered pin prick pitting, fixed sights, smooth Walnut stock showing normal use dings and dents, toeline shows seventeen notches (small vermin are still looking for the former owner), triggerguard and steel checkered buttplate show mostly gray patina, excellent function, manufactured 1940 (C&R) $195

85-H Winchester .22 LR "Model 77" Tube Feed Auto Rifle 22" barrel with mint bore, 98%+ original blue, factory open sights and grooved receiver, excellent dark colored Walnut pistol grip stock with logo plastic buttplate, excellent function showing little actual use, made around 1958, looks new (C&R) $315

86-H Winchester .22 LR "Model 77" Tube Feed Auto Rifle 22" barrel with excellent bore, 90% original blue but faded on barrel and graying on top of grooved receiver, factory open sights, excellent dark figured Walnut pistol grip stock with logo plastic buttplate, made in 1955, first ear production, excellent function (C&R) $275

87-H Winchester .22 LR "Model 190" Tube Feed Autoloader Carbine Parts Only 20 ½" barrel with mint bore, 98% original blue, barreled receiver with magazine tube (no insert), front sight base but no sight, open rear sight without elevator wedge, grooved receiver with no internal parts, good solid Walnut pistol grip stock with some stain discoloration and no buttplate $45

88-H Winchester .22 S, L, & LR "Model 69A" Grooved Receiver Clip Feed Bolt Rifle 25" barrel with mint bore, fixed sights plus grooved receiver, 98%+ original blue, nickel bolt handle, trigger and triggerguard signify a late production gun, smooth Walnut pistol grip stock with original Winchester buttplate, excellent function, comes with one original Winchester 5 round magazine, collector quality (C&R) $495

89-H Winchester .22 S, L, & LR Model 69A "Deluxe" Clip Feed Bolt Rifle 25" barrel with bright excellent bore, metal surfaces are thinning blue to brown, front blade sight is missing its hood, factory rear aperture "peep" sight, checkered Walnut pistol grip stock with cheekpiece, black plastic checkered Walnut buttplate, sling swivels, comes with one "W" marked magazine, manufactured 1935-1963 (C&R) $285

90-H Winchester .22 S, L, & LR "Model 72" Tube Feed Bolt Rifle 25" barrel with mint bore, 98%+ original bright blue, factory open sights, minty Walnut pistol grip stock with mint logo checkered hard rubber buttplate, excellent function, an early 72 in collector quality condition and all early features (C&R) $395

91-H Winchester .22 S, L, & LR "Model 06" Takedown Pump Rifle 20" barrel with bright excellent bore, non-professional re-blue on all metal surfaces, open sporting sights, smooth straight grip Walnut stock with crescent buttplate and small "corn cob" style forend, excellent function, manufactured 1924 and still works fine (C&R) $495

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92-H Browning 12 Gauge "Model Twelvette Double Auto in Rare *Autumn Brown Finish*" Shotgun 30" ribbed barrel with bright excellent bore with light pitting, 2 ¾" chamber, fixed full choke, single bead front sight, 95% original blue on barrel with some thinning to gray towards muzzle, 98% "Autumn brown Hiduminium" (high strength aircraft alloy) receiver finish with factory embellished zigzag borders and Browning foliate scroll engraving, "Twelvette" stamped above the loading port, excellent checkered Walnut round knob pistol grip buttstock and matching forend, later added brown Pachmayr rubber recoil pad, stock shows later added finish, 14 3/8" L.O.P., manufactured 1957-1971 (C&R) $795

93-H Harrington & Richardson .410 Gauge "Model 490 Topper" Break Open Single Shot Shotgun 26" barrel with mint bore, 3" chamber, fixed full choke, 98%+ original blue and case colors, smooth Walnut pistol grip stock and forend, black rubber recoil pad, single brass bead front sight, excellent function, manufactured 1977 ..... $235

94-H High Standard 12 Gauge "Flight King Deluxe / Model K-121" Pump Shotgun 28" raised vent rib barrel with mint bore, fixed modified choke, 2 ¾" chamber, 97% original blue showing light scratches on receiver, light thinning toward muzzle and wear along magazine tube, press checkered Walnut pistol grip stock and forend, stock shows varnish wear along grip and low luster finish on stock, grip cap and factory brown rubber recoil pad, excellent function, manufactured 1966-1973 (C&R) $225

95-H Iver Johnson .410 Gauge "Champion Model" Single Shot Shotgun 26" plain barrel with excellent bright bore, 90%+ original faded blue, very light strike of manufacturer's information, top of barrel is labeled "410 bore / barrel and lug forged in one" very good+ Walnut pistol grip stock with "owl head" Iver Johnson logo hard rubber buttplate, excellent function (C&R) $295

96-H Mossberg .410 Gauge "Model 183-K" Bolt Shotgun 25" barrel with mint bore, 3" chambered factory adjustable poly choke, 98% original blue, smooth Walnut pistol grip stock with plastic finger groove triggerguard, both red and green jewel indicators are present, excellent function, manufactured 1956-1960 (C&R) $235

97-H New England Firearms (NEF) Old H&R 12 Gauge "Tracker Pardner SBI" Single Shot Shotgun 24 ½" fully rifled barrel with mint bore, 3" chamber and cylinder bore, red painted ramp bead front sight and fully adjustable open rear sight, 98%+ original blue and color case hardening, mint plain hardwood pistol grip stock with factory vent recoil pad, swivel "eyes" Q.D. swivels, slip on nylon shell carrier plus a nice nylon brown sling 1 ¼" wide, as new super deer hunting package $225

98-H Remington 12 Gauge "Model 1100" Parts Only Auto Shotgun no barrel or internal parts, roll engraved receiver with 95% original blue with some light pitting and a shallow dent in top receiver still has a 12 gauge magazine tube still attached, just tube no innards or cap, excellent Walnut pistol grip buttstock with fancy "Fleur-de-lis" impress checkering, white diamond logo grip cap and serrated black plastic buttplate, nice color and light figured in buttstock, no forend or other associated parts (FFL) $95

99-H Remington 12 Gauge "The Sportsman / U.S. Property Marked" Auto Shotgun 20" riot barrel with excellent bright bore, 2 ¾" chamber and marked "Cyl" choke, 95% original fading blue, receiver is marked "U.S./ordnance bomb/military finish", barrel is marked "U.S./ordnance bomb" lower tang of triggerguard is marked "AHP", very good Walnut pistol grip stock marked "FJA" and "crossed cannons ordnance wheel", serrated Remington logo buttplate, matching forend has a few short cracks at receiver, very nice looker and all correct (C&R) $1095

100-H Remington 20 Gauge "Model 870 Wingmaster" Pump Shotgun 28" plain barrel with excellent bore, 2 ¾' chamber and fixed modified choke, 95%+ original bright blue, excellent Walnut pistol grip stock with impress "fleur-de-lis" checkering, grip cap, vent rubber Remington logo recoil pad and matching pump handle, made in 1974 with nice smooth action showing only light woods carry (C&R) $365

101-H Savage / Fox 20 Gauge "Model BSE-C" Side by Side Shotgun 28" vent rib barrels with excellent bright bores, 3" chambers and fixed full and modified chokes, 98% original blue, (2) bead vent rib, single trigger, auto ejectors and all excellent functioning, very good Walnut pistol grip stock with impress checkering, grip cap, checkered black plastic buttplate, and full beavertail matching forend, wood shows an old repaired broken out piece behind boxlock receiver (broken out piece is fairly good size and shows an old poor re-glue), nice looking and pre-1968 made (C&R) $595

102-H Savage / Springfield 12 Gauge "Model 67-C" Pump Shotgun 28" barrel with bright excellent bore, 2 ¾" chamber, fixed modified choke, 97% original blue with thinning along barrel and light scratches along alloy receiver, hardwood pistol grip stock shows varnish chipping, scratches, red rubber recoil pad is a replacement and is not well fitted to butt, just a nice old "backup" shotgun in good working order (C&R) $125

103-H Savage / Stevens 20 Gauge "Model 258-B" Clip Feed Bolt Shotgun 26" barrel with good bore, 80% original blue, thinning to gray along receiver, pin prick pitting on receiver and thinning to gray, single bead front sight, smooth Walnut pistol grip stock with ebony forend, black plastic buttplate unable to retain a magazine due to broken magazine well spring, no magazine, parts or repair shotgun $75

