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THE MAGAZINE

MAY 2024

VOLUME 41 • ISSUE 06



**BUMPERS
& BARRELS**

Should You Chrome
Your Barrel?

**Do Ya
Feel Lucky,**

The .44
Magnum
Still Rules

Punk?

BIG-BORE ARs

When Too Much Is
Not Enough



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Gun Digest the Magazine (ISSN 1938-5943) is published monthly by Caribou Media dba Gun Digest Media, LLC. Corporate Headquarters is 5583 W. Waterford Ln., Suite D, Appleton, WI 54913. Periodicals postage paid at Appleton, WI 54913 and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to PO Box 182, Williamsport, PA 17703. Copyright © 2024 Gun Digest Media. GUN DIGEST THE MAGAZINE and its logo are registered trademarks. Other names and logos referred to or displayed in editorial or advertising content may be trademarked or copyrighted. The publisher and advertisers are not liable for typographical errors that may appear in prices or descriptions in advertisements.



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BATTERED & ABUSED

I was riding shotgun with a South African Professional Hunter not long ago, bumping through the rock-sprinkled velt in search of whatever Africa's expanse was willing to reveal to an over-eager American thirsting for adventure. It was a badass little rig, driven by an even more profound man of character, both sun hardened and scratched from an unrelenting life in the most wild of places.

Between us rode an ancient .458, the stock pinched between the seat and center console, with its muzzle tapping a reverent beat on the floorboard with each flex of the suspension below. In the eyes of some, I suppose, that gun was damned ugly. The stock was as tattered and worn as the man who possessed it, and the piebald exterior of the blued and naked steel barrel told me that gun had enough stories to fill a thousand campfires.

In that particular part of the world, a .458 is the ideal everyday carry gun, a hopeful last line of defense of against horn, hoof and fang when nestled

against the cheek of a man with skill. And, when game sightings were slow, I was treated to but a few moments detailing the amazing life of that gun and the man who carried it.

These days, a gun (and man, honestly) with that much character is hard to come by. It seems that a shiny and new exterior is preferred over age and experience. Don't get me wrong: These sleek new rifles, built around fast and flat chamberings, shooting bullets with impressively long ogives ... well, they force my heart to palpitations as much as the next shooter.

However, as I continue to disperse my own footprint on this Earth, if I can collect but a fraction of such adventures as that old .458, even at the expense of scars and bluing I cannot fully repair, I will depart this world with a full soul.

GDTM

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.30-378 WEATHERBY

The lightweight
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HISTORICAL NOTES

The .30-378 Weatherby Magnum is the .378 Weatherby Magnum case necked to .30 caliber. It was created by Roy Weatherby in the 1950s, upon request by the U.S. government, which wanted to determine how well various types of armor plating stood up to penetration by high-speed projectiles.

Using special lightweight bullets made by Speer Bullet Company, Weatherby managed to exceed a muzzle velocity of 6,000 fps during his tests. Years later, while still a wildcat, the .30-378 became popular among members of the Original 1,000-Yard Rifle Club in Pennsylvania, where it was used to shoot the world record group at that distance. After several years of coaxing by firearms writer Layne Simpson, Roy's son, Ed Weatherby, decided to add the cartridge to the Weatherby lineup in 1996.

During that year, Norma started loading the ammunition for Weatherby, and Weatherby began to offer its Mark V rifle in that chambering. The first rifle was auctioned off with the proceeds going to Ed Weatherby's favorite charity. The .30-378 went on to become the best-selling cartridge in the Mark V rifle for several years and continues to sell at a steady pace.

GENERAL COMMENTS

The .30-378 case can hold more than 120 grains of powder, compared to about 90 grains for the .300 Weatherby. With the advent of slower-burning

powders, increased capacity promises a useful advantage to the handloader. Availability of 250-grain match-grade bullets served to increase potential benefit and demand for a chambering with increased powder capacity. The .30-378 Weatherby certainly delivers on this promise.

It's a simple matter to load 250-grain Sierra MatchKing bullets to produce almost 3,000-fps muzzle velocity, without exceeding .30-06 pressure level—from a 26-inch barrel. Lighter bullets can be driven faster, but with those this chambering offers less advantage over standard .300 Magnum chamberings. When bullets lighter than 200 grains are fired from a 26-inch barrel, this cartridge is only marginally superior to the .300 Weatherby.

Tests have demonstrated that 150- to 180-grain bullet ballistics are markedly improved by use of slower rifling twist (1:13 to 1:15 works well), compared to

the factory 1:10 twist. However, with 30-inch barrels installed, ballistic difference is significant with all bullet weights.

Those looking for the ultimate long-range hunting rifle for smaller species might give this chambering a hard look. A single-shot rifle equipped with a 30-inch tube offers reasonable handling ease and, if chambered for this cartridge, would deliver huge doses of energy to a distant target with the flattest trajectory available. Accurate Arms data shows the 250-grain MatchKing generating the same muzzle energy as the .458 Winchester Magnum, when loaded to about the same pressure! So long as a good barrel is properly cleaned and not subjected to excessive rapid-fire shooting, its accuracy can remain good enough up to 2,000 rounds for long-range target shooting, and perhaps 2,500 to 3,000 rounds for big-game hunting. **GDTM**



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THE MANN LOAD

A whole new meaning to having a bullet with your name on it.

One of the first boxes of the Mann Load from Doubletap Ammunition in 2010. The packaging has changed a bit since then.



On a typically beautiful high desert morning in October of 2010, I was riding from Prescott, Arizona, to Gunsite Academy with Mike McNett of Doubletap Ammunition. We were discussing the terminal performance of defensive handgun ammunition. I was telling McNett about a test I'd conducted with the Barnes TAC-XP 160-grain bullet in 0.45-caliber. The conversation resulted in McNett offering a new load for the .45 auto that he calls the Mann Load.

What I explained to McNett during that drive was that I'd evaluated nine 160-grain TAC-XP bullets using a 5-inch 1911 in .45 Auto by shooting them into 10 percent ordnance gelatin. By handloading,

I'd varied the impact velocities from as slow as 809 fps to as fast as 1,263 fps. What I found was quite amazing in a number of ways.

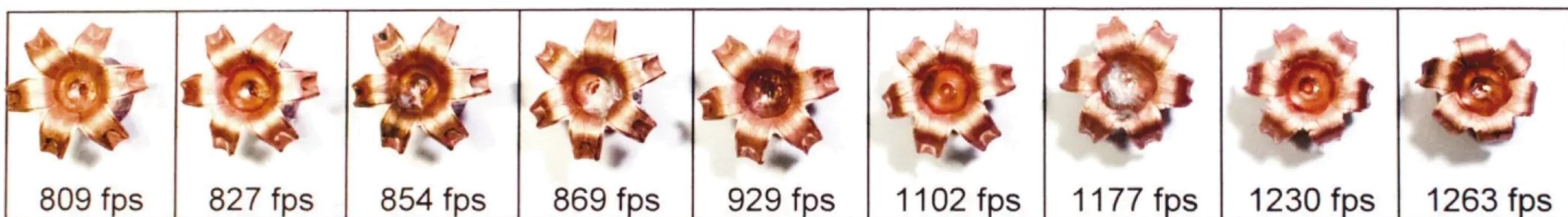
Regardless of the impact velocity, that bullet would upset consistently and always penetrate more than 12 inches. If you know anything about the FBI's bullet testing protocol and scoring procedure, this is what they're looking for. The thing to remember is that these results were for a single bullet with an impact velocity variation of 454 fps, or 56 percent.

McNett told me he currently offered this bullet in a +P loading, which should reach 1,200 fps out of a 5-inch barrel. What I explained to McNett was that, as consistent as this bullet is at almost any velocity, the added recoil from the +P load is unnecessary. In fact, you could argue that at that velocity the bullet

might over-penetrate. I suggested he offer the load in a non +P version at about 1,050 fps from a 5-inch barrel or around 1,000 fps from a 4.25-inch 1911 Commander-length barrel.

As a comparison, Doubletap's +P load will generate about 7.5 ft-lb of recoil from a 30-ounce handgun. My suggested load, at around 1,000 fps from a 4.25-inch barrel, would generate only about 5.5 ft-lb of recoil. That's 25 percent less. However, from a terminal performance standpoint, at the slower velocity the 160-grain TAC-XP bullet actually creates a larger crush cavity.

At the +P velocity, the bullet will penetrate around 17 inches and have a recovered diameter of around 0.62 inch. This works out to a crush cavity of about 6.2 cubic inches. But at the slower velocity the bullet's petals don't peel back as far, so it has a larger recovered diameter. This com-



bined with the slower velocity limits penetration to around 15.25 inches, but the crush cavity increases by about 8 percent.

You could argue this isn't enough difference in terminal performance to matter, and you might be right. But if that's the case, then the slower moving bullet is clearly as good as—if not a better—because it recoils so much less. McNett agreed this was a very valid load for self-defense, especially when fired from lightweight .45 Auto pistols. We spent the day at Gunsite Academy training and conducting terminal performance testing on several other Doubletap handgun loads.

On the way back to the hotel in

Prescott, McNett said he'd decided to offer the standard velocity 160-grain TAC-XP bullet load for the .45 Auto. I was excited because, at that time, the only similar offerings were from Wilson Combat and Buffalo Bore.

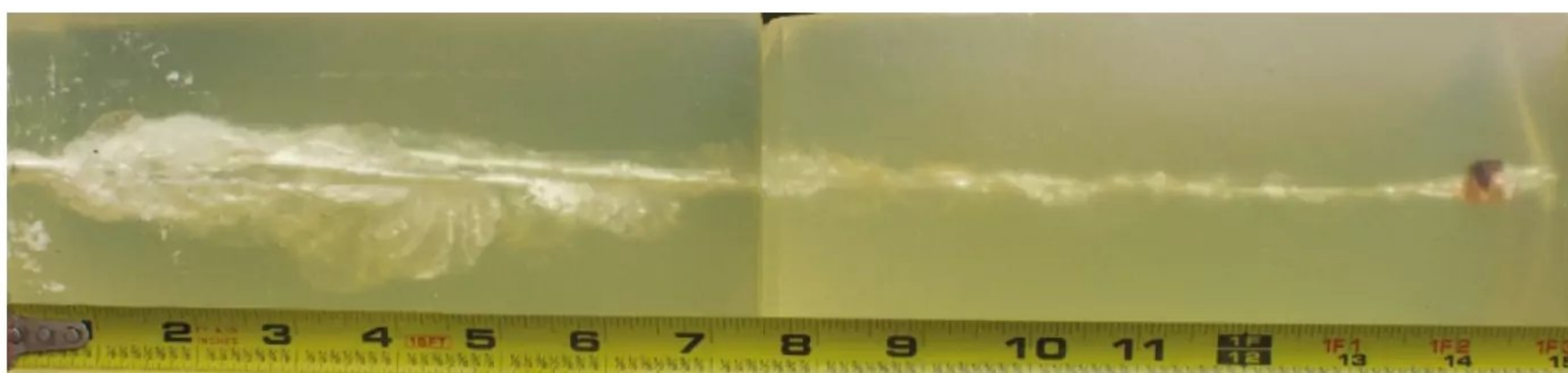
The Wilson Combat load was close to the velocity I wanted but about 50- to 75-fps faster. The Buffalo Bore load was a screamer; I've seen it reach 1,275 fps from a 5-inch barrel. If using a full-size duty pistol and maximum penetration is desired, the Buffalo Bore makes sense. But for everyday carry where human adversaries are your worst worry, I feel the 160-grain bullet at about 1,000 fps from a 4.25-inch barrel made more sense.

Here you can see the bullet upset consistency of the 160-grain Barnes TAC-XP bullet at impact velocities from 809 to 1,263 fps.

Load is what I most often have in the chamber and magazine.

Wilson Combat recently discontinued their 160-grain Barnes TAC-XP load for the .45 Auto. Bill Wilson prefers a new load from Lehigh Defense that launches a non-deforming 135-grain XD bullet at about 1,250 fps. We'll look at that load in depth in a later column. Buffalo Bore still catalogs their +P load, and if recoil does not bother you, just like the +P offering from Doubletap, it's a great option.

One of the struggles bullet engineers have with low velocity handgun self-defense ammunition is creating a bullet that is—for lack of a better term—velocity blind. A bullet that works out of handguns regardless of barrel length and out to any reasonable shot distance you might take—that's what you can expect from the 160-grain Barnes TAC-XP bullet. It'll work whether you're shooting a handgun with a 3- or 5-inch barrel, and it'll work out to at least 50 yards. Regardless of the 160-grain TAC-XP load you choose, I cannot think of a better option for a .45 Auto carry gun. **GDTM**



This is typical performance for the Doubletap Mann Load for the .45 Auto.

Intermediate barriers, like clothing or denim, have no negative effect on the Mann Load's 160-grain Barnes TAC-XP bullet's ability to deform and penetrate as designed.



A few weeks after we got home from the Gunsite event, McNett called and told me he had the load ready and was going to send me a few boxes. He added that, instead of calling it a standard pressure load—which sounds weak and uninviting to the average shooter—he was going to call it the MANN Load, and that's the way it's been listed on the Doubletap website, along their +P version and the other 11 .45 Auto loads they offer, ever since.

I'm not so sure I deserve any recognition for convincing an ammo maker to slightly slow down a load they were currently offering. But I appreciated McNett's gesture, and when I carry a .45 Auto, the Mann

With the +P 160-grain Barnes TAC-XP .45 Auto load from Doubletap, the bullet deforms a bit more, but still offers a wide frontal diameter and deep penetration.





FROM VICTIM TO DEFENDANT

The thin line between self-defense and criminal recklessness.

On April 21, 2014, 32-year-old David McLaughlin, a dedicated letter carrier for the United States Postal Service in Indiana, found himself in a harrowing situation. McLaughlin discovered a man attempting to burglarize his home. Acting out of fear and a primal instinct to protect his home and loved ones, McLaughlin discharged his firearm, firing three shots and injuring the burglar in the process.

What initially seemed like a justifiable act of self-defense soon escalated into a legal quagmire, as McLaughlin found himself facing charges of criminal recklessness resulting in serious bodily injury. How could McLaughlin,

initially the victim, be charged as a criminal?

In Indiana, the “Castle Doctrine” is codified by statute in Indiana Code 35-41-3-2(d) as follows:

A person is justified in using reasonable force, including deadly force, against any other person; and does not have a duty to retreat; if the person reasonably believes that the force is necessary to prevent or terminate the other person’s unlawful entry of or attack on the person’s dwelling, curtilage, or occupied motor vehicle.

As you can see, Indiana’s castle doctrine, eliminates the duty to retreat inside of one’s home and provides for the use of force to terminate the unlaw-

ful entry of or attack on one’s dwelling, curtilage or occupied motor vehicle. So far, so good for McLaughlin. So, where did McLaughlin go wrong?

McLaughlin’s case took a dark turn as it became apparent that his use of force extended beyond the immediate threat and beyond the scope of the castle doctrine protection. While his actions might have been initially justified, the investigation revealed that McLaughlin fired three shots. The first shot was apparently justified, but the next two were fired as the burglar fled down an alley, with the third shot hitting the burglar in the arm.

Even so, Indiana’s castle doctrine is not limited to the dwelling itself; it also

“Even though we all have the right to self-defense, the line between justifiable action and criminal behavior became blurred in the chaos of the moment.”

extends to curtilage, which includes land, not necessarily fenced or enclosed, adjoining the dwelling house including buildings used in the conduct of family affairs and domestic purposes. As you can see, this is not a precise term and not one you want to rely on when you are facing the possibility of time in prison. The problem is that the alley would almost certainly not be included in the definition of curtilage because it would have been a public place and not a place for “family affairs and domestic purposes.”

DETAILS MATTER

Even though we all have the right to self-defense, the line between justifiable action and criminal behavior became blurred in the chaos of the moment. McLaughlin’s decision to continue shooting as the burglar fled from his property crossed a critical threshold, transforming what could have been a legitimate act of self-defense into a criminal act of recklessness, with the possibility of years in prison. The pivotal moments between the first shot and the second and third shot in the confrontation served as the catalyst for legal proceedings that ultimately held McLaughlin criminally liable for his actions, highlighting the fine line between lawful self-defense and unlawful use of force.

In the trial, McLaughlin maintained his innocence, asserting that he acted solely out of fear for his safety and that of his family. His defense argued that McLaughlin’s actions were a natural re-

“The pivotal moments between the first shot and the second and third shot in the confrontation served as the catalyst for legal proceedings that ultimately held McLaughlin criminally liable for his actions, highlighting the fine line between lawful self-defense and unlawful use of force.”

sponse to the perceived threat posed by the burglar. However, the prosecution painted a different picture, emphasizing the reckless nature of McLaughlin’s actions and the harm inflicted on the burglar and the danger posed to the community at large.

Despite McLaughlin’s spotless record and testimonials to his character, the jury returned a guilty verdict, and McLaughlin was sentenced to 60 days in jail, 4 months of home detention, and a year of probation. The burglar ultimately plead guilty and received a 6-year sentence, all suspended to probation.

McLaughlin’s story serves as a cautionary tale of the delicate balance between justifiable self-defense and criminal recklessness, or worse. McLaughlin’s case serves as an example to us all that even though you are initially the victim, you can face legal jeopardy if you do not defend yourself within the bounds of justifiable use of

force, and his case underscores the importance of understanding self-defense laws and the legal implications of using firearms in self-defense.

As debates continue around the rights of individuals to defend themselves, it remains crucial for gun owners to be aware of their rights and responsibilities when faced with potential threats. If we aren’t responsible with our rights, everyone loses.

To pour salt on the wound, the burglar later sued McLaughlin civilly for monetary damages, a topic I’ll save for a later column—civil liability after self-defense. Luckily, the case was dismissed because the burglar failed to prosecute the case. Nevertheless, this situation demonstrates how a good guy with a gun can become a criminal defendant if there is any defect in his self-defense claim. **GDTM**

About the Author

Alex Ooley is an attorney from southern Indiana, who represents the accused in a wide range of cases, including self-defense and gun-related cases. He’s also an affiliate attorney with the Armed Citizen’s Legal Defense Network and a certified firearms instructor. He’s a passionate advocate for liberty and the Second Amendment, and he’s helped numerous clients protect and restore their gun rights.

HIGH & DRY

Another case of goodness.

We've all got gun cases. Some of us have plenty: the tacti-cool one with 17 pockets and Molle straps all over, one black, one green, one tan, one camo (heck, five camo), the hard one with wheels for flying—I've got five or six of those in various sizes—the Cordura one just to go to the range, and I've got a whole closet full of those, too, for some reason.

But what do you do when it's wet? Raining? Pouring? None of those help much, and some are worse than help.

The solution: get Alps. The Alps OutdoorZ Waterproof rifle case, that is. It's not just some tough cloth, but a 500D PVC shell, with welded seams and inside padding. The opening is a folding roll-top closure like that found on drybags. I've used drybags to keep my camera gear dry when wading ashore on beaches a thousand miles from human habitation. The Alps OutdoorZ can handle a rifle or shotgun up to 53 inches long and not quite 11 inches tall, so that means pretty much any hunting rifle.

Even a bunch of MSRs will fit.

It seals well enough to float ... well, float if it doesn't have 10 pounds of rifle *and* however much you weigh dragging it down. By my rough calculations, it will provide 50 pounds of buoyancy or so—more than enough to keep your rifle on the surface while you solve your personal flotation problem. It will, like

the Volkswagen, definitely float ... but not float indefinitely.

There are three compression straps on the side: a shoulder strap on the top, a carry handle and a D-ring on one end—plus an over-strap on the other. This allows you to compress the contents or strap it to a conveyance. You can even secure it to something that floats even better, if you're on board a boat or ship and want to make sure it doesn't sink if there's a problem.

If that's not your worry, use the D-ring to hang it up to dry out after all the wetness has subsided, or you've found a dry place to stay.

You're probably thinking, "All this goodness is going to cost me, right?"

Yes, if you consider a hundred bucks to be costly. I had the occasion to have duck and goose hunters as customers who would have gladly spent a hundred bucks back when that was a lot

more money to protect their shotguns ... or offer them a way to keep from drowning, should the duck boat have capsized.

Yep, puff it up once the shotgun is out, seal it closed, and it's a flotation device, and probably a better one than the airline seat they encourage you to consider, should your plane go down over water. (Wow, that took a weird turn, didn't it?)

So far, your choices are limited—one size, one color, one cost—but then again, how many cases like this does one shooter need?

No, it isn't Molle-strap covered. So, not tacti-cool. No, it's not airline approved, so you can't use it on a big hunt, unless it goes into the airline-approved case. But if you have to make sure your rifle, shotgun, whatever, gets where you are going and stays dry in the transit, this is the bag for you. **GDTM**





Here you see the shoulder strap and the compression straps, which you can also use to lash a tripod or other gear to the case with.



The D-ring on the end lets you hang it up to dry or attach more flotation to it just in case.

There's a carry handle on top, so you can transport it like luggage.

The end folds before being strapped shut, and that provides enough of a watertight seal that it will float—not forever, but long enough.

IS BULLET BUILDING STILL WORTH IT?

The cost of doing business just took a significant uptick.

I was checking the availability of a particular powder that my .300 Winchester Magnum enjoys very much, when I did a double take. While available, the price was \$69.99 per pound. Reeling from the dramatic price increase, I turned to my wife, opened my mouth and heard my father's voice come as I gave an uncontrollable dissertation on the cost of ammunition and components. Why in the world would there be such a drastic increase in the cost of powder, and why does it seem that the amounts of available powder is diminishing just as quickly?

Vista Outdoor announced a price increase just before the 2023 holiday season, indicating that not only would loaded ammunition of all sorts—from rimfire to centerfire to shotshell—see an increase in price, but the components would be going up commensurately. Now, I don't pretend to be an economist of any sort, but a simple trip to the grocery store will show you exactly how far our dollar doesn't go anymore, and it seems that this has translated to the shooting world as well.

