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Gun Digest

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THE MAGAZINE

AUGUST 2024

VOLUME 41 • ISSUE 09

THE REVOLVER ISSUE!

- Best Snubbies for CCW

- Diamondback SDR .357 Mag

- Hot New Wheelguns for 2024

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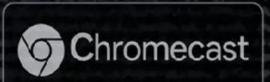
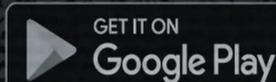
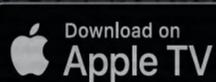
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EARN IT

“Practice matters here, more than starting capacity. If you practice with speedloaders you’ll be faster on the reload than the pistol guy who didn’t practice.” -Patrick Sweeney, on choosing a revolver for everyday carry

You don’t practice as much as you should.

There, I said it. And, it likely wasn’t any easier for you to read just now that it is when I say it to myself in the mirror at least once a week.

But how much practice is enough practice? I can’t answer that for you, but I’m at the range running rounds through a handgun about once per week, and it never feels like enough. On the other hand, I’ve tested guns and attended training where I shot every day for weeks on end ... and that damn near felt like too much, where I started to over-analyze everything and frustration began to creep in.

Regardless of your “personal threshold” of practice, I found Patrick Sweeney’s quote above while editing his article in this issue titled “For the Love of Snubbies.” What he’s saying is

that, with proper practice, well-trained hands can reload a revolver faster than untrained (or under-trained) hands can reload a pistol.

Bold, right? I thought about that sentence of a bit—questioning it—and I came to the realization that Sweeney is completely accurate. Good training is based on consistency and quality, and good training often trumps “superior” gear. You cannot buy your way to tighter groups or faster reloads.

You have to earn it.

So, the next time you hear a Glock-aholic running his mouth, kindly remind him that there’s nothing “less than” about a revolver ... they just take more skill to operate efficiently. **GDTM**

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ever produced.



HISTORICAL NOTES

Announced in 2005 as a joint development between Hornady Ammunition and Smith & Wesson, the .460 Smith & Wesson (S&W) is the fastest revolver cartridge ever produced, reaching velocities of about 2,200 fps with 200-grain bullets. It's chambered in the S&W M460 Extreme Velocity Revolver for long-range handgun hunting. When used by a skilled pistol shooter, the .460 S&W cartridge can achieve MOA accuracy at 100 yards.

GENERAL COMMENTS

The .460 S&W uses the .454 Casull case lengthened to 1.8 inches as its parent case. It's the first commercial revolver cartridge to use tipped bul-

lets. Hornady and CorBon offer loaded ammunition for the .460 S&W, as do other brands, such as Federal Ammunition. Hornady and Starline supply reloading components and data for it as well.

As mentioned here, the .460 S&W is capable of providing MOA accuracy at 100 yards, making it well suited for whitetail deer hunting at 150-yard ranges and other big-game pursuits at moderate distances. **GDTM**

.460 SMITH & WESSON LOADING DATA AND FACTORY BALLISTICS

BULLET (GRAINS/TYPE)	POWDER	GRAINS	VELOCITY	ENERGY	SOURCE
220 Hornady SST	FL	-	2,200	2,149	Hornady
225 Barnes X	H110	42.0	2,243	2,513	Hodgdon
240 Hdy XTP	H4227	45.0	2,198	2,574	Hodgdon
250 Barnes X	Li'l Gun	42.0	2,044	2,319	Hodgdon

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Every law-abiding citizen, regardless of their budget, has the right to own a reliable firearm for personal protection. That's where the **Taurus G3 family** of pistols comes in. Affordable? Absolutely. Cheap? Not a chance. The G3 family consistently punches above its price point, delivering performance on par and above far more expensive products. Which does raise the question: *what are those other guys charging you for?*





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THE CARRY REVOLVER

Though often overlooked, there are some excellent CCW wheelguns out there.

(left) The Colt 4-inch Python is a fantastic magnum revolver. But it's big, especially on your belt where it can tug heavily.

A revolver like the Korth 2.5-inch Carry Special isn't outlandishly large, but it's still heavy, weighing in at 33 ounces. However, with its interchangeable cylinders, it will fire 9mm, .38 Special and .357 Magnum ammo.

In today's world of self-defense handguns, if it's not itty-bitty, plastic and outfitted with a dot sight, it doesn't get talked about very much. This means revolvers get overlooked, but it doesn't mean there aren't some good carry revolvers out there—your options are just limited. The limitations start with revolver cartridges because there are only a few that are really suitable for personal protection.

Though it hasn't had a lot of manufacturer support over the years, the .327 Federal Magnum is a viable option in a sub-compact revolver that allows for six shots, as opposed to five like you'd get with a .38 Special or a .357 Magnum. Just because the .38 Special has been around for more than 125 years doesn't mean it's outdated. Ammunition used in early .38 Special revolvers was a bit anemic compared to what's available today. With modern +P ammo options, the .38 Special way outperforms its relic-like reputation. The .357 Magnum is the only other revolver cartridge seriously worth considering—its downside is recoil that can be offensive in concealable revolvers.

Of course, others will point out that there are 9mm Luger revolvers. I know; I have a Korth revolver, and I can switch cylinders from .357 Magnum to 9mm. If you can find one you like and can afford, it can be a practical choice. And of course, there's the .44 Special, which is an



outstanding self-defense cartridge with modern ammunition. The problem is that .44 Special revolvers can be large, and good ammo options are sparse. Some might also suggest the .44 Magnum, but if you've ever shot one in a little revolver you know this is mostly optimistic, testosterone-infused conjecture.

WHEELS APLENTY

I like the .327 Federal Magnum cartridge and think it a better ballistic

option than the .38 Special and the .357 Magnum. Better than the .38 Special, partly because of capacity, but also partly because from a terminal performance standpoint it's just as good. Where it has an advantage over the .357 Magnum is in recoil. To make the .357 Magnum recoil compatible to the .327 Federal, you give up the ballistic advantage the .357 Magnum has. But there aren't a lot of .327 revolvers to choose from. One of the best—and lightest—is Ruger's LCR.

The wise concealed carrier will load their .357 revolvers, especially the little ones, with a good quality .38 Special +P load like this one from Buffalo Bore.





The .327 Federal Magnum (left), .38 Special (center) and .357 Magnum (right) are the best of the self-defense revolver cartridges.

If I went with a .357 Magnum, I'd load it with .38 Special +P ammo. I'd do this for two reasons. The first is that good .38 Special +P ammo will not have seriously unpleasant recoil and will allow you to deliver follow-up shots on target faster. The second and just as important reason is that, out of little revolvers, the ejection rod might not be long enough to reliably eject the longer .357 Magnum cases ... well, unless you slap it like you'd slap a man for disrespecting your wife, and then they might still stick in the cylinder. The shorter .38 Special cases generally pop right out

of their chambers.

That mostly leaves us with the .38 Special, but because the .357 Magnum can reliably chamber and fire .38 Special and .38 Special +P ammo, a .357—if you can find one in the right-sized revolver—might be the best way for you to go. No, you might not be able to comfortably control .357 Magnum recoil out of a 17-ounce Ruger LCR, but other than saving a few ounces, there's not much reason to go for the .38 Special. With a .357 Magnum revolver, you have the option for that extra power if you need and can manage it.

The other revolver limitation is size. You can circumvent some of the .357 Magnum's recoil intensity by going with a larger—duty size—revolver like the Colt Python. I've a good bit of experience working with the Python, and it's a fine revolver. Its 42-ounce heft helps tame .357 recoil, but it also makes the handgun tug quite heavily on your belt. You can opt for the 3- or 2.5-inch Python, but you'll only save a few ounces. Another advantage of carrying a larger revolver in .357 Magnum is the more than five-shot capacity they offer. A full-size duty gun will hold one extra round, and Ruger even offers a few seven-shot .357 Magnum revolvers.

NOT TOO BIG, NOT TOO SMALL

There are some revolvers that are not so itty bitty that they're hard to shoot and not so big that they're hard to carry. Taurus makes a six-shot, 25-ounce Defender Model 856 in .38 Special +P with a 3-inch

Taurus has several mid/carry size revolvers in .357 Magnum that offer a decent balance of carry comfort and shootability, especially with +P .38 Special ammo.





The Smith & Wesson Model 60 in .357 Magnum from the Performance Center.

The Taurus 327 T.O.R.O. Defender in .327 Federal Magnum.



These three midsize revolvers from Taurus and Smith & Wesson are sized just about right for easy carry and shooting comfort.



The Taurus 25-ounce Defender Model 856 in .38 Special +P with a 3-inch barrel.

barrel. They also make a six-shot, 3-inch Defender T.O.R.O. revolver chambered for the .327 Federal Magnum. It weighs 23 ounces, but it is—surprisingly—optics ready. And they have an optics-ready T.O.R.O. Model 856 revolver in .38 Special +P.

Though a bit pricier, another revolver worth considering is from Smith & Wesson. They have a Model 60 in .357 Magnum from their Performance Center. It has a 3-inch barrel, holds five rounds and only weighs 23 ounces.

To me, these midsize or compact—depending on how you want to classify them—revolvers that weigh between 20 and 25 ounces are what I consider true carry revolvers. For the three revolver cartridges most suitable for carry, these wheel-guns offer the best balance of shootability, concealability and power

that's available.

The Taurus revolvers retail for around \$450 to \$550, but the Smith & Wesson will set you back about \$900. From a quality standpoint, the Smith is probably worth the extra jingle. Either way, if you're considering a revolver for carry, consider one of the not so big, and not so little, ones.

GDTM





THE BOUNDARIES OF SELF-DEFENSE

When overwhelming numbers of unarmed threats turn deadly.

In recent times, the landscape of civil unrest has evolved and, with it, armed citizens have been forced to consider how they might respond if they find themselves amidst the unrest.

Consider the following tragic example of mob violence.

On November 1, 2023, 17-year-old Jonathan Edward Lewis Jr., a student at Rancho High School in Las Vegas, Nevada, was the victim of a violent attack by a mob of his fellow students. Lewis had been standing up for a friend who was being bullied by the other students. Tragically, Lewis succumbed to the injuries sustained during the assault on November 7, 2023.

The tragic beating death of Lewis raises important questions about the legal limits of self-defense. In this case, Lewis was reportedly attacked by a mob of 10 to 15 assailants, leaving him

defenseless on the ground which ultimately resulted in his death.

From a use-of-force legal analysis perspective, the key question is: What actions would Lewis have been legally justified in taking to defend himself against such an overwhelming attack? Even if the attackers had no access to weapons, could Lewis have used deadly force to protect himself?

THE ELEMENTS OF SELF-DEFENSE

There are five key elements that determine whether a use of force is legally justified as self-defense:

1. Innocence: Was the person claiming self-defense the initial unlawful aggressor? In this case, the evidence suggests the mob attacking Lewis was the initial aggressor, making Lewis the innocent party.
2. Imminence: Was the threat of harm immediate and about to occur? The on-

going beating of the defenseless Lewis clearly meets this criterion.

3. Proportionality: Was the defensive force used proportional to the threat faced? This is the most complex element in this scenario.

4. Avoidance: Did the person claiming self-defense have a reasonable opportunity to safely retreat? In a “stand your ground” state like Nevada where this occurred, there is no duty to retreat when facing such an attack.

5. Reasonableness: Was the person’s belief that deadly force was necessary or reasonable given the circumstances? With 10 to 15 assailants surrounding and beating an unarmed, defenseless victim, this standard appears to be met.

DISPARITY OF NUMBERS AS DEADLY FORCE

The key issue here is the element of proportionality: When does the sheer

“However, the courts have recognized that a large disparity in numbers can transform an otherwise non-deadly attack into a deadly force situation. As the number of assailants grows, even if they are unarmed, the threat of death or serious harm increases exponentially.”

“From a use-of-force legal analysis perspective, the key question is: What actions would Lewis have been legally justified in taking to defend himself against such an overwhelming attack? Even if the attackers had no access to weapons, could Lewis have used deadly force to protect himself?”

number of attackers constitute a deadly force threat, justifying the use of deadly defensive force?

The general rule is that you can only use deadly force to defend against a deadly force threat—one likely to cause death or serious bodily injury. A single unarmed attacker of similar size and ability typically does not meet this threshold, even if they throw a punch.

However, the courts have recognized that a large disparity in numbers can transform an otherwise non-deadly attack into a deadly force situation. As the number of assailants grows, even if they are unarmed, the threat of death or serious harm increases exponentially.

APPLYING THE LAW TO THE SITUATION

In the case of Lewis, he was facing a mob of 10 to 15 attackers. Given his defenseless position on the ground,

completely surrounded, this disparity of numbers would likely be considered a deadly force threat under the law.

The courts have consistently held that an individual is not required to wait to be killed or suffer serious injury before using deadly defensive force. When confronted with the threat of death or grave harm from a large group of assailants, the law allows the use of force reasonably necessary to prevent that outcome—even if it means using lethal force against unarmed attackers.

Tragically, it appears Lewis was unable to mount any meaningful defense against the onslaught. But had he been armed and able to fight back, the law may have justified the use of deadly force to protect his life against this deadly mob attack.

CONCLUSION

While the loss of Lewis is heartbreak-

ing, examining the legal principles around self-defense in such situations might help prevent similar tragedies. The law recognizes that when faced with the threat of death or grave harm from a large group of assailants, an individual has the right to use the force necessary to save their own life—even if that means using lethal force against unarmed attackers.

This is a difficult and nuanced area of the law, but understanding these principles can empower people to defend themselves when confronted with such overwhelming violence. Hopefully, the lessons from this tragic case can help protect the innocent and save lives down the road. **GDTM**

What if?

This also raises another question. What if the scenario were a legitimate protest infiltrated by bad actors? How should we think about responding to bad actors within the larger protest? That's a topic we will address in a future column.

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.

EMBRACING THE BLUES

Gun blue made easy for you.

Sometimes a bit of wear isn't a problem: It shows you actually use your firearm. Other times, you want to undo the loss of finish—like the sights I just put onto a 1911 slide. I had to file the sight dovetail flat to make it fit, and the edges show white. To pull the sight out, send it to the bluer (along with a bunch of other parts), wait and then reinstall is just too much. (This is my own pistol of course; a customer's gun would get the full treatment.)

Shooter's Choice has a solution. Actually, several of them.

The Gun Blue Kit has a cleaner, two-part blueing agent, curing agent and the needed applicators, swabs and even a bench cloth to have handy, so you don't put the parts down onto a surface that might interfere with the process.

There's enough of the solutions to completely re-blue three firearms, or to do dozens of touch-ups like the one facing me after I finish typing this. And if you still have solutions left after us-

ing all the swabs and steel wool and scouring pads, you can order up a resupply bundle of just the tools you need.

The task is easy. But like all tasks, the real work is in the prep.

Wipe the surface clean of debris, powder residue and the like. Use the included cleaner to clean and degrease the surface. Once clean and dry, apply the gun blue. When you have a smooth and even application, use the curing agent. And once that has done its work, you're ready to use the included lubricant and wipe the surface clean and smooth with the included microfiber cloth.

The hardest part is getting the surface clean. Do not skimp on cleaning,

scrubbing, degreasing or making the surface dry. And then, do not touch it.

Back when I was doing this regularly, using a hair dryer or heat gun to make sure the surface was truly dry wasn't uncommon. In that, it wasn't unlike soldering, where an errant fingertip could deposit enough skin oil to spoil a soldering job. No kidding.

So, do you have a few firearms in

The Shooter's Choice Gun Blue kit has everything you need ... except the firearm and the time.





Once you've used the application tools, Shooter's Choice has the resupply you'll need.



the rack or gun safe that need a bit of touching up? Shooter's Choice has just the thing for you.

Oh, and an extra tip: If you really want a "more-than-touch-up" blueing to look good and proper, disassemble those parts as needed.

At the gun shop we could spot touched-up firearms that were being brought in for sale by the lack of blueing in the places that couldn't be reached short of disassembly. The little nooks and crannies—gaps like between the barrel and magazine tube on a lever-action rifle—that the solution couldn't quite get into, or got into more so than the rest, and the blueing looked different as a result.

As I was reminding myself when I was setting up to paint the kitchen ceiling recently: "All the hard work is in the prep." Shooter's Choice makes the blueing part easy. The prep is up to you. **GDTM**

TOP HANDGUN POWDERS

Multitasking propellants ideally suited for fueling revolvers and pistols.

Reloading handgun cartridges has long been an economical means of creating both practice ammunition and hunting loads. Yes, our component prices have skyrocketed, but so has the price of loaded ammunition. There are still some ways to save money, primarily by casting your own bullets ... and choosing a universal handgun powder that can serve several different handgun cartridges.

I'd feel pretty comfortable saying that the .38 S&W Special, .357 Remington Magnum, 9mm Luger, .44 Remington Magnum and .45 ACP head the list of most popular centerfire handgun cartridges, and these vary quite differently in case capacity, bullet weight and velocities. Despite their differences, just a couple of powders can handle the lot of them, and a few are very economical, giving good performance with a light charge weight.

ALLIANT UNIQUE

Alliant's Unique has been around since the late 19th century, and it's been a stellar performer in both shotshells and handgun cartridges alike. Unique is a double-based flake powder, which remains a staple on the bench of anyone reloading pistol cartridges. I've long loved this powder in low-velocity loads in my .45 Colt, and it has worked well with both practice loads and higher velocity loads with lighter bullets in my .38 Special.

The thing about Unique is that, de-

spite its reputation for burning a bit on the dirty side, and though it might not generate top velocities in the magnum cartridges, it sure is handy for practice loads and cast bullet loads. For example, 8.0 grains of Unique under a 255-grain lead bullet in the .45 Colt gives 800 fps from my gun, making a fun load for the range. If you haven't tried Unique, it's high time you do so—it will quickly become a good friend.

HODGDON TITEGROUP

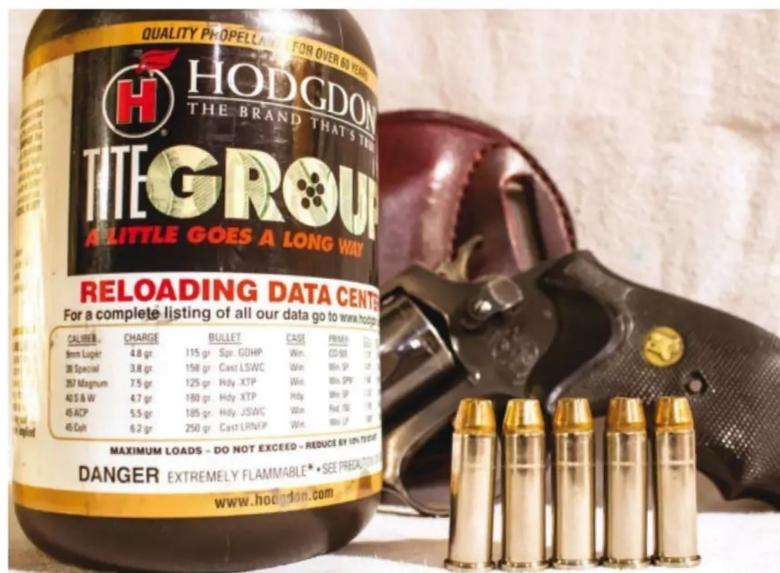
Hodgdon's Titegroup has a catchphrase printed right on the label: A little goes a long way. The very name alludes to consistent accuracy and precision, and the spherical grain structure allows it to work well in a powder measure. It burns clean, and charge weights are definitely on the lower side.

Titegroup is suitable for all but the largest cases, and it has worked well for me over the years in my .38 Special snubby, and in my .45 ACP. Titegroup is a name that you will see on many load data sheets, for cartridges ranging from .25 ACP to .38 Special, to .44 Special to .45 ACP. While it's not a powder well-suited to magnum handgun cartridges, Titegroup has such a wide variety of applications that it's safe to say it'll find a place in your reloading room.

HODGDON H110

Hodgdon's H110 is the darling of the magnum handgun cartridge world. Whether .41 Magnum, .44 Magnum, .357 Magnum, .454 Casull or .475 Linebaugh, Hodgdon's H110 will get the job done ... and it will do that job well. Looking across the various load-





(Top left) Ramshot's ZIP deserves to be more popular than it is. The propellant gives great results and is suitable for many different cartridges.

Accurate's 5744 is great for larger pistol cases, as well as big-bore rifle cartridges, such as the .45-70 Government.

Titegroup's claim to fame is that "a little goes a long way," and that is absolutely true.



Alliant's Unique is more than suitable for standard pistol cartridges, and it can fuel many of the cowboy action loads in larger cases.

ing manuals, you'll find a suitable load for H110 for any of the speedy cases, including the .460 S&W and .500 S&W. It's often responsible for the highest velocities in any given data set among the magnum cases, and I've found it to deliver uniform velocities and excellent accuracy. It's also a great choice when loading these cartridges in a rifle or carbine.

RAMSHOT ZIP

Ramshot's ZIP is another do-all pistol powder, which generates good velocities and accuracy from low charge weights. Burning a bit too fast for the magnum-class cartridges, it's a sound choice for the 9mm Luger with all bullet weights, and my Sig Sauer 1911 .45 ACP simply loves 5.6 grains of this powder with a good 230-grain projectile. A double-based flake powder, ZIP meters very well and it's easy on the wallet. I find myself reaching for this powder quite often.