104-H Smith & Wesson 12 Gauge "Model 1000-M" Auto Shotgun 30" vent rib barrel with excellent bore, fixed full choke, 2 ¾" chamber, 97%+ original blue shows light thinning, scratches on roll engraved receiver, silver front and mid bead sights, checkered High gloss finish pistol grip stock and matching forend, S&W logo grip cap and factory brown rubber vented recoil pad, manufactured 1974-1984 ..... $435

105-H Vega 12 Gauge "Diamond Imperial Model" Over/Under Shotgun 28" vent rib barrel with mint bores, 3" chambers improved modified and full screw in chokes, 99% original blue with roll engraved boxlock receiver, selectable single trigger (on safety), mint lightly figured, reddish brown, dark Turkish Walnut pistol grip stock with cut checkering, and vent rubber recoil pad, matching lever release forend, crisp auto ejectors, appears unfired, nice quality with low price $495

106-H Vega 20 Gauge "Deluxe Model" Over/Under Shotgun 26" barrels with mint bores, 3" chambers, improved cylinder and cylinder screw in choke tubes, 99% original blue, vent rib barrels, 99% silver lightly roll engraved receiver, selectable single trigger, extractors, mint dark figured Turkish Walnut pistol grip stock with flat cut checkering, serrated black vent rubber recoil pad and matching lever release forend, excellent function and nice looking $525

107-H Winchester 12 Gauge "Model 59" Auto Shotgun 28" plain "Win-lite barrel", 2 ¾" chamber, fixed modified choke with bright excellent bore, 97% original black enamel and anodized alloy receiver finishes, some high edge wear along roll engraved receiver depicting game scenes, excellent checkered Walnut pistol grip stock and matching forend, wood shows light hunting dings and dents, excellent function, manufactured 1960-1965, a nice lightweight 12 gauge using the unique fiberglass wrapped steel tube barrel (C&R) $425

108-H Winchester 12 Gauge "Model 12" Pump Shotgun 30" plain barrel with mint bore, 2 ¾" chamber and fixed full choke, 98%+ original bright blue, excellent Walnut pistol grip stock with logo plastic buttplate, made in 1960 and looks and functions as new, shows only light storage wear and little or no actual use (C&R) $675

109-H Winchester 12 Gauge "Model 12 Trap" Pump Shotgun 30" ventilated rib barrel with mint bore, 2 ¾" chamber, fixed full choke, twin silver bead sights, 98% original blue showing light scratches, custom shop Myrtle checkered stock and extended forend, stock sports an oversized pistol grip and semi rollover cheekpiece, forend shows a small 2" section of lighter color, black rubber recoil pad, 14 ¾" L.O.P., offset Winchester proof mark on barrel and receiver, serial number range falls in the 1964 clean up range and probably a "Custom Shop" special order, excellent function and super looking, manufactured 1964 (C&R) $925

110-H Winchester 12 Gauge "Model 1300" Pump Shotgun 26" vent rib barrel with good cylinder bore, barrel has been shorten from 28", vent rib has a "clip on" fiber optic front sight, with a couple small areas of pin prick pitting, 90% blue, matte black receiver and bolt, 98% nice laminated wood stock with rubber recoil pad, 14" L.O.P. $195

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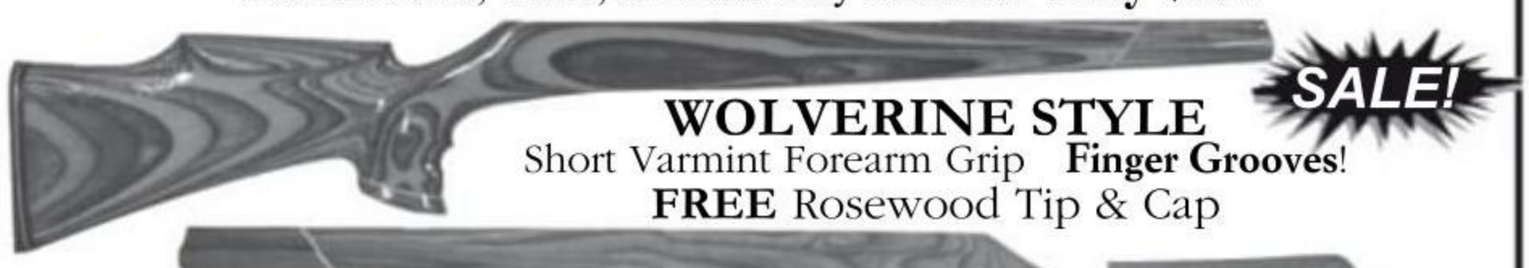

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The Echelon on the left side, showing the regular locations of the controls, the disassembly lever, slide stop and magazine catch.

INSIDE BASEBALL

Springfield Armory's Echelon is more than just another polymer blaster.

It's easy to get jaded when perusing the offerings at the local 9mm blaster emporium. They're all black, they all are plastic, they all look like industrial tools, and yet …

The Springfield Armory Echelon is more than that, and to get a sense of it you must realize the advances that have happened in the firearms world since the first plastic pistol.

Back then, we took what there was because it was new and had advantages. Since then, manufacturers have improved, improved and improved, and Springfield has done that and more with the Echelon. This isn't a review, but a technical overview, letting you in on the "inside baseball" of pistol development.

SUM OF ALL PARTS

First of all, there's the "chassis," the central operating group (COG). No, the use of a chassis isn't new, but it is the current thing, and for good reasons. Think plastic. (Yes, Mrs. Robinson, I do think you are trying to seduce me.) You can't make fire control parts out of plastic. Well, you can, the AUG has them, but the fire control module of the AUG is almost as big as the Echelon, and you can't have that and be compact.

So, you need steel. And that means steel pins. Press on a part riding on a steel pin in plastic, and the plastic moves. It can't be helped. That means that, when an engineer/designer designs the interface, the dimensions of the fire control parts, you must account for the movement.

Ever wonder why your "plastic fantastic" has such a "meh" trigger? That's why.

Springfield spec'd, as one of the first things, a chassis for the Echelon. This made it possible to produce a very nice trigger in a polymer-framed pistol. Oh wait, it's a chassis so it isn't a frame … it's just a shell. You can take the chassis out and plop it into a different shell and have a larger or smaller frame. Mine's the big one, so I'd have the option of going to a smaller shell, with less capacity, but easier to carry concealed.

It gets better. Since they were going to be making the COG a self-contained unit, they decided to adopt the idea of not having to dry-fire the pistol

to disassemble. Oh, and the COG is stainless, so there's even less maintenance and worry about oxidation.

Once you have unloaded and removed the magazine (the disassembly process doesn't proceed with a magazine in place, an extra safety step), you simply lock the slide back, rotate the disassembly lever and run the slide off of the frame. Done.

Oh, and despite being just a shell (Springfield calls it a "grip module"), Springfield took advantage of modern manufacturing processes and made the shell with removable backstraps. So, you can customize it to your hand.