Once upon a time in the not-so-distant past, a guy could use the same components as the premium ammunition brands, and handload his own ammunition far cheaper than it would be to purchase it. Slowly but surely, that price gap has shrunk to the point where it may not even exist any longer.

THE COST OF COMPONENTS

Using the popular .300 Winchester Magnum as an example, you will find that purchasing new brass cases will cost any-

where from \$1 to \$2.25 per piece, and, yes, I am aware that these are the one part of the equation that can be reused, so I'll adjust costs at the end for that factor. A 180-grain Nosler Partition, a very popular choice for the .300 Winchester, will cost \$87 for a box of 50, or \$1.75 a bullet.

Large rifle magnum primers are running between 10 and 12 cents per piece, and powder—depending on what you choose—is now priced somewhere between 0.6 and 1 cent per grain. With a powder charge of 70 grains, we're looking at a cost of between \$0.42 and \$0.70 per cartridge. If I were to ignore the cost of dies, presses, scales, trimmers and the like, and I were to average the component costs—I figured the cases would cost \$0.25 per loading based upon reloading them six times or so—I get a component cost of \$2.67 per cartridge, not factoring

in your time and labor.

Looking at the price of a box of Federal Premium 180-grain Nosler Partition ammo for the .300 Winchester, I'm seeing a street price of \$65.99, or \$3.30 a round, and if you were to purchase the same load from Nosler, you'll pay \$119.95 a box or \$6 a round, so there's a definite savings in comparison to that.

If a guy wanted to shave prices further, a more economical projectile could be chosen, but when you add in the cost of equipment, even averaged over time, the cost of reloading has probably risen to the point of the more affordable premium factory-loaded offerings. Certainly, precision shooters will still opt for the control that reloading offers, allowing them to customize their ammunition to their rifle.

However, considering the improve-





Some cartridges, like the .338-06 A-Square, need to be handloaded to be kept alive.

(Far left) The author's .318 Westley Richards loves Alliant's Reloder 16, but a 1-pound canister now costs \$70 before tax ... or shipping.

ment in performance of factory ammunition in the past 2 decades, a big-game hunter who shoots less than one box of cartridges per year might not need the handloaded ammunition. But even then, there's the question of availability.

Despite the return of most components after the huge crunch of 2020 to 2021, where COVID-19 and millions of first-time gun owners combined to both reduce supply and radically increase demand, I'm seeing an awful lot of "out of stock" on various supply houses. Whether this is attributed to the multiple military conflicts around the world, our own governmental agencies buying large amounts of both loaded ammunition and components, or other factors like the explosion at the Minden, Louisiana, blackpowder factory (which had more ramifications than even I realized), the bottom line is that our supplies are once again dwindling.

Fewer available products plus a dramatic increase in the costs of what components are available equals a terrible time for reloaders. The bottom line, at least for me, is that I'm actually shooting less as a result of this situation, and I'm considering the amount of product I'm running through for certain projects. It means that I buy in bulk when I find those components I know I am going to need going forward, especially for those cartridges which aren't currently loaded in factory ammunition.

Primers are once again drying up, powder is either expensive or unavailable, and projectile prices are climbing as well. Without getting into conspiracy

(Below right) Marked at \$17.95 and \$39.99 respectively, these prices may never be seen again.

(Right) Primer prices have gone up commensurately, now ranging from \$0.10 to \$0.15 each.



theories or delving into a political debate about the cause of the component/ammunition shortage, it seems to be a real thing ... once again. But what the current situation means to me is that I am, once again, actively concerned about the amount of the components I will need for my own shooting regimens.

WHAT'S THE END GAME?

I'm often asked by prospective reloaders, who have neither experience nor gear, if delving into reloading is worthwhile. Twenty years ago, I would've unabashedly answered in the affirmative. Today, I would have to ask about their goals. If they were the 2-weeks-a-year deer hunter, I might point out the possibility that it might not be fiscally wise.

But, if the inquisitor wanted to participate in competitive shooting, be that precision rifle or a timed handgun competition, reloading still maintains a definite value. If you like shooting and



hunting with big-bore rifles, reloading is definitely a value. Factory ammunition for my .470 Nitro Express costs between \$12 and \$16 per cartridge, and I can easily cut that in half by handloading. But for the .308 Winchester, .30-'06 Springfield, 6.5 Creedmoor and other common cartridges, the margin is much slimmer. **GDTM**

01 CVA Cascade SR-80

Catering to diverse hunting regulations, CVA has introduced the Cascade SR-80 scout rifle in .308 Win. or .350 Legend. Equipped with a Williams rear peep sight and adjustable front sight, alongside a Pica-tinny scope base with long eye relief, the rifle offers versatile sighting options. Finished with a durable black graphite Cerakote and earth-colored synthetic stock, it blends reliability with aesthetics. Swivel studs for a traditional sling and a customizable length of pull ensure comfort and adaptability. Compact with an 18-inch barrel and 7.3-pound weight, the Cascade SR-80 embodies the essence of the scout rifle concept.

MSRP: \$925

02 Maxim Defense PDX-SD in .300 BLK and 7.62x39mm

Looking for a bit more thump in your AR-style pistol? Maxim Defense has just what the doctor ordered with the release of the PDX-SD in .300 BLK and 7.62x39mm. Even better—it being a Maxim gun—the petite firearm features an integrated suppressor for reduced signature and enhanced comfort and control. Engineered as an integrated system, the PDX-SD ensures efficient maintenance and easy upgrades and its finely tuned gas system delivers high-end performance while maintaining balance and quietness. Weighing 7.6 pounds, the 5.5-inch-barreled gun offers a very manageable system that doesn't compromise performance, making it ideal for defense and tactical operations.

MSRP: \$3,700

03 CZ USA 600 Trail Rifle in .300 BLK

Compact? Check. Precise? Check. Stealthy? Definitely check. The CZ 600 Trail Rifle checks off all the boxes, especially the last now that the bolt-action comes chambered in .300 BLK. Paired with a suppressor, the compact chassis rig is ideal for subsonic shooting while maintaining the accuracy for which the model has become renowned. Prioritizing portability, the Trail features a PDA collapsible stock and only comes in at a scant 6 pounds, making it a rock-solid truck gun option. Better yet, the gun uses a slew of AR-15 parts—thanks to its AR lower—which makes it modular and extremely versatile, able to be tailored to your needs. To boot, the controls are very familiar to anyone who's run an AR—which pretty much means everyone.

MSRP: \$1,080

04 Bear OPS Double Clutch IV

Knife or gun, auto rules the roost. And if you're in the market for the easier-to-obtain former, then Bear OPS's new drop might be of interest. The Double Clutch IV is an out-the-front automatic option crafted for deep everyday carry. As for keeping it under wraps, the knife measures in at a tiny 4.5 inches with the blade deployed, with the Double Clutch IV boasting a 2.5-inch blade. Made from D2 steel, the blade also offers great edge retention and a good measure of corrosion resistance. As to the action, it's lightning fast, actuated via a thumb slide on the side of the aluminum handle. Available with a drop-point or tanto blade, the Double Clutch ends up a wicked little carry-along.

MSRP: \$290



05 Smith & Wesson M&P Sport III

Representing the latest evolution of the renowned M&P Sport series, the Smith & Wesson M&P Sport III keeps the rifle relevant to the times. Chief among the upgrades to the rugged and simple AR is the flat-top receiver and full-length aluminum handguard. Not only free-floating the barrel, this modification offers you enhanced optics mounting options and also allows you to doll it up, thanks to the handguard's ample M-Lok slots. Utilizing a mid-length gas tube and a thinner pencil-barrel profile, the rifle remains a lightweight platform and quite nimble. Furthermore, with a 16-inch barrel and 1:8-inch rifling twist, it stabilizes a wide range of 5.56mm projectiles. For bargain-priced ARs, it doesn't get much sweeter than this.

MSRP: \$800

06 Bear Creek Arsenal BC-201

It doesn't get much sweeter than a Ruger 10/22. Except, perhaps, a 10/22 clone that's geeked out to run like a top and comes in at a bargain-basement price. If that got your attention, it's time to check out Bear Creek Arsenal's new BC-201. This semi-auto rifle boasts a heavy barrel and Hogue stock, offering reliability and comfort. Compatible with Ruger 10/22 magazines and aftermarket parts, it ensures versatility and customization options. Notable upgrades include an AR-15-style charging handle for improved grip and a Ruger BX trigger paired with a stainless-steel bull barrel for enhanced accuracy. With an integrated 1913 railing for optics mounting, it caters to various shooting preferences.

MSRP: \$345

07 Weatherby SORIX

Made in Italy and finished in Wyoming, the SORIX is about everything a wing shooter wants in a field-ready shotgun. That includes affordability. Featuring a reliable inertia recoil system and Weatherby's Shift System for left-handed operation, it ensures versatility and ease of use, not to mention a good measure of ruggedness. Oversized controls and an adjustable stock enhance comfort and functionality, while the Crio Plus choke system provides optimal shot patterns. With included fiber-optic sights and compatibility with optics, the SORIX is ready for any hunting adventure. Available in 12 and 20 gauges.

MSRP: \$1,500

GEAR TO GET



05 »

06 »



07 »

HANDHELD HEFT

A .44 Magnum somewhere
between just right ...
and too much.

The special edition Ruger Super Blackhawk from Lipsey's exemplifies the meaning of hand cannon, especially when loaded with heavy Buffalo Bore .44 Magnum ammo.



Back in the early '80s, a friend showed up at the farm with a .44 Magnum revolver. I think he'd traded a set of chrome wheels off his Chevy Nova for it. Like most used .44 Magnums, this one came with a half-box of ammo, and we did our best to try and shoot it all up. I think we gave up after we'd both fired about two cylinders full. If my memory serves, he soon traded it for some other now forgotten gun. That was my first introduction to the .44 Magnum, and though

I've messed with several since, I've never had an inkling to own one. Until now.

I was recently browsing the Lipsey's website to see what was new. Lipsey's is a Louisiana-based firearms dealer known for offering unique limited edition guns, especially from Ruger. For example, they're currently offering a Ruger 77/22 chambered for the .22 Hornet, but it's configured like an Africa Express rifle. The gun that really caught my attention, however, was a Ruger Super Blackhawk in all stainless-steel with a Bisley grip and a 4 $\frac{5}{8}$ -inch barrel. It was a .44 Magnum, but inexplicably it seemed to scratch an itch I didn't know I had.

IT KEEPS ON GIVING

This is a beautiful revolver. The brushed stainless finish contrasts nicely with the dark laminated wood stocks. And while I've never really liked the Bisley grip, it seems to fit this revolver—both esthetically and ergonomically—perfectly. More importantly, with the Bisley grip it seems to balance in hand better than a Super Blackhawk with the standard grip.

Also, the Bisley grip is known for being much more comfortable on a revolver that has stiff recoil—but more on that in a moment. The revolver's 4 $\frac{5}{8}$ -inch barrel keeps it compact and not too heavy. It's only slightly heavier than a 5-inch 1911. The shorter barrel also makes it easier to wear in a hip holster. The adjustable rear sight and black, ramped front are standard for a Ruger Blackhawk, and the trigger was light to the touch and exceptionally crisp.

I needed serious ammo for a serious handgun, so I turned to Buffalo Bore because they make the most serious .44 Special and .44 Magnum ammunition you can buy. And if you're gonna shoot a .44 Magnum, you might as well get serious about it. I chose four loads. The first was their .44 Special Anti-Personnel load intended for self-defense. It uses a 200-grain hardcast wadcutter bullet at an advertised 1,000 fps.

The second was their .44 Special Outdoorsman load, which I think might be the best all-round load for this revolver. It pushes a 255-grain hardcast SWC Keith bullet to an advertised 1,000 fps. The other loads were heavy-hitting .44 Magnum loads. One pushes a 300-grain jacketed flat nose to 1,300 fps, and the other a 305-grain hard cast SWC Keith bullet at 1,325 fps.

From the bench, both the .44 Special loads were pleasurable to shoot, and out of the 4 $\frac{5}{8}$ -inch barrel, they both delivered better than advertised velocity. The two .44 Magnum loads were a handful and maybe more, and they too exceeded advertised velocities. I had no trouble shooting sub-inch three-shot groups with the .44 Special loads from the bench at 15 yards, but due to recoil, I really had to



The Bisley hammer on this compact big-bore revolver is easier to manipulate than the standard hammer.



The front sight on the Lipsey's Super Blackhawk in .44 Magnum is the standard sight Ruger uses on their single-action revolvers.

The rear sight on the Lipsey's Super Blackhawk in .44 Magnum is the standard sight Ruger uses on their single-action revolvers.





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Even though the barrel is short and the recoil intense, hits on a 10-inch 50-yard steel plate were possible while shooting off-hand. The revolver's good trigger helped immensely.

While shoving a Buffalo Bore heavy loaded .44 Magnum cartridge in the cylinder of the Lipsey's Super Blackhawk, you feel there's nothing you can't take on, and you'd be right.

concentrate and grit my teeth with the .44 Magnum loads. When it was all said and done, after firing three, three-shot groups with each load, the overall average group size was only 0.97 inch.

ALMOST ALL ROSES

If there's a downside to this hand cannon, it's that the ejector rod is a bit short to fully push fired cases from the cylinder. You can pop the rod and usually force them out, but with some of the hotter loads this will not work. While this might seem like a major detractor, in reality it's not. This isn't a revolver designed for house clearing or another application like mass zombie eradication, where you'll need to shoot a lot a reload in a hurry. If a couple shots from this thing does not solve the problem, your problem is unimaginably bad or you just can't shoot.

I do not need a .44 Magnum revolver. There's nothing big and bad enough in West Virginia that requires that much nastiness to stop it. But there's something about this hand cannon that I can't shake. Johnny Walker, my best friend who lives



in Kodiak, Alaska, has been begging me to come up and visit. If I go, I can think of no better revolver to have on my side; Walker has already had to shoot one Kodiak bear who thought he looked like an appetizer.

The thing is, my friend frequently comes back home to West Virginia to visit, and other than him, there's nothing on that bear-infested rock of an island I care about.

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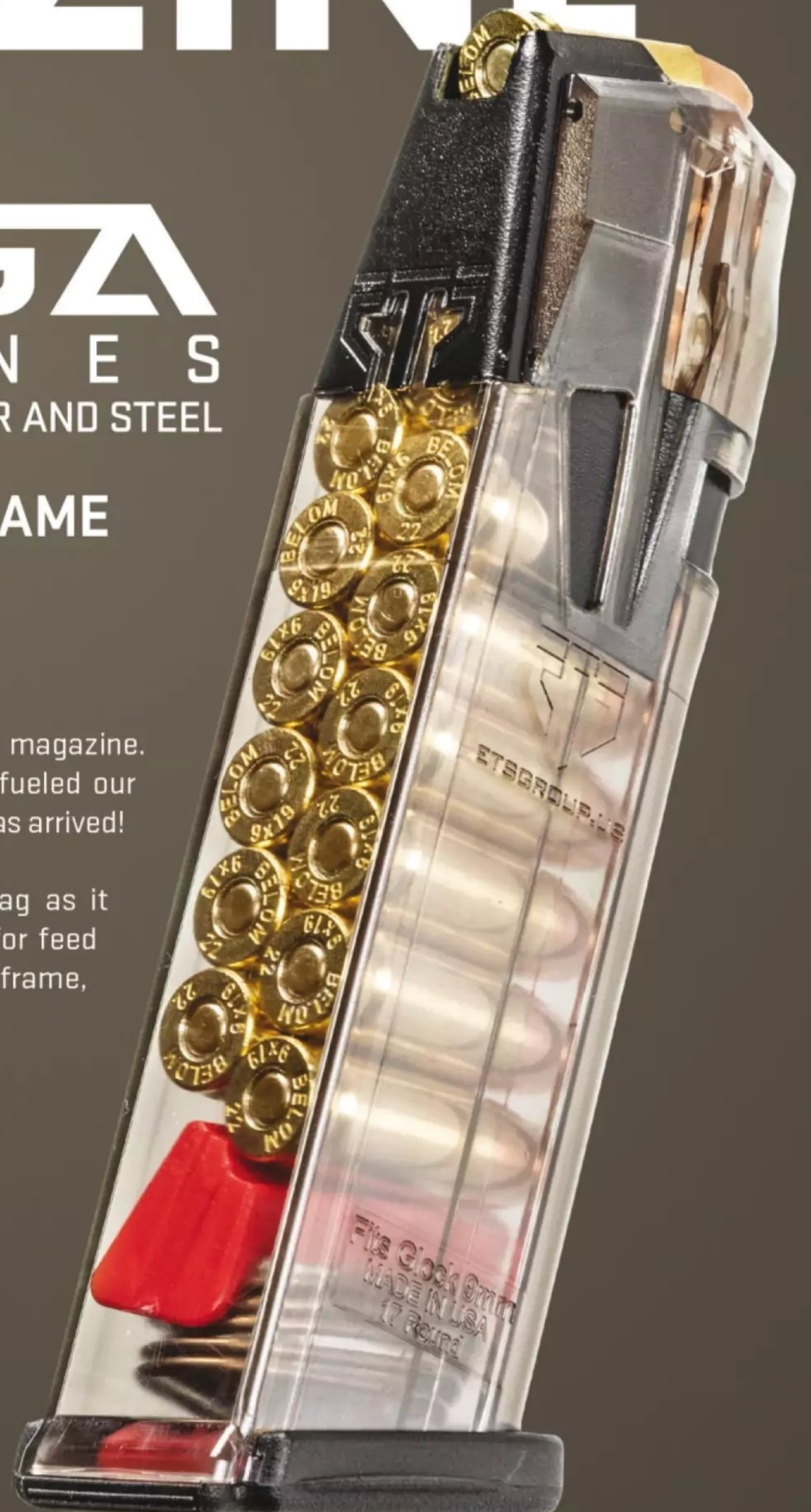
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Nope, I just don't need a lightweight, compact, easy to carry .44 Magnum revolver. But then again, my house and gun safe are full of guns I don't *really* need. The thing is, sometimes—when it comes to guns—“need” has absolutely nothing to do with it. I like this gun, and I get a feeling it likes me. And who knows, with all the talk about aliens, this might be just exactly the gun we'll all need one day. We just don't have enough information right now to know for sure, and I like being prepared.

EPILOGUE: RECOIL

So, let's talk a bit about the .44 Magnum. In general, it kicks—everybody knows that.

Federal lists a 280-grain Swift A-Frame load at 1,170 fps. If you plug that into a recoil calculator with a 46-ounce handgun like this one, it'll tell you you're going to experience about 16 ft-lb of recoil energy. That'll get your attention. To put it in perspective, Federal's 230-grain HST load for the .45 Auto will recoil with about 8.5 ft-lb of kinetic energy out of a 5-inch 1911, and a very hot 10mm load will generate about 13 ft-lb.

Out of the Ruger, the Buffalo Bore 305-grain Heavy load for the .44 Mag-



num recoils with 25 wrist-twisting ft-lb! It doesn't feel anything like a hot 10mm load. In fact, it doesn't feel like you're shooting a handgun. It feels more like you're trying to hold on to a mule's leg to try to keep the mule's leg from kicking you in the face. I might've peed myself a little the first time I fired one of those 305-grain loads. It's not that it was painful—it was a bit painful—it was just, well, a bit scary.

I shared my impression with Tim

Though this Heavy .44 Magnum load for Buffalo Bore is a handful, it shot very well out of the Lipsey's Super Blackhawk, delivering more than 1,200 ft-lb of muzzle energy.



SPECS

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NEW MODEL SUPER
BLACKHAWK BISLEY

CATALOG NO.: 0876

ACTION: Single

TRIGGER PULL: 2.75 pounds

CHAMBERING: .44 Special/.44 Magnum

FRAME: Stainless-steel

BARREL: Stainless-steel, 4 5/8 inches, 1:20 RH twist with 6 grooves

CAPACITY: 6

LENGTH: 10.50 inches

WEIGHT: 48 ounces (advertised) 46.4 ounces (actual)

SIGHTS: Adjustable rear, black ramped front

GRIPS: Bisley black laminate

PRICE: \$1,089.99



Lipsey's Ruger Super Blackhawk in all stainless-steel with a Bisley grip and a 4 5/8-inch barrel.



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LEATHER

A gun like this deserves good leather. I reached out to Galco to see what options they had. Ultimately, I decided on their SAO Strongside/Crossdraw belt holster (\$147). This is an elegant-looking, premium leather holster, with a warm brown finish, a tension screw adjustment and a thumb strap. What I really like about it is that due to the positioning and angle of the belt slots, you can wear it strongside or crossdraw. This isn't an ambidextrous holster; you'll need to order for left or right hand.

When I was talking to Mike Barham at Galco about a holster, he also suggested I get a pair of their 2x2x2 Ammo Carriers 2.0 (\$69). I've used these—the old version—before. They're a great little wallet-like, six-round ammo carrier, that just sort of wraps around your belt. It puts six rounds in easy reach for reloading. But Mike told me their 2.0 version has belt slots. You can still use it as usual and slide it around your belt as need dictates. But the belt slots on the 2.0 help hold the carrier in one place.

.44 SPECIAL SHOOTING RESULTS

LOAD	VEL	SD	ENG	PRC	REC
Anti-Personnel 200-grain Hardcast Wadcutter	1,088	20	526	0.908	7.47
Heavy Outdoorsman 255-grain Hardcast SWC Keith	1,035	8	606	0.813	10.66

.44 MAGNUM SHOOTING RESULTS

LOAD	VEL	SD	ENG	PRC	REC
Heavy 300-grain JFN	1,315	18	1,152	1.039	23.41
Heavy 305-grain Hard Cast LBT-LFN	1,345	12	1,225	1.105	25.28

NOTES: Reported average muzzle velocity (VEL), standard velocity deviation (SD) and average muzzle energy (ENG) were established by firing 10 rounds over a Caldwell G2 chronograph with the screens positioned 10 feet from the muzzle. The precision (PRC) of each load represents the average of three, three-shot groups fired from a sandbag rest at 15 yards. Recoil (REC) was calculated using an online recoil calculation source. Temperature: 58 degrees, Humidity: 48 percent, Pressure: 29.90 in-Hg, Elevation: 2,200 feet.



