

AFFORDABLE SUPPRESSOR
HI-POINT HUSH-POINT

G&A GOES TO ITALY!
BERETTA'S 500TH ANNIVERSARY

PROOFHOUSE:
ARCHON TYPE B 9MM

gunsandammo.com

GUNS & AMMO

AUGUST 2026

FIRST LOOK

MICRO-TASTIC

HK VP9CC

VORTEX
DEFENDER
CCW

DEFENDER-CCW

HK VP9CC

HKI Columbus, GA

9mm x 19

283-000483 DE

THE GERMAN-
MADE
COMPACT
VARIANT
OF THE VP9
9MM FOR DEEP
CONCEALMENT.

(VORTEX DEFENDER-CCW
OPTIONALLY INCLUDED) **P. 40**



MOST ACCURATE LEVER EVER!

HENRY SPD PREDATOR .223 REM./5.56 NATO

18-IN. TENSION-WRAPPED CARBON-FIBER
416R STAINLESS BARREL. **P. 48**



P. 54

BODDINGTON

Desert Sheep Hunt with
Browning X-Bolt 2 LH



P. 66

EMARY

Let's rank 100-year-old
hunting rifles.



P. 80

WOOD

Understanding recent
ATF rule changes.

PRIME RADIAN



PRIME GREY

SUPERIOR INNOVATION.



The CANIK PRIME **RADIAN**®, built on the award-winning CANIK METE MC9 PRIME platform by CANIK USA and enhanced with premium **RADIAN**® performance components.

PRIME **RADIAN**:
BLACK

NIGHT FISION® SIGHTS

OPTIC READY

RADIAN®
RAMJET™ BARREL

RADIAN®
ALUMINUM BACKSTRAP

17+1 CAPACITY

FLAT 90° BREAK
TRIGGER

RADIAN®
AFTERBURNER™ COMPENSATOR

RADIAN®
MAGWELL



CANIK
SUPERIOR FIREARMS



@canikusa



@usacanik



@canikusa



BenelliUSA.com

DOMINANT. TECHNOLOGY.



BENELLI
ADVANCED IMPACT

Benelli Advanced Impact is a dynamic new barrel and choke system designed to generate more velocity, more energy, and more downrange penetration from shells*

This system delivers:

Up to 50% More Penetration On Target

— More energy translates to more decisive takedown of game and dusted clays

Improved Pellet Density

— A.I. barrels produce a more uniform and tighter shot string

Advanced Impact is available in models for sporting, upland, and waterfowl...including the Super Black Eagle 3

SBE3 | A.I.



Benelli®

*Compared with non-A.I. barrel, tested at 30 meters

CONTENTS

The subscriber cover features the Henry SPD PREDATOR, a purpose-built lever-action in 5.56 NATO/.223 Rem. with a carbon-fiber tension-wrapped stainless-steel barrel and laminate stock with adjustable comb. It is shown with a Harris bipod and Leupold Mark 5HD 2-10x30mm scope. **p. 48**



BY ERIC R. POOLE

HK INTRODUCED
THE VP9CC FOR 2026.

THE DILEMMA40

COVER PHOTOS: MICHAEL ANSCHUETZ; ABOVE PHOTO: MICHAEL ANSCHUETZ

48

LIGHT, FAST, & LEGAL
Henry's SPD PREDATOR.
BY TOM BECKSTRAND

54

SOUTHPAW SPEED
Desert sheep hunting with a
Browning X-Bolt 2 Speed in
6.5 PRC — made especially
for lefties.
BY CRAIG BODDINGTON

60

QUINCENTENNIAL
Beretta marks 500 years of
firearm manufacturing.
BY ALFREDO RICO

66

OF WOOD & STEEL
Part VIII: Reflections on
evaluating 100-year-old
hunting rifles.
BY DAVE EMARY

Reader Blowback	8
Editorial by Eric R. Poole	11
Gun Room by Garry James	13
Handgunning by James Tarr	19
The Carry Rig Sarfariland Gravity Holster	22
Gun Tech by Richard Nance	25
Rifle & Glass by Tom Beckstrand	29

Bullet Board by Dave Emary	31
Quiet Time Hi-Point Hush-Point Suppressors	34
Shotgunning by Robert W. Hunnicutt	39
Proofhouse Archon Firearms Type B 9mm	70
Connect by Antonio Acitelli	79
Spent Cases by Keith Wood	80



ABSOLUTE PRECISION

Precision isn't a feature. It's the standard. The Mark 4HD delivers a Professional-Grade optical system for pinpoint clarity and repeatable, no-compromise adjustments when precision isn't optional.

MARK 4HD

M5C3 OR M1C3 ZEROLOCK®
ADJUSTMENT DIALS

4:1 ZOOM RATIO



ILLUMINATED RETICLES WITH
MOTION SENSOR TECHNOLOGY (MST™)
(Select Models)

PROFESSIONAL-GRADE
OPTICAL SYSTEM



BE RELENTLESS®

See the Forest Through the Trees

Mighty Conifer Knife at an Impossible Price!

**EXCLUSIVE
FREE**

**Stauer 30x60 HD
Pocket Binoculars**

a \$99 value

**with your purchase of the
Mighty Conifer Knife**



**Stauer®
Impossible Price
\$99**

We know you. You're not interested in everyday, run-of-the-mill, common cutlery. You want something with a story, a unique feature that you can brag about. We've got just the thing for you. Our **Mighty Conifer Knife** is a unique tool with a Damascus steel blade and a handle crafted from an enhanced and stabilized natural pinecone. While our competitors are charging hundreds for similar knives, we're offering the Mighty Conifer for **JUST \$99!** That's what we call our **Stauer Impossible Price.**

Each pinecone — and therefore, each knife — has its own unique characteristics. And the back of the handle features hand tooling, a further demonstration of each piece's individual nature.

The blade is nothing to scoff at either. Constructed of Damascus steel, a modern reworking of the legendary steel forged by ancient swordsmiths, this nearly 5-inch blade features 256 layers of steel that have been folded on top of each other to increase its durability. Our competitors are charging hundreds for boring, run-of-the-mill knives with no features worth bragging about. We're asking **JUST \$99** for a knife unlike any you've seen before!

With its full-tang construction and high-quality genuine leather sheath, the Mighty Conifer Knife is the perfect blade for the person who wants to stand out. **CALL NOW!** If you're one of the first ~~700~~ 587 callers for this ad, we'll throw in a pair of **Stauer 30x60 HD Pocket Binoculars** — a \$99 value — **ABSOLUTELY FREE!** **Satisfaction guaranteed or your money back!**

**9-1/2" overall length. Full-tang construction • Damascus steel blade
and natural pinecone handle • Genuine leather sheath**

Mighty Conifer Knife ~~\$299~~ \$99* + S&P **Save \$200**

***You must use Insider Offer Code: MCK262-03 to get this price.**

California residents please call regarding Proposition 65 regulations before purchasing this product.

1-800-333-2045

Your Insider Offer Code: MCK262-03



Rating of A+

Stauer® 14091 Southcross Drive W., Dept. MCK262-03
Burnsville, Minnesota 55337 **www.stauer.com**

GUNS&AMMO

gunsandammo.com

An Outdoor Sportsman Group® publication

VP, SHOOTING GROUP PUBLISHER
Chris Agnes

EDITORIAL

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Eric R. Poole

MANAGING EDITOR

Jack Oller

DIGITAL EDITOR

Antonio Acitelli

COPY EDITOR

Lisa Beuning

ART DIRECTOR

Michael Ulrich

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Michael Anschuetz

SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGER

Keith Marlor

SENIOR EDITOR

Garry James

FIELD EDITOR

Keith Wood

HANDGUN EDITOR

James Tarr

RIFLES & OPTICS EDITOR

Tom Beckstrand

TECHNOLOGY EDITOR

Richard Nance

PRODUCTION MANAGER

Melissa Williams

CONTRIBUTORS

Craig Boddington, Donna Boddington,
A. F. Branco, Dave Emary, D. Faubion, Mark Fingar,
Brad Fitzpatrick, Harry Fitzpatrick, Andy Grossman, Robert
W. Hunnicutt, Alfredo Rico, Yamil Sued, Patrick Sweeney

ADVERTISING SALES

SENIOR VP ENDEMIC AD SALES

Michael Savino

mike.savino@outdoorsg.com

NATIONAL AD SALES

SENIOR DIRECTOR,

NON-ENDEMIC SALES

Kevin Donley

kevin.donley@outdoorsg.com

DIRECT RESPONSE ADVERTISING,

NON-ENDEMIC

Anthony Smyth

anthony@smythps.com

914-409-4202

SUBSCRIPTIONS INQUIRIES: Should you wish to change your address, order new subscriptions, or report a problem with your current subscription, you can do so by writing Guns & Ammo, P.O. Box 37539, Boone, IA 50037-0539, or e-mail us at amocustserv@cdsfulfillment.com, or call TOLL FREE 1-800-800-2666, Outside U.S. call 515-237-3699.

SUBSCRIPTION RATE for one year is \$24.94 (U.S., APO, FPO, and U.S. possessions). Canada add \$13 (U.S. funds) per year, includes sales tax and GST. Foreign add \$15 (U.S. funds) per year.

By subscribing to Guns & Ammo, you agree to our Terms of Service (<https://www.outdoorsg.com/about/terms-of-service/>) and acknowledge our Privacy Policy (<https://www.outdoorsg.com/about/privacy/>).

Occasionally, our subscriber list is made available to reputable firms offering goods and services that we believe would be of interest to our readers. If you prefer to be excluded, please send your current address label and a note requesting to be excluded from these promotions to: Outdoor Sportsman Group — P.O. Box 126640 Harrisburg PA 17112 - Attn: Privacy Coordinator or email your label information and note to privacy@outdoorsg.com.

BE AWARE THAT GUNS & AMMO ONLY ACCEPTS SUBSCRIPTION REQUESTS FROM AUTHORIZED AGENTS! WE MAY NOT HONOR REQUESTS FROM UNAUTHORIZED AGENTS, AND YOU THEREFORE MAY LOSE YOUR MONEY IF YOU BUY FROM AN UNAUTHORIZED AGENT. If you are offered a subscription to Guns & Ammo, please call 1-800-800-2666 to determine if the agent is authorized. For more information on subscription scams, please visit www.ftc.gov.

THE MULE

A GUN THAT DOESN'T QUIT

LIGHT ENOUGH TO CARRY. TOUGH ENOUGH TO TRUST.

Built for predators, deer, and everything in between, The MULE is a lightweight utility rifle designed to adapt to the modern hunt—compact, dependable, and always ready when the work begins.



FranchiUSA.com



Momentum Utility Lite Elite 16"
.223 Rem, .308 Win

FRANCHI

★★★★★
An exceptionally
beautiful watch!
Michael M.,
Greenwood Village, CO



Finally After 20 Years We Are Offering a Limited Release of the “Only Watch”

A few decades ago, when I first began my journey into watchmaking, I asked my top watchmaker to create something truly special just for me—a timepiece that embodied timeless elegance. The result was a masterpiece: a three-eye chronograph with a date display, a sun and moon indicator, a beautifully detailed guilloché dial, and raised Roman numeral hour markers.

When a seasoned watch salesman first saw it, he guessed its value at around \$7,500. Since it was a unique, custom creation, my watchmaker charged me \$1,700—a price I happily paid, especially after hearing that flattering estimate.

Since founding this company, we’ve produced over three million timepieces, but I’ve never offered my personal, one-of-a-kind design—until now. For the first time ever, I’m releasing a limited edition of just 4,999 pieces of this

stunning watch. And because I’m feeling generous, I’ve set the price at only \$59.

But once these 4,999 are gone, they’re gone forever. **Don’t miss your chance to own a piece of history.**

—Mike Bisceglia, Founder, Stauer

Watch Specifications:

- Precision Movement, Water-resistant to 3 ATM
- Stainless steel caseback and crown
- Chrono Seconds and Minutes, Sun & Moon/24 hour & Date
- Crocodile embossed leather band fits wrist up to 8"

The Only Chronograph Watch
~~\$399~~ \$59* + S & P **Save \$340**

**Special price only for customers using the offer code.*

1-800-333-2045

Your Insider Offer Code: TOW145-01

14091 Southcross Dr. W., Dept. TOW145-01 Burnsville, MN 55337 | www.stauer.com

Stauer® | AFFORD THE EXTRAORDINARY®

**OUTDOOR
SPORTSMAN**
GROUP®
INTEGRATED MEDIA

CORPORATE

PRESIDENT & CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Michael Carney

EVP, OPERATIONS

Derek Sevcik

SVP, REVENUE

Pat Hogan

VP, CONSUMER MARKETING

Peter Watt

SENIOR DIRECTOR,
MANUFACTURING & TECHNOLOGY

Kyle Morgan

DIRECTOR, DIGITAL EDITORIAL

Darren Choate

For questions regarding digital editions,
please contact digitalsupport@outdoorsg.com.

MEDIA

outdoorsg.com

TELEVISION

outdoorchannel.com
thesportsmanchannel.com
worldfishingnetwork.com

FISHING

bassfan.com
floridasportsman.com
flyfisherman.com
gameandfishmag.com
in-fisherman.com

HUNTING

bowhunter.com
gundogmag.com
petersenshunting.com
northamericanwhitetail.com
wildfowlmag.com

SHOOTING

gunsandammo.com
handguns.com
rifleshooter.com
shootingtimes.com
firearmsnews.com

CONTRIBUTIONS: Manuscripts, photographs and artwork must be submitted to the editorial department with a SASE. The Publisher assumes no responsibility for loss or damage to unsolicited material. Please send to: Guns & Ammo, 2 News Plaza, Peoria, IL 61614, Attn: Editor

FOR REPRINTS: For Reprints/Eprints or Licensing/Permissions, please contact: Wright's Media — TOLL FREE 1 (877) 652-5295.

The Publisher and authors make no representations or warranties regarding the accuracy, completeness, and timeliness of the information contained in this publication. Any reliance or use of the information is solely at your own risk, and the authors and Publisher disclaim any and all liability relating thereto. Any prices given in this issue were suggested prices at the press time and are subject to change.

Some advertisements in this magazine may concern products that are not legally for sale to California residents or residents in other jurisdictions.

GUNS&AMMO® is a registered trademark of Outdoor Sportsman Group® in the United States.

Copyright 2026 by Outdoor Sportsman Group®

All Rights Reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced without written permission.

Guns & Ammo (ISSN# 0017-5684) August 2026, Volume 70, Number 8. Published monthly by Outdoor Sportsman Group, 2 News Plaza, 3rd Floor, Peoria, IL 61614-8001. Periodical postage paid at Peoria, IL, and at additional mailing offices. Frequency is subject to change without notice.

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



Printed in the U.S.A.



RUGER® LCP® MAX

WITH MAGPUL® EHG™



**380
AUTO**

Caliber

13+1

Capacity

2.80"

Barrel Length

0.75"

Width

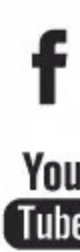
**11.2
OZ.**

Weight

Developed through Ruger's ongoing collaboration with Magpul Industries, the LCP MAX with Magpul EHG offers the same proven performance shooters expect from the LCP MAX, now paired with a premium grip frame engineered for improved control, comfort and consistency. Initial models will feature a manual safety, a 10-round magazine, and a new, 13-round magazine purpose-built for the EHG.



**LEARN
MORE**



The acquisition, ownership, possession and use of firearms are heavily regulated. Some models may not be legally available in your state or locale. Whatever your purpose for lawfully acquiring a firearm – know the law, get trained and shoot safely.



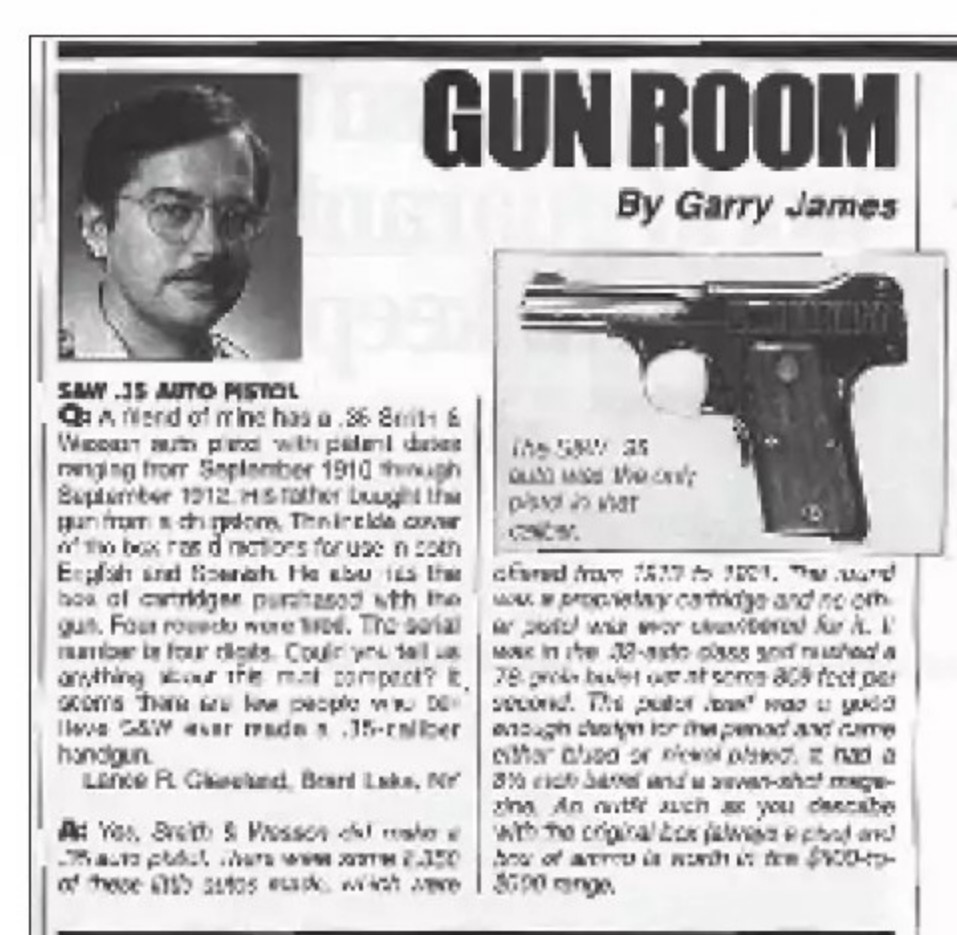
READER
BLOWBACK

WRITE US! "Letters," Guns & Ammo, 2 News Plaza, 3rd Floor, Peoria, IL 61614, or email us at gaeditor@outdoorsg.com. Please include your city and state of residence. Letters may be edited for brevity and clarity.



NYPD lieutenant at my local gun club. I had always known it as a "Chicago Reload," but the difference was the CPD uniformed officers were carrying a second full-size revolver in a cross-draw holster in the center of their Sam Browne belts as their reload.

Scott Cagle
Hayden, Idaho



THEN & NOW

I was going through old Guns & Ammo magazines and came across "Gun Room." *Oh! A new guy, I thought.* Then I saw the author's name, "Garry James," and took a second look. *Do I know that guy? Er name?* The guy from Guns & Ammo is a distinguished gentleman. That other guy — circa 1990 — is a "kid." Looking closer there is something about the mustache.

Jim Thomas
Corvallis, Montana

PAPER PAGES

In a digital world, I just wanted to thank the publishers of Guns & Ammo for keeping the magazine alive when every industry is pushing to stop print. Every night in my house, we have quiet time before bed. My boys and I all pick up reading material. My choice is G&A and sharing that time

HIDDEN FEATURE

I've very much enjoyed the "100-Year-Old Hunting Rifle" series by Dave Emary, as I own four of them. However, Emary missed a great feature of the Remington 14: The loading gate has an edge that holds the case part way so that one does not need to fight the gate for each cartridge. Why Marlin or Winchester didn't copy it is a mystery to me, perhaps "NIH" syndrome — "Not Invented Here."

Lynn S. Ferrin
Oakland, California

DON'T PUNISH

I find it almost impossible to express my outrage and disgust and fear at the use of the name "Punisher" in describing a bullet. This projectile appeared in "Arc Versus Blackout" by Tom Beckstrand (May 2026). In a world where gun owners and users are under constant political and moral attack, where gun haters vastly outnumber gun lovers, how can such a thoughtless name be used? Why not "Maimer," or "Agonizer," or "Eviscerator?" With considerable thought, about

the only context where "Punisher" might apply would be against some beast chewing on your leg. Gorilla Ammunition should discontinue the name.

Fred W. Davis
San Francisco, California

BERETTA'S INVESTMENT

If Sturm, Ruger & Co. were to receive investment monies from a foreign gun manufacturer, I see several positives. Foreign owners are immune from U.S. investment politics such as pension funds. Colt Manufacturing and Dan Wesson have thrived since being acquired by Česká Zbrojovka Group (CZ), and Benelli, Franchi, SAKO, Stoeger, Tikka and Uberti are doing well under Beretta Holding's ownership. We must remember that Remington failed for the lack of investment capital and U.S. politics.

Steve Korn
Mt. Juliet, Tennessee

"CHICAGO RELOAD"

I had never heard of a "New York Reload" until making acquaintance with a retired

JULY '93

In "Holster Hideout," author Bill O'Brien featured John Bianchi — "The Master of Concealment" — wearing a dinner suit and effectively hiding 32 handguns to illustrate various holster styles. Under the jacket, Bianchi concealed guns beneath his arms, behind his back, in each pant pocket, and around his torso and waist. Several pistols and revolvers were carried in straps and ankle holsters below each knee. Pistols ranged in size from an NAA .22 LR Mini-Revolver to a full-size SIG Sauer P220.



with them will forever be something I remember.
Kaleb Plank
Email

MORE SHOT-GUNS!

As a Life member of ATA and a 70-year clay-target shooter, plus G&A reader, thanks for Jack Oller's write-up on sporting clays and the great new Browning 825. I have shot Brownings since 1957 and over/unders since 1963. Please honor us clay shooters with more content about shotguns and shotshells as we are many. We load, shoot, buy shells, guns and loading equipment. Keep your powder dry.
John M. Gerrib
Westville, Illinois



Burris®

FIND WHAT MATTERS



VERACITY

VERACITY STANDS FOR TRUTH AND ACCURACY. THE NEW VERACITY RIFLESCOPE LINE BRINGS BOTH INTO FOCUS WITH CLASS-LEADING OPTICS, REFINED ERGONOMICS, AND PROVEN PERFORMANCE IN ANY ENVIRONMENT.

2.5-12x42mm | 3-15x44mm | 5-25x50mm



WATERPROOF



SHOCKPROOF



FOGPROOF



NITROGEN-FILLED



R.E.D.



3PW-MOA



Fiber Dot Plex



Plex



RCT-MOA



RC-MOA

PRODIGY™

DOUBLE
STACK



1911DS

AOS

SPRINGFIELD ARMORY

[SPRINGFIELD-ARMORY.COM](http://springfield-armory.com)

Benelli blends art, performance and technology.



ERIC R. POOLE

 @GUNSANDAMMOMAG

THE TRIAD

ITALIANS CALLED IT “IL NEVONE,” a historic snowstorm that produced record-breaking blizzards during February 2012. Urbino was covered by 11 feet of snow in less than 2 weeks. Numerous roofs collapsed, water pipes burst and the power grid failed. However, Benelli employees came together and saved the factory. In the years that followed, Benelli fortified and enhanced its manufacturing footprint. The roof was covered in solar panels, parking expanded, electric vehicle charging stations were installed, and the production line was configured to the Fishbone Production Flow for Lean Production. The project accounted for future manufacturing automation and artificial intelligence.

The U.S. flag welcomed the American delegation as we entered a building shaped like a triggerguard before clearing security. We then crossed a street and entered a foyer that featured art, prototypes and one-off products.

Inside the factory, we were greeted by displays indicating live activity and production quantities for that day of various models. A single manufacturing cell ahead contained several multi-axis CNC machines, lathes, mills, and a quality control station, which also foreshadows the future of gun making. Artificial Intelligence (A.I.) operated the cell, where robotics take bar stock and efficiently move pieces through different stages of cutting and milling before measuring the part for precision and quality. With built-in A.I., the machine is learning and can already predict its service life ahead of required maintenance, self-adjust to maintain tolerance thresholds, and discern between regular and irregular wear of tooling. As tooling is worn, A.I. compensates to ensure tolerances are consistent between parts, and the machine operates 24 hours a day without pause. In Benelli's future, the manufacturing floor may be covered with similar cells.

