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APRIL 2024
VOLUME 41 • ISSUE 04

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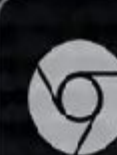
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CONTENTS



DEPARTMENTS

- 6 First Shot
- 8 Know Your Cartridge

p.18 ➤

COLUMNS

- 10 Defensive Handgunning RICHARD MANN
- 14 Hardware Talk PATRICK SWEENEY
- 16 Guns & Gear GDTM EDITORS
- 81 First Look GDTM EDITORS

FEATURES

- 18 The Night's Watch: How to choose a shotgun for home defense.
MIKE SEARSON
- 28 Schrödinger's Bullet: The paradox of firing defensive bullets within the confines of your home.
JOSH WAYNER
- 38 Practice Or Panic: Team tactic basics for couples and families.
RICHARD MANN
- 68 Dad-Bod Defense: Semi-old school, middle-aged guns still work well ... especially for home defense.
PATRICK SWEENEY
- 74 Judging the Junction: The American-made Montana Rifle Company returns.
PHIL MASSARO



p.28 ➤



p.38 ➤

THE BEST GUN LIST IN PRINT

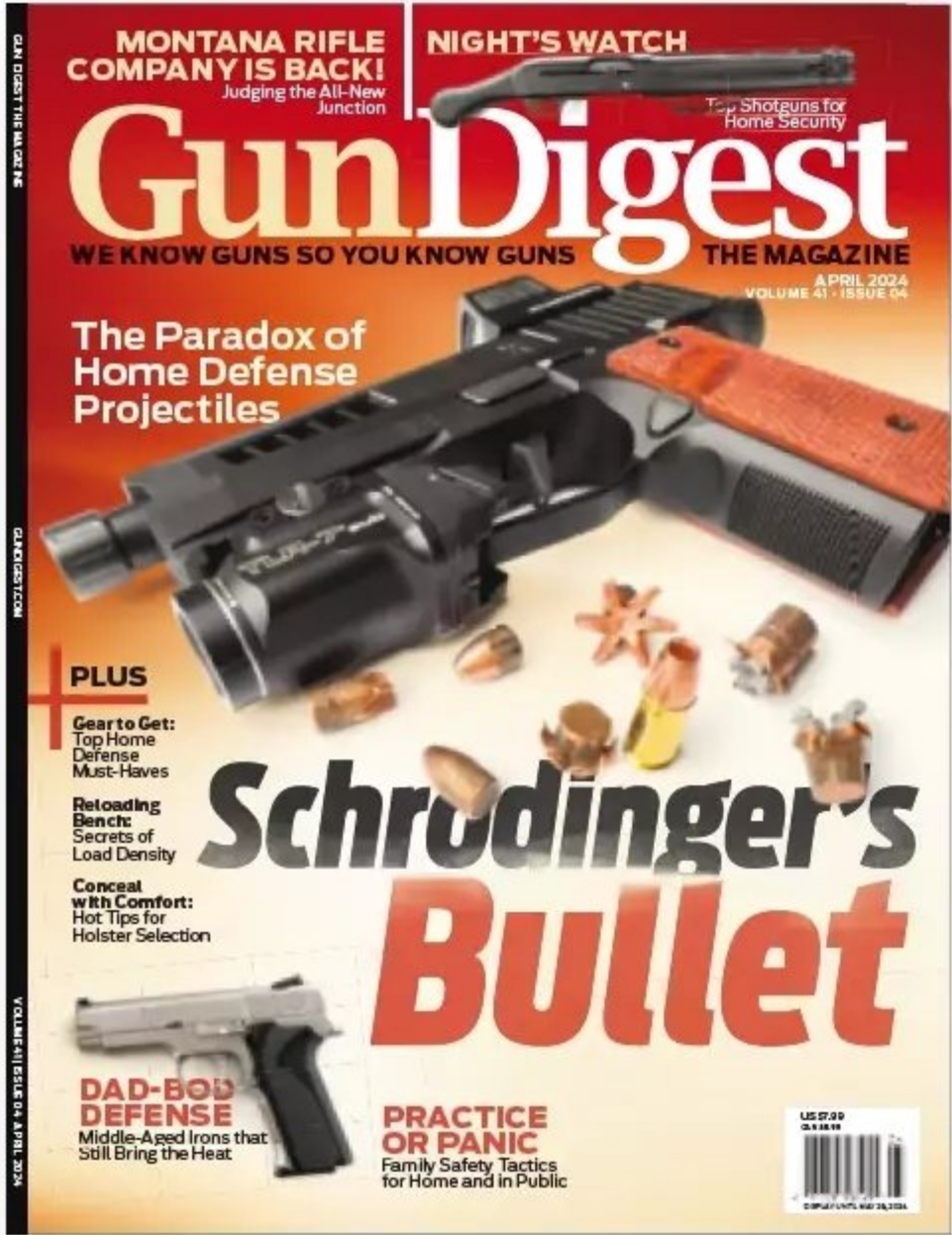
- 48 Show & Auction Listings
- 54 The Gun Digest Marketplace



p.68 ➤



p.74 ➤



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HOME SWEET HOME

Home defense is one of those personal defense topics that seems pretty straightforward at a glance, but once you dig into it, it's got more layers than Grandma's special Jell-O surprise. And if you're not prepared for it, the taste can be just as unpalatable.

Terms like "cover versus concealment," "over-penetration" and "light blindness" all become major considerations when you're traversing the dark hallways of your own home, with a firearm in-hand and the people you love behind every closed door.

A very popular mindset is to defend your home with the exact firearm you use for everyday carry ... because that's the gun you're most familiar with. Perhaps no truer logic as ever been spoken, and it's a position that I can get behind completely.

But I also understand that not everyone carries a concealed gun on them daily. Heck, I have several hunting-centric buddies who don't own a handgun ... but have a safe full of bolt-action rifles and shotguns for filling freezers each fall. Those rifles should stay in the safe (there's that "over-penetration"

concern again), but those shotguns will work just fine ... as long as they're practiced in the art of navigating a confined hallway with a 28-inch bird barrel. There's definitely better-equipped shotguns readily available, but it'll work.

From helping you to choose the best bullet for your home defense gun (from the perspective of avoiding over-penetration), to utilizing less-than-new handguns for home defense, to learning invaluable "family" tactics to keep you and your loved ones alive during an attack, this issue is stuffed with information and gear to help you learn to better defend your home and family.

And although there are plenty of opinions out there about how you should do it properly, I can't stress enough that the opinion that matters most is yours. Your home and your family dynamic is unique to you. Arm yourself with knowledge and training, and then prepare accordingly. **GDTM**

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9mm MAJOR



The slightly bigger older brother of the 9mm Luger.

HISTORICAL NOTES

There are good arguments to be made whether the 9mm Major is simply a hot 9mm Luger load ... or another distinct chambering shooting 9mm bullets. It's not a wildcat nor proprietary load; it has a distinct OAL measurement that makes it suitable for some guns and non-functional for others.

Moreover, some ammo makers have special packaging for the 9 Major loads, and it's dangerous to shoot 9mm Major in many typical handguns chambered for 9mm Luger rounds, so it deserves some clarification.

Typical 9mm Luger ammunition is loaded to SAAMI specs of about 32,000-psi chamber pressure, which corresponds to velocities between 850 and 1,200 fps, depending on the projectile's weight. In turn, 9mm Major ammunition is loaded to reach a Power Factor of 165 in IPSC or USPSA competitions. Power factor is determined by bullet weight times velocity, divided by 1,000.

To reach major power factor in USPSA Open Division competition, a 115-grain bullet must reach 1,435 fps, a 124-grain bullet must reach 1,331 fps, and a 147-grain bullet must reach 1,123 fps. If you look at the 9mm Luger loads and ballistics nearby, 9 Major loads are about 200-fps faster by bullet weight.

Note that 9mm Major ammunition

is dangerous to fire in a pistol not designed for the excessive pressure generated by loading to the velocities needed. Many handgun makers caution against the use of +P and +P+ ammunition, and 9mm Major loads can generate pressures above +P+, making them unsafe for most off-the-shelf pistols.

Typically, only competition handguns are designed to accommodate these excessive pressures. The most essential feature in Open guns is a ramped barrel providing full case head support. Non-ramped barrels, or any barrel with a large cutout for the feed ramp, are not safe for 9mm Major ammunition.

GENERAL COMMENTS

There's no prescribed pressure limit for 9mm Major as a wildcat round. Gunpowder selection is crucial when handloading. Only medium- to slow-burning-rate pistol powders are used

because they produce lower peak chamber pressures when pushing the bullet to the same velocity as faster-burning powders. On its 9mm Major listing, Atlanta Arms notes, "***Warning: This ammunition EXCEEDS SAA-MI Specification and should only be used through a competition race gun."

Most 9mm-Major rounds are loaded as long as possible to help keep peak pressure low. The SAAMI maximum overall length for the 9mm Luger cartridge of 1.169 inches. Black Dot Ammunition (Crawford, Alabama) notes that it loads its 9 Major rounds to 1.160 inches overall, which means the ammunition "will not chamber in most standard 9mm guns to prevent accidentally firing from any non-open type firearms."

Other ammunition manufacturers load 9 Major, including JJR Ammo, C&S Ammo, Everglades Ammo, Vantage Reloading and Universal Ammo.

GDTM

9MM MAJOR FACTORY BALLISTICS

BULLET (GRAINS/TYPE)	POWDER	GRAINS	VELOCITY	ENERGY	SOURCE
124 JHP	FL		1,400	539	Everglades Ammo
124 JHP	FL		1,385	528	Black Dot Ammunition
147 JHP*	FL		1,170	447	Atlanta Arms Elite

*OAL: 1.165 ffl .005



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CONCEALABILITY, ACCESSIBILITY & COMFORT

Hard thoughts on finding holster nirvana.

When outfitting for carry concealed, your handgun, cartridge and ammunition are three very important considerations. But holster selection is just as important, partly because it makes carrying concealed easier, and partly because if your holster is uncomfortable, you won't be carrying when you should be.

Many gun stores have ranges where you can try different handguns, but to try a holster you most often have to buy it. So, some holster advice is a good thing. I've been carrying concealed for more than half my life, but I thought hearing from a true holster specialist might be more beneficial.

Mike Barham has worked for Galco Gunleather for 21 years. He grew up around guns and took courses from esteemed trainers like Chuck Taylor and Massad Ayoob. In addition to 11 years in the Army—to include a tour in Afghanistan—Barham is also a graduate of Gunsite, Tactical Response and Front Sight firearms academies. Barham has been carrying concealed handguns for as long as I have, so I asked him to share some of his expertise.

FINDING BALANCE

The first tidbit of wisdom Barham offered was, "Every concealment holster

must balance three competing factors: concealability, accessibility and comfort. With almost all holster designs, as one factor increases, the others decrease. A highly concealable holster is often less comfortable and accessible, and a holster that offers fast access, or one that's comfortable, is almost always less concealable."

Of course, regardless of the holster you choose, gun size plays into the equation, too. But, with gun size, there's balance that must be found as well. Select a gun that's large enough that you can shoot and manage it effectively, but also small enough to practically conceal. This seemingly never-ending search to find the right holster is similar to trying to find the right life partner. We date to see how compatible we are, and in truth, that's the best way to find a gun/holster combination. The problem is—just like with dating—trying different guns and holsters gets expensive.

OWB VS. IWB

A big decision is whether to carry inside the waistband (IWB) or outside the waistband (OWB). I do both as weather and need dictates—and that's not a bad approach, especially if you don't change carry location. As for IWB carry, Barham said, "An IWB holster is generally easier to conceal since half the gun is inside

your pants. However, many find IWB carry uncomfortable. This discomfort can be greatly ameliorated with a belt and pants that are 2 inches larger than your normal American vanity size. Also, IWB holsters can be slightly slower to draw from than OWBs because they press the handgun against the body."

As for OWB, Barham said, "OWB carry is more comfortable than IWB carry because a lot of people aren't willing to adapt their wardrobes to IWB carry. OWB holsters are also slightly faster—we're talking fractions of a second—on the draw. But, depending on the belt attachment method, IWB holsters with belt clips or straps are usually quicker to take on and off than OWB holsters with conventional belt slots. However, a paddle-type OWB is usually very comfortable and very convenient; it's very fast and easy to put on or take off."

OWB holsters, like this Galco Avenger, are comfortable for carry and fast to draw from. But they're also harder to conceal.



The author (standing) has trained with Mike Barham (kneeling) and considers him a subject matter expert when it comes to holsters.



Galco prides themselves in offering custom-made, high-quality holsters ... without the wait.



(Above) Many of Galco's holsters are form-fitted by master leather craftsmen to give them that custom look and feel.

(Left) Because IWB holsters keep the handgun's grip closer to your body, they're usually a bit slower to draw from.

(Below) Some believe polymer holsters are faster to draw from, but this is more opinion than fact.

must balance the need for concealment versus efficiency of draw.

LEATHER OR POLYMER

Maybe the biggest question is whether a holster should be polymer or leather. Barham said this argument is a can of worms but offered that, "Leather is traditional, warm to the touch and often beautiful. More importantly, leather holsters form themselves to the contours of the wearer's body over time. This often results in greater comfort. Polymer holsters—generally Kydex—are nearly maintenance free, withstand moisture well

CANT AND RAKE

Although it's often overlooked, you need to think about cant and rake: Both refer to the angular deviation from a zero-degree vertical line. Barham said, "A mild butt-rear rake is sometimes preferable for appendix carry, but it's detrimental to concealment with a holster worn on or behind the hip. With a holster worn on or behind the hip, a mild butt-forward cant often helps with concealment. However, the added movement of "breaking" the wrist to draw from an angled holster can be slightly slower and less natural than when drawing from a neutral cant/vertical holster worn on or very close to the hip." Extreme rake is absolutely required for crossdraw carry, and though very practical when riding in a vehicle, it's largely fallen out of favor. In every case, you



and require no break-in. Some also think they're faster, but that's largely dependent on the shooter."

FACTORY OR CUSTOM?

Barham suggested, "There's really very little a boutique holster can do that can't be done just as well by a production holster. At Galco we take pride in our premium holsters being essentially 'custom made without the wait.' We have a small army of master craftsmen whose hands touch every *professional-grade* holster we make. Galco has 50-plus years of experience designing and executing practical holsters." But Barham added, "Custom holsters certainly have their place, and very experienced and knowledgeable shooters can often take advantage of custom subtleties. However, I believe most custom touches will elude the overwhelming majority of gun carriers."

Barham went on to say, "What's most important is how well designed and fitted a given holster is. This is critical, most especially when it comes to consistent positioning for speed of draw and proper retention."



(Left) Depending on the handgun, a custom holster could be the only viable option. This Barranti IWB holster was made for the Sig P365 when it was first introduced.

(Below) Not only might you have to try several holsters to find what you like, you'll also likely try different handgun and holster combinations while looking for concealed carry nirvana.



(Below) OWB holsters don't have to be large and bulky. This Yaqui Slide holster from Galco isn't very big at all.



I agree with Barham but would add that, in some cases, a custom holster might be the only or the best option, particularly with unpopular or brand-new handguns for which there are few factory-made holsters. I'd also add that you should be careful; "custom" doesn't always mean exquisite or best.

IT'S A PROCESS

The last bit of advice Barham offered was "Every holster design and position is a compromise. You have to weigh the advantages and disadvantages, and then decide where *your* priorities lie. Only then can you decide on the right holster." And even then, you'll probably end up experimenting with a half-dozen holsters. Like I said, it's a bit like dating: You're going to have to try multiple holsters *and* guns in order to find lifelong satisfaction. **GDTM**

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The Dillon wrench kit comes complete: All you have to do is assemble it onto your press. They are press-specific, so make sure you get the correct one.



Do you ever say to yourself you've had enough? More specifically, have you had enough with the litter of tools on your loading bench?

I have.

I'm regularly swapping toolheads to change calibers on my presses as I test this or that, trying something new or swapping calibers. I tried to keep the Allen wrenches for those adjustments in a plastic box, but they always ended up on the bench.

And then, where on the bench were they? *Mumble ... mumble ... mutter.*

I finally had enough, so when I saw the wrench rack from Dillon, I knew my 550 and 750 were each going to get a set. The rack is simple: It's a heavy-gauge stamping that you bolt to the top back of your strong mount, behind your press. You don't use a strong mount? We're going to have to talk about that in the next issue.

Dillon has it all covered. You bolt the plate by means of the rear bolts on your

press/strong mount setup. The kit comes with the Allen wrench sizes you need to work on your press, plus a die ring wrench as well. They all slide right into their reserved spots. And, just to make it even easier, Dillon includes a strip of label, with the sizes already printed on it, and they're spaced to line up with the spot for each of them.

Hot tip: Install the label *before* you bolt on the plate to save yourself the stretching and reaching to get the label in place after you've bolted things together.

Wait, there's more. The wrenches come with the angle to the short leg of each one pre-dipped in vinyl, so you have a good grip and can see the wrench clearly when you go to pluck it out of the rack. As an extra bonus, the working end is a ball-end wrench tip, so you can spin

the wrench even when you approach the screw you're tightening from an angle.

Of course, gear doesn't come cheap. The kit runs \$46 from Dillon.

"Ouch," you say?

You can buy the wrenches for a buck each. Yes, you can. But then you'll still have them scattered on your loading bench or in a box you have to find. Once you lose one or use it someplace else and leave it there, you'll buy another. And another. You'll end up with three, four or five sets of them scattered to the winds.

With the Dillon kit, you have a place for them. And the Dillon blue vinyl coating lets you know "This is a loading room wrench; I have to get it back there."

I'm not saying you need to go full-on Marie Kondo on your loading room, bench and components storage, but keeping the tools that get things properly adjusted is a smart thing to do. And when you can make a change by simply grabbing the handy wrench and put it back right where it was, your loading process will be less distracted, more focused and more productive. **GDTM**

01 Staccato C

Tailored for all-purpose use, the Staccato C strikes a balance between carry convenience and duty/home defense effectiveness. The slim and short design of the pistol offers a confident grip across various hand sizes. Whereas its wide frame, flush with the slide, enhances durability and reduces felt recoil, delivering a more controllable shooting experience. Being a Staccato, the C is a 2011, giving shooters ample firepower in a 1911-style gun—in this case, 16 rounds of 9mm. As expected, the company has outfitted the gun with a lights-out trigger, breaking at right around 4 pounds.

MSRP: \$2,600

02 Walther Arms PDP Compact Steel Frame

Kicking 2024 off in style, Walther Arms upped the level of its popular PDP line of pistols with the release of a Compact Steel Frame model. As its name suggests, the 9mm boasts an all-steel frame, prioritizing both durability and performance in the 4-inch barreled gun. The nice part is that the added weight considerably enhances recoil absorption, making the PDP much quicker and more accurate shot-to-shot. As a bonus, Walther maintains its hallmark ergonomic design in the grip frame, ensuring a comfortable yet robust feel.

MSRP: \$1,700

03 Taurus TH10 10mm

In the market for a robust full-sized DA/SA handgun chambered in potent 10mm Auto? Taurus has you covered with the TH10. Boasting a 4.25-inch stainless-steel barrel and a 15-round magazine capacity, the pistol doesn't want for firepower. And, the TH10's 28.5 ounces weight strikes a nice balance—light enough to carry, but hefty enough to soak up the 10mm stout recoil. Notable attributes include drift-adjustable front and rear sights, an accessory rail and an ambidextrous safety/de-cocker—making it righty and lefty friendly.

MSRP: \$530

04 CCI UpperCut Defense .22 LR

The gun industry has gotten more serious about the .22 LR as a self-defense caliber. Case in point: CCI UpperCut Defense. This purpose-driven round is tailored for small handguns and topped with a 32-grain hollow-point designed for appropriate penetration and consistent expansion in its terminal destination. The bullet, for the most part, resembles the iconic Stinger line and boasts a thicker copper jacket, similar to those found on .22 WMR. What you end up with is a round that ups the defensive potential of .22 handguns.

MSRP: \$13, box of 50



05 Daniel Defense Daniel H9

Daniel Defense has resurrected the innovative Hudson H9, unveiling the Daniel H9 at SHOT Show 2024. Acquiring Hudson's patents after the company's unfortunate closure, Daniel Defense meticulously redesigned the 9mm handgun. While externally similar, the Daniel H9 only shares one component with its predecessor due to Daniel Defense's commitment to elevated manufacturing standards. Retaining the 1911's beloved features but incorporating modern elements like a striker-fire mechanism and an optics-ready slide, the Daniel H9 boasts the lowest bore axis in its class.

MSRP: \$1,300

06 Ruger PC Carbine in .45 ACP

The PC Carbine has proven it's a viable and potent option in PCCs. Now, Ruger is kicking the little fireball's game up a notch with the introduction of the gun in .45 ACP. With a 16-inch threaded barrel, the carbine utilizes a blowback operating system and features an AR-style folding buttstock for enhanced portability. Adding utility to the platform, the company outfits the gun with an M-Lok handguard allowing for accessory attachments. And perhaps best of all, the design is Glock magazine compatible. In turn, magazine options are highly available and very economical. Overall, it's not a bad package for those who prefer to shoot fat and slow.

MSRP: \$1,010

07 Diamondback SDR (Self-Defense Revolver)

Diamondback Firearms unveiled its Self-Defense Revolver (SDR) at the 2024 SHOT Show, marking its entry into centerfire wheel guns. Chambered in .357 Magnum, the SDR has the chops for both home and personal defense, and at a mere 21 ounces, it makes for a more than acceptable CCW option. A good looker, the 2-inch barreled revolver is machined from premium stainless steel and has six rounds on board. Furthermore, its low-profile fiber-optic sights, concealed hardware and rounded edges prevent snags and optimizes the gun for carry. And, the DA/SA pistol has a top-notch trigger, making for a smooth, non-stacking break in double action and a very sensitive trip in single.

MSRP: \$777



06 ➤

GEAR TO GET

05 ➤



04 ➤



07 ➤



THE NIGHT'S WATCH

How to choose a shotgun
for home defense.



This Remington 1100 Shotgun was purchased for less than \$200 because of its age and poor state of the factory wood. Boyds laminated furniture, a red-dot that mounts to the rib and new O-rings for the piston breathed fresh life into it. The gun isn't designed for home defense, and the barrel is longer than is ideal, but it will work.



The shotgun is one of the most familiar firearm platforms in existence. At one time, nearly every home in America had one handy. It put food on the table, protected the home and its inhabitants from intruders, and it was as useful as any other household tool for solving problems.

Yet, in many ways, the shotgun is an enigma.

Myths abound about the shotgun. We've all heard a certain politician advocating that people arm themselves with a shotgun and all they need to do is fire two shots in the air to scare off an intruder. Or, maybe you've heard that the simple racking of a pump-action will make a home invader quiver with fear.

These are irresponsible and will give many people a false sense of security. Maybe the noise of the action working will cause a teenager who wandered

into your home to turn tail and run, but shooting rounds in the air may kill or injure an innocent bystander. Don't do that. Ever.