The new 2x2x2 ammo carrier from Galco is an ideal companion to the Lipsey's Super Blackhawk in .44 Magnum.

The 4 5/8-inch barreled Super Blackhawk from Lipsey's fit perfectly and carried comfortably in Galco's SAO holster.

Sundles who owns Buffalo Bore. He said—in a nonchalant, matter of fact way—and I quote, “Yeah, it's hard to write a letter after shooting the hard kickers.” *Ya think?!* Hell, it's hard to pick your nose or scratch your ass with any efficiency after a cylinder full of these dinosaur killers.

I know this is a review about a revolver and not intended to be a dissertation on the .44 Magnum, but give me some leeway, precision testing those heavy .44 Magnum loads from the bench while trying to shoot the best groups I could was daunting. This would have been quite different with Ruger's 7.5-inch Super Redhawk Bis-

ley Hunter at 52 ounces, which would recoil about 14 percent less and have a lot less muzzle flip. You're more than welcome to call me a wuss. I could care less. I think with this revolver reminded me of the lesson I learned on the farm about 40 years ago, and that's that I'm pretty much a .44 Special kind of guy.

TWO FINAL COMMENTS AND I'LL LET IT GO

First, after all the shooting, I sat down at the computer to draft this report. I couldn't. My fingers didn't want to respond efficiently to what my brain was trying to tell them to do. And finally, if you own a .44 Magnum, you owe it

to yourself to get at least one box of Buffalo Bore's 305-grain Heavy load. It's expensive; Buffalo Bore is proud of this stuff, and they should be because it's near the pinnacle of practical handgun power. A box of 20 retails for \$53.68. But it's worth the price to at least, just once, feel all that power in one hand.

I let my 24-year-old son, who's a Gun-site graduate, shoot it. I cannot write what he said. Just don't shoot this stuff in a revolver with a scandium or aluminum frame, or any revolver of questionable strength. If you do, you might experience something worse than a little bit of metacarpal numbness. **GDTM**

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WHEN TOO MUCH IS NOT ENOUGH

Battle of the big-bore AR-15s.



Just what *is* a big-bore AR-15?

Before we can determine that we must clearly define our task.

To me, it first means it's the AR-15 not the AR-10 or other amalgams, derivatives or evolutions. So, despite our esteemed editor's suggestion, a rifle in .308 is not a big-bore AR-15.

The second variable one might think of would be that any cartridge hurling a bullet larger in diameter than 0.224 inch is a "big-bore" AR-15. I'm not buying that, either. Oh, I've bought such rifles, but I don't consider a 6mm ARC, 6.5 Grendel or a .300 Blackout to be "big-bore" in an AR-15 ... or any other rifle for that matter.

No, for me, a big-bore AR-15 has to be pushing a bullet more than 0.308 inch in diameter. So, what are the choices these days?

.350 LEGEND

I've got one, and I am fond of it. For those who hunt where a bottlenecked cartridge is prohibited, it's the next best thing to sliced bread or an already-



The various bottlenecked cartridges aren't big-bores. The 6.5 Grendel, the 5.56 and the 6.8 RemSPC are fine cartridges, but not big-bores.

(Right) The .458 SOCOM is a real heavyweight, figuratively and literally. With bullets from 140 to 600 grains, it covers all the bases ... and obliterates some of them.

Once you get to the big-bores, the magazines of the AR-15 become single-stack feeding systems. Still, holding 10 rounds of .450 Bushmaster is not a bad thing—five if you're hunting, of course.



dressed whitetail. It's a Winchester cartridge, and it fires 0.357-inch bullets of 160 to 180 grains in weight. "Oh, a .350 Remington," you're thinking. Well, yes, but no one has ever complained about the effectiveness of the .350 Rem. on deer. In testing, I shot some Hornady American Whitetail 170-grain interlocks into clear ballistic gel and got 26 inches of penetration and a fully expanded bullet. Sounds like venison time to me.

The .350 case has the same rim diameter as that of the .223/5.56, so you can get an AR rebuilt to it by a simple-enough barrel swap, pulling out the worn .223/5.56 barrel and installing

one in .350 Legend. Yours might be magazine-picky, and it might not—there's an easy way to find out. The .350 is the smallest of the big-bore ARs, but it's plenty enough for hunting, and as a bonus you could even use it in self-defense if you had to.

.400 LEGEND

OK, you're Winchester, and now that you've updated the .350 Rem to the 21st century, what's next? Well, how about the .400 Legend? Winchester designed an entirely new case for this one, and on the front end, it uses bullets of 0.400 inch in diameter. As a straight-walled case, that means it





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NO GRAVEL. LESS TRAVEL.

When I tested the .50 Beowulf, it came with their Tank brake, and I was glad for it.

(Bottom right) This is a test shot into clear ballistic gel, and 26 inches later, an expanded bullet.



doesn't need a rebated rim, and the rim is 0.422 inch in diameter, the same as the 6.8 Remington SPC.

What this means, with a 215-grain bullet going a nominal 2,250 fps, is that the .400 Legend has less recoil than the .450 Bushmaster (but more than the .350 Legend, obviously) while delivering almost the same energy at 100 yards that the .450 does, and with less drop. As a big bonus for those considering a step up from using a shotgun with slugs, the .400 has half the recoil but twice the energy at 100 yards that a 1-ounce slug generates. I've fired enough slugs in my life that that alone makes the .400 very attractive.

So far, it's loaded only with a 215-grain Power-Point bullet, but any jacketed bullet of 0.400-inch diameter will work for reloading. You'll have to show some restraint, as your typical bullet made for the .40 S&W or 10mm pistol cartridge will not be as stoutly made as the 215 Power-Point, and shouldn't be used for hunting—period, end of story. But if you want to load up some low-recoil practice/training ammunition using those bullets, the future looks rosy. Just be sure and use jacketed; the all-lead and the coated ones will be murder on your gas system.

.450 BUSHMASTER

The Bushmaster uses pistol-diameter .45 bullets, so jacketed .451-inch bul-

lets are what you need to stock up on if you plan to reload your empties. The case calls for bullets heavier than those you'll find for the .45 ACP, but the 450 has been out long enough (it was new in 2007) that you'll have plenty of choices. The case was derived from the .284 Winchester and uses a rebated rim to fit into an AR bolt face, with a rim of 0.477 inch in diameter. Specifically, the diameter used for the 7.62x39 or 6.5 Grendel cases.

The .450 Bushmaster is plenty robust, hurling 250-grain Hornady FTX bullets (with a soft polymer tip) at 2,100 fps out of a carbine-sized AR-15. You'll feel the recoil.

The .450 Bushmaster has the energy required by the DNR in states that

permit straight-walled cartridges for hunting, but you'll have to eat your Wheaties, as the recoil from a typical AR-15 (let's say, under 8 pounds) is going to be stout. This made it not so attractive to new hunters, and those of small stature, which is how Winchester came to develop the .350 and then the .400 Legend.

.458 SOCOM

The SOCOM, as its name might give you a hint, was developed for use by the bearded gents who track down bad guys and deal with them in faraway places. They wanted something with more horsepower than the 5.56, and boy did they get what they wanted. The SOCOM uses rifle-diameter bullets, so



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you will be looking at relatively “light-weight” bullets starting at 300 grains and going on up.

The case is a lengthened .50 AE, necked down to hold 0.458-inch bullets, and it also has a rebated rim, as there is only so much space on an AR-15 bolt for a case rim. The .458 SOCOM rim is 0.473 inch in diameter, which is the absolute limit of what an AR-15 bolt can take.

In the 300-grain hunting load offerings, you’ll see velocities from 1,850 to just shy of 1,900 fps. If you are looking for lighter-weight bullets, the Inceptor 140-grain can be pushed up to 2,450 fps. If you prefer heavier bullets, then you can find offerings in the 400 to 500 and even up to 600 grains, and the latter ones can be had in subsonic loadings. A quiet sledgehammer, anyone?

The .458 SOCOM in those loads is essentially a 12-gauge slug equivalent, but with better bullets and out of an AR-15. One detail you’ll have to look out for is ejection. The .458 SOCOM tests the limits of the ejection port opening, and you may find ejection a bit laggard if you have built yours on a vanilla-plain upper. When I built mine, I used a flat-sided billet upper, and simply milled the ejection port larger

so as to accommodate the cases. I didn’t bother with an ejection port cover door; I’m not going to be using a .458 SOCOM like I’d use a combat AR-15.

.458 HAM’R

I am fond of the .458 Ham’r, designed by Bill Wilson, but it falls outside of our definition. The Ham’r runs at higher pressures than those of the SOCOM, and as a result, it has to have an AR-10 sized bolt. That makes it a Chimera, an AR-15 lower with an AR-10-dimensioned upper, in order to take the pressures. I love it; it fires a 300-grain bullet at 2,100 fps, but it isn’t an AR-15 as we defined things here.

.50 BEOWULF

Designed by Bill Alexander, the Beowulf is one of the first big-bore AR-15 cartridges. Coming out in 2001, it’s a rebated-rim straight-walled case holding bullets of 0.500 inch in diameter. The case is a stretched .50AE, with the overall length of the loaded cartridge just enough to fit into an AR magazine and still feed properly. It, like the .45s, feeds single-stack out of the magazine.

The 300-grain bullet loads run just under 1,900 fps and heavier 325- to 335-grain loads run from just under

1,800 fps to almost 1,900 fps. The Beowulf is a proprietary cartridge, so it is not SAAMI-approved, and thus not loaded by other ammunition makes. Ammunition comes solely from Alexander Arms, but they have plenty, and loaded with bullets from 200 to 400 grains in weight.

The .50 Beowulf I tested came with their “Tank” brake, and I was glad of it. Firing 12-gauge slug recoil-equivalent



(Above) The .350 Legend is plenty accurate, as you can see.

A good group with the .350 Legend. It would have been better if not for the one trigger-snatch shot fired.

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The .50 Beowulf and a lineup of loadings for it, compared to a .223 in the middle.

(Below) The .458 Ham'r is a really stout cartridge, but it doesn't fit into the basic AR-15 platform. Bill Wilson makes a hybrid, and you need it to use this cartridge.

ammunition from a rifle that full-up tipped the scales at 8 pounds would be ... interesting, were it not for the brake.

THE LITTLE THINGS MATTER, TOO

All of the big-bores are accurate. When I was testing the Beowulf, I found that it hit so hard on the other end and hit so precisely to where I was aiming, that what I was plinking at simply disappeared when the bullet got there. They're probably all more accurate than 99 percent of the shooters using them, so there's no concern in that point. And if you reload, then the world will be your oyster.

With the exception of the .458 SOCOM, they are all straight-walled cases, and as a result, they will be relatively easy to resize. No need to worry about bumping back the shoulder just enough, and if you do not invest in carbide sizing dies (I heartily recommend that you spring for the extra few dollars it takes) then a little lube, cleaned off after resizing, will go a long way.

While the .400 Legend is really new, and thus bullets for it might be a bit tough to source, the others are in common diameters, and bullets for them have been being made for years, if not decades. And there's also the economy.

The .350 legend, for example, uses much the same weights in powder as does the .223/5.56 (although not the

same powders, just to be clear) which is half that of what a .308 load requires. Yes, the .308 generates more velocity and thus more energy, but how much do you need for a whitetail? For a 180-grain bullet, 25 grains of powder gets you 2,200 fps in a .350, while it takes 39 to generate 2,375 fps in the .308. Do you think the whitetail would notice the difference? Perhaps not, but your shoulder and wallet will.

The best part? You can build or buy a new AR to handle these cartridges, or you can just invest in an upper and some magazines. The uppers of the big-bores will have been tuned to operate

on regular AR-15 lowers, so if you buy an upper in .350 Legend, you can have range time with the .223/5.56 upper you usually park there, and then once you're zeroed, go off and hunt with the Legend. The buckets of practice ammo you've burned in .223 will carry over to using the .350 Legend (or the others) and you will be a better shooter for that.

For hunters in the Midwest who have to deal with DNR straight-wall-case regulations, there are a lot more choices now than there had been just a few years ago. And for those looking for a new challenge, or a different range experience, big-bores can be a lot of fun. **GDTM**



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Behind the shine of chrome-lined barrels.

In my time as a gun writer, I've come in contact with just about every corner of the shooting public and their unique cultures. Just like anything we obsess over, barrels are one of those topics that can polarize people. For every 10 shooters, you'll find 10 different schools of thought on what barrels to buy, what length, what contour, carbon or steel, favored twist rates and so on.

One of the more controversial barrel configurations of our day is chrome lining. This feature has passionate proponents—and decided detractors. Let's look at just what chrome lining is and why it has generated so much divisiveness in the shooting community.

AN UNPOLISHED PAST

Before we dive into the technical merits of chrome-lined barrels, we should first look at them from the point of view of the American consumer and how our experience with them has shaped our current opinions.

Much of the shooting public doesn't consider chromed barrels to be accurate. A large reason why is due to the plethora of cheap, Eastern Bloc guns that were imported here for decades during the Golden Era of military surplus in the 2000s. Yes, these were those halcyon days of \$60 Mosin Nagants and \$40 cases of 440 rounds in sealed tins. As a result, a significant number

of these guns arriving stateside from Soviet-sphere countries had chrome-lined bores and weren't of the quality that we've come to expect from Western guns.

This, combined with the relatively low quality of Eastern Bloc ammo, bad triggers and unaligned sights on many types of rifles, led the American gun buyer to eventually associate the often-advertised "comes with chrome-lined barrel" feature with low accuracy and poor quality.

Another angle to consider was the American military misadventure with the M16 rifle in Vietnam, which was given a chrome-lined barrel and







The chromed chamber of the FA M1 is clearly visible here. It has seen a touch over 3,000 rounds and has only been wiped down as needed, a testament to the high quality of Criterion barrels.

Two decades ago, this rifle would have been considered a hyperbole. It bears a 16-inch chrome-lined, hammer-forged Geissele barrel, is chambered in 5.56mm and is an accuracy machine with virtually no recoil, accurate on plates to 800 yards and beyond. The build is carbine size yet is able to deliver long-range performance on par with many dedicated match rifles, while also being easy to keep clean and consistent for long periods of time. Today's AR builds can deliver incredible performance. Optics are by US Optics and Armasight.



chamber well after corrosion problems caused malfunctions and likely preventable soldier deaths. This situation, dating back to the 1960s, caused the public to see the process as remedial and a bandage for keeping unreliable guns running for cheap. The M16 and later variants struggled for years to repair this early series of reputation-killing failures. Chrome lining, as a result of all these things, was generally looked down upon by serious shooters as an accuracy-robbing tactic to ensnare naive buyers.

chrome-lined barrels. I'll admit that I was a bit surprised to see how things have changed in this world, and how my own perceptions of chrome-lined barrels have changed. What needs to be generally understood is that the early opinions about these types of barrels were, in large part, correct: It was hard to find rifles with lined barrels that were really as accurate as those without.



Today, we see that accurate rifles are the boring norm, indeed the old myths and miracles worked by yesteryear's gunsmiths are really a thing of the past. Chassis rifles with even medium-quality barrels will shoot very well in many cases using mass-manufactured, button-rifled barrels. Our cumulative understanding of accuracy has come to near completeness within the past 20 years, and the average shooter has rifles that are so much better than what existed before that he or she might not even realize it. But, for all that, chrome lining hasn't been killed off, and instead is making a dramatic comeback—and giving other barrel types a run for their money.

A large reason for this is that chrome lining is an additive process, meaning it's a material that's applied to the surface and adding a layer of thickness. Other processes, such as the well-known salt bath nitride method is, without going into an incredibly long description, a hardening and finishing technique, related in a roundabout way to case hardening. The dimensions of the metal don't change; the tolerances are held very tightly, and the chemical reaction of the heated bath actually penetrates the metal surface and gives it color and hardness. This is a faster process than chrome lining and offers a wide range of benefits, not a small one being reduced cost with no accuracy loss.



Homogeneous metal barrels are commonly those we associate with being "match" quality. You see this in stainless-steel barrels that are commonly used by precision rifle shops. These blanks can be turned, threaded and finished by either simple polish or bead blast, sometimes non-penetrating surface finishes

BARREL BUSINESS

I recently spoke to several companies that all manufacture both standard and

like Cerakote.

The steel for these barrels is somewhat naturally corrosion resistant, but is limited in total finish options and has, in theory, less barrel life than lined or finished barrels. This is entirely subjective, as barrel life, wear and accuracy are all based on intended end use. Are stainless barrels completely inferior to lined or finished barrels? Absolutely not. But your choice of barrel should be determined by how you'll actually use your rifle and intend to modify or alter it in the future.

The basis here is that, in general, some sort of finish or lining will extend the functional life of your barrel, but each of these techniques has a different set of benefits that apply directly to each barrel. For instance, if you have a stainless-steel barrel, you're basically free to cut it down to whatever length you like and you'll suffer no problems in that modification, and you can also have it easily rechambered or otherwise changed. This is a very flexible material to use, and this is why it's very common in the precision community. You cannot do this on chrome-lined or finished barrels without destroying the benefits they offer.

Chrome-lined barrels are the least flexible when it comes to modification. The chrome lining itself is a physical plating that can be chipped and cracked if you attempt to cut the barrel shorter. The length you purchase is the length you get. Attempting to re-chamber a chrome-lined barrel will also destroy it—you'd remove and ruin the plating. Likewise, there's no re-crowning of these barrels; the plating extends to the muzzle.

This brings an interesting challenge to gunsmiths and hobbyists. You cannot control the headspace on a chrome-lined barrel; instead, you must install the barrel and then headspace the bolt and even receiver to the barrel, such as is the case with both the Fulton Armory M14 and M1 Garand featured here in this article. Each of these guns uses a Criterion chrome-lined barrel and has to be painstakingly hand-fit to ensure

headspace.

But, after all that, the accuracy is superb.

ACCURACY IN QUESTION

The idea that chrome-lined barrels are less accurate than their counterparts is true in some cases ... and false in others. What it comes down to is that you must start with a high-quality barrel if you want high-quality results.

In decades prior, it's true that the guns being brought in with chrome-lined barrels weren't very accurate, and many had lots of issues with their bores: There was little attention paid to the uniformity of the plating, and even worse, many importers reassembled rifles on a whim from parts kits and various other means as they bought surplus from other parts of the world. Headspacing on these

guns varies widely, and when using less-than-optimum ammunition, the results were not stellar. So, in a way, there's a kernel of truth in the commercial history of chrome-lined barrels in that they were at times not very good.

Today, at least in American manufacturing, this has dramatically changed. Criterion told me that chrome-lined barrels account for as much as 30 percent of their total manufacturing output. That's how much shooters have come to understand the benefits of such a process. Other companies I spoke to, such as Faxon Firearms, do produce OEM chrome-lined barrels but only sell salt bath nitride to the public. As the surplus market has dried up (both a good thing and a bad one), today's shooters are only being introduced to these high-end barrels, and the response

A Faxon Firearms barrel showing salt bath nitride finish. This is a surface-hardening process, not an additive process like chrome lining.



An original M1 Garand barrel showing lack of chrome lining.



has been extremely positive.

Accuracy isn't a question anymore with chrome-lined barrels. The three featured in this article, one by Geissele and two by Criterion (gunsmithed by Fulton Armory), are all tack drivers. To the point that my day/night 5.56mm AR build with Armasight clip-on is capable of 1/4 MOA at 100 meters using 77-grain Black Hills MK262 loads. I primarily fire this rifle suppressed, and the chromed bore makes cleaning up after shooting extremely easy. The rest of the gun ... well, let's say I'm not above getting out the hose.

The Fulton Armory M14 and M1 Garand are both very solid shooters, enjoy incredible accuracy and also run very clean. These rifles are meant for heavy use in the field or the competition line and are expected to see a relatively high round count. The .30-06 and .308 Win. aren't known to be barrel burners in the slightest. I have a few thousand rounds of .30-06 on the M1 from last year's competition season, and it has performed extremely well with minimal maintenance.

My average with this rifle and the M14 is hovering at 1.5 MOA from the bench with irons, a bit wider when I'm slung up. Factory Hornady 168-grain Garand Match runs great in .30-06, as does Hornady and BHA match loads in .308 Win. Firing hunting loads, such as the Remington Tipped Core-Lokt in

.308 Win. generates accuracy approaching an inch at 100 yards from the M14 when equipped with a UltiMak rail and Trijicon MRO. These barrels are accurate, plain and simple, even in classic military rifles.

REALISTIC EXPECTATIONS

Where we see the greatest benefits from chrome lining are in firing durability and corrosion resistance. This isn't to say that a stainless or salt bath nitride barrel will be completely useless by comparison; it's again about what you want out of your barrel. If you're a comp guy and routinely change barrels at 7,000 rounds, buy cheaper barrels you plan to get hot.

I don't think anyone will debate you, but there will be that one guy who says to buy a chrome-lined barrel because it should last to 14,000 rounds. Heat is the true killer of barrels, and the hotter you get your barrels for longer, the sooner you'll cause them damage. Where chrome lining stands out is in providing an extremely hard, wear-resistant surface that's easy to keep clean and accurate. If you abuse it, you lose it.

Of interest is that there's no actual metric to determine what barrel life is. In my experience with all barrel types,

I find that there's little to no difference in accuracy: I have some chrome-lined AR carbine barrels that shoot as well as hand-fitted carbon-fiber match barrels on bolt actions, so what it does come down to is what you want and how you plan to get there. Plating is a common and popular practice.

Today, it stands largely on its tradition as much as it does its functionality, and it could be argued it's an inferior process to start that adds cost for a subjective amount of benefit. For instance, I can plan on an accurate (under 1 MOA) life for my Geissele 5.56 barrel of somewhere around

Fulton Armory's M14 rifle is available with a chrome-lined barrel as well as several other options, including length and material. These classic rifles were some of the first American military rifles to be chrome lined and were often seen as ideal for use in the wet jungle environment of Vietnam, though they were large and somewhat heavy. It would be only later on that the M16 would receive chrome lining, after corrosion had caused many stuck cases and preventable deaths due to jammed rifles.