Inside the factory, Benelli's scientists were examining metallurgy and developing surface treatments during my visit. I was shown a sample of a BE.S.T.-finished steel barrel

under a microscope displayed on a computer screen. Colored layers corresponded to an element on the periodic table: iron (Fe), chromium (Cr), carbon (C), and aluminum (Al), for example. The scientists measured the thickness of each layer in microns, revealing that the finish had permeated the substrate material. When I last visited in 2019, there was only one vacuum chamber applying the BE.S.T. finish to the barrels, actions and parts. In 2026, three machines

are applying BE.S.T. in a vacuum chamber, producing a diamond-like surface treatment.

An entire section was devoted to advanced rifle and shotgun barrel manufacturing, too. A new machine used caliber-specific cathodes and nitric acid formula to precisely etch rifling in bored barrels without the stress applied to the material that accompanies broach- and button-cut rifling, or cold hammer

forging. Once the barrels are made, they are then subjected to stress relief in Benelli's Crio treatment where cryogenic freezers subject steel to temperatures of -238 degrees Fahrenheit (-150 degrees Celsius) for 24 hours.

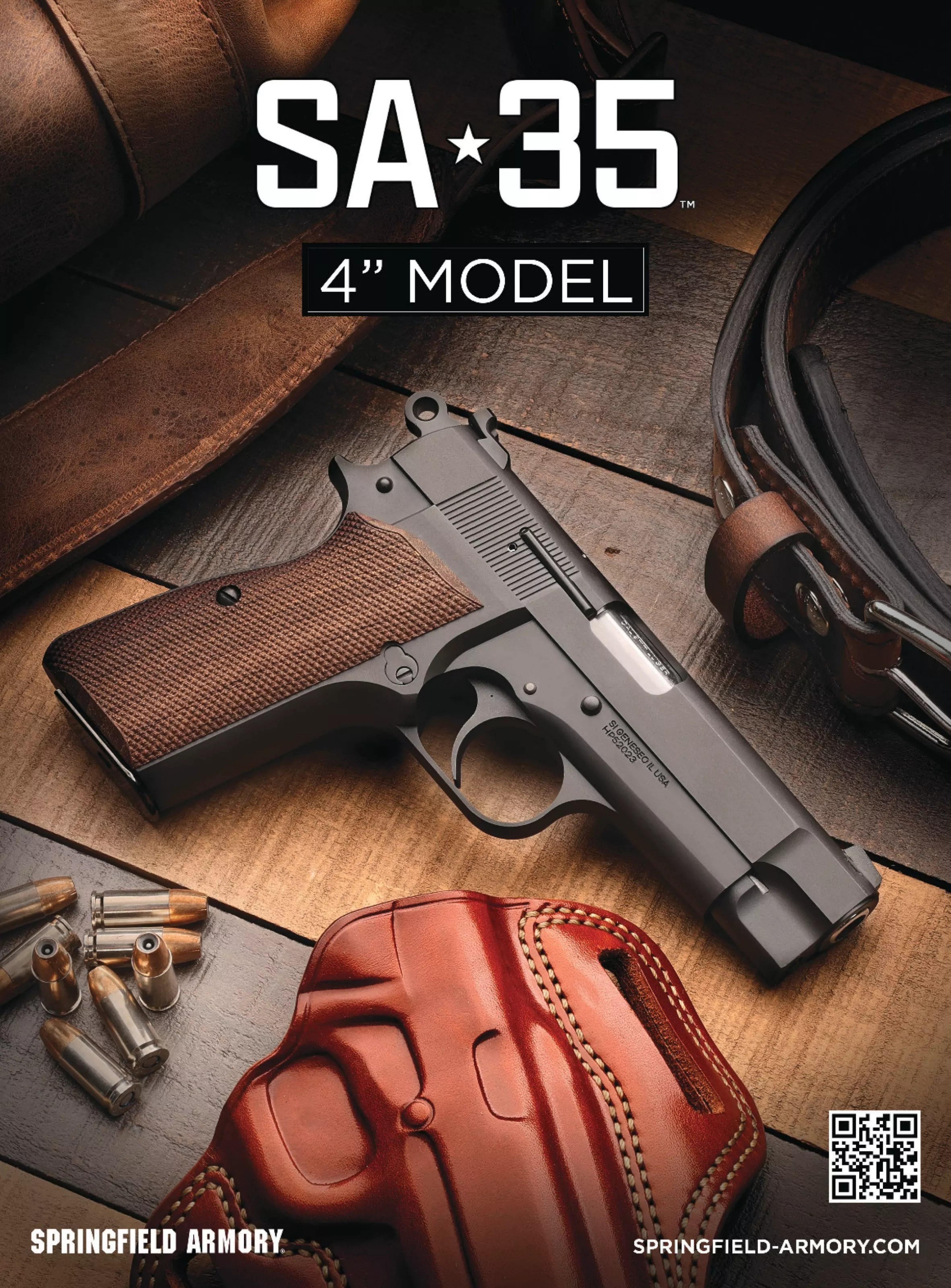
A.I. is also used in marking serial numbers, labels and engraving, and A.I. ensures governing standards are met. Human hands and a critical eye are still needed for polishing, blending edges, assembly, function verification, proof testing and packaging, though. In the research and development lab, Benelli's engineers are working on the next generation of rifles and shotguns. Like a gamer, an engineer demonstrated how he uses a virtual reality headset to consider ergonomics of a new stock and trigger, while a 3D printer melted powdered metals and polymers. A nearby computer used predictive modeling to anticipate failures.

Human experience is necessary for the supervision of these machines, as well as in areas where craftsmanship and imagination are required. Jobs for humans are changing, and Benelli is at the forefront of merging these art, performance and technology careers. **G&A**



SA★35™

4" MODEL

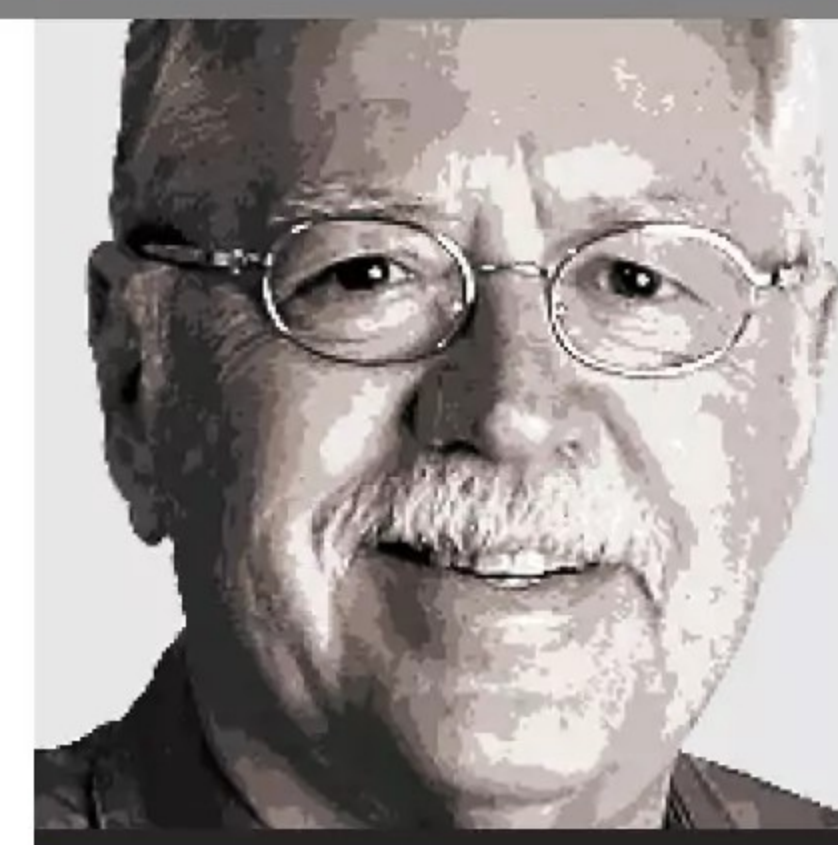


SPRINGFIELD ARMORY®

SPRINGFIELD-ARMORY.COM

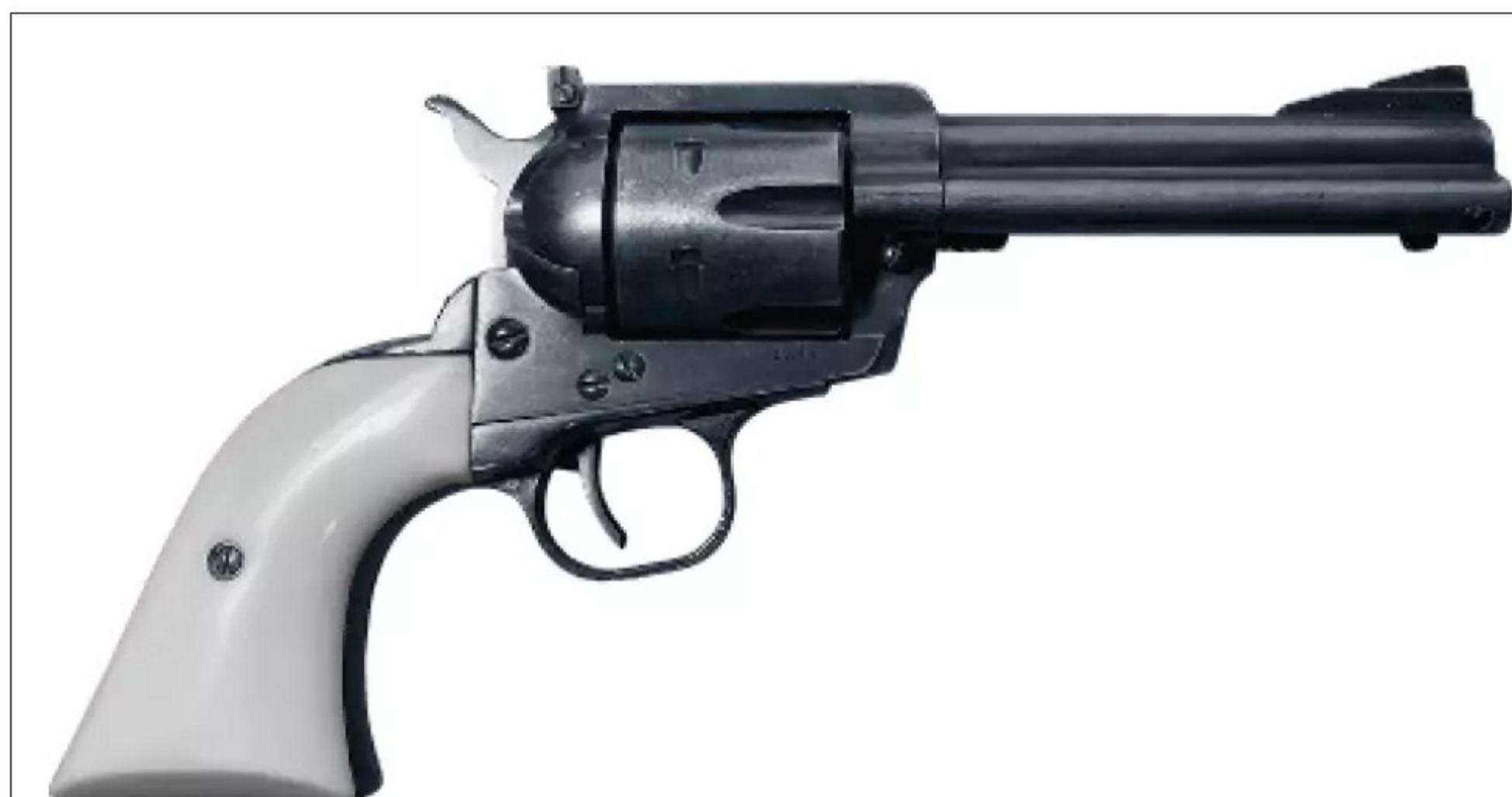
“Unfortunately, it has been heavily buffed, renickeled and restocked with rather crude grips.”

IDENTIFICATION & VALUES



GARRY JAMES

GARRY.JAMES@OUTDOORS.G.COM



RUGER BLACKHAWK "FLATTOP," .357 MAG., 98%: \$1,500

EARLY .357 RUGER BLACKHAWK

Q: I inherited this Ruger Blackhawk, serial number 12XX, from my father-in-law some years ago. I sent it to Ruger and they fitted it with the crossbar, etc., so it can be safely carried with six rounds. All the old parts were returned and are being stored with it. It is a great old shooter and a fun well-built gun. Was wondering a possible value since it is a very low serial number.

L. G., Cheyenne, Wyoming

A: A very nice revolver and it is good you retained the original internals and grips as their presence increases both interest and value of your Old Model "Flat Top" Blackhawk. These were made from 1955 to 1962. Barrel lengths were 4 5/8 inches, 6 1/2 inches and 10 inches (scarce). Your low-serial number piece was manufactured in 1955. It appears to have decent finish and collector interest. I'd price it at \$1,500. If you have the original box, add another \$250.

LATE MODEL SAVAGE 99

Q: I enjoy your section of the magazine. I have my

father's Savage 99M in .308. I always examine other Savage 99s I come across but I have never seen another one quite like this. The forearm shape seems to be unique. However, my father didn't tell me the story of how he acquired the rifle. I assume that he purchased it shortly after returning from the Korean War where he served with the Air Force. He hunted with it for many years before I inherited it. I also have the Weaver V8 scope that was on the rifle while he owned it. When I started using the rifle, I wasn't able to sight it in, likely because the unique

adjustment mechanism on the Weaver wasn't working, which would explain why my father didn't always hit what he was shooting at. I don't believe he cared, he was just happy to be in the woods. I mounted a Tasco on it to see if I actually wanted to continue to carry it. Sadly, the Weaver scope isn't in great shape, but I'll be sending it out for refurbishment soon. It's what belongs on the rifle, in my opinion. I've taken a few whitetail deer with it as well. As a youngster, it was my job to keep the guns cleaned and oiled. I

didn't know the difference between Hoppe's No. 9 and oil and wiped the entire rifle down with the Hoppe's more than once, including the scope! The serial number is 1093XXX. Anything you can tell me about the history of this Savage or its uniqueness would be appreciated.

D. S.

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

A: I have always liked the Savage 99, and while I'm not the biggest fan of lever guns, I do have a .303 Savage Model 1899 in my collection that I quite enjoy

AUCTION BLOCK

A superb John Rigby & Co. Rising Bite .470 Nitro Express realized a hefty \$140,000 at an April 4, 2026, Sportsman's Legacy sale. Several years in the making and finished in 2019, this outstanding double rifle is the fifth created in Rigby's historic limited-edition reintroduction of its most famous action. Bespoke appointments include a polished blue finish over the barrels, color-case sidelock action, exhibition-grade walnut and full-coverage scroll engraving with gold accents. Details include express sights, locking tang safety, trapdoor grip cap and a leather-wrapped recoil pad. Weight is just 10.8 pounds. Resting in a leather and oak case with maker's label and tools, it remains unfired since proof and shows in flawless condition. For more information about this and future sales, visit Sportsman's Legacy at sportsmanslegacy.com.



shooting. Let's address your query. You have a Savage Model 99DL, the "DL" signifying "Deluxe." The "99M" stamping on the gun indicates "Monte Carlo," as that was the type of buttstock the rifle was fitted with at the factory. The serial number also indicates that it was manufactured in 1966. The 99DL was made from 1960 to 1973. Calibers offered were .243 Win., .250-3000 Savage, .284 Win., .300 Sav., .308 Win. and .358 Win. The value of your gun is in the \$950 to \$1,200 range.

**“VERSIFIED”
COLT SINGLE
ACTION ARMY**

Q: This Colt has been in my family for more than 100 years. You will note on the ejector housing the hand etching: “Be not afraid of any man that walks Beneath the sky this is my equalizer.” There is a third line that is hard to read. I would like any info and value.

D. S.
Email



COLT SINGLE ACTION ARMY (1ST GEN.), UNKNOWN CAL., <10%: \$4,000

A: The serial number (40XXX) of your 7 ½-inch First Generation Colt Single Action Army revolver indicates that it was made in 1877. You noted it is in .41 caliber, however, in 1877 only .45 Colt, .44-40 and .44 Henry RF were offered. Markings on the revolver are so worn it is difficult to tell from your photos what its actual chambering is, so I'm wondering if you are mistaking the "44" for "41". Unfortunately, it has been heavily buffed, renickeled and restocked with rather crude grips. Some parts also appear to have been

replaced. The ejector-rod housing motto, while colorful, has been crudely applied. While adding color to the piece, it doesn't up the value much. Despite its early production, the worth on this gun has been considerably denigrated by its poor condition. Even so, early Colt Single Action Army revolvers are popular items, so I would still price it at around \$3,500 to \$4,500.

GLOCK 17 GEN 1

Q: I have been trying to determine the background and value of my Glock G17 Gen 1 bought in November 1987. I am the original purchaser. It is all original except that I did change out the slide lock and the slide stop but have the original parts. I do have the original two 17-round magazines. Any help would be appreciated.

G. T.
Email

A: The 9x19mm Parabellum Glock 17 Gen 1 is the Glock model that launched the entire series. It first appeared as an Austrian military pistol dubbed the "Pistole 80." Model 17s appeared commercially in the U.S. in 1986 and were made until 1988. In good shape, your

original Glock 17 Gen 1 is worth between \$1,350 and \$1,500 in the condition you describe. (It's a good thing you kept the parts.)

**.32 SPECIAL
WINCHESTER
MODEL 94**

Q: Would you please give me your opinion on the value of this gun? Serial 411XXX. I believe it was made in 1907. It has the nickel steel barrel for smokeless powder.

D. R.
Email

A: Your octagon Model 94 rifle was indeed manufactured in 1907. From what I can discern from your photos, it appears to be a no-frills version. The stock looks like it has been subjected to some sort of gloss refinish. The metal, while a bit worn in spots, appears not to have been monkeyed with. In 1907, Model 1894 rifles were offered in .30-30 Win., .32 Win. Special, .25-35 Win., .32-40 Win., and .38-55 Win. Assuming a decent bore and good mechanics, your rifle is worth around \$1,000.

**PARKER
BROTHERS VH S/S**

Q: I'm a home improvement repair contractor and was

HOLLYWOOD HARDWARE

“The Long Riders” & “The Rough Riders” Revolver Merwin, Hulbert & Co. revolvers are guns not often seen in films, but this nickel-plated .45 Colt Large Frame was a featured player in two high-end period pieces; “The Long Riders” (1980), where it was wielded by Randy Quaid as “Clell Miller,” and in director/writer/firearms enthusiast John Milius’ Spanish-American War epic TV miniseries “The Rough Riders” (1987) by Buck Taylor playing “George Neville.” In excellent original condition, this hefty double-action was a notable standout, adding color and authenticity to both productions. (Courtesy National Firearms Museum, Fairfax, Virginia, and Hollywood Guns & Props, Santa Clarita, California.)





EFLX™CE

CLOSED EMITTER REFLEX SIGHT

PERFECT



© Copyright 2026 EOTECH, LLC. All rights reserved. EOTECH®, HWS®, Vudu®, Vudu X™, EFLX™, DCBL™ and OGL™ are registered trademarks of EOTECH, LLC.



PARKER BROS. VH, 12 GA., 60%, \$1,300



looking at a job for a customer who is ill. This gentleman had this shotgun all his life and is no longer capable of shooting it. He asked me to take a look and see what I thought. I pulled it out of the corner and, at first glance, it didn't seem like anything special to me. We disassembled it and then I took some pictures. I did a little research and realized that I may have been very wrong about the gentleman's gun. I would greatly appreciate any help you could give us in establishing the value. I have mentioned to the gentleman about possibly trading some labor for the shotgun, but to be totally fair about things with him we both need to know its market value. My letter to Gun Room includes several pictures of the shotgun with it. All of the serial numbers seem to match, so that's a good thing. We would greatly appreciate any help you can give us in identifying this gun.

T. P.
Virginia

A: You have a Parker Brothers VH model double 12-gauge. It was one of the most common and popular side-by-side shotguns sold by them. The shotguns were manufactured from 1899 to 1942, and about 78,000 were made. The VH was offered in .410 bore, 28, 20, 16 and 12 gauges, with the latter being the most common. Your customer's gun looks like it has had some use, but not abuse, though there are active rust spots that will have to be dealt with sooner rather than later. The rubber recoil pad is not factory and detracts from the value. Based on what I see in your photos, and assuming the bores are good, the mechanics sound — and if there isn't excessive pitting and finish loss after the gun has been cleaned — I'd value it at around \$1,250 to \$1,400. If the cosmetics turn out to be adversely affected, I'd knock those figures down by about \$200 each.

VINTAGE PERCUSSION MUSKET

Q: I have been an avid

reader of Guns & Ammo for a long time. My sister found a muzzleloader after her husband passed away. (Pictures are attached.) It has a 9/16-inch round barrel that is 34-inches long. My assumption is .54 caliber. I can find no markings whatsoever on the gun. I'd like to know something about the gun (i.e., make, model, age) and would appreciate any information you might have.

G. D.
Kalamazoo, Michigan

A: You have a French Model 1822 flintlock musket, or possibly a Belgian copy thereof. The flintlock musket was converted to percussion fire sometime around 1840. The musket then had its forestock trimmed back and a ramrod pipe added so that it could be used as a shotgun, it seems. It's caliber is .69. In its current poor and heavily modified condition, it has little value beyond being a wall-hanger. 



MODEL 1822 COPY PERCUSSION., .69 CAL.



THE PERFECT STORM HAS LANDED

STORM CAT4 RIFLE + EOS-556 SUPPRESSOR



STORM SERIES CAT4 RIFLE

EOS-30Ti EOS-AK EOS-30 EOS-556

WEATHER ANY STORM



LEARN MORE



FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL@USPALM



USPALM.COM

SAFARILAND

READY IS A
LIFESTYLE

INCOG

IWB HOLSTER

ENGINEERED FOR SUBCOMPACT &
MICROCOMPACT PLATFORMS

SINGLE CLIP, DEEP CONCEALMENT IWB
HOSLTER

NEXT CHAPTER IN COLLABORATION BETWEEN
HALEY STRATEGIC PARTNERS X SAFARILAND



SAFARILAND®

Facebook Instagram Twitter YouTube @SAFARILANDGROUP
SAFARILAND.COM | ©2026 SAFARILAND, LLC



Can't make it to the Bianchi Cup? Give the Short Course a try.



JAMES TARR

ACTION PISTOL

I'VE BEEN AWARE of Action Pistol competition for decades but never competed because none of my local clubs are set up for it. Operated by the Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP) since 2023, the Bianchi Cup tournament is held in May and features a strictly regimented course of fire that requires barricades, plate racks, a moving target, and shooting out to 50 yards. I shot the Action Pistol course of fire while filming segments for Guns & Ammo TV with Springfield Armory's Julie Golob (juliegolob.com). Golob has won the Bianchi Cup 11 times competing in various divisions. I am in love with this competition. It is a wonderful balance of speed and accuracy, and a perfect way for people who haven't shot competitively to experience it. Best of all — and the reason for me writing this column — I learned about the official Action Pistol Short Course. You can practice at your local club.

You don't need a lot of equipment to participate in Action Pistol. There are different divisions for various types of pistols, including ones specifically suited to the kind of pistols we would actually carry for self-defense. I shot the match at the home of the CMP Bianchi Cup: Green Valley Rifle and Pistol Club in Hallsville, Missouri. I used my personal, full-size Springfield Armory Echelon 4.5, which is a stock factory gun with iron sights. Other than eye and ear protection and at least four magazines, the only other items I needed to bring were a holster and ammunition. I used a Safariland Gravity outside-the-waistband holster I was evaluating for Guns & Ammo's "Carry Rig" column.

The CMP took over administration of the Bianchi Cup from the NRA in 2022, as well as other sanctioned Action Pistol matches. All the details of the official four-event course of fire is on the CMP website (thecmp.org), but let me offer a brief summary.

Action Pistol and The Bianchi Cup were created in 1979. There are just four stages. In each you fire 48 rounds for a

total of 192 rounds and a possible 1,920 points. You never fire more than six shots in a string, so it's revolver-neutral. AP-1 targets are the official type, which are tombstone in shape. There is a black 4-inch circle in the center and an X-ring. The number of "X" hits is used as a tie-breaker. The 10-ring measures 8 inches in diameter, and the 8-ring is 12 inches in diameter. If you hit the target outside the scoring rings, you receive 5 points.



G&A's James Tarr and Julie Golob go to the ground for maximum stability to engage 50-yard targets while shooting the CMP Bianchi Cup course of fire for Guns & Ammo TV.