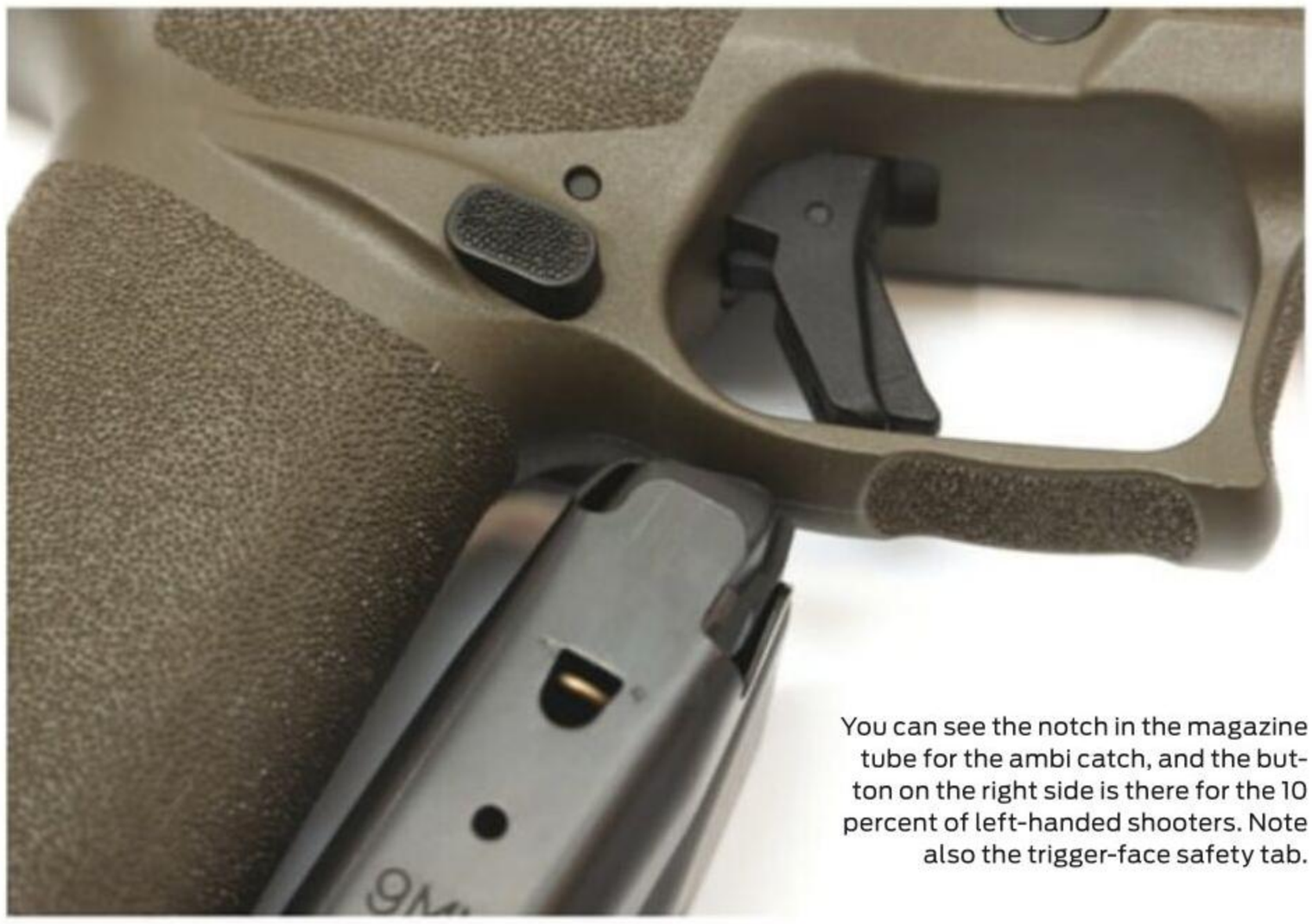
But again, it gets better.

Once the supply of shells catches up, you can buy just a shell (just a part, no serial number, no controls, although there is some place, somewhere, that prohibits it—whatcha gonna do?). You can buy a shell and experiment. Use a soldering iron to make the texture more aggressive. Use Bondo, JB Weld, whatever, to change the shape. Make it the way you want it to be.

When I wasn't looking, Springfield Armory did indeed catch up, and the grip module can now be had in one of three different colors for a listed $65. Really? I burn up more than that in ammo costs on a range day. So, a grip module to experiment with sounds really cool.

They did all this so you would have all the choices you'd need to make your Echelon fit you, not the shooter next to you. We didn't have that in the old days—nor for a long time after.

The grip is already ergonomically shaped, unlike the "2x4" shape starting out of earlier polymer pistols. The texture is enough to work,



You can see the notch in the magazine tube for the ambi catch, and the button on the right side is there for the 10 percent of left-handed shooters. Note also the trigger-face safety tab.

On the right side, you can see the ambi nature of the Echelon, with slide stop and mag catch. No need for an ambi disassembly lever; that isn't something you need to use against the clock or under stress.

The Springfield Armory designers went with steel for the magazine tube, and they chose well. Plus, it holds 17 rounds in the standard length.

Replacement backstraps so you can make your Echelon your Echelon—no one else's.

but not so much that it feels like work. Back when I was gunsmithing, I had tough hands from work. I checkered razor-sharp 20 lines per inch for my guns. I happened to have to move one in the safe to get to the Echelon, and yowza, that thing could draw blood today. You want enough—but not too much—and the Echelon does that. Again, a design and end-user decision in the prototypes and the manufacture.

SOUTHPAWS UNITE!

Care to guess how many people in the world are left-handed? Us right-handers haven't a clue, but the southpaws among us know it is right around 10 percent. One shooter in 10 is struggling to work the controls. Well not on an Echelon, which (and I hate repeating this, but I don't) Springfield Armory took into consideration.

The slide stop lever is ambi (actually, it's dually-dexterous, but hey, we all know what "ambi" means, right?) as well as the magazine release. Not swappable, not a spare part you need to install, but both ways, right out of the box. The magazines have the mag catch on the front face of the tube, so the buttons both work and work well. And that's another ergonomic decision: The magazine button isn't just a circular tab sticking up. It is a sculpted, checkered, easy-to-reach button you press.

Speaking of magazines, Springfield Armory went with steel. This makes them durable (steel has been working for well over a century, why change?), and they hold 17 rounds. Well, one does, because the Echelon comes with two, and one already has a magazine extension installed. There's an extra extension in the box just in case you want to have both of your magazines capable of holding 20 rounds.

Then, there's the big thing: the optics system. Since optics manufacturers have made red-dots small enough to fit on a slide and tough enough to survive the experience, we've been putting red-dots right onto slides. But

The Echelon comes with all the anti-shear pins and fasteners you need to secure an RDO to your slide.

Underneath the cover plate you can see the VIS system. Use the anti-shear pins in the appropriate sockets to mount whatever optic you plan to use. Then, bolt it all down. No adapter plates here.

there has always been one problem: fit. As in, the "footprint" of each design is unique.

So, the manufactures who wanted an optics mount had to machine the slide as best they could, and then use an interface plate, and adapter, to fit. An adapter adds height. Plus, legacy designs had the parts placed in the slide before the idea of a red-dot optic, so there might not be room. This means that on a lot of older designs the optic ends up pretty high above the bore and slide. There just isn't room to machine the pocket in the slide lower to get things better aligned.

The Springfield Armory designers knew that, and they came up with the Variable Interface System (VIS).

First, they kept the parts as much out of the way as they could. (The striker still has to be on the centerline to hit the primer, but there's nothing above it in an Echelon.) Instead of an adapter plate, they machine the Echelon optics pocket as low as possible and then for adapter pins. Take the cover plate off, and you'll see a series of recesses and threaded sockets. The Echelon comes with small anti-shear pins of various sizes and sets. What you do is simple: With a red-dot decided on, you use the correct anti-shear pins to mate the Echelon slide to the red-dot optic you've chosen. Then, bolt it down (those screws are provided as well), and you're good to go.

The COG can be quickly removed and installed in another module. So, you have choices of size and color. Ain't America great?

NO ADAPTER PLATES. NO EXTRA HEIGHT.

Aiming is good, but before you aim you must load and manipulate. The Echelon comes with a magazine loader to save your thumb the extra work of stuffing 20-round magazines. This isn't engineering or design, but it is good customer relations. Then, for the engineering and design, they provide some aggressive but not sharp cocking serrations on the slide.

And as extras, they sculpted the slide so at the rear of those cocking serrations is an extra flange. Well, it

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The Echelon comes with two magazines. In the full-sized one, they hold 17 rounds, and one comes with an extender already on it. So, 17 and 20, or even 20 and 20.

isn't an extra flange. What they've done is machined the flats the cocking serrations are in at a slight angle. Then, they just didn't "pull" the cutting tool all the way back off the slide and left a taller shelf right at the back. One set of those is on the forward cocking serrations, and the shelf is just ahead of the ejection port. The second shelf is at the rear of the slide. You can really get a good purchase on the slide to work it, to load and unload.

And for the shooting? Springfield Armory put a very large amount of ammo through the prototypes. (They wouldn't tell me how much, but that they wouldn't say is telling.) So, you won't have to worry about wearing yours out. You'd have to win the lotto, then dedicate your life to accomplishing that task to have a chance.

Once they got started, the engineers and customer relations people at Springfield Armory didn't stop. With the full-sized one on the market, they then offered colors. Don't like black? Find it boring? You can have your Echelon in FDE or OD Green. Or get one of those modules in a color and swap it yourself to a two-tone color scheme. Comped, compact, both in the comped and compact, or the latest, a kinda-sorta commander Echelon; with the full-capacity module (17 rounds, remember?) and the shorter, compact slide and barrel. Springfield Armory does not neglect those who plan ahead, so you can get spare parts, mag funnels, and an extended and threaded barrel for your suppressor all for your Echelon.