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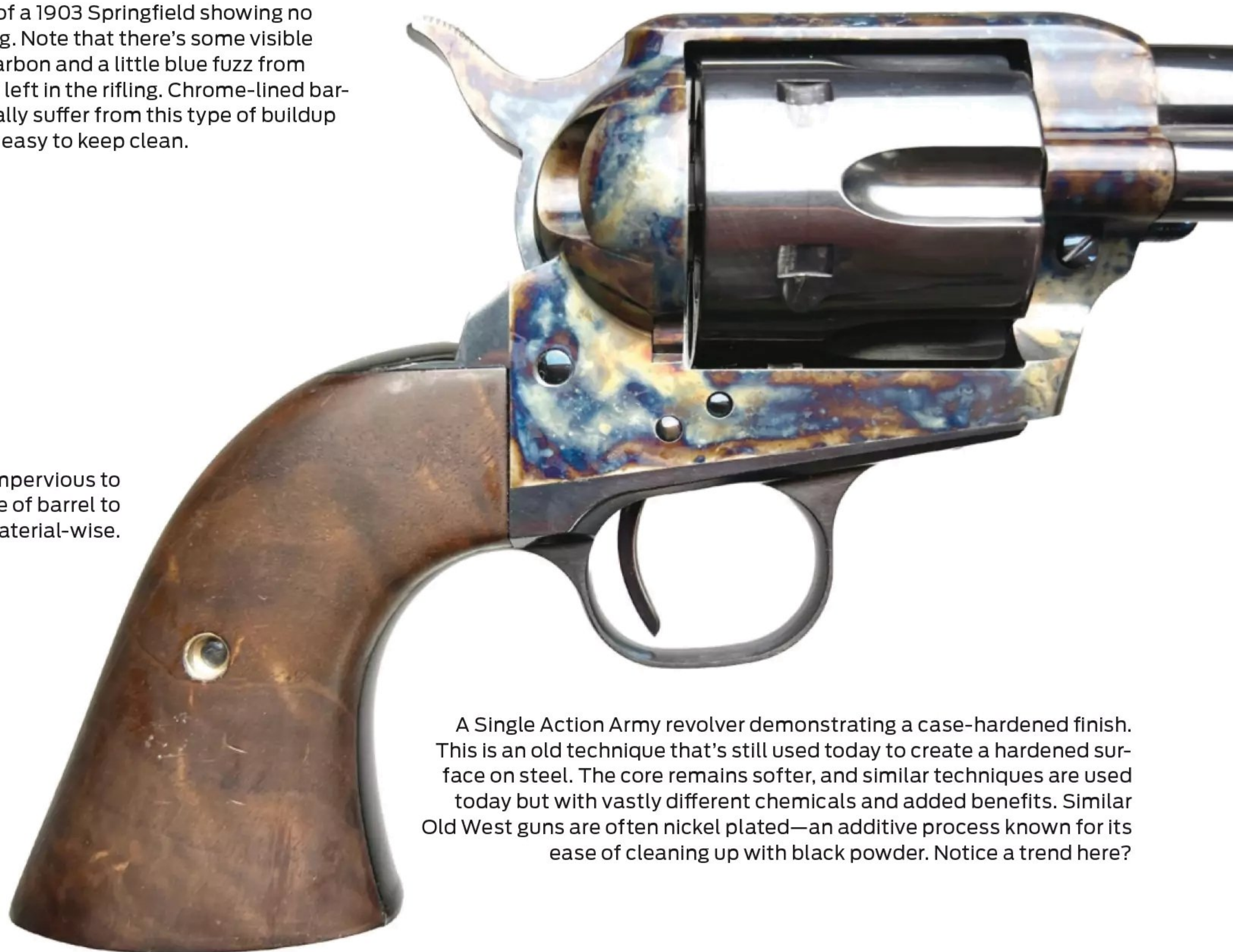
WILSON COMBAT



The muzzle of a 1903 Springfield showing no chrome lining. Note that there's some visible buildup of carbon and a little blue fuzz from jacket metal left in the rifling. Chrome-lined barrels don't really suffer from this type of buildup and are very easy to keep clean.



Stainless barrels like this one aren't impervious to rust or wear, but they're the easiest type of barrel to work with material-wise.



A Single Action Army revolver demonstrating a case-hardened finish. This is an old technique that's still used today to create a hardened surface on steel. The core remains softer, and similar techniques are used today but with vastly different chemicals and added benefits. Similar Old West guns are often nickel plated—an additive process known for its ease of cleaning up with black powder. Notice a trend here?

10,000 rounds, but I can't imagine getting there. I'd also expect it to last, in terms of functional accuracy, far beyond that point. I've put about 3,000 through this barrel, and it has had no accuracy issues. I don't expect that to change in the next several years with how slowly I fire this rifle in practice. Likewise, I've put thousands through nitrided Faxon barrels with no accuracy degradation, but with more cleaning.

Anyone who says you absolutely will get double the barrel life with chrome over a nitride or other barrel is lying to you; there has been no widespread study to prove this claim. In practice, it's generally considered to be true that chrome-lined barrels do have longer lives, but this again is down to the individual user, not to a whole product category. If I keep my rifle cool and fire 10,000 rounds equally timed in a year at constant temperature, I'll experience less wear in general than if I fired 10,000 rounds in 10 hours. Heat, again, is the killer here, and it accelerates erosion of the interior of the barrel.

What about 10,000 rounds in 6 months? Well, again, I don't quite know;

there hasn't been a large-sample study done to evaluate this subject. We know, in general, that chromed barrels hold up better longitudinally, but that gap is getting smaller every passing year as new finishing processes become available.

While I could go into a number of anecdotes about what I've personally experienced, I've simply come to understand that all but a select few people never truly need to change out a barrel due to shooting wear. It does happen, but cleaning is a far more dangerous process to a barrel than shooting is—and in this aspect, chrome-lined versions have a distinct advantage.

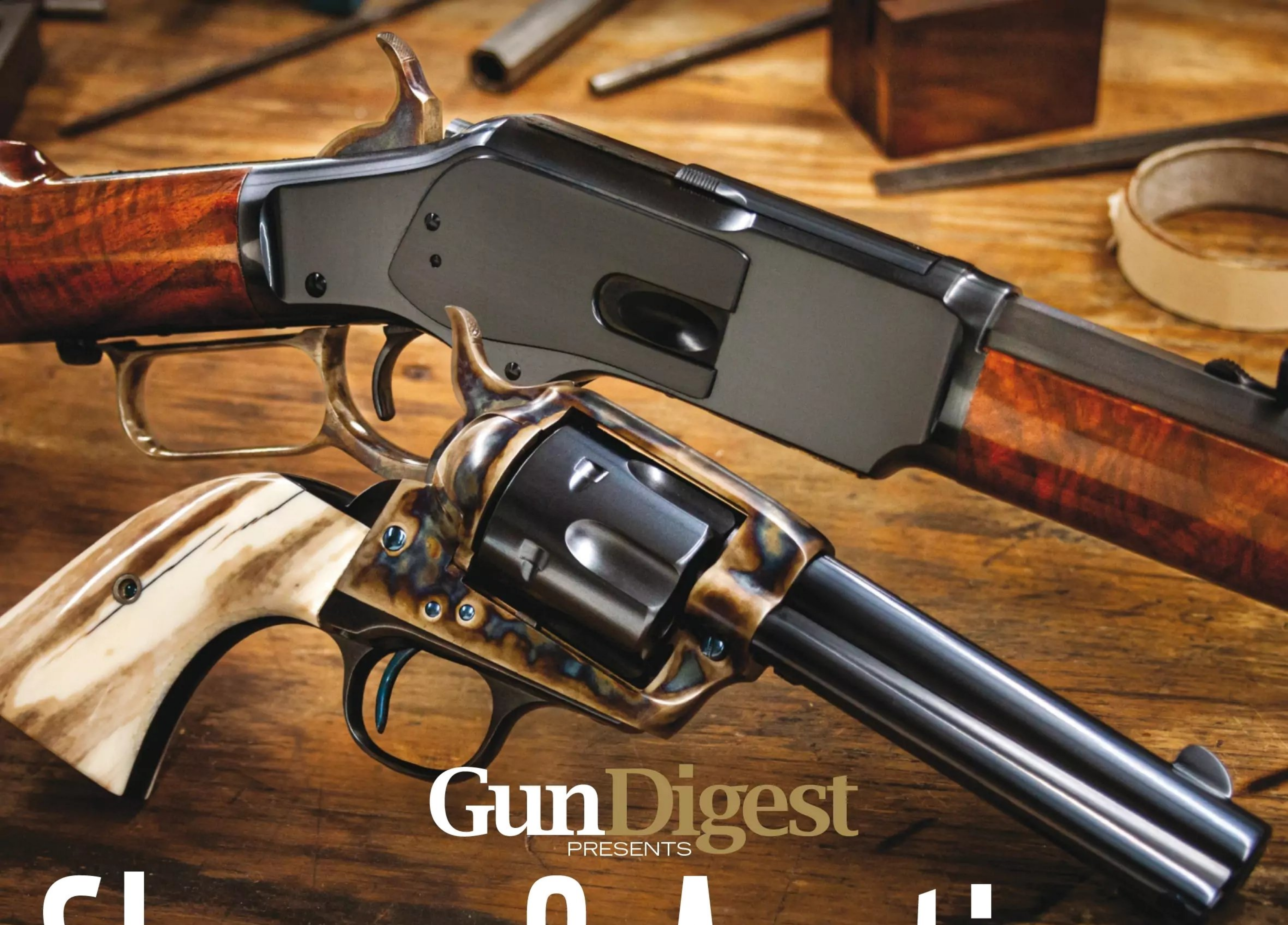
There's seldom any copper or other fouling to remove because it rarely collects on the hard, smooth surface like it does in other barrel types, which need a degree of fouling to be truly consistent. I find that I don't even need to break in a chromed barrel, and I can just start shooting with no bad results. It's my first-hand opinion that these barrels ultimately have the ability to last longer because they require less hands-on maintenance.

The general rule of thumb you should

be looking at is this: If you're going to experience harsh, extreme environments, going from cold to hot, wet to dry, and want to reduce cleaning and having to foul your barrel every few thousand rounds, go with a chrome-lined barrel—you won't be sorry you did. **GDTM**

An original WWII M1 Garand barrel. These old barrels were good for their time, but without lining and firing corrosive ammunition, they had to be kept clean all the time. Note the erosion at the muzzle, which largely would arise from aggressive cleaning.





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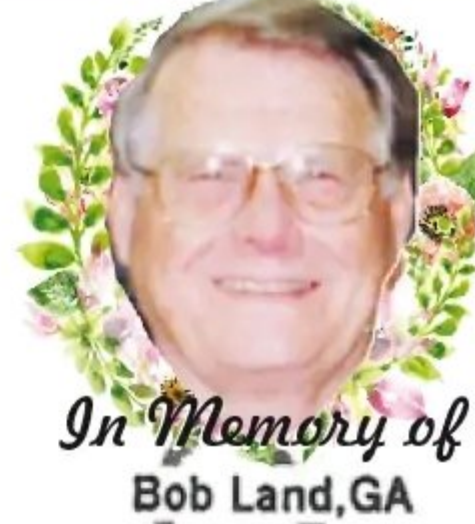
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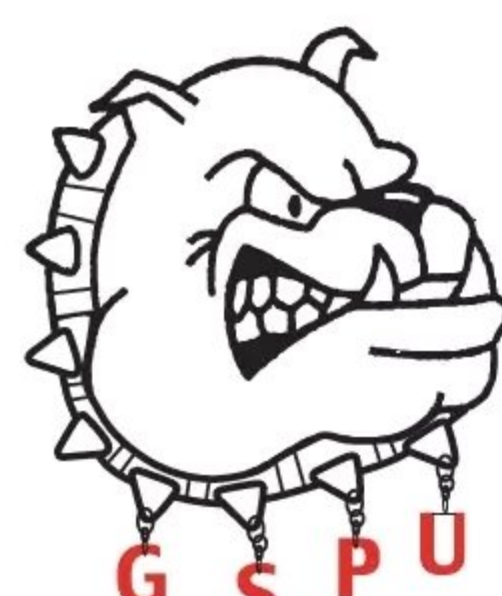
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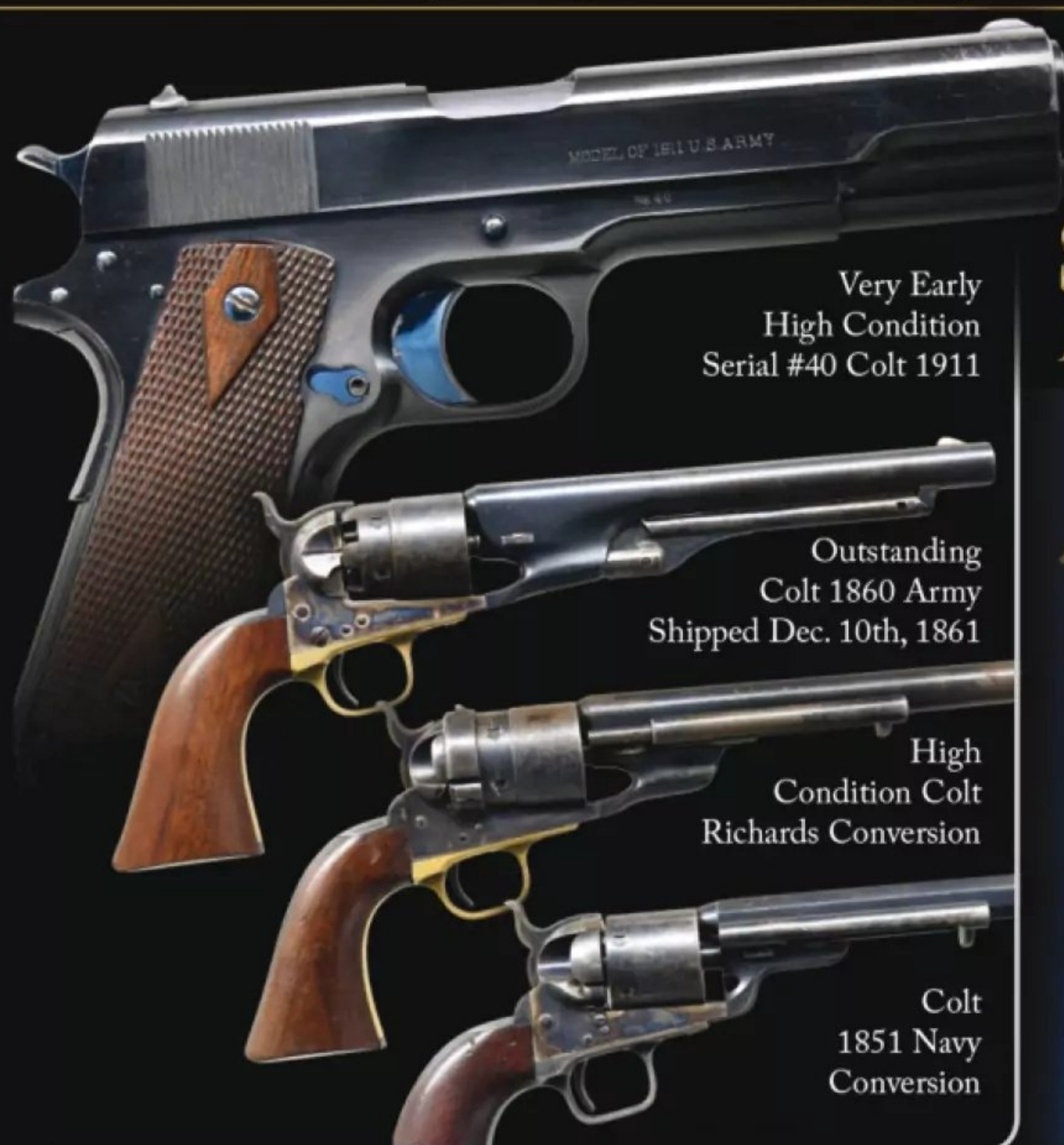
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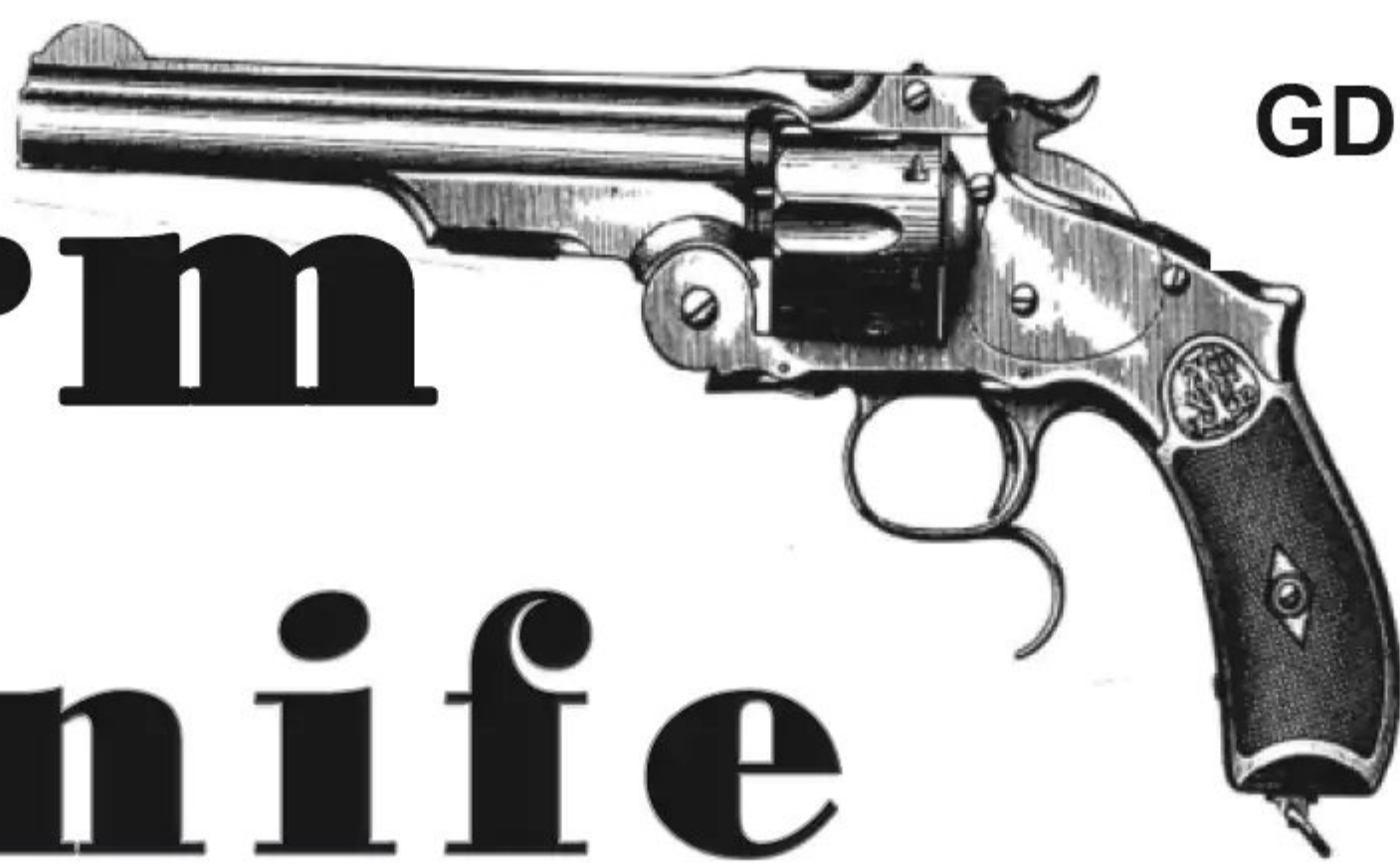
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AUGUST

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.

Aug 17 PA, Greencastle. Franklin Co. Pa Izaak Walton League Gun Show & Outdoor Extravaganza. Greencastle Sportsman's Assoc. Greencastle, PA, Greencastle Sportsman's Assoc. Grounds, 3260 Sportsmans Road. SH: Sat. 8am-3pm. A: \$6.00 adults (Kids 12 & under & New signing NRA memberships admitted free day of show). T: 110. F: \$25.00. Franklin Co. PA Chapter Izaak Walton League of America. 106 Greenleaf Rd, Chambersburg, PA 17202-3134. PH: 717-977-9240. None.

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.