In three out of the four events you're firing on a line beside other competitors so focus is required. In those same events you're shooting at paper targets that appear, and the start signal is visual — when the targets appear, that's your signal to go!

For the Falling Plate event, you're shooting at a steel plate rack with six 8-inch plates. For this event, start with your hands above your shoulders, get an audible start signal, draw and shoot the plates twice at 10,

15, 20 and 25 yards. This is a par-time course of fire, with 6, 7, 8 and 9 seconds at the various distances. You are not allowed to fire extra shots on this or any of the stages, so between that and the time constraint you really must focus.

For Guns & Ammo TV, I shot this alongside former G&A Handgun Editor Patrick Sweeney who used a Springfield Armory Echelon 4.0 equipped with an Aimpoint COA optic. That dot reticle helped his accuracy at 25 yards where my front sight appeared nearly as wide as the plate.

For the Barricade event, start with your hands flat on a 2-foot-wide barricade in front of you. There are two targets, and from either side of the barricade fire six shots on each. This is done at 10, 15, 25 and 35 yards, and you get 5, 6, 7 and 8 seconds per string at those respective distances. Smart competitors learn how to brace themselves against the barricade for the long shots.

For the Practical event, you are engaging two tombstone targets at 10, 15, 25 and 50 yards. There are several strings



An upcoming segment of Guns & Ammo TV features Patrick Sweeney competing against pro-shooter Julie Golob during the Action Pistol Barricade stage.

at each distance, and you're firing one, two or three shots at each target with various time constraints that are not too fast — as long as you don't mess up the draw. At 15 yards and beyond, you can go prone. Prone gets you steadier, but getting down on the ground takes time. I went prone at 50 yards and found the extra time to get into position was more than made up for by the improved steadiness. I shot this alongside Julie Golob, and while I generally hate aiming I have to say it was a lot of fun. At 50 yards, my front sight was just about the same width as the target.

The Moving Target event is the only one performed solo. It's shot at 10, 15, 20 and 25 yards at a tombstone target that moves from right to left, then left to right, at each of those distances. Fire six or three rounds at the target on each pass, depending on distance. The target travels 60 feet in 6 seconds, so it is really moving. I learned that I had to actually lead it. How much lead? That depends on the speed of the ammo. You have to wait to draw until you see it, so this is the most speed-intensive of all the stages. This stage is the main reason why I never became interested in Action Pistol. Why? Nobody in my area has a mover like this. Then Julie Golob introduced me to the Short Course, which changed how one can practice for movers.

There is a short course listed in the current CMP rule book, but the one I shot with Golob is the NRA Action Pistol Short Course. NRA ran the Bianchi Cup from 1984 to 2022. You can find the Short Course on Golob's website, which she created for all things Action Pistol related (bulletinX.

com). You'll need the appropriate AP-1 targets and an electronic timer in order to set a par time, but it's that straightforward.

For the Short Course Practical event, set up two targets 3-feet apart. At 10 yards, starting with hands above shoulders, fire one round on each in 3 seconds, two on each in 4 seconds, then three shots on each with your strong hand only in 8 seconds. Move back to 15 yards, and fire one round on each in 4 seconds, then two on each in 5 seconds, and three on each in 6 seconds.

For the Short Course Barricade stage, if you don't have an actual barricade just use something that works. During filming we used polymer range barrels stacked two high. Use two targets, 6-feet apart, and start with your hands flat on the barricade. From 10 yards, fire six rounds around the right side, then fire six around the left side; you have 5 seconds for each string. Move back to 15 yards and repeat. You're

afforded 6 seconds on each side at the longer distance.

To practice the Plate event, don't stress if your club doesn't have a plate rack. Golob set up six targets and pushed them as close together as possible, then stapled paper plates in the center of the targets to simulate the white steel plates. Run it twice at 10 yards, with a 6-second time limit, then run it twice at 15 yards in 7 seconds.

For the short course Mover stage, when you don't have access to an actual moving target, spread

those six targets out so they are 3 feet edge-to-edge. At 10 yards you've got 6 seconds to hit all six targets, one shot on each — first running right to left, then left to right. Move back to 15 yards and do it again.

Whether you're talking about the four official events or the Short Course, you must compete under pressure and time constraint, draw, use a barricade (cover), engage multiple targets, and engage a moving target. These are all skills you should be practicing, and I believe competition is the best way to learn and practice the skills that you'll want and need in case of a critical defensive situation.

Don't be intimidated by the sight of fancy equipment or running and gunning at USPSA and IDPA matches. Bianchi Cup and Action Pistol are less intimidating, offering a balance of speed and accuracy. It doesn't require any movement while you're shooting. In fact, people have competed at the Bianchi Cup from a wheelchair. All you need to practice the Short Course is a firearm, ammo, holster, eyes and ears, targets and a timer. Once you can get all your shots off in the time allotted, work on increasing your score. **GA**



Behind the camera, Christian Hoffman waits for G&A TV Director David Foster to *clack* the clapperboard, initiating Patrick Sweeney and Julie Golob to discuss the AP-1 target.

ENTER THE VOID



VOID-762



VOID-556



VOID-556K



INTRODUCING THE VOID-9

The CANiK VOID Suppressor Series – featuring the VOID-762, VOID-556, VOID-556K, and VOID-9 – delivers configurable, high-performance suppression without the premium price tag. **The VOID-9 is Canik's first suppressor precision-engineered from Grade 5 titanium using additive manufacturing.**

CANiK

SUPPRESSORS



@canikusa



@usacanik



@canikusa



POWERED BY OTTER CREEK LABS

CANIK.COM

THE CARRY RIG

Carry with gravitas.

Built upon the foundation of the Safariland 5198 holster, the Safariland Gravity is a paddle-style outside-the-waistband (OWB) holster constructed using SafariLaminate. The Gravity Holster is lined with a suede-like material that reduces wear on the firearm's finish and dampens noise during the draw and holstering. \$67



SAFARILAND GRAVITY HOLSTER

YOU CAN'T DISCUSS Safariland's new-for-2026 outside the waistband (OWB) holster, the Gravity Holster, without first mentioning the classic 5198 model. Safariland didn't invent the paddle holster but it probably deserves credit for making them popular, and the 5198 was the gold standard for decades. The 5198 became part of the Range Series in 2013. The Gravity is a separate holster line, but I view it as a modernized version of the 5198.

G&A's sample Gravity Holster for the Springfield Armory Echelon arrived with a surprise custom "Poppies of War" fabric wrap. Between a Glock and the Echelon, I've been wearing the Gravity Holster for 8 months. In that time, I've worn it off and on for at least 2 months as an everyday carry (EDC), most recently for a week while filming with Guns & Ammo TV. I still use the Gravity as an EDC, but I also wore it when shooting the four stages of an Action Pistol competition known as the CMP Bianchi Cup.

The patented SafariLaminate material is both stiff and flexible, offering the best characteristics of hard plastic and soft rubber. You can bend it, but I simply don't know how you'd be able to break it short of falling down a mountain and then being crushed by a boulder.

It's molded around the shape of a specific firearm while still hot and pliable. The two halves are stitched together for the 5198. With the Gravity Holster, a simple rivet connects the two sides. Compared to the 5198, the Gravity Holster is smaller and lighter but seems just as tough. The holster is formed around the triggerguard, and there is a tension screw that is adjusted using a Phillips-head screwdriver. When properly set, the pistol *clicks* in and out.

The Gravity is a lightweight, low-profile holster that covers the triggerguard but cut low in front for a quicker draw and to accommodate optics. Pistols with up to .4-inch-tall front sights are supported.

Inside the body-side of the holster, a gray suede lines the holster. It cushions the gun, reduces finish wear and dampens noise when drawing or holstering. It's also one of the unsung features on both the 5198 and the Gravity that — in

combination with the tough but flexible SafariLaminate — elevates it above most polymer holsters.

The paddle is a curved piece of polymer that wraps around your hip while inside your pants. The advantage of a paddle attachment is that you don't need a belt, and whether or not you have a belt you don't need to undo it to put the holster on or take it off. That quickness and convenience is one reason why the 5198 became so popular.

There is a small hook more than halfway down the holster body. It grabs a belt and keeps the holster from simply being pulled up and off when you draw. If you're not wearing a belt, that hook grabs onto your pants. The paddle is mounted to Safariland's universal three-screw pattern. The paddle keeps the holster at an FBI cant, meaning the muzzle is angled slightly backward. It aids in concealment under a covering garment.

Even though it is the most popular, I've never liked that draw angle. In all my 5198s and Gravity Holsters I have swapped out the paddle for the belt loop, which fits 1½- to 1¾-inch belts. It allows me to position the gun at three different angles. I prefer the straight and vertical orientation. It's a harder to conceal but it provides a faster draw. One belt loop is provided with the 5198, but with the Gravity you'll have to buy each separately (Model 567BL, \$25.50). The three steel Phillips-head screws that hold the paddle and hook in place are used to attach the belt loop, as well.

I've shot local USPSA matches using my Gravity and a G17. Using the Gravity and Echelon while shooting the various timed Action Pistol/Bianchi Cup stages for G&A TV, I found it

SAFARILAND GRAVITY HOLSTER	
MATERIALS	SafariLaminate polymer (body, paddle), steel (hardware)
CARRY TYPE	Outside the waistband (OWB)
RETENTION TYPE	Level 1, friction fit with tension screw
ADJUSTABILITY	Yes; cant, height and retention
MSRP	\$67
HANDGUN FIT	Springfield Armory Echelon (tested)
ACCESSORY RAIL ACCOMMODATIONS	None
POSITIONS TO CARRY	Strong-side, hip, OWB
AVERAGE TIME TO ATTACH	5 seconds
COMFORT RATING	5/5
CONCEALMENT CLOTHING	Jacket or untucked, oversized shirt
AVERAGE DRAW-TO-FIRE TIME	1 second
MANUFACTURER	Safariland, 800-347-1200, safariland.com

Draw-to-fire time is the average of five clean draws producing an A-zone hit on a stationary target positioned at 21 feet.

also worked perfectly. It kept the gun tucked in close enough to my body that a loose cover garment concealed it nicely, but not so tight it prevented me from getting a quick grasp on the gun. As the tightly molded fit around the triggerguard and tension screw is the only retention device, and the holster is cut low in front and lets you to get a full grip on the gun, the holster supports fast draws. The cover garment is the only obstacle that can slow you down.

The Gravity Holster is standard with Cordura nylon wraps in various colors and camo patterns. As the Gravity is new,

fitment is limited to most
Glocks, the SIG Sauer P320
and P365, Springfield Armory
Echelon, Taurus G3 family and a few others.
I think the 5198 was the best OWB holster on the market
at any price, and inexpensive. The Gravity is smaller and
lighter, just as robust with more features and only slightly
more expensive at \$67. Unfortunately, that price doesn't
include a belt loop. Still, it is less than most OWB holsters. In
my opinion, it's objectively better.  — J. Tarr



STREAMLIGHT®

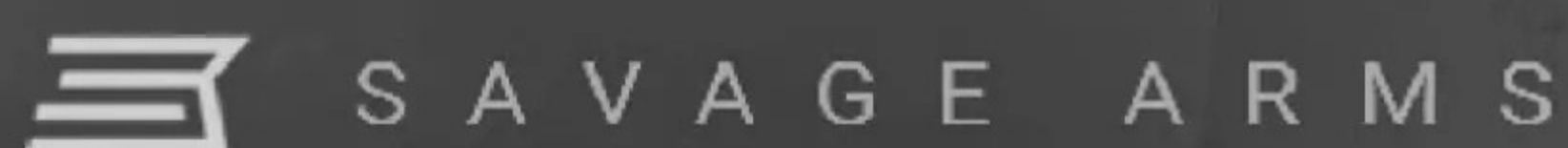
TLR-6®

- 100 LUMENS
- AMBIDEXTROUS SWITCHING
- 2 CR-1/3N LITHIUM BATTERIES
- MOMENTARY AND CONSTANT ON OPERATION



STREAMLIGHT.COM/TLR-6-1911
©2026 STREAMLIGHT, INC. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

STREAMLIGHT®



BUILT TO GO THE DISTANCE...
AND THEN SOME.

Every trigger pull. Every tight group. Every yard further. And with a 22 LR rifle! Built rugged and reliable to put round after round exactly where you require it. When the line goes hot, confidence matters. The new 110 RF Core Tactical delivers repeatable accuracy you can push and push again. Go ahead. Dial in.



SAVAGEARMS.COM



Viridian Weapon Technologies RFX1 Custom

RICHARD NANCE

The RFX1 Custom for the Smith & Wesson Bodyguard 2.0 means that the pistol's slide doesn't require an optic cut. Made of CNC-machined 6061 aluminum, the RFX1 Custom weighs just half an ounce. At 1.63-inches long, .81-inch wide, and 1.02-inches tall, the RFX1 Custom is the smallest reflex sight available. With a CR1632 battery, the RFX1 Custom has power to 30,000 hours. Instant-On technology ensures the optic is on with the slightest movement, yet the 3-MOA green dot is off when the pistol is idle for 2 minutes to preserve battery life. **\$229**



THE SMALLEST DOT

PISTOL-MOUNTED OPTICS make aiming more intuitive. Rather than aligning traditional notch-and-post sights, aiming with an optic requires only placing the dot on the target. Reflex sights allow us to keep our focus on the target, which is what we do instinctively under stress.

Sights on a compact pistol such as the popular .380 Auto-chambered Smith & Wesson Bodyguard 2.0 tend to be smaller and closer together. Unfortunately, a reduced sight radius makes sights more difficult to use than those on a longer slide. Adding an optic can solve this problem.

The Bodyguard 2.0 lacks a factory optic cut, so you might assume mounting an optic requires slide milling, drilling and threading. Viridian Weapon Technologies has an alterna-

tive. Its RFX1 Custom Green Dot Sight for Bodyguard 2.0 attaches to the slide using the rear sight dovetail.

The housing extends beyond the back of the slide, but it is flush with the sides to maintain the Bodyguard 2.0's ultra-slim profile. The RFX1 Custom mounts farther back than most pistol-mounted optics, meaning there's less chance of it interfering with holster fitment. Keep in mind, with the RFX1 Custom mounted there is no rear sight and the front sight is too low to see through the optic window.

To install the RFX1 Custom to the Bodyguard 2.0, you must remove the rear sight using a non-marring punch or a sight-pusher tool. Next, insert the rear-sight mounting plate into the dovetail. Install the supplied CR1632 battery into the

MODEL
2020
BOUNDARY



The serrations at the bottom of the RFX1 matches the aggressive serrations on the slide, making the combination aesthetically pleasing. The RFX1 measures 1.02-inches tall.



The CR1632 battery is installed underneath the front of the RFX1 housing, meaning that the sight will have to be removed from the slide when it is time to replace the battery — after 30,000 hours.

compartment underneath the housing, then place the RFX1 Custom atop the slide. Use the mounting screws to secure it to the slide with the included Allen wrench. If you have a torque wrench, set it to 15 inch-pounds (in.-lbs.). The process couldn't be easier.

CNC-machined from 6061 aluminum, the Viridian RFX1 Custom is the world's smallest reflex sight. Its profile and aggressive serrations match the pistol's slide so well that it looks as if it were factory installed. The serrations aren't purely cosmetic, either. The serrations help to rack the slide.

The 3-MOA green dot appears clear and bright through the 15x15mm multi-coated glass window. The dot's brightness adjusts automatically to ambient lighting conditions. This ensures it's bright enough in well-lit areas without being so bright that it creates a starburst effect in dark environments. Viridian's Instant-On technology activates the dot when it detects the slightest



The green-dot emitter is contained in the rear of the housing, which extends beyond the rear of the slide. Adjustment directions are clearly marked, and an appropriately-sized wrench is included.



The RFX1 Custom mounts to the Bodyguard 2.0 slide using an adapter plate that replaces the rear sight in its dovetail. Torx fasteners secure the RFX1 Custom to the two-post mount.

movement. After 2 minutes of inactivity, the unit powers off to preserve battery life. Batteries should last up to 30,000 hours.

Zeroing the RFX1 Custom is simple. Adjustments are made with the Allen wrench provided in the box. The windage adjustment is located on the right side of the unit and the elevation adjustment is on top. Turning the windage or elevation adjustment clockwise moves the point of impact right or up, respectively. The housing is marked with an arrow pointing clockwise along with an "R" for "right" and "UP".

The RFX1 Custom has an operating temperature range of -4 to 130 degrees Fahrenheit. It is shockproof and carries an IPX4 water-resistant rating, meaning it shouldn't be submerged but it can withstand rain. The RFX1 Custom is backed by a limited lifetime warranty, and an RFX1 Custom is also available for the Ruger LCP Max. For more information, visit viridian.tech.



SOCOM4

LOW BACK PRESSURE WITHOUT COMPROMISE



SOCOM556-RC4



SOCOM556-MINI4

EVOLUTION AT THE SPEED OF SOUND

The new SOCOM-RC4 and SOCOM-MINI4 suppressors feature our exclusive low-back-pressure design and take our legendary durability, accuracy, and performance to a whole new level. **Go with the proven performer. Go SureFire.**



M&P[®] 10 M2.0[®]



RELIABILITY YOU CAN TRUST.

Trust in Smith & Wesson's Legacy - The M&P[®] 10MM M2.0[®]

Our commitment to excellence shines through our M&P[®] family of polymer-frame pistols, renowned for their reliability and performance. As the landscape continued to shift, we rose to the challenge, developing cutting-edge polymer-frame, striker-fired pistols that have become top sellers in the industry. Today, our M&P[®] M2.0[®] stands as a testament to our dedication to constant improvement, addressing critiques to deliver the best-in-class firearms.



Scan for
More Info



Smith & Wesson[®]

EMPOWERING AMERICANS™

smith-wesson.com

©2026 Smith & Wesson Inc. All Rights Reserved.

*“U.S. riflemen make better snipers,”
a British point of view.*



TOM BECKSTRAND

AMERICA'S FINEST

YEARS AGO, I attended the U.S. Marine Corps' Scout Sniper Advanced Course in Quantico, Virginia. The Marines had an exchange program where it would send an instructor to the United Kingdom and the U.K. would send a sniper instructor to Quantico. Exchange programs such as this were invaluable because they allowed organizations to share methodologies. Exchanging students and instructors is also why I, as a U.S. Army officer, found myself attending a USMC sniper program.

The U.K. instructor was a Color Sergeant, so we just called him “Colors.” He was a British Royal Marine that everyone liked. One morning he said something I’ll never forget. I asked him about the state of sniping and rifle shooting within the British military, which has a proud history. Wars in Afghanistan and Iraq had

been running for several years, so both nations acquired significant battlefield experience. He said, “We’re good, but nothing like the U.S.” I was shocked by his candor. Colors went on to explain that no one in the U.K. had experience with firearms before joining the military, so soldiers only knew what they were taught. “When did you start shooting?” he asked. I paused, and he said, “That’s exactly what I’m talking about. You probably started shooting at a young age with your father and maybe got into competitive shooting before you ever came into the military.” He was right.

Prior experience with firearms creates a comfort level that accelerates learning. It can also provide better instruction than what many receive in the military. America’s vast body of civilian experience is the result of generations of riflemen working together to refine their shooting skills.

Not all lessons provided by a well-intentioned instructor is beneficial to the neophyte, but most receive a net positive. The jewels of America’s shooting community are the proven methods available for those who want to learn. The best way to access this information is to shoot competitively in the discipline that most closely parallels the desired applica-

tion. For example, anyone interested in precision rifle shooting would be well served to shoot National Rifle League (NRL) Hunter matches. The rifles aren’t too specialized and the skills required to be successful are diverse, similar to what’s required of a hunter or a sniper. Of course, a hunter or sniper have other tasks to learn, but shooting- and

glassing-related skills can be learned in competition.

Some might balk at the assertion that America’s best riflemen aren’t snipers. I can tell you, unequivocally, that the best rifle shooters in America are civilians. I offer Bryan Morgan of Hat Creek Training in Idaho. In his words, he was a “ditch digger.” I met him more than 10 years ago. He was a self-taught rifleman who became the best competitive shooter I know. He now teaches the world’s best snipers.



Former PRS Champion Bryan Morgan demonstrates high-angle shooting from unusual positions at Hat Creek Training.

In defense of our sniper communities, there is a long list of skills a sniper must master, and shooting a rifle well is just one. It’s also important to remember that a sniper’s targets can shoot back, highlighting the maxim that there is a big difference between shooting a rifle and fighting with one. A sniper must know how to plan, move, communicate and sustain himself on the battlefield. None of that is required to excel as a competitor. A civilian devoting himself to the singular task of shooting a rifle may outshoot a trained sniper.

Whether an individual is interested in becoming a proficient competitive rifle shooter or someone who wants to attend world-class sniper training, both are available in America. Among the nations of the world, we alone can make this claim. This is why we’ll have the world’s best riflemen and snipers for the foreseeable future.

The Founding Fathers wisely recognized that human nature isn’t always benevolent, so they gave us the Second Amendment to ensure we’d always have the option of self-defense. We have a multi-generational community that knows how to make a rifle sing, and I’m proud to be part of it. Here’s to another 250 years of being the best. 



RECOIL NOT INCLUDED

RM1C-COMP. Integral compensator for faster, more accurate shots. Optics-ready, flat-face trigger, extra-short reset, ambidextrous controls, match-grade barrel. 15+1 and 17+1. **Swap bounce for bullseyes.**

The 1905 Winchester paved the way to the M1 .30 Carbine.



DAVE EMARY

AN UNLIKELY LEGACY

MENTION THE 1905 WINCHESTER and most shooters will say, “The what?” It was a rather unsung rifle that could probably be credited with being one of the first semiautomatic, detachable-magazine centerfire rifles. It was chambered in rather anemic cartridges and is limited in interest to hardcore Winchester collectors. The lack of power in the two cartridges for which the Model 1905 was chambered led to the development of the more popular and powerful Model 1907 and Model 1910 Winchester, both scaled-up versions of the 1905 designed for more powerful cartridges. However, the 1905 Winchester and one of its cartridges played a large role during World War II through the M1 Carbine and .30 Carbine cartridge.

NINETEEN O’FIVE

At the turn of the 20th century, interest in automatic firearms was increasing. The designs were generally all new and novel, and a little slow to catch on because most early semiautomatics could not match the accuracy of the newly introduced bolt-action rifles or the long-established lever-actions. New semiautomatic firearms were usually expensive and initially not chambered in powerful or useful cartridges, other than the Remington Model 8.

Regardless, the evolution of automatic small arms would eventually play a major role and provide an advantage for U.S. troops in World War II. The 1905 Winchester was one of the first centerfire semiautomatic firearms. It was a blowback-operated rifle developed by Thomas C. Johnson at Winchester and was available in either .32 Winchester Self-Loading or .35 Self-Loading cartridges. The rifle was an evolutionary development of Johnson’s earlier Model 1903 .22 rimfire. The Model 1903 features received a patent on August 27, 1901. The 1903 was a successful design that was initially chambered in the proprietary .22 Winchester Automatic rimfire cartridge and was later chambered in .22 Long Rifle (LR) and renamed the Model 63 in the 1930s.