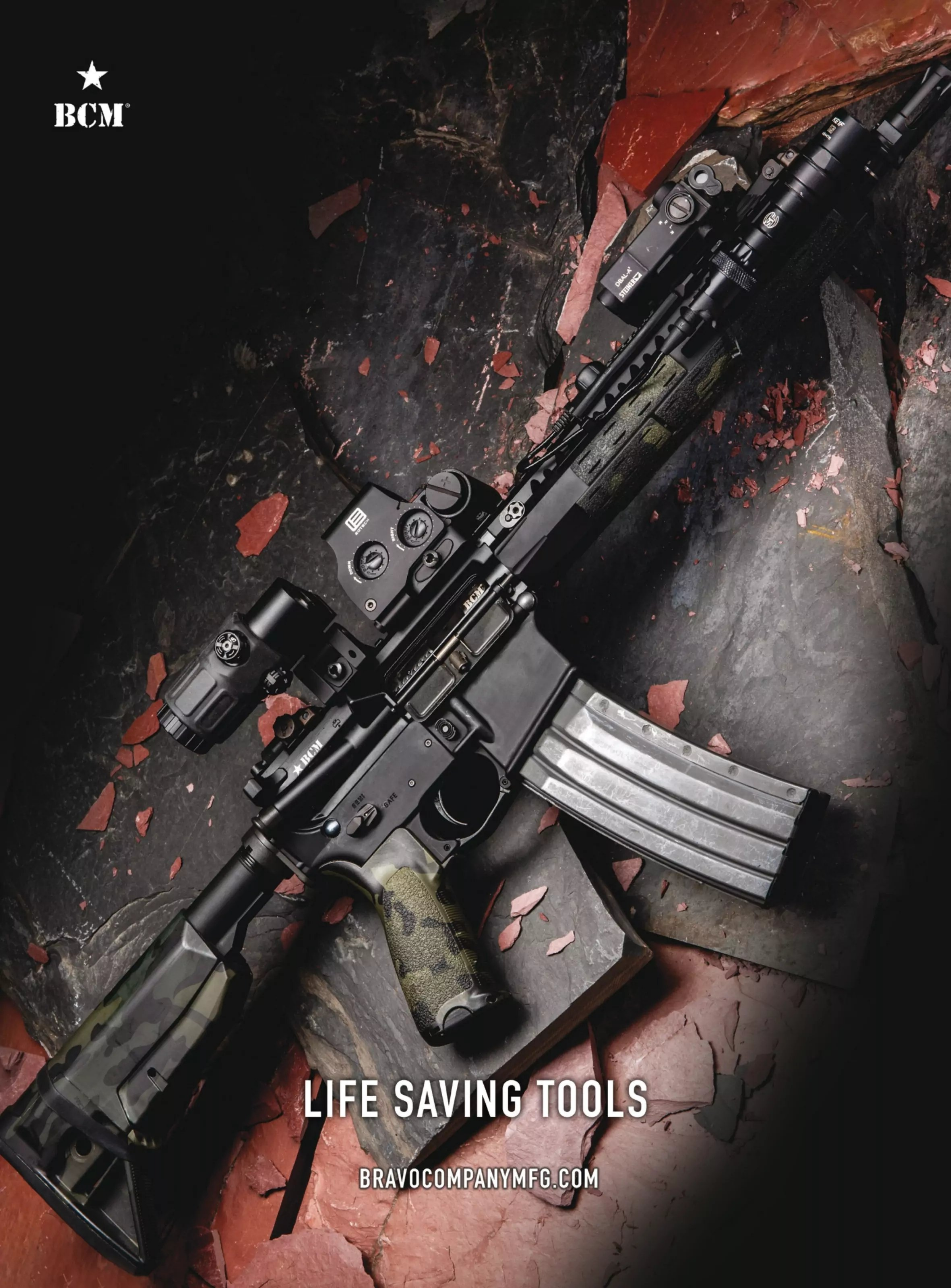
Too many people obtain their gun knowledge from movies and television. Not you, of course, you're smart enough to read *Gun Digest*. But we've all seen movies where someone is shot with a shotgun and the poor guy goes flying through the air. If you have a basic understanding of the laws of physics, you should know that, for every action, there's an equal and opposite reaction.

Another classic myth is that "You don't need to aim a shotgun. You just point and shoot." This may be based on the small size of the factory bead sight found on most shotguns and the tendency for bird hunters and clay shooters to whip the barrel as they shoot to allow the shot to collide with the bird in flight. The bead sight is there for a reason and can be used efficiently with some training or replaced by rifle sights, a low-power scope or a red-dot sight if you prefer.

The bottom line is that you're putting an ounce or more of lead down-range—you want to make sure it hits whatever you are shooting at ... and nothing else.

PUMP OR SEMI-AUTO

Pump-action shotguns dominated the marketplace for more than 100 years, and for good reasons. They're reliable, hold at least three rounds and are in an affordable price range. Semi-automatics, on



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Beretta 1301 with Mesa Tactical furniture.

the other hand, were either expensive or unreliable ... and mostly designed for sporting use.

However, things have changed over the past 30 or so years. The semi-automatic shotgun has become more reliable and more affordable. The operation is simpler than a pump-action or a lever-action shotgun, and depending on the manufacturer, there's very good aftermarket support dedicated to allowing these shotguns to function in a role more suited to home-defense.

The eye-opener for me was to have three different semi-automatic shotguns reliably fire more than 1,000 rounds—in each one—without a single malfunction. The old mantra we heard as late as the 1990s about the reliability of a semi-automatic scattergun could be finally put to rest.

There was a time when the shotgun I would grab to respond to a threat was a pump action. Over the past few years, my preference has transformed into a semi-auto. Prices of new semi-automatic shotguns haven't risen exponentially, but if there's one thing about dedicated sportsmen who use semi-automatics, they tend to trade up for the latest and greatest often, and some "upgrade" almost every season.

As a result, many used semi-au-

tomatic shotguns have been hitting the market at lower price points than some pump-action shotguns. Case in point: I recently scored a well-used Remington Model 1187 for less than \$300. It had been poorly painted in an absolutely horrid hunting camouflage pattern, but through the miracle of Cerakote, I had the gun refinished in a more modern Multicam scheme. It looks great, and it looks brand new.

Another good example is a shotgun like the Benelli M1 Super 90. This was the go-to tactical semi-automatic shotgun for decades, until it was phased out and replaced by the likes of the Benelli M2, M3 and M4. Coming in at several hundred dollars cheaper than the M4, the M1 Super 90 is still a great no-nonsense firearm.

CAPACITY

Most semi-automatic shotguns rely on tubular magazines to feed the shells, just like a pump shotgun. To increase capacity, you only need to purchase a magazine extension and a longer magazine spring. You can further enhance this by going with an aluminum follower over the plastic factory piece.

Even with the longest magazine extensions available, you're limited by capacity. Some shooters get around this by running mini shotgun shells in pump-action shotguns. For the semi-automatic, they can be hit or miss with feeding reliably, so I tend to avoid them. Yes, they're very effective and solve the capacity problem ... when they feed reliably.

It's worth noting that there are many semi-automatic shotguns on the market that take a detachable magazine. Many of these magazines are three-rounders, but there are larger capacity versions available ... some of them much larger. This can be the weakest link in these systems. While they're a lot of fun at the range and magazine quality is improving, the jury is still out on relying on one for personal defense. If you like them, great, but do become very familiar with their operation.

Onboard ammunition carriers, from companies like Mesa Tactical, address this by bolting 4-, 6- or 8-round carriers that hold shells on the side of the shotgun's receiver. These are installed and held in place using threads that replace the scope mounting holes atop the receiver. If the shotgun isn't drilled



The Benelli M1 Super 90 was the top of the line tactical semi auto shotgun for decades. A fresh Urbino stock from Mesa Tactical, Swampfox Optics red-dot and new LED forend light from SureFire made it serviceable again.

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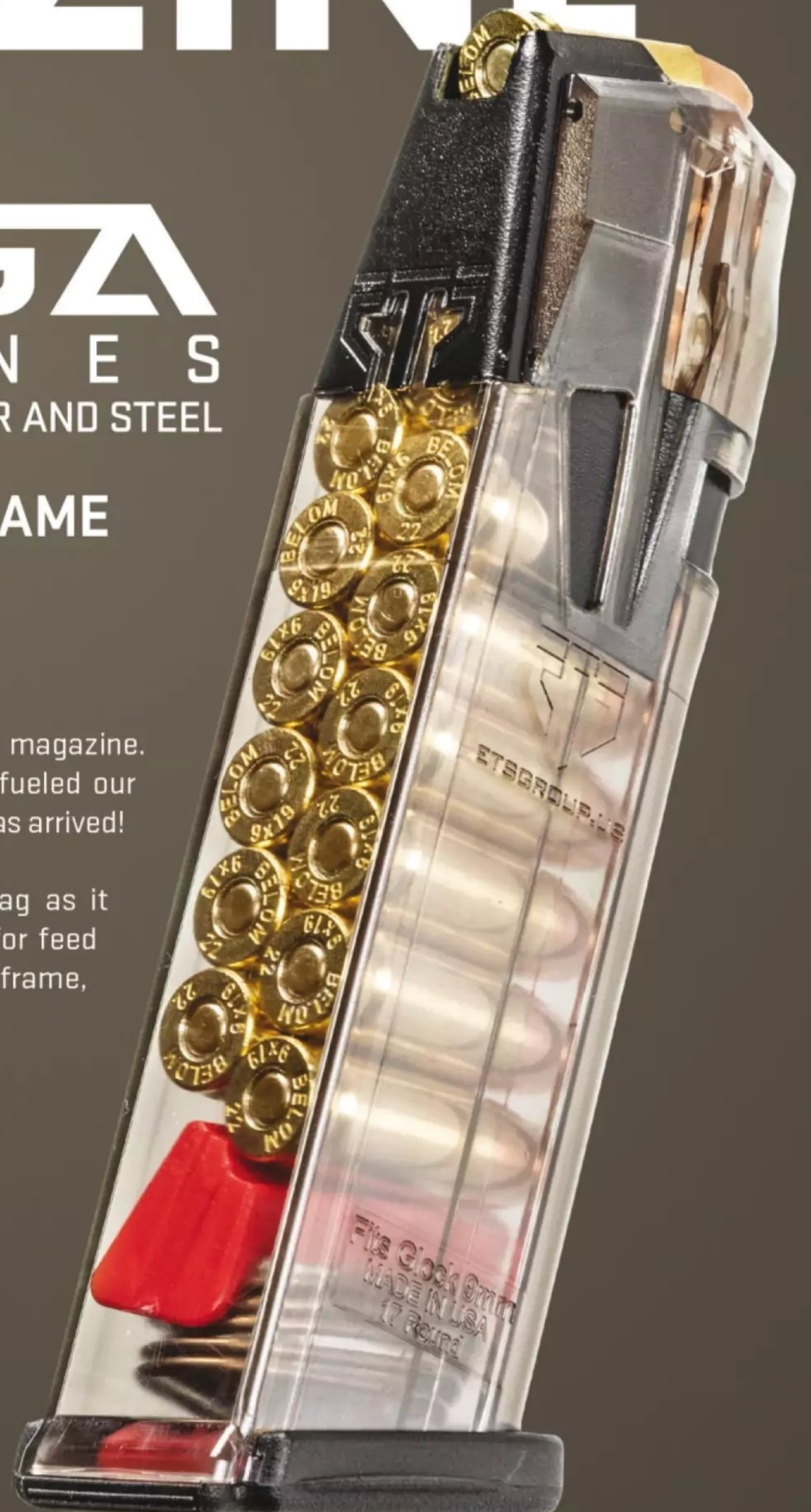
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If you want a semi-auto scattergun for use in tight spaces and easy to store, the Remington TAC-13 might be your best bet.

(Right) Magpul furniture on a Mossberg 590 breacher. While it is not a semi-auto, this is a reliable pump-action piece for defensive use.

and tapped, this can be easily accomplished by a gunsmith. Mesa Tactical's side-saddle type mounts can incorporate a mounting plate for an RMR-type sight, solving the issue of adding a red-dot to the shotgun.

While there may be some merit to having a shotgun look benign in case you find yourself in front of a jury defending yourself after you just defended your home and family, a good shoot is a good shoot. There are accessories out there, from integrated forend lights to M-Lok compatible mounting solutions, to equip your shotgun to make it easier to shoot.

DOWNSIDERS OF SHOTGUNS

The shotgun does have some disadvantages. Recoil can be downright brutal in a 12-gauge for new or small-stature shooters. For a long-gun, you're limited on effective range and, in some cases, can do better with an accurate pistol. However, many semi-automatic shotguns tend to absorb about 20 to 30 percent of the felt recoil as this is used in order to cycle the action. In short: Semi-autos generally produce less felt recoil than pump-action shotguns in the same gauge.

For the recoil sensitive, a 20-gauge may make a good compromise since there are plenty of options that suit the requirements of a defensive and hunting arm. You can have less recoil without giving up too much payload, as compared to its 12-gauge big brother.

Going away from these two calibers is not recommended. Sixteen-gauge, for example, lies between these two shells on the power scale, yet because it's semi-obsolete (albeit making a comeback with masses), the most commonly found rounds are loads intended for birds and small game. Going smaller to 28-gauge is pretty much the same in that regard.

There are a number of options in .410, including models virtually identical to ARs and AKs. There are buckshot loads that hold approximately three pellets, slugs and different



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The Beretta 1301 decked out by Mesa Tactical with an AR style stock, scope mount, shell carrier and magazine extension.



special-purpose loads from Hornady and other manufacturers. However, this ammunition can be hard to come by at times, isn't necessarily cheap and may require a significant amount of testing to ensure it's accurate and reliable to fill a defensive role.

Some of these shotguns can be sensitive to certain ammunition types, but for the most part, the modern semi-automatic shotgun is as reliable as a manually operated pump. Be wary of those that feed from a detachable magazine—it's often the weakest link in this system, as mentioned earlier in this article. At the same time, shells with a low-brass hull or lower-powered, reduced-recoil loads may cause functioning issues in semi-autos. Test your gun and ammo combo, and beware of any potential reliability issues ... and then eliminate the problem.

Another issue with home-defense shotguns is that they can be a bit long to maneuver within the confines of the home and are hampered by a barrel length of 18 inches and an overall length of 26 inches at the minimum.

A relatively recent class of firearm that can handle shotgun shells are the Shock-wave or TAC-14 firearms from Mossberg and Remington, respectively. They're based on the old witness-protection style of firearms used by the U.S. Marshal Service before short-barreled ARs came into their own. They're difficult to shoot well at first but are better than so-called "riot guns" that come with a vertical pistol grip and no stock. These firearms are capable of firing shotgun shells and ship with a 14-inch barrel and cannot be equipped with a buttstock without filing a BATFE Form 1 and paying the associated \$200

tax. The semi-automatic version from Remington is the TAC-13.

TRIED AND TRUE

The semi-auto shotgun may be the most enigmatic firearm out there.

Many shooters love them, but they catch a lot of flak for their perceived limitations. However, when it comes to home defense, the right shotgun can be ideal to protect your home ... and your family within. **GDTM**



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SCHRÖDINGER'S BULLET



The paradox of firing defensive bullets within the confines of your home.

Home defense is one of those areas that's filled with paradoxes and degrees of misunderstanding. Many times, we're concerned simply with the end result of stopping a threat, but what's often disregarded is the behavior of bullets inside a closed structure.

I've had the opportunity to perform detailed testing on materials over the years, and through this, I've come to a better understanding of just what bullets do when presented to common home construction materials. My opinions here are the result of what I learned—and some of it may surprise you.

COMMON MYTHS

Before we get into this topic in detail, I do want to go about dispelling some myths that surround bullets on impact. In general, we aren't going so far as to talk about what you see in Hollywood, where bullets are largely harmless to main characters and typically just pepper the ground at their feet. What mass media has accomplished isn't necessarily spreading false information

as much as creating a set of perceived capabilities that, in many cases, just don't exist.

The main myth you should understand is that, due to the magic of movies, common materials are perceived to be much stronger than they actually are. Bullet impact on material is almost always simply for visual effect to show that someone is shooting. The old tropes of simply flipping over the bar table or standing behind a car door works well for cinematic purposes but, in reality, virtually any common cartridge—from .22 LR on up—can pass through a wood surface only an inch or so thick. Likewise, the ability to pass through a car door is common to most bullets at medium distance, so long as it doesn't strike glass first.

The Hollywood version of things, by overexposure, has convinced the mass populace to see bullets as simply stopping in whatever they strike first, including bodies used as human shields ... and all sorts of minor objects like doors and books. While it's true that there have been freak cases where this sort of thing happens, what you need to understand is that these are exactly

that: freak cases. Yes, there are several books that, if lined up in a row, will stop a given projectile, but carrying a notebook in your shirt pocket and expecting it to stop a bullet is nonsense.

Likewise, bullet design comes heavily into play when the whole "human shield" thing is used. A standard 9mm FMJ round can easily pass through two individuals if bone is avoided, and even then, it still has a high likelihood of making it through the second body as well. In hunting scenarios, I can expect a 270-grain .45-cal Keith bullet from a 5.5-inch revolver to pass completely through a deer at an angle, sometimes meaning more than 24 inches of penetration through all bone and tissue.

In the home, anything you're typically surrounded by should be treated only as concealment, not cover. That is, unless you have a brick or block interior as is common in many single-level homes from the 1950s era. As detailed below, most modern home materials are ineffective at stopping most bullets—the average wall made of wood framing and drywall is utterly unable to stop a projectile, and even rimfire



Remington Golden Saber is a tough bullet design that does well in shorter barrels. It's a great choice for the streets and offers good expansion without creating too many issues in home materials. It will expand and lose energy rapidly against material barriers, making it marginally better than others if it does succeed in exiting a wall.

Lead bullets are great for defense and penetration, but in the home they may be too much. Softcast bullets will splatter and lose their energy quickly, but hardcast may drive through like it's got someplace to be.

rounds can defeat a common wall or door with ease.

The notion that you need “armor-piercing” rounds to go through materials is, again, simply a myth. Ceramics and heavy steel are the only real common materials that bullets have a hard time dealing with. Most construction materials are light and only marginally durable, just like most auto bodies are made of much thinner and lighter materials than they used to be a few decades ago.

A standard .45 ACP, 230-grain FMJ bullet will easily pass through an interior wall made of standard construction at an impact velocity as low as 500 fps, a speed that it reaches at the extreme distance of 500 yards ... yes, you read that correctly. Basic walls are simply just a couple sheets of drywall, maybe some insulation.

Again, interior walls provide concealment, not cover, and yes, it's fully possible to fire a shot into a wall and have it enter the adjacent room with enough speed to kill—and it likely



Common .45 ACP bullets fired into different media. Just because it is a “flying ashtray” doesn't mean that it will always open.



The .45 ACP is a common enough cartridge. It's available in a number of bullet types, some more ideal for the street, and others for the home.

would be able to enter another room past that as well—though with less energy. Your home isn't designed to stop bullets of any kind: You must remember that if loved ones are in other rooms.

BULLETS AND THE HOME

The main thing you should be aware of when looking at bullets for home defense is how they behave in your individual setting. I'm not saying you need to make replicas of your walls and floors to test this with, but it helps to at least be aware of what's around and in your home should you need to defend yourself. Bullets don't want to stay in the home, flat out. If you fire in the direction of an exterior wall with a normal JHP bullet in a common caliber, there's a strong chance it'll exit the home.

Windows will not catch bullets either, but they can slow them down and deform them enough to where velocity is robbed, but not depleted entirely. The main takeaway here is that you should be looking at the home as porous, but for bullets to be effective they need to be able to cause enough physical harm to an attacker that they're effective. This is and always has been a paradox, but things are getting very interesting today via new manufacturing techniques and materials.

We live in an era of new bullet materials available on a wide scale. For instance, solid and expanding monometal bullets are starting to become

common for self-defense use, and these are typically high-velocity-for-caliber in handguns, many well into supersonic range, such as the Black Hills HoneyBadger line of products. Barnes also makes some excellent bullets that fit these criteria, as well as Lehigh Defense.

Of note is that most of these bullets, if solid in construction, are designed

with tissue displacement in mind: radial flanges act to cause damage by means of rotation, instead of expansion, meaning that they aren't reliant on a mechanical expansion to deliver lethal energy into tissue. This also means that they are much more barrier-blind, easily able to deliver lethal expansion into tissue after passing through common interior walls. However, these are light bullets for their bore diameters: In .45 ACP, the projectile weight is just 135 grains, and most are base-heavy in weight distribution.

These projectiles are terrifically effective striking tissue head-on; however, they lose their effectiveness significantly if they tumble, which they do quite often. In my testing, I was able to determine that most projectiles of this design are destabilized and lose lots of energy striking a drywall surface at between 10 and 15 degrees. If you were to shoot down a hallway, there's



The .308 Win. is great at defeating most barriers, including inside the home. The 7.62x39mm, 5.56/.223, and 300 Blackout, even as mid-sized rifle cartridges, are somewhat limited in how they can be deployed safely, if at all. Rifle cartridges are able to penetrate obstacles as a rule, and shortening their barrels for maneuverability won't dramatically reduce how powerful they are as compared to handgun rounds.

a strong likelihood that your bullets would become trapped in the wall and fail to exit once they turn over their rotational axis. Ceramic surfaces are, in fact, easily defeated by this bullet type, unlike traditional lead-core designs that lose most of their energy striking tile or backslash materials.

RIFLE BULLETS VS. HANDGUN BULLETS

Of interest is the disparity in how rifle projectiles fired indoors behave as compared to handguns. Rifle projectiles travel at significantly higher speeds, even from short barrels, and are easily destroyed or fragmented in many household objects and materials. Lower initial mass, usually 55 to 77 grains in 5.56mm and base-heavy designs, see bullets easily destabilized immediately upon striking a surface, and they're then crushed or smashed by their own materials. FMJ bullets routinely "squeeze" their soft cores out if they impact a surface in a yaw. I was skeptical for a while, but indeed many very soft varmint-style bullets in 5.56

(Top three bullets) Rifle bullets are hard to find in one piece after impacting an object. These bullets were fired through a variety of materials and, somehow, managed to stay in (mostly) one piece. Note how the cores of these projectiles are trying to squeeze out of their jackets.



(Right two bullets) The little .22 LR is lethal, and it offers high sectional density and great penetration. If you think you're safe behind a wood or plaster surface, think again.



The standard 230-grain FMJ in .45 ACP is quite good at punching through medium barriers but is easy to slow down at the same time.



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CALIBER WARS



The thing I've found ideal for a home-defense bullet in testing against common materials is that you want a lot of surface area and a soft material. You basically want that bullet to either open up and slow down or flatten and splatter. For this reason, I really don't like 9mm as opposed to .45 ACP. Not to start a caliber and gun discussion, but it is, in fact, easier to stop a soft, expanding 45-caliber bullet than it is a 9mm of the same design. This is basic stuff, to some, but people today get lost in the sauce with a blitz of new products and designs and often forget it's not the gun that does the work but the bullet.

My overall choice in a home-defense bullet from a materials point of view is a 185-grain .45 ACP at about 1,000 fps. This type of bullet weight, common to Hornady, BHA, Sig and many others in several forms including the excellent Critical Defense product line offers wide frontal surface area and a short meplat-to-base length, making it easily flattened or destabilized. Bear in mind that at a 90-degree angle, this caliber and weight will still easily pass through interior walls, but it does lose a good amount of energy on impact. Again, there's still risk involved, make no mistake.

In rifle calibers, well, the only logical answer is 5.56mm. As much as I love .308 Win. and .30-06, I'd be remiss to think it'd be a good answer to employ those rounds inside my home. Working with varmint bullets is what I would likely consider to be the best choice, and I've made this type of bullet fail to damage ballistic gel when fired against standard bathroom tile. The other varieties, like common greentip, can present a great danger in terms of not only over penetration, but also deflection thanks to a hardened core.

caliber are, in fact, "safe" to use in the home in that they're so soft and easily destabilized that they can essentially vaporize against surfaces.

In .223/5.56 testing, rounds like the Hornady VMax cause dramatic and instantaneous cavitation in gel about an inch from entry, and at close range, this bullet is destroyed by steel doors, heavy hardwood doors and sheet metal. However, it also has a bit of a struggle with deep penetration, as it isn't really meant for that sort of use.

As you climb the ladder of rifles, you really begin to take over-penetration

Solid alloy bullets are common today; however, they suffer many of the same problems as common bullets and have more to boot. Being overly hard is something lead bullets seldom deal with, but these types do.



risks. Larger rifle rounds are just that and can retain massive amounts of energy. The .308 Win, 7.62x39mm, .300 Blackout and really any of these rounds are able to not just penetrate simple interior walls, but also bust brick and blocks, too. Tougher hunting bullets can be very difficult to stop and present a danger to other people in the building and outside.