OCTOBER

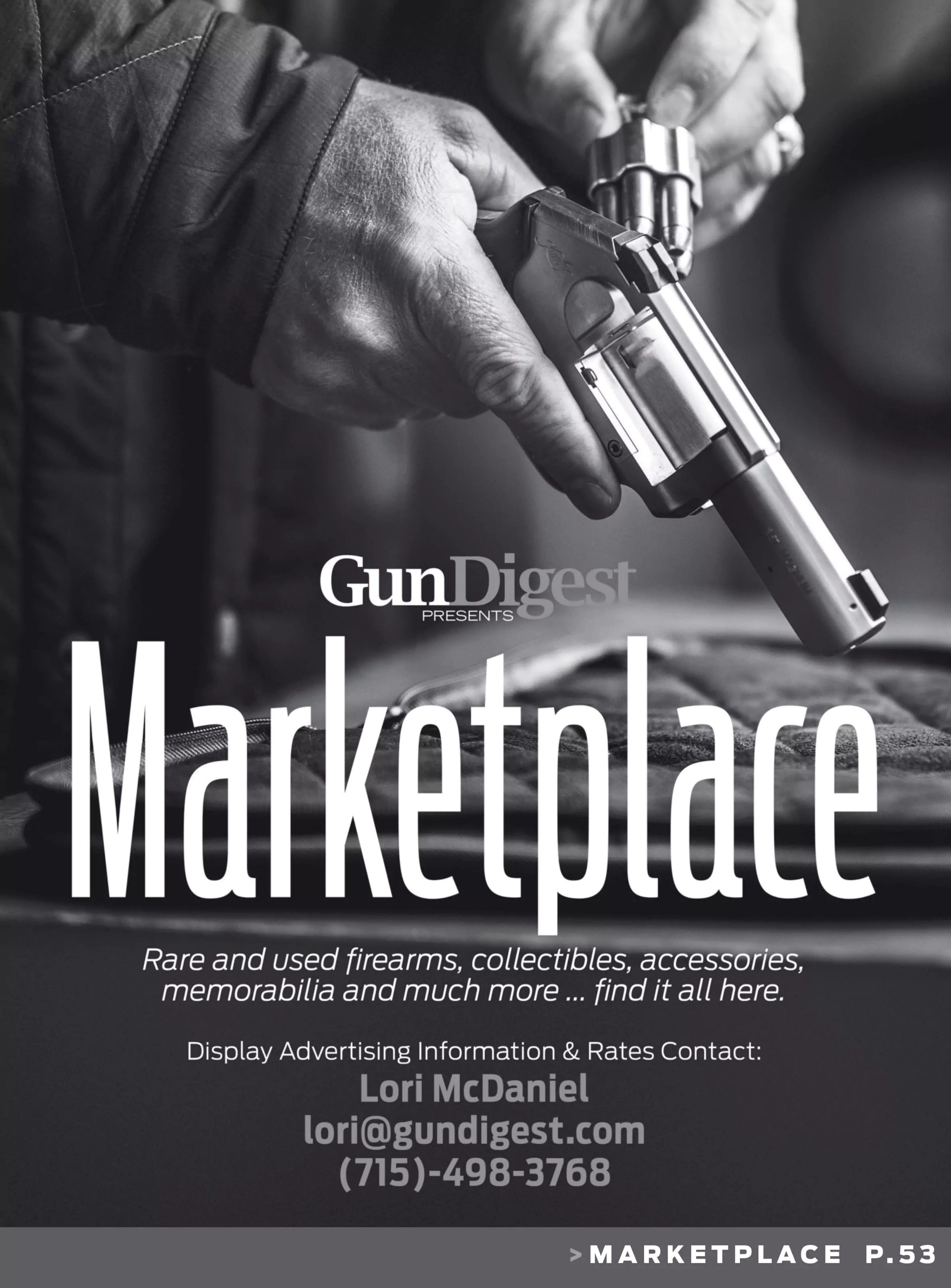
Oct 5-6 IN, Valparaiso . Gun & Knife Show . Porter County Exp-Center, 215 East Division Road. SH: Sat. 8am-5pm, Sun. 9am-3pm. A: \$6.00 children 12 & under free with Adult. T: 350. F: \$60.00 8ft.@ run of show . Dunes Rifle & Pistol Club L.L.C.. P.O. Box 345, 812 West Old Ridge Road, Hobart, IN 46342. PH: 219-942-4514. <https://valpogunshow.com>.

SHOW LISTING BY DATE

JULY

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.



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PISTOLS AND REVOLVERS

1-E Armi San Marco / Cimmaron .45 Colt "No. 3 Schofield" Single Action Top Break Revolver 7" solid rib barrel with mint bore, fixed sights, 98%+ original blue and case colors, smooth cartouche rosewood grips, excellent function, comes with original blue cardboard box and paperwork, manufactured 1998 \$1100

2-E Browning .22 LR "Buckmark" Auto Pistol 5 1/2" barrel flat slab with excellent bore, 97% original blue, blade front sight, no rear sight but fitted with a Picatinny rail that has a Weaver "quick point" red dot sight in clear working condition, minty checkered black plastic grips with Browning logo medallions, gold plated trigger, excellent function, manufactured 1989.....\$365

3-E Browning (F.N.) Belgian .22 LR "Challenger" Auto Pistol 6 3/4" barrel with mint bore, 97% original blue shows light scratches on barrel and frame, front strap shows light pin prick pitting, gold color trigger, front pinned undercut partridge sight, fully adjustable target style rear sight, excellent one piece wraparound checkered Walnut grips, comes with one original magazine, excellent function, manufactured 1968 (C&R)\$650

4-E Browning (F.N.) Belgian .22 LR "Challenger" Auto Pistol 4 1/2" barrel with mint bore, 98% original blue, light scratches, front undercut partridge style blade sight with fully adjustable rear target style sight, gold trigger, excellent one piece checkered wraparound Walnut grips, comes with one factory magazine, manufactured 1963 (C&R)\$725

5-E Browning .22 LR "Challenger II" Auto Pistol 6 3/4" barrel with excellent bore, 98% original blue, target front blade front dovetail, adjustable rear with elevation screw, original smooth wood grips with "B" medallion, one 10 round original magazine, manufactured 1979\$495

6-E Browning .22 LR "Nomad" Auto Pistol 4 1/2" barrel with mint bore, 99% original bright blue, blade front and fully adjustable target style rear sight, mint checkered black plastic Browning logo grips, excellent function, made in 1966, collector quality (C&R)\$650

7-E Browning .25 ACP "Baby" Clip Feed Auto Pistol 2 1/8" barrel with bright excellent bore, fixed sights, 98% original blue, light wear on top of slide, black plastic checkered original grips, comes with one unmarked magazine, excellent function, manufactured 1964 (C&R)\$785

8-E Colt .22 LR "Challenger Model" Auto Pistol 6" barrel with bright excellent bore, 98% original blue with some light scratches and thinning at muzzle, some thinning along front and backstrap, serrated ramp front sight, drift adjustable rear sight, brown checkered "Coltwood" grips with rampant Colt monogram on right grip, comes with (1) original ten round magazine, excellent function, manufactured 1952 (C&R)\$565

9-E Colt .22 LR "Huntsman" Auto Pistol 4 1/2" barrel with bright excellent bore, 97% original blue showing scratches and some pin prick pitting on barrel and slide, black checkered plastic grips with rampant colt monogram on right grip, comes with (1) ten round magazine, excellent function, manufactured 1956 (C&R)\$625

10-E Colt .22 LR "Targetsman" 3rd Series Auto Pistol 6" barrel with mint bore, 99% original bright blue, blade front and fully adjustable target style rear sights, excellent original checkered Walnut thumbrest grips showing the mildest of wear, made in 1976 as a 3rd series pistol, collector quality (C&R)\$875

11-E Colt .22 LR "Targetsman" 3rd Series Auto Pistol 6" barrel with mint bore, 99% original bright blue, blade front and fully adjustable target rear sights, minty checkered Walnut thumbrest grips, original magazine, near new overall, manufactured 1976, collector quality (C&R)\$895

12-E Colt .22 LR "Woodsmen" 2nd Series "Match Target" Auto Pistol 6" heavy barrel with bright excellent bore, front undercut partridge pinned ramp blade front sight, "Coltmaster" fully adjustable rear target style sight, 97%+ original blue with, serrated front and backstraps, original colorful reddish brown "Coltwood" checkered synthetic grips, comes with one original Colt 10 round push button release magazine, manufactured 1949, collector quality (C&R) \$1100

13-E Colt .22 LR "Woodsmen" Sport Model Auto Pistol 4 1/2" barrel with mint bore, 98% original bright blue, ramp blade pinned front and fully adjustable target rear sights, push button magazine release with original magazine, minty checkered brown plastic thumbrest grips with Colt logo impressed on right panel, all original, made in 1951, collector quality (C&R) \$1175

14-E Colt .22 LR "Frontier Scout" Single Action Revolver 4 5/8" barrel with excellent bore, 98% original blue with some muzzle wear and light high edge wear along cylinder, some frosting and light pin prick pitting shows on sides of hammer, black checkered plastic grips with rampant colt, fixed sights, excellent function, manufactured 1961\$535

15-E Colt .38 Special "Cobra" Double Action Revolver 2" barrel with mint bore, fixed sights, 99% original blue with fine light dragline on cylinder, checkered Walnut grips with silver Colt medallions numbered to revolver, front sight has been lightly altered, excellent function, manufactured 1966 (C&R)\$965

16-E DWM .30 Luger "Model 1920" Commercial Luger Auto Pistol 3 7/8" tapered barrel with bright excellent bore, fixed sights, 95% original blue showing thinning along high edges and blue to gray along front and backstrap, left side of frame below toggle shows silvering, trigger, safety, ejector and take down lever show 90%+ minty straw color, mint clean fire blue shows on toggle pins and sear spring, checkered hardwood grips with showing some handling wear but remain crisp, unmarked wood bottom magazine, excellent function (C&R) \$1300

17-E E.A.A. .45 ACP "Witness-P Model" Auto Pistol 3 3/4" barrel with excellent bore, 95% original black finish slide with 3 dot sight, rear dovetail, black polymer frame, thumb safety, one 8 round factory magazine\$375

18-E German, BYF, Mauser 9mm "Model P-38" Auto Pistol 5" barrel with bright excellent bore, fixed sights, 97% original dull arsenal blue finish, shows peppery pin prick pitting on frame, crisp clean "BYF-44" and "WaA135" Waffenant marks, reproduction "AITAMONI" grips, comes with one magazine that is unmarked, excellent function, all matching serialized parts (C&R)\$1200

19-E Harrington & Richardson .22 LR "Premier" 7th Variation" Hammer Top Break Revolver 6" ribbed barrel with very good lightly pitted bore, 98% original nickel, blue and dark case colors, minty checkered hard rubber, target logo extension grips, excellent function, all matching (C&R)\$285

20-E Harrington & Richardson .22 LR "Model 676" Pull Pin Cylinder Release Double Action Revolver 5 1/2" barrel with mint bore, fixed sights, 98% original blue and cyanide case hardened finish, smooth Walnut grips, excellent function, manufactured 1976-1982 in Gardner, MA\$365

21-E Harrington & Richardson .22 LR "Model 929" Swingout Cylinder Revolver 4" round barrel with excellent bore, blade front and windage adjustable rear sight, 95% original blue with scattered light spots of pitting, excellent "H&R" logo checkered black plastic grips, excellent function, both single and double action \$210

22-E Harrington & Richardson .22 Rimfire "Young America" 3rd Variation Solid Frame Pull Pin Revolver 2" octagon barrel with good bore, 97% original nickel, blue and dark case color, excellent fancy pattern hard rubber grips, excellent function, double action only, smokeless powder (C&R) \$185

23-E Harrington & Richardson .32 S&W Long "Model 1905" Double Action Solid Frame Pull Pin Revolver 2 1/2" octagon barrel with very good bore, 98% original nickel and blue, excellent "target logo" hard rubber grips, excellent function (C&R) \$195

24-E Harrington & Richardson .32 S&W Long Hammerless Double Action Top Break Revolver 3 1/4" ribbed barrel with strong bright but pitted bore, 80% dulling nickel, bright blue on triggerguard, good "target logo" hard rubber grips with a chipout at locating pin on left side, action is a bit stiff but otherwise function is very good (C&R) \$150

25-E Harrington & Richardson .32 S&W Short "Model 1905" Double Action Pull Pin Solid Frame Revolver 2 1/2" octagon barrel with fair pitted bore, 90% original nickel and blue, good "target logo" hard rubber grips with small chipout at locating pin on right grip (C&R) ...\$95

26-E Harrington & Richardson .32 Rimfire Long "Model Bulldog" Double Action Solid Frame Pull Pin Revolver 2 1/2" octagon barrel with excellent bore, 97% original nickel and blue, excellent fancy hard rubber grips, excellent function (C&R) \$185

27-E Harrington & Richardson .38 S&W "The American" Double Action Pull Pin Revolver 2 1/2" octagon barrel with very good bright bore, 97% original nickel, blue and dark case color, excellent fancy pattern hard rubber grips, excellent function (C&R) \$235

28-E High Standard .22 LR "Model H-D Military" Auto Pistol 4 1/2" barrel with mint bore, 98% original bright blue, blade front and fully adjustable target style rear sights, minty full checkered Walnut grips, excellent original 2 tone magazine, excellent function, made in 1948, collector quality (C&R)\$785

29-E High Standard .22 LR "H-D Military" Auto Pistol 4 1/2" barrel with bright excellent bore, 98% original blue with some wear toward muzzle and thinning along back and front strap, fine pin prick pitting along front strap, fixed front sight, fully adjustable rear sight, excellent full checkered Walnut grips, comes with one two tone magazine showing light wear, excellent function, manufactured 1947, near collector quality (C&R)\$725

30-E High Standard .22 LR "Model 106 Military Supermatic Trophy" Auto Pistol 7 1/4" fluted barrel with mint bore, 99% original blue and gold trigger and safety, mint checkered walnut thumbrest target grips with red bottom original magazine, comes in original maroon (2) piece box with (2) original round barrel weights (1) with both mounting screws (1) with (1) mounting screw, original muzzle brake with mounting screws and Allen wrench, matching end label on box which shows a few minor tears, top of the line high gloss finish with factory gold fill on lettering, a complete set with all accessories, made in 1968 (C&R) \$1175

31-E High Standard .22 LR "Model 106 Supermatic Citation" Target Auto Pistol 7 1/4" fluted barrel with mint bore, 99% original blue and case color, ramp blade front and bridge type fully adjustable target rear sights, comes with as new muzzle brake, (2) round barrel weights, original red bottom logo magazine and minty checkered Walnut thumbrest grips in military style, excellent function, looks near new overall, made in 1967 (C&R)\$725

32-E High Standard .22 LR "Model 107 Supermatic Citation" Target Auto Pistol 5 1/2" heavy barrel with mint bore, 99%+ original blue, as new in original black box with correct serial numbered end label, collector quality, manufactured 1973 in Hamden, CT (C&R)\$725

33-E High Standard .22 LR "Model 107 Supermatic Citation" Target Auto Pistol 5 1/2" barrel with mint bore, 98%+ original blue, excellent function, manufactured 1970, minty "Herrtt" checkered Walnut thumbrest target grips with flared bottom, red floorplate High Standard marked magazine (C&R)\$625

34-E High Standard .22 LR "East Hartford Model" Over/Under Derringer Pistol 3 1/2" barrels with mint bores, 99% original blue, mint black plastic grips, as new in original box with end label, old sales slip from 2010, instruction manual and warranty certificate ...\$350

35-E High Standard .22 Magnum "Model DM-101" Over/Under Derringer Pistol 3 1/2" barrel with mint bores, 98%+ original nickel finish, mint black plastic grips, excellent function, East Hartford made near end of production\$400

CONTINUED ➡

36-E **.22 Short Conversion Kit for High Standard Supermatic Trophy or Citation** with military grips, included in original box with end label is (1) 5 1/2" bull barrel (1) lightweight aluminum slide, (2) .22 short caliber blued magazines (1) stabilizer with screws, (1) warranty certificate and (1) instruction sheet, all new and in box of outer cardboard and Styrofoam insert box and interior are a bit tattered from long storage High Standard catalog number 9371 (have 2)\$600 ea.

37-E **.22 Short Conversion Kit for "Victor Model" (High Standard #9370)** original box contains a complete lightweight slide, 5 1/2" bull barrel with vent rib and target sights, (2) .22 short magazines magazines, muzzle brake, original box with end label, no warranty sheet or instruction sheet but as new overall with components still covered in protective grease\$700

38-E **Iver Johnson .22 LR "Trailman" Auto Pistol** 6" barrel with bright excellent bore, 97% original blue with slide and some frame areas showing plum patina, shows muzzle silvering and light high edge wear, black plastic checkered grips with owl logo, front blade sight with rear drift adjustable sight, comes with one magazine, pistol was cloned to resemble the Colt Woodsman, manufactured 1984-1988\$285

39-E **Iver Johnson .22 LR "Model TP-22" Clip Feed Auto Pistol** 2 3/4" barrel with mint bore, fixed sights, steel slide shows 98% original blue with light pin prick pitting on right side, alloy frame shows thinning blue to dark gray along front strap, black plastic wrap around grips with "IJ" owl logo, comes with two magazines one nickel plated and one blue magazine with fingerrest, comes with two piece red "IJ" cardboard box with matching end label, inside is manual, test fire target and original limited warranty card, excellent function, manufactured 1982-1988\$395

40-E **Llama .22 LR "Model XV" Clip Feed Auto Pistol** 3" barrel with mint bore, 95%+ original blue shows high edge wear and thinning toward muzzle along slide, raised rib with patridge front sight and adjustable rear sight, brown plastic grips with Llama logo, comes with one 7 round magazine, excellent function, manufactured 1975\$385

41-E **Llama .380 ACP "Model III A" Auto Pistol** 3 3/4" barrel with mint bore, 98%+ original blue, top vent raised rib with front blade and adjustable rear sight, black plastic grips with Llama logo, one original magazine, excellent function, collector quality, manufactured 1982, "D2" date code\$450

42-E **Polish TT-33 Style 7.62x25 "Model WZ 33" Tokarev Auto Pistol** 4 1/2" barrel with bright excellent bore, 98% arsenal matte blue refinish, added safety per import regulation, black plastic serrated grips, fixed sights, import mark on left of slide, comes with one magazine, magazine has lanyard loop and is etched engraved with non matching serialized number, arsenal "11" marked in a circle on slide, excellent function, manufactured 1953 (C&R)\$685

43-E **Ruger .22 LR / .22 Magnum "New Model Single Six" Convertible Revolver** 6 1/2" barrel with excellent bore, 95% blue with a few small marks from use, adjustable sights, smooth factory Walnut grips with faded black and silver medallions, includes both .22 LR and .22 WMR cylinders, manufactured 1978\$475

44-E **Ruger .357 Magnum "Model SP101" Stainless Revolver** 3" ported, full lug barrel with mint bore, green fiber optic front sight, "U" notch rear sight, 5 shot cylinder, black Hogue rubber boot grips, comes with original gray plastic case and test fired round, excellent function, manufactured 2009\$695

45-E **Sig Sauer .40 Cal. "Model P239M" Double/Single Action Auto Pistol** 3 1/2" barrel with excellent bore, 98% original matte black finish, Siglite night sights, Hogue finger groove rubber grips, comes with (2) 7 round magazines and factory box, manufactured 2014\$550

46-E **Smith & Wesson .22 Magnum Model 48-7" K-22 Magnum Masterpiece Double Action Revolver** 4" heavy barrel with mint bore, pinned front partridge sight with fully adjustable rear sight, 99% original blue, smooth combat trigger and target hammer show nice case colors, internal lock system, press checkered book matched laminated grips with diamond around the escutcheon screw, comes with its original blue plastic hard case with two keys, papers and cable lock, case shows correct matching end label, manufactured 2015\$975

47-E **Smith & Wesson .38 Special "Model 10-5" Military & Police 3 Screw Double Action Revolver** 2" pinned barrel with bright excellent bore, serrated ramp front sight, square notch rear sight, 95%+ original blue and case colors on checkered hammer, serrated trigger, checkered Walnut diamond grips with silver medallion, not serialized to revolver and show improper fit but easily correctable, comes with two piece reinforced corner Bangor Punta blue box with wax paper, top of box shows damage side label is non matching to revolver and corners are peeling, manufactured 1966-1967 (C&R)\$550

48-E **Smith & Wesson .38 Special "Pre Model 10" Military & Police Hand Ejector 5 Screw Revolver** 4" pinned barrel with bright excellent bore, fixed sights, 98%+ restoration quality re finish blue (possibly S&W), 98% case colors on service hammer and trigger, all matching numbers including checkered magna style Walnut grips with gold color S&W medallions and diamond around escutcheon screw, excellent function, manufactured 1947 with "S" prefix serial number (C&R)\$785

49-E **Smith & Wesson .38 Special "Transitional Chiefs Special" 5 Screw Double Action Revolver** 1 7/8" pinned barrel with excellent bore, 97%+ original blue showing light drag line and light wear along the bottom of the 4 line address on right side of frame, 95%+ case colors on service hammer and serrated trigger, serrated Baughman front sight, fixed rear sight, early round triggerguard, flat latch thumb piece, checkered Walnut magna grips with diamond around escutcheon screw large S&W medallions and grips serialized to revolver, excellent function, one screw on side plate shows silvering but no other screws shows signs, manufactured 1950-1953 (C&R)\$1250

50-E **Smith & Wesson .38 Special "Victory Model" Hand Ejector 5 Screw Double Action Revolver** 3 1/2" pinned barrel with bright excellent bore, late added nickel finish applied to barrel, service hammer and trigger, fixed sights, brown frantzite diamond checkered non original grips, barrel marked ".38 S&W" the cylinder has been reamed to accepted .38 special cartridge, lanyard loop has been removed and plugged and nickel finish applied, comes with an unmarked two piece blue Bangor Punta reinforced corner box, excellent function, manufactured 1942-1945 (C&R)\$265

CONTINUED ➡

PACK AND POSTAL CENTER Tel. (978) 368-0910

64-E Santa Barbara .257 Weatherby Magnum "Custom" Mauser Sporting Bolt Rifle
24" tapered barrel with bright excellent bore, 98% original blue with action turning a plum purple, no sights but mounted is a set of Weaver scope blocks, bolt is in the white, smooth Monte Carlo pisotl grip stock with semi rollover left side cheekpiece, palm swell for right hand shooter, rosewood forend tip and grip cap both white maple spacer, black limbsaver butt pad, 13 1/2" L.O.P., excellent function\$685

65-E Waffenfabrik Brunn / DOT 7x57 / 7mm Mauser "Nazi Era" "K98" Bolt Rifle 24"
barrel with good, pitted bore with strong rifling, 90%+ arsenal blue, raised front blade, tangent rear sight graduated to 2000 meters, receiver ring shows two areas of grinding where a faint "WaA 63" still remains, on receiver is "DOT over 1944", bolt and bolt release is in the white, bolt, front barrel band with bayonet lug, floorplate along with triggerguard are non matching serialized numbers, laminated hardwood stock with semi pistol grip that shows a crack at wrist, stock has added luster finish cupped buttplate, reproduction sling, excellent function, manufactured 1944 (C&R)\$1050

66-E Winchester 30/30 "Model 94AE" "Friends of the NRA" Lever Carbine 20" barrel
with mint bore, 99% original blue, hooded front raised sight with adjustable sporting
open rear sight, 99% brushed engraved nickel receiver featuring foliate scroll engraving
with gold color scenes of people and a banner "friends/of NRA/Celebrating 10 years" in
center on left side, rifle features large loop lever, mint smooth Walnut straight grip stock
and forend, cross bolt safety, comes in its original cardboard box with correct matching
end label, inside box is hammer extension and original hanging tag and cable lock, as
new, manufactured 1992-2004\$900