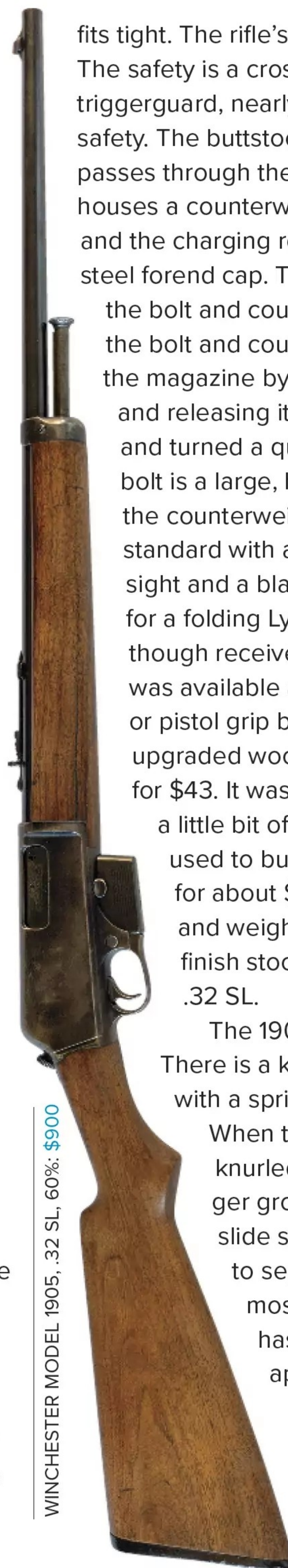
The 1905 was one of the first rifles to feature a detachable box magazine, available in either five- or 10-round capacities. The magazine release consists of a small tab that protrudes from the lower right side of the receiver that is pushed towards the magazine and then pulled out of the receiver. It is not exactly a quick release as the magazine

fits tight. The rifle’s standard barrel length was 22 inches. The safety is a crossbolt push-button at the front of the triggerguard, nearly identical to the original M1 Carbine safety. The buttstock is attached by a long screw that passes through the buttstock into the receiver. The forend houses a counterweight that is one piece with the bolt and the charging rod that protrudes from the front of the steel forend cap. The charging rod is spring loaded to the bolt and counterweight yet it does not recoil with the bolt and counterweight. The rifle is charged from the magazine by pushing the charging rod to the rear and releasing it. It can be fully pushed to the rear and turned a quarter turn to lock the bolt open. The bolt is a large, heavy piece and is contiguous with the counterweight under the forend. The rifle came standard with a ramp adjustable tangent leaf rear sight and a blade front sight. The tang was drilled for a folding Lyman or Marbles aperture tang sight, though receiver sights were also available. The 1905 was available as either a plain finish with a straight or pistol grip buttstock for \$28 or a fancy finish with upgraded wood, pistol grip stock and checkering for \$43. It was expensive when new, and probably a little bit of a hard sell for most buyers who were used to buying lever-action rifles in that period for about \$15 to \$20. My 1905 was made in 1908 and weighs 7 pounds, 10 ounces. It has a plain finish stock with pistol grip and chambers the .32 SL.

The 1905 was considered a takedown rifle. There is a knurled screw at the rear of the receiver with a spring-loaded retaining bar in the tang.

When the retaining bar is pressed down, the knurled screw can be unscrewed and the trigger group, rear receiver bulkhead and stock slide straight back out of the main receiver to separate the gun into two pieces. As like most other firearms of that period, my 1905 has very good fit and finish, retaining the appearance and feel of a solid gun.

Production ran from 1905 to 1920, with a total of 29,113 rifles manufactured. The 1905 garnered an early reputation as a reliable firearm,



WINCHESTER MODEL 1905, .32 SL, 60% \$900

but quickly received negative press for its underpowered chamberings.

MODEL 1905 CARTRIDGES

.32 SL The .32 SL fired a .321-inch, 165-grain bullet at approximately 1,400 feet per second (fps) from a 22-inch barrel. The 1929 Winchester catalog listed a 165-grain soft point at 1,390 fps, while the 1923 Remington catalog listed 165-grain soft-point and metal-case bullets at 1,440 fps. The .32 SL was similar in performance to the period .32-20 High Velocity (HV) loading. The cartridge operated at approximately 25,000 psi and had a cartridge overall length (COL) of 1.880 inches. It is hard to imagine that at a muzzle velocity of 1,400 fps that a soft-point bullet would offer much expansion. The .32 SL was probably not effective on anything much bigger than a coyote at modest ranges.

.35 SL The .35 SL was loaded with .351-inch, 180-grain bullets at approximately 1,400 fps. The 1929 Winchester catalog listed 180-grain soft-point and full-patch bullets at 1,395 fps, while Remington's 1923 catalog listed 180-grain soft-point and metal-case bullets at 1,450 fps. The overall cartridge length of the .35 SL is 1.650 inches, and maximum pressure was approximately 25,000 psi. The .35 SL was in the same league as a standard performance .38-40 Winchester cartridge for power and trajectory. The muzzle velocity of 1,400 fps would have again made much expansion of the soft-point bullet unlikely. Due to the larger diameter bullet, the .35 SL may have been effective on deer with well-placed shots for 50 to 75 yards.

Both calibers of ammunition are a collector thing at this point. If you can find any, prices reflect that. Shooting the 1905 in either caliber is a senior-level reloading project. You need access to a lathe of some sort to make the cases. Modified .32-20 Winchester and .357 Magnum cases can be used for both chamberings, with rims turned to correct diameter and thickness. The correct extractor groove needs to be cut ahead of the rim as well as the case trimmed to length. A .321-inch expander in a .32-20 size die will make .32 SL cases out of the .32-20 case. A .351 WSL full-length size die is available from Redding (redding-reloading.com) that works fine for the shorter .35 SL case. A .32 H&R/.327 Federal shell holder works for the .32 SL and a Lee R19 shell holder (leeprecision.com) is made for the .35 SL. In a pinch, a .32-20 shell holder can be used for the .32 SL. Any .321-inch .32 Special bullet works in the .32 SL. For the .35 SL, an inexpensive .351-inch 180-grain TMJ bullet is available from Graf & Sons (grafs.com) and Buffalo Arms (buffaloarms.com). Soft-point hunting bullets are available for both the .32 and .35 SL from Hawk Bullets (hawkbullets.com)

For shooting my 1905 in .32 SL, I made cases from .32-20 cases by reducing the rim diameter and thinning the rim to specification and cutting a new extractor groove with my mini lathe. I simply ran a .32 Special .321-inch expander into the .32-20 neck, trimmed to length and loaded Hornady .321-inch 170-grain round-nose flat-point bullets. I used 11.8 grains of WC296, which produced 1,379 fps at the muzzle from my rifle. I used a Hornady #36 shell holder for the .32 H&R/.327 Federal. My ammunition fed and functioned flawlessly from the 1905 Winchester.



From left to right: .30 Carbine, .32 SL and .35 SL. The .32 and .35 SL were introduced in the Winchester 1905. Thirty-five years later, the .32 SL was reduced to .30 caliber for the M1 Carbine.

MILITARY LEGACY

It is fairly common knowledge that the M1 Carbine cartridge was derived from the 1905 Winchester .32 SL cartridge. In fact, in the 1940 U.S. Army circular requesting a .30-caliber light rifle, it was suggested that the cartridge should be similar to the .32 SL cartridge. Initially, Winchester did not submit a gun for the light-rifle competition. Instead, it accepted a contract to develop the ammunition for the new light rifle, the result being the .30 Carbine cartridge. Winchester scaled

down the .32 SL to .30 caliber, increased the operating pressure to 40,000 psi and used a lower sectional density .30-caliber 110-grain bullet. It resulted in a muzzle velocity nearly 600 fps faster than the .32 SL, a 30-percent gain in muzzle energy and a flatter shooting cartridge. The .30 Carbine cartridge has effective ballistics to about 200 yards, which far eclipsed the .32 SL.

The other interesting contribution of the 1905 Winchester to the M1 Carbine is not so well known. The trigger group of the 1905 was essentially copied by Winchester for the M1 Carbine. When the two trigger groups are put side-by-side, the similarity is obvious. The trigger group parts design, triggerguard shape and safety are almost identical. The only part that is substantially different is the hammer, which was simplified in shape to aid production of the M1 carbine.

Today, T. C. Johnson's Winchester Model 1905 and its .32 and .35 SL cartridges have been relegated to the dustbin of firearms history. I think it should be elevated to a bit higher status than that. It was an innovative, trend-setting firearm in that it was one of the first centerfire semiautomatic rifles, and one that fed from a detachable magazine. Its main downfall — the underpowered cartridges — turned out to be a significant influence for one of the most produced and circulated military firearms and cartridges of World War II. Several design features were incorporated into the M1 Carbine. These forgotten guns come available from time to time and are not exorbitantly expensive. Ammunition is the big problem with shooting them, but for the person looking for an advanced reloading project it is possible to make good ammunition for both 1905 Winchester chamberings. **GA**



800-338-3220 | HORNADY.COM



RECORDS **SHATTER** VARMINTS **SHUDDER.**

Innovation, precision and excitement! Elevate your varmint shooting experience, shatter records, and make your mark like never before with Hornady® V-Match® ammunition.

- ELD-VT® bullet features patented Heat Shield® tip with DVRT™
- Highly concentric AMP® bullet jacket
- High velocity retention and rapid expansion
- Ultra-flat trajectories and unparalleled accuracy



Learn more at
hornady.com/v-match

AVAILABLE IN

- 224 Valkyrie
- 22 Creedmoor
- 22 ARC
- 6mm ARC
- 6mm Creedmoor
- 25 Creedmoor
- 6.5 Grendel
- 6.5 PRC
- 6.5 Creedmoor
- 300 PRC



Hi-Point Hush-Point Suppressors

BIG SILENCE, SMALL PRICE

FOR YEARS, Hi-Point Firearms possessed a devoted customer base that values utility over aesthetics, with an eye on budget. At the 2026 SHOT Show, Hi-Point announced that it was entering the growing suppressor market with its new Hush-Point line. Hi-Point's plan is to do exactly what it did for handguns and carbines by making suppressors affordable enough for any gun owner to enjoy.

On January 1, 2026, the removal of the \$200 NFA tax stamp fee for suppressors changed the market. Prior to that, advertising an inexpensive suppressor wasn't entirely practical since each can effectively had a \$200 starting point. This partially resulted in a field of prices that ranged between \$800 and \$1,200 as the norm. Hi-Point's entry marks the beginning of a lower-cost suppressor category.

"Our focus was to provide an economical, simple and foolproof design to our

customer base," said Kara Brown-Boesenberg, president of MKS Supply and the exclusive distributor of Hi-Point Firearms. The first two suppressors to arrive were the Hush-Point 22 and Hush-Point 45. The Hush-Point 30 is next. Don't let the price tags fool you; these suppressors perform.

HUSH-POINT 22

A suppressed .22 LR is one of life's great pleasures, mainly because "Hollywood-quiet" sound reduction is achievable. At \$259, the Hush-Point 22 is arguably the least expensive entry into the rimfire segment today. The Hush-Point 22 features a Cerakote-finished 7075 aluminum body with internal threads at each end. Inside is a reversible 7075 aluminum monolithic baffle core held in place between an end cap and a 17-4 stainless steel 1/2-28 thread adapter. Just four parts.



Among other firearms, the Hush-Point 45 was tested on Hi-Point Firearms Yeet Cannon. It will complement every model with a threaded barrel in the Hi-Point catalog.



The Hush-Point 45 includes both 1/2x28 and .578x28 TPI stainless thread adapters.



Hi-Point conveniently provides a polymer, dual-sided wrench to remove or install the stainless-steel endcap and thread adapters.



Each molded polymer wrench features sockets to accommodate two endcap sizes, 13/16 and 1-inch.



Unscrewing the muzzle allows the monocoire baffle design to be removed, providing access to the ports for maintenance or replacement of the orange O-ring.

For users shooting dirty rimfire ammunition, monolithic designs such as this are easier to maintain and clean. Disassembly is made easy with the addition of a pronounced $1\frac{3}{16}$ -inch hex shape on each end. Hi-Point includes a pair of nonmarring wrenches, but a $1\frac{3}{16}$ wrench or socket can also be used. Once the caps are removed, the monolithic core slides out. The core is hardcoat anodized for easy cleanup in an ultrasonic cleaner. Is it easy to put back together? Assembly takes about 15 seconds.

The Hush-Point 22 is rated for a range of calibers from .17 WSM to .22 LR. We tested it on a Walther P22 and a Tactical Solutions .22 LR rifle using several different types of ammunition. As expected, the resulting sound was pleasant and there were no problems with function or impact on accuracy. While it's not full-auto-rated, the Hush-Point 22 performed in parallel with suppressors twice its price point. It's great for those who enjoy plinking.



Hush-Point suppressors are constructed of just four primary components, plus an O-ring. Simply disassembly allows users easy access for cleaning and keeps the design affordable.

HUSH-POINT 45

Also referred to as the "9/45," the Hush-Point 45 suppressor was built to complement the entire caliber spectrum of Hi-Point's firearm lineup. It is also welcome on just about any pistol-caliber firearm with a threaded barrel. It is designed to support everything from .380 ACP to .45 ACP. Hi-Point even includes both 1/2x28 and .578x28 TPI (a common .45 ACP barrel thread pitch) stainless-steel thread adapters in the box.

Users will immediately notice the absence of a Nielsen Device (i.e., "booster"). In its place is a stainless-steel spacer. Since Hi-Point pistols and carbines are all fixed-barrel blowback-actions, the Hush-Point 45 threads directly to its firearms and eliminates the extra weight and cost of a booster assembly. For those using a tilt-barrel Browning-type action, the Hush-Point 45 incorporates universal HUB threads (1.375x24), making it compatible with



The six-sided endcap at the interface with the firearm's muzzle clearly indicates the thread pitch to match its host.



a variety of mounting adapters and spring-loaded boosters to ensure semiautomatic reliability.

Like the Hush-Point 22, the Hush-Point 45 has an aluminum primary housing and core. While exotic materials save weight and add full-auto durability, those materials are significantly more expensive. The use of 17-4 stainless steel for the mount ensures a long lifespan at a critical area. The core design differs from the Hush-Point 22, with an integral end cap and high-temperature O-ring. The core slips into the body from the front and threads into the end. Robust 1-inch hex shapes on both ends of the assembled suppressor means assembly and disassembly is a snap. Included is a pair of non-marring 1-inch wrenches, but any 1-inch wrench or socket will do. The O-ring on the core helps keep grime and fouling from reaching the internal threads. The spacer drops into a rim at the rear of the core and mates with a radial groove on the back of the adapter. It's a simple, cost-effective design.

AT THE RANGE

We tested the Hush-Point 45 with a Hi-Point Yeet Cannon, a

HUSH-POINT 45	
CARTRIDGE	5.7x28mm, .300 Blk Subsonic, .30 Super Carry, .380 ACP, 9mm, .40 S&W, 10mm .45 Auto
THREAD PITCH	½-28, .578-28, and HUB compatible
LENGTH	7.87 in.
DIAMETER	1.5 in.
WEIGHT	13.3 oz. (with ½x28 mount)
MATERIAL	7075 aluminum (body and monolithic baffle), 17-4 stainless steel (mounts, spacer)
FINISH	Cerakote, black (tube), hardcoat anodized (monolithic baffle)
MSRP	\$439
MANUFACTURER	Hi-Point Firearms, 419-747-9444, hi-pointfirearms.com

Hi-Point Carbine in .30 Super Carry, an SAT 9C pistol in 9mm, an HK Tactical in .45 ACP and an HK SP5K in 9mm. Taking advantage of the HUB threads, the SAR and the HK 45 Tactical had aftermarket boosters. The SP5K had an aftermarket 3-lug adapter. Across all the firearms used, the results were

on par with other popular suppressors. The sound had an excellent tone, smooth function and no impact on accuracy. Like the Hush-Point 22, the Hush-Point 45 wasn't designed to be a full-auto workhorse, but it performed well in its class.

Hi-Point achieved all of its goals with these suppressors. The debut of the Hush-Point series is the perfect solution for those seeking value-driven performance, and the price structure is easy on the ears as well.

— M. Finger



The Hush-Point 22 features 17-4 stainless steel for the threaded mount. The six-sided 1-inch caps ease disassembly and assembly for maintenance. G&A tested it on a Walther P22. **\$329**



HUSH-POINT 22	
CARTRIDGE	.17 HMR, .17 WSM, .22 LR, .22 Short, .22 WMR,
THREAD PITCH	½x28
LENGTH	6.19 in.
DIAMETER	1 in.
WEIGHT	4.7 oz.
MATERIAL	7075 aluminum (body and monolithic baffle), 17-4 stainless steel (mount)
FINISH	Cerakote, black (tube and end cap), hardcoat anodized (monolithic baffle)
MSRP	\$259
MANUFACTURER	Hi-Point Firearms, 419-747-9444, hi-pointfirearms.com

WORKHORSE^{OF THE} WEST

—★— MORGAN SILVER DOLLARS —★—



Few tangible assets capture both history and intrinsic value like the **Morgan Silver Dollar**. Struck by the U.S. Mint from 1878 to 1921, each of these majestic coins was **government-issued legal tender**, minted from American silver mined during the great western expansion and backed by the full faith and credit of the United States.

\$69

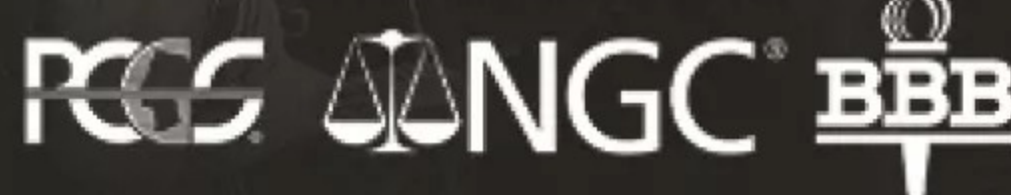
- Limit two (2) coins
- Dates of our choice
- Guaranteed VG-XF
- **FREE SHIPPING** on call-in orders!

★
866.789.2646

or visit rarecoinpros.com



WE ARE THE TRUSTED EXPERTS.



Find us on Google



EST. 2008 | 1275 N. MAJOR DRIVE | BEAUMONT, TEXAS 77706 | VAULT VERIFICATION: **GAMSD826**

CRAFTSMANSHIP YOU CAN FEEL.

WE INSPECT EVERY ROUND BY HAND.
IT'S A TEDIOUS PROCESS,
BUT WE BELIEVE THAT THERE ISN'T A MACHINE
IN THE WORLD THAT COULD DO IT BETTER.



TO LOCATE A DEALER NEAR YOU, PLEASE CALL 800.568.6625
BLACK-HILLS.COM



A love letter to the shotgun.

ROBERT W. HUNNICUTT

THE MOST VERSATILE GUN

I ATTENDED AN ESTATE SALE. I'm closer to the disposal phase of life than the acquisition part, so the real purpose was to snoop at the house, a bluffside 1936 colonial with an expansive river view.

The most interesting item I saw was a set of curb feelers in original packaging, but I was briefly stopped by the former owner's 1950s Waffen SS-style camo jacket and a Brand X shotshell loader I couldn't identify. Clearly the owner had been a bird hunter, a category that would have encompassed most men when I was a lad.

Shotguns were ubiquitous in those days. A scattergun hanging over the fireplace was a standard prop of films during the black-and-white era of TV, even gracing the fictional New Rochelle, New York, home of Dick Van Dyke and Mary Tyler Moore. Have a look at pre-World War I Sears, Roebuck & Co. or Montgomery Ward catalogs and you'll find shotguns are prominently displayed as essential tools of rural life. Every hardware store sold them with no more ceremony than attended a hammer or hoe.

When I was a tenderfoot newspaperman in the early 1970s, we ran a "Letters to Santa" list for schoolchildren. Every 12-year-old boy wanted a .410 shotgun. Most of them got one as an essential step on the road to manhood. I'd argue that a similar role is unfulfilled by a video games and smart devices.

Even the word has a place in American language. Think of a "shotgun shack," a "shotgun start" in golf or, I suppose, "shotgunning" a can of beer at a frat party.

In recent times, the trusty scattergun has become something of an also-ran in the gun world. If you peruse the most recently published stats from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (BATFE), you'll see that, of more than 15 million guns manufactured or imported in 2023, only about 2.3 million were shotguns. That's less than the number of U.S.-manufactured 9mm pistols alone!

Forty years ago, the executives of this very magazine calculated that running a shotgun on the cover cost thousands in lost newsstand revenue, which is why you rarely saw one.

Why has the smoothbore fallen

from its perch? I don't think we're any more interested in perforating our fellow man than we were 100 years ago, but doing just that has been a central theme of most entertainment for years. A casual perusal of your local news will persuade you that there's a ravenous horde of tweakers, alien knifemen and home-grown repeat offenders pouring down every block. The result? Plastic-framed 9mms and ARs have been sold by the million.

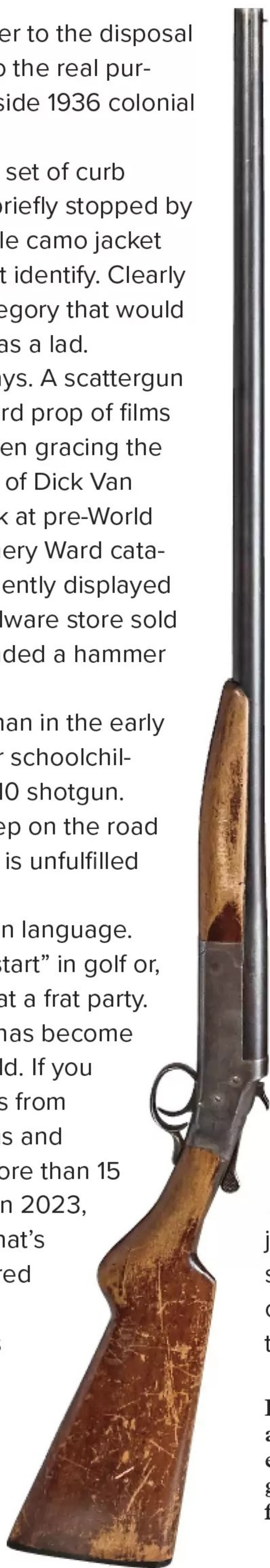
I am 100 percent in favor of people buying all of those they like but I would like to put in a word for the good old shotgun. It remains the most versatile and flexible firearm you can own. Along with the humble .22 rimfire, a shotgun belongs in your safe for its many uses you may have when not facing down the local Antifa chapter.

The shotgun no longer has to stand near every homestead back door for immediate gopher executions. It's made in a profusion of models for every taste. Want to shoot snow geese? Use a gun specifically camouflaged for the sport with ammo carefully calibrated for maximum range and killing power. After the wily turkey? Select a scattergun with a red-dot sight, camo to blend with any landscape, custom choke tubes and ammo that throws rifle-like patterns — even in .410. Like a refined afternoon of upland shooting? There are double guns in every configuration from classic to 21st century, and you can feed the small gauges a panoply of loads for every application. Even the 16-gauge is well served these days!

The shotgun remains a perfectly valid choice for personal defense with models that offer large magazine capacity in compact dimensions. The ammo makers have been busy here, too, providing a giant array of selections in buckshot, slug and less-lethal styles.

Two-hundred-and-fifty years after our nation's founding, America has autoloaders with gas or inertia operation, juxtaposed or superposed double guns, wood or synthetic stocks, both made here in the U.S. and imported from other corners of the world. The sun is far from setting on the shotgun. 

Hunnicutt shot his first quail with this Excel, a single-barrel shotgun made for Montgomery Ward by Iver Johnson. Inexpensive shotguns such as this once armed most every farm for pest control and meat hunting.





THE DILEMMA

HK INTRODUCED THE VP9CC FOR 2026.
IS IT A BETTER CHOICE VERSUS THE CC9?

BY ERIC R. POOLE | PHOTOS BY MICHAEL ANSCHUETZ

A FEW MONTHS after first appearing on the September 2014 issue, the HK VP9 received the Guns & Ammo 2014 Handgun of the Year award. The successful design first appeared with a 15- or 17-round magazine, and an optional optic-ready cut. The lineup continuously expanded to include the subcompact VP9SK, the compact VP9A1 K, VP9A1 F, VP9A1 L, VP9 Match, VP9A1 K Tactical, VP9A1 X Tactical, VP9A1 X, VP9A1 K, VP40, and the VP9CC introduced here for 2026.

HK sent G&A a sample of the VP9CC with a Vortex enclosed reflex sight mounted, and an HK-branded G-Code Prime Carry inside-the-waistband (IWB) holster (\$125, us.hkwebshop.com) and spare magazine carrier (\$85, us.hkwebshop.com). It arrived on March 4, 2026, and was subject to a non-disclosure agreement until April 7. I took it to the range to verify its function and the optic's zero, and then began carrying it. That first range experience was positive, highlighting the low-cut positioning

of the optic and the magazine release.

The Vortex optic has a large window for its size, which is 1.195-inches wide by 1.072-inches tall by 1.584-inches long. The battery cap slightly widens the profile of the VP9CC to 1.1 inches. The sight is the enclosed Defender-CCW, which includes a top-mounted solar panel and has a manufacturer's suggested retail price (MSRP) of \$400. That's a \$50 savings given the VP9CC sans optic retails for \$1,049; the Vortex sight adds \$350.

Pressing both "+" and "-" buttons on the left side cycles the reticle between a 3 minute-of-angle (MOA) dot, a 32-MOA circle, and a circle-dot combination of the two. Pressing each button individually changes the reticle between 10 intensity settings. Peering through the windows, the 3-MOA reticle is quick and easy to employ. With the optic off, the metallic sights are also easy to acquire and align. Unlike a lot of iron sights that only align at the very bottom of an optic's window frame, the VP9CC with Vortex allows the XS Sights to align clearly in the window's lower third. The front sight includes a tritium dot surrounded by a green ring. The rear sight is shaped like a frustum with a squared notch and serrations.