Now, with all of this rightful admiration for design and engineering, you'd think I would have rushed out and bought one at the first opportunity. Well, I'm a gun writer. I got to handle each new iteration as they came out, but I also managed to win one, an OD Green 4.5F, at The Pin Shoot. To quote the late Alan Rickman in *Die Hard*, "Benefits of a classical education." Or the benefit of shooting in competition—which the Echelon is well-suited to … and not just as an excellent EDC pistol.

The nice trigger, accuracy, ability to install a red-dot optic and capacity all suit the Echelon to competition. Just be sure and check the rules to make sure you're in compliance. Showing up at a match only to find out that the rules that day don't allow for red-dots would be un-fun. But wait … I forgot to mention that the installation or removal of the red-dot optic does not mean moving the existing iron sights. That means the U-notch rear and Tritium front sights are always there, untouched by your red-dot on-and-offing.

If the Springfield Armory engineers and designers had thought of anything more, your Echelon might be able to brew your morning coffee. Wouldn't that be a great deal? **GDTM**

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STOCK YOUR GLOCK (OR CANIK, OR PDP)

S-PRO: Recover Tactical's latest carbine conversion.

Ever since the advent of both the handgun and the longarm, people have been searching for the best way to bridge the gap between the two. The tree created in this quest for compromise has many branches and brought us to entirely new categories (looking at you, PDW). But one of the easiest ways, and first attempts, to clasp hands was simply adding a stock to a sidearm.

This makes a lot of sense. A buttstock increases stability and allows for better recoil management by adding more points of contact with the body. It won't make a [typically] smaller pistol round hit harder, but it'll make the shooter more accurate while allowing for faster fire. This is why detachable stocks were seen with some 19th century calvary guns, horseback being a place where the small size and maneuverability of a handgun has advantage but the increased stability of a stock is helpful.

We see the same trend for similar reasons in the early 20th century, though often with aviation and armored vehicles in mind rather than horses. Along with assorted Mauser broomhandles, the Germans had the LP08, essentially a plussed-up Luger with tangent sights and a stock. The Browning Hi-Power, too, received a comparable "artillery" treatment. In the postwar period, the Soviets produced the similarly stocked Stechkin.

But by mid-20th century America, the stocked pistol largely disappeared. The reason for this is twofold: the American military moved toward the submachine gun and the carbine as the preferred middle path (carbines being much easier to train conscripted troops with) and the passing of the National Firearms Act of 1934. After NFA '34 was enacted, pistols equipped with buttstocks that had barrels under 16 inches were declared short-barreled

rifles—and had to be registered and have a $200 tax paid prior to legal possession.

There were outliers in the pistol/carbine conversion camp like the Dardick Model 1500 (a fascinating firearm in its own right) and truly custom pieces like the Bob Loveless S&W Model 41 convertible, but they are few and far between.

For some perspective, the NFA tax was $200 when the bill was signed in June 1934. If going by mere inflation, that $200 equates to around $4,800 in June 2025—but if we compare it to median income levels it's the modern equivalent of $13,300. It's no wonder that development stocked pistols and conversions died on the vine among the American civilian market for essentially the rest of the 20th century.

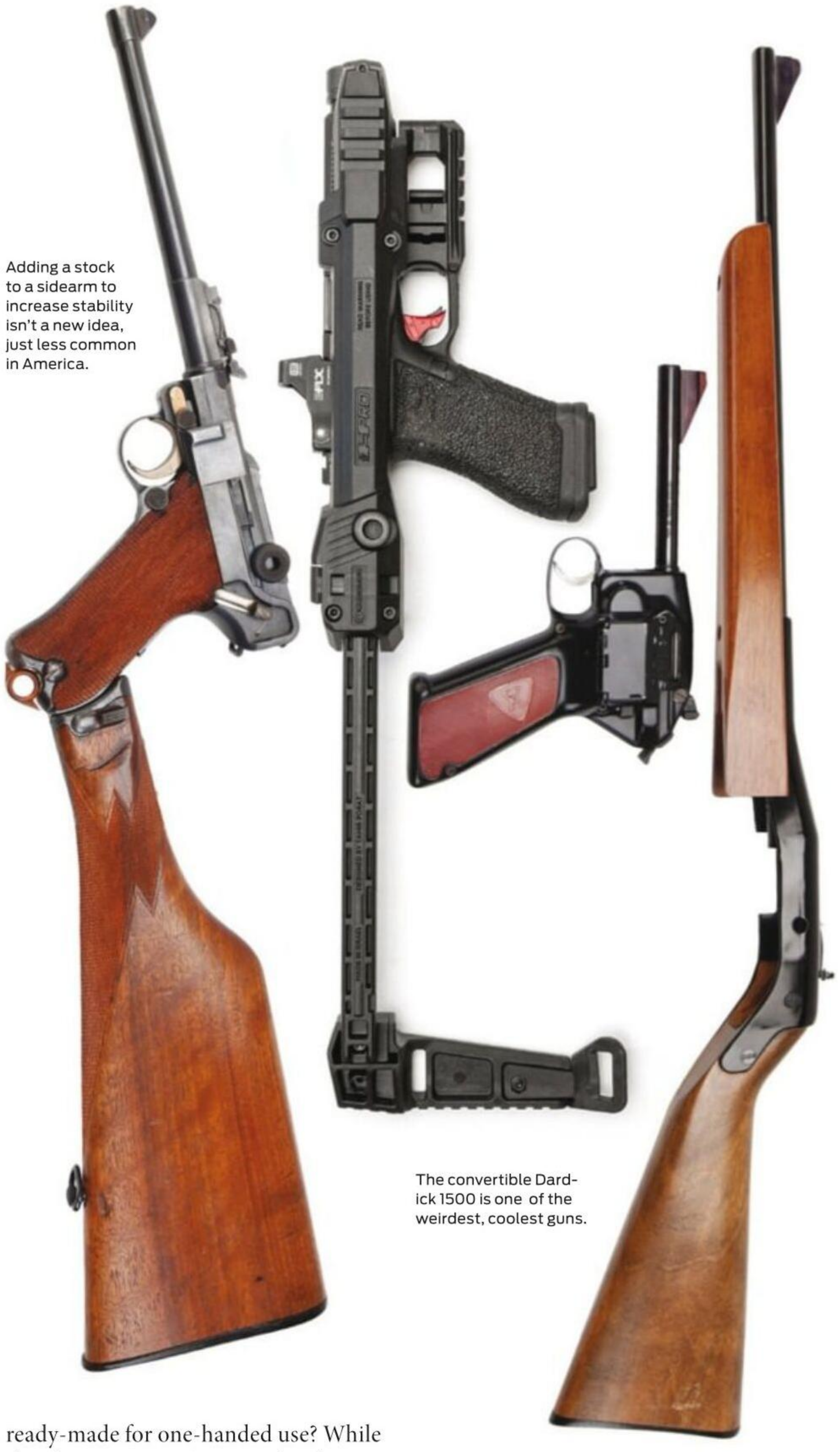
BRACE YOURSELF

Right around the turn of the millennium you start to see some basic carbine conversions being made in America, like the MechTech CCU, but they didn't gain popularity until much later—the legal acceptance of pistol braces being the main reason.

Originally introduced in 2012 as a way for some disabled shooters to better stabilize so-called "large format" (read: rifle caliber) pistols, braces quickly became a legalese workaround for the more casual ownership and importation of short-barreled rifles. In the decade-plus that followed spanning several presidential administrations, the government would change their mind several times, release contrary determination letters, add and remove restrictions, follow shadowy regulations, classify braced guns as unregistered SBRs, and pass out free tax stamps—all before ultimately vacating their previous rulings. A big mess of their own making. Despite the current legal acceptance of braces on pistols at the time of writing, here we're using a Glock receiver already registered as an SBR to avoid any gray areas.

As to why would someone need a "brace" on a regular pistol? A gun ready-made for one-handed use? While there's a case scenario someplace because there always is, the simple answer is that a brace is really used as a buttstock—and everyone already knows that anyway. Like the glass "tobacco pipes" at the head shop, you're just not supposed to say it out loud. Oops.

The reality is that the design of most braces make them middlin' buttstocks



Adding a stock to a sidearm to increase stability isn't a new idea, just less common in America.

The convertible Dardick 1500 is one of the weirdest, coolest guns.

at best. They're often not adjustable, flimsy, with poor surface for purchase against the shoulder (to better defend yourself in court). That said, these aren't universal traits, and even a bad brace/buttstock can increase stability by offering more points of contact with the body.