67-E Winchester 6mm "Model 1895 Lee Navy" Barrel and Receiver 28" tapered barrel with good bright bore showing light pitting and strong rifling, original pinned front blade sight with tangent rear, one barrel band, action and trigger group receiver marked "USN/No.656/NCT" with and anchor, all metal surfaces show gray with scattered pin prick pitting, NO bolt, wood, and magazine, just barrel and receiver along with trigger group, manufactured 1885-1907 (C&R)\$365

RIMFIRE RIFLES

68-E Browning .22 LR "Model SA" Maple AAA Takedown Auto Rifle 19 3/8" barrel with mint bore, 99%+ original blue with satin nickel grade I receiver, front blade, folding leaf rear sight, checkered AAA maple wood pistol grip stock and forend, comes with original black cardboard box, papers and trigger lock, as new in box, this 2019 shot show special in 1 of 1050 made \$1200

69-E Browning / Miroku .22 LR "A-Bolt" Grade I Clip Feed Bolt Rifle 22" barrel with mint bore, 99% original blue, small mark toward muzzle, fluted bolt, gold color trigger, grooved receiver, high gloss checkered Walnut pistol grip stock with Rosewood forend tip and grip cap, comes with original black two piece box with correct matching end label, manufactured 1991\$940

70-E Browning / Miroku .22 Magnum "T-Bolt" Target / Varmint Bolt Rifle 22" free floating heavy barrel with recessed crown, mint as new bore, 99% original blue, no sights, drilled and tapped for scope mount, original straight pull action with enlarged bolt handle, checkered Monte Carlo pistol grip Walnut stock, Q.D. sling swivel studs, gold color trigger, 10 shot double helix rotary magazine, tang safety, comes with its original black cardboard box, inside box is manual and cable lock, excellent function, manufactured 2008\$850

71-E Browning .22 L and LR "Model BPR-22" Pump Rifle 20 1/4" barrel with good bore, brass bead front blade with flip down adjustable rear sights, grooved receiver with Weaver V-22A 3-6x20 scope, 95% original blue with some areas of light pin prick pitting, gloss checkered Walnut stock showing some small scuffs and dings from use, manufactured 1977\$625

72-E F.N. Browning 22 LR "T-Bolt" T-1 Clip Feed Bolt Rifle 22" barrel with bright excellent bore, front raised blade sight, grooved receiver with Redfield 2 3/4x scope mounted, scope has plain crosshairs clean clear optics and shows 99% black enamel finish, rifle shows 98% original blue with some pin prick pitting on receiver, bolt is in the white with clean proof marks, smooth Walnut pistol grip stock with black Browning plastic buttplate, excellent function, 2nd year production, manufactured 1966 (C&R)\$600

73-E F.N. Browning 22 LR "T-Bolt" T-2 Clip Feed Bolt Rifle 24" barrel with excellent bore, raised front ramp sight, adjustable rear sight, grooved receiver with Redfield aperture sight mounted, 98% original blue, bolt in the white, polymer triggerguard, checkered dark Walnut pistol grip stock, left side of forend shows 1 1/2" crack, black plastic Browning buttplate, excellent function, manufactured 1974 (C&R)\$585

74-E Harrington & Richardson .22 LR "Model 165 Leatherneck" Clip Feed Auto Rifle 23" tapered barrel with bright excellent bore, 90% thinning original blue to gray, raised front post sight, receiver mounted original "Redfield M79" peep sight, smooth Walnut pistol grip stock with sling swivels and original H&R polymer buttplate, comes with one original magazine, excellent function, collector quality, manufactured 1945-1948 (C&R)\$595

75-E High Standard .22 S, L, & LR "Sport King Special Deluxe" Model A-1041 Tube Feed Auto Rifle 22 1/4" barrel with mint bore, 99% original blue with a tiny amount of pitting near front bead sight, open rear sight and grooved receiver, minty Monte Carlo pistol grip Walnut stock with High Standard logo checkering at grip, pistol grip cap, excellent original finish, un-checked forend and logo plastic buttplate, excellent function, near new made in 1971 (C&R)\$300

76-E Hopkins & Allen .22 Rimfire "No.822" Single Shot Boys Rifle 21 ½" barrel with good lightly pitted bore, fixed sights, 97% blue to brown patina with some muzzle wear and light scratches, 95% original case colors, smooth Walnut straight grip stock and forend, original plastic buttplate excellent function, manufactured 1902-1915 (C&R)\$400

77-E Marlin 22 S, L, & LR "Model 81-DL" Tube Feed Bolt Rifle 24" barrel with an excellent bore, front sight has been removed, rear sight is a dovetail blank and receiver mounted adjustable peep sight, smooth maple Pistol grip stock with serrated blank polymer buttplate, bulls-eye in toe line, no sling holes present, excellent function, manufactured 1940-1965 (C&R)\$200

78-E Marlin 22 S, L, & LR "Model 39-A" Lever Rifle 24" barrel with good bore, hooded brass bead front blade Redfield side mount peep sight, no rear sight, 95% original blue with magazine tube showing fade to gray above loading port, smooth dark Walnut stock with bulls eye insert, black plastic buttplate, manufactured 1947 (C&R)\$825

79-E Mossberg .22 S, L, & LR "Model 352KB" Clip Feed Auto Rifle 18" barrel with bright excellent bore, metal surfaces show a blue to brown patina, open field sights, smooth Walnut Monte Carlo pistol grip stock with black synthetic folding fore grip grooved receiver, black plastic finger groove triggerguard, one factory magazine, excellent function, manufactured 1960-1971 (C&R) \$245

80-E Remington .22 Short Model 24 Butt Tube Feed Auto Rifle 21" barrel with very good bore, 98% old refinished blue, factory open sights and showing (2) drilled, tapped and plugged holes on left side of receiver, very good+ Walnut pistol grip stock with smooth blued steel "UMC" logo buttplate, very nice looking bottom ejecting autoloader made around 1932, excellent function (C&R) (6215)\$395

81-E Remington .22 Short "Model 241SA" Butt Tube Feed Takedown Auto Rifle 24"
barrel with good lightly pitted bore, all metal surfaces are gray to brown with signs of heavy cleaning, peppery pin prick pitting and trace spots of original blue, open sights, push button takedown on left side of receiver is missing, smooth Walnut pistol grip stock and forend wood, wood looks to be refinished with high shine lacquer, still has excellent function, manufactured 1946 (C&R) \$295

82-E Remington .22 LR "Model Nylon 66" Butt Tube Feed Auto Rifle 19 5/8" barrel with excellent bore, 98% non factory bright nickel finish on barrel and receiver cover, original sights with grooved receiver, excellent "Mohawk brown" Zytel pistol grip stock with black forend tip, pistol grip and buttplate all white line spaced, stock shows light scratches and rub marks, normal wear, excellent function, manufactured pre-1969, very sharp looking (C&R)\$450

83-E Rossi / Interarms .22 S, L, & LR "Model 62" Takedown Tube Feed Single Action Pump Rifle 23" barrel with excellent bore, 97% original blue showing some light scratches and some peppery pin prick pitting on frame, magazine tube shows nice plum patina, original sights, smooth Walnut straight grip stock with grooved forend, black plastic buttplate, manufactured 1978-1992\$225

84-E Rossi / Interarms .22 S, L& LR "Model 62" Takedown Tube Feed Single Action Pump Rifle 23" barrel with excellent bore, 97%+ original blue, original sights, dark Walnut smooth straight grip stock with grooved forend wood, original buttplate with Rossi logo, excellent function, manufactured 1978-1992 \$225

85-E Ruger .22 LR "Model 10/22" Clip Feed Auto Carbine 18 1/2" barrel with mint bore, stainless steel barrel with a silver anodized finish on receiver, front blade, adjustable folding rear leaf sight, receiver factory drilled and tapped for scope base, smooth Walnut pistol grip stock with blued steel buttplate, one 10 round magazine, manufactured 1997\$360

86-E Ruger .22 LR "Model 10/22" Clip Feed Auto Carbine 18 1/2" barrel with mint bore, 98%+ original blue and matte black finish, front blade, adjustable folding rear leaf sights, smooth Walnut semi pistol grip stock with steel crescent style buttplate, comes with two piece brown cardboard Ruger box along with papers, box is in fair shape, manufactured 1973 (C&R) \$425

87-E Savage .22 S, L, & LR "Model 29A" Takedown Post War Tube Feed Pump Rifle 24"
barrel with good bore, 80% brown patina on barrel with frame showing thinning brown to gray with high edge wear, original sights, factory drilled, tapped and plugged tang for peep sight, checkered Walnut pistol grip stock and forend wood shows added high luster finish, wood shows normal wear, dings and dents, small repair shows on right side of grip at tang, pistol grip base has initials "M J B" scratches into wood, manufactured 1951 (C&R) \$465

88-E Sears, Roebuck & Ted Williams / Ithaca .22 LR "Model 340.530430 / 49" Single Shot Lever Carbine 18" barrel with bright excellent bore, 90% original blue with scattered pin prick pitting, 97% enamel finish on action, lever and barrel band, blonde colored checkered Elmwood straight grip stock and forend wood - manufactured 1969-1976 \$265

89-E Stevens .22 Rimfire "22 Spencer" Single Shot Boys Rifle 20" barrel with good light pitted bore, original fixed sights, 95% original thinning blue to gray with some silvering at muzzle and light scratches, 70% case colors on frame, smooth Walnut straight grip stock and forend, stock shows dings and dents, black plastic buttplate, excellent function, "H" date code manufactured 1956 (C&R)\$565

90-E Stevens .22 "Favorite 22 7 1/2" Falling Block Single Shot Rifle 22" octagon barrel
with good light pitted bore, original sights, 80% blue to gray with brown tinge, trace
case colors on mostly gray frame, scattered peppery pin prick pitting throughout,
smooth dark Walnut straight grip stock and forend, original buttplate, excellent function,
manufactured 1955 (C&R) \$275

91-E Walther .22 LR "Model KKJ" Sporter Bolt Rifle 22" barrel with bright good bore, 98% original blue with light hatched wear marks, hooded front sight, tangent rear sight, grooved receiver, checkered Walnut hogback comb pistol grip stock with European style cheekpiece, serrated plastic buttplate and metal grip cap, sling swivels and comes with one magazine. manufactured 1960-1970 (G&R) \$1250

92-E Wards Westernfield / Mossberg .22 LR "Model M846/351C" Butt Tube Feed Auto Carbine 18" barrel with bright excellent bore, 97% original blue, original sights, grooved receiver, black plastic finger groove triggerguard that is flesh to stock, press checkered basket weave design pistol grip stock with left side cheekpiece, front barrel band with sling swivel and rear Q.D. sling swivel, excellent function, manufactured 1965-1971 (C&R) \$185

93-E Weatherby .22 LR "Model MK XXII" Tube Feed Auto Rifle 24" barrel with mint bore, 98%+ original blue, front raised ramp (no hood), rear open "V" folding 3 position folding leaf sight, grooved receiver with "Weatherby 4x50 MK XXII scope", scope has plain crosshair reticule with crisp clear optics, skip-line checkered Walnut pistol grip Monte Carlo stock with cheekpiece, Rosewood forend tip, pistol grip cap and factory brown rubber butt pad, one small scratch on left side of stock, sling swivels, excellent function, manufactured in Japan 1973-1980 \$1500

94-E Weatherby .22 LR "Model MK XXII" Clip Feed Auto Rifle 24" barrel with mint bore, 99% original bright blue, mint fancy Walnut pistol grip stock with skip line cut checkered Monte Carlo, cheekpiece, rosewood grip and forend caps, factory sling swivels and logo solid rubber butt pad, (3) position open rear and bead front sights plus grooved receiver, and Weaver V-22 3-6x scope, excellent function, made by "Niko" in 1973, looks near new, 10 shot clip (C&R) \$875

CONTINUED →

SHOTGUNS

100-E F.N. Browning 12 Gauge "Light 12 Auto-5" Auto Shotgun 28" solid raised rib, fixed modified choke, 2 3/4" chamber and mint bore, single silver bead front sight, 97% original blue with light thinning on the scroll engraved receiver, gold color trigger, round knob checkered Walnut stock and checkered Walnut forend, "F.N." buttplate, excellent function, manufactured 1961 (C&R)\$1250

101-E Browning 12 Gauge "Model Twelvette / Autumn Brown" Double Auto Shotgun 30" recessed rib barrel with bright excellent bore with light pitting, 2 3/4" chamber, fixed full choke, single bead front sight, 95% original blue on barrel with some thinning to gray towards muzzle, 98% "Autumn Brown" Hiduminum (aircraft alloy) receiver finish with factory embellished zigzag borders and Browning foliate scroll engraving, "Twelvette" stamped above the loading port, checkered Walnut round knob pistol grip stock and forend, later nicely added brown Pachmayr rubber recoil pad, stock shows later added finish, 14 3/8" L.O.P., manufactured 1957-1971 (C&R)\$1225

102-E Browning 12 Gauge "Superposed" Boxlock "Pre War" Over/Under "Two Trigger" Shotgun 30" vent rib, 2 3/4" chambers, fixed improved modified and full chokes, bright excellent bores showing light skid marks, 98% original blue with light wear at muzzles, light scratches on barrels, decorative border engraved receiver and triggerguard show 95-97% original blue with some light high edge wear and spots of thinning to gray on underside, shotgun features non automatic safety, auto ejectors, barrel latch at mid position, twin single triggers each dedicated to fire a separate barrel, upon the first shot and is automatically reset to fire the remaining barrel without moving trigger finger to the next trigger, this feature was offered before the development of the current generation of the single selective trigger, checkered Walnut round knob pistol grip stock and forend with horseshoe plate, left side of forend shows a 3" repaired crack, stock has professionally added red rubber recoil pad, 14 1/8" L.O.P., front bead sight and white mid bead, excellent function, collector quality, manufactured 1931-1938 (C&R)\$1695

103-E Franchi 12 Gauge "Model 48AL" Field Auto Shotgun 30" vent rib barrel, 2 3/4" chamber, fixed full choke, bright excellent bore, 97% original blue on barrel, 97% anodized finish on semi humpback alloy receiver, single bead front sight, checkered pistol grip stock and forend, stock shows two cracks both side of wrist and behind lower tang, shows flaking of finish on handguard and dings dents on stock, long recoil system, excellent function, manufactured 1966, super light weight (C&R)\$365

104-E Harrington & Richardson .410 Gauge "Model 490 Topper" Break Open Single Shot Shotgun 26" barrel with mint bore, 3" chamber, fixed full choke, 98%+ original blue and case colors, smooth Walnut pistol grip stock and forend, black rubber recoil pad, single brass bead front sight, excellent function, manufactured 1977\$295

105-E Iver Johnson .410 Gauge "Champion" Single Shot Shotgun 28" barrel with bright excellent bore, 3" chamber, fixed full choke, 95% original blue thinning to gray, 80% case colors on receiver, receiver and barrel show peppery pin prick pitting, single brass bead front sight, crisp auto ejector, center mounted rebounding hammer, smooth Walnut pistol grip stock and forend wood, original Iver Johnson hard rubber logo buttplate, manufactured 1927-1954\$425

106-E Mossberg 12 Gauge "Model 9200" Crown Auto Shotgun 28" vent rib barrel, 3" chamber, with factory improved cylinder "Accu-choke" screw in tube, with a bright excellent bore showing light skid marks, two bead sights, 97% original blue with scattered pin prick pitting, black matte finish on engraved aluminum receiver, walnut stained hardwood checkered pistol grip stock and forend, brown rubber recoil pad, excellent function, mfg 1992-2001\$385

107-E Mossberg .410 Gauge "Model 500E" Pump Shotgun 24" raised vent rib barrel, 2 1/2" and 3" chamber, fixed full choke, bright excellent bore, large white bead front sight, small brass mid bead sight, 97% original blue and black anodized finishes, shows some scratches on action and high edge wear along barrel rib, press checkered Walnut stained hardwood pistol grip stock and forend, brown rubber recoil pad with black line spacer, excellent function, manufactured 1996\$325

108-E Mossberg 20 Gauge "Model 185-KB" Clip Feed Bolt Shotgun 25" ported barrel, 2 3/4" chamber, factory "C-lect" adjustable choke with silver bead front sight and fixed rear sight, excellent bore, 70% original blue with spots of thinning to gray and pin prick pitting, smooth Walnut Monte Carlo pistol grip stock shows a small hairline crack on top tang, scattered dings and dents, missing the green plastic safety indicator, red is present, some small white paint spotting is visible, comes with one magazine, excellent function, manufactured 1947-1959 (C&R)\$175

109-E Mossberg .410 Gauge "Model 183-K" Bolt Shotgun 25" barrel with mint bore, 3" chamber, attached adjustable poly choke, 98% original blue, smooth Walnut pistol grip stock with plastic finger groove triggerguard, both red and green jewels are attached, excellent function, manufactured 1956-1960 (C&R)\$285

110-E Riverside Arms Co. 16 Gauge "Model 315" Boxlock Double Trigger Side By Side Shotgun 30" solid rib barrels with 2 3/4" chambers and fixed modified chokes with bright excellent bores, single brass bead front sight, extractors, single automatic safety and barrel lever is left of center, barrels shows an even patina of brown and gray with light pin prick pitting, frame is mostly gray with some soften case colors present, smooth Walnut pistol grip stock with dings and dents, small chips on stock at the tang, forend shows very light hand checkering, black plastic buttplate, manufactured 1930-1940 (C&R)\$200

111-E Savage / Springfield 12 Gauge "Model 67H" Rifle Sighted Slug Pump Shotgun 20" barrel with mint bore, 3" chamber, fixed cylinder choke, 97% original blue with light edge wear and small spot of flaking on bottom of the triggerguard that is a matte black alloy, front blade sight, Williams adjustable rear sight, smooth hardwood pistol grip stock with lighter finish than the grooved forend, serrated plastic buttplate, manufactured pre 1969 (C&R)\$260

112-E Savage / Stevens 12 Gauge "Model 67 Series E" Pump Shotgun 21" barrel with bright excellent bore showing light skid marks, 2 3/4" chamber, improved cylinder fixed choke, raised front blade, adjustable folding leaf rear sight, 65% original thinning blue to gray with receiver showing mostly gray on sides, press checkered hardwood stock and forend, showing dings and dents, all metal surfaces show peppery pin prick pitting, black serrated buttplate, excellent function, made in 1952 (C&R)\$225

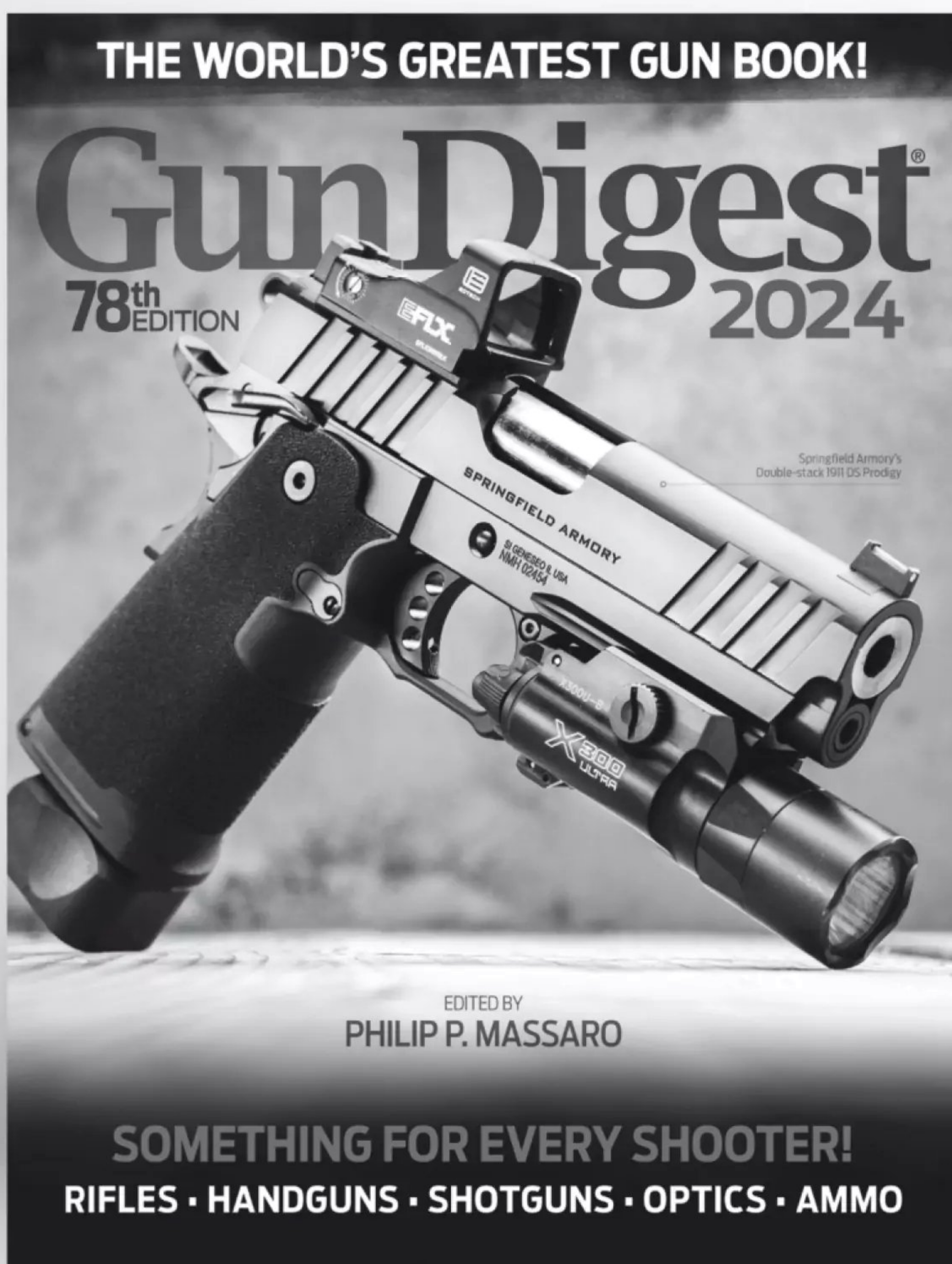
113-E Winchester 20 Gauge "Model 50" Auto Shotgun 28" barrel with bright excellent bore, 2 3/4" chamber, fixed modified choke, single silver bead front sight, 85% original blue thinning to brown and gray with high edge wear along receiver, checkered Walnut pistol grip stock and forend wood shows wear, original Winchester buttplate, excellent function, manufactured 1956 (C&R)\$595