HK CC9 (OR), 9MM, MSRP: \$699



HK VP9CC (OE, VTX), 9MM, MSRP: \$1,399

The second “first impression” was working the paddle-type bilateral magazine release lever. It’s shaped to blend with the triggerguard contour, offering some protection against unintended activation. I’ve carried several European-

made pistols with this style of magazine release and I’m comfortable using it. However, if this type of mag release is new to you, I suggest training with the VP9CC to establish proficiency with reloading it before depending on it as an everyday carry (EDC) pistol. There are several ways to use a paddle magazine release. If your thumb is long enough, you can sweep it down without disturbing your grip. Some prefer to use the trigger finger by pulling it back and pressing down with the tip. Others will index an idle trigger finger against the frame and use the tip of the middle finger to press the lever down. I have also seen several shooters use both the thumb and either the middle or trigger finger for leverage and pinch and press both sides of the magazine release simultaneously. HK equips many handguns with a paddle mag release lever, but if you prefer a subcompact model with a push-button-type allow me to recommend the CC9 (\$699, optic ready; \$799, Vortex CCW equipped; \$929, Holosun 407K equipped), VP9-B or California-compliant VP9SK (\$909).

SIMILAR SPECS, DIFFERENT PISTOLS

I’ve also reviewed, carried and own the HK CC9, which was introduced in G&A’s January 2025 issue. The CC9 and VP9CC are nearly twin striker-fire pistols, dimensionally, but they do not share holsters, magazines, sights, or optic plates. The triggerguard on the CC9 is larger and the trigger is longer. The front of the CC9 triggerguard is raked farther forward, which increases space within the triggerguard but reduces the accessory rail length to just two slots. The triggerguard is squared off on the VP9CC and the rail has a third slot, accommodating a few additional light and laser options.

The VP9CC has a longer bilateral slide-release lever than the CC9. If the function type of this lever mat-

ters to you, the CC9 is serrated and angled to function as a “slide lock” lever while the VP9CC lever is serrated at the top and angled to function as a “slide release” lever.

There is no manual safety lever on either model, but there is a centered safety lever on both triggers.

The VP9CC continues many of the aesthetics of the VP9 series, including the front-and-rear slide serrations and cocking aids at the rear of the slide. Both the CC9 and VP9CC offer rails under the dustcovers to accept a small light, and both have ergonomic grip modules. The CC9 grip texture is more tactile and functional than the molded texture on the VP9CC, but the most notable difference is with the grips’ backstraps. The VP9CC offers six backstrap options including small, medium and large, and each size with or without a beavertail extension. If you’re familiar with the VP9 series, the VP9CC

HK VP9CC	
TYPE	Recoil operated, striker fire, semiautomatic
CARTRIDGE	9mm
CAPACITY	10+1 rds., 12+1 rds.
BARREL	3.13 in.; polygonal six-groove rifling, 1:10-in. twist
LENGTH	5.94 in.
WIDTH	1.2 in.
HEIGHT	4.49 in. (with 10-rd. mag, no optic)
WEIGHT	1 lb., 1.64 oz. (no optic)
SLIDE	Canon-grade alloy steel, DLC finish
FRAME	Textured polymer grip, accessory rail
SIGHTS	XS Sights, tritium post (front), black, serrated notch (rear), optic ready; Vortex Defender-CCW (tested)
TRIGGER	5 lbs., 10 oz. (tested)
SAFETY	Trigger lever, firing pin
ACCESSORIES	Soft case, manual, safety lock, backstraps, two magazines
MSRP	\$1,399 (tested, OE VTX)
IMPORTER	HK USA, 706-701-5554, hk-usa.com



THE ICONIC 1911



REENGINEERED FOR MODERN RED DOT PERFORMANCE

Colt Optics-Ready 1911s are compatible with Delta Point Pro, RMR, and RMSc footprints.
Optic plates are available on Colt.com and through authorized retailers.



Explore the Optics-Ready Lineup at Colt.com

Optic sold separately.



The HK VP9CC is better optimized for red-dot carry versus the American-made CC9. The included Vortex Defender CCW red dot sits low on the slide and does not impede use of its irons. **\$400**



The front and rear sights are pressed into a proprietary dovetail cut, although these are cross-compatible with other VP9 pistols and the P30. Front slide serrations are the same style as the VP9.



two-stage guiderods, but the springs and guiderod components are different parts and do not interchange.

Both guns feature a chassis system, which could be removed from the polymer grip module, but I advise against removing them unless you're an armorer or gunsmith. The CC9 chassis is hooked by a lug through a slot at the back of the grip's beavertail and pinned at the front. The slot also functions as a window to read the chassis' serial number. The VP9CC also engages the rear of the grip module and is pinned at the front above the trigger. It's serial number and Ulm proof-house marks are visible through the slot above the left side of the grip. Additionally, the same serial number and German proofmarks appear on the barrel and

noticeably lacks the interchangeable left and right grip panels. In this way, the VP9CC and CC9 are the same.

In terms of capacity, both the CC9 and VP9CC offer a 10-round flush magazine, 10-round extended, and a 12-round magazine option with polymer sleeve over the basepad. Though two magazines are provided with each pistol, spare magazines are available for \$50 each.

Externally, fit and finish meet the same level of quality for both the CC9 and VP9CC. With slide and barrel assemblies removed from the frame, it is obvious that both pistols are based on striker-fire mechanics but developed by different engineering teams. Extractors, ejectors, sears, and striker safety plungers are all in the same locations but are unique to the model. The two, progressive-rate, captured recoil springs surround the



The HK VP9CC offer an additional rail slot on the dust cover versus the CC9, which only has two slots for mounting a light or laser sight. The flat front of the triggerguard is also serrated.

below the ejection port on the right side of the slide.

What's particularly interesting to me is that the CC9 features two half-inch contact points on each side at the front and rear. The VP9CC chassis has a continuous rail on each side to engage the slide. Both pistols have been flawlessly reliable, but I've only shot a couple thousand rounds through them so far. It will be an interesting study to watch how these rails wear over time or

function when subject to carbon build-up and debris.

AT THE RANGE

The trigger weight of the VP9CC averaged 5 pounds, 10 ounces, for 10 measurements with a digital Lyman gauge. The CC9 trigger tested at 5 pounds, 9 ounces. It's difficult to discern between trigger weights, but they do exhibit a different feel during travel and reset.



RPC



***SOME BUY A REPUTATION.
YOU BUILD ONE.***

The **all-new Taurus® RPC** delivers roller-delayed performance in a 9mm platform built for the shooter who trains with intention—putting serious capability within reach of everyone.

TaurusUSA.com

 **TAURUS®**



Six backstraps are included with the VP9CC. There are small, medium and large options, with and without a beavertail extension. The non-abrasive grip texture matches the frame.



Two magazines ship with the VP9CC. The extended mag holds 12 rounds, and the 10-round magazine has an optional baseplate extension. Additional mags are available from HK-USA. [\\$51](#)



The progressive-rate, captured recoil springs and guiderod are unique to the VP9CC and supported by a groove under the barrel.

Accuracy potential — with and without an optic attached — was similar. My average 25-yard group from a benchrest using the pistols with a red dot measured near 1.4 inches. With iron sights only, my average increased to 1.75 inches with all variety of grain weights and defensive loads.

As of this writing, HK’s webstore offers 11 holster options and three magazine carriers for the CC9, including many in the \$50 to \$70 range from ANR Design, Cipher, DeSantis and G-Code. There are only four holsters and one mag carrier for the VP9CC from G-Code and Radar, which currently range \$100 to \$200.

WHAT’S MOST IMPORTANT TO YOU?

The dilemma for me is that I already own a CC9. When I’m not evaluating another handgun, it’s often the pistol I choose to carry

because it’s comfortable, accurate and dependable. However, I prefer to carry it without an optic. I must re-learn the presentation from a draw when an optic is attached, so I carry it without. I’m not as precise at distance with the iron-sighted CC9 but it’s intuitive to draw, present and operate. When I want to show off at the range or smack 50- to 100-yard steel targets, I prefer the VP9CC because the optic sits lower in the slide cut and doesn’t impede my use of the XS Sights, which are awesome equipment. If you intend to carry one of these HKs with an optic, I’d recommend the VP9CC.

The VP9CC is similar dimensionally. In terms of

performance, reliability and handling, it’s just different. For some, another dilemma is this: Do you prefer a push-button magazine release or a paddle-style magazine release lever? If you are indifferent, then perhaps the country of origin matters more. The CC9

is made in USA and the VP9CC is made in Germany.

For others, the decision comes down to price. HK has never been a “budget” brand, but if you’re determined to purchase one and money is your most important consideration, the U.S.-made CC9 starts at \$699, and optic-equipped options are reasonably priced. If you simply prefer the German approach, then the VP9CC without an optic starts at \$1,049. The CC9 is more affordable, but if you were an early adopter of the VP9 then doesn’t it make sense to add the VP9CC to your collection?

PERFORMANCE

LOAD	VEL. (FPS)	ES	SD	BEST GROUP (IN.)	AVG. GROUP (IN.)
Fiocchi Range Dynamic 115-gr. FMJ	1,087	19.2	5.9	1.37	1.74
SIG Sauer Elite V-Crown 124-gr. JHP	1,091	30.1	9.8	1.54	1.95
Winchester USA Ready Defense +P 124-gr. Hex-Vent JHP	1,147	33.5	13.6	1.69	1.99
Hornady American Gunner 115-gr. XTP	1,099	21.9	9.3	1.78	2.11

Notes: Accuracy is the average of five, five-shot groups at 25 yards from a sandbag rest. Velocity is the average of five shots recorded by a Garmin Xero C1 Pro chronograph.



The HK-branded G-Code Prime Carry was sent with the VP9CC for evaluation, as well as a spare mag holster. [\\$125](#)

JUST RELEASED!

Cache of 832 Last Year 1921 Morgan Silver Dollars
Still Pristine As The Day They Were Struck



No coin embodies the spirit of America more than the Morgan Silver Dollar. From the Comstock Lode discovery that provided millions of ounces of silver to make them, to outlaws robbing stage coaches in the Wild West to pay for their bar tabs and brothel visits, the hefty Morgan Silver Dollar holds a special place in American history.

It's no wonder collectors and history buffs alike clamor to get their hands on them. That is, if they can get their hands on them.

Prized Last-Year Coins

Collectors love "lasts" as no collection is complete without the last coin struck. Last year coins are often hard to find and always in demand. Little did master engraver George T. Morgan know the legacy he was creating when he designed what has become known as "The King of Silver Dollars" but it came to an end 104 years ago with the last-year 1921 Morgan Silver Dollar, the most beloved coin in American history.

Public Release - Only 832 Coins Available

Rarcoa®, America's Oldest Coin Company, is announcing the public release of 832 of the very last year 1921 Morgan Silver Dollars, struck at the iconic Philadelphia Mint. Each coin today comes in Brilliant Uncirculated condition, pristine as the day they were struck!

Hold 104 Years of American History

Struck in 1921, each coin is one hundred and four years old. Could Charles Lindbergh have carried your coin in his pocket during his flight across the Atlantic? Or maybe your great-grandfather carried it while storming the beaches of Normandy during World War II before ending up in a small coin shop in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. Each coin has its own unique history and you can hold 104 years of American history when you buy yours today!

In 1921 This \$1 Could Buy:



2.5lbs of flour



8lbs of pot roast



3 dozen eggs



22lbs of corn meal



8lbs of salted pork

A Miracle of Survival

Coin experts estimate that only 15%-20% of Morgans are still surviving today due to multiple mass-meltings over the years. The Pittman Act of 1918 melted over 270,000,000 coins, that's almost 50% of all coins produced at the time. Untold quantities were melted in the 1980s and 2000s when silver prices rose up to \$50 per ounce.

Sold Nationally for as much as \$239

This same 1921 Morgan Silver Dollar sells elsewhere for as much as \$239. But thanks to Rarcoa's buying power and numismatic expertise, you can own one for as little as \$99, in quantity while supplies last. **That's a difference of up to \$140!**

Because the precious metals market is always active and dynamic, prices may adjust to reflect the latest market opportunities.

BUY MORE AND SAVE!

1921 Morgan Silver Dollar Brilliant Uncirculated

1-4 \$109 each

5-9 \$104 each, save \$5 each, **save up to \$45**

10+ \$99 each, save \$10 each, **save \$100 or more.**

FREE SHIPPING on 2 or More!

Call 1-833-205-1371

Offer Code LMDP261-3

Please mention this code when you call.



SCAN TO BUY ONLINE
raroqa.com/1921-morgan



Limited time only. Standard domestic shipping only. Not valid on previous purchases. All information is correct as of the date of publication and is subject to change. Coins and other items are sold as collectibles and not as investments. Due to the volatility in the precious metals market, prices are subject to change. All comparison prices are accurate at the time of ad creation. © 2026 RARCOA DIRECT

LIGHT, FAST,



JUST WHEN I THOUGHT we had seen the final evolution of lever-action rifles, Henry Repeating Arms trotted out its Supreme. After a year of testing and evaluation, it earned Guns & Ammo's 2025 Rifle of the Year award. The Supreme is a lever-action, has no exposed hammer and takes detachable box magazines normally found on AR-pattern rifles. Pull it apart for closer inspection and the bolt looks suspiciously like what's found in an AR-15. The question is, "Why?" Here's the answer.

One of the disadvantages of lever-action rifles in modern times is the reload process. Most can be timed with a sundial. The loading gate on the side of the receiver of most lever-action rifles has been around for some 150 years, and it's a great way to load the rifle. It's just slow when compared to detachable

box magazines. There are proficient lever-gun shooters who can load these rifles fairly quickly, just watch a SASS Cowboy Action Shooting match. However, the average American gun owner can't load a lever gun faster than a rifle with a detachable box magazine.

The SPD PREDATOR — like other Supreme models — is chambered in .223 Remington/5.56 NATO, and it takes AR-15-pattern magazines. Henry told us that "PREDATOR" is an acronym that stands for "Precision Rifle Engineered for Dispatching Agile Targets Over Range," hence every letter in the name is capitalized. There is a robust aftermarket with both aluminum and polymer magazines ready to use with these rifles, and any concerns with these mags have been sorted out. They are reliable, plentiful and affordable.

& LEGAL

HENRY'S SPD PREDATOR.

BY TOM BECKSTRAND | PHOTOS BY MICHAEL ANSCHUETZ





The AR magazine also allows Henry’s lever-action to shoot modern bullets with high ballistic coefficients (BC). Traditional lever guns rely on flat- or round-nose bullets. These rounds stack end-to-end but can’t use high-BC bullets because a pointy bullet nose can set off the primer of the round in front of it during recoil. While it might sound like a small difference, it’s a huge advantage when shooting beyond 200 yards. Bullets with high BCs retain velocity better and experience less deflection in the wind.

UNDER PRESSURE

The most popular lever guns today are still more than 100 years old. They use a bolt to hold the breech closed, and the bolt is held in place by one or two lugs located near the rear of the receiver. This means the receiver has to resist the pressure from firing and not stretch or allow the bolt to move rearward. It is a wonderful and fairly robust arrangement when chamber pressure is kept around 45,000 pounds per square inch (psi) or lower. Most traditional lever-action cartridges are factory-loaded well below this pressure. Of course, many of these rifles are proof-tested with ammunition loaded in excess of 60,000 psi, but almost none are designed for a steady diet at that level.

Henry’s SPD PREDATOR is chambered in .223 Remington/5.56 NATO. The 5.56 NATO has a maximum chamber pressure of 58,000 psi. That means the Supreme can handle that pressure in perpetuity. The difference between 45,000 psi and 58,000 psi is about 200 to

HENRY H23 SPD PREDATOR	
TYPE	Lever action
CARTRIDGE	.223 Remington/ 5.56 NATO
CAPACITY	10 rds. (tested)
BARREL	BSF; 18 in. 416R SS, CF ten- sion wrapped, 1:8-in. twist
LENGTH	38.06 in.
WEIGHT	6 lbs., 14.4 oz. (tested)
STOCK	Laminate, wood; adj. comb
LENGTH OF PULL	14 in.
FINISH	Hard anodized, black (aluminum), DLC (steel)
TRIGGER	3 lbs., adj. (tested)
SAFETY	Tang switch, two position
MSRP	\$2,510
MANUFACTURER	Henry Repeating Arms, 866-200-2354, henryusa.com

250 feet per second (fps). Combine that bump in velocity with better BC bullets and the downrange performance looks significantly better. The SPD PREDATOR is a viable long-range contender.

The key to the ability to handle pressure is the bolt. It looks similar to the bolt found in an AR-15. Since the bolt locks into a receiver extension — another proven method — the aluminum alloy receiver bears none of the load from firing. This allows the SPD PREDATOR to shoot today’s much higher-pressure cartridges with no concern about whether the rifle can handle the abuse.

Unlike its AR-15 progenitor, the SPD PREDATOR bolt stays closed until the chamber pressure drops to zero. The lugs aren’t exposed to the shearing forces that occur when the bolt is unlocking under pressure from the gas system in an AR-15. While an AR may eventually shed one of the locking lugs on either side of the extractor, I don’t see how it’s possible for the SPD PREDATOR to lose a bolt lug. As durable as the AR is, I think the SPD PREDATOR is more durable.

The SPD PREDATOR cycles by opening the lever, which pulls the bolt carrier and bolt rearward. There is a cam pin slotted into the carrier that rotates the bolt to unlock it, allowing the lever to pull the bolt assembly rearward until the fired round ejects. A retaining pin in the side of the carrier can be removed, allowing the firing pin to slide out the back. Anyone who has disassembled an AR-type bolt carrier group won’t need the manual to





The Henry SPD Predator is a .223/5.56 NATO-chambered lever-action rifle that feeds from a detachable box magazine. The 18-inch BSF 416R stainless-steel barrel has a 1-in-8-inch twist and is tension-wrapped in carbon fiber. The wood-laminate furniture has an adjustable comb, rubber recoil pad, and sling swivels. The Harris S-LM bipod is also included.

do the same for the SPD PREDATOR.

One concern I had when I first laid hands on the SPD PREDATOR was how complex maintenance was going to be. Lever guns can be difficult to clean because the bolts aren't always easily removed from the receiver. This makes it hard to clean the rifle with a cleaning rod from the breech end.

All it takes to disassemble the SPD PREDATOR is to push the two pins out the side of the receiver and then separate the halves. The trigger assembly and internal hammer stay with the lower half, and the barrel and hand-guard stay with the upper. Once these two are separated, I could look straight down the barrel from the breech end. It is as easy to clean this rifle as it is any AR-15.



INTRODUCING PIRATE PISTOL



- 💀 .380 PUMP ACTION WITH SLAM FIRE
- 💀 7 ROUNDS IN THE TUBE AND 1 IN THE CHAMBER
- 💀 CUSTOM TREASURE CHEST
- 💀 THREADED BARREL

260.305.3365
TIPPMANNORDNANCE.COM





Comb height can be set to align your eye properly behind most optics. A wrench to loosen and tighten the screw is provided.



The adjustable trigger tested at just more than 3 pounds. The magazine release is a serrated paddle lever in front of the trigger guard.



Under the knurled cap is a 1/2x28 threaded barrel that accepts muzzle devices, and lever actions are excellent suppressor hosts.



Push the tang-mounted thumb safety switch forward to fire, revealing a red-dot indicator. It is serrated to be used in both directions.



ACCURACY GUARANTEE

The decision to put a sub-minute-of-angle (MOA) guarantee on the SPD PREDATOR was not one that Henry took lightly. They knew the Supreme was a great rifle, but they wanted to determine how accurate it could be made. Henry tested numerous barrels from several different manufacturers before selecting the BSF barrel on this rifle.

The SPD is called the “PREDATOR” because it is light, fast and accurate. It is also chambered in cartridges appropriate for varmint or predator hunting. Varmint hunting, in particular, can result in hot barrels from long strings of fire. One of the big concerns when carbon-fiber-wrapped barrels came out was the difference in thermal expansion of the steel and carbon fiber. The disparity can cause a barrel to delaminate, separating carbon fiber from steel or stainless steel.

BSF uses a carbon-wrapping technique

that is proprietary. The carbon-fiber sleeve is a barrel tensioner, and it barely touches the barrel. It creates tunnels that air can move through, so carbon fiber doesn't insulate the barrel. During G&A's testing, the barrel exterior remained cool. The .223 Remington isn't exactly a barrel burner, but we gave it no rest from shooting one group to another and from one load to the next. It never showed signs of opening up or walking and remained accurate for the duration of testing.

The secret to the rifle's amazing accuracy — other

than the BSF barrel — is that it is free-floating, which is unheard of on a lever-action. It's true. Henry uses a barrel extension and barrel nut to attach the barrel to the receiver. Underneath the barrel, Henry attaches an independent cylinder directly to the receiver. The forend slides over this cylinder, which is held in place by a long bolt that inserts through the forend's tip. This



The forged carbon-fiber rail is pre-installed but removeable. It supports any reflex sight and most riflescopes.



means that using a bipod or a front bag for support does not influence the barrel's point of impact. Another feature special to the SPD PREDATOR is the use of Diamond Like Carbon (DLC) on select trigger components. Henry states the trigger is "match grade" and it would be useable for a match. The trigger actuates an internal hammer, much like the hammer in an AR-15. The SPD PREDATOR trigger is much better than any

factory AR-pattern trigger, though. It's not a match-grade bolt-action trigger, either. It's pull weight is light, so I didn't adjust it. My trigger gauge measured at just more than 3 pounds, and the feel exhibited the tiniest bit of creep. The SPD PREDATOR is more useful than just shooting predators and varmints. I've never shot a match with a lever gun, but this one could do it while still being a lot of fun. Lever-gun lovers should rejoice to have a high pressure capable rifle that also offers lightning-fast reloads. Imagine Cowboy Action-like gunslinging, but with targets that are hundreds of yards away instead of just yards away. It suppresses better than an AR, too, and doesn't get the same dirty looks that ARs do. Henry's SPD PREDATOR combines all the best features of an AR-15 into a lever-action rifle with a premium BSF carbon-fiber barrel capable of exceptional accuracy. While it might sound like a ton of fun — and it is — the rifle is just as at home hunting as it is for defense. 

PERFORMANCE					
LOAD	VEL. (FPS)	ES	SD	BEST GROUP (IN.)	AVG. GROUP (IN.)
SIG Sauer Elite Match 77-gr. OTM	2,457	22.1	7.6	.47	.67
Federal Gold Medal 69-gr. BTHP	2,643	67.9	22.3	.75	.82
Black Hills 77-gr. Mk 262 Mod 1	2,808	78.2	23.2	.82	.93

Notes: Accuracy is the average of five five-shot groups at 100 yards from a rest. Velocity is the average of five shots measured with a Garmin Xero C1 Pro chronograph set adjacent to the muzzle.



DR® POWER EQUIPMENT

DURABLE. VERSATILE. TRUSTED.