I'm not saying you shouldn't use what you have, but at least consider your home environment before you load up a bunch of 123-grain FMJs in your home-defense AK; these will probably be paying your neighbor a visit if in any apartment or condo residence. Commercial soft-point bullets offer a degree of reduced collateral damage, but don't count on it.

THE BULLET PARADOX

An interesting point of discussion is how to make a bullet stop in a wall and a bad guy while doing little damage to

the former and lots to the latter. The simple answer is that there's no such bullet that currently exists because there's no school of thought that has the correct answer.

We see this in the hunting world often: Is a bullet that stops under the skin on the opposite side a better bullet than one that passes completely through? The former camp believes that the bullet will dump all of its energy into the animal, but in doing so how does one predict at what range and what angle is ideal to deliver said energy? Likewise, if a bullet exits, then it has "wasted" its potential energy delivery to keep flying into the sunset. Well, both camps want something impossible to achieve, as you'll notice is the pattern here.

You can't have it all; Schrödinger's bullet is one that delivers all energy without gambling on penetration; you simply can't have both and stay within the laws of physics. Either you never

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Bullets fail for a number of reasons. Namely, they are designed for certain circumstances ... but seldom encounter these ideal conditions in real-world use. Some definitely perform better than others, but there isn't a do-all bullet that exists for everything.

“How can you pick the best bullet to kill an attacker in your daughter's room, knowing your son's room is directly behind hers?”

exit and deliver all energy or exit and have superlative performance beyond your target. We're asking an impossible question of a small piece of metal here—keep me and my loved ones at no risk while being of the highest risk to an attacker. At a point, there's an unacceptable medium in which your bullet will have to be at least somewhat dangerous to your loved ones to be mostly dangerous to your attacker. That's where muzzle control comes into play.

How can you pick the best bullet to kill an attacker in your daughter's room, knowing your son's room is directly behind hers? See, it certainly makes the call much tougher because now we're not just talking about abstractions like drywall and impact angle.

The hardest part to swallow about this is that there's no such thing as a perfect bullet for home defense. What you're looking at is risk mitigation, not risk prevention. You're basically looking at a bullet that's easily slowed by common materials to a point of non-lethality, and, friends, I have yet

in all my time evaluating bullets and ammunition to find a bullet that I could make stop 100 percent of the time. Even under ideal circumstances, which a home invasion certainly is not, you can't say with certainty that a given bullet in an individual circumstance won't manage to go through three interior walls, or even four.

Weird things happen at high speed and, at a point, random chance becomes a major determining factor in everyone's safety. Experts and scientists hate to acknowledge God's hand and yet there it is, always present every time you pick up your gun. In the hunting world, many people swear by a type of bullet; others spit on it.

I think you can see where I'm going with this. Nothing man-made is ever going to give you the results you desire in every circumstance. So, in knowing that, you must then ask yourself just how much risk you want to assume to those things you care about most inside your home. I can't tell you that on these pages—that's between you and whoever you pray to. **GDTM**



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PRACTICE OR PANIC

Team tactic basics for couples
and families.





When most think of team tactics, they envision highly trained Delta Force operatives—or a SWAT team—breaching a door and conducting a dynamic entry. That's a good example of team tactics in action ... but few of us will ever participate in an activity like that.

However, that doesn't mean you shouldn't develop your team tactics. Well, unless you're a hermit who has no friends and has moved to the mountains to live alone and write a manifesto. Most normal humans have other humans they often hang with, whether they're their good friend, a spouse or children.

I've had some team tactics training. As a soldier, and back in my badge-wearing days, it was part of the curriculum. I've also attended a team tactics course at Gunsite Academy that focused on civilian teams, like a husband and a wife. Recently, I also did some work helping Benghazi survivor and master firearms instructor David "Boon" Benton, who was portrayed in the movie *13 Hours*, train our local SWAT team.

Regardless of the group or situation, there are two things that team operations—whether they involve a six- or



You'll learn tactical theory at a team tactics class, but most learning occurs during after action reviews following tactical simulations.



A good civilian team tactics course will address common situations like you might experience around vehicles and in parking lots.

A team tactics course isn't a shooting course. It's primarily a course to teach you and your partner how to work—stay alive—together.



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PRECISION OPTICS





Gun-handling skills should be learned before attending a team tactics course.

Don't go to team tactics course planning to learn how to shoot or to run your gun. You need to know that before you get there.

two-man team—have in common: A tactically proficient and successful team must have a plan, and they must have good communication.

DETERMINE YOUR TEAM

If you're a loner, you're your own team (and hopefully someday you'll find another human who finds you moderately tolerable). For the rest of us who are at least semi-normal, we'll have a good friend and/or a significant other with whom we're commonly around. This is your team, and it might also include children.

Each team member should also have a job. These jobs could be as simple as following your mother, calling 911 or holding on to the hands of your siblings. A job for a team member could be as simple as being armed and making sure an emergency first aid kit is present and accessible, and all team members should be responsible for not forgetting to have their cell phone with them.

This doesn't have to be complicated. In fact, it's best when kept simple and generic, and don't put excessive responsibility on the backs of untrained or juvenile team members. However, every team member should know what the job of the other team members are. At a minimum, this tells them who to look to for guidance, and if capable, others know



what each team member is responsible for and then they can assume that role if necessary.

In fact, establishing a team chain of command is important. If you're identified as the team leader, but your wife and kids are out without you, generally your wife would assume that role. This means one of the kids—if capable and of a responsible age—can assume the duties of your wife. This goes a long way toward answering the question, “Dad's not here. What now?”

HAVE A PLAN

It's impossible to develop a comprehensive plan for every situation that might develop. However, you can institute operating guidelines for common tasks that might occur. These are established tactical responses, predetermined to deal with things that have a high probability of happening.

Dealing with doors is a perfect example.

During one team tactics course, my partner and I were presented with various reality-based scenarios we had to react to.

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This was during force-on-force exercises where all the participants were armed with handguns that fired Simunitions. During the prior day while under the guidance of an instructor, my partner and I were given an opportunity to establish some operating guidelines: make a plan.

One of our plans was how we'd deal with opening closed doors that led into the unknown. Just before the Simunition training began, I told my partner we should deal with every door just as we had decided during the previous day. This worked well and eliminated unnecessary communication and possible confusion. When we approached a closed door that we had to go through, each of us knew—without a word—what we were supposed to do.

This same concept can apply to a lot of situations.

Let's say you want to establish a plan to tactically exit a location by vehicle. In this instance, you could identify the person who will drive, where each team member shall sit and how to access the vehicle depending on the direction of approach and even the direction of the potential threat.

Sure, when the time comes to implement the plan there may be extenuating circumstances—the pre-identified driver might be injured—but you can plan for that as well: If team member A is injured, then team member C will drive.



(Above) What do you do if your partner gets hurt? You should have a plan for that.

Team tactics should be developed with your partner and include the weapon systems you'll be using.



If you have children, it's very important to include them in these plans. It's also important to dry run the plan to make sure everyone is on the same page. If you have an infant, who is going to carry him or her? It could be your wife or an older sibling. If you're planning a response to a home invasion or burglar, the kids need to know what to do when the alarm sounds.

You should also always have at least one contingency; if you cannot do plan A, execute plan B. Similarly, you should also have a rendezvous point established outside the home, and you should also do the same for commonly trafficked locations such as malls or shopping centers.

COMMUNICATION

More than anything else, communication is the most important aspect of team tactics.

Let's say, for example, you and your wife are engaged in a gunfight and you either need to reload, have a stoppage or maybe you dropped your gun. Your wife needs to know about this while it's happening; she needs to know why you aren't shooting or why you're hiding behind the car. And she needs to be made aware of this without having to watch you or look to see what you're doing.

Screaming, "I'm reloading!" or "I've

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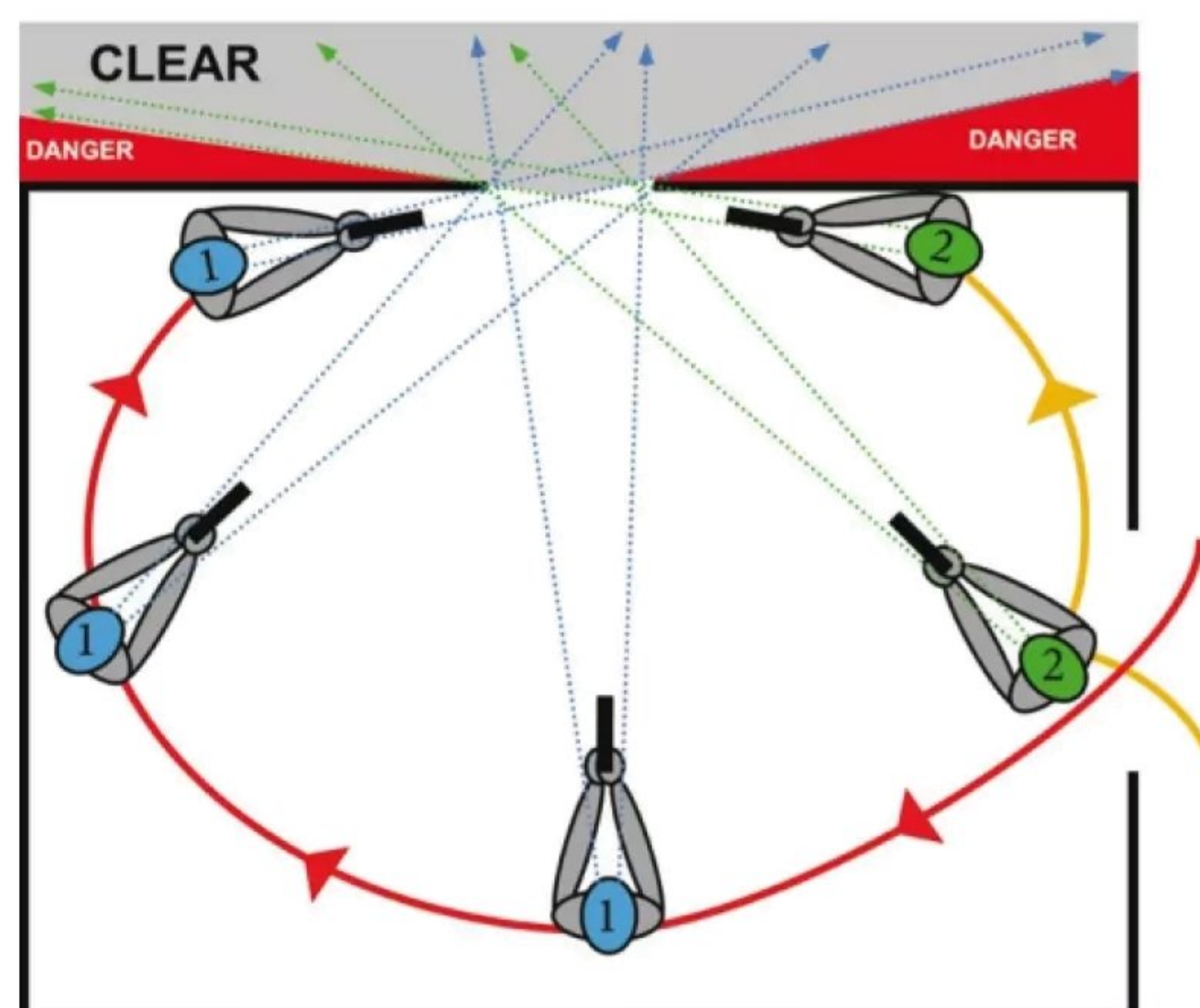
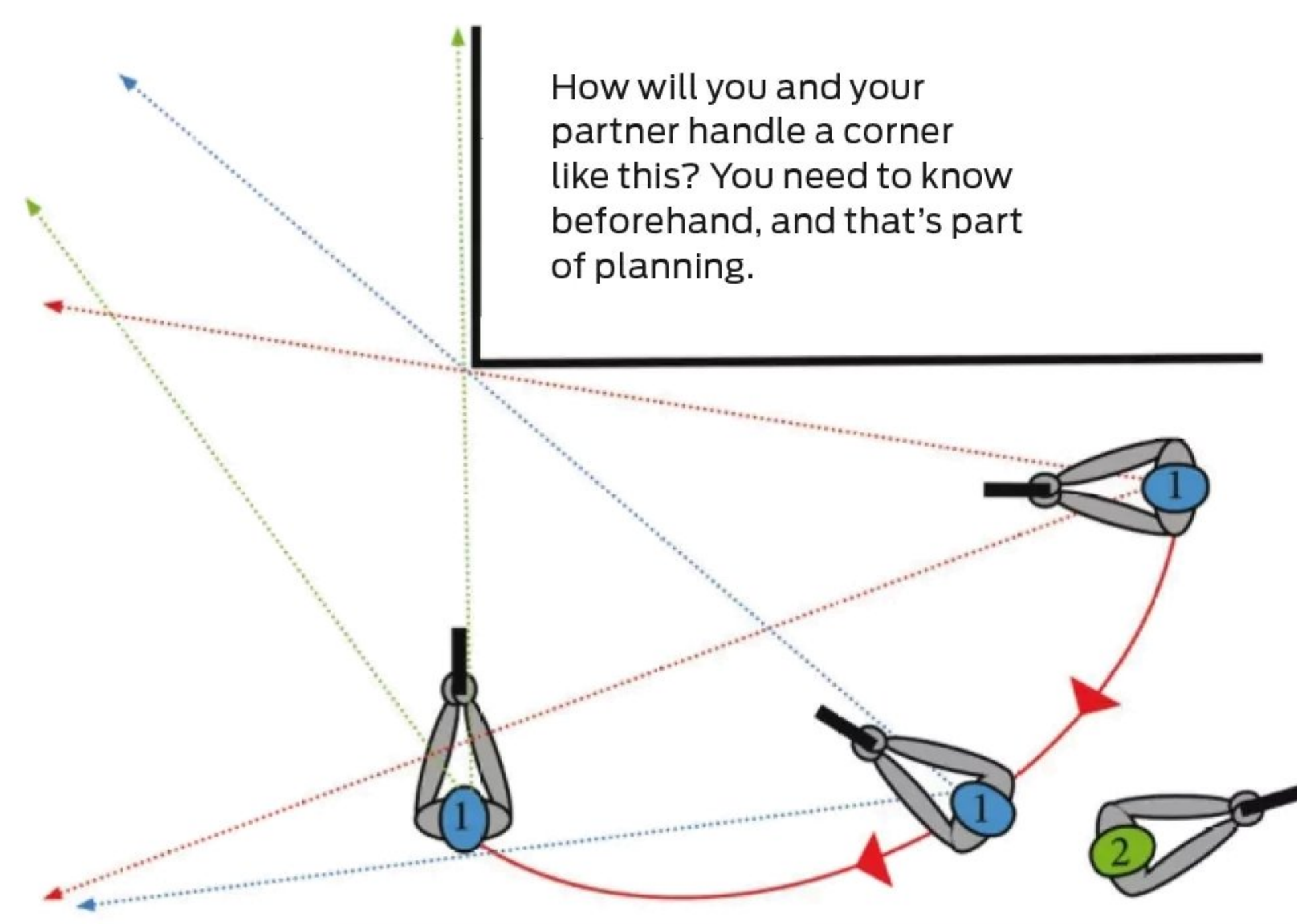
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lost my gun!” takes too many words and might not be a good idea. Establish simple and direct communications for potential issues ahead of time. You could simply yell out, “Working!” and your wife would know you’re temporarily unavailable. To let her know the problem has been solved, your communication could be as simple as “Up!”

Talking while shooting or while responding to a lethal encounter doesn’t come naturally. It’s something that needs to be practiced. Also, if you’re in a face-to-face encounter with a potential threat, having an action word that’ll key your partner in on an action you’re about to take is a good idea—kind of the opposite of a “safe” word, if you know what I mean. But in some situations, your communication can and should be non-verbal.

You should have hand signals that help convey actions or actives like to cover or watch, to move or maybe even run. Similarly, you should be able to convey the direction you want to move or the location of a potential threat. Think these communications through, keep them as simple as possible and limit them to the obvious. This isn’t a time to establish a new and comprehensive sign language; you simply want to be able to convey highly probable observations or instructions without words, as clearly and quickly as possible.

GO TO SCHOOL

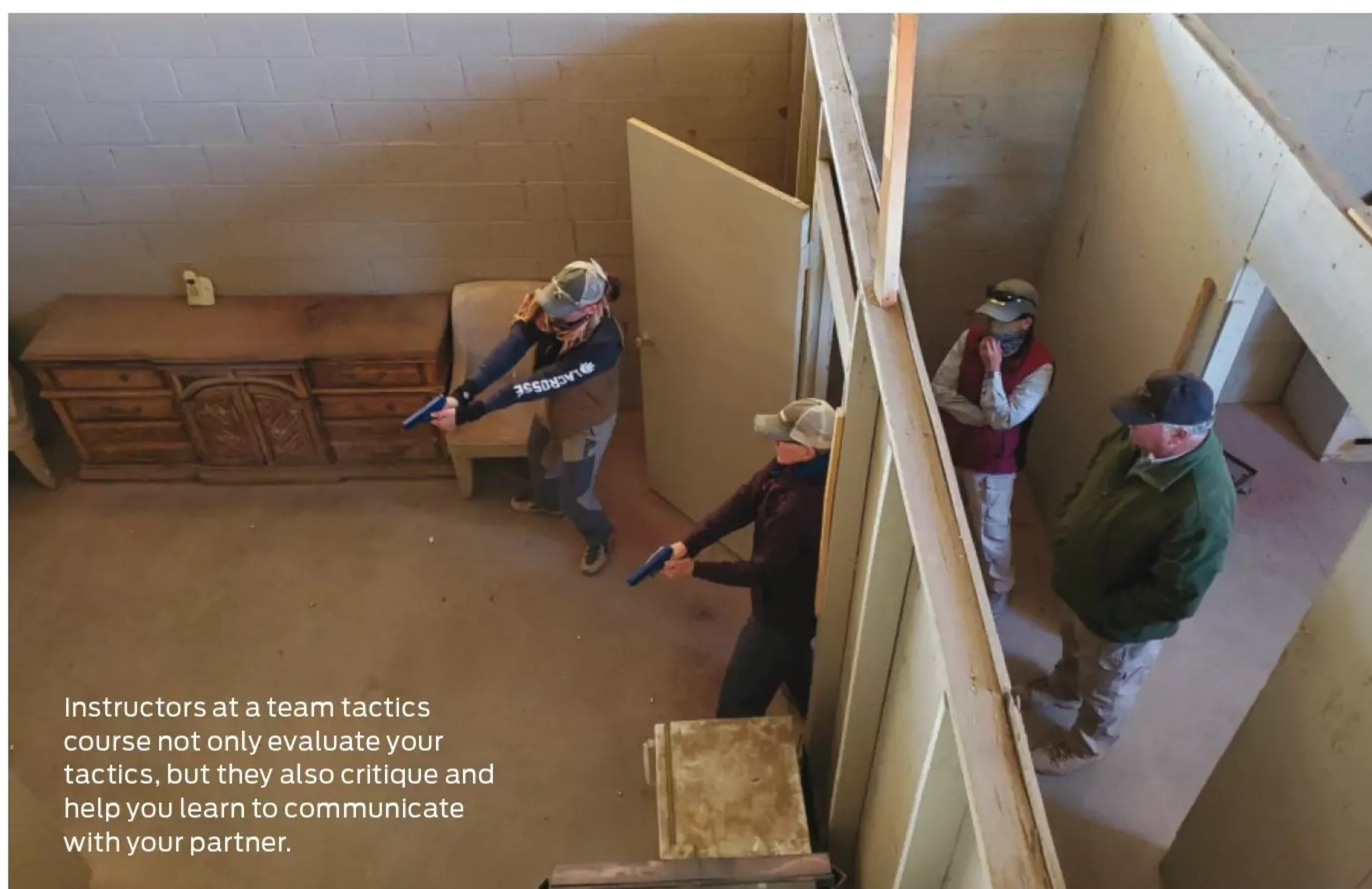
The best way (of course) to learn team tactics is to take a class from a reputable school. But keep in mind that most team tactics courses aren’t shooting courses: Don’t expect to attend a team tactics

class to learn how to shoot. In fact, many schools offering team tactics training have a training prerequisite so that they know you can shoot and handle a firearm safely before they’ll let you in the class. Yeah, you’ll do some shooting in a team tactics class, but you won’t learn to shoot in a team tactics class.

This might seem overly stringent, but it makes perfect sense. It takes about five, 8-hour days of training to go from a non-shooter to someone who is safe and reasonably competent with a defensive handgun. A basic team tactics course should be, at a minimum, 2 to 3 days long ... and ideally 5 days. To learn to shoot and to learn team tactics could consume 2 weeks, and most of us can’t take 2 weeks off from life to do that. It’s just like with any other firearm’s discipline—you learn to shoot and then you learn the tactics. **GDTM**

FIRE DRILL

At the most basic level, a team response to a potentially lethal situation is a fire drill. Surely you can remember back when you were in school and practiced fire drills. There was a plan, you knew who—which student—you followed, everyone knew who—the teacher—was in charge, and you also knew where you were supposed to go. Those are the same goals you want to establish as the underlying foundation for team tactics, so that when the sh*t hits the fan, the ensuing reaction isn’t panic.