114-E Winchester 12 Gauge "Model 12" Trap Deluxe (Pre 64) Pump Shotgun 30" vent (Simmons) rib barrel, 2 3/4" chamber, fixed full choke with excellent bore, rib is dented slightly just between mid bead and white bead front sight, silver mid bead, 98% on both Simmons blue barrel and original Winchester blue receiver, deluxe checkered Walnut pistol grip stock and forend white line spacer on pistol grip cap and brown rubber Pachmayr recoil pad, 14 1/2" L.O.P., manufactured 1951 (C&R)\$1385

115-E Hornady Handbook of Reloading Vol. I, 6th Edition -854 page hardcover, as new overall, 6 th printing 2003	\$35
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22 LR Pre-Model 17 #30,945 6" Bbl 1948 Red-Bead King Sight 99% \$1495

22LR Mdl 17-2 #K652,889 6" Bbl mfg 1965 99.9% LNIB \$1495

22LR Model 43 Airweight Kit-Gun 3.5" inch #M38,805 NIB \$1695

32 Long Model 31-1 ".32 S&W Long #H-109,996 100% Blue NIB = \$1495

357 Combat Magnum" Pre"-19-Model, 4-Screw, 4" inch Bbl #K260,850 I do not
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Ever Owned ! I Estimate This S&W was Shipped in the "Early First Quarter" of
1955 ! Page 185 of my S&W Book; Says The 4 screw K Target Frame Began in 1955
at Serial #K260,001. This S&W also has The (6 Six-Groove Backstrap & Forestep)
& The Factory Target Walnut Stocks. The Model 19 was Built "Slightly Larger"
than a Standard "K" Frame. Pg.185 THIS "IS" one of the FIRST Block of Serial
Numbers. 100% \$5995

357 Combat Magnum" PRE-Model"-19-Model, 4-Screw, 4" inch
Bbl #K264,619 *NOTE* S&W Letter Shipped 10-11-1956 to Jonas Arms &
Aircraft NY,NY. Walnut Target Stocks,*Note*First-Year. The Factory Sold
5,000 Revolvers & used up (the First Block of Serial numbers) = (K260,000 to
K265,000) set aside for it's manufacturing with Orders for this model, which
were RESERVED in the First 6 Months of 1956. THIS "IS" one of the FIRST Block of
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38 Special U.S. Victory" VIP-England-Conversion by Cosswell &
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38 Special + P" Model 442, 2" inch "Airlite-Titanium" NIB \$1995

38 S&W Special Ctg. = 38/44 Heavy Duty "Pre-War" Blue 5 Screw 5" inch 62,207 With
Police S&W Letter; Belt, + Holster + more Leather. It has Mint Factory Checkered
Walnut Stocks, with seial # 62,207... + Lanyard ring on Butt of the pistol with #
BCP239 etc... The Heavy Duty Production was only 11,111 made.. This 38 Special
was Shipped Oct. 25,1940 to Marshall Wells Co., Vancouver, BC. This Revolver was
Ordered. for the British Columbia Police Dept. and marked with their Property
marking and a number. The S&W Letter also says that The .38/44 Heavy Duty was
designed to fire the .38 Special Super Police Loads. 99.8% LNIB \$5995

44 SPECIAL PRE-Model 24, Nickle 5 Screw, 6.5" inch S-146,5xx
3T's S&W Letter 100% NIB \$4495

44 Special Model 624 3" inch #ALV 15xx First Year Stnls-Steel' Target'
Made 1985-1988 100% NIB \$2495

44 Special Model 624 3" inch #ALW 48xx First Year Stnls-Steel' Target'
Made 1985-1988 100% \$2295

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5-2,1952 Rare Mint Condition LNIB \$4995

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Firearms is a "True-Rarity". Both shipped to Baron Technology Inc. Turnbull,
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Embellishments Both Are New in their Boxes \$15,000.

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Original Stock LOP = 13 3/8", Stock has Never been Cut; with an added Pad the
LOP = 14 3/8". Also, Factory Tapped Receiver for a Scope. This is the Last .338 Win
Caliber I have. I saved the Very Best for the Last & for myself. 99.9% \$7995

Winchester Model 61 "Deluxe" .22 S, L, LR TakeDown Matching Serial # 215,6xx
, Factory Checkered Forearm, Buttstock & Grooved Receiver...Steel checkered
Buttplate. etc.... 95% barrel blue 95% \$2495

Marlin Model 39 22S, L, LR. 24" Octagon-Barrel, Tube Mag. Open sights, Take-Down
mfg 1920-ish "Early Multi-Colored Case-Hardened Receiver, "S" Shaped Pistol
Grip; Beautiful Bluing on the Barrel, Forend-Tip, Magazine-Tube, Bolt-Hammer
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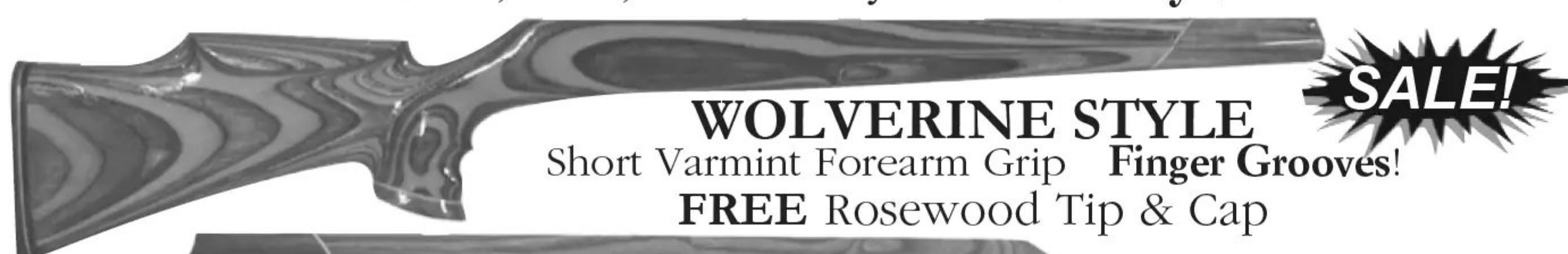
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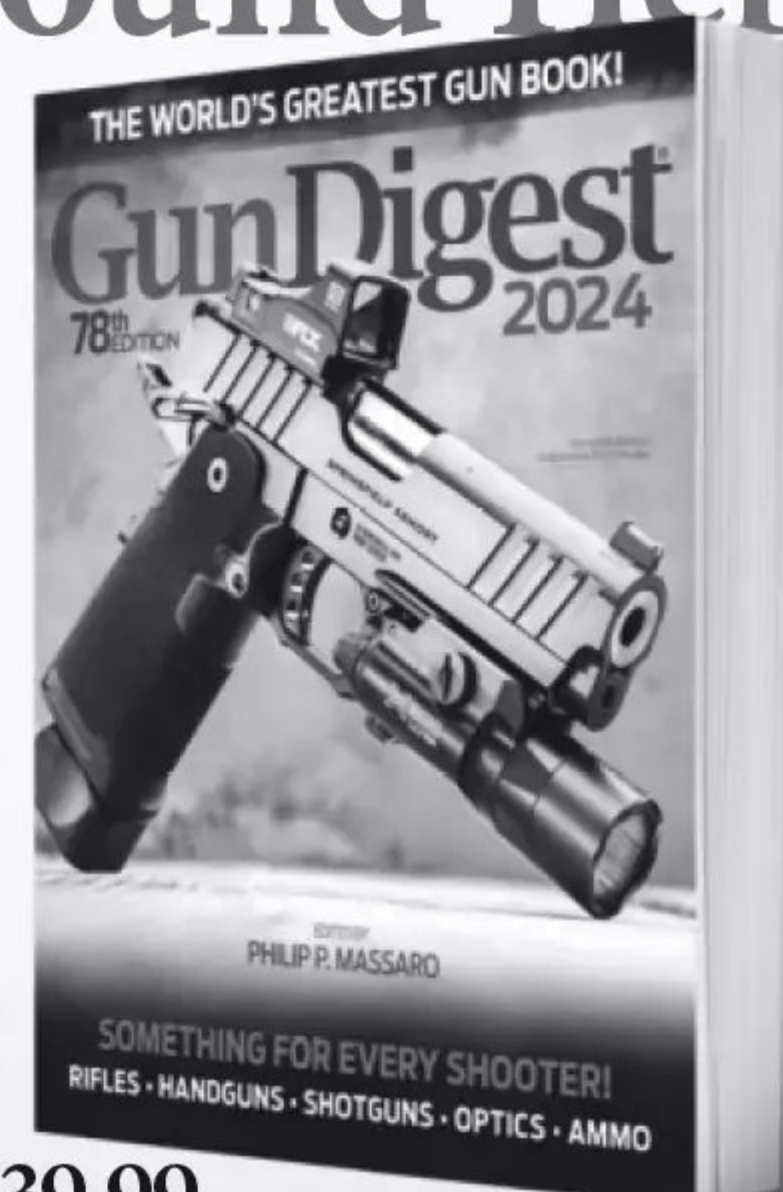
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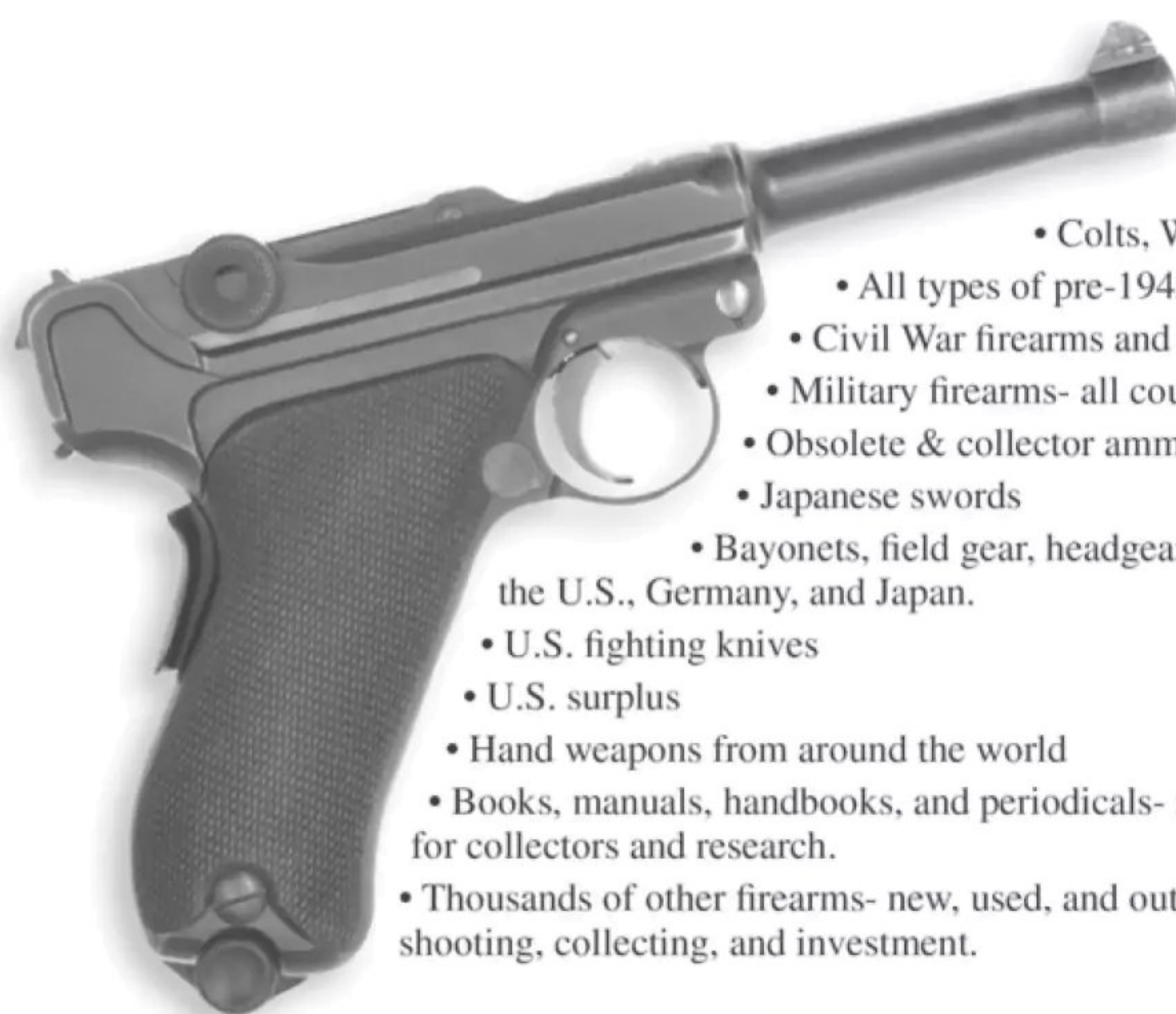
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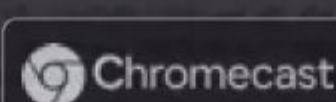
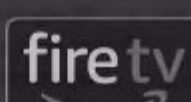
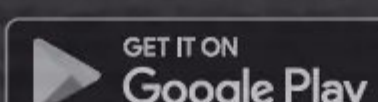
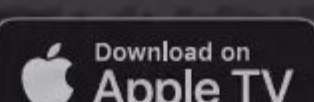
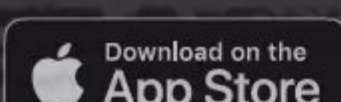
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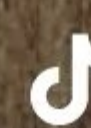
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SO, YOU WANT A .50-CALIBER RIFLE?

Recoil and big slugs make some shooters happy.

Big-bore hunting rifles have a unique allure, as more often than not they're associated with hunting dangerous game, especially African dangerous game. And where I've been quoted as saying—from the perspective of the visiting client—that I prefer my cartridges to start with a “4,” a good number of African Professional Hunters cock an eyebrow at me, and tell me they want their cartridges to start with a “5.”

Those rifle cartridges in the .50-caliber range are serious stopping cartridges,

launching heavy bullets and generating heavy recoil. For ending a conflict with the largest animals on Earth, the .500s are great tools ... if the shooter can handle the bone-crushing recoil.

Now, not all .50-caliber rifles are created equal—technically a .50-caliber Hawken muzzleloader fits the bill—and there are some of the smaller rifle cases that do launch .50-caliber projectiles, but are light-for-caliber. The .500 Linebaugh is available in the Big Horn Armory Model 89 lever-action, and the .50 Beowulf surely shines in the AR-platform,

but both of these use lighter bullets than are needed for truly dangerous game. I feel that for this caliber of cartridge, a bullet of 500 grains minimum is needed to provide the proper Sectional Density for deep penetration on an animal that can stomp you into jelly.

THE .500 NITRO EXPRESS

Starting with the oldest of the lot, the .500 Nitro Express dates back to the late 19th century. Based on the .500 Blackpowder Express, the British firm of Westley Richards was responsible for



The half-inch crew is a serious bunch, possessing the energy to get the job done when the chips are down, but they mean business on both ends of the barrel.



J.A. Hunter used a Boswell double rifle chambered in .500 Nitro Express for animal control along the Uganda Railway in Kenya, better known as the Lunatic Line.

(Below) This author had an opportunity to touch history and shoot John A. Hunter's Boswell .500 NE at the Dallas Safari Club's Historic Rifle Society Event.

converting the cartridge to smokeless powder in 1890. The .500 Nitro Express is a rimmed cartridge, designed for use in the single-shot and double rifles, using a bullet of 0.510-inch diameter, in a straight-walled case measuring exactly 3 inches, with an overall length of 3.75 inches.

The large rim of the .500 Nitro Express—measuring 0.655 inch—allows for proper headspacing and positive extraction, even in the heat of the tropics. This was a very important design feature when the .500 Nitro Express made the transition from blackpowder to smokeless powder, as the vast majority of the rifles of this caliber were destined for India and Tropical Africa, and the Cordite used to fuel the cartridge was very sensitive to temperature fluctuations. A voluminous cartridge with a good, strong rim made a world of difference in the late 1800s.

The .500 Nitro Express is offered with one bullet weight—570 grains—as that's the weight used to regulate the double rifles. At the standard muzzle velocity of 2,150 fps, that bullet will generate 5,850 ft-lb of energy at the muzzle; couple that with the frontal diameter of the .500 NE and you've got a great stopping rifle. In a double rifle weighing between 11 and 12 pounds, the recoil of the .500 Nitro Express is surprisingly manageable.

In fact, owning and hunting with a

.470 NE, I actually find the recoil speed and overall level of the .500 NE to be more pleasant than my .470. Where the .470 generated just over 69 ft-lb of recoil energy, the .500 generates 75½ ft-lb, but I've always found the speed of the .500s recoil to be slower, and therefore the perceived recoil to be less. While the .470 Nitro Express remains the most popular choice, with the widest variety of factory ammunition, many professional hunters still prefer the .500 NE for its heavier bullet weight and stopping power.

Historically, folks like John A. Hunter, Sten Cedergren, Gordon Cundill and Glen Cottar put the .500 NE to

good use. (Hunter's .500 Boswell rifle did serious work along the Lunatic Line, taking a huge number of rhino for the Uganda Railway Company—I've had the privilege of shooting this rifle.) In modern times, Professional Hunters (and personal friends) Brian van Blerk, Peter Dafner and Jofie Lamprecht all rely on a .500 Nitro Express in a Heym double rifle. Good ammunition is available from Hornady, Federal and Norma, and component bullets are readily available to those who handload their ammunition.

THE .505 GIBBS

"Macomber did not know how the lion had felt before he started his rush, nor during it when the unbelievable smash of the .505 had hit him." -Ernest Hemingway *The Short Happy Life of Francis Macomber*

George Gibbs of Bristol designed the .505 Gibbs in 1911, using a bullet of nominal diameter, housed in a case measuring 3.150 inches long, with an overall cartridge length of 3.850 inches. The .505 is a rimless design, using a 37-degree, 40-minute shoulder for headspacing purposes, making the cartridge a perfect candidate for the bolt-action repeating rifles. Where the double rifles of the era were certainly very fast for a second shot, a bolt-action repeater is faster for the third shot. The



.505 was released among some of our most revered safari cartridges, what with the .416 Rigby coming on the scene the same year, and the .375 H&H Magnum just a year later, and made a serious choice for those pursuing the big game species of Africa and India.

The initial load for the .505 Gibbs used a 525-grain bullet at a muzzle velocity of 2,300 fps, generating over 6,100 ft-lb of energy at the business end of the barrel. Again, we have a cartridge originally fueled by the rather-volatile Cordite, and the sheer size of the Gibbs case shows the efforts to keep pressures low, in order to guarantee extraction in the heat of the tropics. Recoil isn't for the faint of heart, as the .505 Gibbs will generate over 85 ft-lb of recoil energy, depending upon the weight of the rifle. Projectiles as heavy as 600 grains are loaded in factory ammunition for the .505 Gibbs, and while these big slugs are quite effective on buffalo, elephant, hippo and the like, they do require both training and practice to shoot effectively.

My good friend and hunting partner Mike McNulty has the first of the new Heym Express rifles in .505 Gibbs to roll out of the shop, and we've done some extensive load development for it. Using Reloder 15 (which develops the same velocities with a lighter powder charge) and a Kynoch foam wad to keep the powder column in place, we can mitigate some of that recoil without losing performance. McNulty has taken buffalo and elephant, plus a number of plains game species, in Zimbabwe over the course of a few safaris, and that rifle is as sound a choice for dangerous game as you could make, providing you can handle that level of recoil.

Historically, the .505 Gibbs has seen considerable field action in the hands of PHs Barry Duckworth, Kevin "Doc-tari" Robertson and John Oosthuizen, as well as serving as the fictional Robert Wilson in Hemingway's *Macomber*. Ammunition is available from Norma (though some sites indicate it has been discontinued) and from Nosler, though if you are serious about a Gibbs, I high-

ly recommend you learn to handload your ammunition.

THE .500 JEFFERY

Here's the youngest of the half-bores designed for safari work, born in Germany around 1920, and originally known as the 12.7x70 Schuler, or in some instances, the .500 Schuler. It was picked up—and anglicized—by the prestigious firm of W. J. Jeffery and offered as a true big bore cartridge designed to fit in a standard 98 Mauser action.

To do this, the .500 Jeffery has a rebated rim, measuring 0.575 inch in diameter and a case measuring 2.75

inches long; the cartridge overall length measures 3.46 inches. The slight 12-degree, 37-minute shoulder handles the headspacing duties and is a big factor in the way a .500 Jeffery feeds, but more about that in just a second. The .500 Jeffery uses the same .510-inch diameter projectiles as the .500 Nitro Express, with the original load using a 535-grain bullet at a muzzle velocity of 2,400 fps, to give 6,800 ft-lb of energy at the muzzle. This was the most powerful shoulder-fired cartridge until the .460 Weatherby Magnum came along to take that title.

Using well over 100 grains of powder, the .500 Jeffery is assuredly a dangerous



Among African Professional Hunters, the .500 Nitro Express 3-inch remains a favorite choice for a stopping cartridge in a double rifle



The .505 Gibbs Magnum, shown here with Swift A-Frame softpoints and Swift Breakaway solids.



John “Pondoro” Taylor wrote of his friend C. Fletcher Jamison in *African Rifle and Cartridges*. Jamison owned one of very few original Jeffery rifles in .500 Jeffery, and this author had the opportunity to shoot that famous rifle.