ACCURATE 5744

Accurate 5744 is sure to please those who enjoy the big-bore handgun cartridges, and it also doubles as a great choice for very light loads in the big-bore rifle cartridges. In fact, if you want to introduce a recoil-sensitive shooter

to the .375 H&H or .416 Rigby without causing a flinch, look no further than 5744. It also does very well in the larger Sharps-style cartridges, like the .45-70, .45-90, .45-110 and .50-90. In the pistol cartridges, it attains good velocities in the .44 Remington Magnum, .45 Colt, .454 Casull and .460 S&W Magnum, as well as the big .500 Linebaugh and .500 S&W Magnum. If you enjoy big "buffalo cartridges" to pair with your magnum handguns, Accurate's 5744 might be the best way to cover both bases.

ALLIANT BULLSEYE

Alliant's Bullseye is another of those universally accepted pistol powders; in fact, all of the reloaders older than me, who imparted their wisdom upon me at a young age, had a few pounds of Bullseye hanging around. Like Unique and ZIP, Bullseye is a perfect choice for almost all standard-class cartridges, from .25 Auto, up through the .38 Special and .44 Special, to the "cowboy loads" for the .45 Colt.

Note that Bullseye can be a bit "clingy" in a powder thrower, as the grain structure tends to adhere to the sides of plastic powder hoppers, but I've always had very uniform results when loading Bullseye for target loads in the .38 Special, .45 ACP or .44-40 Winchester. Bullseye

seems to like to work with cast bullets. It's been around since 1913, and though it does tend to burn dirty, I don't see it going away anytime soon.

ALLIANT 2400

Good old 2400 powder from Alliant has a wide number of applications among the magnum pistol cartridges; if you shoot .357 Magnum and/or .44 Magnum, you'd be doing yourself a favor by grabbing a bunch of 2400. It's capable of delivering lower velocity loads without becoming erratic, yet it will come close to the velocities attained by Hodgdon's H110. If you reload for your .410-bore, 2400 powder is the go-to choice, and it works very well in the .22 Hornet and .218 Bee also.

In these days of product unavailability, it's good to have a powder supply that has several applications within your list of cartridges. There are other powders that fit this bill—Winchester 231, Accurate's No. 5 and No. 9, and more—so it makes perfect sense to take a look at your lineup and find a powder or two that has universal appeal. **GDTM**

01 Heritage Manufacturing Roscoe Revolvers

Have the hankering to carry noir, but not break the bank on a classic, collectible snub-nosed revolver? If so, then it's high time to check out Heritage Manufacturing and its freshly minted and aptly named Roscoe revolvers. The .38 specials are available in 3-inch barrel and true snubby 2-inch barrel configurations and come dripping with retro style. Especially appreciated are the hard-wood rounded grips, dark finish and throwback lines that bring to mind the S&W 36. The guns are outfitted with a frame rear sight, ramp front sight and six-round cylinders.

MSRP: \$364

02 Colt Kodiak

Colt revolvers have made the jump from serpentine to ursine with the release of its Kodiak .44 Magnum. With a robust revolver design, the hand cannon is tuned to take on the most demanding hunting conditions you can seek out. Combining classic style with advanced features, the Kodiak offers an ergonomic design and recoil-absorbing Hogue OverMolded grips, interchangeable with Colt Python and Anaconda models. Its one-piece full lug, ventilated rib stainless steel barrel is ported for enhanced muzzle control and shooting stability. Key specifications include a six-round capacity, stainless-steel frame, double- and single-action trigger, red ramp front sight, adjustable target rear sight and an unloaded weight of 48.5 ounces.

MSRP: \$1,599

03 Colt Grizzly

The Kodiak isn't the only bear on the prowl in Colt's catalog. Released simultaneously was the Grizzly, a .357 Magnum revolver blending timeless craftsmanship with modern enhancements for backcountry hunters. The polished stainless-steel frame features a matte top rib for optimal sight acquisition, while the smooth, un-fluted cylinder adds robustness and the ergonomic Hogue OverMolded rubber grips absorb recoil, ensuring comfort. Key specifications include a six-round capacity, adjustable target rear sight, red ramp front sight, double/single-action trigger and an unloaded weight of 41.1 ounces.

MSRP: \$1,599

04 FIOCCHI Hyperformance Hunt Handgun Ammo

Fiocchi, renowned for defensive, target and hunting ammunition, has turned its attention to handgun hunters with its Hyperformance Hunt Handgun ammo. This new line maintains the high standards of Fiocchi's Hyperformance centerfire cartridges, featuring precision-formed brass cases, clean-burning primers and carefully measured powder charges for superior accuracy and reliability. Designed for no-fail terminal performance, these cartridges utilize the Barnes XPB bullet, a monolithic copper hollow-point known for its devastating expansion, weight retention and deep penetration. Available in .357 Magnum, 10mm Auto, .44 Magnum and .45 Long Colt, the Hyperformance Hunt Handgun ammo is offered in 25-round boxes.

MSRP: N/A



05 Taurus 692 Executive Grade

Designed for the discerning revolver enthusiast, the Taurus 692 Executive Grade offers a touch of class wrapped up with hard-hitting performance. The revolver features a custom hand-tuned trigger for exceptional precision, a quick-change cylinder system for seamless transitions between 9mm and .357 Magnum, and a ported barrel to reduce recoil for enhanced control. The target barrel, paired with a brass front sight, ensures pinpoint accuracy. Assembled in a dedicated production area, it boasts a hand-polished satin finish and a luxurious checkered walnut grip. The 692 Executive Grade includes two cylinders (.357 Magnum/.38 Special +P and 9mm) for versatile shooting scenarios.

MSRP: \$1,107

06 Galco Revenger Belt Holster

The Galco Revenger Belt Holster, part of Galco's Masterbilt series, might be the best of both worlds. The all-leather hanger is designed for everyday carry guns but is more than suited for elegant special-occasion revolvers. This premier-grade holster is crafted from a fully lined premium steerhide, offering hand-molded detail for secure retention and an attractive appearance. Its smooth leather lining enhances tactile feedback and protects delicate finishes. The near-neutral cant allows for a fast, wrist-locked draw stroke, while a reinforced opening facilitates easy, one-handed re-holstering. The metal-reinforced tunnel-style belt loop ensures rigidity, and the trailing belt slot aids in concealing larger revolvers. Additionally, a molded sight rail prevents snagging during the draw.

MSRP: \$259

07 Smith & Wesson Limited-Release, Jerry Miculek-Inspired M327

Smith & Wesson announces the limited-release Performance Center Model 327 WR, inspired by legendary shooter Jerry Miculek. This lightweight 9mm revolver features a scandium N-Frame and titanium cylinder for rapid target transitions. It includes a brass bead front sight, adjustable rear sight, Vortex CompDot and C.O.R.E. optic-plate system. Plus, the JM Signature laminated wood grip ensures optimal ergonomics. With an eight-round capacity, 5-inch ported stainless-steel barrel and smooth double-action trigger, this revolver is limited to 1,880 units, commemorating Jerry's record of hitting six steel plates in 1.88 seconds. It ships in a custom Pelican case with a foam insert.

MSRP: \$3,499

REVOLVER REVOLUTION







RUGER'S REDHAWK HORNET

A whole lot of little gun.

The .22 Hornet is a rifle cartridge you don't hear much about anymore, but when it was introduced in 1930, it became very popular, very quickly. Understand, this was about 30 years before we had the .22 Magnum. A lot of hunters liked the .22 Hornet for varmint shooting and—where legal—for turkey hunting. But it was the slower velocity and less expensive to shoot .22 Magnum (1959) that eventually led to the decline in the Hornet's popularity.

Ruger has been a supporter of the .22 Hornet for a long time, and the cartridge has been moderately popular in their .77/22 bolt-action rifle that's still available.

Ruger's new Super Redhawk in .22 Hornet was a surprise introduction. It's also surprisingly enjoyable to shoot.

Ruger's new Super Redhawk in .22 Hornet comes with Ruger scope rings.



Hornady's 35-grain Varmint Express .22 Hornet load.

.22 HORNET AMMO

Though the .22 Hornet was once very popular, you could not tell that by how many factory .22 Hornet loads are available for it today. I shopped for almost 5 months, and—locally and online—“out of stock” and “no backorder” were about all I could find.

I will say that the ammo that Hornady finally got loaded and sent me performed very well; the 35-grain bullet left the revolver's 9.5-inch barrel at 2,240 fps with a standard velocity deviation of only 9 fps. That's .22 Magnum rifle velocities from a handgun. Zeroed 2 inches high at 50 yards, at 200 yards the bullet dropped about 7 inches and was still supersonic. If varmints and turkey are what you're after with the Hornet, it's hard to imagine a better load.

Aside from a few outlying manufacturers, in addition to the Hornady load I found nine factory loads to choose from. Remington catalogs a 35-grain AccuTip and a 45-grain soft point. Winchester offers a 45-grain JSP and a 46-grain JHP load. Like Hornady and Remington, Winchester, Browning and Nosler all have a 35-grain offering—Federal's only .22 Hornet load uses a 35-grain bullet—and Nosler offers a 40-grain Ballistic Tip load.

But, in 2023, Ruger surprised everyone with the introduction of a Super Redhawk chambered for the .22 Hornet.

I've had this revolver on hand for a while, but I've held off reporting on it because of a couple hurdles:

I have a very difficult time sourcing .22 Hornet ammunition. The revolver's barrel accepts Ruger scope rings, but I did not have—and apparently no one else does either—a pistol scope that was suitable for mounting on this hefty revolver. Today, it's all about reflex sights on handguns, which was also an option. However, every source I tried was sold out of mounts for the Super Redhawk. Finally, after Hornady managed to get me some ammunition, I gave up on the optics and tested the revolver with the open sights that came on it.

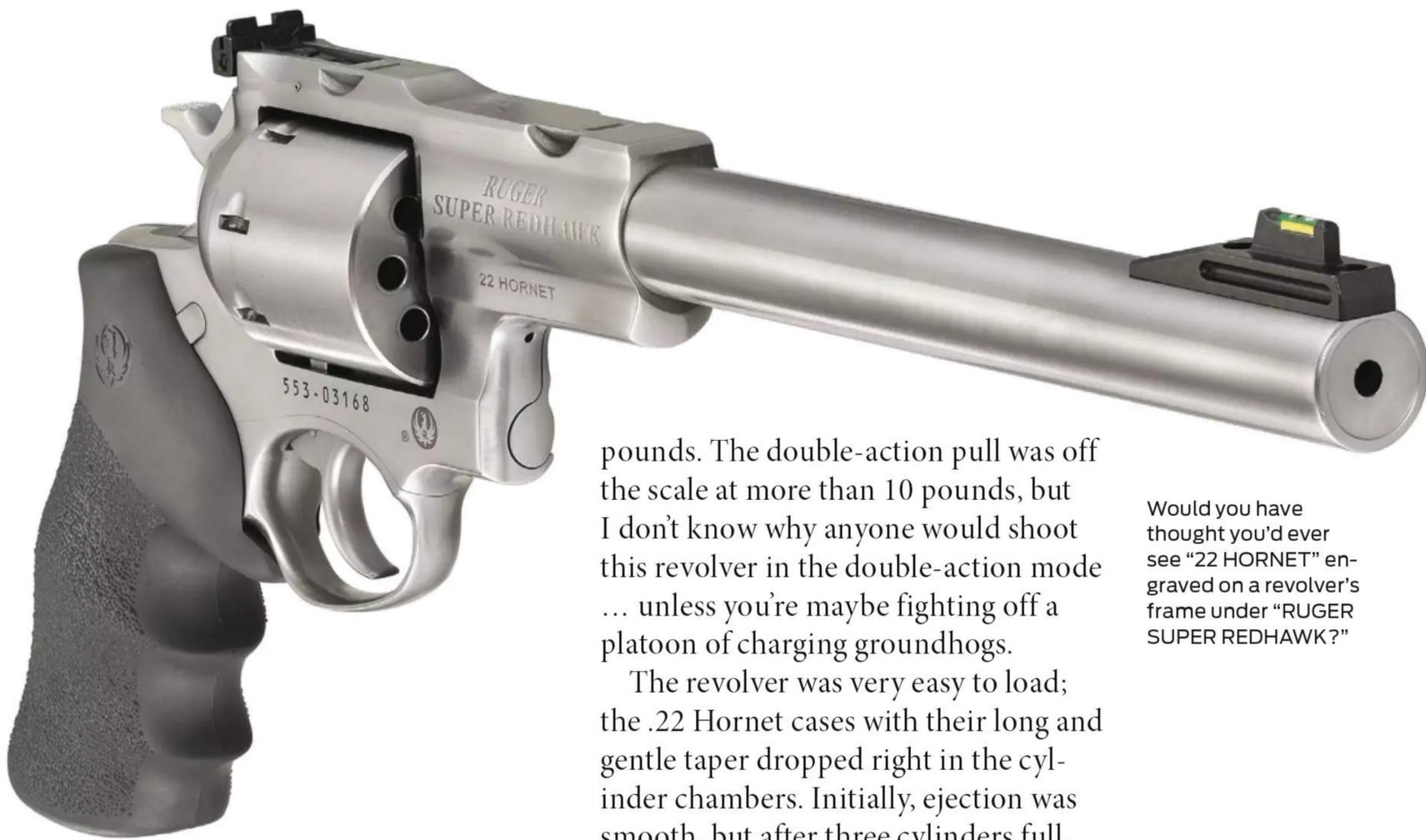
HATCHING AND EARLY LIFE

Ruger introduced the Super Redhawk in 1987. Initially, it was chambered for the .44 Magnum, but the platform has also been offered in .454 Casull, .480 Ruger and even 10mm. All these cartridges are handgun cartridges that operate at pressures between 40,000

and 70,000 psi, so there's no surprise the Super Redhawk can handle the .22 Hornet, which is loaded to around 52,000 psi. The big difference between Super Redhawks chambered for handgun cartridges and the Super Redhawk chambered for the .22 Hornet is capacity. The .22 Hornet Super Redhawk holds eight as opposed to six cartridges.

Like all Super Redhawks, the No. 5526 version in .22 Hornet is 100-percent stainless-steel. The finish is satin but a bit on the shiny side. The .22 Hornet Super Redhawk is also fitted with the same soft and comfortable, finger-grooved Hogue Tamer Mono-grip that's commonly found on other Super Redhawk handguns. The big cylinder, which is 1.75 inches in diameter, locks into the frame at the front, rear and bottom, and like other Ruger double-action revolvers, it has a transfer bar mechanism to protect against accidental discharge.

All the other Super Redhawks from Ruger—except for distributor exclusive



models—are fitted with a ramped front sight that's either all black or has a red insert. The .22 Hornet version has a replaceable HiViz fiber-optic front sight fitted to the end of its 9.5-inch cold hammer forged barrel, which has a five-groove, 1-9 right-hand twist. The rear sight is the common Ruger, white outlined square notched leaf, and it's fully adjustable for windage and elevation. Also, like all other Super Redhawks—except for the Alaskan versions—this revolver's top strap has been machined to accept Ruger scope rings, and a set of rings comes with the revolver.

PERFORMANCE

At 15 inches long and 66 ounces in weight, this is a big and heavy revolver. However, because it balances so well, it's not too big or heavy for off-hand shooting—at least for a grown man. I had no functioning issues with the revolver and fired a total of 200 rounds. My only complaint was that the trigger had a bit of creep and seemed to feel minutely inconsistent at times.

According to my Timney Trigger pull gauge, the single-action trigger pull broke at between 3.75 and 4.25

pounds. The double-action pull was off the scale at more than 10 pounds, but I don't know why anyone would shoot this revolver in the double-action mode ... unless you're maybe fighting off a platoon of charging groundhogs.

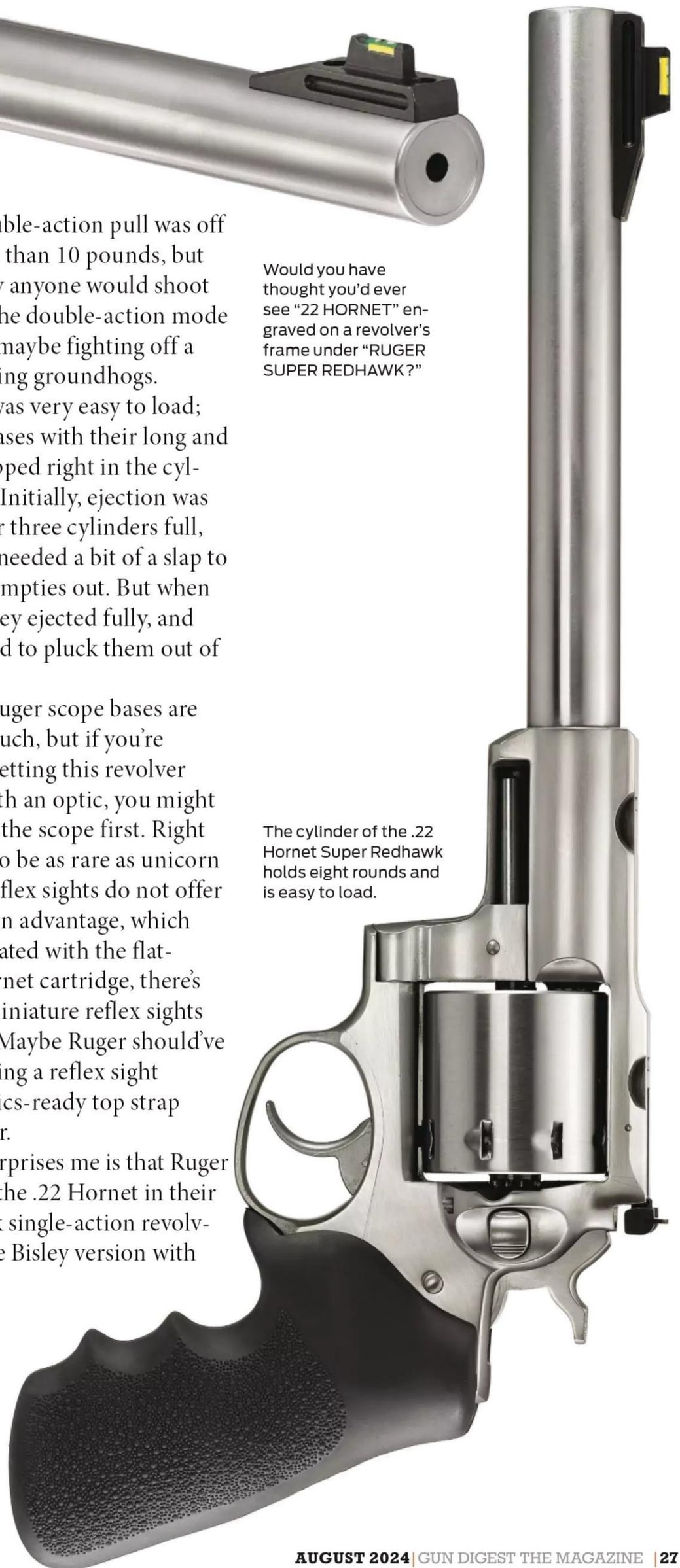
The revolver was very easy to load; the .22 Hornet cases with their long and gentle taper dropped right in the cylinder chambers. Initially, ejection was smooth, but after three cylinders full, the ejection rod needed a bit of a slap to get some of the empties out. But when they did eject, they ejected fully, and there was no need to pluck them out of their chambers.

The integral Ruger scope bases are for sure a nice touch, but if you're thinking about getting this revolver and pairing it with an optic, you might want to shop for the scope first. Right now, they seem to be as rare as unicorn poop. Though reflex sights do not offer any magnification advantage, which could be appreciated with the flat-shooting .22 Hornet cartridge, there's no shortage of miniature reflex sights to choose from. Maybe Ruger should've considered offering a reflex sight mount or an optics-ready top strap with this revolver.

What really surprises me is that Ruger didn't introduce the .22 Hornet in their Super Blackhawk single-action revolver—especially the Bisley version with

Would you have thought you'd ever see "22 HORNET" engraved on a revolver's frame under "RUGER SUPER REDHAWK?"

The cylinder of the .22 Hornet Super Redhawk holds eight rounds and is easy to load.





SPECS

MANUFACTURER: Sturm, Ruger & Co. Inc. ruger.com

MODEL: Super Redhawk #5526

ACTION: Double-action revolver

CHAMBERING: .22 Hornet

FRAME: Satin stainless-steel

BARREL: 9.5-inch satin stainless-steel with a 1:9.5-inch 5-groove twist

GRIP: Hogue Tamer Monogrip

CAPACITY: 8

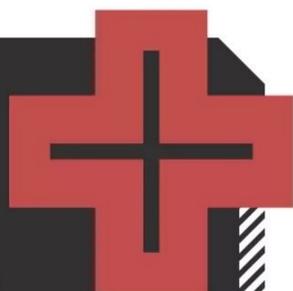
LENGTH: 15 inches

FRONT SIGHT: HiViz green fiber optic

REAR SIGHT: Adjustable, square notch

WEIGHT: 66 ounces

SUGGESTED RETAIL: \$1,499



its ribbed barrel. That would have appealed to me more. Maybe, if the Redhawk in .22 Hornet sells well enough, we'll see that become available down the road. Maybe, too, if the revolver sells well enough, .22 Hornet ammunition will not be as hard to find as someone who actually voted for Biden.