SIMPLY ISRAELI

When we published a Glock Stock Buyer's Guide back in RECOIL Issue 44 back in 2019, more than half of these pistol-to-carbine conversion kits originated in Israel. And in CONCEALMENT Issue 19 we followed up with the predecessor to what you see here, the Recover Tactical 20/20 Stabilizer Kit, which also hails from there. In fact, the bulk of these conversions come out of Israel, and that's not for no reason.

Though you've undoubtedly seen plenty of pictures of IDF troops slinging rifles around cities, gun ownership for citizens of Judea is quite tight. There has been some recent loosening of laws, but Tel Aviv is still nothing close to Tulsa; there are strict requirements regarding who can own guns and what type and quantity they can possess as well as how much ammo they can have on-hand.

Oftentimes people will only have one gun, and usually that one gun is a pistol. But as pistol/carbine conversion is an accessory rather than a firearm, it doesn't require any additional paperwork for use in many jurisdictions. Israel definitely doesn't have the American National Firearms Act so there's no barrel length nonsense, but they will play into the brace/stabilizer aspect in order to sell on the American market.

After your initial setup, the S-PRO doesn't look so daunting.

In short, if these kind of conversion kits don't make sense to you, it's because they weren't really made for you. They are made first for Israeli citizens, with the American consumer market as a secondary concern.

S-PRO

Founded by Tamir Porat, the man behind the love-it-or-hate-it Tavor bullpup rifle, Recover Tactical isn't new to either the Israeli or American market. They first caught our eye by releasing add-a-rail adapters for older pistols, something that makes more sense when viewed from the perspective of modernized a "only one gun."

The full kit has a lot of parts, pieces, and fasteners—but also a lot of options.

Back in 2020 they released the 20/20 Glock Stabilizer Kit, and while it's tempting to say the S-PRO is a more-modular updated and upgraded version, it's simply not this case because this is a whole different thing.

The real structural component of the S-PRO is the Main Frame, a metal spine with plastic carapace to which most fasteners secure and internally houses the stock/brace rod. Without this piece, there is no S-PRO. Adapters are used to hold the gun to the spine, with different adapters for different guns (at the time of writing you can get them for Glock. Canik, PDP, with the SIG X Macro listed as "coming soon," though due to the nature of the platform the sky is the limit). The two-piece rear adapter holds the beavertail, and the front clamshell nestles around the trigger guard and clicks into place. Unlike the 2020 model, insertion and removal of the pistol is toolless and only takes seconds.

The buttstock/brace is also modular and can be configured for left- or right-handed use (with a "real" buttstock option available). Also included is a barrel shroud with M-Lok slots, which acts as a secondary locking mechanism for the front clamshell adapter, a forward spare magazine holder that prosecutors probably/hopefully/maybe won't consider a vertical grip, and a high-rise optic mount. The reason for the high optic

mount is that when your length of pull, the distance from your trigger to the end of your stock (and shoulder), is too short, low optics can be hard or impossible to use. While the LOP and angle of the stock rod on the S-PRO is actually sufficient for many to use slide-mounted optics, it was a nice inclusion.

And oh yeah, the stock rod is spring-loaded and pops out like a switchblade with the press of a button. Recover Tactical seems to have learned the lesson of Flux Defense that cool is the first rule, and spring-loaded is definitely cool.

QUIRKS/WEIRDNESS ON THE RANGE

Once the gun is inside the S-PRO, physically racking the slide becomes extremely difficult. It's for this reason that Recover Tactical includes a new clip-on charging handle. The main problem being that it was designed only with non-optic OEM Glocks in-mind, rear grooves and all. In fact, everything about the S-PRO is essentially only for OEM. The adapters rely on the critical dimensions of the rear beavertail and the front curve of the triggerguard. Aftermarket Glock frames or any modifications that change those dimensions will make the S-PRO a non-starter.

All isn't lost, however. If you're already running an optic on your slide, you can simply use the optic as the charging handle—and if you can't use the optic on your gun as a charging handle, you shouldn't be using that optic on your gun. It's noteworthy that the high-rise optic and a slide-riding optic can both be mounted at the same time, to confuse your friends and confound your enemies if nothing else.

Here we purchased a metal Glock "racker jacker" rear plate replacement for Jackson to fill the role. It was originally ambi, but a Dremel tool took care of that quickly.

In terms of performance? A stock helps you do things faster. There's an included cheekpiece you can bolt onto the rear for use with the high-rise optic but it didn't really seem to be needed. The main complaint is that the stock rod has flex in it. While the main body spine may have a lot of metal in it, the stock rod feels flimsy and insufficient in actual use—it torques and twists with pressure and I don't think I'd feel comfortable using this setup with an autosear. Damn.

LOOSE ROUNDS

The S-PRO improves on the Recover

Using different multi-piece rear adapters and hinging front adapters which in turn bolt onto the main frame, the S-PRO can accommodate different pistols. However, the entire system is designed for the curves of OEM guns—no guarantees your modded frame will fit, and the included charging handle doesn't work with optics or aftermarket slides (we made our own solution for $20, and you can too).

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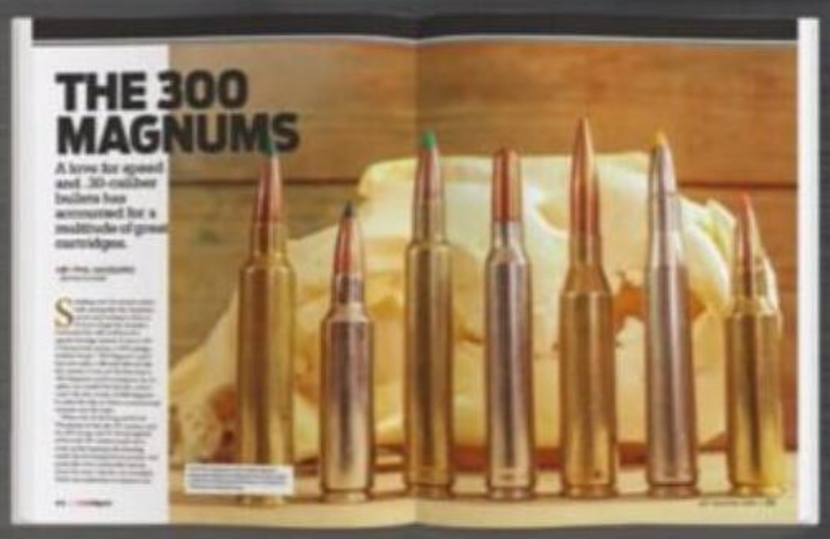