(Below) The author’s hunting partner, Dr. Michael McNulty, with the first modern Heym Express by Martini rifle chambered in .505 Gibbs.

GOING BIGGER



If the .500s are so imposing, what about those bigger Nitro Express cartridges, namely the .577 Nitro Express, .600 Nitro Express and .700 Nitro Express? Well, all of them certainly get the job done, but also come at a cost. The rifle weight necessarily increases—by the time you get to the .700 NE, rifles will weigh in excess of 20 pounds—and recoil goes through the roof.

I’ve shot Ernest Hemingway’s Westley Richards .577 NE, weighing just over 15 pounds and launching a 750-grain bullet at 2,050 fps. While certainly more potent on the shoulder than the .500 NE, it wasn’t horrific. Move up to the .700 Nitro Express, where a 1,000-grain bullet is launched at 2,000 fps, and you’ll find the only rifle that has lifted my left foot off the ground under recoil. I couldn’t imagine carrying that rifle in the field, let alone using it for multiple shots on game animals.

Generating 8,900 ft-lb of muzzle energy, as well as 160 ft-lb of recoil energy, the .700 NE is too much for yours truly as a hunting cartridge, no matter the size of the elephant. I’ll stick to my .470, please and thank you.

And while I’ve yet to pull the trigger on a .600 NE, by all accounts it’s worse than the .700 NE due to a lighter rifle weight—that box can wait a while to be checked.



game cartridge if ever there was one. And as modern loads exceed those of the .505 Gibbs, in a 10- to 11-pound rifle, the recoil energy can approach or exceed 90 to 100 ft-lb, so you're really going to want to make sure the stock fits you well. Though the 535-grain bullets were originally loaded, many companies have offered the 570-grain bullets usually produced for the .500 NE at a muzzle velocity of 2,150 fps, the same as the .500 Nitro Express. For the handloader, component bullets are available from Barnes, Cutting Edge Bullets, Swift and Hornady.

Though discontinued, a number of CZ550 rifles are still on the market, chambered in .500 Jeffery. Factory loaded ammunition is becoming a problem though, as Norma has apparently discontinued both ammunition and component brass, and they were a big supplier. Buffalo Bore lists loaded ammunition, loaded with solid (non-expanding) projectiles.

Oh, that feeding issue I alluded to earlier? A common issue with many .500 Jeffery bolt-action rifles is a magazine follower that doesn't stay parallel with the barrel, as cartridges are loaded into the chamber. If that follower develops a nose-up attitude, the bottom edge of the bolt can ride over the cartridge's rebated rim, causing a failure-to-feed situation, resulting in a hairy predicament if a wounded or charging game animal is on the other end of the line.

If you plan on taking your .500 Jeffery in pursuit of dangerous game, I highly recommend you spend considerable time making sure your rifle will reliably feed in all sorts of situations; it's often the last cartridge in the magazine that shows the most potential for this phenomenon.

In the heyday of safari, the most popular user of the .500 Jeffery was Crawford Fletcher Jamison, who had one of only 23 Jeffery's rifles. Equipped with a 26-inch barrel and a very long length of pull, I had the honor of shooting that rifle, which



Nosler offers their excellent monometal solids in factory-loaded ammunition for the .505 Gibbs. While the recoil level is certainly not for the faint of heart, the cartridge is well suited for any game on earth.



The Woodleigh Hydro Solid in the .505 Gibbs makes one of the most potent combinations for dangerous game there is.

(Below) The .500 Jeffery may look like a fire hydrant, but it sure packs a wallop. Just beware of that rebated rim!

seems to deliver less perceived recoil than do modern rifles. In modern times, my friends Jay Leyendecker, Mike Fell and the late Dudley Rogers have all relied on the .500 Jeffery to keep their clients on one piece while on safari.

THE .50 BMG

I'm often asked by prospective hunters of dangerous game exactly why, if these beasts are so tough, hunters don't ever use the .50 BMG for that purpose. The short answer is that the rifles chambered for the Big .50 simply aren't designed for stalking, and that's the preferred method of hunting Cape buffalo, elephant and the few rhino that are still sport hunted each year.

Toting a 30-pound rifle in the African bushveld simply isn't practical—I know just carrying my 12-pound .470 NE Heym double or 10-pound .404 Jeffery bolt gun on a sweltering day under the African sun is tough enough, let



alone almost three times that weight. The ballistics are certainly sound, with the Browning design launching a 650- to 750-grain bullet of 0.510-inch diameter to a muzzle velocity of somewhere between 2,800 to 3,000 fps, generating over 13,000 ft-lb of energy.

However, I think that no matter how many gunbearers one employed, carrying a .50 BMG on safari just doesn't make practical sense. **GDTM**

THE GREENER

Nothing gets a young shotgunner's attention like touching off both barrels—simultaneously!



The first shotgun I ever fired was a 20-gauge J. C. Higgins single-barrel single shot. It belonged to the wife of a close family friend, one of two hunting and

shooting mentors I had as a kid. I believe Stevens made the gun, but back then, it was marketed under the J. C. Higgins label by Sears, Roebuck and Company.

As was typical of that type of single-

This Greener Model F35 has rather nice wood, nothing spectacular, but nicely grained.



barrel shotgun, it was very light and gave a healthy jolt with standard loads. So, to offset the recoil, my mentor loaded a few cartridges with about half an ounce of shot and reduced powder. In

short, he made .410 loads in 20-gauge hulls. I shot at a tin can about 15 yards away; it was the first time I fired a shotgun. It was a good thing that it hardly kicked since, at age 12, I wasn't a large kid. I was kind of scrawny, about 90 pounds soaking wet!

A few months after shooting the powder-puff 20 gauge, I shot a regular 12-gauge load at a live target. I was out with an uncle, my other childhood mentor, hunting. We had been after partridge and drove to one of his "secret" spots after an unsuccessful hunt in one area. While driving, my uncle suddenly stopped and pointed at a tree about 30 yards away. A crow sat on the top branch. We exited the car, and he assembled his shotgun from its case, a W. W. Greener 12 gauge with double triggers and side safety.

He loaded both barrels with those wonderfully aromatic waxed green paper Remington Express loads with round yellow paper stickers on the crimp marked with the shot size. He checked to ensure the gun was on safe, then handed it to me and said to aim, take it off safe, and shoot. If I missed with the first barrel and the crow started to fly off, I was to pull the rear trigger for the second barrel. He reminded me to "lead" the crow if it was flying. Eagerly, I took the gun from his hands

and attempted to do as I was told. I aligned the bead on the crow and took the safety off. Then I pulled the trigger, or at least I thought I had pulled the front trigger, but apparently, I did more than that.

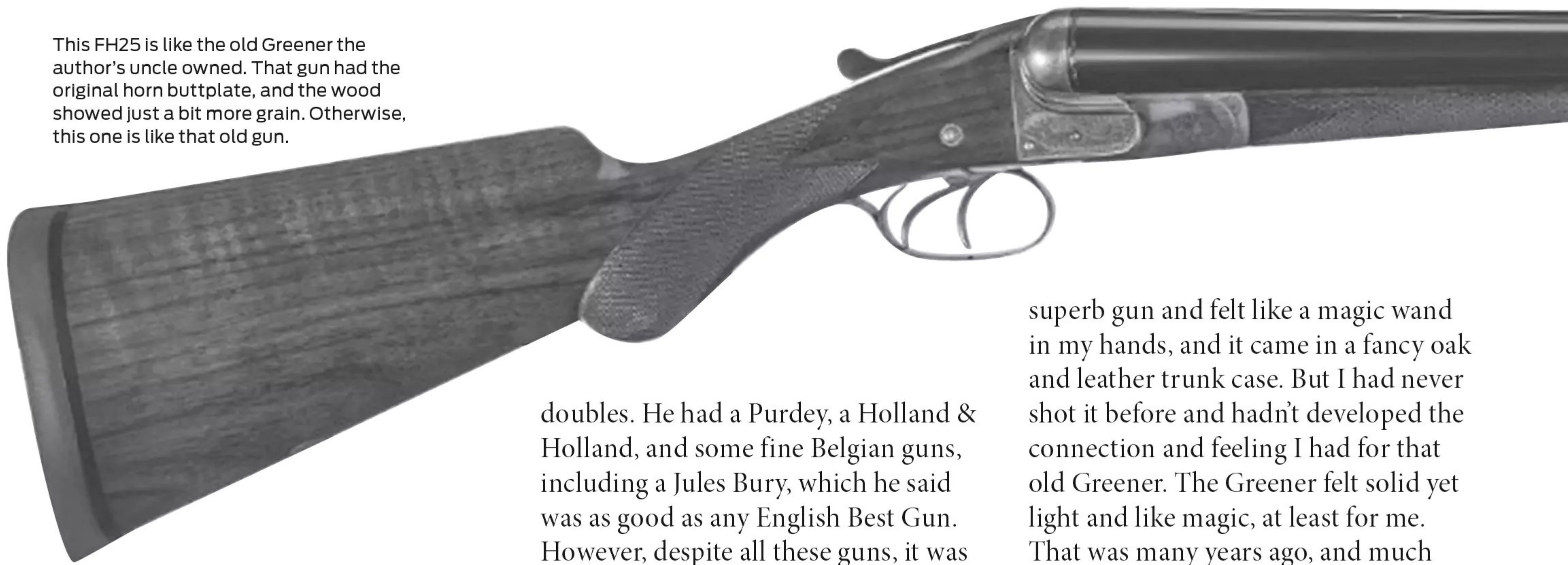
The shot was thunderous and almost knocked me off my feet! I missed entirely, and the crow disappeared before I could shoot again. My uncle laughed as I stood there somewhat dazed, staring at the Greener that kicked like a mule. He took the gun from me, thumbed the top lever, and popped two empties. In my excitement, I pulled both triggers at the same time. It was quite a shock, and I never repeated that mistake.

I later shot that wonderful Greener more successfully, pulling one trigger at a time. I discovered that it did not have a vicious kick at all. I often shot those mild, maroon-colored, low-base Remington Shur-Shot loads, and the recoil was minimal. It was a game gun and weighed about 6½ pounds, the same as my uncle's other game guns. My uncle was a wealthy man and a hunting fanatic who owned many shotguns, all 12 gauges. As far as he was concerned, the 12 gauge was the only bore size worth shooting. He owned a successful company, and he concentrated on hunting for about four months each year during



The Greener with a Copper pheasant.

This FH25 is like the old Greener the author's uncle owned. That gun had the original horn buttplate, and the wood showed just a bit more grain. Otherwise, this one is like that old gun.



the hunting season. During that time, he rarely visited his office except in emergency cases, leaving the company business in the hands of his deputy.

He used to jokingly say that if Clark Gable, the reigning "King of Hollywood" at that time, could take off during hunting season, so could he. (Gable was famous for having a clause in his contract with MGM Studio that specified he would not make any movies during hunting season.) My uncle may not have been the "King of Hollywood," but he had his priorities straight.

It was from this uncle that I learned about fine English and European

doubles. He had a Purdey, a Holland & Holland, and some fine Belgian guns, including a Jules Bury, which he said was as good as any English Best Gun. However, despite all these guns, it was apparent that he preferred to shoot the Greener. The two guns he shot the most were the Greener and a Belgian box-lock "Guild Gun" with no name, which he told me Francotte made. He didn't shoot his Best Guns with finer pedigrees as much.

Many years later, he surprised me with his generosity and presented me with one of his prized guns, the Holland & Holland. It was a beautiful Royal Model, and I was grateful for this unexpected and priceless gift, but to be honest, I secretly wished it had been the Greener instead. There was something about that old Greener that made it special. The Holland & Holland was a

superb gun and felt like a magic wand in my hands, and it came in a fancy oak and leather trunk case. But I had never shot it before and hadn't developed the connection and feeling I had for that old Greener. The Greener felt solid yet light and like magic, at least for me. That was many years ago, and much time had passed since that Greener gave me such a wallop.

I still remember that Greener very well. Its trigger guard tang, worn white, had the serial number followed by "Grade FH25" engraved. The bluing on the barrels was thin, especially in front of the forearm, where it was held by the forward hand. The color casehardening on the receiver was gone entirely, making the receiver appear to have a pickled gray finish. The barrel flats were stamped with Birmingham proof marks and 2¾ inches and 1¼ ounces. Both barrels were stamped "choke," but my uncle told me that the left barrel was



The Greener in two parts.

“half choke” while the right was “quarter choke.” I knew, from reading articles about shotguns, that “half choke” meant modified and “quarter choke” was improved cylinder. The stock, though not fancy, was attractive with lightly grained wood and had that distinctive Greener trademark rounded Prince of Wales grip, which was almost a straight grip, and it had a horn buttplate. The wood finish had numerous scratches and minor dents but was otherwise still in good shape.

I cleaned the gun thoroughly each time after shooting and lightly oiled everything. I would then slip the barrels with its forearm and the receiver with its stock into their frayed, oil-stained red flannel cloth sleeves. Then, I would put the two parts into the much worn and scuffed old leather leg o’ mutton

case in which it was kept. The top lid of the case was stamped “W. W. Greener, Ltd” with an image of an elephant, a Greener trademark. My uncle kept his other guns in the cabinet, but there was no space for all his firearms, so the Greener and several others stayed outside. Besides, he shot the Greener the most, so he kept it handy.

Through the years, I have owned a couple of Greeners. I once had a worn-out Empire-Grade Greener that had belonged to an old duck hunter who shot it every duck season for over half a century. I got the gun more for sentimental reasons than actual use, and it was pretty beaten up, badly off-face, and its side safety did not work. It had consumed its share of heavy loads, perhaps too many. I kept it for a while, never actually shooting it before trading it for

something else. I also had a very early Damascus-barreled high-grade Greener that was a nice gun and proofed for 2¾-inch loads, but it was not quite to my liking, so it also left my house.

My current Greener is an FH35, a grade higher than that old one I shot as a kid. According to Greener records, it was made “between the wars” for sale in America with its factory single selective trigger and 26-inch barrels. It is a light upland gun, a few ounces lighter than my uncle’s old Greener, and being a grade higher, slightly finer with more engraving and better wood on the buttstock. It, too, has the shallow, rounded wisp of a Prince of Wales grip on a very nicely grained stock with dark streaks.

I suspect it was initially purchased by a grouse and woodcock hunter or a bobwhite enthusiast. It came to me

This 12-bore Greener is light at 6 pounds, 4 ounces, as light or lighter than most modern 20 bores. It makes for an excellent upland gun with its 26-inch barrels and open boring.





The Greener in its perfectly fitted “restored” Brady case. The author is unsure whether the case initially came with the gun or was a later addition.

in an old, restored canvas and leather Brady case. I don’t know whether the case was initially purchased with the gun, but the shotgun is nicely fitted to the case, which has been relined with new fabric.

The Greener I own today is not a Best Gun. It is a Birmingham boxlock, albeit a very lovely graded model. But, just as my uncle of long ago seemed to prefer his old Greener over other, more costly and pedigreed guns, I too like this Greener a lot. It is choked cylinder in the right barrel and modified in the left, an excellent combination for upland gunning. I haven’t shot it much, not as much as I once shot my uncle’s old FH25. But I did take it out after quail and dove a few times, and it did its job perfectly, as long as I did my part.

Since my introduction to shotguns with my uncle’s old Greener gave me such a violent jolt, I have always been partial to Greener shotguns. Some dislike the Greener cross-bolt, considering it an unnecessary appendage. Others don’t like the side safety. Yet others claim Greeners are nothing but Birmingham “working guns,” not as finely made as London guns. I find it to be quite the opposite. In my experience, Greeners are as well made as any London gun. Granted, their basic models, like the Empire Grade, are not as finely finished as the London “best guns,” but they don’t cost the price of a small house!

Like the Royal Grade, the top-grade Greener boxlocks are as finely made as any London Best sidelock. And Greener made very fine sidelocks that are as

good as the London counterparts and cost as much. However, the boxlock gave Greener worldwide fame; the proprietary boxlock action called “Facile Princeps” with its famous Greener top lock and side safety.

A Greener will last as long as any London gun, maybe even outlast it. Not surprisingly, when Winchester held a torture test for its Model 21, shooting thousands of rounds of unreasonably heavy overloads, all other guns, including London Best Guns, broke down early on. Only the Greener hung on for a while longer, although it couldn’t keep up with the tank-like, overbuilt Model 21.

But my fondness for the Greener is not based on its strength. It is simply that it was a Greener that I shot first as a kid. So for me, a Greener will always hold a special place. **GDTM**

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A WEATHERBY FOR WINGS

A look at the new Weatherby Sorix, a semi-auto shotgun available in both 12 and 20 gauge.

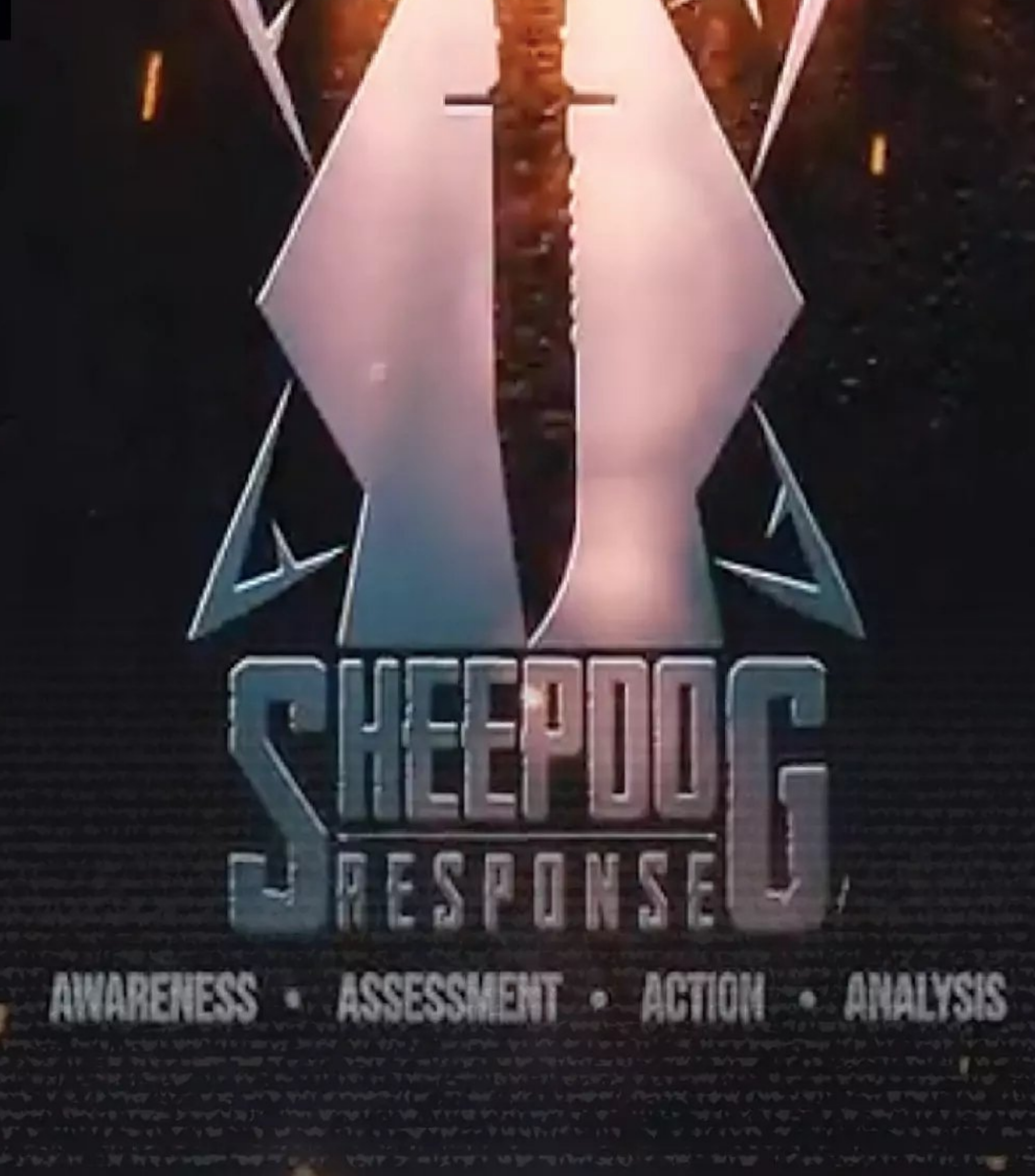
While mostly known for its rifles, Weatherby recently expanded its shotgun line with the release of the Sorix. A semi-auto made in Italy and finished at the company's headquarters in Wyoming, the Sorix line is available in 20 and 12 gauge with three different finish color options. The 12-gauge model also has the option of either a 3- or 3.5-inch chamber, but all three variants have a 2+1 capacity.

Weatherby Sorix shotguns utilize the same inertia recoil system that has proven itself in some of the company's previous models, a system that's known to be simple, reliable and cleaner running than gas-operated semi-autos. The shotguns also feature Weatherby's Shift System, a feature that enables users to swap the charging handle and safety to the left-hand side.

Additional features of the Weatherby Sorix that hunters will appreciate include oversized controls and an enlarged trigger guard for easier operation in cold weather, a stock that's adjustable with shims and a receiver that's been drilled and tapped (8-40 holes) for an optic mount.

For those who don't want an optic, the Sorix comes standard with LPA fiber optic sights as well. Finally, the shotguns also use the Crio Plus choke system and each gun will ship with five chokes, a choke wrench and a choke carrying case.

All three variants of the Weatherby Sorix are available with either the Midnight Marsh, Slough or Storm finish options, each consisting of a Cerakote job on the receiver, barrel and top rib and a hand-painted stock. All models are available now and share an MSRP of \$1,499. **GDTM**



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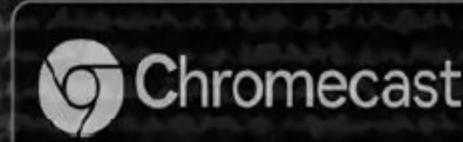
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