SHOOTING RESULTS

When it comes to shooting handguns at distance using open sights, the results

are largely dependent on the target you're shooting at. If it's one that allows a good sight picture, you'll shoot much better. I found the sights reasonably regulated out of the box at 50 yards, but I did have to fine tune them a bit at 100 yards, where I zeroed—as best I could—for a point of impact that was about 3

The Ruger Super Redhawk .22 Hornet has a fiber-optic front sight that's easy to see in bright and dim conditions.



The Ruger Super Redhawk in .22 Hornet comes with a fiber-optic front sight, a fully adjustable rear sight and integrated scope bases.





**CENTURY
ARMS**

TEAM AK



BFT47

 **US MADE**



VSKA



WASR-10UF

 **IMPORTS**



NEW
CGR



DRACO 7.62 LINE



NEW
DRACO 9S

AND MANY MORE...

For varmint shooting or even for turkey hunting—where legal—Ruger's new Super Redhawk in .22 Hornet should be more than capable.



It's a bit unusual to see a revolver chambered for a rifle cartridge, especially the .22 Hornet.



inches high.

At 50 and 100 yards, I used an 8-inch black bull and held at 6 o'clock. Most of my 50-yard, five-shot groups measured between 2 and 4 inches. At 100 yards, five-shot groups ran between 4 and 6 inches, but there were occasional flyers that I'm sure were my fault.

The surprise came at 200 yards while shooting at a white, 16-inch steel plate. Holding as best as I could on the top

edge of the plate, I fired five shots that printed a brag-worthy 4-inch group just right of center. I figured that was a good place to stop, because I wasn't going to shoot any better than that with an open sighted handgun at a target two football fields away. Using a red-dot with a small dot, I'd expect groups to be slightly smaller, and with a magnified pistol optic, I'd not be surprised if 2-inch or smaller groups at 100 yards would be the rule as opposed to the exception.

WHAT'S IT FOR?

For starters I can tell you that this revolver was a blast to shoot. It wasn't offensively loud, and the recoil was pleasant. I really enjoyed shooting it at 100 yards with the open sights, and I think it would be a hoot in a prairie dog town or for slipping around pastures or agricultural fields looking for groundhogs. Ideally, to take advantage of the trajectory and reach the .22 Hornet cartridge offers, I think a low-power pistol scope would be the right call.

I'm not a turkey hunter by any mea-

sure, but occasionally I'll go with my son because a man should never turn down an opportunity to hunt with his son. When I do go turkey hunting, I take a rifle, which is legal in West Virginia. By the time I got the ammo for the Super Redhawk, turkey season was just wrapping up. Had it not been, I would have for sure taken this revolver to the field and let my son try to call me up a turkey bird.

One thing I would have needed would have been a good holster. GunfightersInc and Triple K Brand show holsters for a 9.5-inch Super Redhawk, but I'm sure Rob Leahy at Simply Rugged Holsters could put something together as well.

For me, as fun as this handgun was to shoot, I think it's a bit pricey for just recreational plinking at \$1,500. This is a special-purpose handgun for a specific pursuit. If I was in the market for a good varmint revolver or something to spice up my turkey hunting adventures, I'd probably start my search with the Ruger Super Redhawk Hornet. **GDTM**

MISSION CRITICAL PRECISION. EVERY SINGLE TIME.

vudu^{XX} 2-12X
PRECISION OPTICS



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The S&W M-442 has always been a popular carry gun—so much so that when the IDPA had their tenth championship, S&W came out with this commemorative. Yes, the author was there. Yes, this is his. And, yes, it is unfired.

FOR THE LOVE OF SNUBBIES

Being little does not make them less than.

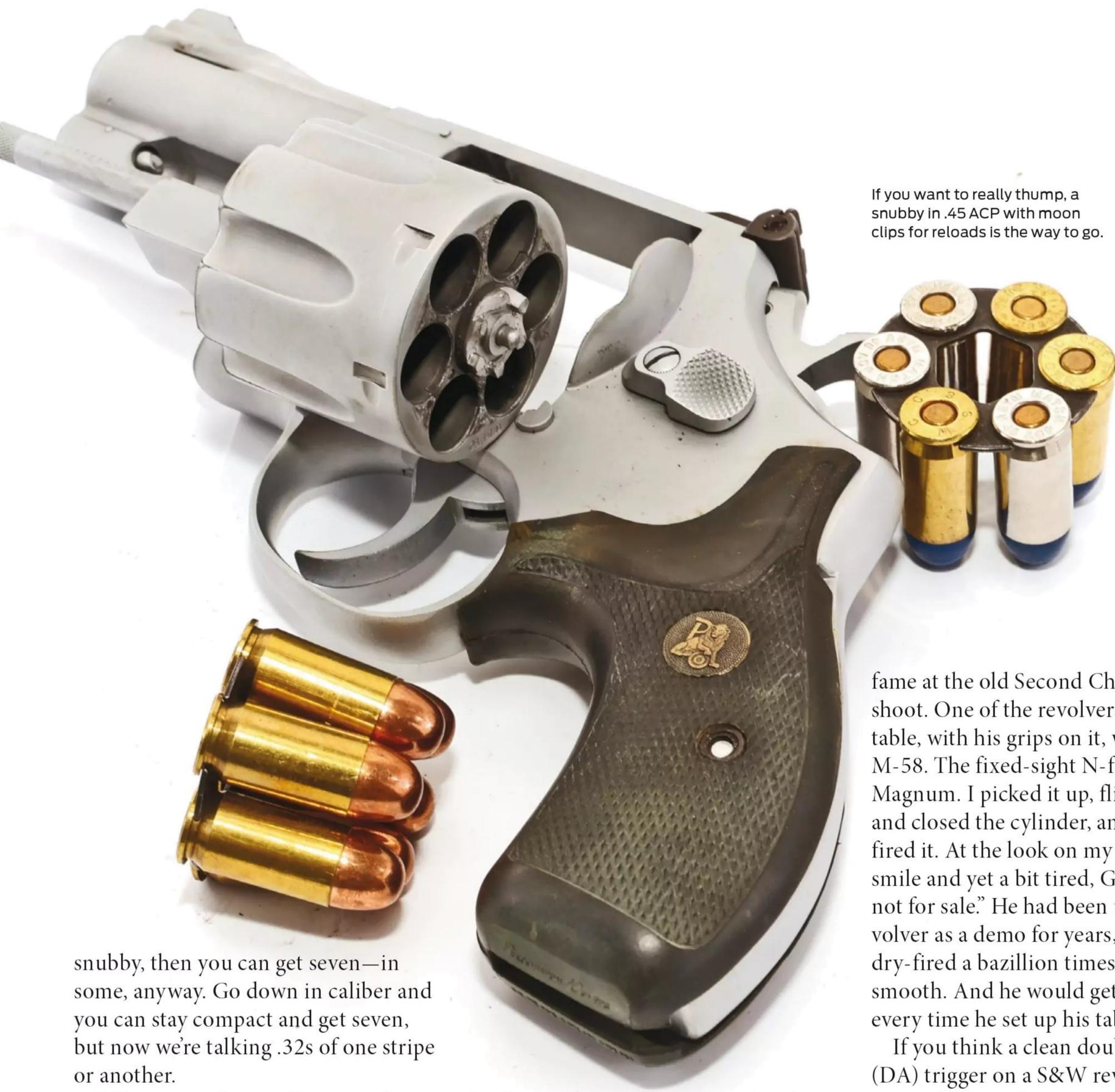
I learned a lot from shooting snub-nosed revolvers. And from carrying them. The packability of a short-barreled revolver is not something you should overlook. Yes, the cylinder does add some bulk, but the real problem with comfortable

carry is the barrel, the part that acts as a lever against your hip, waist or some other body part. With the right holster (and every handgun you carry should be in the correct holster, no “pocket carry” in the 21st century), it stays secure, rides comfortably and is easy to draw.

What, then, are the complaints that people have with the snubby? Capacity, trigger pull and accuracy.

NO HURDLES TOO HIGH

Capacity is easy: You’ve got five or six rounds. Unless you opt for a big-frame



If you want to really thump, a snubby in .45 ACP with moon clips for reloads is the way to go.

snubby, then you can get seven—in some, anyway. Go down in caliber and you can stay compact and get seven, but now we’re talking .32s of one stripe or another.

OK, six rounds it is. Compare that to a subcompact 9mm, with (single stack) six or seven rounds or (double-stack) 10 rounds. I’ll admit that 10 is more than six (I don’t work for the government, after all), but how many times will you or anyone need more than six? And speedloaders make that less of an issue. The compact 9mm brings problems of its own, which we’ll discuss in a bit.

Speaking of capacity, speedloading a snubby can be a very fast thing. Back in the 1980s, I was shooting in an indoor league and entering the Revolver Division. The course was the same for

both revolvers and pistols, and with speedloaders I had no problem making the times with the 2-inch S&W M-10 I was using, compared to others shooting pistols.

Practice matters here, more than starting capacity. If you practice with speedloaders you’ll be faster on the reload than the pistol guy who didn’t practice.

The trigger pull on a revolver can be a task to handle, but it need not be if you have yours slicked up by a pistol-smith who knows the task. Or you can dry-fire it a lot.

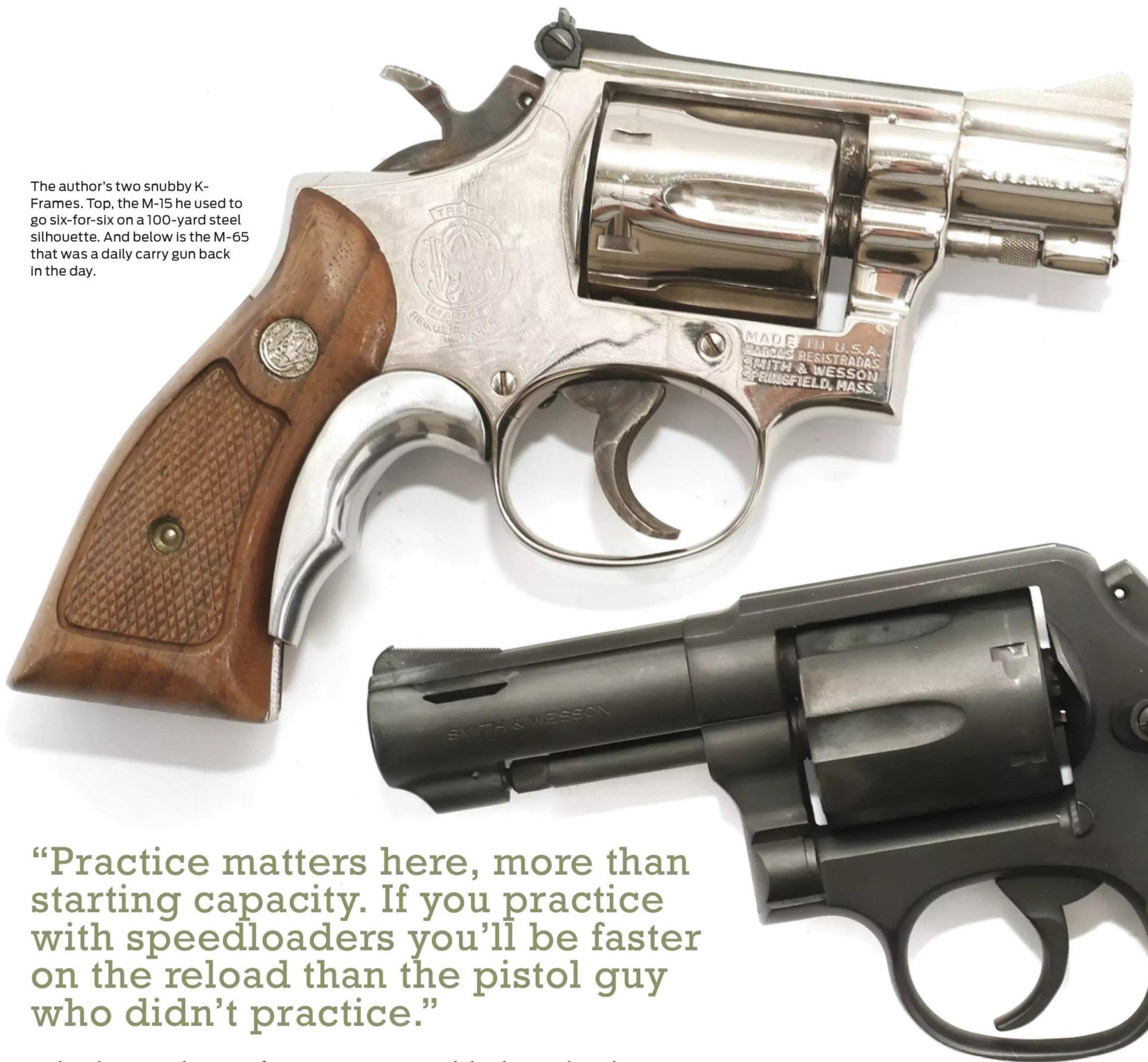
I met Guy Hogue of Hogue Grips

fame at the old Second Chance pin shoot. One of the revolvers on his table, with his grips on it, was a S&W M-58. The fixed-sight N-frame in .41 Magnum. I picked it up, flipped open and closed the cylinder, and then dry-fired it. At the look on my face, with a smile and yet a bit tired, Guy said, “No, not for sale.” He had been using that revolver as a demo for years, it had been dry-fired a bazillion times, and it was smooth. And he would get the question every time he set up his table.

If you think a clean double-action (DA) trigger on a S&W revolver is bad, you really haven’t spent a lot of time with various plastic-framed striker guns, or with various “crunchen-tickers.” Not to pick on them in particular, but Glock has said from day one that their trigger is 5 pounds. I have yet to meet a box-stock Glock that even came close to that.

And the traditional double-action/single-action pistols aren’t better in many instances. A first shot DA of 12-plus pounds, followed by a mushy 6-pound single is not conducive to accurate shooting. A smooth all-the-way-through 10-pound trigger (easy on an S&W K-frame for example)

The author's two snubby K-Frames. Top, the M-15 he used to go six-for-six on a 100-yard steel silhouette. And below is the M-65 that was a daily carry gun back in the day.



“Practice matters here, more than starting capacity. If you practice with speedloaders you’ll be faster on the reload than the pistol guy who didn’t practice.”

makes shooting a lot more fun.

If you really need a single-action trigger pull, then thumb-cocking the hammer gets you a clean trigger pull that weighs under 4 pounds. But if you stick with practicing your DA trigger stroke, you won’t need the single action. Well, not much.

Accuracy: This isn’t due to any inherent lack of accuracy in the snubby. In fact, it’s as accurate as any other revolver, since the barrel is tightly screwed into the frame. The problem is

you and the short sight radius.

Simply put, your eye can more readily discern (actually your brain does the work, but we speak of it as if the eye does the work) a misalignment when the two parts being compared are further apart. A small variation on a revolver with an 8-inch barrel is a lot easier to see than it is when the barrel is only 2 inches long.

That said, does it matter? Well, if you were to attempt to use a snubby in a Bullseye match, yes. But shooting at

typical defensive and practical competition distances, not much, if at all. I was discussing that with the camera crew when I was doing a TV segment, and remarked, “Oh, I can hit that target out there with a snubby” (pointing at the steel silhouette at the back of the range).

“How far could you do that?”

“Oh, I could probably do alright out to 100 yards.” Before I could realize the impact of that, the producer said, “Set

The round-nose .45s, on the reload, almost seek the chamber centers and fall right in. That's why it's so fast.



it up. Get the camera in position.”
There I was—in front of the camera—telling the viewers that snubbies could hit a target at rifle distances, and then while the cameras rolled, proceeded to single-action six shots for six



hits out of my S&W M-15. Clean on the first take, and that was it because I wasn't going to try it again for the camera.

ADVANTAGES APLENTY

Compactness, hand fit, weight and simplicity of use.

A snubby with a round butt, or even just partly rounded, is as compact as you're going to get for five or six rounds. It will disappear into a pocket of a winter coat (in a pocket holster, of course), and it can even disappear into a pocket of your trousers. In fact, I know of at least one state trooper agency that had trousers tailored for, and revolvers issued to, troopers to carry in their off-hand trouser pocket. In the winter, the snubby went into a holster built into the winter jacket off-hand pocket.

That round butt also makes it very comfortable in your hands. Guy Hogue was one of the first to make rubber grips—to fit your hand, to be softer in recoil and to stay concealed—for the then-standard snubby for the carry gun crowd. Unlike a subcompact 9mm pistol, which sacrifices grip for concealability, the snubby is what it is. Making the barrel shorter doesn't change the grip (a plus and a minus, I'll admit), and so you can always get a good grip on the draw. That ultra-compact 9mm? Not always so easy, since all

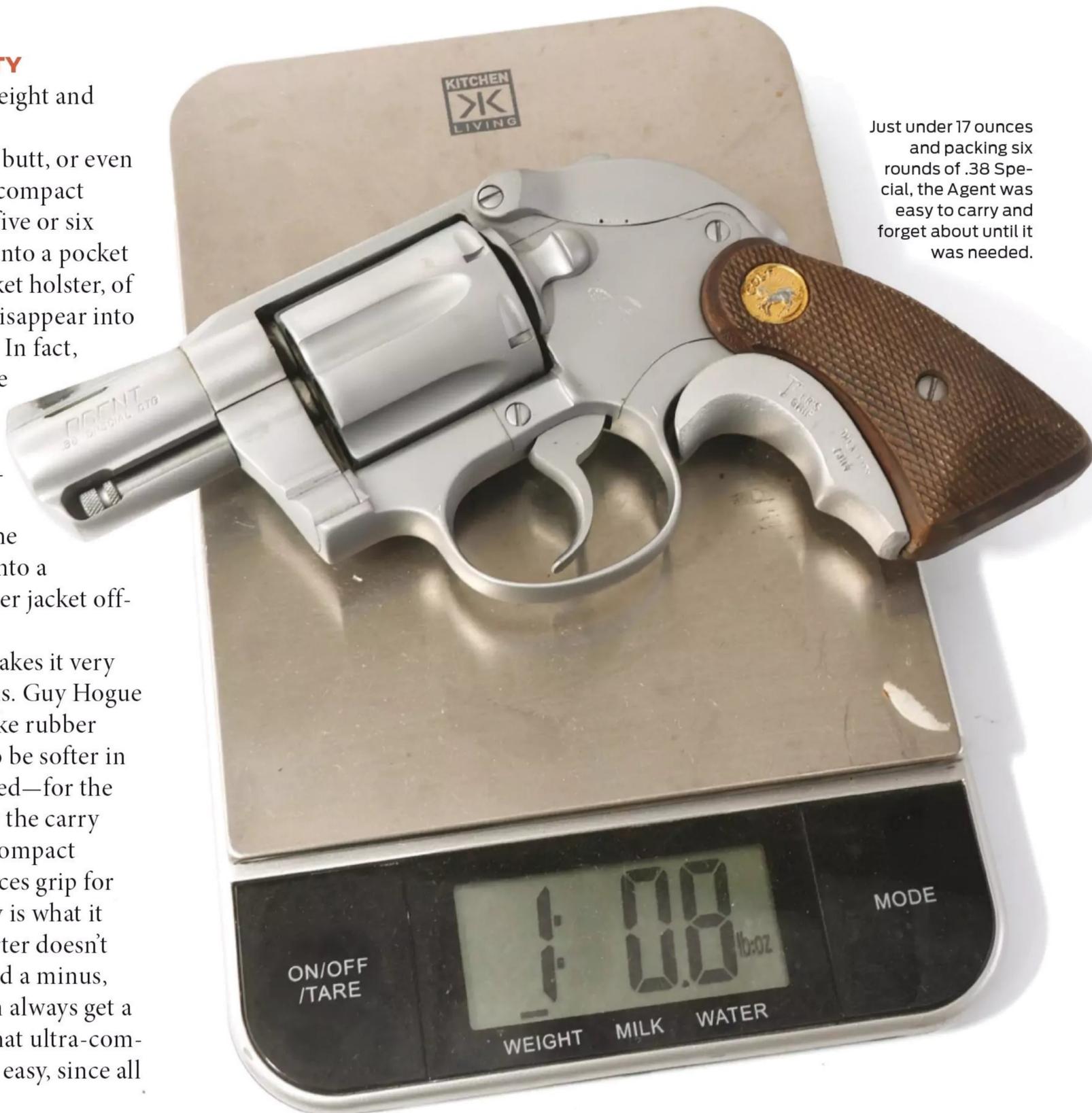
While the round butt (left) is easier to conceal, it's only a bit easier. Both are comfortable in the hand; you'll have to try one of each to see if one is better for you than the other.

you can do is get one finger below your trigger finger onto the frame.

Weight is good and bad, and bad and good. Good in that it dampens recoil, but bad in that you have to pack it. If you want light weight, then you're in luck. Colt offered the Detective Special with an aluminum frame and called it the Agent. S&W offered the M-12 and the M-37, a K-frame and J-frame revolver respectively. That 37 later became the 38, with a shrouded frame to keep the hammer from getting hooked on clothing, not to be confused with the M-442, a fully concealed hammer snubby.

LESS IS MORE

As for simplicity, that's easy. As in, snatch the revolver from wherever you're packing



Just under 17 ounces and packing six rounds of .38 Special, the Agent was easy to carry and forget about until it was needed.

M&P[®] M2.0[®]



BUILT ON TRUST.