THE DR® TRIMMER MOWER

For over 40 years, the DR® Trimmer has delivered MORE:

- ▶ **POWER** – up to 5X more than an ordinary handheld trimmer
- ▶ **MANEUVERABILITY** – oversized wheels go everywhere a bladed mower can't
- ▶ **VERSATILITY** – mow anything with the toughest trimmer cord you can buy

Get More Power, Durability, and Selection with a DR® Trimmer Mower

Shop DRPower.com Today





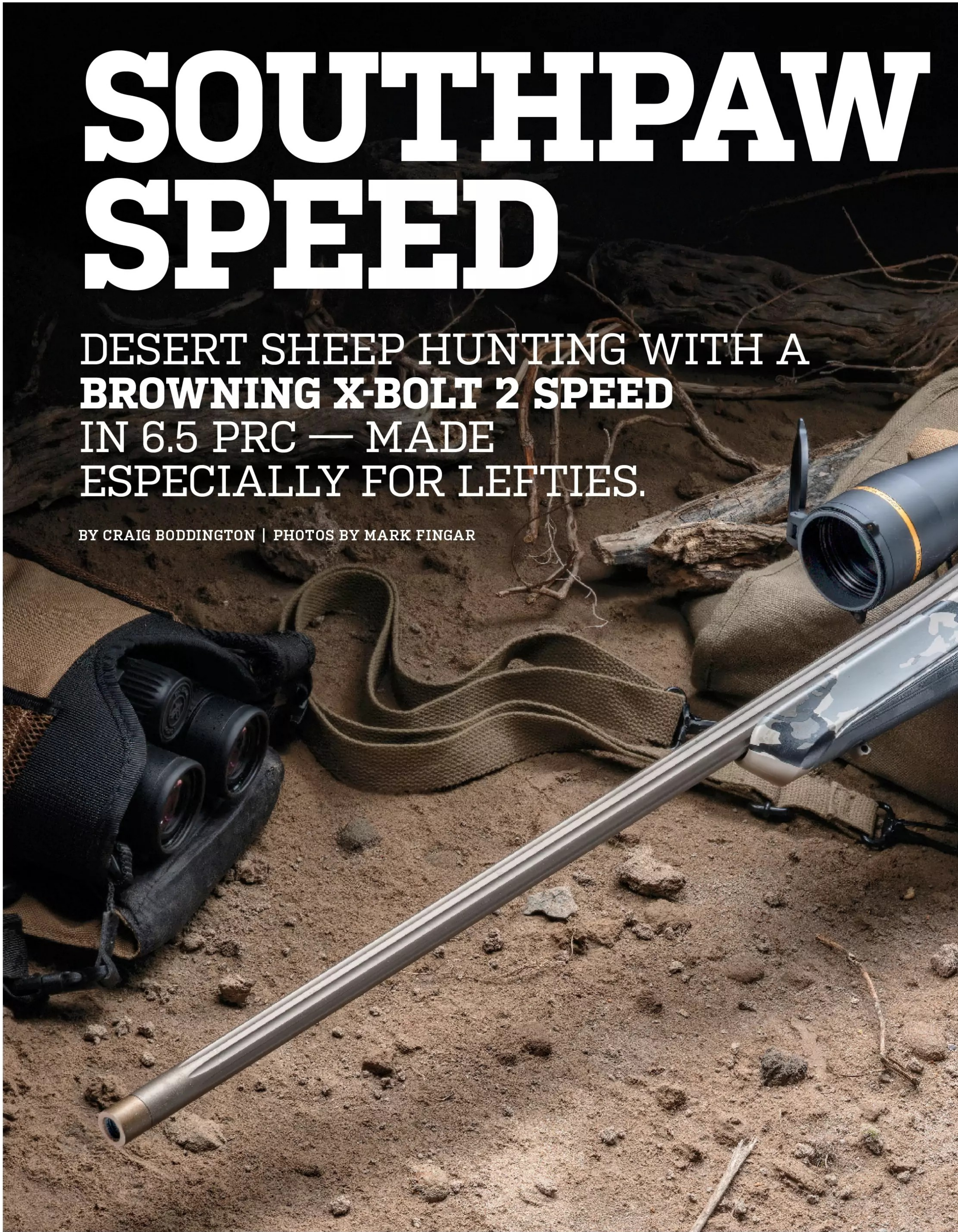
PRO

Toll-Free: 800-790-5917 | FREE SHIPPING Options Available

SOUTHPAW SPEED

DESERT SHEEP HUNTING WITH A
BROWNING X-BOLT 2 SPEED
IN 6.5 PRC — MADE
ESPECIALLY FOR LEFTIES.

BY CRAIG BODDINGTON | PHOTOS BY MARK FINGAR





GUNWRITERS AND FARMERS are a bit alike. We never know when dry spells might come or when it's going to pour. Browning's X-Bolt has been around since 2008. In these pages, I did one of the early stories on the X-Bolt. Nice rifle. It was an improvement on the long-running and excellent A-Bolt. I was especially impressed by its super-strong eight-screw scope mounting system, which, if you look at the naked receiver rings from above, gives it the signature "X."

Then came a dry spell. For 15 years I had little interaction with the X-Bolt. No reason, our paths just didn't cross much. The rains came with 2024's X-Bolt 2. During the last 18 months, I've spent a lot of time with three different X-Bolt 2 Speed rifles and hunted with all.

The X-Bolt 2 retains the three-lug bolt with short uplift and two-position tang safety. How-

ever, it was more than just a cosmetic facelift. Significant changes include a different bolt body and receiver, a slim detachable rotary magazine, and a bolt-unlock button at the root of the bolt handle.

MORE SPEED

Browning prides itself on being an upgraded line. I think of most of its products as falling into the broad "medium" price range. As such, there are other companies that sell larger numbers of firearms. However, Browning has never been shy about offering a wide range of options. I went to browning.com and came up with some 69 X-Bolt 2 variants. Wow! Wood, synthetic, blue, stainless, long barrel, short barrel, heavy barrel, extended detachable box magazine, action lengths scaled to cartridges, and more! You can have an X-Bolt 2 any way you want it.



The X-Bolt 2 Speed has been especially popular. As a hunter, not a competitor, thinking deer-sized game and elk — not varmints — the Speed appeals to me. At less than 7 pounds stripped, it’s light but not whippy. Although I’m far from modern, I like the modern, versatile Browning OVIX camo on the composite stock. This is Browning’s Vari-Tech stock, adjustable for comb height and length of pull, with inserts to change the grip angle from a gentle laid-back pistol grip to the near-vertical grip now preferred by many. (I stick with “laid back.”) The finish is tough, attractive, non-glare Smoked Bronze Cerakote. The slender barrel is fluted, threaded M13x.75, and comes with a supplied muzzlebrake and thread protector. Barrel length varies with the chambering.

My first X-Bolt Speed was a short-action .308 Winchester with 22-inch barrel. It had the ideal weight and was accurate. I did some hog hunting with it and bought it for our Kansas deer camp. It accounted for a couple nice whitetails during our 2025 Kansas season. The second was a suppressor version, identical except for 20-inch barrel and 6.8 Western chambering. Also very accurate, averaging just more than a half-inch for five three-shot groups, and 1¼ inches for five five-shot groups. It flattened an elk last fall. I intended to take it on a late deer hunt, but that didn’t materialize. With that kind of accuracy, I was dithering whether I should buy it or return it when I went to the 2026 SHOT Show. The only problem I had with either the .308 or the 6.8 Western Speed rifles: Both had right-hand bolts.

MIRROR-IMAGE

To my surprise and delight, at the ’26 SHOT Show, Browning unveiled the left-hand X-Bolt 2. From here

BROWNING X-BOLT 2 SPEED LEFT HAND	
TYPE	Bolt action
CARTRIDGE	6.5 PRC (tested)
CAPACITY	3+1 rds.
BARREL	24 in., steel alloy, 1:7-in. twist, threaded
LENGTH	44 in.
WEIGHT	6 lbs., 14 oz.
STOCK	Composite, adjustable comb height, LOP, grip; OVIX pattern
LENGTH OF PULL	13⅝ in.
FINISH	Cerakote, Smoked Bronze
TRIGGER	DLX, adjustable, 2 lbs., 10 oz. (adjusted, tested)
SIGHTS	None
SAFETY	Tang switch, two position
MSRP	\$1,620
IMPORTER	Browning Arms Co., 800-333-3288, browning.com

on I may lose some of you. I know that most of the right-hand majority don’t give a darn about left-hand guns. Got it, but bear with me. Like most lefties, I can operate a wrong-handed bolt almost as fast by reaching over the top with my left hand — maybe faster if I’m on a solid rest and run the bolt with my right hand. The only thing — and not just for lefties but anyone with a left-handed child, spouse, partner, buddy — there is a safety factor. In the case of a catastrophic failure such as a case-head rupture, blowup, all right-eject firearms are designed to vent the bad stuff to the right, away from the right-handed shooter’s face. A lefty shooting a right-eject gun is going to get hurt.

Left-eject guns vent the gas and shrapnel off to the left. It doesn’t happen often — hopefully, not once in a lifetime — but it only takes once. I’ve had that once, with a right-hand bolt. There was lots of blood and my eyes were saved by shooting glasses. Sure, I still shoot right-handed guns; it’s part of my job.

Donna is also left-handed. Our personal firearms are left-eject or ambidextrous. Our kids — so far, grand-kids, too — are right-handed. We don’t let them shoot our left-eject guns. There aren’t many left-hand bolt guns, so I get excited when I see a new one. We lefties are used to vanilla ice cream, accustomed to left-hand rifles in limited options and only the most popular chamberings. With several ambidextrous actions and the BAR, A-Bolt, and X-Bolt offered in mirror-image, Browning has long been one of our champions, now continuing with X-Bolt 2. No, there are not 60-some left-hand options. Still, X-Bolt 2 enters the left-hand market with six variations: Hunter and Medallion, in walnut and blue; Hunter Composite in blue and synthetic, plus the Speed with standard-length barrels,



The pictures are not reversed! In 2026, Browning released several left-hand X-Bolt 2 models. The ejection port, bolt handle, and bolt-release button above the handle were engineered for lefties.

the Speed Suppressor (SPR), with shorter barrels, and Speed Long Range (LR) with forend rail strip and extended box magazine.

I hunt and shoot in places where suppressors aren't allowed, so a Speed with standard barrel lengths interested me most. I was delighted to see the LH Speed introduced in a generous dozen chamberings. Naturally, these included the usual suspects: .243 Win., 6.5 Creedmoor, .270 Win., 7mm Rem. Mag., .308 Win., .30-'06, and .300 Win. Mag., plus five newer chamberings, all three PRCs — 6.5mm, 7mm, and .300 — and 6.8 Western and .28 Nosler.

It's fun for a gunwriter to be first to use a new rifle or cartridge. Announced in January 2026 and not immediately available, it's unlikely the X-Bolt 2 Left Hand saw use in the 2025 to '26 hunting seasons. My mind started spinning. I had just committed to a desert sheep hunt in Baja Sur, a leftover permit expiring in 90 days. The sheep down there are the smallest race of bighorn, *Ovis canadensis weemsi*, typically dark, with horns that often flare outward and retain their tips rather than brooming (i.e., rubbing off) as with most bighorns. Don't ask me why I had to do this; I should be past such things. I just couldn't resist.

I was planning on taking my Flat Creek 7mm PRC, hadn't yet given outfitter Armando Klein the information for a Mexican gun license. Hmm. *It would be fun to use a brand-new left-handed rifle*, I thought. Browning didn't yet have a full selection, so I nixed 6.5 Creedmoor and .308. Those are not flat-shooting enough for the shots I envisioned. None of the 7mms nor 6.8 West-



The left-hand bolt retains spiral fluting and three large bolt lugs for a short, fast-cycling lift. The X-Bolt 2 operates using a push-feed bolt head with pivoting claw extractor and a plunger for the ejector.

ern would be available in time, so the choice came down to 6.5 PRC or .300 Win. Mag. The .300 was tempting, an old favorite; I had lots of ammo and load recipes. For the medium-sized sheep, I decided on the 6.5 PRC.

GETTING READY

In early February, I received a double-verified serial number and passed it on to Klein for the permit. The excitement lifted and I questioned what I had done. To me, all hunts are important. This hunt was important and expensive, and I'd banked it on a rifle I hadn't yet seen. Well, that card was played. I'd never seen a new Browning rifle that couldn't get the job done, so there was no sense worrying.

With more than two months to go, I kept working out and hoped the knees hold up. Using Leupold mounts, I topped it with a Leupold VX-6HD 3-18x44mm scope. Eight screws on the bases, eight more on the rings. Comforting. In Kansas, the rifle came into zero quickly and produced sub-MOA three-shot groups with Hornady Precision Hunter 143-grain ELD-X.

I made three simple modifications. Joe Average in height and arm length, the out-of-the-box length of pull of 13 $\frac{5}{8}$ inches was perfect, but the comb was a bit low with that scope in medium rings. Using a hex wrench through the Inflex recoil pad, I raised the comb a notch to get the cheekweld just right.

As supplied, the trigger was crisp but a little heavy. The X-Bolt 2 has an easily adjustable DLX trigger. I did the unmanly thing and read the directions, undid the action screws, removed the triggerguard assembly,



The stock features reinforcement ribs in the forend under the barrel for rigidity, and the area under the action and the recoil lug were given a light bedding.



The Vari-Tech composite stock wears Browning's OVIX camo and is adjustable for length of pull and comb height. The grip angle can also be changed to personalize fit.



The X-Bolt and X-Bolt 2 share the same rotary magazine design, though one color-matched mag is provided with the rifle. Capacity is three rounds for the 6.5 PRC. Browning.com offers spares. **\$75**

found the screw hole in front of the trigger and used a $\frac{5}{32}$ -inch (4mm) hex wrench. Turn clockwise to increase pull weight, counter-clockwise to decrease it. Simple. For mountain hunting, expecting to be under pressure and out of breath, I want it light but not too light. A quick adjustment and I had it down just more than 2½ pounds; still crisp, no creep or overtravel.

Finally, I removed the forward sling swivel stud and replaced it with a Spartan magnet for their bipod/tripod system. It was just a matter of shooting it as much as I possibly could and working up a load.

Although I've shot and hunted with several 6.5 PRCs, I hadn't loaded for it. I'd already decided on the 143-grain ELD-X. It's good accuracy with the factory load, and I've been happy with ELD-X performance in several calibers and cartridges. Propellant was an issue, though. Data suggests that Alliant's Reloder 26 is ideal.

Several Alliant powders are tough to find right now, not a prayer to get RL26. I had a keg that was almost gone, enough to load up three or four boxes. That's the powder my 7 PRC loves, so I decided to save that for fall hunting season. The next best available choice was clearly Hodgdon H1000.

Although I haven't been a 6.5 PRC guy, I am an old 6.5mm guy. I have lots of experience with the .264

Win. Mag. and know the trajectory. With the 143-grain bullet, my hope was to get as close to 3,000 feet per second (fps) as possible. However, Hornady's data cites a 26-inch tube. In the X-Bolt's 24-inch barrel, I couldn't quite get there. I settled on 58.0 grains of H1000 and a CCI 200 primer. There were no pressure signs but I approached the published maximum. It's likely to be hot in Baja in April, and I don't need sticky extraction. Best to stop there. That load yielded 2,946 fps; close enough. Later, Hornady told me that 58 grains of H1000 was one of its developmental loads for 6.5 PRC.

I got similar velocity, the same point of impact and slightly better accuracy with Hornady's Precision Hunter factory load, which probably contained RL26. Unfortunately, I couldn't find enough for adequate practice, G&A's protocol, and for the hunt. So, as is often the case when handloading for hunting, I compromised between accuracy, velocity, and reliable functioning. I loaded up and shot it all over the place for the next two months: Kansas, California, Texas and Georgia.

That load's average of five, five-shot groups for G&A's testing was 1.299 inches, a little over 1.25 MOA. Although Standard Deviation (SD) and Extreme Spread (ES) were higher than I like, that load shot with wonderful consistency, five-shot groups running from 1.239 to 1.366. As I'd learned with the previous X-Bolt 2 Speeds in .308 and 6.8 Western, the slender barrel heats quickly. Five-shot groups are a big ask. Within my five-shot groups, I found three-shot clusters averaging .539-inch. In hunting, we care most about the first shot from a cold barrel, so that's all the accuracy I needed. Later I found Barnes Harvest Collection with tipped Sierra GameKing was accurate, 1.347 inches for five, five-shot groups. It also produced an amazingly low SD — just 4.1 — from a handload with H4831SC and Berger's 140-grain BT Target. With that load, my five-shot, five-group average was a stunning .734-inch. All five groups were under 1 inch, rarely seen from a production rifle in a big-game cartridge. Unfortunately, that propellant can't produce



The X-Bolt 2 Speed Left Hand in 6.5 PRC was tested using handloads and Hornady Precision Hunter and Match ammo. Though Boddington knows how to operate a right-hand bolt, he prefers the left-hand actions, primarily for safety, not for convenience.

the velocity I wanted, and I don't hunt with match bullets. Berger's box for the 6.5mm 140-grain BT Target is clearly marked "Recommended

for Targets. Not Suitable for Hunting." So, another compromise, this one between accuracy and bullet performance. I stuck with my load of 58 grains of H1000 behind the 143-grain ELD-X.

By the end of March, I'd put 150 rounds through the rifle. The one thing I hadn't done was shoot for actual distance. On the first of April, I went to buddy Zack Aultman's place in Georgia to hunt turkeys. Aultman has steel to 800 yards. The scope was a "Gen 2" CDS turret with tool-less cap removal. I'd hoped to get a CDS turret cut for this load, but time was too short. After checking and rechecking velocity and zero, I marched the rifle out to 600 yards for four days, farther than I'm likely to shoot at game. It was 1½-inches high at 100 and dead center at 200 yards. The first partial stadia line was on at 250, the second at 300. Then, I marked the turret from 350 to 600 and took a great Eastern gobbler along the way. I went home and checked the rifle one last time. It was perfect.

PANIC AND PAYOFF

You can always be in better shape for a tough hunt. I was about as good as a guy my age can get. My knees were holding and

BROWNING X-BOLT 2 SPEED LEFT HAND 6.5 PRC

LOAD	CHARGE	VEL. (FPS)	ES	SD	BEST GROUP (IN.)	AVG. GROUP (IN.)
Handload: Berger 180-gr Swift A-Frame	53.5 H4831SC	2,870	9.8	4.1	.6	.734
Barnes Harvest Collection 145-gr Sierra TGC	Factory	2,880	23	7.8	.967	1.347
Handload: Hornady 180-Core-Lokt	58.0 H1000	2,946	57.7	19.7	1.239	1.299
NOTES: Accuracy is average of five, five-shot groups at 100 yards. Velocity, is the average of 10 shots recorded by an Athlon Rangecraft instrument placed adjacent to the muzzle.						

the rifle was ready. I flew to Cabo San Lucas and was met by Klein and his Sierra Madre hunting team. We drove north to camp, a tidy ranchstead looking east to the Sea of Cortez. Time to settle in and check the rifle. We put up a target and set up a folding table. Supremely confident, I broke out Spartan's slick little tripod. The first shot was 6 inches left. So was the second. I was horrified and embarrassed. Less than 48 hours earlier, the rifle had been in perfect zero. I had no idea what the airline baggage smashers might have done. Naturally, I over-corrected, third shot was off to the right. Several shots later and it was perfect again. That's why we check zero in camp, but it's a bad moment that works on your mind. Did screws come loose? No. Scope going out? Unlikely. Did they run a forklift over the gun

case? I'll never know. I couldn't regain the confidence I'd just lost. I thought, *Remember the 16 tight screws joining the scope to the X-Bolt 2 and start hunting.*

The country was hot, dry, rough, and steep. Thankfully, no elevation, but the ancient crumbling rock of the American Southwest offers some of the world's worst footing, and most plants are thorny cacti. Animal density is low, but you only need one — the right one. We weren't far into the hunt when Klein's team glassed him. He was a solitary ram, dark and heavy-horned. Still a couple miles away on a rocky ridge, he was slowly climbing up and looking for a shady spot to bed. He found it at the base of a cliff, in perpetual shadow.

We crossed the valley, struggled up a near-vertical ridge and came in above him on an adjacent out-cropping. I spied a slanting rock, crawled forward,

put a pack against it and snuggled prone. The distance to him was 167 yards, much closer than I'd dared dream. Just in front of him, a rare little tree swayed in slight breeze, but I had a clear window. I turned up a little more magnification, slipped off the safety, took a deep breath and let part of it out. I managed not to wonder if the rifle was back in zero. It was. This time, it was still in zero when I got it home. **GA**

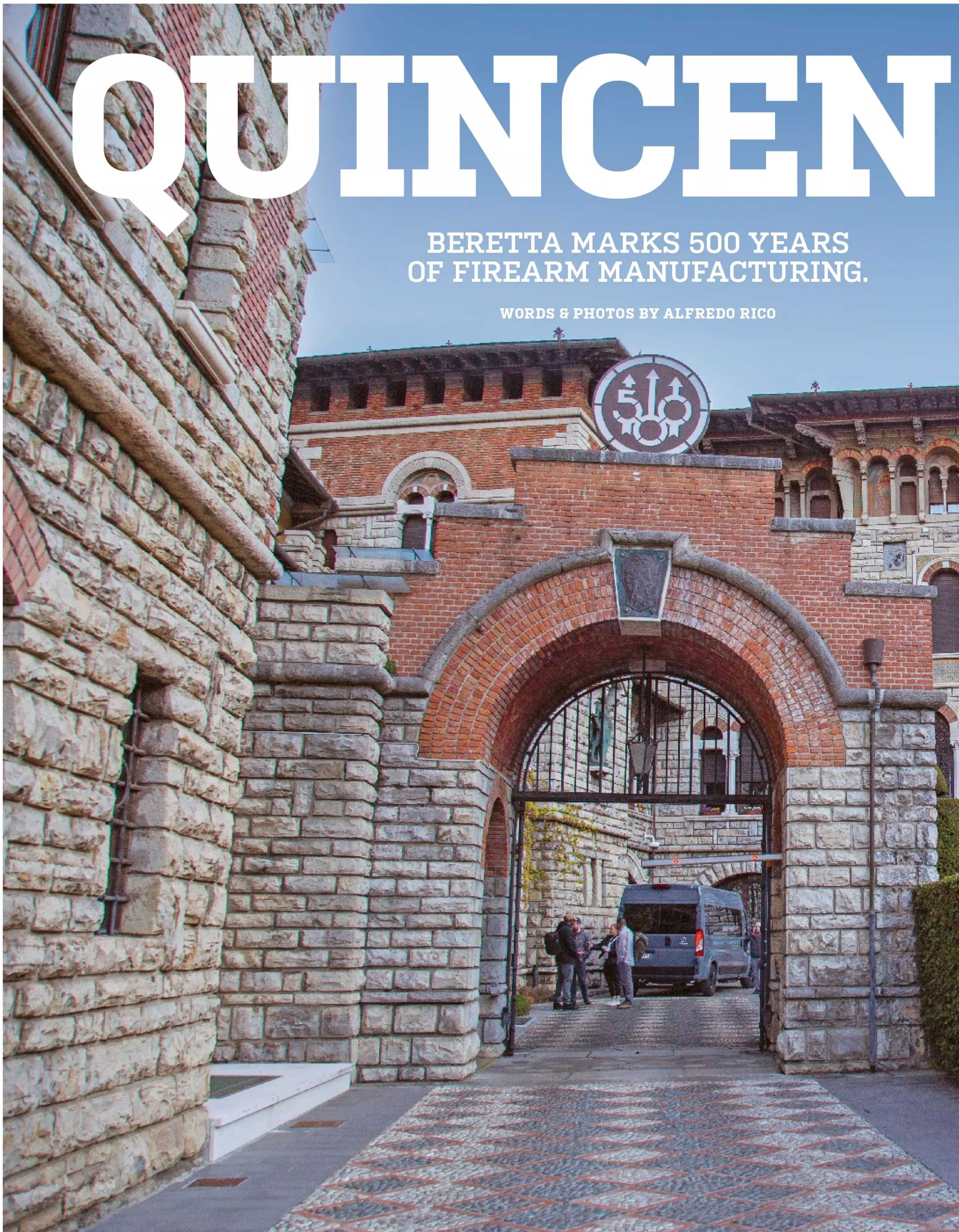


The South Baja desert sheep is a separate subspecies, smallest and darkest of the bighorns. It's common for these rams to retain their tips and end with an outward flare. This is fine old ram for the area, taken in its bed with a single 143-grain Hornady ELD-X fired from the Browning X-Bolt 2 Speed Left Hand in 6.5 PRC.

QUINCEN

BERETTA MARKS 500 YEARS
OF FIREARM MANUFACTURING.

WORDS & PHOTOS BY ALFREDO RICO





TENNIAL

BERETTA HOLDS an extraordinary record that may never be broken. In 2026, the company celebrates its 500th anniversary. What started in 1526 as a barrel making company located in Gardone Val Trompia, Italy, has spanned 16 generations to become a global power that serves the commercial, law enforcement, and military markets. Even more remarkable, the company is still a privately owned, family operated business. Beretta continues to forge ahead with one foot in tradition and the other in innovation.

500-YEAR CELEBRATION

In April 2026, Beretta hosted more than 130 members of the international media at a three-day event in Italy. Guns & Ammo Publisher Chris Agnes and I toured the Beretta museum, factory and custom shop, and were introduced to the principals. We were also afforded a rare, one-on-one interview with President Pietro Gussalli Beretta, CEO of Beretta Holding S.A., an international group comprising more than 50 companies worldwide.

There's nothing that compares to a visit to Beretta. The firearms produced in Italy range from those made for the working class to extreme luxury. Multi-axis, computer-numerical-controlled (CNC) machines produce receivers and parts with little human interaction while artisans craft custom firearms and features with hand tools at other locations. Of course, the Beretta family has been part of the evolution of firearms since the Renaissance. Starting with an order from the Venetian Arsenal for smoothbore arquebus barrels

that use to resist the expansion of the Ottoman Empire to the M9 pistols issued to American forces between 1985 and 2017, the Beretta name is familiar along the front lines of warfare.