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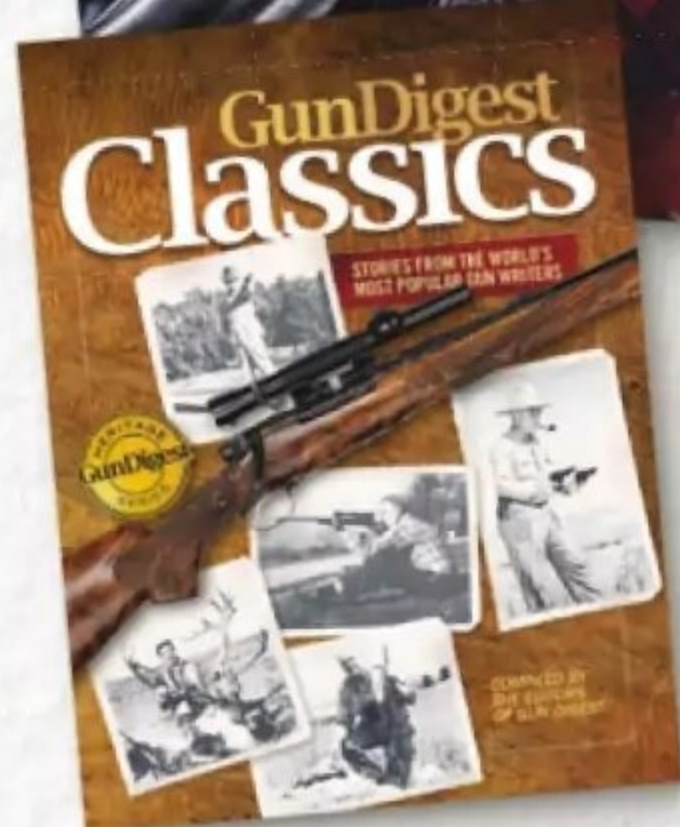
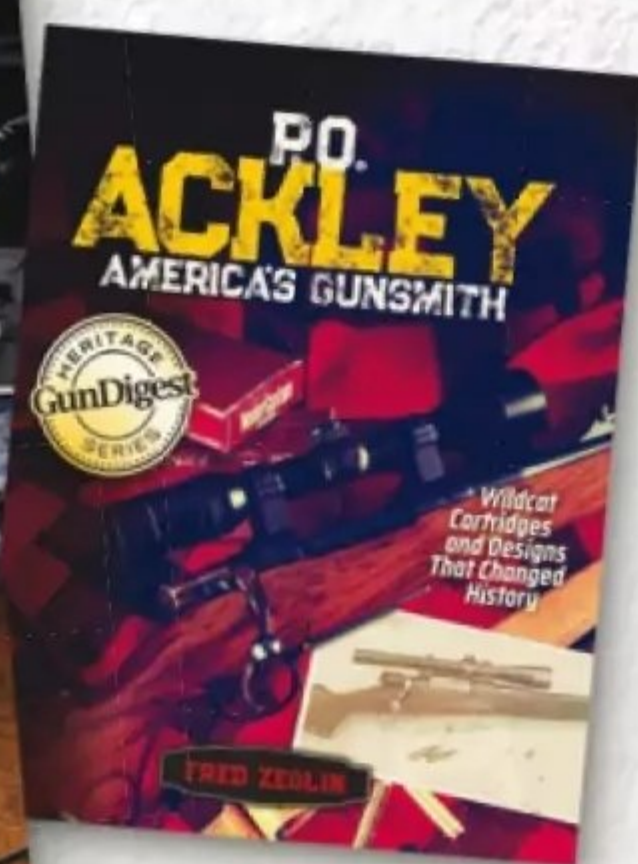
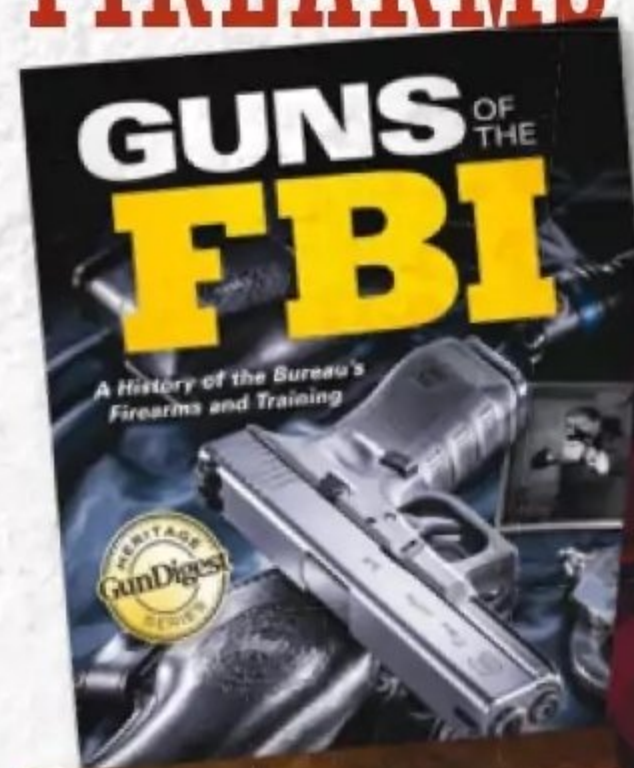
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Wide Cocking Serrations



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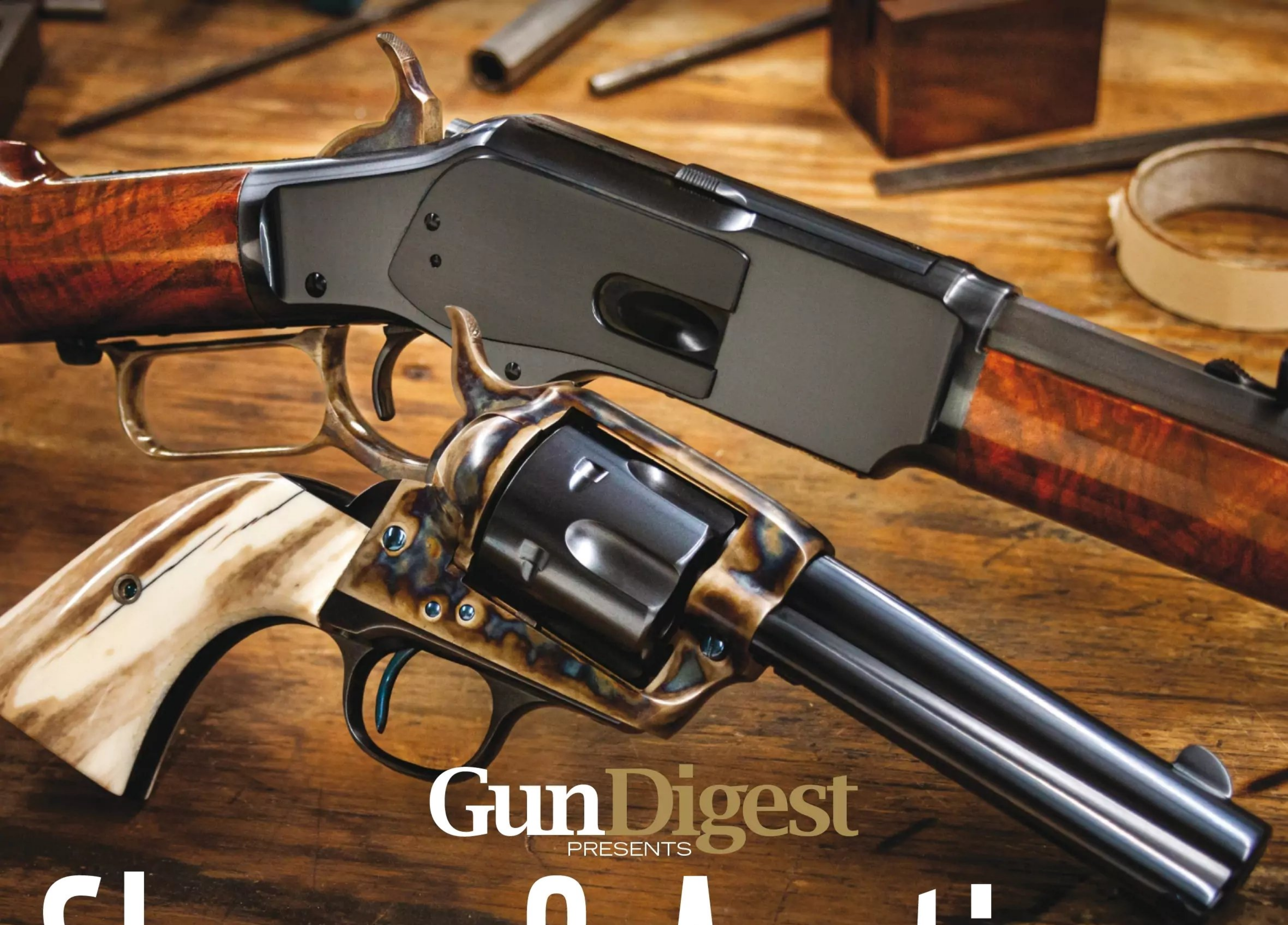


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Show . Porter County Exp-Center,
215 East Division Road.

NEVADA

Apr 12-14 NV, Sparks. Big Reno Show .
Nugget Resort Casino, 1100 Nugget
Ave.

NORTH DAKOTA

Sep 6-7 ND, West Fargo. Red River
Range Gun Show. Red River Re-
gional Marksmanship Center, 640
16th St NE.

TENNESSEE

Apr 6-7 TN, Crossville. Cumberland
County Gun and Knife Show.
Cumberland County Community
Complex, 1398 Livingston Road.

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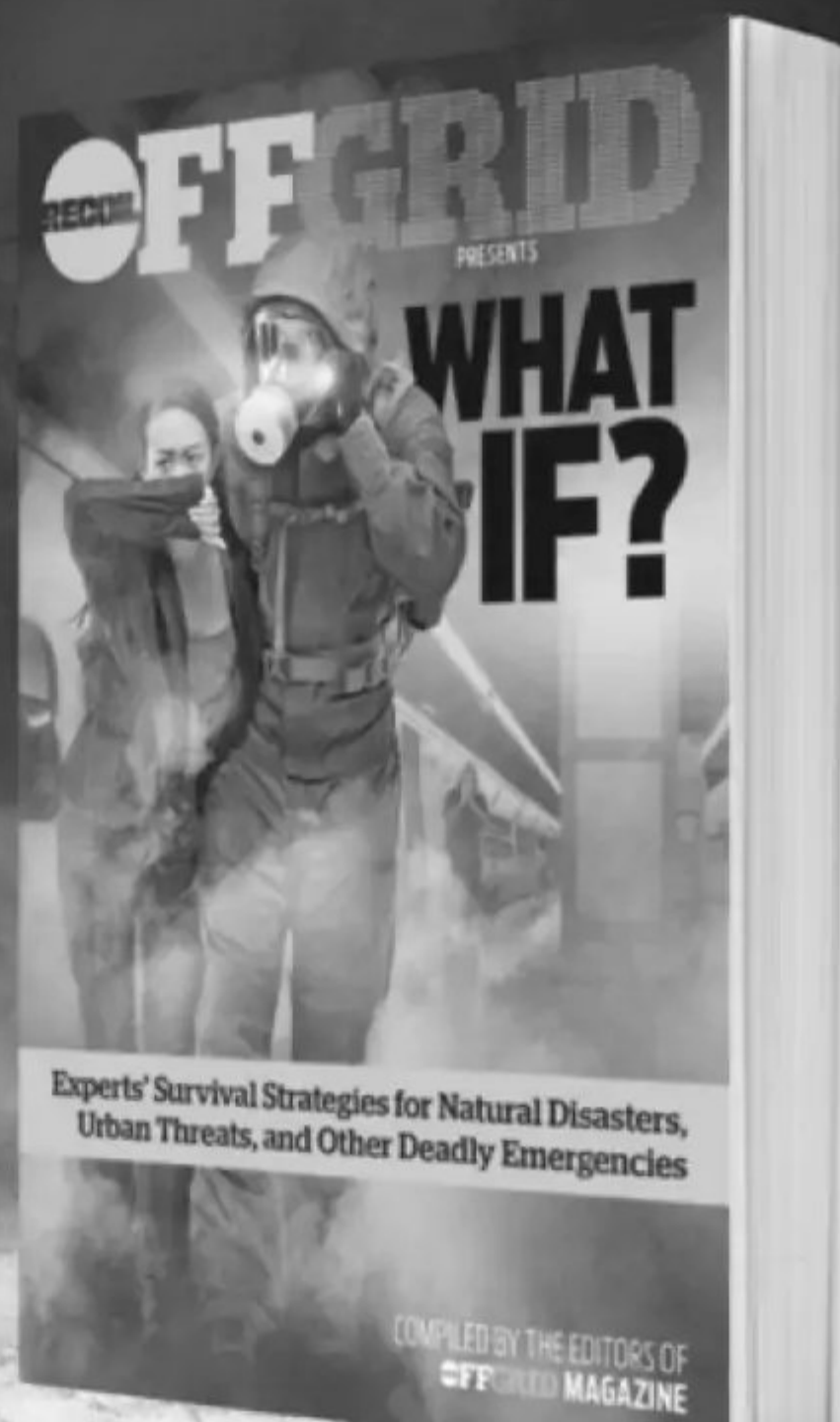
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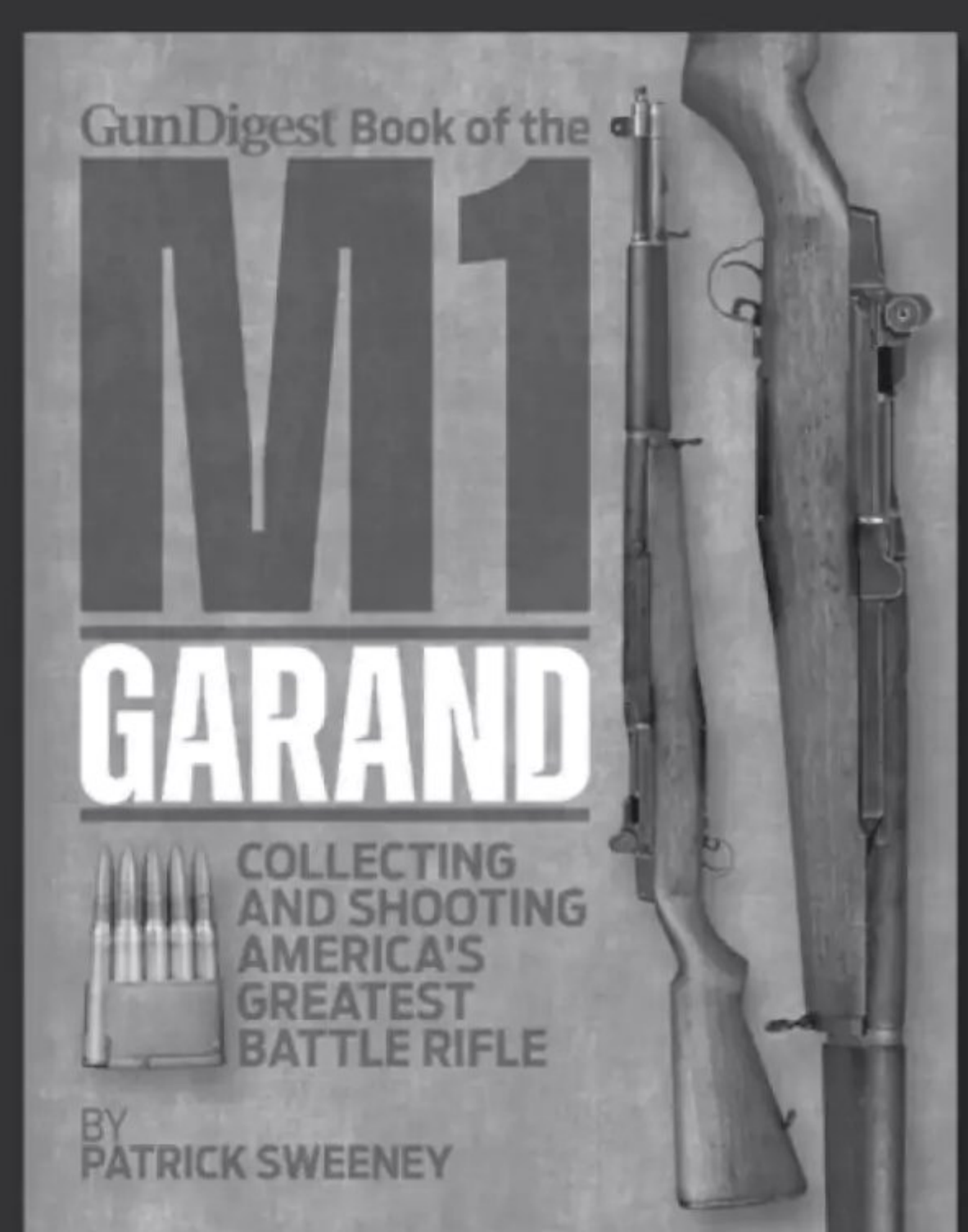
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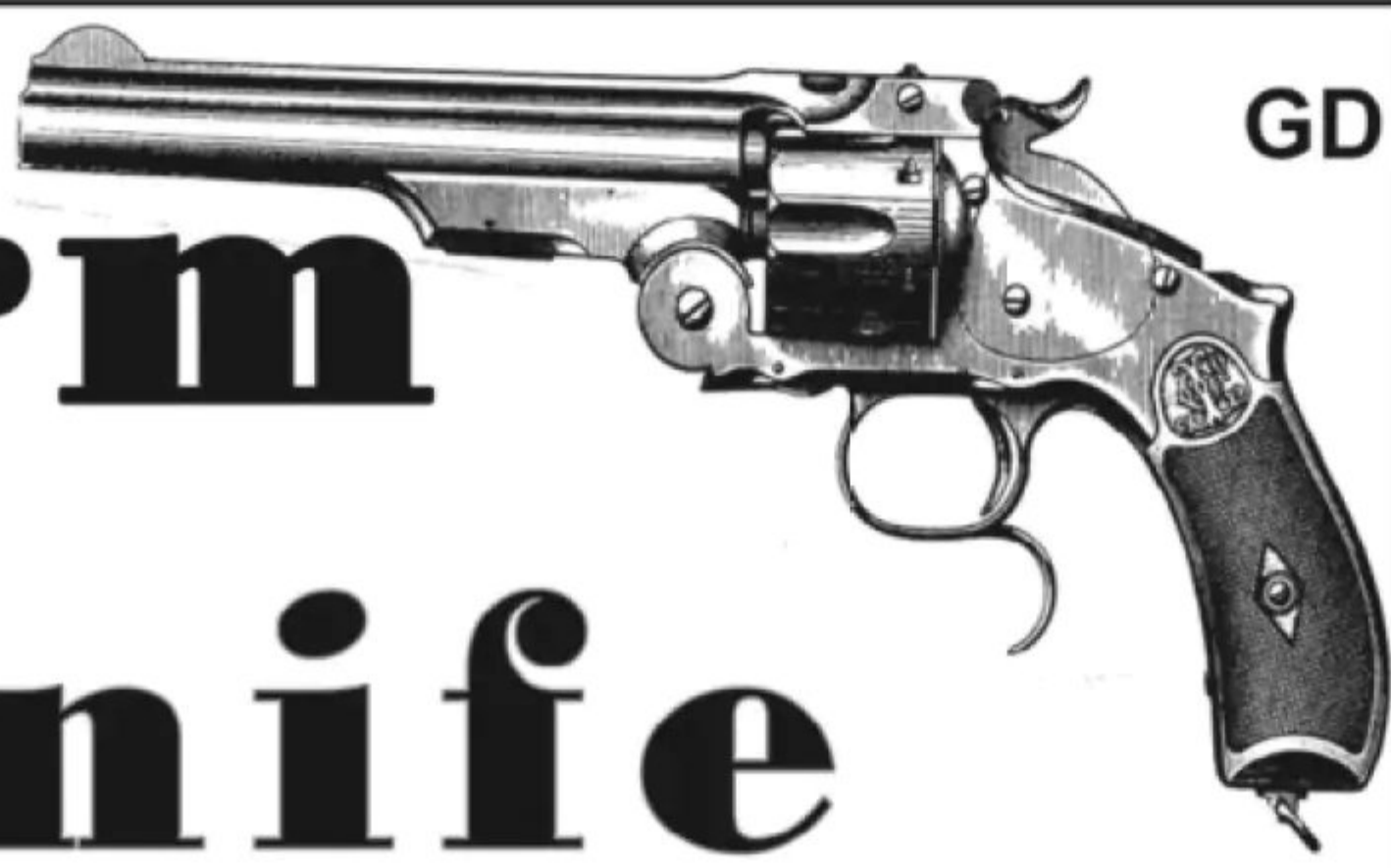
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Jul 20 TN, Knoxville. Knoxville TN:

Smoky Mountain Gun Collectors Association Gun Show. Kerbela Shrine Temple, 315 Mimosa Ave. SH: Sat. 9am-5pm. A: \$10.00 each day. T: 120. F: \$50.00. Smoky Mountain Gun Collectors Association, Inc. . P.O.Box 9251, Knoxville, TN 37940. PH: 865-333-4970. www.smokymountain-guncollectorsassociation.org.

Jul 21 TN, Knoxville. Knoxville TN:

Smoky Mountain Gun Collectors Association Gun Show. Kerbela Shrine Temple, 315 Mimosa Ave. SH: Sun. 9am-5pm. A: \$10.00 each day. T: 120. F: \$50.00. Smoky Mountain Gun Collectors Association, Inc. . P.O.Box 9251, Knoxville, TN 37940. PH: 865-333-4970. www.smokymountain-guncollectorsassociation.org.

AUGUST

Aug 3-4 TN, Crossville. Cumberland County Gun and Knife Show.

Cumberland County Community Complex, 1398 Livingston Road. SH: Sat. 9am-5pm, Sun. 9am-3pm. A: Saturday Admission is just \$5.00, youth under 16 Free. Sunday Admission is Free to all attendees.. T: 200. F: \$40 for 6' table with multi table discounts. Cumberland County. 1398 Livingdston Road, Crossville, TN 38571. PH: 931-484-5028. www.gkshow.org.

SEPTEMBER

Sep 6-7 ND, West Fargo. Red River

Range Gun Show. Red River Regional Marksmanship Center, 640 16th St NE. SH: Fri. 4pm-8pm, Sat. 8am-4pm. A: \$5.00 per day; 12 years and older. 11 and under free with adult. T: 98. F: \$38. Red River Regional Marksmanship Center. 640 16th St NE, West Fargo, ND 58078. PH: 701-356-0677. rrrmc.com.

SHOW LISTING BY DATE

APRIL

Apr 6-7 TN, Crossville. Cumberland County Gun and Knife Show. Cumberland County Community Complex, 1398 Livingston Road. SH: Sat. 9am-5pm, Sun. 9am-3pm. A: Saturday Admission is just \$5.00, youth under 16 Free. Sunday Admission is Free to all attendees.. T: 200. F: \$40 for 6' table with multi table discounts. Cumberland County.

1398 Livingdston Road, Crossville, TN 38571. PH: 931-484-5028. www.gkshow.org.

Apr 12-14 NV, Sparks. Big Reno Show . Nugget Resort Casino, 1100 Nugget Ave. SH: Fri. 9am-5pm, Sat. 9am-5pm, Sun. 9am-3pm. A: \$15 one day. \$24 all three days. \$90 early in with exhibitor set up . T: 700. F: \$165 booths \$435. 1344 Disc Dr suite 800, Sparks, NV 89436. PH: 775-828-2350. Bigrenoshow.com.