Trust in Smith & Wesson's Legacy - The M2.0[®] Pistol

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



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The M-442 is even lighter than the author's agent, but it does that by giving up a cartridge. Still, the 442 can be serviced, but the Agent can't, so that's the one you need today.

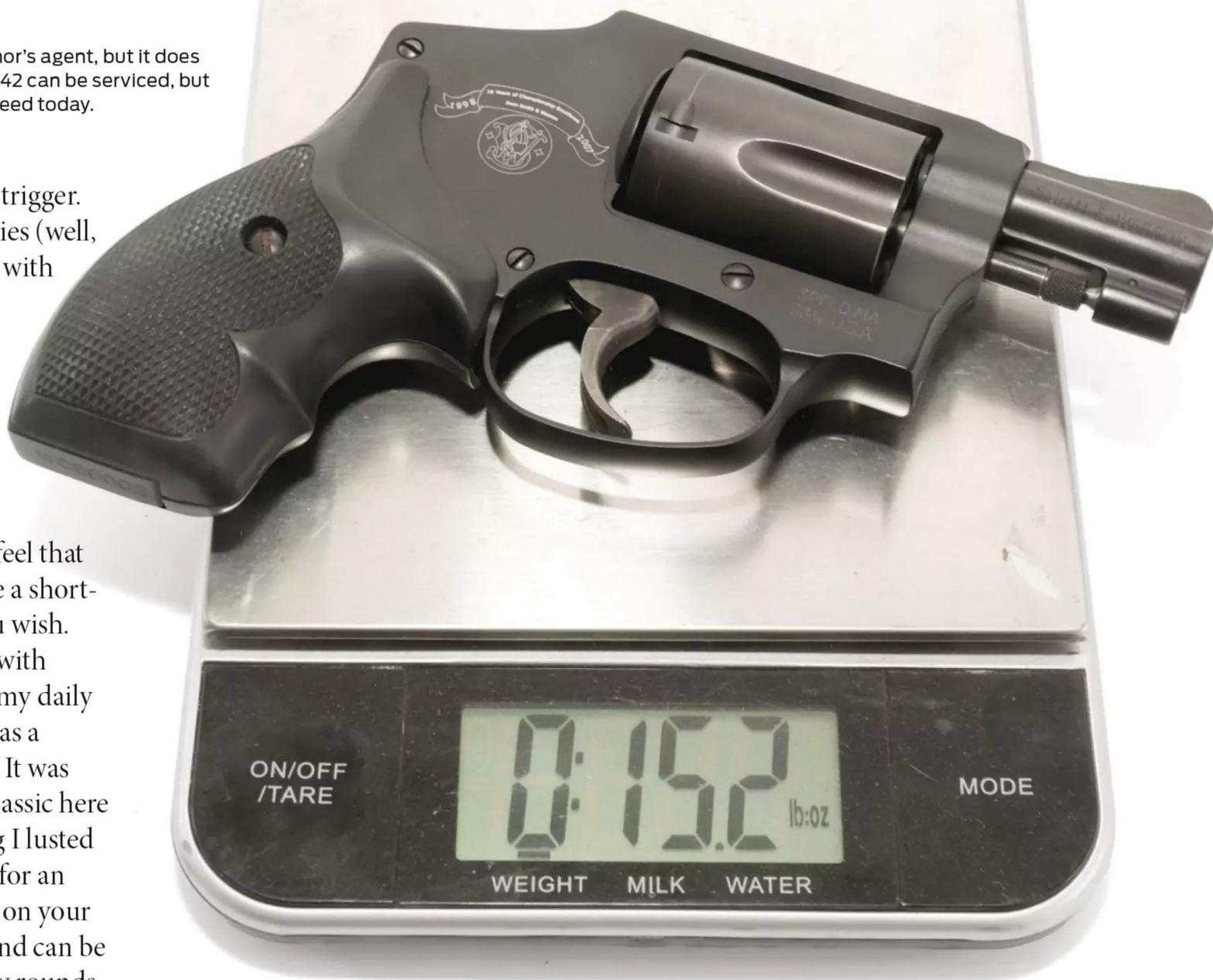
it, point and stroke through the trigger. No thumb safeties, no grip safeties (well, there was the S&W Centennial, with a grip safety, but it's a collectible now)—just point and click.

And calibers? The latest is the special model, the M-432, S&W has just offered, done in .32 H&R and for six shots worth. The standard snubby caliber is .38 Special, but if you feel that isn't sufficient then you can have a short-barreled wheelgun in .357 if you wish.

I have a S&W M65 (all steel) with 3-inch barrel, and it was one of my daily carry guns back in the day. (It was a backup to an LWC 1911 in .45.) It was tolerable to shoot in .357. The classic here is the 2.5-inch M-19, something I lusted after for many a year. If you opt for an airweight in .357, well ... you're on your own. Those are pro-level guns and can be painful to shoot more than a few rounds through.

One specialty snubby is a big-bore wheelgun, where you are stuck with the N-frame-sized package. That's a 10mm, .41 Magnum, .44 Special or .44 Magnum, with sensible loads, or in .45 Colt, and it can be quite the tool. But the best one here is a snubby N-frame in .45 ACP.

Why?



Because all the top-end .45 ACP loads max out at the top of the recoil level you'd want to be shooting out of a snubby anyway, and when it comes to quick reloads, a .45 ACP revolver with full-moon clips is king of the hill. Don't believe me? At the annual king of bowling pin shoots, The Pin Shoot, up in Central Lake Michigan, you'll only ever see .45 ACP

wheelguns in the Revolver Event. You face eight pins, you're required to reload, and everyone uses full moon clips and .45 ACP. The winning time last year was 7.7 seconds, start beep to last pin on the ground.

Yea, sure, revolvers are obsolete and snubbies are no use at all (insert sarcastic tone here). **GDTM**



(Above) You can get snubbies in .357 Magnum. You can even get airweight ones. Shooting them and enjoying the experience is another matter.

When it comes to reloading a wheelgun, moon clips are king, and full moon clips are the best.

WHEN NIGHT FALLS.
HOGS
FALL.



SIGHTMARK



WRAITH **MINI THERMAL**

Sightmark's new Wraith Mini Thermal Riflescope provides cutting edge thermal technology and a 1400 yard detection range in a compact 5.5 inch design to ensure when night falls, hogs fall.

SIGHTMARK.COM



FEELING THE POWER

Revolvers and pistols are capable of packing a punch, but they're not rifles.



As a lifelong student of Elmer Keith, the father of what we could consider the modern hunting handgun and its theory of use, I have come to appreciate the old man and his teachings far more now than I have in the past. And, wouldn't you know it: Most of what was known 100 years ago is still just as relevant today—and

perhaps we need a gut-check on what “handgun power” really means.

Studying and participating in all facets of hunting/field revolver cartridge reloading, as well as their history and associated stories and legends, I've come to the understanding that many shooters today don't understand what these rounds are actually capable of—ignoring data and instead taking information from anecdotal evidence, often from tall tales and word-of-mouth. In my experi-

The .44 Russian is really the “one that started it all” and is something of a predecessor of most modern cartridges. Instead of outside lubed bullets (think .22 LR), the .44 Russian was the first to use inside-lubricated bullets, thus setting the stage for a vast swath of the rounds we know and love.

Modern alloy bullets in .45 and .44 calibers are bone-crushing machines that offer deep penetration without all the cleanup of lead bullets of similar shape.

ence with these cartridges and their associated firearms, I've arrived at the conclusion that the revolver cartridge “question” was solved a century ago.

In a manner of speaking, Keith's word has stood the test of time. The understanding of what he accomplished, however, has largely been lost, as we've moved on in technology and abilities.

Let me explain.

THE AUTHOR'S CONUNDRUM

For me, a .45 Colt or .44 Magnum with a 260- to 300-grain hardcast Keith bullet, exiting the muzzle at around 1,000 to 1,200 fps from a 5-inch gun, will kill virtually anything inside 100 yards with a center-mass hit.



Lead bullets don't deform much in gel, making them give less than interesting visual results. However, penetration is deep, with .45 Colt loads able to pass through several blocks of ballistic gel depending on bullet type.

Simple enough, right? What in the world are we doing with everything else then?

Well, the gunwriter in me knows that this is how I get work: talking about the next thing that you need. The honest man in me—who has messed up more times than I have succeeded—will tell you that most of the rest is simply marketing, and the guns and cartridges above a certain power level rapidly lose their benefits. There are recoil junkies of course, and I respect those guys, though I need my delicate wrists for typing.

From a technical standpoint, the energy and penetration delivered with the above-mentioned loads is perfect

considering that the associated recoil and training curve are respectively mild and short. You might think that 1,000 fps is slow, but it isn't. And in my time with hardcast .45 Colt in the Colt SAA and Ruger revolvers, I've shot clean through full-grown whitetail inside 75 yards using 0.452-inch Rim Rock bullets in Keith style.

Going up in power to 300-grain bullets moving at the same speed produces serious recoil, especially with jacketed bullets like the Hornady XTP. Increasing to 1,200 fps in heavy-frame revolvers gets a bit stout, and I find myself anticipating the shot, even with plenty of practice. It's easy to be a pro at the range, but I've missed game due to flinching. For a long time, I wor-

ried about not having enough power, where in reality, I had plenty to begin with and simply thought I should have more because I believed it would kill better.

I won't say that you need more than what was discovered by Keith. It took me the better part of a decade to understand what was already written, and now I tend to go a bit less instead of more. You'll be remiss if you think that you need more power when you may not even understand how good your loads actually are. There is a big difference between felt recoil, which in large part has to do with the shape of the grip (see sidebar on RW Grip Frames), and the killing ability of the bullet. To my own experience, there's little difference between hardcast loads in .44 and .45 bores, in that sweet-spot of 240 to 300 grains, being pushed at 1,000 to 1,200 fps.

Unfortunately, shooters often feel like they need more recoil to believe they have more power.

I've let plenty of people shoot my amped-up handloads in real-world game-killing power levels, and they,

The .500 S&W next to .45 Colt and .44 Magnum. The comically large size of this cartridge is immediately apparent: The loads shown here in .44 and .45 are both hardcast Keith style and fly at around 1,200 fps, enough to take most game animals in the country at 75 yards or so with manageable recoil.



Bullet shape for revolvers was perfected by Elmer Keith. Modern designs are quite good and extremely tough, such as this Lehigh Defense solid in 0.452 inch. The Keith profile is still found in factory loads designed for hard use, such as those from Buffalo Bore.

more often than I want to believe, state that they thought it would be worse ... or more “snappy.” A handful have even stated that they thought it didn’t hit the plates hard enough to make them think it was enough to kill a deer. The ideal field revolver is hardly a mule; instead, it should be packable and not obnoxious. What bullets do when they hit steel, especially lead bullets, is no indicator of what they do on game.

WHAT IS TOO POWERFUL?

The big thing to consider when looking at the various levels of power inherent to revolvers is that they are, as a group, widely inferior to rifles. You enter what I like to refer to as the “death spiral” when you try to make it do something it’s not intended to do, in this case making a revolver into something of a rifle by means of increasing its power level to a point of non-function. Some manufacturers try to make a revolver somehow more powerful to negate the handicaps of a handgun ... but end up making them worse.



Meplat differences have a great deal to do with a bullet’s on-game performance. The .45 ACP 230-grain FMJ is a known fighting bullet that has given great results—however, most shooters consider it less than ideal for large game. Simply switching to a heavier bullet with a flat point at the same speed will not tremendously increase recoil, but it will dramatically change how the bullet interacts with flesh and bone.

“Handheld, heavy, less powerful, stockless rifle with high recoil and limited range that is hard to carry” isn’t much of a selling point, but some revolvers have arrived at this place.

There’s a massive difference in power in all but the most powerful revolvers—and the most handicapped rifles. Yes, it is, in theory, true that .460 S&W out of a big X-Frame with a 10-inch barrel is nearly equivalent in total power to a .450 Bushmaster of the same 250-grain weight, both firing 0.451 or 0.452 diameter bullets. But projectile energy alone isn’t the only factor to consider: The re-

volver is substantially harder to become proficient with and limits effective range due to physical restrictions on optics and the lack of a stock.

However, the thought process that landed us at these massive handgun cartridges began with enough good intention to forgive it. And, more power shouldn’t be the main consideration when looking at revolver rounds.

For instance, the .45 ACP is a fine field pistol cartridge and is in no way a magnum class revolver load. I’ve killed plenty of large-bodied whitetails with 230-grain Black Hills JHP and Hornady 220-grain +P Critical Duty in a 1911.



Examples of rifle cartridges, .45-70 and .450 Bushmaster, flanking the revolver cartridge .460 S&W. Few rifles have been made in .460, while there are almost countless versions in .45-70 and .450 BM. Despite impressive ballistics from a revolver, the learning curve is far steeper with the .460, and the author gave up on it after one season. It was a revolver trying to play in rifle territory.

The upper end of revolver power is occupied by the colossal .500 S&W, a round that’s so large that it’s really in a class of its own, not dissimilar in size to the old .50-70 Government. There’s so much recoil energy, and the guns designed for it are so heavy that it’s made impractical by its size alone. Considering that .500 Linebaugh is made for standard, packable Blackhawk frames, the .500 S&W is just too much.





Both of these loads are absolutely suitable for realistic field use, and I've had pass-through shots broadside with the Hornady load. I do not expect the .45 ACP cartridge to exit; in fact, I don't need it to because I'm hunting under with a bullet traveling less than 1,000 fps suppressed inside 40 yards. I feel that it is superior in noise control and shot placement over 10mm Auto, an opinion that many would disagree with, but I'm not seeing any evidence in practice from active pistol hunters to prove me wrong.

That said, I'd not shoot at game with this setup nearly as far as I would a revolver; in fact, the 1911 has half (or less) of the range of a .45 Colt 300-grain Keith bullet moving at 1,100 fps. These small incremental differences matter: While

The .45 Colt is a storied cartridge and offers deep, straight penetration in hardcast form either with Keith-style bullets or traditional flat-points.

The .44 Special (center) is a direct copy of Keith's own "perfect" load, and it's still a thumper that can take game. However, Keith did later move to .44 Magnum (right), a longer .44 Special. The .45 Colt (left) was largely dismissed for the better part of a half-century until heavy-frame revolvers began to take over and people began to see that it could, in fact, roll with the big boys. The .45 Colt amped up is no joke, and it exceeds .44 Magnum in many cases. It since spawned the .454 Casull and .460 S&W.



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both are .45 caliber and traveling nearly the same speed, the difference in bullet construction and penetration ability is paramount. This is a nuanced game when it comes to pistol and revolver hunting, and going hog wild in power is never the answer.

Bullets truly designed for killing in the field are made to penetrate, and the introduction of mechanical action (expansion) introduces variables to that equation ... which can be easily controlled in gel/advertising. The explosive effects of some of these bullet designs is enough to lure consumers into thinking that they need this for success, but this is just not true. Again, simple reliability in revolver loads is what you truly need.

The most effective wound channels are not so dramatic. Instead, they're deep-penetrating and as blind to bone as possible. Shooting through something at any angle is what we're asking of a field gun, a notable difference as compared to defense ammunition where immediate expansion is desired.

REINVENTING THE WHEEL

Continuing improvement in design is what we strive for, but that continuing improvement in revolver cartridge design is a bit of a misnomer, as it is more of a continued branching off of a proven, rooted trunk than anything else. The main design elements are already decid-

ed in most cases: Most designs out there are just longer versions of existing cases. Simply lengthening cases is a sure way to increase bullet weight and powder capacity, though the purpose here lies largely in tinkering than true utility.

What's known to work hasn't changed. Notice that, aside from reduced-power specialty competition cases (think .45 Cowboy Special), nobody is making any "less" powerful revolver cartridges. Instead, they keep getting bigger. I wonder who is truly asking for these.

So, is it true that we've hit peak revolver performance more than a century ago? Well, it could be argued that we arrived with Keith and his .44 Special testing in the '20s and '30s, but it wasn't until he had the commercial support to deliver the .44 Magnum later that I feel we truly hit the pinnacle. The .44 Magnum is, in many ways, the perfect revolver cartridge, and when loaded with Keith's own bullet designs, it's arguably the most balanced performer from a 4- to 6-inch barrel under field conditions in terms of ballistic abilities, effect on game and ability to be carried.

It seems that we keep coming back to this every decade or so, and then promptly forget it when it's not used in the field but instead as a range toy that needs more "boom." **GDTM**

Many companies make Keith-style bullets, and loading them can be easily learned. A .45 Colt Single Action Army revolver with 260- to 270-grain bullets at 1,000 fps is a healthy, powerful load that can easily take game and serve for field and recreational use.



BEAR-LY RELEVANT

Bear defense is not the idea we should be looking at here, either, when it comes to a hunting revolver. Said another way: A revolver for hunting bears and a revolver for bear defense are two very different applications. Fellow gunwriter and author Dean Weingarten has been writing on the topic of bear protection for as long as I can remember, and I've hastily read all of his information. Of extreme interest is this theory: The presence of a firearm in virtually any common pistol or revolver cartridge needs to be enough to at least give you a fighting chance. That's the bottom line.

RW GRIP FRAMES

Ronnie Wells of RW Grip Frames is a real go-getter and celebrity in the single-action revolver world. RW Grip Frames makes some incredible products for the Ruger Blackhawk line, and there are more to come. Not only has he designed dozens of grip frames, he's also pioneering some truly innovative methods of recoil control by shape alone. His grip frames first appeared in my hands 3 years ago at a range where I got to try out a few variants built by a hobbyist. Having shot some pretty powerful revolvers over the years, I was shocked by how they worked, in particular a .475 Linebaugh that I could actually shoot well. Not only can you find a dedicated replica of the original Keith No. 5 grip angle for your Blackhawk, but you can also choose from user-inspired models that have direct input from real-world shooters, most named after their respective "designers." If you have an idea you want to make real for your dream revolver, check out RW Grip Frames. I'm sure you'll be impressed.

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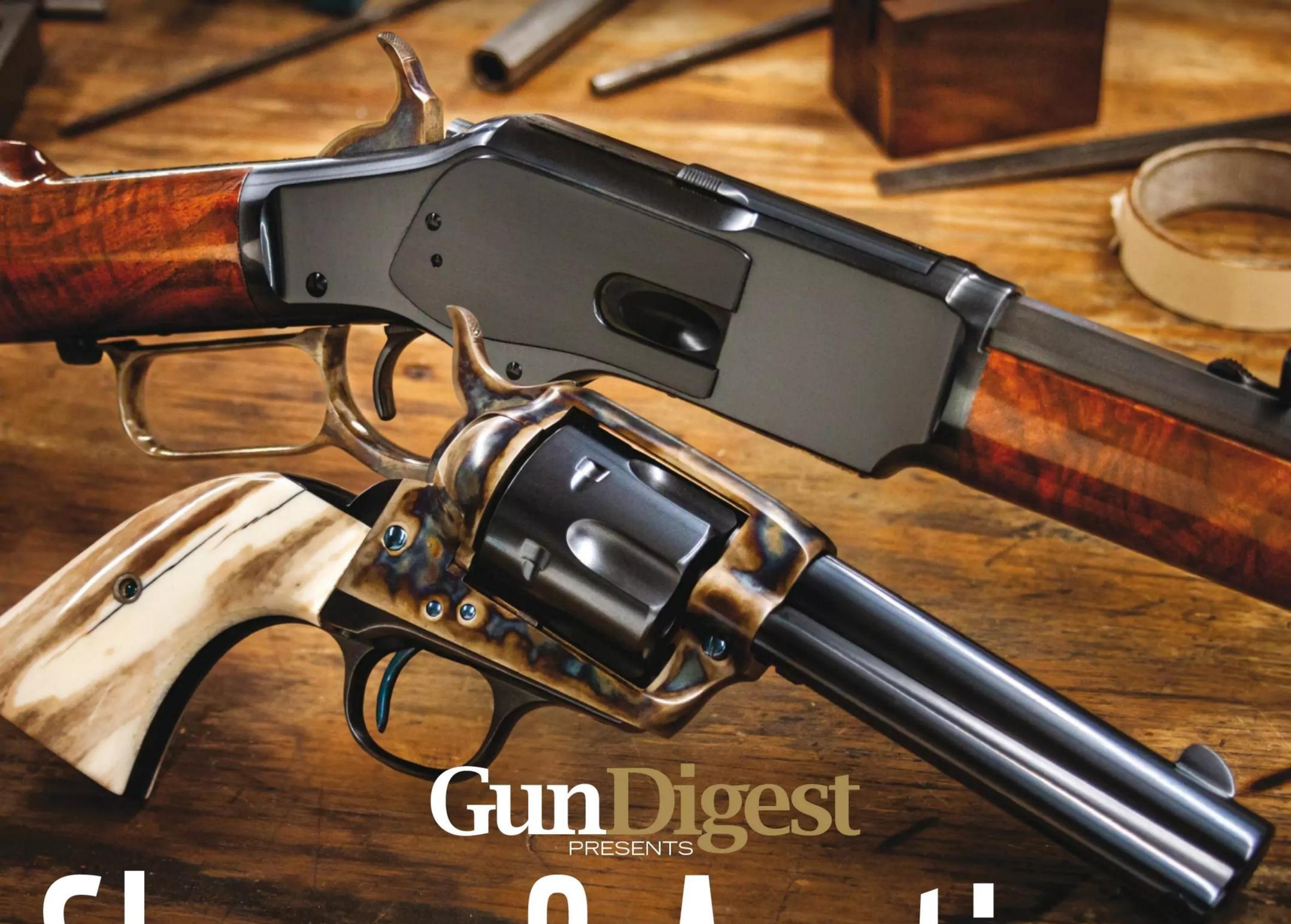


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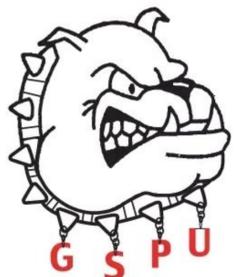
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Aug 17 PA, Greencastle. Franklin Co. Pa Izaak Walton League Gun Show & Outdoor Extravaganza. Greencastle Sportsman's Assoc. Greencastle, PA, Greencastle Sportsman's Assoc. Grounds, 3260 Sportsmans Road. SH: Sat. 8am-3pm. A: \$6.00 adults (Kids 12 & 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.