THE FUSE

October 3, 1526, is known as *La Prima Scintilla*, translated "The First Spark." It's when it was recorded that Bartolomeo Beretta sold 185 arquebus barrels to the Arsenal of the Republic of Venice for 296 ducats. The "spark" references the fiery particles emitted from the smoldering match of a matchlock, the precursor to the flintlock that influenced warfare until the 17th century.

At the time of the arquebus, each component was manufactured separately by a family or community. For example, the Beretta family produced barrels. Another family manufactured the furniture, and another the firing mechanism. The specialties were passed down and merged, hence Beretta's continuous growth in the region of Gardone Val Trompia.



The 1959 Mauser-inspired Beretta BM59 served the Italian Army. Informed by the futuristic 1960s-era Lerker pistol, Beretta created the Model 90. Its distinctive feature was a sweeping line that flowed from the front strap to the triggerguard to the middle of the slide. The muzzle of the slide was also rounded. In 1976, the legendary Model 92 was launched and by 1985 it had won the contract to become the standard-issue M9 pistol. To support its bid for the XM9 submission and expand its market, Beretta USA was founded in 1977 in Accokeek, Maryland. The Tomcat, Bobcat, M9 and subsequent PX4 Storm models were

Italy wasn't a nation when Beretta was founded. It was a geographical and cultural concept that consisted of many city-states. Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo Buonarroti, Raffaello Sanzio da Urbino, and Sandro Boticelli had already created their masterpieces. One of the Gunpowder empires — the Ottomans — made their way west after conquering Constantinople, which is modern-day Istanbul, Turkey. The Ottomans had their eyes on the Venetian island of Cyprus but were stopped by the allied forces of the Holy League in the Battle of Lepanto. Beretta's support for the Republic of Venice in Lepanto helped elevate the company into a premier force during the infancy of firearm manufacturing.

During the French Revolutionary War, from 1792 to 1802, Beretta also supplied some 40,000 muskets to the French Army. These were used by the Empire's forces and revolutionaries for decades.

Italy became a unified nation in 1861. The unification was finalized after Venice was annexed in 1866 and Rome was captured in 1870, known as *Presa di Roma*.

The beginning of the 20th century saw Beretta adopt modern industrial production. The artisanal barrel maker evolved into a large-volume firearm producer. The company developed its first semiautomatic pistol, the Model 1915 and established its signature open slide design. Five years later, beginning with the Model 1920, a series of pocket pistols were produced, including the compact Model 1934 service pistol. Following World War II, the Beretta 1951 9mm pistol was developed and purchased and licensed by many nations.

The ASE field shotgun debuted in 1947, which was the forerunner to the legendary DT11. In 1953, Beretta adopted the three-arrow logo designed by Guido Marussing.



President and CEO
Pietro Gussalli
Beretta, Beretta
Holding S.A.



Carlo Gussalli Beretta, PB Selection
Business Development Manager and
Digital Project and
Innovation Manager
of Fabbrica d'Armi
Pietro Beretta.



Franco Gussalli Beretta is the president
and CEO of
Fabbrica d'Armi
Pietro Beretta.

made there. Responding to the needs of its business, Beretta USA moved its U.S. manufacturing to a new facility in Gallatin, Tennessee, in April 2016.

In 1995, Beretta Holding was established and is headquartered in Luxembourg. It is helmed by Pietro Gussalli Beretta, and the company currently has 20 brands including Beretta, Benelli, SAKO, Tikka, Franchi,

Stoeger, Uberti, and Holland & Holland, among others. Optic and ammo manufacturers include Burris, Norma, RWS and Steiner.

RECENT NEWS

In 2025, Beretta Holding acquired 9.95 percent ownership stake of Sturm, Ruger & Co, Inc., making it the largest shareholder. The move raised concerns about a hostile takeover and both companies met several times with Ruger being guarded.

Our April 2026 interview with Pietro Gussalli Beretta inquired about its interest in Ruger to which he explained that his great uncle and father had a good relationship with Bill Ruger. When he was younger, he and his father visited Mr. Ruger at the SHOT Show, and they always respected the Ruger brand.

"[Ruger makes] a product that is very different than ours," said Beretta. "They are strong in products where we are weak, and weak in products where we are strong."

During the conversation, Beretta mentioned Beretta Holding's global reach and emphasized the value that a "Made in USA" firearm has on the international market. When asked if they wanted to take over Ruger, Beretta responded, "No."

"I told the chairman I wanted a significant minority and to make a partnership where we work together." [Our] subsequent 30-percent public offer was to show that its intent was a minority stake and not a majority stake."

On May 4, 2026, Beretta Holding and Ruger



Across from the factory, the Beretta museum houses a private firearms collection that dates to the 16th century.



Pinfire muzzleloading carbine made in 1860 by Italian gunmaker Carlo Maria Colombo, probably for the house of the Royal Savoy family.

announced a Strategic Cooperation Agreement that allowed Beretta Holding to acquire up to a 25-percent stake in Ruger and nominate two independent representatives to the Board.

The news was intriguing. Ruger is a revered American brand. Beretta Holding has a track record of maintaining a company's independence. Beretta Holding's most recognizable brands — Beretta and Benelli — have competitive overlap yet maintain distinct business, product, marketing and technological trajectories. Similarly, no one confuses Stoeger with Franchi or Steiner Optics with Burris Optics. As Beretta Holding doesn't plan to change what we love about Ruger and Marlin firearms, its roots should remain solid and deep.

THE MUSEUM

One of the more remarkable parts of the event was a tour of the Beretta Museum. It was built in 1880 as a customer showroom and turned into a museum during the 1960s. It houses the family's private collection of firearms, which date back to the 1500s. Fifteen hundred pieces are on display and another 4,000 pieces are stored. Visually, the museum maintains the original wooden cabinets and ceiling that lend to its grand atmosphere.

Upon entering, the left wall showcases firearms designed for field and competition firearms. On the



Samples of Damascus steel barrels were on display to illustrate a barrel making method during the blackpowder era.

right wall are military arms that range from matchlocks to lever guns to bolt-action rifles and machine guns. The floor cabinets near the entrance contain pistols, while a tall freestanding cabinet houses wheellock, flintlock, and percussion cap muzzleloading rifles and pistols. Along the back wall in the lower display, a Damascus barrel illustrates various stages of the twisted-metal manufacturing process for barrels of the Old World.

Walking through the museum was lesson on Beretta's history and the evolution of firearms. From the ornate 18th-century flintlock muzzleloaders to the automatic rifles, the museum is a story to firearms, war and sport.

Several pieces caught my eye, including an elaborate engraving of vintage rifles, a hunting shotgun that used a button instead of a trigger to release the firing pins, and the evolution of Beretta's semiautomatic pistols from 1915 to present.

FIREARM PRODUCTION

The Beretta factory is across the street from the museum, and it is what I expected of a modern factory. Robotics and multi-axis CNC machines produce maximum efficiency and quality. A supervisor oversees many of these machines that continuously operate. Except for a few small parts, everything that goes into a Beretta is manufactured here.

The assembly area is located in an adjacent building, organized into cells dedicated to a specific firearms. The assembled firearm is then inspected and tested. For example, once a Model 92 is assembled, it is placed in a machine that cycles the slide 400 times.

Research & Development is a quality-control nerd's dream. There were gauges and instruments to inspect external and internal properties of every component. Computer-driven machines performed multiple point tolerance inspections, as well, and metals and polymers were analyzed for material and chemical composition. Surface treatments were tested, and parts subjected to ultraviolet light and humidity. Load testing equipment evaluated the state of fatigue in various parts, and microscopes aided inspections.



An artisan engraves the tang of a Beretta shotgun under the magnification of a handheld loop.



Marking Beretta's 500 years, the one-of-one Titan in 6.5 Grendel has carbon-fiber furniture, a magnesium lower and titanium upper.

One of the most impressive quality control machines was an X-ray scanner. A part was placed in the machine that was then bombarded with X-rays. The result was a 3D model showing the internal density of a part. The X-ray scanner is helpful in catching shrinkage or air bubbles within metal-injection-molded (MIM) parts.

THE CUSTOM SHOP

Beretta's Custom Shop is where I found tradition and the highest level of craftsmanship. Shotguns start at \$20,000 and climb to more than \$200,000. From wood grades, engraving, action design, and gun cases, every detail is labored over by artisans. The construction are akin to a watchmakers intricate execution.

As if by magic, one staff member disassembled an elaborately engraved action. Pressing the head of a quail released a small latch that began the disassembly process. Several screws and a plate later, the internals of the action appeared. During reassembly, the components were so perfectly aligned that the edge of the screws and plate disappeared into the design.

THE ONE-OFFS

Innovation is at its highest form with the Beretta One-Off series. Here the team is challenged to develop a creative theme for a firearm and build it in the most mas-



A Beretta Custom Shop craftsman uses a file to blend a high-grade walnut stock to a shotgun receiver.

terful, artful and innovative way possible. An example of this is the Beretta SO Sparviere Marco Polo over-and-under shotgun. To celebrate the 500th anniversary, Beretta is releasing 10 one-off creations in 2026, one for each platform. At the time of this writing, only the Titan in 6.5 Grendel public, so I can't describe the others. Suffice to say, they are some of the most creative marriages of art and design in the firearms industry. I nervously held one of its \$50,000 masterpieces.

BERETTA'S FUTURE

The delegation was given a peek into the immediate future of Beretta's commercial market. New products were mostly line extensions and, again, couldn't be discussed at the time of this writing. I shot a few and enjoyed the improvements they made to certain models. Details will follow soon.

The real fun came when I, and a few other media, were asked to stay a couple of extra days to provide feedback on several secret projects in development. I was afforded extraordinary range time with one of the prototypes and compared it alongside other Beretta firearms. It rivaled anything in the brand's existing line, and perhaps even any competitive products I've shot.

I also spent time with the Beretta Defense Technology New Assault Rifle Platform (NARP). NARP possesses the ergonomics of an AR-type rifle, but a completely different bolt, handguard and barrel design. When testing its precision at 100 meters, I effortlessly produced a three-quarter-inch six-shot group. Although it was designed for the Italian special forces, I hope it will arrive to the America's civilian market.

PARTING SHOT

In the last 500 years, the world has seen a lot of eras and ages: Renaissance, Enlightenment, Industrial, Atomic, and Information. We are in the Artificial Intelligence age, which makes it incredibly difficult to predict what the next 500 years holds for Beretta. If handheld firearms prevail, regardless of the technology, Beretta's name will certainly be on them. **G&A**

FEDERAL  PREMIUM®

THE MOST ADVANCED 7MM CARTRIDGE



NASGW — POMA
CALIBER
AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE



20-INCH BARRELS | 3,000 FPS | 170-GRAIN BULLETS



NEW  **PEAK ALLOY™** CASE TECHNOLOGY

7MM BACKCOUNTRY™



Advancement only comes when you break from the ordinary. When you see what's possible. Federal's 7mm Backcountry isn't just a new cartridge—it's an ammunition revolution. Its exclusive, patented **Peak Alloy™** case technology safely increases chamber pressures, delivering extreme long-range accuracy and magnum performance in light, compact, shorter-barreled rifles. The most rugged places, toughest game and longest shots are now within reach, and ammunition will never be the same.



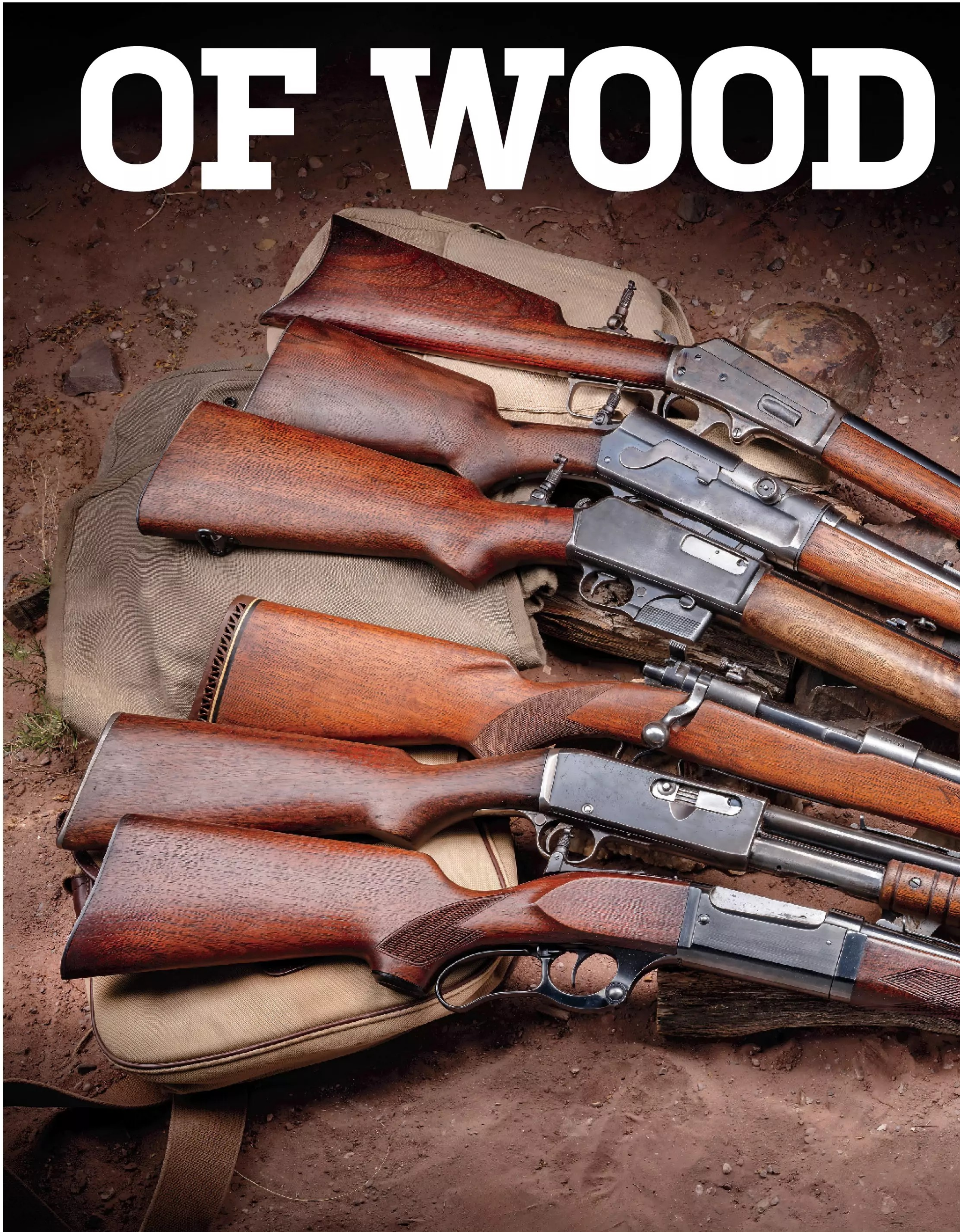
155-GRAIN TERMINAL ASCENT® | 170-GRAIN TERMINAL ASCENT®

195-GRAIN BERGER® ELITE HUNTER | 168-GRAIN BARNES® LRX | 175-GRAIN FUSION® TIPPED

BUY NOW

FEDERALPREMIUM.COM

OF WOOD



& STEEL

PART VIII: REFLECTIONS ON EVALUATING 100-YEAR-OLD HUNTING RIFLES.

BY DAVE EMARY | PHOTO BY MARK FINGAR

WE HAVE REACHED THE END of our series, “Of Wood & Steel,” featuring popular hunting rifles offered 100 years ago. The mid-1920s marked the beginning of the trend away from the lever-action’s long-established market dominance, but American sportsmens’ transition to bolt actions was interrupted by the Great Depression in 1929 and then again by World War II. By the mid-1950s, though, there is no question that lever-action hunting rifles were sliding in popularity.



Following Guns & Ammo’s evaluations and studies of hunters in the 1920s, I’d like to offer my own ratings of these rifles based on our impressions of shooting them, the features and performance. I would also like to rank these rifles from the perspective of a 20th-century American hunter.

Performance, in terms of accuracy potential, is a little subjective due to the lack of optical sights on these rifles. Sighting would have been improved with the five rifles equipped with peep sights. The Remington Model 14 had a traditional slide-adjustable open-barrel mounted sight. The Remington Model 8 already had a 1950s-era Weaver K3 scope mounted to it when it was purchased. As an experiment, we retested the Model 8 with the K3 scope after testing it with its peep sight. The improvement in our accuracy results was dramatic, and that would have been the case with scoping any of these rifles. Table 1 shows a summary of each rifle’s characteristics.

6. WINCHESTER MODEL 1907

The Winchester Model 1907 was a well-balanced, fast-handling and compact rifle, albeit heavy due to the blowback semiautomatic design. The gun came to the shoulder easily and pointed well, but that’s where the good attributes end. It was the heaviest gun in our group at 8 pounds, 10 ounces. G&A’s M1907 also possessed a horrible trigger at 9 pounds, 8 ounces, with noticeable creep. Its accuracy results were near the bottom of the list and it was the only gun in the group that could not hold a 10-inch kill zone on a deer at 200 yards. The .351 WSL would have been a good short-range cartridge, but its capability fell off rapidly after 100 yards. I would view this gun as only a woods or treestand hunting rifle. Unfortunately, the Model 1907 was a distant last in our six-gun shoot-off.

5. REMINGTON MODEL 8

The Remington Model 8 has many attractive attributes. It has a reasonable weight at 7 pounds, 8 ounces, and presented a good trigger at a crisp 3 pounds, 6 ounces. It is also rather compact and fast handling, and was chambered in a series of what are now classic and effective deer cartridges. G&A’s particular test rifle had a larger front sight bead, which definitely hampered accuracy results on paper. It was the most inaccurate of the rifles tested at 100 yards, printing an aggregate group of 4.9 inches. However,

the Model 8 still held a group within a deer’s 10-inch kill zone at 200 yards!

When equipped with the Weaver K3 scope, the accuracy results for the Model 8 were reduced to a stunning 1.4-inch average at 100 yards. It would certainly be worthwhile to evaluate the Model 8 with a smaller front sight bead. With finer sights, the Model 8 would have been an effective and reliable semiautomatic deer rifle. The semiautomatic action also allowed us to stay on the sights for quick follow-up shots.

4. REMINGTON MODEL 14

At this point, the remaining rifles are essentially a toss-up. They all served as effective deer rifles. The Remington Model 14 was nearly the lightest gun in the group, though, at 7 pounds, 2 ounces. It had a fairly crisp trigger that measured a little heavy at 6 pounds, 10 ounces. It is slim, well balanced,

easy to carry and a fast-pointing rifle. Loading the first round in the loading gate required a little finessing, but after that feeding it was easy. The action is fast and allowed us to easily stay on the sights for follow-up shots, also.

As with the Model 8, the same effective cartridges were also chambered in the Model 14. The Model 14 produced reasonable accuracy with an aggregate group at 100 yards of 3.8 inches. It easily held our deer target’s 10-inch kill zone at 200 yards. Peep sights were and are available for the Model 14. Peeps would probably provide accuracy improvements to bring it near the best of the group.

3. SAVAGE MODEL 1899 TAKEDOWN

The Savage Model 1899 was a light rifle for the time. It was the lightest in our test group weighing just 7 pounds. It had a crisp trigger for a lever action, too, at 4 pounds, 15 ounces. If you can get past the somewhat non-typical appearance of the rifle, you’ll notice that it was beautifully made and chambered in several powerful and long-range cartridges for the era. The top-loading rotary magazine was easy to load, also. The receiver felt a little bulky in the hand, but the light weight made up for this and helped it carry and point easily. The smooth operation of the lever action made quick follow-up shots a breeze, never requiring us to come off the sights.

The 1899 was near the top of the group’s accuracy chart, producing a 100-yard group aggregate of 3.4

TABLE 1: PERFORMANCE & HANDLING

RIFLE	WEIGHT (LBS.)	LENGTH (IN.)	BARREL LENGTH (IN.)	TRIGGER PULL	100-YD. ACCURACY (IN.)
Winchester Model 54	7 lbs., 14 oz.	44.4	24	1 lb., 8 oz.	2.6
Marlin Model 1893	7 lbs., 11 oz.	39.5	21.5	5 lbs., 12 oz.	2.8
Savage Model 1899	7 lbs.	43.5	24	4 lbs., 15 oz.	3.4
Remington Model 14	7 lbs., 2 oz.	40.5	22	6 lbs., 10 oz.	3.8
Winchester Model 1907	8 lbs., 10 oz.	40	20	9 lbs., 8 oz.	4.1
Remington Model 8	7 lbs., 8 oz.	40	22	3 lbs., 6 oz.	4.9

inches. It easily held the 10-inch deer kill zone at 200 yards. With the .300 Savage chambering, its effective range was well beyond 200 yards, merely dependent on a shooter's eyesight.

2. MARLIN 1893

The 1893 Marlin was a classic lever-action rifle, even for the mid-1920s. It carried and balanced wonderfully in the hand, and was fast pointing with a nice trigger. Ours tested at a crisp 5 pounds, 12 ounces. The side-loading-gate magazine is timeless, too, facilitating easy loading.

The '93 was available in the classic lever-action deer cartridges of the time, and ours was equipped with a tang peep sight and fine bead front sight. The sight picture was quite good with this rifle. The action was smooth and allowed for quick follow-up shots without needing to come off the sights. We were surprised by the good accuracy of 2.8 inches at 100 yards. Essentially, its accuracy potential rivaled the Model 54 Winchester. Younger eyes could probably extract even more accuracy from this '93. The Marlin easily held the 10-inch kill zone of our deer target at 200 yards. The only limitations to harnessing the Marlin's effectiveness would have been the user's eyesight and the ballistics of the cartridges it was chambered for.

1. WINCHESTER MODEL 54

Winchester's Model 54 features all of the attributes of a good bolt-action rifle that we are familiar with today. G&A's sample was well made and had a target-quality trigger with a pull of only 1 pound, 8 ounces. The weight of the rifle — 7 pounds, 14 ounces — made it one of the heavier rifles of the group, though. The gun loads from the top, has a fixed magazine floorplate and can be loaded from stripper clips. The gun balanced well when carried near the front of the magazine floorplate, and the bolt was buttery smooth. The Model 54 was also the longest at 44.4-inches long.

Our 54 was equipped with a receiver-mounted peep sight, enhancing the sight picture. As with all bolt actions, follow-up shots were more difficult than the levers and pump-actions. A bolt action requires the shooter to roll his head to the side to cycle the bolt, causing the shooter to lose sight picture.

On paper, the Model 54 in .270 Winchester proved to be the most accurate rifle of the group, printing a 2.6-inch aggregate group at 100 yards. It consistently threw a flyer, likely attributable to the non-free-float barrel configuration. Going in its favor, the Model 54 was chambered in cartridges that are still considered powerful today. It easily held the 10-inch kill zone on our 200-yard deer target, too. Chambered in .270 Winchester, its effective performance would have only been limited by the shooter's eyesight.

A HUNTER'S RIFLE IN 1925

Following World War I, Americans experienced 80 percent inflation between 1916 and 1920. From 1921 to 1924, prices went down 25 percent before slowly increasing 2 percent by 1925. I offer this information to give perspective regarding gun prices at that time; They were much higher than the prices of rifles made 10 years prior. In 1925, our Marlin Model 1893 retailed for \$32.50. A Remington Model 8 would have been \$60.50, while the Model 14 was \$40.50. The Savage 1899 was \$43.50, while the Winchester Model 54 was \$49.50 and Model 1907 started at \$50.40. Putting these prices in perspective, the average salary in 1925 was only \$3,000 per year and the average work week about 50 hours. People didn't get a lot of vacation either, so the average wage was \$1.15 a day.

If I were in the market for one of these guns in 1925, as a typical hourly factory worker, and knew anything at all about the performance characteristics of some of these guns, I'd have a hard time looking past the 1893 Marlin or its competing Winchester Model 1894. I would also give a serious look at the Model 14 Remington and Savage 1899. I'd have a harder time justifying the Winchester 1907 from a cost and performance standpoint or the Model 8 Remington simply due to its cost. I would not eagerly buy a Winchester Model 54, either. It was a new and unknown bolt-action and would have had to convince me of its advantages for the price.

That's my take. On price alone, it's easy to see why lever-actions remained popular.