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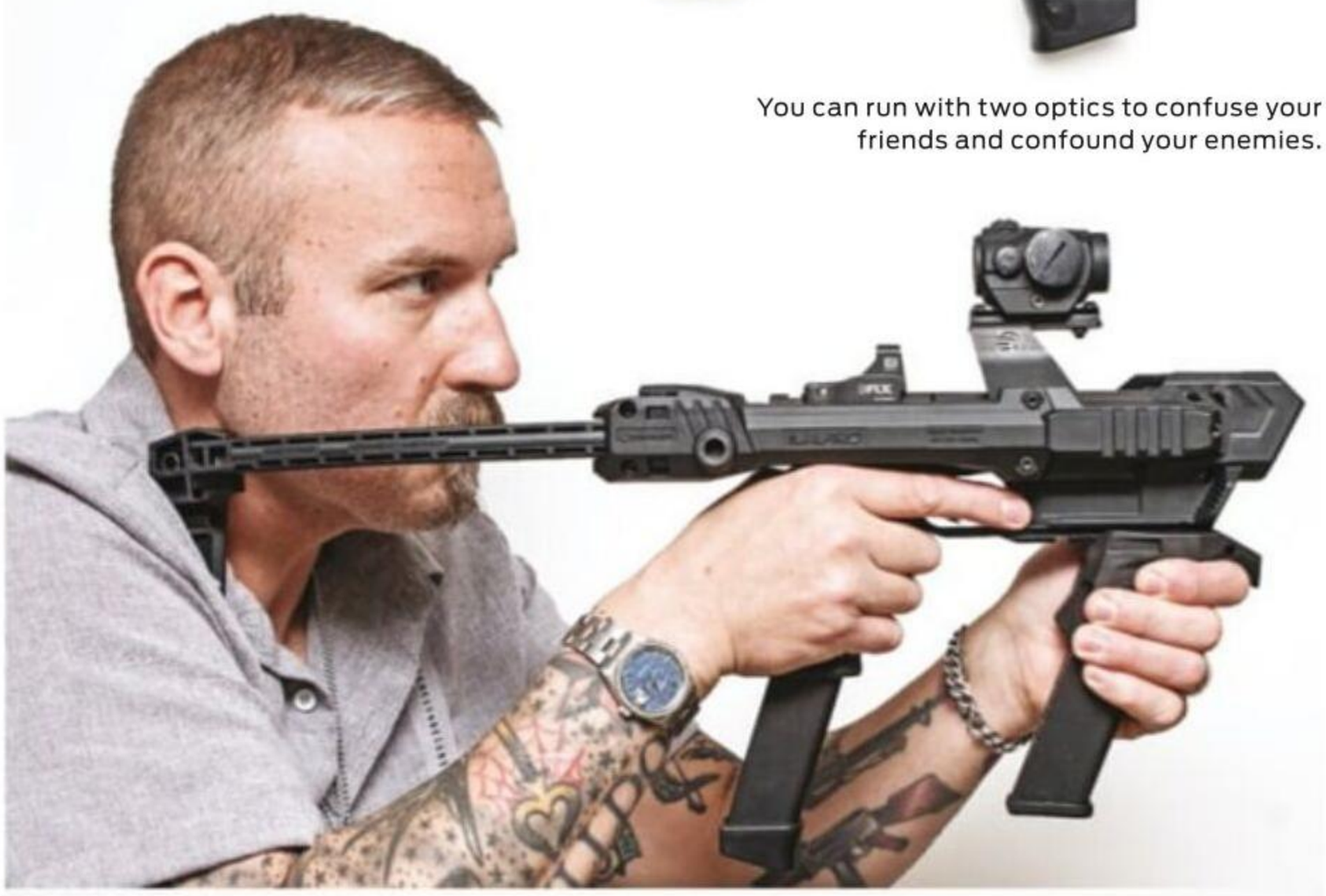

Tactical 20/20 system in many ways. It's toolless after setup. It's modular and able to accommodate a wider variety of arms. It allows for more accessories. It has that movie-cool switchblade stock. But the stock rod itself is a fatal flaw; hopefully they'll add some more ounces to address it.

There are a lot of complicated clam-shell carbine conversions out there. Though they're technically convert-ibles, most of them should be thought of as semi-permanent because they take tools and/or time measured in minutes. This isn't one of them, because popping a pistol inside the S-PRO only takes seconds (albeit with an asterisk attached, depending on your setup). This ease of conversion means you're more likely to actually use it at home or on the range, which makes a lot of sense for a nation where if you own a gun, it's probably just the one. **GDTM**

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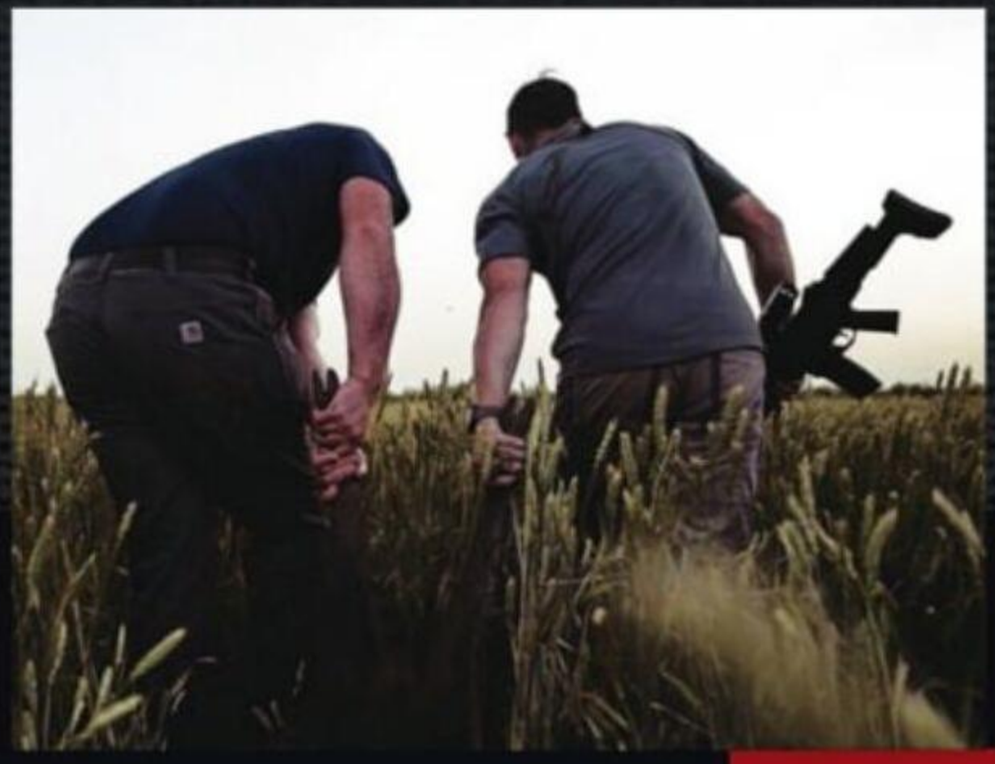

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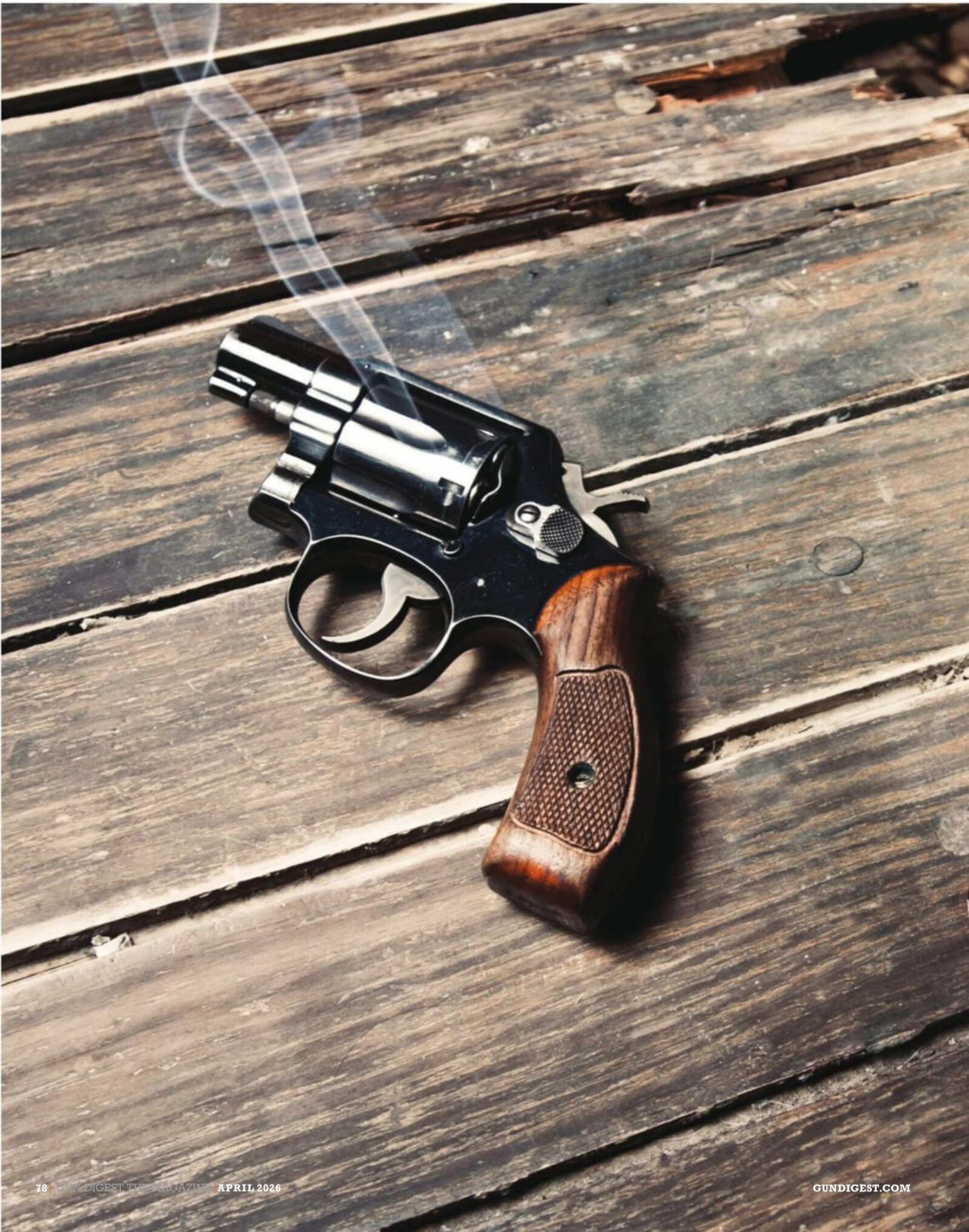


STRESS RESPONSE

The science behind a home defense encounter.