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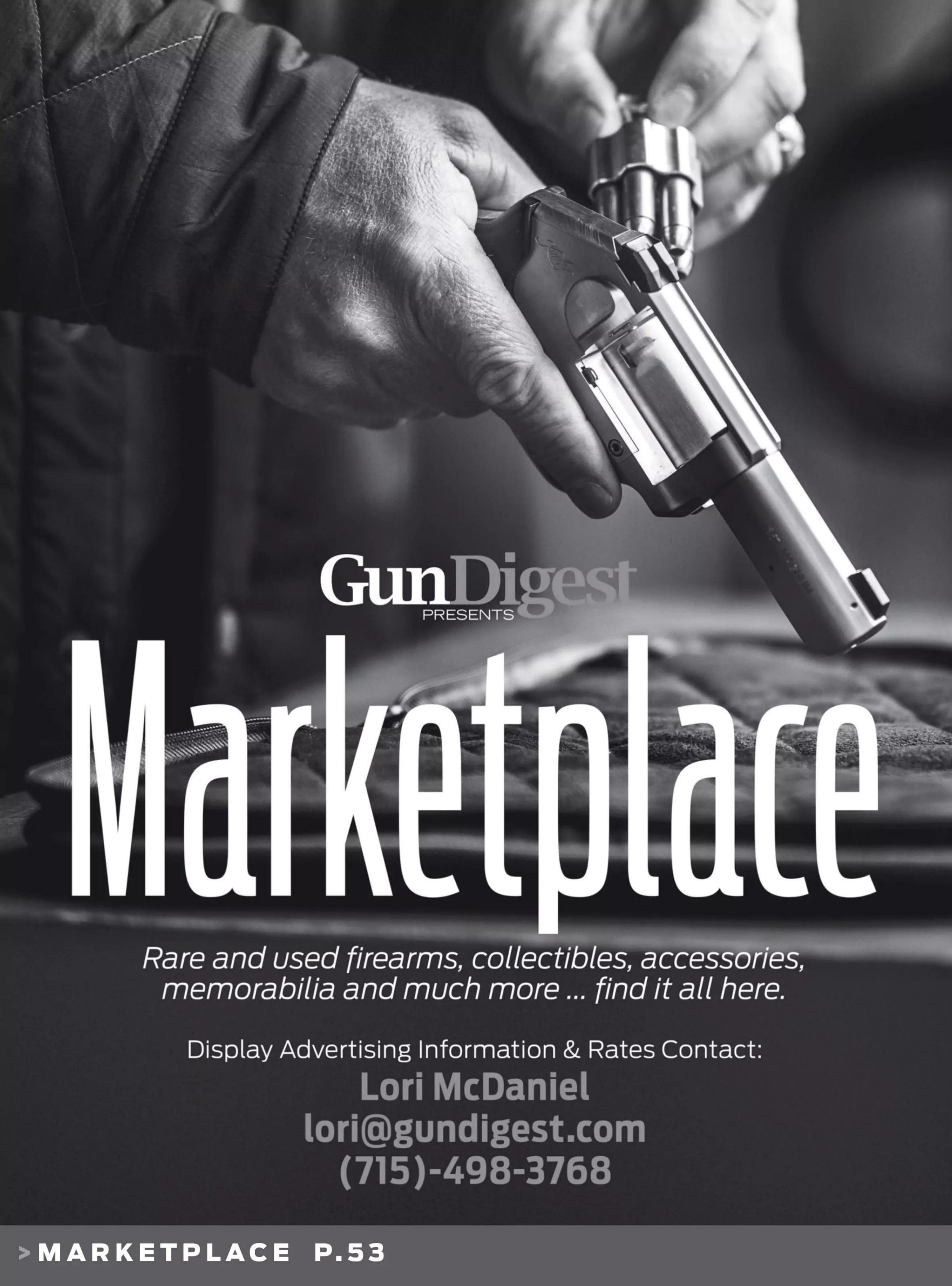
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PISTOLS AND REVOLVERS

- 1-J Astra 9mm Para "Model A-90" Single and Double Action High Capacity Auto Pistol 3 3/4"** barrel with mint bore, 99% original blue, 3 white dot sights, 15 shot magazine, shows little to no actual use \$400
- 2-J Bersa .40 S&W "Thunder 40" Ultra Compact Auto Pistol 3 1/4"** barrel with mint bore, 3 white dot fixed sights, as new "duotone" finish, mint checkered black plastic grips, missing it's 10 shot magazine otherwise as new in original blue plastic case with manual \$265
- 3-J Browning .22 LR "Challenger" Auto Pistol 6 3/4"** barrel with mint bore, 99% original bright blue, gold trigger, factory target style sights, minty Walnut wrap around checkered wood target grips, made in Belgium 1969, collector quality, looks near new (C&R) \$695
- 4-J Browning 9mm Para "Hi Power" Belgian Made Auto Pistol 4 5/8"** barrel with mint bore, fixed sights, 98% original bright blue, minty checkered Walnut grips, high capacity magazine, excellent function, made in 1972, looks near new (C&R) \$1235
- 5-J Charter Arms .44 Special Stainless "Bulldog Pug" Revolver 2 1/2"** barrel with mint bore, all stainless construction shows little or no actual use, fixed sights, mint checkered Walnut wrap around grips with silver medallions, as new in original box with paper..... \$495
- 6-J Colt .22 LR "Bullseye Match Target Woodsman" U.S. Property Marked Auto Pistol 6 5/8"** barrel with excellent bore, 70% original thinning blue/gray with some light peppery pitting with a few spots of deeper pits, "crossed cannons" proof under "The Woodsman" and "G.H.D." inspector marked on right side, factory adjustable sights front and rear, minty correct extended checkered brown plastic grips with Colt logos, "Match Target" marked nice 2 tone magazine has "IM" lightly etched on base of magazine, all original and correct made in 1941 (C&R) \$1750
- 7-J Colt .22 LR "Bullseye Match Target Woodsman" 1st Year Production Auto Pistol 6 5/8"** barrel with excellent bore, 95% original bright blue with a little fading and sharp edge silvering, fully adjustable front and rear sights, very good "elephant ear" checkered wood grips, silver Colt medallions and a nicely repaired crack at front strap, full blue non "Match Target" marked magazine from a later Colt marked base Woodsman, excellent function, very nice looking 1938 made "Bullseye" (C&R) \$2150
- 8-J Colt .22 LR "1st Series Woodsman" Target Auto Pistol 6 5/8"** barrel with excellent bore, elevation adjustable patridge front sight, windage adjustable rear, 85% original blue with areas worn to pewter and some pin prick pitting, good fully checkered wood grips, factory correct 10 round full blued magazine, excellent function, manufactured 1940 (C&R) ... \$650
- 9-J Colt .22 LR "Targetsman" Auto Pistol 6"** barrel with mint bore, 98% original blue, fully adjustable factory rear target sight has been replaced by a non elevation adjustable drift windage target style, minty checkered Walnut thumbrest grips, Colt marked magazine, excellent function, made in 1976 (C&R) \$740
- 10-J Colt .22 LR "Woodsman Bullseye Match Target" Auto Pistol 6 5/8"** barrel with excellent bright bore, 95%+ original bright blue with some sharp edge silvering, factory adjustable target sights, made in 1939, original "elephant ear" wood grips have been replaced with correct Colt checkered brown plastic logo grips of the later 40's style, correct "match target" marked full blue magazine, excellent function and very good looking (C&R) \$2295
- 11-J Colt .380 ACP "Model 1908" Hammerless Type IV Auto Pistol 3 3/4"** barrel with excellent bright bore, fixed sights, 98% original bright blue, minty checkered Walnut grips with silver Colt medallions, minty "Cal. 380/Colt" marked 2 tone magazine, made in 1931 (C&R) \$1565
- 12-J Colt .22 LR "Frontier Scout" Single Action Revolver 4 1/2"** barrel with mint bore, 98%+ original blue and case colors, factory fully adjustable rear and ramp blade front sights, mint "Colt/eagle" checkered black plastic grips, looks and functions near new, "L" prefix serial number, made in 1974 (C&R) \$575
- 13-J Colt .22 LR "Frontier Scout" Single Action "Duotone" Revolver 4 3/4"** barrel with excellent bore, 98% original blue on barrel, cylinder, hammer and trigger, frame and straps are bright alloy, excellent function, made in 1958, collector quality (C&R) \$525
- 14-J Colt .22 LR "Huntsman Sport Model" Auto Pistol 4 1/2"** barrel with mint bore, fixed sights, 99% original bright blue, minty checkered Walnut grips, made in 1977 (last year), as new overall, collector quality (C&R) \$795
- 15-J Colt .22 LR "Officers Model" Target Revolver 6"** barrel with mint bore, 98% original bright blue, adjustable front and rear target sights, target hammer, grooved trigger, excellent original oversize checkered Walnut grips with silver Colt medallions, super tight lockup and excellent timing, made in 1939 (C&R) \$1495
- 16-J Colt .32 Police (.32 S&W) "Model Police Positive" Revolver 4"** barrel with very good bore with areas of pin prick pitting but overall strong rifling, fixed sights, 95% original blue showing high edge silvering and gray patina, good unnumbered checkered wood grips with Colt medallions showing light dents and smoothing great lockup and timing, manufactured 1939 (C&R) \$405
- 17-J Colt .38 Special "Commando" WW-II U.S. Revolver 4"** barrel with mint bore, 98% parco-lubrite original finish (a dark matte parkerizing), mint correct checkered brown plastic grips with Colt logo, excellent function, made in 1942-1945 as a wartime secondary arm, super condition (C&R) \$985
- 18-J Colt .38 Special "Detective Special" Double Action Nickel Finish Revolver 2"** barrel with excellent bore, 97% original nickel finish with light flaking loss on edges of butt and straps, excellent function with tight lockup and timing, very good original full checkered Walnut grips with silver Colt medallions, right grip shows carry wear, made in 1964 (C&R) \$965

- 19-J Colt .38 Special "Officers Model Target" Revolver 6"** barrel with bright excellent bore, 95% original blue showing some light scratches, fading on front strap, light high edge wear, front adjustable sight with red bead, adjustable U-notch rear sight, checkered Walnut grips with some chipping around the bottom edges, both grip are serialized to revolver, 97% fire blue showing on checkered hammer, light oxidation on hammer sides, excellent function, manufactured 1911 (C&R) \$800
- 20-J Colt .44 Special "Old Model New Service" Double Action Revolver 5 1/2"** barrel marked "44 Russian" with mint bore, fixed sights, cylinder chambers have been lengthened to .44 SPL, 90%+ original blue with thinning at muzzle and on cylinder, front and back strap show toning gray to brown, frame has high edge wear, service trigger and hammer, front sight has been "regulated", lanyard loop, black hard rubber Colt factory grips, left grip shows 1" crack at rear, excellent timing and lockup, manufactured 1908 (C&R) \$1200
- 21-J Deutsche Werke .32 ACP "Ortgies Patent" Auto Pistol 3 1/2"** barrel with excellent bore, 95% original blue with mild high edge wear and some light speckling, fixed sights, smooth Walnut grips with Deutsche Werke lion medallions, "Germany" marked under frame, one factory nickel 8 round magazine, manufactured 1919-1926 (C&R) \$425
- 22-J ETAI .30 Mauser "Royal Model H" Broomhandle Copy Auto Pistol 5 1/2"** barrel with fair bore, metal is mostly gray/brown with scattered light pitting, 1000 meter marked tangent rear sight, slotted backstrap, made by Beistegui-Hermanos of Spain around 1920-1930, externally looks like a Mauser Broomhandle but different mechanically not often seen in any condition, serial number and description match the "Wikipedia" entry (C&R) \$1495
- 23-J Harrington & Richardson .22 LR "Model 922" Solid Frame Double Action Revolver 6"** barrel with good lightly pitted bore, fixed sights, 80% original blue thinning to an even gray patina, sharp edge wear along 9 shot "pull pin" fluted cylinder, reddish brown checkered plastic one piece grip with H&R logo, excellent function, manufactured 1951 (C&R) \$185
- 24-J Harrington & Richardson .22 LR "Model 922" Solid Frame "Pull Pin" D.A. Revolver 6"** barrel with excellent bore, fixed sights, 97% original blue with a few specks of light pitting, hammer shows brown spotting on left side, mint variegated color H&R logo plastic grips, excellent function (C&R) \$215
- 25-J Harrington & Richardson .22 LR "Model 949" "Forty Niner 2nd Model" Revolver 7 1/2"** barrel with mint bore, 98%+ original blue and case colors, 9 shot double action or single action western style revolver, excellent smooth wood grips with H&R silver medallions, excellent function, made in 1973, sharp looking (C&R) \$425
- 26-J Harrington & Richardson .22 LR "Sportsman" Single/Double Action Top Break Revolver 6"** ovoid barrel with excellent bore, factory adjustable sights, 90% original blue with two quarter inch areas of pin prick pitting on right side with very few small areas elsewhere, 9 shot fluted cylinder, "Rice" frame, one piece checkered wood grips manufactured 1937-1947, excellent function (C&R) \$445
- 27-J High Standard .22 LR "H-D Military" Target Auto Pistol 6 3/4"** barrel with mint bore, 97% original blue with sharp edge silvering, factory fully adjustable target rear sight, minty full checkered Walnut grips, minty 2 tone magazine, all matching, excellent function, super looker, made in 1946 (C&R) \$625
- 28-J High Standard .22 LR "Supermatic" 1st Model "Lever Takedown" Target Auto Boxed Pistol 4 1/2"** heavy barrel with mint bore, 98%+ original blue, ramp front target sight on barrel rib, "Davis" fully adjustable target rear sight, minty brown plastic, thumbrest logo grips, comes in it's original box with tattered end label missing a few edges but still calling out correct model, factory (1) 2 ounce weight, (1) 3 ounce weight both with mounting screws, top and bottom of maroon box show some nice repairs, collector quality, made in 1952 (C&R) \$695
- 29-J High Standard .22 Magnum Over/Under Derringer Pistol 3 1/2"** barrels with mint bores, 98%+ original blue, mint smooth white original grips, excellent function, made in 1976 ... \$365
- 30-J High Standard .22 Magnum Over/Under Derringer Pistol 3 1/2"** barrels with mint bores, 99%+ original electroless nickel finish, white plastic smooth grips, as new overall, collector quality, manufactured 1976..... \$395
- 31-J High Standard .22 LR "Sentinel Deluxe" Double Action Swingout Cylinder R-106 9 Shot Revolver 4"** barrel with mint bore, fixed sights, 98% original blue, mint checkered brown plastic grips, excellent function, made in 1967 (C&R) \$495
- 32-J High Standard .22 LR "Sentinel Deluxe" Double Action Swingout Cylinder R-107 9 Shot Revolver 4"** barrel with mint bore, fixed sights, 98% original blue, mint checkered brown plastic grips, excellent function, made in 1969 (C&R) \$495
- 33-J Iver Johnson .38 S&W "Trailsman 66" Top Break Revolver 2 3/4"** barrel with excellent bright bore, 97% original matte and bright blue with a little light peppering on barrel surface, mint smooth dark brown plastic round butt grips, non-automatic ejection, excellent function, last of the old company's top breaks in a modern configuration, made in 1970 (C&R) \$365
- 34-J Japanese / Nagoya, Kokubunji 8mm Nambu "Type 14" Auto Pistol 4 1/2"** barrel with bright excellent bore, 95% arsenal blue finish showing thinning gray to brown patina on front and back straps, fixed sights, safety lever and trigger still show nice straw color, hardwood grips show normal wear dings and dents, comes with one aluminum base magazine not serialized to pistol, small triggerguard pistol shows date code "12.10" (October 1937), excellent function, all matching numbers, firing pin and extension are unnumbered (C&R) \$1300

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35-J Llama .22 LR "Model XV" Single Action Auto Pistol 3 3/4" barrel with excellent bore, standard open sights with windage adjustable rear sight, 98% original blue with scattered handling marks throughout, black plastic factory grips, showing normal use wear, comes with (1) ten round magazine, beavertail safety \$345

36-J Llama .380 ACP "Especial" Small Frame Auto Pistol 3 1/2" barrel with excellent bore, fixed sights, solid rib on top of slide, 97% original bright blue, excellent checkered Walnut grips with Llama medallions, "N" build code (1968), excellent function, looks like a 1/2 scale 1911A1 (C&R) \$395

37-J Mauser 7.65mm (32 ACP) "Model 1914" Clip Feed Auto Pistol 3 1/2" barrel with good pitted bore, fixed sights, 90% original blue showing peppery pin prick pitting on slide and peppery pin prick pitting and silvering on left side of frame in front of Mauser banner, shows some trace of fire blue on trigger, checkered Walnut one piece grip showing staining on left side, comes with one magazine, manufactured 1934-1945 (C&R) \$395

38-J Para Ordnance .45 ACP "Model 2011" Auto Pistol 5" barrel with excellent bore. 98% matte black frame and trigger, green fiber optic front sight, 2 white dot adjustable rear sight, 95% blued slide showing some streaking, textured black plastic grips, original 14 round magazine \$495

39-J Ruger .22 LR "Standard" Auto Pistol 4 3/4" barrel with excellent bore, 97% original blue, drift adjustable square notch rear sight, fixed blade front sight, black plastic checkered grips with silver "Eagle" medallion on right panel, excellent factory blued 10 round magazine with chrome base, manufactured 1977 \$325

40-J Ruger .38 Special "Model SP-101" Double Action Revolver 2 1/4" barrel with mint bore, all stainless construction shows little or no actual use, fixed sights, mint black synthetic grooved wrap around grips, made in 1993 \$595

41-J Ruger .44 Magnum "New Model Super Blackhawk" Single Action Revolver 7 1/2" barrel with mint bore, front serrated sight, fully adjustable rear sight, 98% original blue, light dragline on unfluted cylinder, smooth Walnut grips with silver Ruger medallions, excellent function, manufactured 1975 \$785

42-J Ruger .45 ACP/.45 Colt "New Model Flat Top Blackhawk" Convertible Revolver 5 1/2" barrel with mint bore, 99%+ original blue, mint faux ivory grips with Ruger medallions, matching numbered cylinder, manufactured 2015, a "Lipsey's Distributors" exclusive, as new all original, collector quality \$1000

43-J Smith & Wesson .22 LR "Model 41" (No Dash) Extendable Front Sight Target Auto Pistol 5 1/2" heavy barrel with mint bore, 98%+ original bright blue, ramp blade front extendable sight and fully adjustable target style rear sight, 98%+ original bright blue, minty checkered Walnut thumbrest target grips, cocking indicator, original "S&W" marked magazine with steel follower, excellent function, made around 1967 (C&R) \$1595

44-J Smith & Wesson .22 LR "K-22 Masterpiece" (Post War 3rd Model) "Pre Model 17" 5 Screw Target Revolver 6" pinned barrel with mint bore and narrow serrated top rib with a sight taper, patridge front sight with adjustable rear sight, 98% original blue and case colors still show, checkered magna grips with diamond around the escutcheon and silver medallions, two small chips on inside top edges at front strap, excellent function for this post war 1948 made collector quality revolver (C&R) \$1195

45-J Smith & Wesson .22 LR "K-22 Outdoorsman" "1st Model" 5 Screw Double Action Revolver 6" pinned round barrel with bright excellent bore, front pinned patridge sight with fully adjustable rear sight, 70% case on serrated trigger and hammer, 6 shot fluted cylinder with counterbores, non shrouded extractor rod, revolver shows 95% original blue with some muzzle wear, thinning to gray on front and back straps, triggerguard along with some sharp edge wear along yoke and cylinder flutes, original Walnut checkered grips with diamond around escutcheon screw and small S&W medallions, excellent function, manufactured 1931-1940 (C&R) \$1250

46-J Smith & Wesson .22 LR "Model 18-3 "K-22 Combat Masterpiece" 3 Screw Double Action Revolver 4" pinned barrel with bright excellent bore, serrated font ramp sight, fully adjustable rear sight, 98%+ factory original blue with very light muzzle wear and light dragline on six shot fluted and counterbored cylinder, 95% case colors on inside target trigger and semi target hammer, checkered Walnut magna grips with silver medallions, grips are correct to year of revolver but not serialized to revolver, excellent function, manufactured 1975 \$785

47-J Smith & Wesson .22 Magnum "Model 51/1960" .22/32 Kit Gun Magnum Rimfire 3 Screw Double Action Revolver 3 1/2" pinned barrel with bright excellent bore, 99% factory original blue with very light drag line on 6 shot fluted and counterbored cylinder, serrated front ramp sight with micrometer click fully adjustable rear sight, checkered Walnut magna grips with silver medallions not serialized to revolver, 70% case colors on hammer and trigger, excellent function for this 1971-1973 revolver (C&R) \$1295