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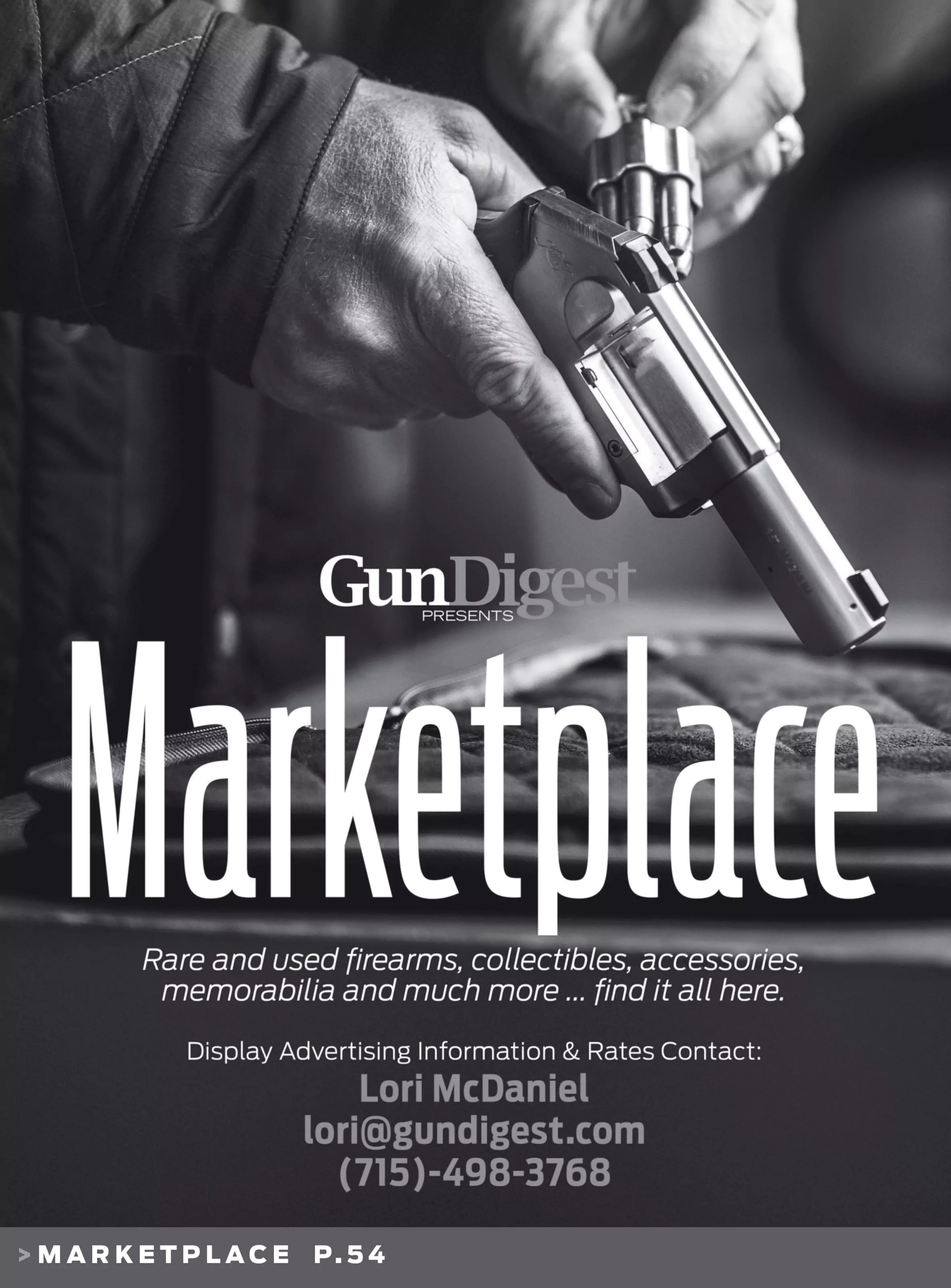
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PISTOLS AND REVOLVERS

1-D Argentine Hafdasa .45 ACP "Ballester-Molina" Auto Pistol 5" barrel with good lightly pitted bore, barrel serialized to pistol, front blade sight and drift adjustable rear, 98% armory re-parkerized finish, importer mark on right side, minty serrated hardwood grips, all matching numbers, comes with one 8 round magazine (C&R)\$765

2-D Browning .22 LR "Nomad" Auto Pistol 4 1/2" barrel with mint bore, fixed front sight and fully adjustable target style rear sight, 98% original blue, black plastic grips with "Browning" logo embossed, comes with one original magazine, excellent function, manufactured in Belgium 1968 (C&R)\$595

3-D Charter Arms .38 Special "Off Duty" Double Action Revolver 2" barrel with mint bore, serrated ramp with red bead insert front sight, square notch rear sight, stainless steel finish, smooth Walnut grips with Charter Arms medallion, comes with original black cardboard box with correct matching side label, manufactured 1993\$325

4-D Colt .22 LR Frontier Scout Single Action Revolver 4 3/4" barrel with excellent bore, fixed sights, 97% original blue on barrel and cylinder, frame, triggerguard and backstrap are all bright aluminum, hammer shows light frosting on sides, black checkered plastic grips with rampant Colt, excellent function, manufactured 1958 (C&R)\$650

5-D Colt .22 LR Frontier Scout Single Action Revolver 4 3/4" barrel with mint bore, fixed sights, nickel finish shows light handling marks, smooth wood grips with no medallions, excellent function, comes with wood hard case with Colt logo on top lid, inside has red velvet lining both top and bottom with rampant Colt in gold color on the top interior lid, shows some soiling on bottom material, also included is a coin showing Samuel Colt and "125th Anniversary", manufactured 1961 (C&R)\$665

6-D Colt 32/20 "Police Positive Special" 1st Issue Double Action Revolver 6" barrel with good lightly pitted bore, 90% original thinning blue with graying on backstrap and at muzzle, blue to gray along high edges, fixed sights, original checkered Walnut grips appear to be new old stock, grips have Colt medallions, overall excellent function, manufactured 1916 (C&R)\$655

7-D Colt .38 ACP "Diamondback" Revolver 4" full lug, vent raised rib barrel with bright excellent bore, 97% original blue with some thinning at muzzle, light high edge wear along 6 fluted cylinder, serrated front ramp sight and adjustable "Accro pattern" rear sight, serrated wide spur hammer still showing nice original blue on top with high polished sides, grooved trigger with 98% original blue, crisp rampant colt on left side of frame, checkered two piece Walnut factory grips with gold medallions with some scratches on butt, tight lockup, excellent function, manufactured 1968 (C&R)\$1850

8-D Colt .38 Special "Officers Model Match" 5th Issue Double Action Revolver 6" barrel with mint bore, front pinned blade sight with original "Accro" fully adjustable target style rear sight, 98% original blue showing light thinning at muzzle and light high edge wear along cylinder, checkered wide spur target hammer, grooved trigger, checkered target Walnut grips with gold color Colt medallions, manufactured 1968, excellent timing and tight lockup, super trigger pull, the last of the good officers models (C&R)\$1000

9-D Colt .22 LR "Huntsman Model" Clip Feed Auto Pistol 4 1/2" barrel with bright excellent bore, front blade, adjustable rear sight, 95%+ original blue showing some blue to gray tone thinning along slide and triggerguard, checkered Walnut grips, left grip shows some staining/dark coloring, comes with one original magazine and a wood grain two piece Colt box not serialized to revolver, inside box is cleaning rod with manual and paperwork, manufactured 1960 (C&R)\$465

10-D Colt .22 LR "Huntsman Sport Model" Auto Pistol 4 1/2" barrel with mint bore, fixed sights, 98%+ original blue, excellent original checkered Walnut grips, one original magazine, excellent function, manufactured 1972 (C&R)\$865

11-D Colt .22 LR "Woodsmen Target Model" 2nd Series Auto Pistol 6" barrel with bright excellent bore, pinned front serrated ramp sight and adjustable ColtMaster rear sight, 98% original blue finish with very light wear on right side of muzzle, very light pin prick pitting on left side of slide along with the slide toning to a plum color, checkered factory "Coltwood" reddish brown grips with grip adapter, left grip has thumb rest and right grip has rampant colt monogram, comes with an original hinged brown leatherette covered box that is correctly end labeled to the pistol but the penciled serial number has long since worn off, box shows signs of repair and is missing some leatherette covering the hinged portion of box, one corner of box is missing a 2" section, box is rated good to very good, manufactured 1949 (C&R)\$925

12-D Colt .22 LR "3rd Series Woodman" Target Auto Pistol 6" barrel with mint bore, 99% original blue, pinned patridge front sight with adjustable Colt Accro rear sight, mint checkered Walnut grips, comes with one original 10 round magazine, original two piece wood grain box with correct matching end label numbered to pistol with correct grease pencil on bottom of box, inside box is manual, this collector quality pistol was manufactured 1974 (C&R)\$985

13-D Colt .22 LR "3rd Series Woodman Sport" Auto Pistol 4 1/2" barrel with bright excellent bore, 98% original blue with light wear on front and back straps, very light thinning at muzzle, serrated pinned front sight, Accro adjustable rear sight, checkered Walnut grips, comes with one factory 10 round magazine and a generic white cardboard box with printed labels depicting pistol on both top and side of box, manufactured 1974 (C&R)\$785

14-D Colt .22 LR "Woodsmen Match Target" 2nd Series Auto Pistol 6" heavy barrel with bright excellent bore, 98% original blue with light high edge wear at muzzle and back strap, pinned front patridge sight, ColtMaster adjustable rear sight, brown "Coltwood" grips with thumbrest on left side and rampant colt monogram on right side, comes with one original magazine, comes with white generic cardboard box, manufactured 1952 (C&R)\$1100

15-D Danish 9mm Model M/1882 "Enlisted Men of the Cavalry" Revolver 4 1/2" half octagon half round barrel with good bore, fixed sights, barrel, cylinder rod, hammer, trigger and loading lever latch all in the white with frosting, peppery pin prick pitting, frame is 80% blue with pin pricking, Walnut smooth grips with lanyard loop in butt, functions in double action but hangs in single action, top of frame marked with a crown over "K-T" with 1882, manufactured 1880-1946 (C&R)\$200

16-D Fabrique Nationale, Herstal, Belgium .32 ACP "Model 1922" Auto Pistol 4 1/2" barrel serialized and Waffen marked with good barrel showing wear, fixed sights, 90% original blue with areas of re-blue along slide covering pin prick pitting, late war checkered Walnut wood grips, both frame and slide show typical Waffen marks, comes with one FN marked magazine, all matching, excellent function (C&R)\$600

17-D Fabrique Nationale 7.65mm/.32 ACP "Model 1922" WW-II German Seized Single Action Auto Pistol 4 3/8" barrel with good bore, non original nickel finish, showing chipping and wear, fixed sights, missing rear safety/slide latch, frame shows Waffenant "WaA 613" first issued 1940-1941 on triggerguard along with "WaA 140", backlite "F.N." marked grips with lanyard loop cutout on grips, no lanyard loop on pistol, comes with one magazine\$245

18-D Forehand Arms Co. .32 S&W Top Break Revolver 3 1/4" barrel with good lightly pitted bore, fixed sights, 97% nickel finish with some flaking on barrel, fluted cylinder and frame, blued triggerguard, hard rubber grips with "FW" logo, excellent function, manufactured 1890-1902 (C&R)\$285

19-D Glock .40 S&W Gen. 2 "Model 23" Auto Pistol 4" barrel with mint bore, standard Glock white dot square outline rear sights, parkerized slide and black polymer frame with no thumbrest, finger grooves, subtle pebble texture finish on side panels, checkered front and backstrap, comes with one high cap 13 round pre ban "U" notch magazine and original black hard case missing its lid, comes with paperwork, 2 cleaning brushes, plastic swab and brush and an Allen wrench, excellent function, manufactured 1988\$500

20-D Harrington & Richardson .22 LR First Model Small Frame Third Variation Top Break Double Action Revolver 6" ribbed barrel with excellent bore showing light pitting, 98%+ original blue with spots of very light pin prick pitting on cylinder, fixed sights, black checkered plastic grips numbered to revolver, excellent function, manufactured 1897-1903 (C&R)\$650

21-D Harrington & Richardson .22 LR "Model 199" 2nd Variation Target Top Break Single Action Revolver 6" ovoid barrel with bright excellent bore, adjustable sighs, 98% original blue, light pin prick pitting on hammer and trigger, one piece oversized checkered Walnut grips, front strap shows blue to gray, excellent function, manufactured 1956 (C&R)\$640

22-D Harrington & Richardson .22 LR "Model 650" Double Action Revolver 5 1/2" barrel with mint bore, 98%+ original nickel finish, fixed sights, pull pin cylinder release, smooth wraparound one piece Walnut grip, excellent function, manufactured in Gardner, MA from 1975-1986\$375

23-D Harrington & Richardson .22 LR "Model 766" 7th Series Top Break Revolver 6" ribbed barrel with fair pitted bore, fixed sights, nickel finish that flaking and shows scattered pitting, missing grips, hand is worn and auto ejecting not functioning, makes great parts revolver or a good fixer upper, manufactured 1925-1940 (C&R)\$75

24-D Harrington & Richardson .38 S&W Top Break Auto Ejecting Revolver 3 1/4" ribbed barrel with fair pitted bore, fixed sights, 90% original blue with small spots of reapplied blue to frame, light peppery pin prick pitting on frame, black plastic checkered grips with "H&R" target logo, excellent function (C&R)\$195

25-D High Standard .22 LR "Model GB" Clip Feed Auto Pistol 6 3/4" barrel with bright excellent bore and lever style takedown, fixed sights, 95% thinning blue, scattered pin prick pitting along top of slide, frame shows high edge wear, front sight is in the white, front of barrel at muzzle also shows pin prick pitting, original brown checkered plastic grips with "HS" logo, bottom latch magazine release, comes with one original two tone magazine, manufactured in New Haven, Connecticut., manufactured 1949-1950, excellent function (C&R)\$465

26-D High Standard .22 LR "The Victor" Target Clip Feed Auto Pistol 5 1/2" slab side barrel with mint bore with grooved vented aluminum rib that has adjustable rear, front blade integral sights, 98% original blue finish, gold color trigger and slide release button, checkered Walnut with thumb rest on left side, comes with one magazine, excellent function, manufactured 1973-1974\$915

27-D High Standard / Mitchell .22 LR "Victor II" Target Clip Feed Auto Pistol 5 1/2" barrel with mint bore, top of barrel has alloy vent rib with attached front sight and adjustable rear sight, bottom of barrel drilled and taped for barrel weights, polished stainless steel finish with gold color trigger, slide release and magazine release, front and back strap are stippled, Walnut checkered grips, comes with one magazine with red base plate marked "Mitchell Arms", comes with original box numbered to pistol, manufactured 1993-2000\$585

28-D High Standard / Mitchell .22 LR "Victor II" Target Clip Feed Auto Pistol 5 1/2" barrel with mint bore, front patridge sight with adjustable bridge mounted rear sight, polished and matte stainless steel finishes, gold color trigger, slide release and magazine release, comes with one 10 round magazine marked "Mitchell Arms", checkered Walnut grips, stippled front and backstrap, comes with original matching box with end label, excellent function, manufactured 1993-2000\$585

CONTINUED ➡

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29-D Hopkins & Allen .32 S&W Top Break Revolver 3 1/4" barrel with good bore, no finishing left to frame, mother of pearl grips, **non functioning parts revolver**, manufactured 1974 (C&R) \$75

30-D Iver Johnson .32 Long Auto Ejector Hammer Top Break Revolver 3" ribbed barrel with poor pitted bore, fixed sights, nickel finish that is flaking, pitted, blued triggerguard, checkered hard rubber owl grips, serial number on triggerguard, patent date on butt, hard time cycling cylinder, manufactured 1909 (C&R) \$125

31-D Japanese Military / Koishikawa 9mm / 9x22mmR "Type 26" Top Break Double Action Revolver 4 3/4" barrel with good light pitted bore, fixed sights, 75% scattered arsenal blue to gray with scattered pin prick pitting, serrated hardwood grips, all serialized numbers are matching, pistol grip cap with lanyard loop, excellent function (C&R) \$805

32-D Llama .22 LR "Model XV Especial" Clip Feed Auto Pistol 3" barrel with mint bore, front blade with adjustable rear sight, 98% original blue, mint brown plastic checkered grips, comes with one 10 round magazine, original two piece red and black cardboard box, inside is original brush, cleaning rod and screwdriver still in red, Llama plastic case, Llama plastic bag and an instruction manual, box is serialized to pistol, manufactured 1974 (C&R) \$65

33-D Magnum Research 10mm "Model MR1911G10" Auto Pistol 5" stainless barrel with excellent bore, black frame and slide, fiber optic dovetail sights, silver trigger and extended beaver tail blue/black G10 grips, stainless knife with green/black 1911 G10 grips and Kydex sheath, comes with original box with (2) factory 8 round magazines \$875

34-D Menz .25 ACP "Model 1927 / Lilliput" Clip Feed Auto Pistol 2" barrel with excellent bore, fixed sights, 95%+ original thinning blue to gray with light scattered pin prick pitting and high edge wear, checkered Walnut grips that appear to have been refurbished, comes with one 7 round two tone magazine, excellent function, made in 1927 (C&R) \$365

35-D Orbea Hermanos .32 S&W Short Safety Hammerless Top Break Revolver 3 1/2" barrel with excellent bore, 90% original blue with some pin prick pitting, fixed sights, functioning backstrap safety, original checkered plastic grips, Spanish copy of S&W safety hammerless, manufactured 1926 (C&R) \$225

36-D Palmetto 9mm "Dagger Compact" Auto Pistol 4 3/8" threaded barrel with excellent bore, Sylvan Arms clamp on compensator, O.D. slide with minimal high edge wear near muzzle, factory milled slide with co witnessed holosun sight, black textured grip, frame with front rail with stream light TLR-7A, comes with one Glock 14 round magazine, 1 Pmag 17 round magazine \$650

37-D Ruger .22 LR "Model SP101" Double Action Revolver 4 1/8" barrel with mint bore, stainless steel finish showing some light scratches and handling marks, front green optic sight with adjustable rear sight, one piece checkered laminate wood and rubber grip, comes with original gray plastic hard case with test fired round, Ruger padlock and owner's manual, excellent function, manufactured 2014 \$650

38-D Ruger .22 LR "Standard Model" Clip Feed Auto Pistol 6" tapered barrel with excellent bore, 98% original blue, fixed sights, chrome plated trigger and magazine base, black plastic checkered grips with Ruger red/black logo on left side, comes with one magazine base, manufactured 1951 (C&R) \$795

39-D Ruger .22 LR "Standard Model MK I" Auto Pistol 6" tapered barrel with mint bore, fixed sights, 98% original blue, black plastic checkered grips with medallion in left grip, one factory magazine with nickel plated base, comes with original red/black two piece cardboard box that has damage to top lid and corners taped together, inside is wax paper and original instruction manual, manufactured 1964 (C&R) \$525

40-D Ruger .22 LR "Standard Model MK I" Auto Pistol 4 3/4" tapered barrel with excellent bore, 98% original blue with some areas of light pin point prick pitting, fixed sights, Ruger fully checkered wood grips with silver Ruger medallion on right panel, factory 10 round magazine, manufactured 1974 (C&R) \$235

41-D Ruger 9mm "Model LC9" Auto Pistol 3" barrel with good bore, black slide showing Kydex carry wear on both sides, factory 3 dot sights, comes with (1) factory 7 round magazine and (1) extended 10 round magazine \$200

42-D Sig Sauer 9mm "Model P365" Auto Pistol 3.1" barrel with mint bore, 98% black Nitron finish, Xray3 night sights, comes with (3) 10 round magazines \$625

43-D Sig Sauer 10mm "Model P320 XTEN" Auto Pistol 5.1" barrel with excellent bore, black Nitron optic ready slide with factory X-Ray 3 sights, comes with original box with (7) factory 15 round magazines \$855

44-D Smith & Wesson .22 LR "Model 18-3" K-22 Combat Masterpiece 3 Screw Double Action Revolver 4" ribbed pinned barrel with mint bore, Baughman quick draw front sight, adjustable micrometer rear sight, 98% original blue showing light muzzle thinning and light drag line, 97%+ case colors on serrated trigger and narrow checkered hammer, 10 groove front and back strap, checkered Walnut square butt magna grips with gold color S&W medallions, grips are not numbered to gun, manufactured 1969, excellent function, comes with two piece S&W Springfield cardboard reinforced corner box, box not serialized to revolver but is period correct \$985

45-D Smith & Wesson .22 LR "Model 22/32 Kit Gun" (Pre Model 34) Hand Ejector 4 Screw Double Action Revolver 4" pinned barrel with mint bore, 98% original blue finish with only light thinning at muzzle, light dragline along cylinder, Baughman serrated front sight with very small silvering at tip of sight, adjustable rear sight, service trigger and semi target checkered hammer still show bold case colors, checkered magna Walnut grips with diamond around escutcheon screw and silver colored S&W medallions, comes with red two piece reinforced corner box with cleaning rod and sight tool/screwdriver, box is grease pencil serialized number to different revolver, excellent function, collector quality, very low serial number, manufactured 1953/1954 (C&R) \$1200

46-D Smith & Wesson .38 Special Military and Police Airweight "Pre Model 12" 5 Screw Revolver 2" solid rib, pinned barrel with bright excellent bore, serrated front ramp with square notch, fixed rear sight, 90% blue steel barrel and alloy frame and cylinder showing high edge wear, alloy cylinder shows no signs of cracking, shows high edge wear and dragline, numbered to revolver, 80% case color shows on hammer and trigger, early style flat latch, checkered magna style Walnut K frame round butt grips with diamond around escutcheon screw and gold color S&W medallions, grips are numbered to revolver, this 1953 early revolver functions properly but Smith & Wesson/Jim Supica and Richard Nah as advise early production with alloy cylinder worth premium but should not be fired (C&R) \$1200

47-D Smith & Wesson .38 Special "Model 15" K-38 4 Screw Combat Masterpiece Double Action Revolver 4" pinned barrel with mint bore, 98% original blue showing very light drag line and light pin prick pitting on triggerguard raised front sight, adjustable rear sight, 97% original case colors on semi target trigger, checkered magna Walnut grips with diamond and silver S&W medallion grips not numbered to revolver, excellent function, manufactured 1960 (C&R)\$765

48-D Smith & Wesson .38 Special "Model 36" "38 Chiefs Special" 3 Screw Revolver 2" solid rib pinned barrel with min bore, serrated front ramp sight, square notch fixed rear sight, 98% original blue and case colors on trigger and hammer, checkered magna grips with diamond around escutcheon screw and silver color S&W medallions, grips numbered to revolver, flared style flat latch thumb piece, excellent function, comes with two piece cardboard box with reinforced corner "Springfield, Mass" marked on top lid, top lid shows gray blue with bottom bring darker color, inside is wax paper and warrant card, box shows correct matching serial number end label, manufactured 1962-1969 (C&R)\$850

49-D Smith & Wesson .38 Special "Model 40" The Centennial 3 Screw Double Action Revolver 2" solid rib barrel with mint bore, 99% original blue, 98% case colors on serrated trigger, serrated ramp front sight with square notch fixed sights, smooth Walnut grips with gold color S&W medallions, grips numbered to revolver, the pin still remains under grip, used to lock backstrap safety, late style cylinder latch, excellent functions, comes with original two piece blue cardboard, reinforced corner Bangor Punta box with correct matching end label, top of top lid shows flaking in center and part of working Smith & Wesson" missing, inside box is tissue paper, S&W ammo paper, S&W model 40 instruction paper, S&W warranty service center card, brush and cleaning rod along with purchase paper dated 1977, manufactured 1971-1974 (C&R)\$795

50-D Smith & Wesson .357 Magnum "Model 649-5" Stainless 3 Screw Bodyguard Double Action Revolver 2 1/8" full lug barrel with mint bore, serrated front ramp sight with notch cut rear sight, smooth combat trigger with shrouded hammer, 5 shot fluted cylinder, stainless steel surfaces show buffing marks, black rubber uncle Mike boot grip, excellent function, manufactured 2006\$595

51-D Smith & Wesson .45 ACP .455 Mark II 2nd Model Hand Ejector WW-I Canadian Contract Revolver 6 1/2" barrel with bright excellent bore, professional re-blue finish with original 98% case colors on service hammer and trigger, fixed sights, checkered Walnut service grips with large S&W gold color medallions, lanyard loop in butt, original .455 but like many others this one has been converted to .45 ACP, comes with factory letter stating this revolver was shipped June 17,1916 and delivered to Canadian government, Ottawa, Canada, excellent function (C&R) \$1100

52-D Smith & Wesson .22 LR "Model 41" Target Auto Pistol 5 1/2" barrel with bright excellent bore, 97% original blue, very light cleaning scratches, patridge undercut front sight, adjustable rear sight, wrap around checkered Walnut grips, top of slide has been drilled and tapped for scope base, comes with one S&W magazine with metal follower, excellent function for this 1982 target pistol \$1100

53-D Smith & Wesson 9mm "Model 469" Auto Pistol 3.5" barrel with good bore, blued slide, dovetail rear sight, fixed front sight, 98% overall finish, factory smooth textured plastic grips, comes with one 14 round magazine, manufactured 1986\$325

54-D Walther/Interarms .22 LR "Model PP" Clip Feed Auto Pistol 3 3/4" barrel with a mint bore, 99% original blue, fixed sights, de-cocker/safety, black polymer checkered grips with left side thumb rest, comes with original black polymer hard case, two factory magazines, one with polymer finger rest base plate, instruction manual, and test fire target sheet, excellent function, MFG 1978\$1150

CENTERFIRE RIFLES

55-D Enfield .303 British "SMLE MK III" Bolt Rifle 25" barrel with fair pitted bore, 70% arsenal blue finish toned to gray, original sights, magazine floor plate missing along with follower and spring, two piece Walnut stock and handguard, brass buttplate with mustard yellow patina, functions properly (C&R)\$550

56-D Finnish / SK.Y 7.62x53R Mosin Nagant (Trooper) "Model 28" Bolt Rifle 27 1/2" barrel with good light pitted bore, 90% arsenal blue with light pin prick pitting, protected front blade sight, tangent rear graduated to 3200 meters, receiver ring marked "SY" over "AZF" left side shows "SA" in a square, bolt in the white and matching serialized number to rifle, hardwood straight grip stock with reinforced original sling, front barrel band with bayonet lug, top handguard wood shows even wear to stock, steel buttplate, excellent function, cleaning rod is present, manufactured 1928-1932 (C&R)\$825