Imagine you wake at 2 in the morning to the sound of breaking glass. Your heart races. In a split second your brain goes into overdrive: you worry about your family, defending your home, and the safety of the people you love. You jump out of bed, grab your weapon, and move through a house you know like the back of your hand. In the living room you see the silhouette of a figure who is too large to be one of your loved ones. You turn on your weapon light. A pistol is raised toward you and a shot rings out—it misses to the left. You raise your weapon, present, engage, fire three shots, and the intruder drops to the ground. You move forward cautiously, weapon trained on the body, check for a pulse, confirm they are dead, take a breath and then the adrenaline dump hits: Your hands start to shake. You call 911 and let the system do its work.

That entire scenario—the way your brain and body respond—is what we will explore. Today, we look at the science behind a home-defense encounter involving the use of deadly force. We will break down how your body and mind will react and the neuroscience of extreme stress responses. This information can help civilians and first responders prepare for and recover from these intense events.

PRIMAL NEURAL MECHANISMS: FIGHT, FLIGHT OR FREEZE

A home-defense gunfight activates primal neural mechanisms in the hu-

man body. These mechanisms affect perception, decision-making, memory and behavior and are often beyond conscious control. Most people prepare for the physical aspects of home defense: training at the range, choosing an appropriate weapon and caliber for a home environment, and understanding layout and construction hazards. Today, we want to prepare for the neurological and psychological stress responses and understand what happens beyond our technical training.

The 2 a.m. breaking glass is the stimulus that engages the brain's emergency operating system: the fight, flight, or freeze response. The amygdala—the brain's fear and threat center—can be "hijacked." When it takes over, the brain favors rapid threat detection and reflexive response over slow, rational processing. The amygdala drives reactionary decision-making and triggers chemical changes by activating the hypothalamic–pituitary–adrenal (HPA) axis. For simplification, think of the HPA axis like a thermostat: When it senses danger, the hypothalamus signals the adrenal glands to release adrenaline, which speeds up the body's reactionary processes.

These neurochemical changes activate the sympathetic nervous system. Heart rate rises, pupils dilate, and blood vessels shift to push blood to core organs and muscles. This suite of neurological and biological events prepares your body for a fight.

TIME PERCEPTION AND SENSORY DISTORTIONS

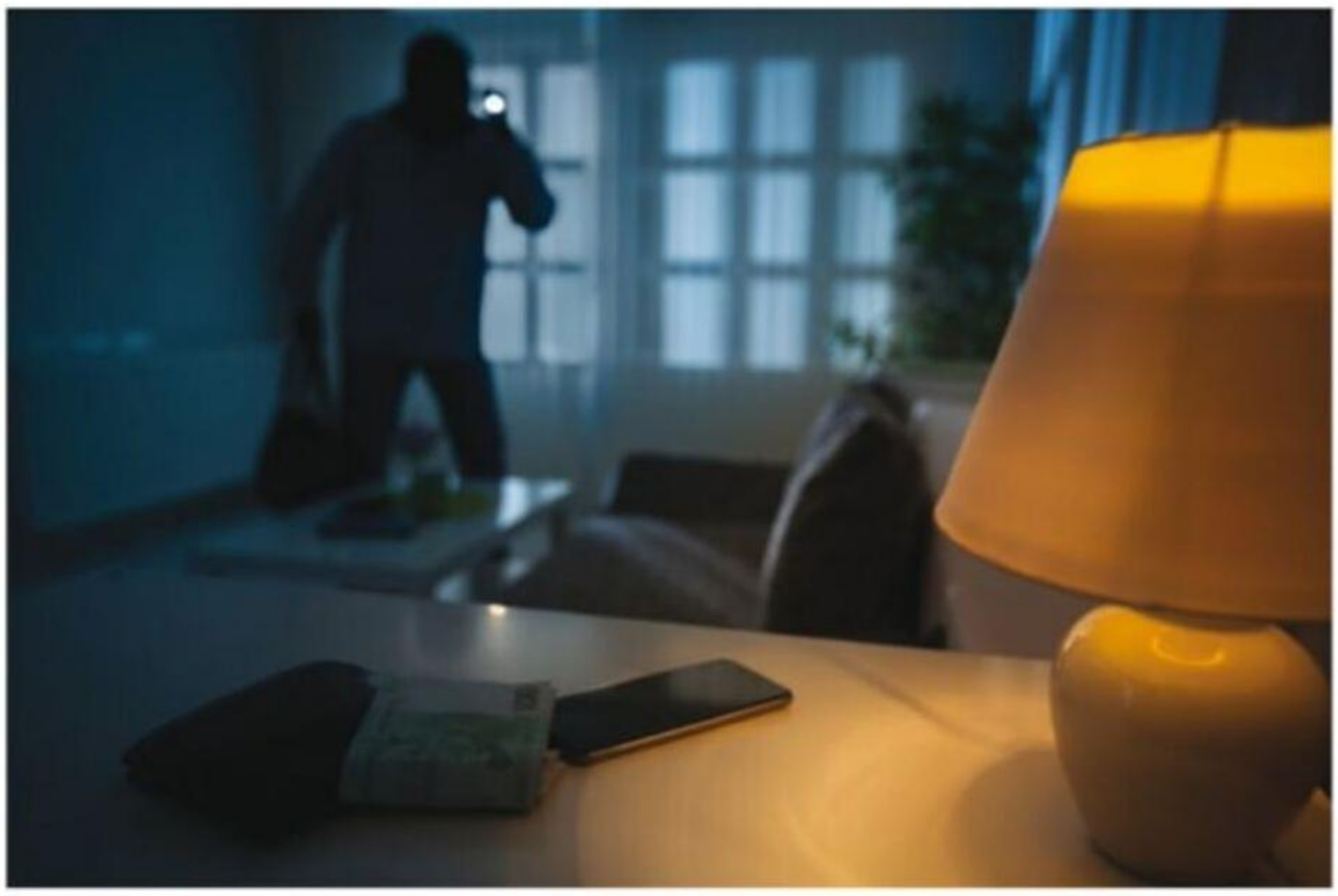
Startled awake, your fight-or-flight response begins and your brain changes how it processes sensory input. You move down the hall toward the threat, but it may feel like the longest walk of your life. Ambient sounds can seem muffled by rushing blood. Tunnel vision can narrow your visual field, and you may feel detached, as if you are watching yourself rather than acting.