48-J Smith & Wesson .38 Special "Pre Model 36 Chiefs Special" 5 Screw Double Action Revolver 2" pinned barrel with bright excellent bore, serrated front ramp sight, square notch rear sight, 97% original blue showing some sharp edge wear, light thinning on left side of muzzle, service hammer and trigger shows 80% case colors, magna Walnut grips have diamond around escutcheon screw, silver medallions and are serialized to revolver, comes with unmarked/no end label, two piece Bangor Punta reinforced corner S&W cardboard box, excellent function, flat latch thumbpiece, pre model 36, manufactured 1950-157 \$1150

49-J Smith & Wesson .38 Special "Model 38/44" Heavy Duty 5 Screw Double Action Revolver 4" pinned barrel with shrouded extraction rod and shows a bright mint bore, fixed sights, professional quality restoration blue finish, 90% case colors on service hammer and serrated trigger, checkered Walnut magna grips with diamond around escutcheon screw and silver medallions, excellent function, manufactured 1954-1955 (C&R) \$1295

50-J Smith & Wesson .38 Special "Model 637-2 Performance Center" .38 Chiefs Special "Airweight" Double Action Revolver 2" barrel with mint bore, fixed sights, matte stainless steel finish, laser etched S&W Performance Center logo on left side, features internal locking system, Performance Center enhanced action, Uncle Mike's boot grip with pebble grain texture and finger grooves, comes with original blue plastic hard case with correct matching side label, inside is original test fired round, cable lock, two keys and papers, excellent function, manufactured 2014 \$695

51-J Smith & Wesson .44 Magnum "Model 629-1" .44 Magnum Stainless 3 Screw Double Action Revolver 6" ported barrel with shrouded extractor rod, mint bore, front serrated red insert sight with white outlined square notch fully adjustable rear sight, smooth target trigger and checkered target hammer, 6 shot fluted cylinder, smooth hardwood finger grooved grips with light colored wood spacer at butt, excellent function, manufactured 1987 \$985

52-J Smith & Wesson .357 Magnum "Model 19-2" "357 Combat Masterpiece" 3 Screw Double Action Revolver 4" pinned ribbed barrel with bright excellent bore, Baughman front sight, fully adjustable rear sight, 97%+ original blue showing light muzzle wear, light drag line, 98% case colors on semi target hammer and serrated trigger, black plastic finger groove Safariland grips, excellent function, manufactured 1968 (C&R) \$795

53-J Stevens .22 LR "No. 35" Single Shot Auto Pistol 8" part octagon/part round barrel with fair pitted bore, 95% barrel blue, 50% original nickel, all matching including smooth Walnut grips, hammer spur has been "bobbed" and stiff mainspring installed (C&R) \$215

54-J Walther / Interarms .22 LR "Model TPH" Auto Pistol 2 1/4" barrel with mint bore, fixed sights, stainless steel finish, black checkered plastic grips with Walther logo, one magazine with black plastic finger rest, excellent function, manufactured 1987-2000 \$695

55-J Webley & Scott .38 S&W "Mark IV" Top Break Revolver 5" barrel with excellent bore, 95% original "war finish", fixed sights, lanyard loop, original black grips chipped at base pin, backstrap stamped "SPF" over "4332" below hammer, all matching numbers, excellent function (C&R) \$725

CENTERFIRE RIFLES

56-J Harrington & Richardson 38/55 Winchester "Model 1871 Buffalo Classic" Top Lever Break Open Action Single Shot Rifle 28" barrel with mint bore, Lyman front globe sight, adjustable Williams rear sight, 98% original blue with the receiver showing mostly silver with 40% muted case colors, pressed checkered Walnut straight grip stock and Schnabel style forend, steel buttplate with same muted case colors showing, excellent function, manufactured 1995-2018 \$350

57-J Ishopore / Enfield .303 British "No.1 MK 3" Bolt Rifle 25" barrel with bright excellent bore, 85%+ arsenal blue finish thinning to gray, import mark on right side of receiver, all matching numbers, collar marked "R.F./1987.Bo1 MK3", smooth Walnut stock, forend and handguard, comes with one magazine, excellent function (C&R) \$575

58-J Ishopore / Enfield .303 British "Model No.1 MK III" Clip Feed Bolt Rifle 25" barrel with good pitted bore, 70% arsenal blue showing gray on high edges, protected front post sight, barrel band and tangent rear sight, Walnut stock with "ISA" and broad arrow in a circle cartouche, forend wood and handguard all show dings and dents, comes with one magazine, collar shows crown over "G.R.1/Ishopore/1941/SHT LE/111", manufactured 1941 (C&R) \$645

59-J Japanese 7.7mm Toyo, Koguo "Type 99" Bolt Rifle 25 1/2" barrel with bright excellent bore, front protected inverted "V" sight, rear adjustable peep with folding leaf graduated to 1500 meters with "anti aircraft wings" attached, 90% arsenal blue to brown patina with pin prick pitting throughout, clean Royal chrysanthemum and characters signifying "Type 99" stamped on top, front barrel band with 3 screw type, rear barrel band with monopod attached that has one leg broken but easily fixed, bolt handle is plum shaped, knurled safety with notch safety indicator, no cleaning rod, two piece buttstock with full length handguard drain hole forward the triggerguard, no dust cover, cupped edge sheet metal buttplate, excellent function, bolt non matching serial number (C&R) \$495

60-J Japanese / Tokyo Kogyo 6.5mm "Type 38" School Bolt Rifle 31 1/4" barrel with fair pitted bore, inverted "V" front sight, folding leaf rear sight graduated to 2400 meters, top of receiver shows clean Royal chrysanthemum/Kanji characters denoting "school"/ "38"/ type, receiver and barrel also show proof test marks, early type large safety knob, dust cover is missing and so its the magazine follower, all metal surfaces are a brown and gray patina showing peppery pin prick pitting, two piece buttstock and handguard show dings, dents and scratches, left side of buttstock is carved "killed APR 1st", sling swivels, cleaning rod and buttplate all show same patina (C&R) \$425

61-J Japanese 6.5mm "Type 38" Smooth Bore Training Bolt Rifle 31 1/2" barrel with good bore, 95% arsenal blue thinning to brown with receiver showing gray, no mum or receiver markings present, plum style bolt handle, knurled safety indicator knob, single screw front barrel band, no cleaning rod, inverted "V" front sight with folding leaf rear sight graduated to 2400 meters, steel buttplate, smooth hardwood two piece stock with finger groove and handguard, excellent function (C&R) \$395

62-J Remington .300 Savage "Model 722" Bolt Rifle 24" barrel with excellent bore, silver bead front sight, express style rear sight, unmarked 2.5-7x scope mounted on a one piece Buehler base, 98% original blue with some handling marks, checkered Walnut pistol grip stock with roll-over cheekpiece in good condition showing some repairs and handling marks, rectangle plug where a receiver sight was once mounted, original metal buttplate, manufactured 1949 (C&R) \$655

63-J Russian 7.62x54R "Model 91/30" Mosin Nagant Bolt Rifle 29" barrel with fair bore, 75% original blue thinning to gray, barrel shows "Tula Arsenal" over "1937/N", receiver marked "Made/USSR", protected front post, tangent rear sight, smooth hardwood stock and forend handguard, excellent function, comes with canvas sling and cleaning rod (C&R) \$450

64-J Russian, Tula 7.62x54R "Model 91/30" Non Factory "Sniper" Bolt Rifle 29" barrel with fair pitted bore, 95% arsenal blue, receiver ring show Tula factory mark, no "cn" or "ch" marking on barrel or receiver, protected front post, tangent rear sights, mounted is a non original scope base receiver mounted, original scope ring and 1942 PU 3.5x20 scope with clean clear optics and leather eye cups protectors and green canvas case, hardwood straight grip stock and forend handguard cleaning rod, matching numbers except scope, import marked, manufactured 1932 (C&R) \$1095

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65-J Savage 30/30 "Model 340C" Clip Feed Bolt Rifle 22" barrel with bright excellent bore, 98% original factory blue finish, raised front blade with brass bead sight, folding rear leaf sight with adjustable elevation, some light pin prick pitting toward muzzle and sharp edge wear along triggerguard, smooth Walnut pistol grip stock with light dents and scratches, Q.D. sling swivel studs, serrated black buttplate, comes with one detachable box magazine, excellent function, manufactured 1961 (C&R) \$425

66-J Springfield .308 "Model 1903" Replica Match Bolt Rifle 24" un-marked new barrel with mint bore, 99% custom blue with high number receiver showing a little coppery color "NS" marked bolt, Lyman 48-S target rear sight, blade front sight with snap on hood, all original 1903 milled parts, new looking "C" type pistol grip stock with checkered steel "trap" buttplate and all correct swivels, sharp looking \$895

67-J U.S. Government / Harrington & Richardson 30/06 "M1 Garand" Auto Rifle 24" "H.R.A./6-54" dated barrel with bright excellent bore, 90% arsenal parkerized finish showing thinning along high edges and contact points, original protected front post and T105 rear sight drums, milled triggerguard, "HRA" marked bolt, trigger housing and hammer "S-A" marked, two slot gas cylinder screw, Walnut pistol grip stock and forend showing normal dings and dents from handling, forend wood shows different color finish, metal buttplate, toeline of stock is numbered "298074", nice collectable H&R, manufactured 1954 (C&R) \$1750

68-J U.S. Government / Rock Island Arsenal 30/06 "Model 1903" Bolt Rifle 24 1/2" barrel marked "SA" over an ordnance bomb dated "05" with bright excellent bore, pinned front sight with 1903A3 sight cover, adjustable rear Buffington style rear sight, 90%+ original arsenal blue finish with some late war gray parkerized items such as the rear sight, front bayonet lug with stacking sling and the triggerguard along with rear sling swivel, downward swept bolt handle, floorplate, barrel bands all are period correct to this rifle, rear buttplate shows mostly gray with no cleaning kit in buttstock, "two pin" Walnut straight grip stock shows an upside down but legible, "J.F.C." cartouche in a rectangle light circled "P" proof strike on bottom portion of grip, correct high hump handguard, top of stock at heel is a rack number of "4K10", stock has a noticeable crack at wrist on left side, some chipping at buttstock along buttplate and toe line, stock also shows dings and dents, functions properly, early arsenal rebuild, early low serial number should not be fired with high pressure loads (C&R) \$1695

69-J U.S. Government Springfield 30/06 "Model 1903" Bolt Rifle 24" barrel dated "12-11" with bright excellent bore, barrel, receiver and bolt all show some aged arsenal blue toning to gray, mid barrel band, downward bolt handle, rear sling swivel and triggerguard showing a newer crisper blue, front stacking sling and bayonet band, rear adjustable sight and floorplate are parkerized finished, one pin "JFC" cartouche straight grip Walnut stock with a circle "P" proof on wrist, darker color "high hump style" handguard checkered blued steel buttplate, excellent function (C&R) \$1595

70-J U.S. Government Springfield Armory 30/06 "Model 1903" Bolt Rifle 24" barrel marked "S.A./ordnance proof mark" flaming bomb dated "8-18" with good bore showing some light pitting, arsenal blue retaining 80% with thinning to gray and brown, original sights, "C" type two pin straight grip Walnut stock and handguard, steel buttplate, no cleaning kit, circle "P" behind triggerguard, excellent function, manufactured 1918 (C&R) \$975

71-J Yugoslavian 7.92x57mm "Model M48A" Zastava Bolt Rifle 23 1/2" barrel with bright excellent bore, 98%+ original blue, protected front hooded sight, tangent rear sight graduated to 2000 meters, Yugoslavian crest on receiver ring, Elm wood stock and handguard, bright steel cupped buttplate, original sling, cleaning rod intact, excellent function, manufactured 1950-1964, mint military surplus rifle (C&R) \$625

RIMFIRE RIFLES

72-J Browning .22 LR "T-Bolt" Sporter Clip Feed Bolt Rifle 22" barrel with mint bore, 99%+ original blue finish, gold color finish on trigger, no sights, receiver mounted scope base and rings, blocks, rear tang safety, checkered Walnut pistol grip stock showing light scratches, small chip on left side of pistol grip, black plastic Browning buttstock, Q.D. sling swivels, excellent function, comes with one 10 shot double helix rotary magazine, manufactured 2008-2019 \$700

73-J Iver Johnson (Erma Werke Waffanfabrik) .22 LR "M-1 US" Auto Carbine 17 3/4" barrel with mint bore, 99% original blue finish, protected front sight, adjustable rear sight, smooth Walnut pistol grip stock with steel buttplate, front barrel band with sling swivel, comes with one 10 round magazine and original box with correct end label and paperwork inside, manufactured 1986-1989 \$495

74-J Geco .22 LR "Model 1919" Single Shot Bolt Rifle 19" barrel with fair bright bore, 80%+ thinning blue to gray with scattered patches of peppery pin prick pitting throughout, hard wood pistol grip stock, looks to have been refinished with remnants of the old finish, still showing steel buttplate, functions properly (C&R) \$60

75-J Harrington & Richardson .22 S, L, & LR "Model 865 Plainsman" Clip Feed Bolt Rifle 24" barrel with mint bore, showing 97% original bright blue, original open sights, grooved receiver, smooth Monte Carlo pistol grip stock with white line spacer, plastic serrated buttplate, plastic triggerguard, excellent function (C&R) \$185

76-J Henry Repeating Arms .22 LR "U.S. Survival AR-7" Clip Feed Auto Rifle 16" steel ABS plastic coated barrel with mint bore, raised ramp orange insert blade sight, rear peep sight, ABS plastic receiver and pistol grip stock, take down design enables receiver and barrel to stow in stock, all black ABS weather resistant plastic, 14" L.O.P., 3.5 lbs, comes with one factory magazine \$275

77-J Marlin .22 LR "Model 99" M-1 Style Tube Feed Auto Rifle 18" barrel with bright excellent bore, 90%+ original blue to gray with the grooved alloy receiver showing 98% black anodized with sharp edge wear, slip on barrel front sight with mounted Weaver C4 scope, scope shows plain crosshairs and cloudy optics, Walnut pistol grip stock with M-1 style handguard, black Marlin buttplate, sling swivel and barrel band with sling swivel, excellent function, manufactured 1964-1969 (C&R) \$425

78-J Mauser .22 LR "Model ES-340" Single Shot Bolt Rifle 25" barrel with excellent bore, 90% original blue thinning to gray/brown, front invert "V" raised ramp sight, rear tangent sight graduated to 200 meters, grooved receiver, all matching numbers, round knob style checkered pistol grip stock with finger groove forend, stock shows dings and dents, scratches on grooves from handling, comes with leather sling, Mauser hard rubber buttplate shows damage to left side, looks like melted or poor repair job, manufactured pre 1935 (C&R) \$450

79-J Mossberg .22 LR "Model 715-T" Clip Feed AR Style Auto Rifle 18" barrel with mint bore, A2 style polymer adjustable front sight and H bar carry handle with adjustable peep sight, black polymer quad rail handguard, carry handle also has detachable Picatinny rail to incorporate optics, black polymer receiver with magazine release lever on left side and push button safety, A2 style pistol grip and fixed/non adjustable A4 style stock, comes with original box and papers, as new in box with (1) 10 round magazine \$225

80-J Mossberg .22 Cal "Model 42-T" Magazine Feed Bolt Rifle 20" threaded barrel with excellent smooth bore, post bead front sight, adjustable rear sight, 80% original blue with some areas of fading to brown gray, smooth wood stock showing many marks and scratches, approximately 1" crack on left side, unmarked 7 3/4" choke tube extension, 7 round magazine with adapter screw for short cartridges, 13" L.O.P., made between 1940-1942 (C&R) \$225

81-J Remington .22 LR "Model Nylon 66" Butt Tube Feed Auto Rifle 19 5/8" barrel with mint bore, 97% original blue with light peppery pinprick pitting on receiver cover and two spots of edge wear along the top by the grooved receiver on left side, raised front "shark blade" sight, fully adjustable rear factory sight, mounted with Weaver scope rings is a 4x Tasco scope, scope has plain crosshairs, clean clear optics, "Mohawk brown" Zytel synthetic checkered pistol grip stock with white Zytel plastic spaces and black forend tip, grip cap and buttplate, excellent function, manufactured 1986 \$495

82-J Remington .22 S, L, & LR "Model 341 Sportmaster" Tube Feed Bolt Rifle 24" barrel with good bore, factory open sights, barrel and receiver showing blue to brown with top side being lighter, magazine tube showing dark blue with some wear to bottom side, functioning thumb safety on rear of bolt, smooth wood stock with sling swivels and normal dents and dings, factory black plastic buttplate, manufactured 1936-1940 (C&R) \$195

83-J Remington .22 S, L & LR "Model 514" Single Shot Bolt Rifle 24 3/4" barrel with bright excellent bore, all metal surfaces show a uniformed thinning blue to gray tone except the later replaced field sights and safety knob on bolt which show a brighter blue and knob shows a black enamel, triggerguard showing same wear and patina as barrel, smooth Walnut pistol grip stock showing dings and dents, black Remington logo buttplate has been replaced and needs proper fitting, excellent function, cocking on open, manufactured 1952 (C&R) .. \$195

84-J Remington .22 S, L & LR "Model 581" Clip Feed Bolt Rifle 24" barrel with mint bore, 98% original blue, factory open sights plus grooved receiver with a mounting a "BSA" Huntsman 3-9x40mm "TV view" scope with duplex reticle, clean crisp clear optics, smooth Walnut Monte Carlo pistol grip stock with original buttplate, wood shows some normal handling wear dings, scratches and dents, comes with one plastic magazine, manufactured 1972 (C&R) \$365

85-J Savage .22 Winchester Magnum "Model 65-M Clip Feed Bolt Rifle 20" barrel with mint bore, 97% blue to gray tone showing very light scratches towards front sight, open factory sights plus grooved receiver mounting a Tasco 3-7x20mm scope, scope has duplex reticle with clean clear optics, smooth Monte Carlo Walnut pistol grip stock with black polymer serrated buttplate accompanied with a white line spacer, comes with one 5 round magazine, excellent function (C&R) \$400

86-J Wards / Westernfield / Mossberg .22 S, L, & LR "Model 40D/44" Clip Feed Bolt Rifle 24" barrel with bright excellent bore, 90%+ original blue with areas of thinning to gray and showing scattered peppery pin prick pitting, hooded front sight with Mossberg #2A adjustable rear sight, receiver drilled and tapped for scope base, no plugs are present, nickel plated bolt handle, plastic finger groove triggerguard that is bowed from the stock, smooth Walnut pistol grip stock showing dings and dents, serrated black buttplate, comes with one magazine, excellent function (C&R) \$175

87-J Weatherby .22 LR "Model XXII Tube Feed Auto Rifle 24" barrel with mint bore, 99% original blue and black anodized finishes, front blade with brass bead sight, missing its hood, folding express leaf sight and grooved receiver, high polished Monte Carlo pistol grip stock with left side cheek piece and rosewood forend and grip cap both with white line spacer swivel studs, manufactured in Japan, Nikko 1973-1980, excellent function, super looker \$925

88-J Winchester .22 LR "Model 74" Butt Tube Feed "Pre War" Auto Rifle 22" barrel with excellent bore, 97% original blue, open factory sights, smooth Walnut pistol grip stock, steel buttplate, excellent function, "pop out bolt" for maintenance, manufactured 1942, collector quality (C&R) \$395

89-J Winchester .22 LR "Model 74 Butt Tube Feed Auto Rifle 22" barrel with mint bore, 99% original bright blue, factory open sights, "pop out" bolt, minty Walnut pistol grip stock, looks near new, collector quality (C&R) \$345

90-J Winchester .22 LR "Model 77" Clip Feed Auto Rifle 22" barrel with mint bore, 98% original blue, factory open sights, 10 shot clip, excellent Walnut pistol grip stock with logo buttplate, collector quality (C&R) \$345

91-J Winchester .22 LR "Model 77" Clip Feed Auto Rifle 22" barrel with mint bore, 99% original blue, factory open sights, early style bolt hold open button, minty dark Walnut pistol grip stock with logo plastic buttplate, excellent function, made around 1957, these early 77's don't usually have a serial number but this one has a factory applied number on barrel probably for export purposes, collector quality (C&R) \$385

92-J Winchester .22 S, L, & LR "Model 72" Tube Feed Bolt Rifle 25" round tapered barrel with mint bore, 98% original blue showing some light thinning near barrel address and light scratches, "No. 97" front bead on ramp with removable "hood" sight cover, "No. 80" peep receiver mounted sight with graduated windage and elevation adjustments, smooth Walnut pistol grip "sporting type" stock with semi beavertail forend, black plastic Winchester buttplate, bolt cocks on opening, positive twin extractors, side lever safety locking both bolt and trigger, excellent function, manufactured 1938-1959 (C&R) \$570

93-J Winchester .22 S, L, & LR "Model 61" Tube Feed Hammerless "grooved receiver" Takedown Pump Rifle 24" round barrel with bright excellent bore, 98%+ original blue, open factory sights, grooved receiver, smooth Walnut pistol grip stock, 17" grooved forend, black Winchester plastic buttplate, excellent function, manufactured 1960, collector quality (C&R) \$1195