57-D German Mauser 30/06 "Model 98 Sporterized" Bolt Rifle 24" tapered barrel with excellent bright bore, sights removed and has a receiver mounted Lyman "All American" 6x "perma center" scope, scope has duplex reticule, clean clear optics, 80% blue with high edge wear and areas of pin prick pitting, bolt handle and safety modified for scope, original hardwood pistol grip stock modified to sporter style, stock shows wood patch where the sling and firing pin takedown tool once was, steel cupped buttplate, added sling swivels and leather sling, all matching numbers except for bolt\$525

58-D Italian 7.35mm "Model 1938 / Finnish Capture" Short Bolt Rifle 21" barrel with a good but pitted bore, 70% original arsenal blue with areas of thinning and light peppery pin pricking, scattered light case colors still remain on bolt, original fixed sights, front barrel band screw missing and bayonet mount missing, smooth straight grip stock and handguard wood both show added semi gloss applied finish, dings and dents also visible, marked with an "SA" inside a box along with Terni proof and dated "1939", cleaning rod in butt, excellent function, manufactured 1939 (C&R)\$485

59-D Japanese 7.7mm "Type 99" Arisaka 24 Series Bolt Rifle 25 1/2" barrel with good bore, inverted "V" guarded front post, rear adjustable folding tangent sight graduated to 1500 meters, royal chrysanthemum has been ground off, no dust cover, peppery pin prick pitting throughout, two piece buttstock full length handguard, no cleaning rod, steel cupped buttplate, no aircraft wings on sight, Kokura Arsenal (C&R)\$365

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60-D Mannlicher Schöenauer .308 "Model 1956 MC" Bolt Carbine 20" barrel with bright excellent bore, 95% original blue showing light scratches, light high edge wear, very light peppery pin prick pitting on floorplate, raised front brass blade sight, express rear sight, receiver has scope base mounted and left side of receiver drilled and tapped not plugged, for Griffin and Howe scope base, full length checkered pistol grip stock with high cheek piece, black rubber butt pad, white line spacer with black grip cap, single trigger, spoon bolt handle, sling swivels, excellent function, toe line on stock shows repair crack, manufactured 1956-1961 \$1100

61-D Mossberg 30/06 "Trophy Hunter" Bolt Rifle 22" matte black barrel and receiver with excellent bore, internal 4 round magazine, very nice satin birch checkered stock, 98% overall, unbranded 3-9x40 scope\$475

62-D Remington .35 Remington "Model 8" Auto Rifle 22" barrel with good, pitted bore, original open sights, 97% original blue with light scattered pin prick pitting on receiver, receiver has been drilled, tapped and plugged where a scope mount once was, smooth Walnut straight grip stock and splinter style forend, crescent "Rem UMC" hard rubber buttplate, sling swivel has been added to barrel and along toe line, 5 round non detachable magazine, bolt, safety and magazine side spring on right side has been jeweled and is in the white, excellent function, manufactured 1906-1936 (C&R)\$825

63-D Remington 7.62 NATO Model 70-X Bench Rest Target Bolt Rifle 27 ¼" heavy target barrel with mint bore, 98% original blue, front sight black and rear aperture block only (no sights), barrel and receiver drilled and tapped, smooth Walnut pistol grip target stock with straight comb and no cheekpiece, front swivel black and forend guide rail, no rear sling swivel, black rubber buttpad, excellent smooth action \$1100

64-D Russian Izhevsk 7.62x54R "Model 91/30" Finnish Capture Mosin Nagant Bolt Rifle 32" barrel with fair pitted bore, barrel marked with early Izhesk cartouche marked "1915", Finnish "SA" in a square marked on left side, original sights, bolt numbered to rifle, artic birch straight grip stock with early 3 rivet handguard, steel buttplate and magazine floorplate shows no serial numbers, small crack behind receiver at wrist, excellent function, manufactured 1915 (C&R)\$685

65-D Simsons 9mm Flobert Single Shot Bolt Rifle 23" barrel with fair pitted bore, blue to brown patina with pin prick pitting, original sight, receiver drilled and tapped, one hole plugged, solid screw no screw head, checkered Walnut round knob pistol grip stock with piece broken off at rear top behind bolt, steel buttplate, cocks on closing, excellent function (C&R) \$125

66-D U.S. Eddystone 30/06 "Model M1917" Bolt Rifle 26" barrel dated "3/18" with fair pitted bore, 95%+ arsenal blue finish showing scattered pin prick pitting along with high edge wear, barrel band and bayonet lug show a blue to gray tone along with steel buttplate, receiver shows flaming bomb, both bolt and Mauser action both show correct Eddystone "E" markings, protected front post, adjustable rear flip up peep sight, smooth Walnut straight grip stock with finger groove forend and matching handguard, stock shows dings and dents, handguard shows small 1/2" crack on right side, rear sight on left side shows silvering (C&R) \$1100

67-D U.S. Government / Springfield 30/06 "M-1 Garand" Rock Island Overhaul Auto Rifle 24" "5/47" marked barrel with "SA" marking with excellent bore, protected front post sight, adjustable post was T105E1 rear sight, arsenal parkerized finish showing gray on finish showing gray on action and hardware, Walnut pistol grip stock shows clean cartouche of "RIA" over "EB" in a square, Rock Island Arsenal overhaul supervised by Elmer Bjerkel, trigger group and bolt both marked "SA", bottom of pistol grip shows "E" and small cross cannon cartouche, steel buttplate with no cleaning kit, sling swivels and stacking swivel are correct, excellent function, manufactured 1947 (C&R)\$1875

68-D U.S. Savage / Enfield .303 British "No. 4 MK I" Clip Feed Bolt Rifle 25" barrel with bright excellent bore, 95% arsenal blue finish shows thinning along high edges, scattered light peppery pin prick pitting, protected front post sight, tangent folding peep sight that is graduated to 1300 meters, smooth Walnut straight grip stock and handguard, comes with one magazine not numbered to rifle, excellent function (C&R) \$785

69-D Zastava 8mm Mauser "Model M48" Barreled Action 24" barrel with mint bore, hooded front sight, tangent rear sight, all matching, bolt, floorplate, 98% arsenal blue, bolt is in the white. excellent function\$425

RIMFIRE RIFLES

70-D Henry .22 S, L, & LR "Model H001" Lever Rifle 18 1/4" barrel with excellent bore, 98% original blue on barrel and magazine tube, 15 round tube fed, black receiver has a 1" scratch on right side with a few small marks on left side, hooded front sight, slide ramp rear sight, satin Walnut stock with minor safe dings, comes with manual\$325

71-D Ithaca .22 LR "Model 5X Lightning" Clip Feed Grooved Receiver Auto Rifle 22" barrel with bright excellent bore, 98% original blue with scattered pin prick pitting along barrel, front sight has been removed and holes plugged, open field rear sight, grooved receiver with mounted BSA special 2.5x20mm scope, scope has reticule and partly cloudy optics, smooth Walnut pistol grip stock that has a 3" crack on right side on forend, black serrated buttplate, comes with one factory 7 round magazine, manufactured 1958-1964 (C&R)\$300

72-D Marlin .22 S, L, & LR Model 81 Tube Feed Bolt Rifle 22" barrel with excellent bore, 95% original blue with areas of pin prick pitting, grooved receiver, Walnut Monte Carlo wood pistol grip stock with some dings, gold trigger with metal guard, manufactured 1937-1939 (C&R) \$175

73-D Marlin .22 S, L, & LR Model 100 Barreled Action Receiver 24" barrel with fair bore, no stock, no bolt, barrel trigger, front and rear sights only (C&R) \$50

74-D Marlin/Glenfield .22 S, L, & LR "Model 80G" Clip Feed Bolt Rifle 22" barrel with bright excellent bore, open factory sights, grooved receiver, 97% original blue showing scratches at receiver and scattered pin prick pitting, smooth birch pistol grip stock with black polymer triggerguard and buttplate, comes with one factory magazine, manufactured 1960-1965 (C&R) \$175

75-D Mossberg .22 S, L, & LR "Model 87A" Tube Feed Auto Rifle 24" barrel with good lightly pitted bore, original sights, blue to brown patina, peppery pin prick pitting throughout, missing rear swing out aperture sight, triggerguard is gray in color, buttplate id brown plastic looks to be old replacement, smooth Walnut pistol grip stock, forend is cracked and crudely repaired (C&R) \$150

76-D Mossberg .22 S, L, & LR Model 146 B Tube Feed Bolt Rifle 26" barrel with mint bore, raised ramp multi aperture front sight, grooved receiver, receiver mounted Mossberg S-130 aperture swing out sight, missing eye reticle, 97%+ original blue, smooth Walnut Monte Carlo stock with cheekpiece and Schnabel forend, Q.D. sling swivels, black plastic finger grooved triggerguard, black plastic buttplate, "fire/safety" jewels have been replaced with a red and blue jewels, manufactured 1949-1954 (C&R)\$275

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

78-D Mossberg .22 LR "Model 802 Plinkster" Clip Feed Bolt Rifle 18" barrel with mint bore, 99% original blue, red and green fiber optic sights, black polymer lightweight pistol grip stock, grooved receiver, Q.D. sling swivel studs, black rubber recoil pad, comes with one 10 round magazine, original brown cardboard box, manual, cable lock with keys, manufactured in Brazil from 2012-2018\$225

79-D Ranger / Stevens .22 LR "Model 101.16 / M87" Tube Feed Auto Rifle 24" tapered barrel with bright excellent bore, factory original sporting open sights, left side of receiver has a Weaver scope model 344 with plain crosshairs, mildly cloudy optics with Weaver T03 scope base, 97%+ original blue with very light wear along right side of barrel, original serrated black polymer buttplate, polymer triggerguard, eye piece on scope is cracked, comes with its original cardboard box with red/white Ranger side label, inside box is original Weaver scope box and instructions, Ranger gun cleaning rod in its original box with "Outer" label gun patches, inside is original instruction manual and rifles original "Sears" price tag, manufactured 1938-1969, and marketed through Sears & Roebuck (C&R)\$325

80-D Remington .22 Short Model 24 Butt Tube Feed Takedown Auto Rifle 19" barrel with good bore, 80% blue to brown on barrel with receiver showing gray to brown with scattered pin prick pitting, original open sights, smooth Walnut pistol grip stock and Schnabel forend, excellent function, manufactured 1922-1935 (C&R)\$425

81-D Remington .22 LR Model 513-S Clip Feed "Match Master" Sporter Bolt Rifle 27"
barrel with mint bore, 98%+ original blue, 97% case color on bolt, original raised front
ramp sight, rear adjustable Lyman 57RS aperture sight, checkered Walnut pistol grip
sporter stock with original checkered steel buttplate and sling swivels, excellent function,
collector quality, manufactured 1947 (C&R) \$1250

82-D Remington .22 LR "Model 513-T Match Master" Target Bolt Rifle 27" barrel with mint bore, 97%+ original blue, front globe target sight, receiver mounted Redfield aperture sight, dog leg bolt handle, barrel drilled and tapped for scope blocks, smooth Walnut pistol grip stock with sling swivels, wood shows light scratches and dents, steel buttplate, comes with one magazine, manufactured 1954 (C&R)\$475

83-D Remington .22 S, L, & LR Model 521-T Clip Feed Target Bolt Rifle 25" barrel with mint bore, 97% original blue showing peppery pin prick pitting on barrel and receiver, open sights, receiver drilled and tapped (not plugged), smooth Walnut pistol grip target stock with adjustable forend sling position, black plastic serrated buttplate, stock has "X11,65" carved into grip base, stock shows dings and dents, excellent function, manufactured 1948, comes with one magazine (C&R)\$375

84-D Ruger .22 LR "Model 10/22" Auto Rifle 16" barrel with excellent bore, 98% original blue on barrel, sights have been removed, factory black polymer stock, aftermarket Eagle 10 round magazine, extended magazine release and bolt catch lever \$255

85-D Weatherby .22 LR Model MK XXII Clip Feed Auto Rifle 24" barrel with mint bore, 98%+ original blue, front raised ramp (no hood), rear open "V" folding leaf sight, grooved receiver, skip-line checkered Walnut pistol grip Monte Carlo stock with cheekpiece, stock has white and black spacer Rosewood forend tip, pistol grip cap and rubber buttplate, sling swivels, comes with one magazine, Italian manufactured 1964-1971 (C&R) \$1100

86-D Winchester .22 Short "Model 74 Gallery" Butt Tube Feed Auto Rifle 24" barrel with excellent bore, open sights, smooth Walnut pistol grip stock, steel buttplate with peppery pin prick pitting, triggerguard with pin prick pitting, English proof marks on barrel, manufactured 1939-1955 (C&R)\$525

87-D Winchester .22 S, L, & LR Model 69A Clip Feed Bolt Rifle 25" barrel with mint bore, 97%+ original blue with the Bolt and Bolt handle show blue to brown, front silver bead, rear sight is removed and has a dovetail blank, receiver mounted 97B aperture sight, smooth Walnut stock that has light dents at forend, factory Winchester buttplate, excellent function, blued triggerguard, one Winchester marked magazine, manufactured 1935-1963 (C&R)\$465

88-D Winchester .22 S, L, & LR Model 69A Clip Feed Bolt Rifle 25" barrel with mint bore, 97% original blue with some thinning at muzzle, bolt handle showing blue to gray and triggerguard shows high edge wear blue to gray, front and rear sights have been removed and filled in with dovetail blanks, receiver drilled and tapped with Weaver mounted scope base and Weaver B4 4x scope, scope has plain retical and cloudy optics, smooth Walnut pistol grip stock, sling swivels, black plastic Winchester buttplate, excellent function, manufactured 1935-1963 (C&R)\$395

89-D Winchester .22 LR Model 75 Clip Feed "Pre War" Bolt Rifle 24" tapered barrel with mint bore, hooded front sight, dovetail black inserted in rear and receiver mounted Lyman 57ES aperture sight, 97% original blue shows some light scratches and light peppery pin prick pitting metal triggerguard shows blue to brown and is marked "Sporting", checkered Walnut pistol grip stock with Winchester pistol grip cap and Winchester buttplate, collector quality, manufactured 1942 (C&R)\$1085

90-D Winchester .22 S, L, & LR Model 67A Single Shot Bolt Rifle 27" barrel with mint bore, open sights, chrome plated bolt, trigger and triggerguard, 97% original blue with pin prick pitting forming along barrel, smooth Walnut pistol grip stock that has dings and dents, excellent function, manufactured 1934-1963 (C&R)\$250

91-D Winchester .22 S, L, & XL Model 102 Single Shot Bolt Rifle 18" barrel with good but pitted bore, 80% blue toning to brown, open sights, straight grip Gumwood stock showing dings and dents, has chip missing on left side by barrel just above triggerguard, "S" shaped extended triggerguard, excellent function, manufactured 1902-1931 (C&R)\$225

CONTINUED ➡

92-D Breda-Brescia 12 Gauge "Model 710" Auto Shotgun 27" raised vent rib barrel with fixed full choke, 2 3/4" chamber with mint bore, 97% original blue showing light scratches, light muzzle thinning rib mounted raised front blade, adjustable rear sight, checkered Walnut round knob pistol grip stock and forend, stock shows finish flaking, original Brescia buttplate, L.O.P. 14 1/2", excellent function\$365

93-D Browning (Belgium) 16 Gauge "Model A-5" Auto Shotgun 26" vent rib barrel with attached polychoke added, barrel cut to add polychoke, bright excellent bore, single bead front sight, 2 3/4" chamber, L.O.P. 14 3/8", 95%+ original blue showing light scratches on engraved receiver, early style safety forward triggerguard, checkered round knob Walnut stock and checkered Walnut forend, original horn "FN" buttplate stock and forend wood shows some dings and dents, excellent function, manufactured 1951 (C&R)\$1200

94-D Harrington & Richardson .410 Gauge "Model 88 Topper Jr." Hammer Single Shot Shotgun 25" barrel with mint bore, fixed full choke, 3" chamber, 95%+ original blue and case colors, metal surfaces show peppery pin pricking, smooth wood pistol grip stock and forend wood, black plastic buttplate, excellent function, manufactured 1979-1986\$265

95-D High Standard 12 Gauge "SuperMatic C-100" Auto Shotgun 27" barrel with bright good bore, adjustable choke, 2 3/4" chamber, 80% original blue with thinning to brown on receiver and scattered peppery pin prick pitting throughout, single brass bead sight, smooth Walnut pistol grip stock and forend wood, stock has full crack repair in center, missing large piece on right side next to triggerguard, missing return spring for bolt and bolt lever, NOT functioning (C&R)\$65

96-D High Standard 12 Gauge "Mallard Model" Pump Shotgun 28" barrel with mint bore, 2 3/4" chamber, fixed modified choke, 97% original blue with scattered light scratches, rolled engraved mallards in flight on receiver, brass bead front sight, checkered Walnut pistol grip stock and forend, both showing some dings and dents, forend shows some varnish flaking, gold colored trigger, black plastic pistol grip cap, white line spacer on brown rubber recoil pad, L.O.P. 14 1/4", "F.P" code date manufactured 1971 (C&R)\$345

97-D High Standard .410 Gauge "Model K4111 Flite King Deluxe" Pump Shotgun 26" plain barrel with mint bore, 3" chamber, fixed full choke, 98% original blue with light scratches, single bead front sight, checkered Walnut pistol grip stock and forend, black plastic High Standard logo, buttplate and grip cap, wood shows some scratches and light handling marks, magazine tube factory plugged with wooden dowel, L.O.P. 14 1/4", excellent function for this 1969 shotgun (C&R)\$865

98-D Ithaca 12 Gauge Model 1904" Lews Boxlock Hammerless Side By Side Shotgun 28 1/2" barrel with fixed modified and improved cylinder chokes, 2 3/4" chambers and bright excellent bores with small dent on right barrel that barely shows, 90% original blue with areas of thinning, spot of dent has been cleaned heavily, once case color receiver now gray tone, double triggers, extractors, selective safety on tang, barrel latch is right of center, single white bead front sight, black hard rubber Ithaca buttplate, checkered Walnut pistol grip stock and splinter forend, stock has checkered hard rubber grip cap, L.O.P. 14", excellent function, manufactured 1904 (C&R)\$425

99-D Mossberg 20 Gauge "Model 500C Youth" Pump Shotgun 22" raised rib barrel with 2 3/4" chamber modified "Accu choke" tube with mint bore, 98% original blue with 98% matte black on aluminum alloy receiver, receiver drilled and tapped, two bead sights, black polymer forend and youth size 11 7/8", black polymer pistol grip stock with black rubber recoil pad, excellent function\$375

100-D Mossberg 12 Gauge "Model 185D" Clip Feed Bolt Shotgun 26" threaded muzzle barrel with bright excellent bore, screw on Mossberg modified choke, 2 3/4" chamber, single brass bead front sight, 97% original blue, smooth Walnut stock with Schnabel forend, black plastic finger groove triggerguard that is flush fitted to grip, black serrated plastic buttplate, comes with one magazine, green gem on safety missing, excellent function (C&R)\$255

101-D Mossberg .410 Gauge "Model 183D-D" Bolt Shotgun 24" barrel with excellent bore, 95% original blue with scattered pin prick pitting, 3" chamber, screw on Mossberg "full" choke tube, single front post, smooth Walnut pistol grip stock with Schnabel forend, black plastic finger groove triggerguard, red jewel (green jewel is missing) on back of stock by safety lever, black plastic serrated buttplate, excellent function (C&R)\$235

102-D Remington 12 Gauge "Model Sportsman 58" Auto Shotgun 28" vent rib barrel with bright excellent bore, 2 3/4" chamber, fixed modified choke, single bead front sight, 97%+ original blue, Dial-A-Matic load control, checkered Walnut pistol grip stock with skip line checkered forend, wood shows some dings and dents along with finish flaking on stock edges, engraved receiver, aluminum pistol grip cap, black serrated buttplate, excellent function, manufactured 1957 (C&R)\$450

103-D Springfield/Savage .410 Gauge "Model 39A" Tube Feed Bolt Shotgun 24" barrel with bright excellent bore, single silver bead front sight, 98% original blue, light thinning at muzzle, black anodized triggerguard shows wear and thinning to gray, polished bolt and bolt handle, smooth Walnut pistol grip stock showing light scratches and rub marks, black plastic buttplate, manufactured 1938-1945 (C&R)\$335

104-D Stevens/Springfield 12 Gauge "Model 5000" Boxlock Hammerless Side by Side Shotgun 30" solid rib barrels with excellent bores, 2 3/4" chambers, fixed full and modified chokes, single white bead front sight, barrels show 95% original thinning blue to gray with scattered pin pricking, receiver shows 40% original case colors, right side is mostly gray, bottom is also mostly gray with scattered pin pricking, left side shows strong case colors with cleaning light scratches along edges, checkered Walnut pistol grip stock and beavertail forend wood, stock has a red head rubber recoil pad, double triggers, tang safety, barrel lever is in the center, manufactured 1951 (C&R)\$425

105-D Winchester 12 Gauge "Model 50" Auto Shotgun 28" plain barrel, fixed modified choke, 2 3/4" chamber with bright excellent bore, 98% original blue with light scratches on receiver, single bead front sight, checkered Walnut pistol grip stock and forend, black plastic Winchester buttplate, excellent function, manufactured 1959 (C&R)\$525

106-D Winchester 12 Gauge "Model 50 Trap" Auto Shotgun 30" Simmons vent rib barrel with bright excellent bore, 2 3/4" chamber, fixed full choke, red Bradley bead front sight, silver mid bead sight, 97% original blue showing handling wear, scratches and scrapes from use, checkered Monte Carlo pistol grip Walnut stock and forend show wear and added Linspeed oil, forend shows crack at base, stock has a pistol grip cap and white line black rubber recoil pad, excellent function, manufactured 1958-1961 (C&R)\$765