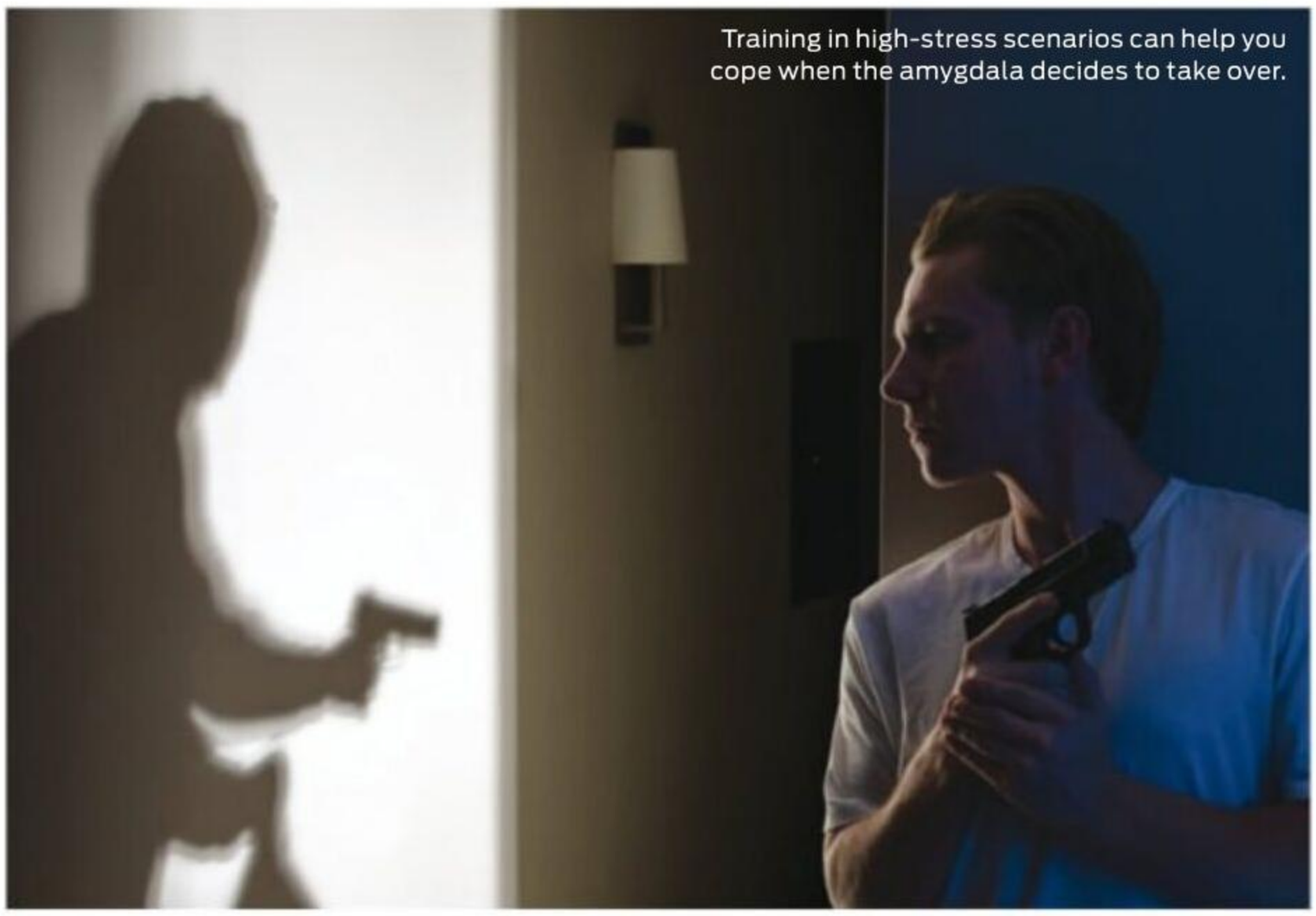
During extreme stress, time perception and sensory distortions are common. A phenomenon called tachypsychia alters time perception—moments can feel stretched. Auditory exclusion (reduced ability to hear) and tunnel vision (loss of peripheral awareness) are neuroprotective physiological responses to threat. You may also experience depersonalization or dissociation because of the adrenaline surge. Understanding these neurophysiological changes can help you maintain composure and an effective protective posture. Mental rehearsal and stress-inoculation training are key to managing these responses.

FINE VERSUS GROSS MOTOR SKILLS

As you approach the room, adrenaline courses through your body. Your heart pounds, your hands feel heavy

When your mind perceives a threat, it initiates a biological response meant to help keep you alive.





Training in high-stress scenarios can help you cope when the amygdala decides to take over.

or numb, and small fine-motor tasks become difficult. When you break the threshold and see a silhouette in the window light, you raise the weapon and aim.

Adrenaline impairs fine motor control (manipulating small objects or performing precise tasks) while gross motor skills (large, forceful movements) dominate. This has important training implications. Under stress people do not perform above their training level; they revert to the highest level at which they have been trained. Practice must include weapon manipulation under stress, target acquisition and a stress-fire routine. Shooting for sport and shooting to survive are different skills. Being accurate at the range does not guarantee competence under life-and-death stress. Design your training and home-defense plans with those differences in mind.

THREAT PERCEPTION, BIAS AND DECISION-MAKING UNDER STRESS

You have a backlit silhouette in your sights. Your heart races, your hands tremble and thoughts—or the absence of them—move through your brain at lightning speed. You flip on the weapon light and see an unknown person holding a knife. You fire two rounds. The body hits the floor.

The prefrontal cortex is responsible for analytic thinking, impulse control and moral reasoning. Under extreme stress, the prefrontal cortex can be bypassed by faster, threat-driven circuits. Heuristics—mental shortcuts used for pattern recognition and rapid judgments—can be influenced by prior experience, training or trauma and may produce bias. Those rapid judgments can mean the difference between a life-saving action and a tragic mistake. Purposeful training that conditions decision-making under stress is essential to mitigate the risks of snap judgments.

The brain also uses rapid decision cycles such as the OODA loop—Observe, Orient, Decide, Act—to speed up responses. Conditioning, scenario-based planning, and realistic training are necessities for anyone who intends to use a firearm for personal defense.

POST-INCIDENT EFFECTS: MEMORY, GUILT AND PTSD

After the event, your ears may ring and you may smell cordite. You turn on the lights, see the body, check for a pulse and confront a surge of emotion and physiological reaction.

In the aftermath of a shooting, the brain often shows acute stress responses. Memories may be fragmented, distorted or incomplete. Sometimes false or confabulated memories appear as protective mechanisms. This is one reason eyewitness testimony can be unreliable. Survivors may experience moral injury or survivor's guilt after taking a life, even when the action was legally and ethically justified. Without appropriate therapeutic measures, acute stress reactions can evolve into post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

Situations like these are chaotic and overwhelm the senses. The ensuing trauma makes post-incident care a top priority.

Returning to baseline takes time. Neurotransmitters (serotonin, dopamine) and hormones (cortisol) must rebalance. Sleep and mood are affected. Memory consolidation and emotional regulation can be impaired. It is imperative to connect with appropriate professionals, allow yourself to rest and process the event, and engage in corrective therapies as needed. Training and mental rehearsal can prepare you to act, but post-incident care is just as important for long-term recovery.

CONCLUSION

A home-invasion gunfight is not only a physical event—it is a neurobiological upheaval. Preparation, training and mental rehearsals will make you and your family safer. Responsible firearms ownership includes legal knowledge and range practice, but it also requires cognitive and psychological preparation both before and after an incident. Develop a plan that includes pre-incident training and post-incident care for yourself and your family. This is not just a legal issue; it is a psychological and physiological one as well. **GDTM**

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Kristopher Hasenauer is a board-certified physician assistant and graduated from the Army's Interservice Physician Assistant Program in 2014. He is a former Special Forces A-Team Member Medical Specialist (18D) and held multiple operational and medical advisory positions within the U.S. Special Operations Command since 2005. Among his numerous endeavors, he is the CEO of Emerald Medical (Emerald-Medical.com), coordinates training with Gorilla Ammunition and Gorilla Medical (GorillaAmmo.com), and runs T1RX (T1RX.com).

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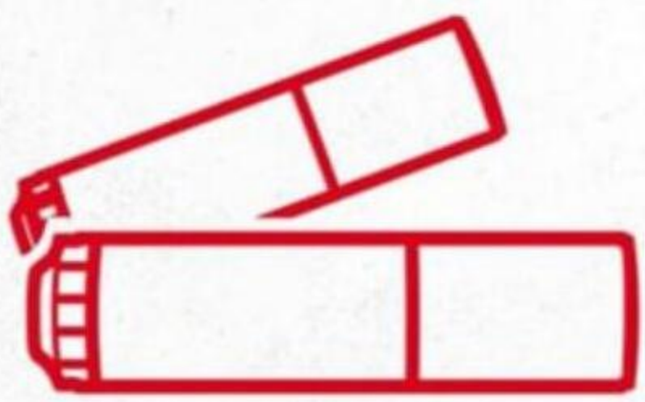

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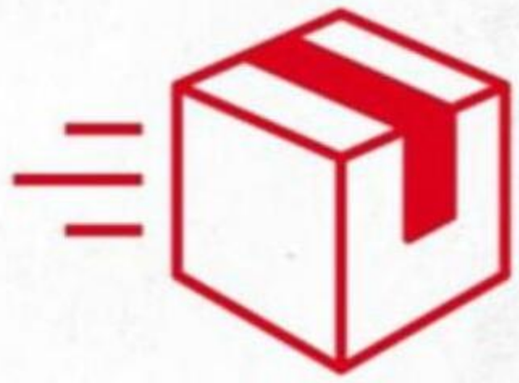

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