PARTING SHOTS

Handloading for these rifles was fun, and dies are still available. Except for the Winchester Model 1907, I would recommend any of these rifles that is in good condition to anyone for recreational shooting and hunting. Generally, there was little difference in the performance of the other five rifles. The Remington Model 8 certainly needs an optic or a finer, more precise front sight to put it on par for accuracy. An interesting thing about both Remington rifles is that a shooter can use pointed bullets in both rifles because of the box magazine in the Model 8 and the fluted magazine tube on the Model 14. You might have to shorten the case a bit, but the potential is there.

The Marlin 1893 and Savage 1899/99 are well known rifles that still offer good hunting performance. The Winchester Model 54 is, as you would expect, the father of many bolt-actions offered today — including the Winchester Model 70 — so it is familiar to use and chambers powerful, effective cartridges.

I would encourage any of you that have an interest in these older guns to pick up a 100-year-old hunting rifle if you can find one at a reasonable price. Taking game with any of these classics is highly satisfying, too. 

AUTHORITY FIGURE

THERE ARE A VARIETY of pistol designs available to us. They vary in size, weight, materials used and finishes applied. Nearly all of them operate using a recoil-operated, locked-breech design. Whether we are talking about a G17, a Model 1911, a Hellcat or P365, they all employ a variation of the tilt-barrel system. Las Vegas-based Archon Firearms took a different approach. The Type B is a capable striker-fired handgun that uses a unique recoil system to improve the placement of rounds on target.

A locked-breech handgun maintains the relationship between the barrel and the slide until the bullet has left the bore. The timing is a crucial element toward accuracy. Most popular handguns achieve this using the tilting barrel system, thanks John Browning. The

barrel and the slide are mated for the initial travel and then the barrel is arrested, usually by a locking block or pin, unlocking it and tilting upward at the muzzle to allow the slide to cycle. This system works, but it has disadvantages.

Archon Firearms' handguns, including the Type B, utilize an entirely different method. Its "AF-Speedlock" system employs a Y-shaped locking block fit to the underside of the barrel. When the handgun is fired, the barrel and slide travel a short distance rearward to allow the block to unlock.





The Type B is a recoil-operated semiautomatic featuring a unique locking-block and breech design, and a triple recoil spring and guid-erod assembly.



The standard red fiber-optic front sight is useful, but is also interchangeable with aftermarket Glock-pattern front sight options. A threaded muzzle is also an option.

ARCHON TYPE B

TYPE	Recoil operated, striker fire, semiautomatic
CARTRIDGE	9mm
CAPACITY	17+1 rds.
BARREL	4.3 in.
LENGTH	7.7 in.
WIDTH	1.4 in.
HEIGHT	5.2 in.
WEIGHT	1 lb., 10.5 oz.
FINISH	Black nitride (steel)
GRIP	Polymer module, interchangeable back-straps/extensions
SIGHTS	Fiber optic, red (front); notch, serrated, black (rear); optic ready
TRIGGER	4 lbs., 12 oz. (tested)
MSRP	\$999
MANUFACTURER	Archon Firearms, 702-425-5575, archonfirearms.com



REVOLVER SPEED LOADER



**Super-Fast.
Super-Dependable.
Loads cartridges
into revolver
instantly!**

MAGAZINE SPEED LOADER



**10 models available.
Loads .380, 9mm, 40cal,
45cal, or 10mm single
and double stack mags.
Magazine slips into
loader and is held in by
hand. Depress thumb
lever to load.**

**Loads ammo. into magazines faster
and easier than ever!**

.22 Caliber MAGAZINE SPEED LOADER



**Featuring: Flex brake arm
& lock down stop!**

**HKS .22 L.R. Cal. loads,
Browning, Ruger I & II,
Ruger 22/45, Colt, S&W,
Mitchell Arms (H.B.)**

**No more sore fingers
when loading .22 mags!**

HKS PRODUCTS, INC.
7841 FOUNDATION DR. FLORENCE, KY 41042
SEE YOUR LOCAL DEALER
www.HKSpeedloaders.com

The textured grip can be modified to personal preference using a combination of flat or arched backstraps and grip extensions. (Note the captured takedown pin above the triggerguard.)



The block then drops down into the frame and allows the slide to continue its recoil cycle without disturbing the bore vertically or horizontally. This approach was first seen on the Bergmann Model 1903 designed by Louis Schmeisser. It employed a similar style of vertical locking block. Other than than being used on Japan's Type 94 Nambu, the concept sat dormant for nearly a century. Then, in the sequel that no one saw coming, the Bergmann system reemerged on the Russian-made Strizh handgun around 2012. Videos of Russian counter-terror operators using the distinct handgun created international buzz among handgun enthusiasts, and the pistol even had a cameo in Stephen Hunter's 2014 novel "Sniper's Honor."

The Strizh's selling point was its extremely low bore axis, made possible by the locking system. Muzzle rise was reported to be minimal due to the physics of the bore. Some Italian-made variants of the Strizh known as the "Strike One" made it to the U.S., but it never really caught on. In 2015, G&A contributor Keith Wood had a sample, found it innovative but too large for daily carry. It showed promise, though.

Archon Firearms refined the platform, improving ergonomics and adding practical features. All production was brought in-house and the design has reached maturity in the second-generation Czech-made and German-proofed Archon Type B.

THE DETAILS

Roughly the size of the G19, the Type B is a compact handgun. At 7.7-inches long and 5.2-inches tall, it fits comfortably in the "small enough to conceal yet large enough to shoot well" category. Unloaded, the Type B weighs 1 pound, 10.5 ounces. Four variants are offered, as well: standard, optic-ready (OR), suppressor-ready (SR), and optic and suppressor ready (OSR).

The Type B has a polymer grip frame built around an internal steel chassis. The polymer grip module can be configured to better fit hands of various sizes using a combination of backstraps and grip extensions. Using a 3mm punch, the backstrap and grip modules can be added or subtracted for one of three different grip lengths. Think of it as the ability to select between a subcompact, compact, and full-length pistol. The owner can configure it in the subcompact length for concealment and then add a grip extension for a shooting match on the weekend. The entire grip module can also be replaced, opening the door to aftermarket options.

The triggerguard incorporates a high-grip undercut to keep the gun low in the hand. The textured grip panels enhance the shooter's control of the frame. The panels wrap around the grip to provide a generous amount of surface area and extend to the side of the frame to interface with the shooter's support-hand thumb. The standard grip surface is rough enough

THE FUTURE OF CARBON FIBER BARREL PERFORMANCE

Made with COMPOSITE HEAT RELEASE™
Technology from  **AVIENT™**



CFT-X
CARBON FIBER TECHNOLOGY

- 
-  Improves heat transfer and reduces barrel bore temperature over multiple rounds
 -  Reduces overall barrel weight and increases barrel stiffness
 -  Precision crafted by Green Mountain Barrel Company
 -  Proudly made in the USA

T/C Arms CFT-X™ barrels made with Avient's patent-pending Composite Heat Release™ technology are engineered to redefine performance. By fusing layers of carbon fiber and ceramic composites around a precision steel bore, this technology harnesses thermal inertia to actively manage heat, resulting in a barrel that stays cooler for a longer period of time compared to steel barrels; shedding heat faster between shots. The CFT-X delivers strength, rigidity and above all, maintains point of impact.

NOW AVAILABLE FOR THE T/C ARMS **ENCORE** PLATFORM



A safety lever is absent on the Type B trigger. Instead, the pistol offers a smooth, flat-face trigger. The triggerguard also has an undercut.

for regular use without being too abrasive for concealed carry. The textured sections are adhesive backed so they, too, can be changed out by the user. Panels with more aggressive gradients and even alternate colors are available for sale on the company’s website for around \$25 apiece.

The Type B’s controls are standard for a striker-fired handgun. The trigger is a hybrid design with an angled flat face. There is no external trigger safety, but the trigger articulates several degrees before the firing mechanism is engaged. If the trigger does not pivot, it will not fire. The G&A sample’s trigger tested at 4¾ pounds with minimal creep. The reset was short and tactile, as well.

Are you a lefty? The magazine release is easily accessible, but it is reversible for left-hand use. The slide stop sits on the left side of the frame, though, and there is no manual safety.

Visually, the slide is the most striking design element of the Type B. The top of the slide dips down behind the muzzle, which may be a tip of the hat to the Strizh’s distinctive profile. Since the feature coincides with the slide’s front cocking serrations, it actually adds a tactile surface that supports working the slide. The Archon Firearms Type D is identical to the Type B, but it deletes this shape for those who might prefer a more traditional slide profile.

The Type B is equipped with a red fiber-optic front post, and a serrated steel rear notch adjustable for windage. The rear sight dovetail and front

sight mortise are cut so that the Type B is compatible with sights designed for Glock handguns. (Hello, aftermarket.) The optic-ready version of the Type B is machined to accept a single optic format, either the Acro, RMR, or RMS. We chose to mount an Aimpoint Acro P-2 with a 3.5 MOA dot to evaluate this feature. The optic mounts directly to the slide, so no adapter plates or conversion charts is needed. The system is simple, rugged, and keeps the optic as low as possible on the slide. Though this is certainly less versatile than some other footprints, it leaves little room for failure. The Type B has a 4.3-inch black nitride-finished barrel. The barrel dispenses with the traditional locking lugs found on most Browning-style handguns. Instead, a steel Y-shaped

locking block engages with a cylindrical section of the barrel when in battery. The 9mm twist rate is 1-in-10 inches, and the muzzle has a 40-degree crown. A 5-inch suppressor-ready barrel with a ½-28 thread is available as an accessory for \$160.

The Type B also sports a recoil system with three different springs. Two are captive coil springs and a third is a non-captive spring. The system manages slide velocity during cycling and helps make the pistol as soft-shooting as possible regardless of bullet type or standard versus high-velocity ammunition. The Type B uses an external extractor and a fixed frame-mounted ejector.

Magazines for the Type B are produced by Mec-Gar for Archon Firearms. They have steel bodies containing polymer basepads and followers. Two magazine length are provided, including a 15-round mag for compact configuration, and a longer 17-round mag for an extended grip. Additional magazines are available at \$34 each.

Much of the hype surrounding the Type B relates to its low bore axis. “Bore axis” is the relationship between the center of the bore and the web of the shooter’s grip, i.e., the fulcrum. All things being equal, a lower bore axis helps the shooter with leverage to counteract muzzle rise. A lower bore axis makes keeping the sights on the target easier and also means the potential for manufacturing a lighter slide to creates less reciprocating mass during the firing cycle.

At .47 inch, the Type B has one of the lowest bore axes on the market. For comparison, the G17 measures 1.26 inches, a M1911 averages 1¾ inches, and the M9 is 1.8 inches. In fairness,



The slide cut is optic specific, but low enough that the standard sights can be aligned at the bottom through the window.

PERFORMANCE

LOAD	VEL. (FPS)	ES	SD	BEST GROUP (IN.)	AVG. GROUP (IN.)
Federal Premium Punch 124-gr. JHP	1,152	40.1	11.5	1.7	1.8
Fiocchi Range Dynamics 147-gr. FMJ	1,023	42.6	12	2.1	2.2
CCI Blaser Brass 115-gr. FMJ	1,151	24.4	7.2	2.1	2.3

Notes: Accuracy is the average of five, five-shot groups from a sandbag rest at 25 yards. Velocity is the average of five shots recorded by an Oehler Model 35P chronograph.



The beavertail extends over the hand. From the shooter perspective, the slide’s backplate and rear sight are serrated.

QUALITY. EXCELLENCE.

DIFFERENT.



THIS ISN'T A FEATURE SET

THIS IS THE BAR



FIND A DEALER NEAR YOU



RIFLES CHAMBERED IN 22 CREEDMOOR



HORIZONFIREARMS.COM



Now! Complete National Park Quarter Set Only \$14⁹⁵!

Don't miss out! The final coin has been released and quantities are limited for these **Uncirculated Complete 56-Coin sets!** The first coin in this set was issued in 2010.

- **FREE** Shipping!
- **FREE** Gift:
Uncirculated Lincoln Shield Cent

You'll also receive a handpicked trial selection of fascinating coins from our No-Obligation Coins-On-Approval Service, from which you may purchase any or none of the coins – return balance within 15 days – with option to cancel at any time.

**Mail Coupon Now!
For Faster Service**
Visit: LittletonCoin.com/Respond

 **Littleton**
Coin Company®
Serving Collectors Since 1945

©2026 LCC, Inc.

SPECIAL OFFER FOR NEW CUSTOMERS ONLY

☒ **YES** Please send me the following:

QTY	DESCRIPTION	PRICE	TOTAL
	56-Coin Collector's Set (limit 5)	\$14.95	
	Display Folder	\$5.95	
1	Uncirculated Lincoln "Shield" Cent		FREE!
	Shipping		FREE!
	Sales Tax		FREE!
	TOTAL		

ORDER MUST BE RECEIVED WITHIN 7 DAYS

☐ Check payable to Littleton Coin Co.

Charge my: ☐ VISA ☐ MC ☐ AmEx ☐ Disc

Card #: _____ Exp. Date /

Name _____

Address _____ Apt# _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-Mail _____

Mail to:



Offer Code: 55S103
Littleton Coin Company
1309 Mt. Eustis Rd
Littleton NH 03561-3737



Some pistol frame accessory rails do not readily accept popular lights. The Type B supported a Nightstick TCM-10. **\$142**

there is a bit of gamesmanship at work. The Type B grip uses an angular rather than a radial surface at the top of the backstrap, which raises the measuring point on the grip by roughly a quarter inch. Still, the bore axis on the Type B is very low.

It seems that every part of the Type B was engineered to take advantage of the low bore. For example, the ejector is at a 45-degree angle to limit its vertical protrusion. Even the striker system has a minimalist profile to keep the slide as low as possible.

AT THE RANGE

Measurements are fine but live-fire results are what matters, and the Type B did not disappoint. Every handgun has a distinct recoil impulse, but the Type B was notable for its uniqueness. The combination of the low bore axis and the lack of barrel tilt due to the AF-Speedlock system produced a real reduction on muzzle rise. Put simply, the Type B recoiled on a more horizontal plane than most handguns we've tested. It kept the bore better aligned with the target and allowed for fast hits on target.

The combination of the low bore axis and the optic mounting system also had the effect of positioning the red-dot sight on a lower plane than with other handguns. For those slower to master a red-dot sight, the Type B made using a reflex sight more intuitive.

Being a relatively new handgun, it is impressive that there are already several holsters available. We evaluated the Type B in a Blackpoint Tactical OWB holster range work, and within



Controls are within reach. The slide lock is shaped to be pressed down as a slide release, and the mag release is reversible.

a few rounds we were able to draw, acquire the target and make fast hits. The gun pointed well and the controls were all in familiar positions.

Accuracy was good with each of the three load, as well. We want handgun accuracy to average less than 2½ inches at 25 yards for a five-shot group. The Type B easily exceeded G&A's benchmark, most notably with Federal Premium 124-grain Punch, a defensive load. Reliability was 100 percent for all loads tested, too.

Shootability came down to three factors: trigger, gripping surface and sights. The trigger was good for a striker-fire handgun. The user-configurable grip fills most hands and supports leverage over muzzle rise; once configured though, you'll likely never change the backstraps again. The sights are fine for being a red fiber-optic and a black serrated notch, but at least they're still and mounted in a Glock pattern. The Acro P-2 enhanced the performance of the Type B overall as red-dot users would expect.

G&A's staff loved the way the Type B shot. We appreciated the innovative operating system, and were happy by the forward thinking in allowing it to accept interchangeable parts such as the grip module, threaded barrel, grip texture, sights, and so on.

It is not often that we get to evaluate a firearm that stands apart in the polymer-frame, striker-fire 9mm pistol category, but the Archon Firearms Type B certainly does. Whether it catches on as a defensive sidearm or a competition pistol, it certainly has the capability to win in either environment. **GA**

MOSSBERG | 990® SPX SERIES

THE 990...
NOW EVEN
SPX-IER.



#83014
990® SPX - Magpul®
NFA/Class 3
12GA, 14.75" Barrel

Magpul is a registered trademark of
Magpul Industries Corp.
Cerakote is a registered trademark of
NIC Industries, Inc.

NFA/Class 3: Requires compliance with
any additional requirements under
applicable law, including but not limited
to the National Firearms Act regarding
applicable forms for transfers.

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

#83011
990® AfterShock SPX
FDE Cerakote®
12GA, 14.75" Barrel

SAFETY TIP 
Store firearms securely, inaccessible
to children and unauthorized users.

THE 990 SPX SERIES: NEXT GENERATION TACTICAL SEMI-AUTOS.

From its tactical forend/heatshield combination to stock choices and its internationally patented and patent-pending optic-ready receiver with removeable winged ghost ring sights, the 990 SPX Series has been designed and engineered with purpose. Customizing and accessorizing is a breeze, while a clean-running gas vent system and oversized loading port helps ensure smooth semi-auto operation. Available in multiple finishes and barrel lengths to suit any taste or tactical need.

Mossberg – Makers of dependable, hardworking firearms for more than a century.

LEARN MORE AT
MOSSBERG.COM

MOSSBERG®
SINCE 1919

SCAN CODE FOR
MORE INFO 



EVOKE

PURSUE YOUR LEGACY™

Son,

It's going to be hard. Never quit.

There will be mornings you question what you're doing out there. Keep going. It's not just about the final shot. It's about the miles before it, the silence that surrounds it, and the responsibility you carry with it.

The land teaches you in small, quiet ways. It teaches you to pay attention. To slow down. To respect what you can't control. One day you'll look back and realize this wasn't about hunting. It was about growing into the kind of person who shows up even when it's hard. Especially when it's hard.

*Pursue your legacy.
I trust you'll do it well.*

*Love,
Dad*



Special projects do more than preserve history.



ANTONIO ACITELLI

ARMED WITH INFORMATION

IN THE JULY 1976 ISSUE of Guns & Ammo, contributor Tony Bell described how to build a functional blackpowder cannon of the Revolutionary War period. The article was written in celebration of America's Bicentennial. Fifty years later, we revived the article concept and highlighted G&A Rangemaster Rod Arndt's endeavor to invest thousands of hours toward the endeavor to recreate a Civil War artillery battery in one-third scale. Both of these articles are available to read at gunsandammo.com. Authored by Robert W. Hunnicutt, you can read the passion that saw each project to completion.

If you're a longtime reader, you may recall several wildcat cartridges showcased in the magazine by the legendary P.O. Ackley, the same man responsible for the Ackley Improved (AI) cartridges. Online, you'll also find that we've been sharing some of our contributors' custom handloads, including 7.62x54R for deer hunting and 10mm for woodland defense.

Special projects aren't just about creating a new design or historical recreation. One of my favorite projects came from former Handgun Editor Patrick Sweeney, a practical test of 5.56 NATO ballistics. In the pursuit of testing bullet velocity versus barrel length, he test-fired a 26-inch White Oak Armament barrel, chopped off an



PASSION PROJECT Forty years of research and skill development inspired a collector to create third-scale working replica of a Civil War artillery cannon train.

inch, and tested it again. This continued, inch by inch, until the barrel measured just 7-inches long. You may ask why he didn't test individual barrels, but the method he chose eliminated variances might exist between barrels due to production differences. A single barrel, gradually cut down, ensured that length was the only one factor that

SPECIALIST LOADS

There's enough spent brass in 7.62x54R to justify reloading it. Paired with modern bullets, primers and powder, the cartridge makes for an effective deer round.



influenced ballistics. This is the kind of testing that I would be happy to see applied to other cartridges, including the 6mm ARC, .300 Blackout, .308 Winchester, and more.

Such projects make for good reading and can keep some of us passionate for the hobby. Creators have to possess a passion and curiosity to see them to completion. Recognizing this passion has helped earn Guns & Ammo the respected reputation it maintains. If you're reading

this, you are likely passionate for something gun related. What kind of projects, tests, or loads would you like to read more about? If there's a demand, G&A's contributors may take on your wild idea or develop a DIY tutorial. Let us know what project you're working on! Email us at gaeditor@outdoorsg.com with the subject line "Sound Off," and we'll get the idea train rolling. **G&A**

BALLISTICS BY THE INCH

Patrick Sweeney destroyed a high-end AR barrel, bit by bit, in the name of ballistic science.



!?



SOUND OFF

Respond to articles, find community and join the conversation in the Guns & Ammo forums and by engaging with us on social media:



Guns & Ammo Magazine



@gunsandammomag



@GunsAndAmmoMag



gaeditor@outdoorsg.com



KEITH WOOD

Second Amendment rights are being fought for.

IN THE NEWS

IN NOVEMBER 2025, President Trump nominated Robert Cekada as the new ATF director. Cekada is a career law enforcement officer and longtime ATF agent who appears focused on going after criminals instead of law-abiding gun owners and dealers.

A lifelong gun owner, Cekada fondly remembers shooting and hunting with his dad since he was 12, and he was criticized by ATF's previous leadership for personally owning an AR-15. "I don't want anyone judging me based on the firearm that I own and associating me with criminal conduct," Cekada told Breitbart News in May 2026. "We are here supporting the Constitution, and I will tell you who needs to worry about ATF: the criminals, gang members, cartel members, transnational crime members," Cekada added.

That's a breath of fresh air to me!

ATF RULE CHANGES

Cekada immediately announced sweeping regulatory changes. The agency framed the changes as part of a "new era of reform" focused on "transparency, accountability and partnership" with the firearms industry and gun owners. Proposed changes include a simplified ATF Form 4473, a repeal of the "pistol brace rule," a rollback of the "engaged in business" rule and many other changes that should modernize and streamline the industry. Such rules represent a seismic shift away from the Biden Administration's policies that sought to shut down firearm dealers for minor paperwork errors and to entrap gun owners with ambiguous regulations. Gun control groups are having a fit, which is always a great sign that the efforts are supporting 2A rights.

AMERICA SUES ITS CAPITOL

In May 2026, the U.S. government filed a lawsuit in federal court challenging Washington, D.C.'s de facto bans on semi-

automatic rifles and suppressors. The complaint argued that D.C.'s policy — which requires regulation but does not allow so-called "assault weapons" to be registered — violates the Second Amendment rights of citizens. The district's outright

ban on suppressor possession was also challenged. Watch for additional suits in other jurisdictions.

CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION: SECOND AMENDMENT SECTION

The D.C. lawsuit is part of the Department of Justice's (DOJ) recent focus on protecting the rights of gun owners. To pursue those goals, the DOJ's Civil Rights Division created the Second Amendment Section.

"The mission of the Second Amendment Section is to ensure that law-abiding American citizens may responsibly possess, carry and use firearms. The Second Amendment Section will work diligently to investigate law enforcement agencies that engage in a pattern or practice of infringing on law-abiding citizens' Second Amendment rights, as well as be proactive in searching for litigation opportunities to secure such rights."

Someone pinch me.

ARMED CITIZEN HELPS STOP MASSACHUSETTS SHOOTER

Americans saw footage of a crazed gunman on the streets of Cambridge, Massachusetts, firing a long gun at people, vehicles and buildings on May 11, 2026. The media reported that the shooter was shot by a state trooper. What they left out was that the trooper was aided by an armed citizen.

The unidentified Good Samaritan is a former U.S. Marine who is licensed to carry a firearm. He joined the trooper and bravely ran toward the shooter as the rampage was carried out. The pair engaged the shooter and wounded him, allowing the bad guy to be taken into custody. This little detail somehow eluded most local and national media outlets. 





BEAR'S
LEG

SHORT FORM, FULL BITE.

PURPOSE-BUILT FOR POSSIBILITY

The iconic lever action pistol has been reimagined for a new era. Chambered in .357 Mag/.38 SPL, .44 Mag/.44 SPL, .30-30 Win and .45-70, the Bear's Leg Pistol delivers a compact, hard-hitting package built for versatility, or customization into the SBR of your choosing. **Learn more at HenryUSA.com/firearm/bears-leg-pistol/**



**FREE CATALOG
AND DECALS**

Scan or Visit
www.HenryUSA.com

MADE IN AMERICA, OR NOT MADE AT ALL | LIFETIME WARRANTY | 100% SATISFACTION GUARANTEE

Kimber®

2K II
TARGET



ALUMINUM GRIP MODULE

TOOLLESS GUIDE ROD

GT MATCH GRADE TRIGGER

EXTERNAL EXTRACTOR

3-4LB PULL

STAN CHEN CUSTOMS® MAGWELL

9MM & 45ACP

DURANGO, CO.
STAN CHEN
CUSTOMS

Height: 5.74"

Weight: 40.9oz | 9mm & 40.1oz | 45ACP (Empty Magazine)

Length: 8.56"

Recoil spring: 10lbs | 9mm & 16lbs | 45ACP

**DESIGNED TO COMPETE
ENGINEERED TO WIN!**

KIMBERAMERICA.COM