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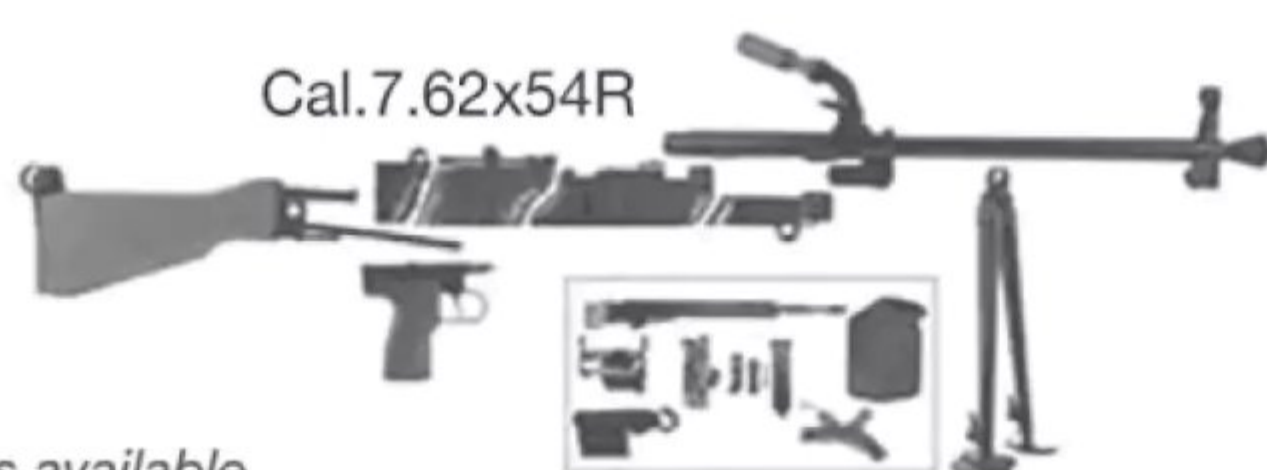
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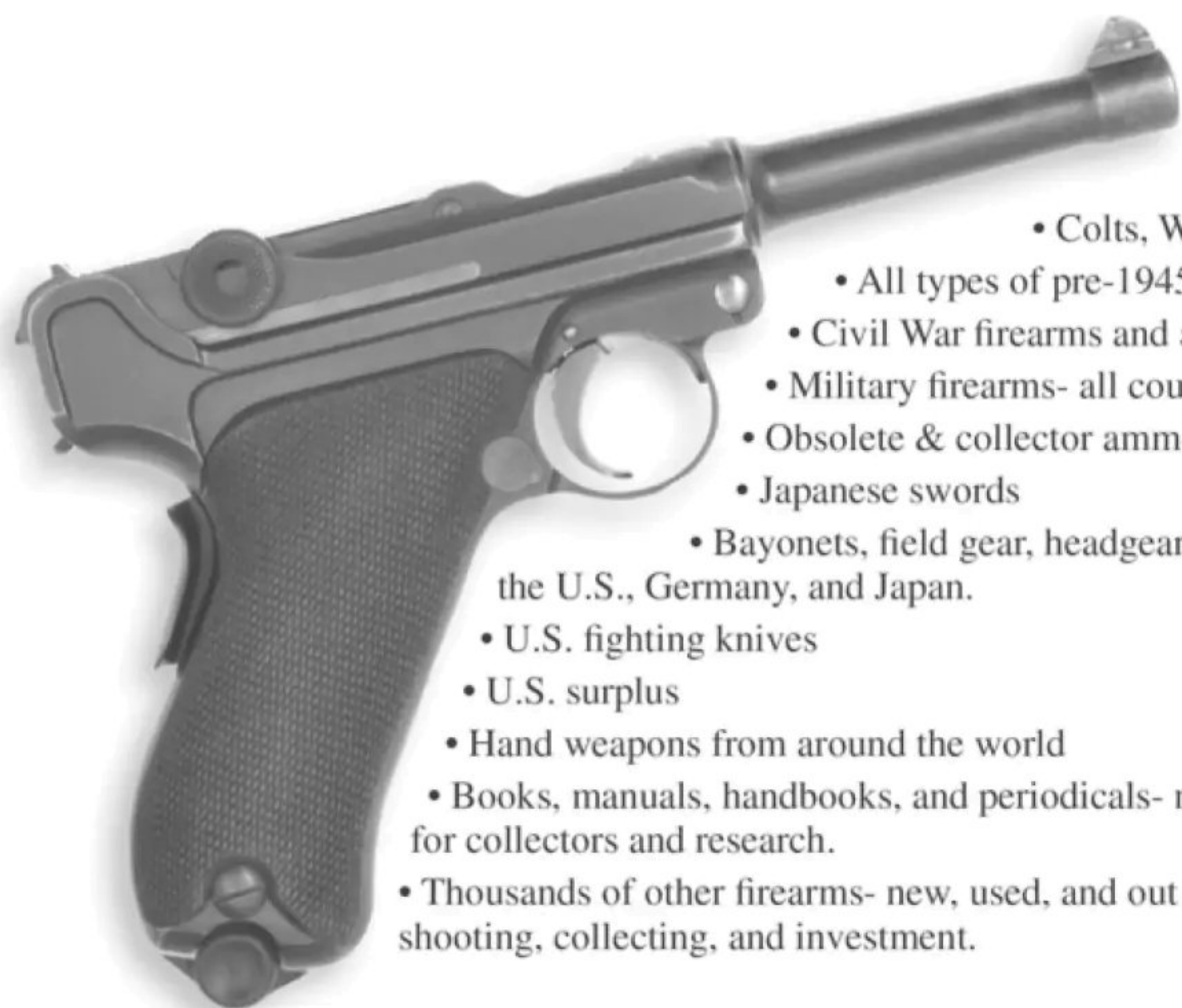
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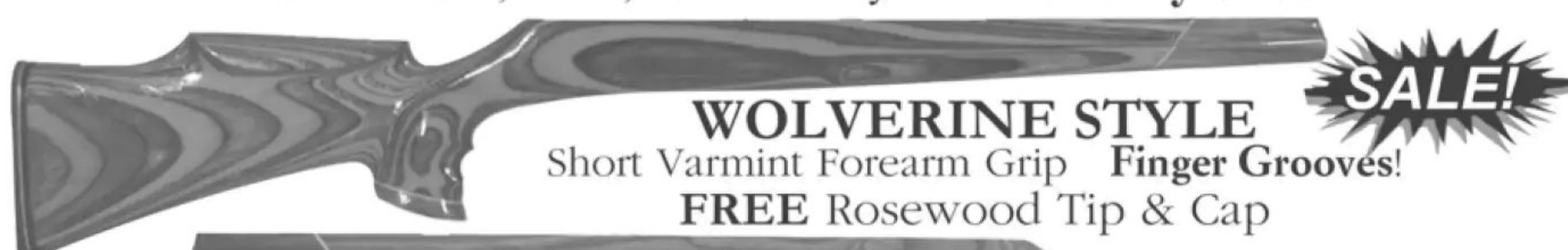
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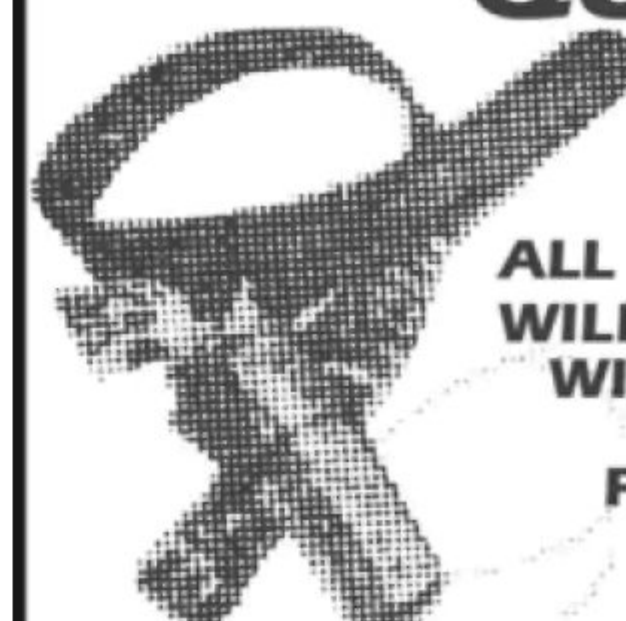


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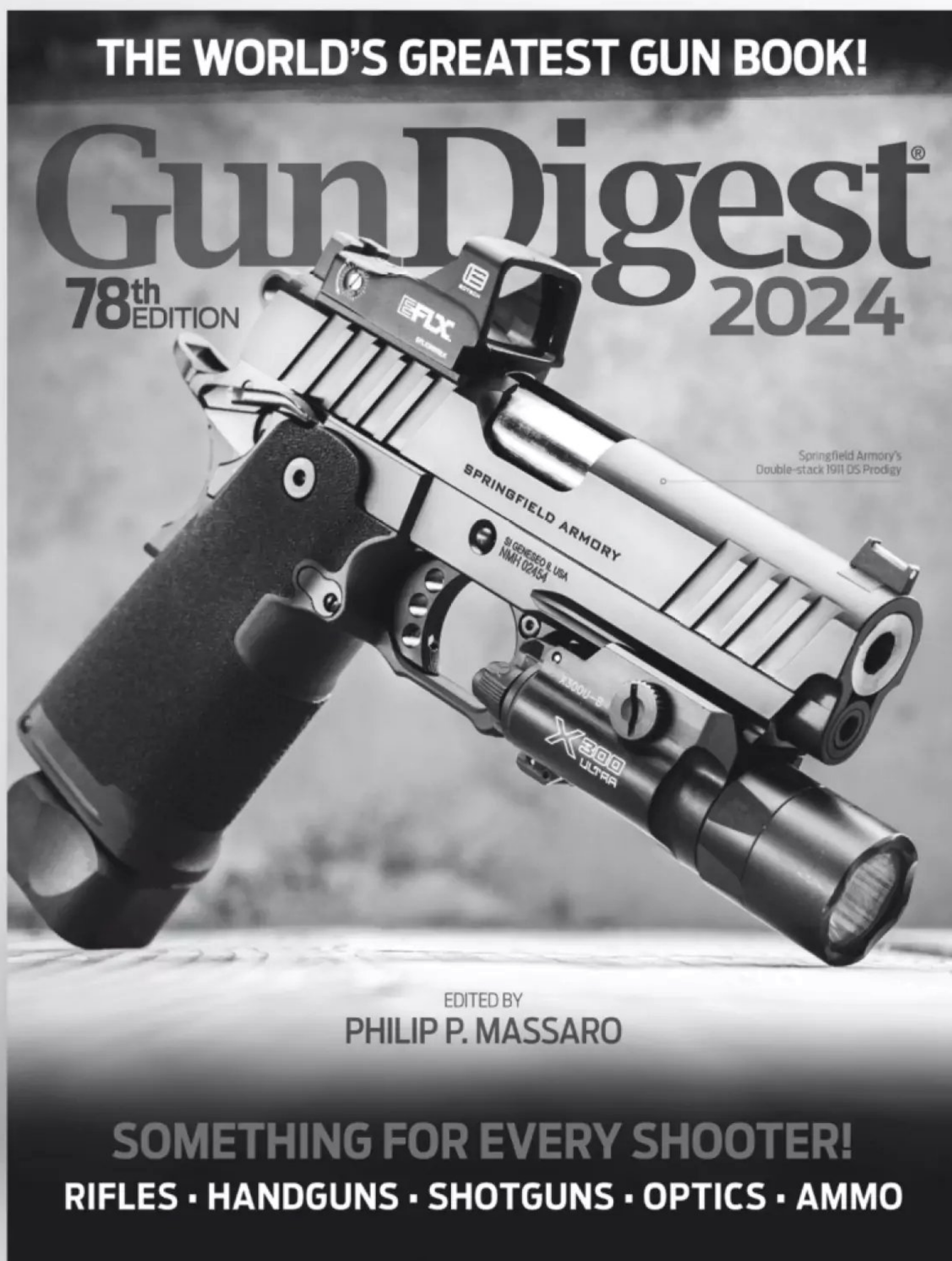
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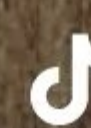
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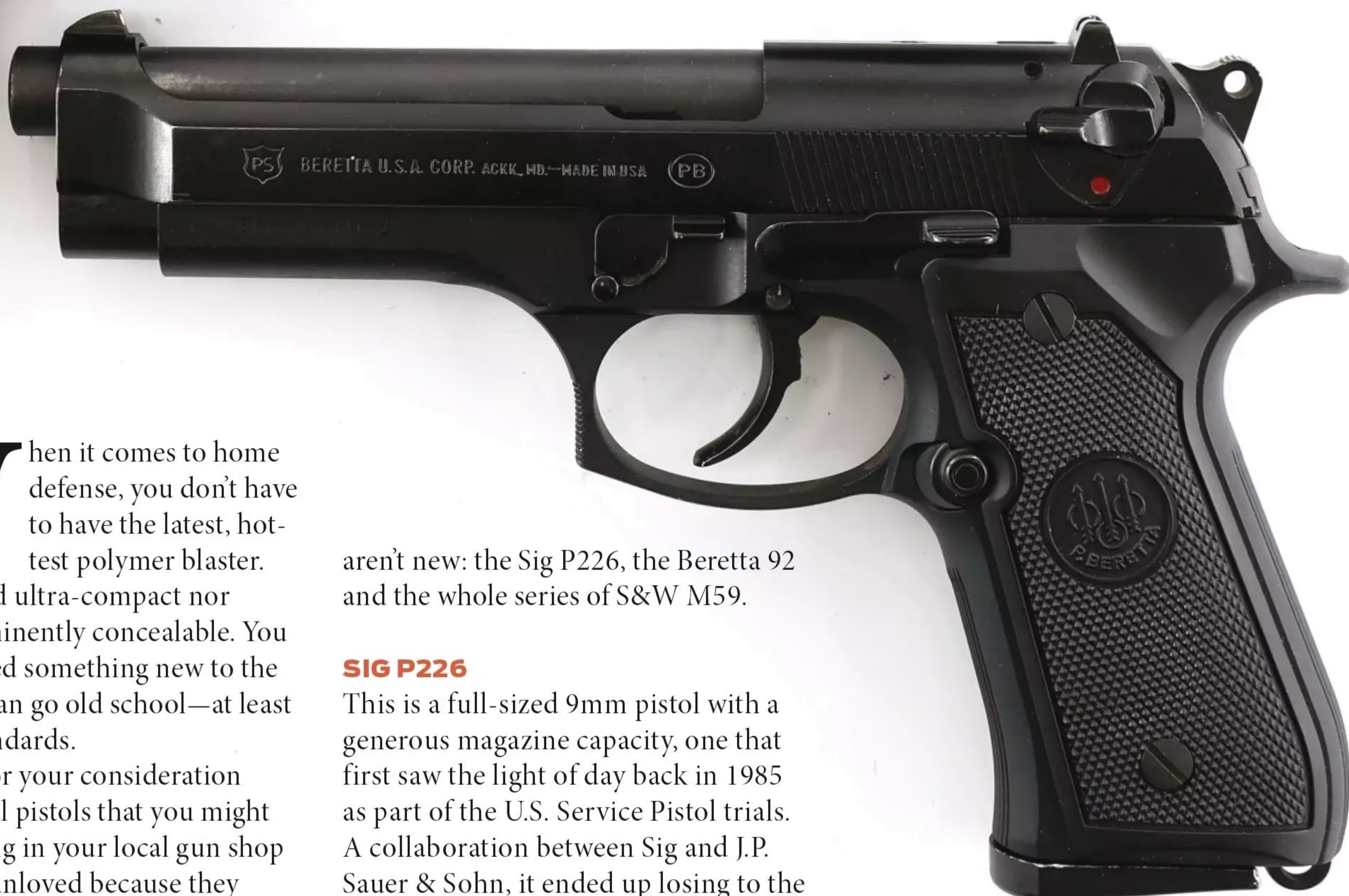
Because these pistols have been around since the early 1970s or 1980s, plenty of magazines are available for them, like this P9 magazine still sealed in its wrapper.

DAD-BOD DEFENSE

Semi-old school, middle-aged guns still work well ... especially for home defense.



The old-school solution to defense, as seen here: a Sig P226, a S&W M910 and a Beretta 92.



When it comes to home defense, you don't have to have the latest, hottest polymer blaster. You don't need ultra-compact nor something eminently concealable. You don't even need something new to the market. You can go old school—at least by today's standards.

I offer up for your consideration three potential pistols that you might see languishing in your local gun shop display case, unloved because they

aren't new: the Sig P226, the Beretta 92 and the whole series of S&W M59.

SIG P226

This is a full-sized 9mm pistol with a generous magazine capacity, one that first saw the light of day back in 1985 as part of the U.S. Service Pistol trials. A collaboration between Sig and J.P. Sauer & Sohn, it ended up losing to the

Beretta, but that's another story that's best told at another time. Despite not being adopted as the official U.S. sidearm, it was adopted by Naval Special Warfare, aka SEALs, for their use. So, you'll get a lot of "used by SEALs" when you look at one in a gun shop or shoot it at the range. This also will keep the price up a bit for a non-polymer pistol now approaching middle age.

The action is a hammer-drop double-action design. That means you can fire the first round by using the trigger or thumb-cocking the hammer. If you don't want to fire (once you've loaded or changed your mind), then you use the lever on the left side of the frame to safely decock the hammer. There's no thumb safety. In this regard, the P226 operates just like a revolver: If you do not want to fire it, you do not press the trigger. And the DA trigger stroke is long enough that it's unlikely to be inadvertently fired, as long as you keep your finger off of the trigger.

The Sig P226 advantages are a very comfortable grip shape and smooth DA trigger stroke. The disadvantages are the bore axis being a bit higher than the others, although that's much more a competition consideration than a defensive one, and the sustained higher cost due to its panache as the weapon of SEALs.

BERETTA 92

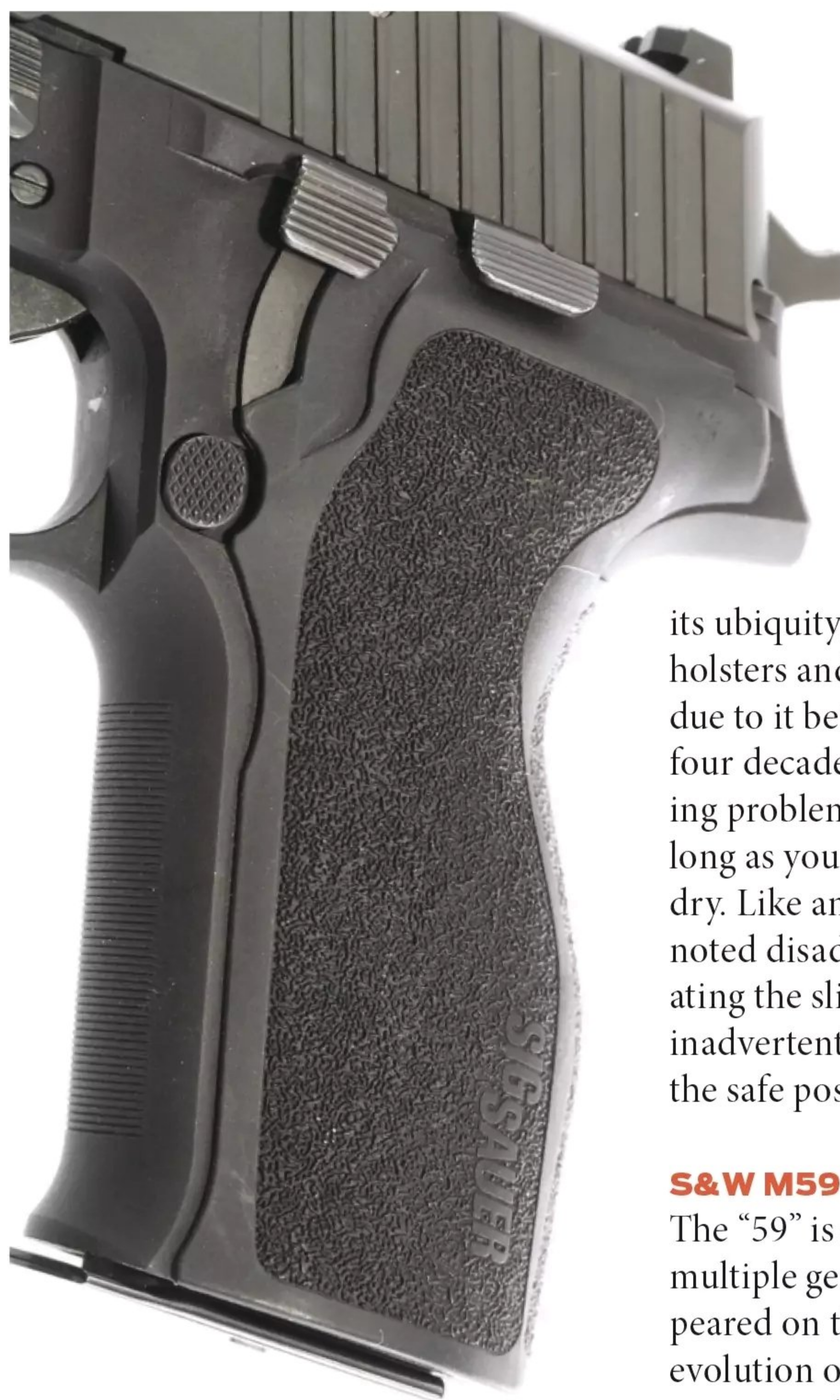
The Beretta became the service sidearm in the mid 1980s, replacing the 1911A1, and has been used (and loved and hated) by several generations of servicemen and women ever since. As a design predating the Glock, it also uses an aluminum frame (all three of these pistols do, with some variants using steel frames) and a double-stack magazine. The 92 has an open-top slide, so the very idea of brass failing to eject is simply not a thing.

The 92 safety is mounted on the slide and differs from the Sig in that it's both a hammer-dropping safety and a safety. That is, on the main variants (the M9 and the standard 92) when you press the safety lever down to decock, it does

The Sig uses a frame-mounted decocker, one that's spring-loaded and jumps back up after you've lowered the hammer.



The Sig P226 got an improved grip halfway through its life, and the E2 grip is more ergonomic ... but the old one wasn't bad.



its ubiquity; you can find magazines, holsters and other accessories galore due to it being the military sidearm for four decades. Despite the initial teething problems, it's ultra-reliable ... as long as you ignore the advice to run it dry. Like any other firearm, oil it. One noted disadvantage is that when operating the slide, you have to learn to not inadvertently press the safety down to the safe position.

S&W M59

The "59" is a whole series found in multiple generations. The first one appeared on the scene in 1971. It was the evolution of the M39, a single-stack 9mm pistol to a double-stack 9mm pistol holding a then-revolutionary 14 rounds. The safety follows the same pattern as (in fact, probably led, but who was on first is another argument for the future) the Beretta, in that it both drops the hammer and locks the mechanism. You have to press it back up to fire and that can be double action

that, but it also stays down and, while in the downward position, prevents the 92 from firing. In some variants, the safety lever is spring-loaded and pressing it down decocks, but when you let go it snaps back up again and isn't on "safe," just like the Sig decocking operates.

The advantages of the Beretta 92 are

The Beretta has a completely open-top slide, so nothing can get caught in there. No ejection port, that is.



or thumb-cocking the hammer and single action.

The 59 was the first generation; in 1988, the second generation, the 459, came out. That lasted until 1990 when the third generation, the 5906, came out. By this time, S&W offered it in so many variants that they even produced a circular slide rule to show size, caliber, materials (aluminum, carbon or stainless steel), traditional double action, double-action only, decocking, sights, etc. At the time, those of us working in gun shops joked about the “S&W pistol of the week” program they seemed to be on.

By the mid-to-late 1990s, with polymer pistols proliferating, S&W attempted to reduce production costs as much as possible. This led to the M910 and M915 models, both third-gen M59s, but with cost savings in machining and features. They still used the same magazines (the 910, 10-round magazines due to the Assault Weapons Ban of the time) and are just as reliable and accurate as the non-savings models.

As a result, you could devote your time as a collector to just M59 variants and probably not ever assemble a complete array.