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94-J Winchester .22 S, L, & LR "Model 1906" Tube Feed Pump Rifle 20" barrel with dark pitted bore though rifling still present, mostly brown to gray with pin prick pitting throughout, factory open sights, rear was replaced, smooth straight stock showing several dings and dents, original black plastic buttplate, manufactured 1910 (C&R) \$275

95-J SHOTGUNS:

96-J Bay State (Harrington & Richardson) 20 Gauge Single Shot Shotgun 28" barrel with very good bore, 2 3/4" chamber and fixed full choke, very good Walnut pistol grip stock with added gloss finish, metal is mostly a gray/brown, excellent function (C&R) \$75

97-J Eagle Arms 12 Gauge "Champion" Single Shot Folding Shotgun 28" vent rib full choke with excellent bore, single gold bead, 88% blue with lots of areas of pin prick pitting towards front half of barrel, 3" magnum chamber, engraved stainless receiver with tang safety, checkered wood stock with adjustable rubber recoil pad, 14" L.O.P. \$145

98-J Fabbrica Fausti Stefano 12 Gauge Boxlock Over / Under Shotgun 28" raised vent top rib and mid rib with 3" magnum chambers, "cam 76" fixed chokes, "18.2/extra full" top and bottom, bright excellent bores, full length checkered top rib contains one orange fiber optic orange front sight, 98% original blue along barrels, triggerguard and barrel lever that is right of center, all of which show a slight touch of scroll engraving which fully encases the alloy receiver with its greener, cross bolt, one small blemish on left side that stands out, tang safety works properly, extractors, double triggers also function normally, checkered Walnut pistol grip stock with decorative buttplate, wood shows some light scratches and on stock and on checkered forend, small pinkish red dot of paint or polish on left side of grip, excellent function, manufactured 2009 \$785

99-J Harrington & Richardson .410 Gauge "Deluxe Topper" "M-488" Single Shot Break Action Shotgun 28" barrel with good bore, 3" chamber, fixed full choke, single front bead sight, mostly faded to gray/brown with speckling nickel receiver showing some oxidation spotting but still shiny, some flaking on trigger, black plastic triggerguard, smooth wood stock showing normal dings and dents, approximately 1"x3" chip repaired on right side along original black rubber recoil pad, 14" L.O.P., manufactured 1949-1952 (C&R) \$125

100-J High Standard 12 Gauge "Flight King Deluxe /Model K-121" Pump Shotgun 28" raised vent rib barrel with mint bore, fixed modified choke, 2 3/4" chamber, 97% original blue showing light scratches on receiver, light thinning toward muzzle and wear along magazine tube, press checkered Walnut pistol grip stock and forend, stock shows varnish wear along grip and high luster has been removed from stock, grip cap and brown rubber recoil pad, excellent function, manufactured 1966-1973 (C&R) \$285

101-J Ithaca 20 Gauge "Model 37 Ultra Featherlight" Pump 2 Barrel Shotgun 26" vent rib barrel with excellent bore, modified choke, factory fiber optic front sight, brass med bead, 98% original blue, hunting scene engraved receiver, English straight stock with checkering and decelerator buttpad, L.O.P. 14 1/4", comes with an extra 25" Ultra Featherlight vent rib barrel, improved cylinder with white front bead, very nice overall..... \$895

102-J Ithaca / Western Arms .410 Gauge "Long Range" Small Bore Boxlock Double Trigger Hammerless Side by Side Shotgun 26" solid raised rib barrel with fixed full and improved modified chokes, 2 1/2" chambers, bright excellent bores, 80% thinning original blue to gray with scattered pin prick pitting along barrels, receiver is mostly gray with areas of light case colors still show, barrel latch is right of center, single brass bead front sight, auto safety lever on tang, smooth Walnut stock and splinter style forend wood, factory hard rubber checkered buttplate, excellent function on this 1935 era shotgun (C&R) \$985

103-J J.C. Higgins / High Standard 12 Gauge "Model 583.20/10 Bolt Shotgun 28" barrel with bright excellent bore, 2 3/4" chamber, fixed modified choke, single brass bead front sight, 97% original blue showing scattered peppery pin prick pitting, smooth Walnut pistol grip stock with one cross bolt and bottom ejector port, features red J.C. Higgins rubber vented recoil pad, 14" L.O.P., excellent function (C&R) \$195

104-J Marlin 16 Gauge "Model 1898 Takedown Pump Shotgun 25" barrel with poor bore, cylinder choke 2 5/8" chamber, evenly toned brown with scattered pin prick pitting, missing one bolt on receiver, serrated forend is broken at screw hole, stock is broken at tang on both left and right sides, left side of stock has a brass screw inserted into grip portion, serrated Marlin buttplate, this shotgun is unsafe to fire but has many good parts left (C&R) \$100

105-J Mossberg 12 Gauge "Model 835" Pump 2 Barrel Shotgun 24" rifled "slugster" barrel with excellent bore, 98% original blue, olive drab camo synthetic stock with comb pad, factory drilled and tapped receiver, comes with an extra 28" vent rib barrel with accu choke system with excellent bore \$365

106-J Mossberg .410 Gauge "Model 183-KC" Bolt Shotgun 22" barrel with mint bore, 3" chamber, factory attached "multi choke" with silver bead sight, 98% original blue, smooth Walnut pistol grip stock showing some scattered dents along forend and light spots of white paint on butt, black plastic serrated buttplate with white line spacer and plastic finger groove triggerguard, both red and green safety buttons show, 13 5/8" L.O.P. (C&R) \$285

107-J Remington 20 Gauge "Model 11" Auto Shotgun 28" barrel with bright excellent bore, 2 3/4" chamber, fixed modified choke, 95% original blue with scattered peppery pin prick pitting, receiver shows sharp edge wear and a soften blue to gray tone also nice duck and foliate designs engraved on both sides, checkered Walnut forend and pistol grip stock shows noticeable dents and dings with chip missing on toe line at the Remington buttplate, single bead front sight, 14" L.O.P., bolt marked "Model 11" manufactured 1942 (C&R) \$625

108-J Sears / Mossberg 12 Gauge "Model 446.511761 / 500 ALS" Slug Gun 2 Barrel Pump Shotgun 18" slug barrel with fixed cylinder bore, 2 3/4" chamber with excellent bore, spare 28" plain barrel with fixed modified choke, 2 3/4" chamber with excellent bore, 99% original blue, raised front sight, folding leaf rear sight, top of receiver has factory drill and taped for scope base, smooth Walnut pistol grip stock with rubber recoil pad, grooved forend wood, excellent function, manufactured 1977-1980..... \$425

109-J Winchester 12 Gauge "Model 1400 Ranger" Auto Shotgun 28" Win-choke barrel with excellent bore, 2 3/4" chamber, improved cylinder choke, vent rib with brass bead, 95% original blue with a few scratches by muzzle, 98% black receiver, excellent checkered birch stock with sling swivel, shotgun appears to be hardly use, very few marks, 14" L.O.P... \$275

110-J Winchester 12 Gauge "Model 1400" Auto Shotgun 26" plain barrel with bright excellent bore, 2 3/4" chamber, fixed improved cylinder chamber, 98% original blue, receiver shows dings, scratches mostly on left side, single bead front sight, press basket weave checkered pistol grip stock and forend, black plain grip cap, red rubber recoil Winchester pad, excellent function, manufactured 1964-1981..... \$275

111-J Winchester 12 Gauge "Model Super X" (SXP) Pump Shotgun 18" barrel with good cylinder bore, 2 3/4" and 3" defender chamber, matte black finish, receiver factory drilled and taped for scope mount, black synthetic stock, 98% overall finish..... \$275

112-J Winchester 12 Gauge "Model 12 Skeet Deluxe" Pump Shotgun 26" barrel including factory installed Lyman "Cutts compensator" (no choke marking on barrel), 2 3/4" chamber, excellent bore, 98% well done gloss re-blue with a couple spots of pin prick pitting, extended magazine tube, refinished high gloss deluxe checkered wood stock with extension style pump handle and Winchester pistol grip cap, Pachmayr recoil pad, overall nicely refinished piece done some time ago and showing minor handling marks since, manufactured 1940, marked "Skeet" on receiver (C&R) \$625

113-J Winchester 12 Gauge "Model 1300 Defender" Pump Shotgun 18" barrel with 3" chamber and cylinder choke, mint bore, 98% original blue, 7 shot extended magazine, mint hardwood pistol grip stock with logo vent recoil pad, ribbed pump handle, excellent function, looks new overall, made in 1993-1994 \$265

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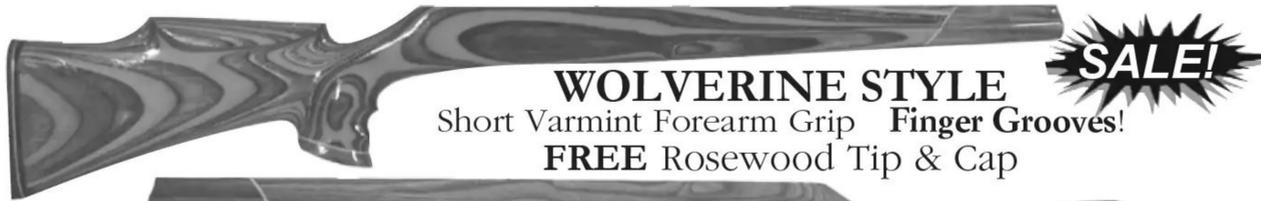
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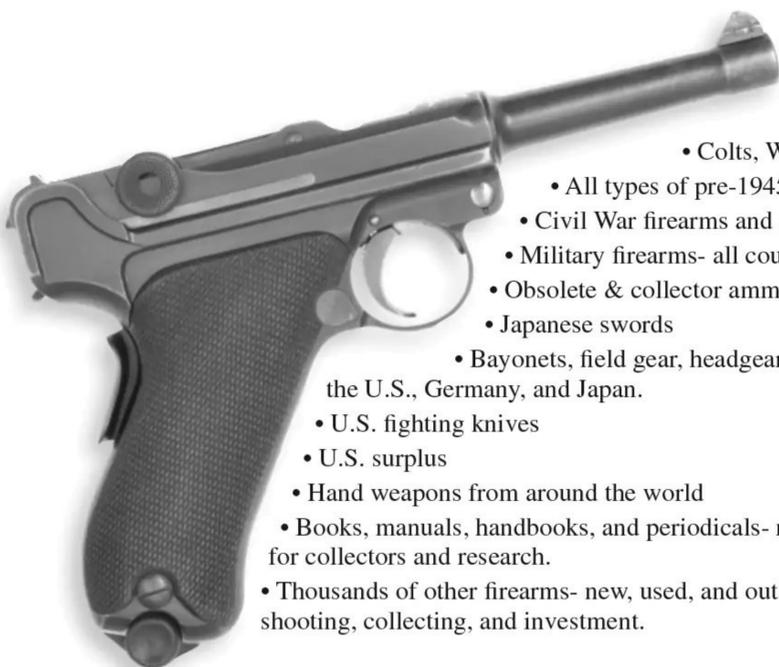
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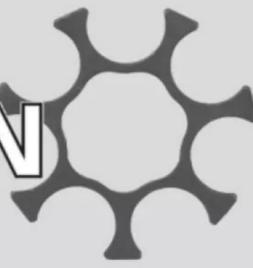
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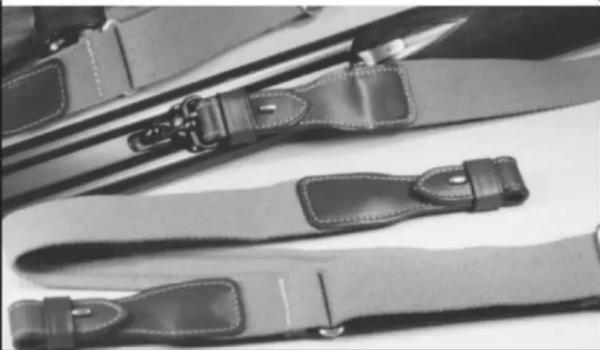
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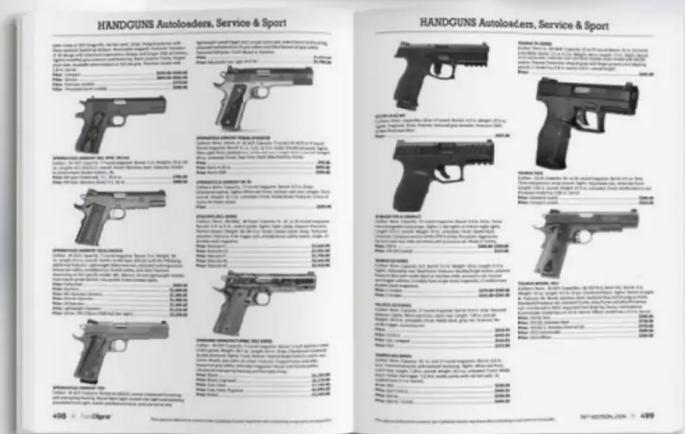


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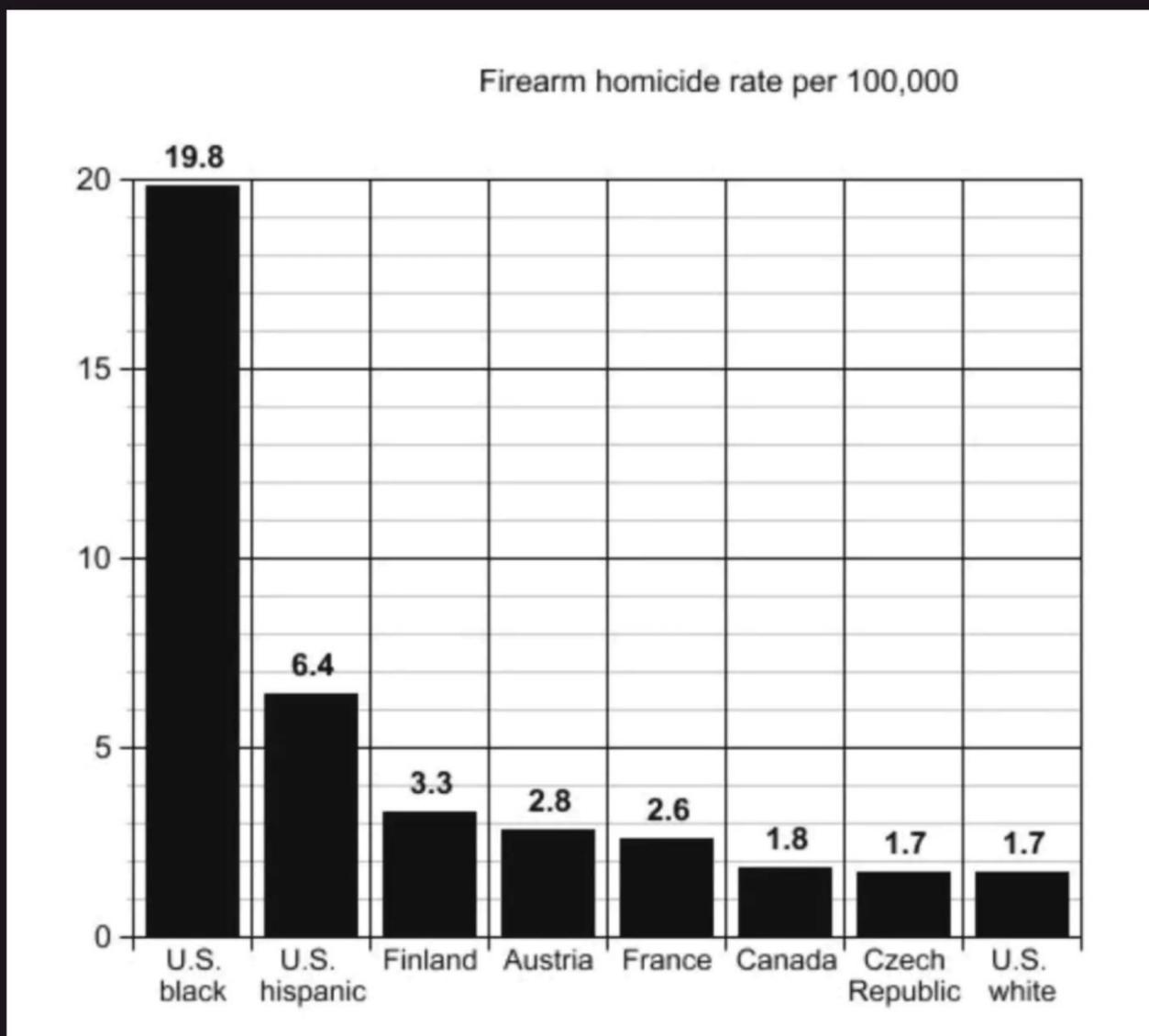
IT'S NOT THE GUNS

It's not the genetics. It's not the economics. It's the dads.

Repeatedly in the press, we see “it’s the guns, it’s the guns, it’s the guns” as the explanation for homicide in the United States, but this rhetoric only serves to obscure the actual homicide problem. I don’t believe Black Americans are more inherently violent than any other group of Americans, but I do believe the country at large, particularly its white liberal faction, needs to come to grips with what’s going on in the Black community before anything can be fixed. As we go through this deep dive, we’ll discover the mathematical key to solving the murder problem in the United States lies not in gun control, nor even in socioeconomic, but rather in repairing the family unit across all demographics.

We’re going to begin with mathematics, and attempt to replicate this entirely unsourced graph seen on Twitter recently:

(Spoiler: It’s sorta right, sorta not.)



Expanded Homicide Data Table 8

Murder Victims by Weapon, 2015–2019

Weapons	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Total	13,847	15,355	15,206	14,446	13,927
Total firearms:	9,143	10,398	11,014	10,445	10,258
Handguns	6,194	6,778	7,052	6,683	6,368
Rifles	215	300	389	305	364
Shotguns	248	247	263	237	200
Other guns	152	172	178	164	45
Firearms, type not stated	2,334	2,901	3,132	3,056	3,281
Knives or cutting instruments	1,533	1,562	1,608	1,542	1,476
Blunt objects (clubs, hammers, etc.)	438	466	474	455	397
Personal weapons (hands, fists, feet, etc.) ¹	651	668	715	712	600
Poison	8	12	15	6	16
Explosives	1	1	0	4	3
Fire	63	78	93	76	81
Narcotics	70	119	112	102	93
Drowning	12	9	8	9	7
Strangulation	96	97	90	75	64
Asphyxiation	105	93	112	92	92
Other weapons or weapons not stated	1,727	1,852	965	928	840

■ ¹ Pushed is included in personal weapons.

■ NOTE: The Uniform Crime Reporting Technical Refresh enables updating of prior years' crime data; therefore, data presented in this table may not match previously published data.

MATH

We begin by picking a year. I'm going to pick 2019 for several reasons. First, it was the last good year the FBI has data on, because they changed their data collection scheme in 2020 to make it so burdensome that half the police agencies in the country stopped giving them data. Second, 2020 was an outlier year, with the Floyd riots, "defund the police," and "all cops are bastards" leading to a reduction in policing and a commensurate crime spike. Third, the residual effects of all that awful 2020 behavior haven't abated, so 2019 is the last best year for an honest comparison.

Expanded Homicide Data Table 6 from the FBI website gives us our starting point. Caveats: This table only includes cases where some racial data was known by law enforcement, so if a homicide occurs where the FBI has no information about offender or victim it's excluded from the table. It's also only of single victim/single offender

incidents, which would exclude multiple victim shootings. Because of those two things, we're going to have to do some careful extrapolation.

Table 6 has 6,578 homicides, which fit the criteria for inclusion. If we presume the ratios exhibited in this table properly extrapolate to the total sample of 16,425 U.S. murders in 2019 and do that extrapolation, this is what we get:

(Note: For this and all other calculations in the article, I took Latinos out of the white bucket instead of out of

the Black or unknown buckets, which is probably an OK assumption but not a perfect one.)