Unlike the Beretta and the Sig, which can be found almost exclusively in full-sized models, with aluminum frames, the S&W series can be found with steel (carbon/blued or stainless) or aluminum frames and blued or stainless slides. Also, compared to the

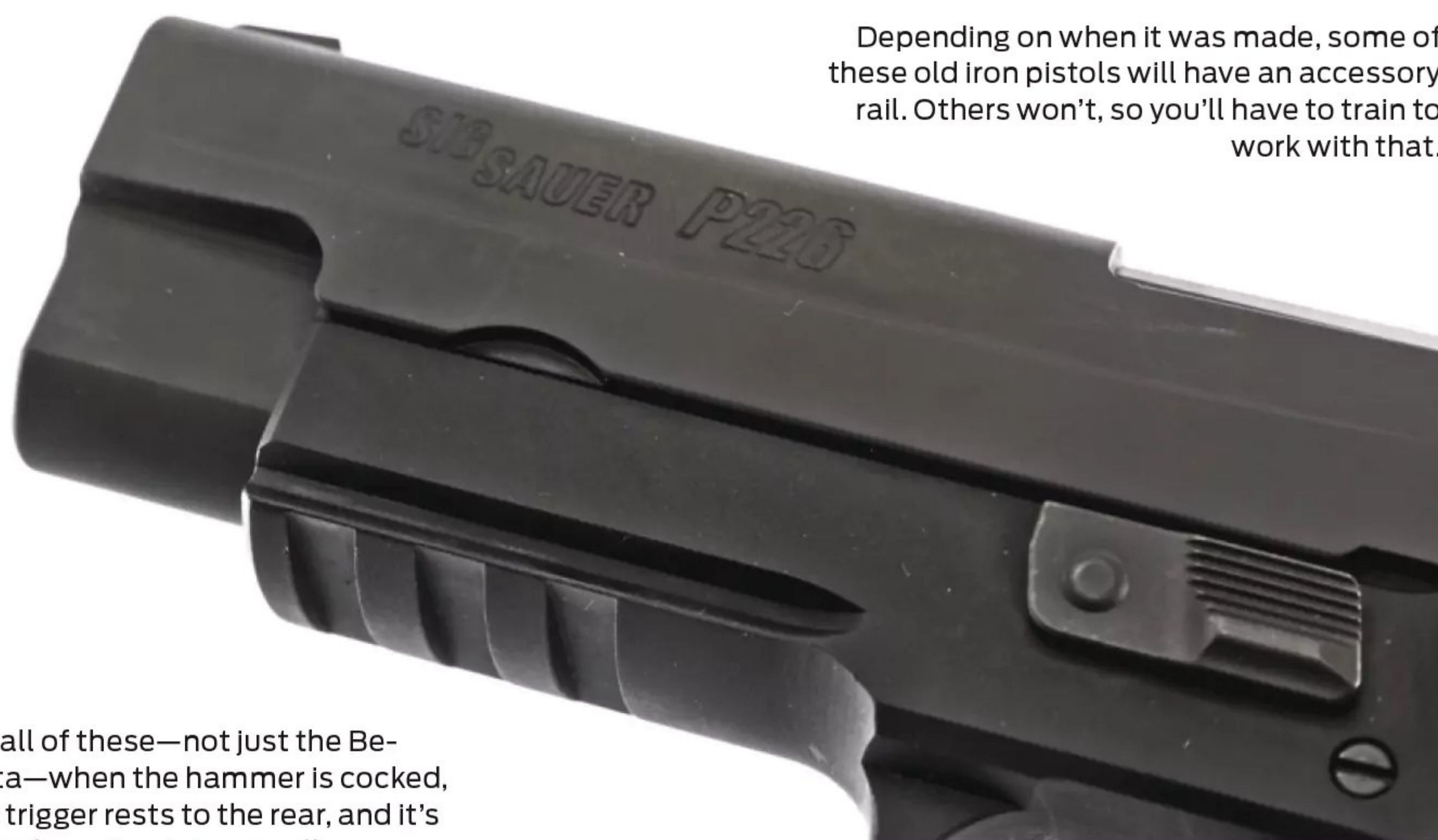
other two, the M59 offered fixed or adjustable sight models, caliber variants and trigger options and were made in much larger numbers. Due to the slide-mounted safety, the M59 series has the same need to be aware of slide manipulation as you do with the Beretta.

THE PRICE OF HISTORY

All three of these pistols can be had with some modern features, depending on when the one you’re looking at was made. The earliest variants will lack an accessory rail, so no light mount. Rails didn’t become common until the start of the 21st century. Later variants will have them in some instances, but not all, so you’ll have to learn offhand light use if you want illumination while using an early pistol.

All three are double-action pistols, so you’ll also have to learn to switch from the long initial double-action pull to the shorter single-action pull when shooting. This is made out to be a bigger hindrance than it really is by striker-fired advocates. National and

Depending on when it was made, some of these old iron pistols will have an accessory rail. Others won’t, so you’ll have to train to work with that.



On all of these—not just the Beretta—when the hammer is cocked, the trigger rests to the rear, and it’s a single-action trigger pull.





Top, a 910 with an aluminum frame in 9mm. Bottom, an all-stainless 4046, a DAO in .40 S&W with 11-round magazines. Choice abounds in the M59 series.

international championships have been handily won by shooters using a DA pistol.

All three have been around long enough that there's a lifetime supply of magazines already in existence and more still being made. In fact, they've been made for so long that you might even have to give used magazines a thorough going over to make sure the springs aren't tired and not abused.

They're known quantities, so if you find a real bargain of a buy with something like a rusted-out barrel, you can easily find a replacement barrel, drop it in and be good to go. The same for holsters, if you feel the need for one. If yours proves to be balky, there are many pistolsmiths who can solve reliability or assembly problems and get yours up and running.

As full-sized pistols, they're all reliable, accurate and easy to shoot. You won't find the recoil of 9mm to be problematic, although I'd avoid getting

a variant of any of the three in .40 S&W. The .40 is a fine cartridge, the FBI notwithstanding, but it does have more recoil and will cost you magazine capacity. Compared to the 15 to 16 rounds of 9mm, you'll get 10-11-12 rounds of 40 in the same tube. Now, if recoil isn't a problem and you find an absolute steal at your local gun shop, by all means jump on a .40. Ammunition for it will continue to be made probably for the rest of your life. (I suspect the last run of .40S&W ammunition produced will happen at the end of the 21st century as a commemorative run or to satisfy some cranky old collectors.)

Last is cost. The Sig will always bring a premium, again due to SEALs. The Beretta has just been replaced by a new Sig, the P320, as the service pistol, but two generations of service members know it, and there's also the movie con-

nection: It's seen on too many movies and TV shows to mention, but the biggies would be *Lethal Weapon*, *Die Hard* and *Terminator 2*. Every one of those to show up in the local gun store's showcase will garner attention.

This leaves the S&W 59 series as the unloved but gold nugget of home defense. They're everywhere, there seems to be no end of pistolsmiths who can work on them and S&W will still

“You can get some classic iron, solid, dependable and inexpensive, and buy ammo and get some familiarization and practice with the cash left over.”

service one if you buy a broken one for \$20. (It may cost 10 times that to rebuild it, but so what?)

A FORK IN YOUR ROAD

So, there you are, at your local gun store, looking over ordnances with a friend who is new to shooting. You can spring for the hot new model and have what everyone says you (or your friend will get) is “the best.” Or, you can get some classic iron, solid, dependable and inexpensive, and buy ammo and get some familiarization and practice with the cash left over.

You tell me: Which is better? The hottest thing and little or no practice or solid old school and a bigger practice budget? And remember, this will spend its time resting in your safe during the days and on the nightstand each night. Weight and concealability won't matter. I thought so. **GDTM**

The S&W 910 differed from the 915 in being shipped with 10-round magazines, a legacy of the failed Assault Weapons Ban of 1994.

One way the 900-series generation of the 59 saved money was in not having an ambi safety. There wasn't a lever on the right side.



The S&W 910/915 series had a lot fewer machine operations done to the slide. This cut costs but didn't harm reliability.



JUDGING THE JUNCTION

The American-made Montana Rifle Company returns.



Among the numerous rifle companies that made a definite impression in the 20th century, one squeezed in just under the wire; in fact, their flagship rifle action was named for the last year of the 1900s.

Montana Rifle Company was the brain-child of gunsmith Brian Sipe. Their Model 1999 action became a favorite among hunters, and their bolt-action rifles gained equal popularity. Using a controlled-round-feed (CRF) action, with definite influences from the proven original Winchester Model 70 CRF design, those Montana Rifles equipped with the Model 1999

action were a perfect fit for the hunter on the back forty or for those pursuing big game around the globe. The original rifle series came in common calibers as small as .22-250 Remington, all the way up to the behemoth .505 Gibbs, and each made many hunters happy during its time in the spotlight.

Between business issues, production problems and availability, Montana Rifle Company as we knew it ended up closing its doors, being purchased by a private investor group and ultimately shutting down in March of 2020.

But don't count the old brand out just yet: Grace Engineering of Memphis, Michigan, has revived the brand with a pair of new—yet familiar—bolt-action rifles: the synthetic-stocked Highline, and the walnut-stocked Junction. It was the latter that I got to spend time with.



A BRAND REBORN

Upon opening the box, I was expecting to see the familiar lines of the Model 1999 action ... but I was surprised to see something altogether different. Instead of the ol' '99, Montana revised the action to create the Model 2022 action. Between this and several other obvious features, I knew this was much more than a reboot of previous designs. The stock lines were familiar—the Montana Rifles always ran a bit thin in the wrist and heavy in the forend, and the Junction is no different—but they've incorporated some features that immediately set it apart from its older siblings.

The first was what looked like a two-piece Picatinny rail atop the receiver, until

I realized it was machined into the receiver itself. Instead of using a cast receiver, ala the Model 1999, Montana's Model 2022 is milled from a solid billet of 416 stainless steel. The Mauser-style extractor band is still there, along with the Winchester 70-style three-position safety, as well as the hinged floorplate. Though the action is technically considered CRF, Montana has engineered the action to allow the single feeding of a cartridge without the risk of damaging the extractor, giving one additional round on top of the full magazine.

The bolt handle has a distinct gold band in the middle section, terminating in an unadorned oblong bolt handle, which is comfortable in the hand. Because all the



(Top) The Montana Model 2022 action is CRF, with a non-rotating extractor.

(Above) Unlike many of the older CRF designs, the M2022 bolt can cam over a cartridge's rim without fear of harming the extractor, giving the shooter one additional round.

A Winchester 70-style three-position safety (forward to fire and work bolt, middle blocks sear and allows bolt to open for safe unloading, and rearward locks bolt and blocks sear) is standard on the Montana rifles.



metalwork is covered in a weatherproof finish, working the Junction's action right out of the box may seem a little stiff, but it soon smooths out from use.

The Junction uses an adjustable trigger—again inspired by the Winchester Model 70 design—finished in the same gold color that adorns the bolt handle, which Montana Rifles says is set to 3.5 pounds but adjustable down to 2 pounds. My handy little Lyman Digital Trigger Scale showed that the trigger broke consistently at 3 pounds, 5 ounces. I found the trigger had just the slightest bit of creep and almost no overtravel.

My test rifle—and the entire initial run of Junction rifles—came chambered in the now universal 6.5 Creedmoor, and the magazine will hold five rounds. Note: 11 cartridges are in the works from Montana, including the 6.5 PRC, 7mm PRC, .308 Winchester, .300 Winchester Magnum, .375 H&H Magnum and more coming throughout this year.

Equipped with a 24-inch button-rifled, hand-lapped barrel—made in Michigan at the Montana Rifles plant—with a 1:8 twist and threaded at the muzzle, the Junction comes with a removable muzzle brake



that brings the low-recoiling Creedmoor down to nearly nothing. The Junction's barrel is clean, with no iron sights, and one look at the receiver with the integral base tells the prospective purchaser this rifle is assuredly designed to be scoped.

Turning to the Junction's stock, there's a definite new look, even if the feel hasn't changed much from the older Montana Rifles offerings. The Junction is stocked in a handsome piece of walnut in the Monte Carlo design, with a prominent cheek-piece, and is checkered at the pistol grip and forend. The length-of-pull on the test rifle measured 13½ inches, which is pretty well the same dimension as most American hunting rifles, though I personally wish that, collectively, rifle manufacturers would add a half-inch or so to that figure.

As I stated above, the Montana design has always had a thinner pistol grip and a fatter forend. But, in the new Junction rifle, Grace Engineering has provided not only the traditional sling studs fore and

(Above) Montana has installed a four-slot M-Lok rail on the underside of the walnut stock, between the forward sling stud and the action screw at the front of the hinged floorplate.

(Right) The Montana uses a familiar controlled-round-feed bolt design—very similar to that of the Mauser 98 or early Winchester Model 70—yet the shooter can single-feed a cartridge into the chamber without fear of breaking the extractor.

The Junction's muzzle is threaded for a muzzle brake or suppressor; the author's test rifle was shipped with a brake onboard.



MEET ME IN MONTANA

I had a conversation with Ron Petty, who is acting as a PR consultant for Montana Rifle Company and who has been with them through several stages of the organization.

"Montana Rifle came to being when Brian Sipe, an accomplished gunsmith, developed the 1999 action featuring key elements of the famous Winchester M70," said Petty. "Included were the controlled-feed action, three-position safety and fully adjustable trigger. As a major supplier of barrels to the AR industry, precision barrels were easily adapted to the new receiver. The features of the action combined with these hand-lapped, button-cut barrels produced excellent accuracy and precision performance. "Sipe's design was incorporated into short-, long- and magnum- (PH) length actions, thus providing hunters with calibers for any hunting activity," added Petty. "Additionally, with foresight, he developed a left-handed version to capture that market. The original actions were investment cast, initially by Pine Tree Investment, a Ruger company, and were very precise. The demise of the company is closely related to Sipe's success in the barrel business. Once he turned the company over to a management team, things went south. Ruger decided they had too much business to make their actions, forcing a change of companies. The new companies never provided consistent castings, forcing major gunsmithing to reach minimum specifications. Production fell, overhead rose and forced a shutdown of the company. It was revived for a short period, but with aging machinery and lack of a qualified workforce in its Montana location, the new owners shut the company down.

"Grace Manufacturing, a major production facility with a leading outdoor archery enterprise, purchased the assets to include several new machines and the DNA of the company," Petty continued. "Grace is a three-generation, major production company with years as an industry supplier to the U.S. firearms industry. The gun division is a major addition to this very successful company. Decisions were made to discontinue the investment casting and new machinery purchased to deliver a precision action milled from a solid block of steel. This guarantees precision.

"Grace continues to cut their own barrels, hand lap and guarantees half-minute-of-angle accuracy," said Petty. "In addition, Grace modified the extractor to allow both push- and controlled-round feed, excellent for both range and rapid reloading. Current offerings include both short and long actions, with plans to expand product offerings and caliber selection."

aft, but also a four-slot M-Lok rail along the bottom of the stock and in between the forward sling stud and the front action screw. While perhaps unconventional, at least in the visual department, it does make a whole bunch of sense. It allows the use of bipods, tripods and what-have-you, without the need for the end user to modify the rifle. Looking toward the rear of the rifle, Montana provides a 5/8-inch pliable recoil pad to absorb any recoil sting that the muzzle brake doesn't handle.

In all, the Junction is a familiar-feeling rifle that'll sit comfortably in the hands of traditionalists, yet it provides a good number of useful features that even the younger folks—who have accepted attaching all sorts of goodies to a rifle or handgun—will gravitate toward.

TAKIN' IT TO THE STREET

My test rifle came with an optic already mounted and sighted by the folks at

Montana—though the Junction isn't sold with any sort of optic. The Vortex Viper 4-16x44mm in Vortex mounts (conveniently labeled with torque specs on the rings—nice touch) certainly will help take full advantage of the Creedmoor's trajectory and accuracy performance, and it was more than enough to evaluate the 100-yard accuracy of this combination.

Did I mention that Montana Rifle Company gives a 1/2-MOA guarantee with their new rifles? Well, they do. According to the company: "All Model 2022 rifles are guaranteed to shoot a three-shot group inside 1/2 MOA from a cold barrel using premium ammunition." Gauntlet dropped; let's see if the Junction will hold up to that claim. I grabbed four different boxes of premium ammo and packed up the Junction to head to the range.

Hornady's Match load—with the 140-grain ELD Match bullet at 2,710 fps—has certainly become the benchmark for



assessing a rifle's potential, so I included that in the mix. But as the Junction is first and foremost a hunting rifle, I grabbed three boxes of premium hunting ammunition that I thought would best serve in the test. The Federal Premium 130-grain Barnes TSX load would be a lead-free hunting choice, the Nosler Trophy Grade 129-grain AccuBond Long Range load certainly qualifies as a premium ammunition choice, and the Remington Premier Long Range 140-grain Speer Impact load would round out the group.

Firstly, I had no extraction or ejection issues with any of the ammunition. Secondly, because I had the accuracy claim from Montana Rifles in mind, and the fact that this is a hunting rifle, I limited groups to three shots, letting the barrel completely cool to ambient temperature before shooting the next group. Thirdly, I like the way the Junction shot from the bench; in spite

Love it or hate it, the 6.5 Creedmoor ranks among the most popular choices for center-fire rifles, so much so that Montana chose it for the initial release of the Junction rifle.

Though Montana makes a ½-MOA guarantee for their rifles with premium ammunition, the author saw three-shot group sizes hanging around ¾ MOA, with the rifle showing a preference for the Federal 130-grain Barnes TSX load.



of the fact that the stock was a bit too short for my liking, I felt like the stock design allowed me to shoot it well from the bench. And lastly, the Junction very nearly made the accuracy guarantee ... but not quite.

The three hunting loads each averaged at or below 0.8 MOA, with the Hornady Match load printing the best of the lot at 0.62 inch. Perhaps I had too much coffee (or perhaps not enough) and my weebles and wobbles didn't align by ⅜ inch, or someone somewhere played a Yoko Ono record and set the earth off its axis ... I dunno. While I will confidently say that the Junction is definitely a sub-MOA rifle, at the very least my test rifle didn't have a group at or below the ½-MOA mark. Nonetheless, this level of accuracy is absolutely sufficient for a hunting rifle, and each load shot consistently, holding the same general size over four three-shot groups.

Usually, with accuracy comes consistent velocities, and the Junction rifle was a great example of this. My Oehler 35P showed that the "worst" load gave

an extreme spread of 75 fps, with all four loads coming within 35 fps of the advertised velocities. Across the board, the Junction impressed me at the bench, and I'm certain it would do the same in the field and woods.

PATRIOTIC PRIDE

All of the Montana rifles—action, stock and barrel—are made right here in the good old United States, and that means something to many hunters. In generations past, gun store shelves were stacked with rifles made in America, yet today many of our biggest names have been bought by foreign companies and moved manufacturing off American soil. Montana offers a high-quality rifle made in America by Americans.

Though currently available only in right-handed configuration, Montana indicates that left-handed models will be available in the near future. The Junction measured 45½ inches with the muzzle brake attached and weighed in at just over 7½ pounds, unscoped. The Montana Junction has an MSRP of \$2,495 and you can find it at MontanaRifleCo.com. **GDTM**

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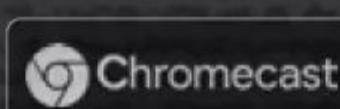
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HONORING HUDSON

Daniel Defense Announces the Daniel H9



Originally announced at SHOT Show 2017 by Hudson Mfg., the Hudson H9 made a big impression. The 9mm handgun had a lot going for it thanks to its unique design, and those who bought one seemed to be pleased with it ... but the company unfortunately went under just a couple of years later. Fans of the H9 should be excited then, as Daniel Defense announced at SHOT Show 2024 that it

had purchased Hudson's patents and was bringing the pistol back as the Daniel H9.

Despite looking nearly identical from the outside, the Daniel H9 only shares a single component with the original Hudson. This is because of Daniel Defense's commitment to quality, and while the Hudson H9 boasted a very innovative design, it ultimately didn't meet Daniel Defense's manufacturing standards. A few years, a million rounds of 9mm and a lot of research later, the refined Daniel H9 was born. Now, Daniel Defense is confident that the pistol will share the same reputation of quality as the company's rifles.

If you're not familiar with the H9 design, it's probably best described as a 1911 updated for the 21st century. It keeps many of the same well-loved

features of the 1911, like a slim profile, a straight-pull trigger and a naturally pointing grip angle, with modern features like a striker-fire mechanism, an optics-ready slide and redesigned internals, which allow the pistol to have the lowest bore axis in its class. That last detail is probably the most significant.

Further, the Daniel H9 is lighter than the original Hudson thanks to its aluminum frame—an update that Hudson had planned on incorporating before going bankrupt.

There's a lot more that will be said about the H9 in upcoming testing, both on the original concept and Daniel Defense's redesigned version. For now, enjoy the good news that one of the most interesting pistols to be announced in recent years is not dead. Now in the hands of a large, reputable manufacturer, its life has really just begun.

The Daniel H9 is already available at select dealers and has an MSRP of \$1,299. **GDTM**



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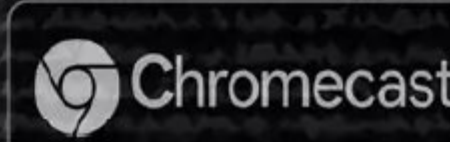
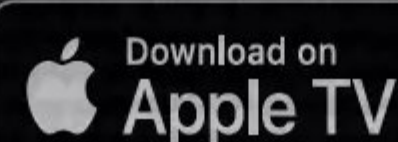
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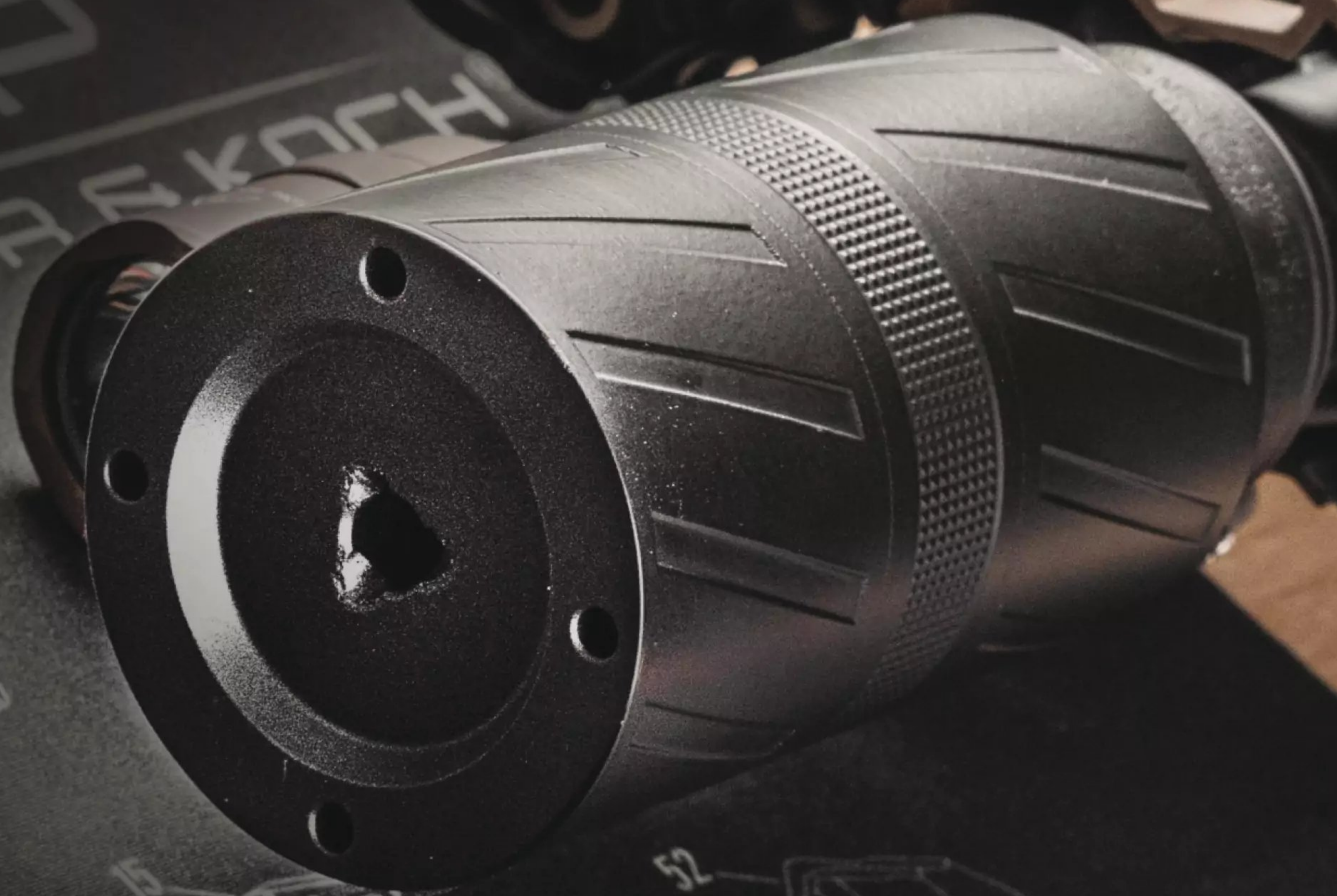


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