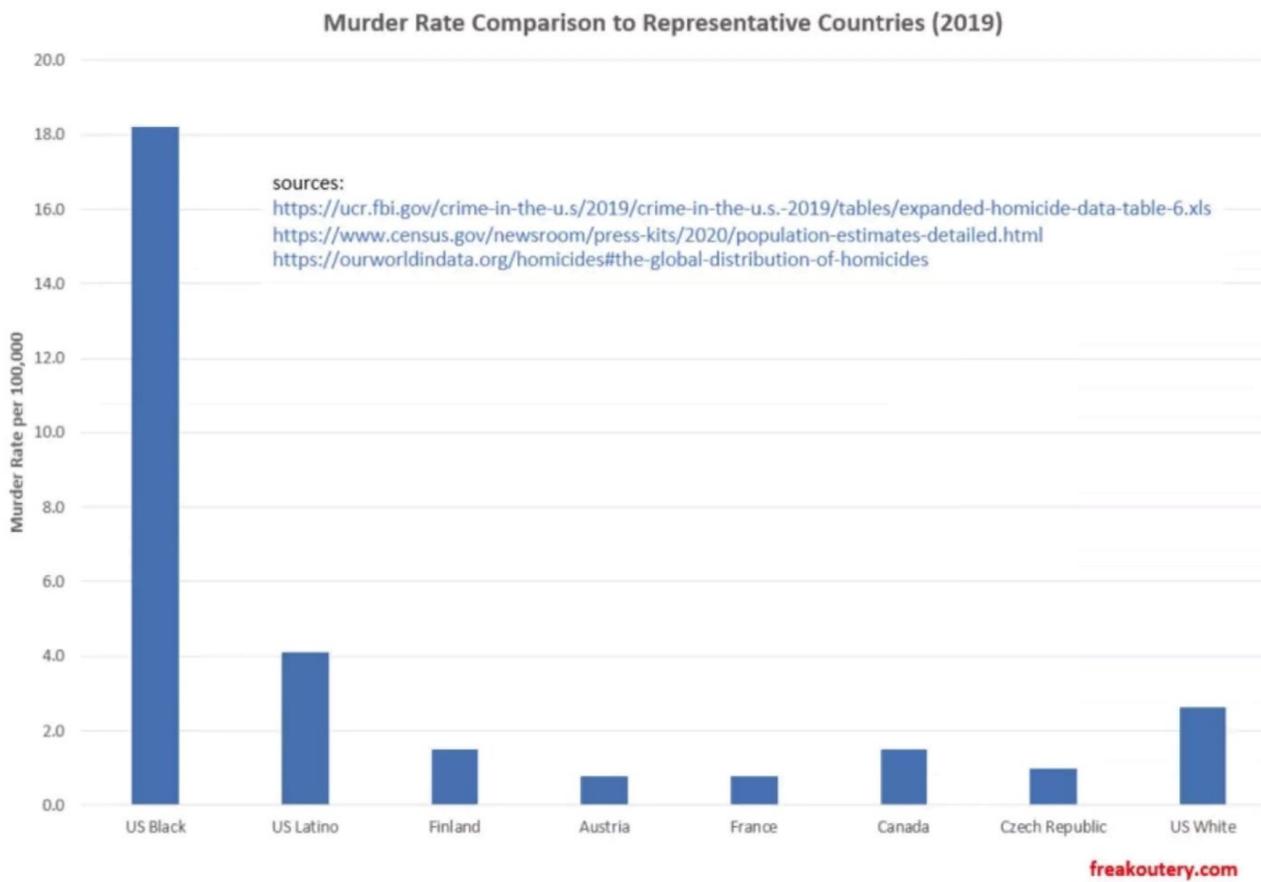
This isn't the exact number from the mysterious Twitter graph, but it's curiously close. If we use 2019 numbers to replicate the Twitter graph's nation sample, we get this:

My calculation yields different but similar results.

It looks to me as if the chart I raked from Twitter is not accurate, but it's similar. It seems that chart probably

Perpetrator	From Sample Set	Ratio to Total	Extrapolated Total	2019 Population	Murder Rate per 100k
White (non-latino)	2,074	32%	5,179	197,309,822	2.6
Black	3,218	49%	8,035	44,075,086	18.2
Latino	874	13%	2,182	53,212,368	4.1
Unknown / Other	412	6%	1,029	33,642,247	3.1
Total	6,578	100%	16,425	328,239,523	5.0

Sources:
<https://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-kits/2020/population-estimates-detailed.html>
<https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s/2019/crime-in-the-u.s.-2019/tables/expanded-homicide-data-table-6.xls>



took homicide rates for other countries from the 1990s and rates for the USA from around 2014 as a way to cook the numbers. But the difference between the U.S. white homicide rate and U.S. Black and Latino homicide rates is tremendously stark.

The U.S. white murder rate is comparable to that of the World Bank High Income nations. The U.S. Latino

murder rate is comparable to that of the World Bank Lower Middle Income Nations. The U.S. Black murder rate is double the World Bank Lower Income nations and also more than double Africa. But as high as it is, it doesn't approach the murder rate in most of the rest of the Western hemisphere to the south of the USA. Mexico is worse than Black America, Brazil is worse

than Mexico, and El Salvador is the nuttiest war zone of them all, almost tripling Black America.

Further, we know that murder rate doesn't correlate in any way with gun ownership rate by race in the United States, because Black folks own the fewest guns.

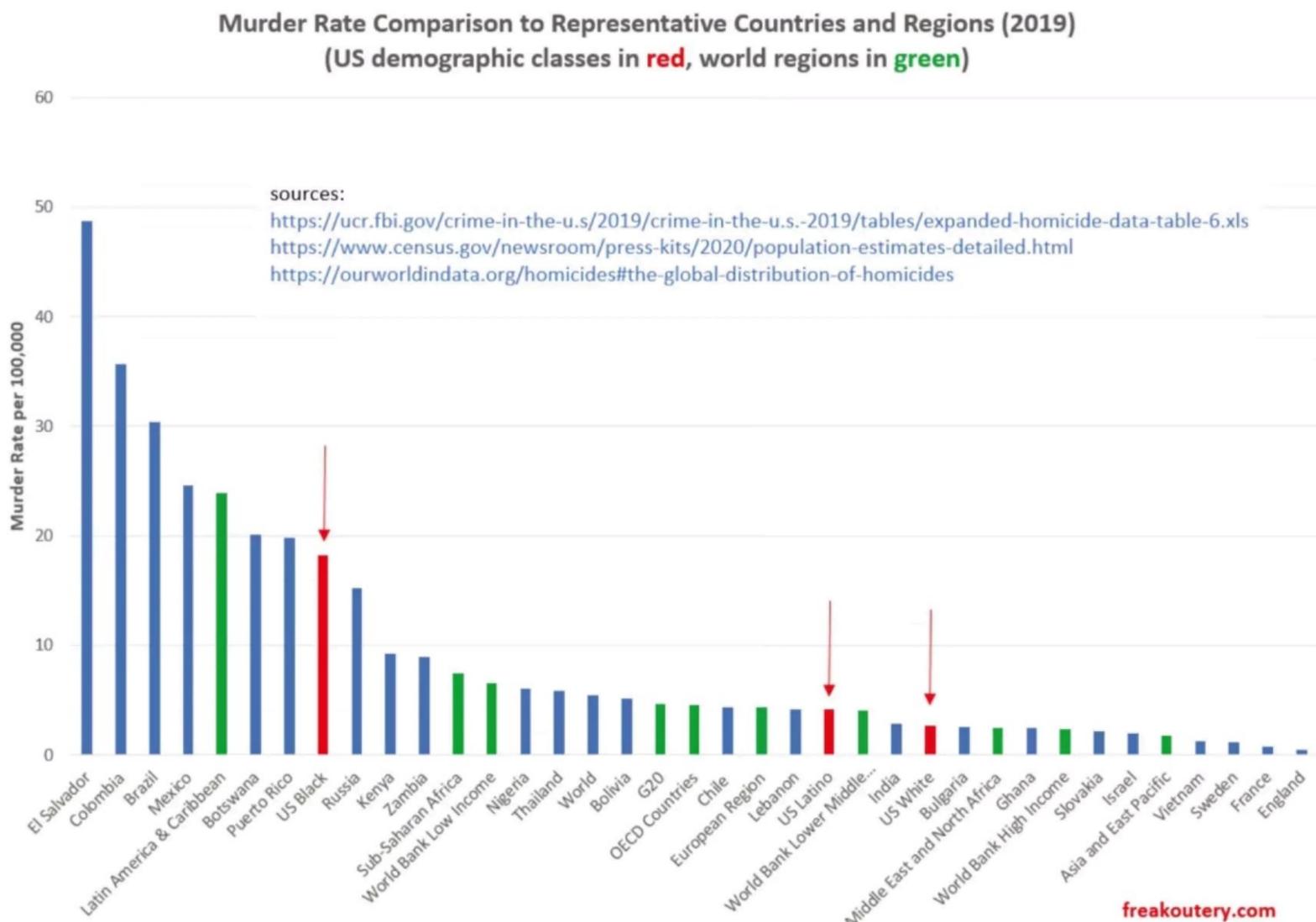
Note: While Black gun ownership has increased since 2020, ownership rates expressed here are from a 2022 survey so are conservative in supporting this case.

What do we take away from this, in convenient 280-character Twitter worthy snippets?

1. If U.S. Black and Latino murder rates were the same as U.S. white murder rates, then the United States would have the same murder rate as our economic peer nations even with 400 million guns in circulation.

2. Whites own more guns per capita than Black folks or Latinos, and there's an inverse correlation between ownership and murder across those demographics, so "it's the guns" isn't explanatory for the murder rate differential in these populations.

3. The racist hot take of "it's genetic"



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is also not explanatory, because U.S. Black Americans more than double the sub-Saharan Africa murder rate, and Latin America south of the border is almost six times more murderous than the Latinos here.

It's not the guns. It's also not the genetics. So, what is it?

ECONOMICS?

Unfortunately, it's not the economics either, at least not in the United States.

If we take the very crude and direct method, we do see that murder rate falls as average income rises in the United States, but the relationship is steeply nonlinear, and we only have three data points.

You're going to have a very hard time convincing me that a class of folks in the United States who only make \$25,000 per year are going to have a murder rate of 155, so the crude analysis fails. Thankfully, Random Critical Analysis did a lot of this heavy lifting for us in 2015, by analyzing county level data:

He states, after presenting dozens of similar graphs to cover every possible economic marker available:

By now I think it should be pretty clear that the economic conditions of each group are not particularly strong predictors of their victimization rates and that they certainly don't come close to closing the white/Black gap. Even poor "white" counties have homicide rates quite a bit lower than affluent "Black" counties with low poverty rates.

I'd also note, after perusing these graphs in some detail, that white and Latino homicide rates tend to converge as the areas get poorer. So, what is it? He identifies one major factor on regression analysis which ties all three of these groups together.

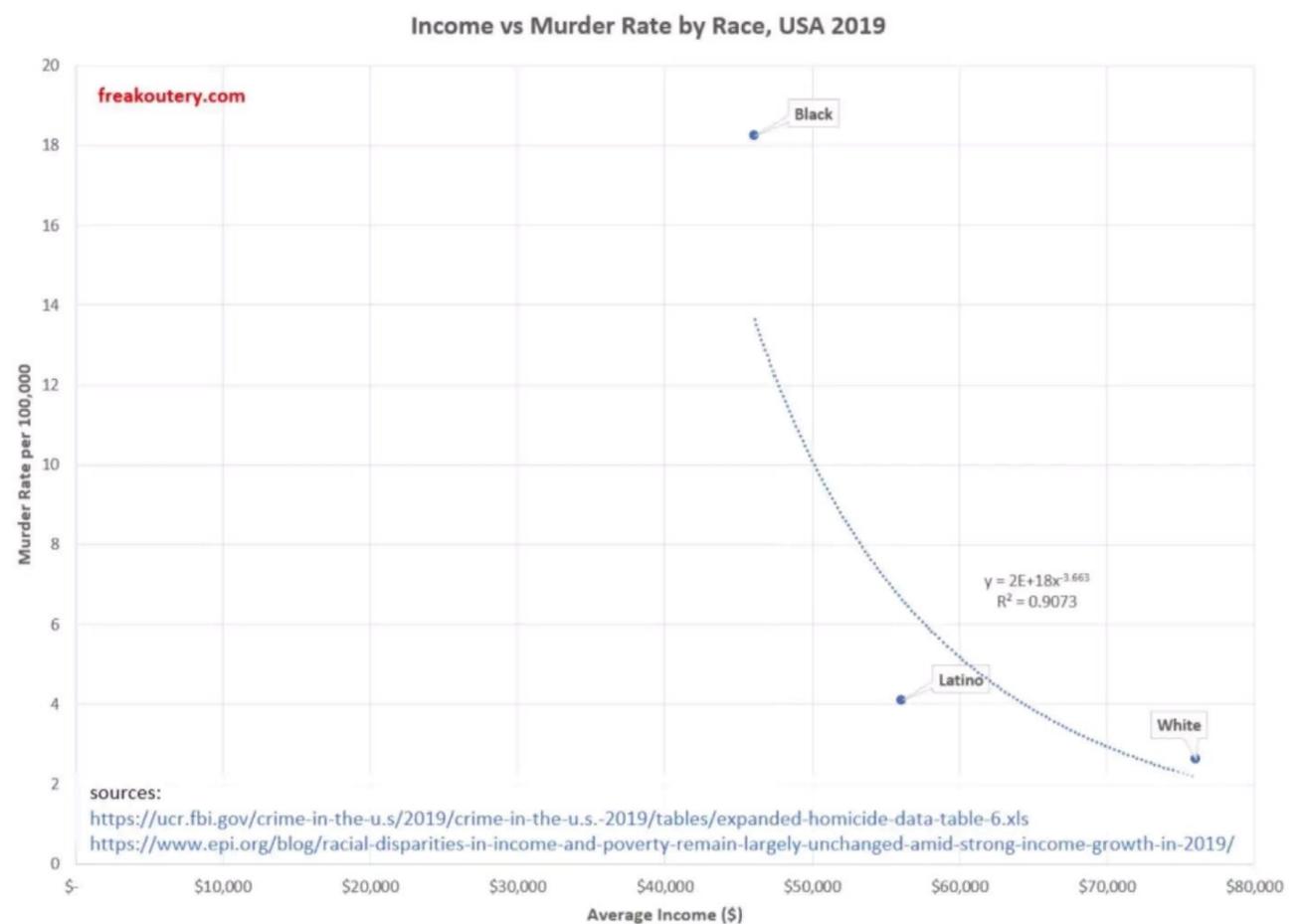
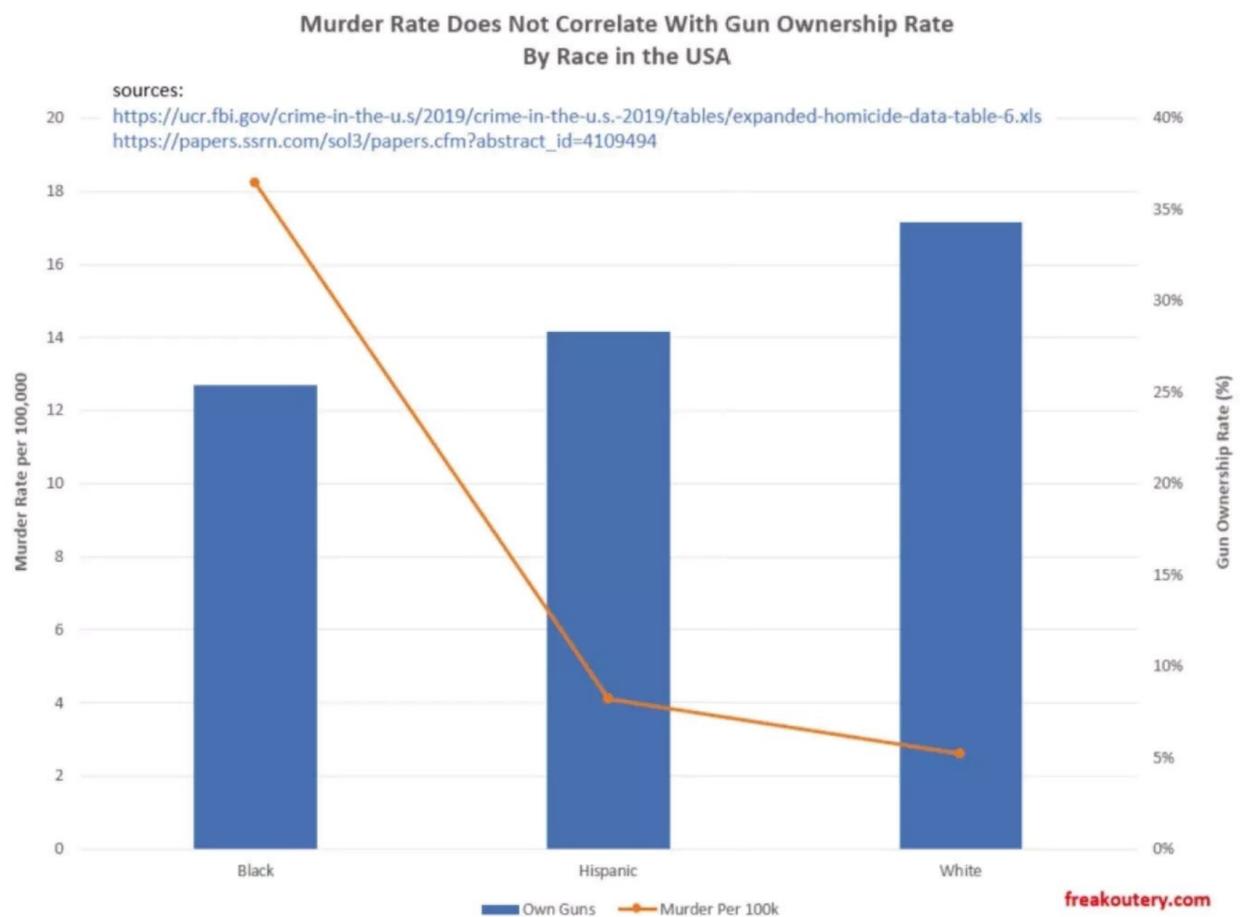
BOYS WITHOUT FATHERS

This is your money graph, from the Random Critical Analysis research:

It's all about single moms and boys with no fathers.

He analyzed the following:

- Median family income
 - Mean family income
 - Median household income
 - Mean household income
 - Per capita income
 - Family poverty rate
 - Child poverty rate
 - Median worker earnings
 - High school graduation percentage
 - Bachelor's degree percentage
 - Unemployment rate
 - Labor force participation rate
 - Median home value
 - Median gross rent
 - Percentage renting
 - Home ownership percentage
- ... and found nothing as predictive as single mother rate.
- He goes on to note that single motherhood is higher in the Black community than other communities and isn't predicted by income or other economic



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factors, even though the relationship between single motherhood and economics is very close for the white and Latino populations.

CONCLUSION

Sound mathematical analysis indicates that if we want to reduce murder rates

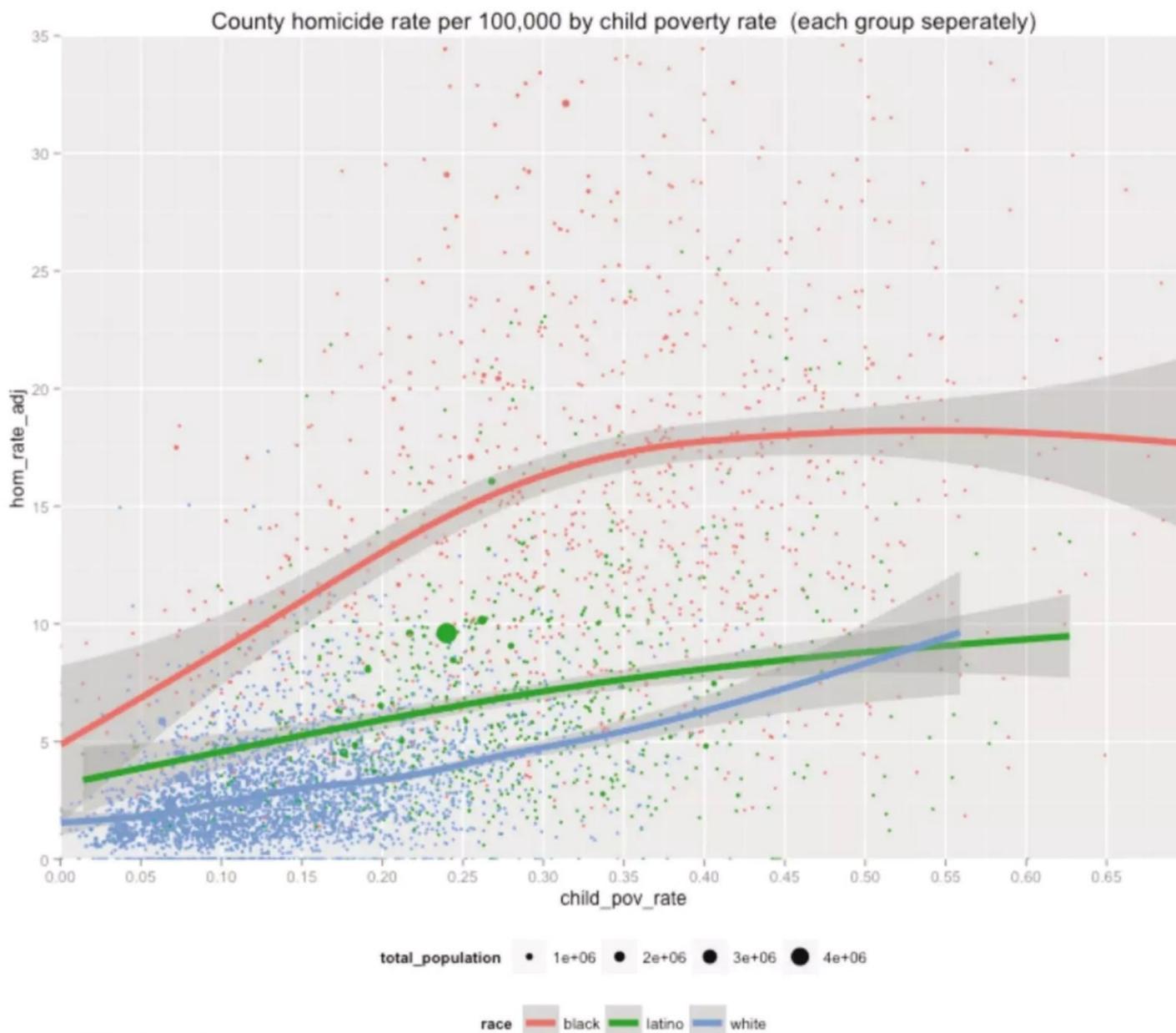
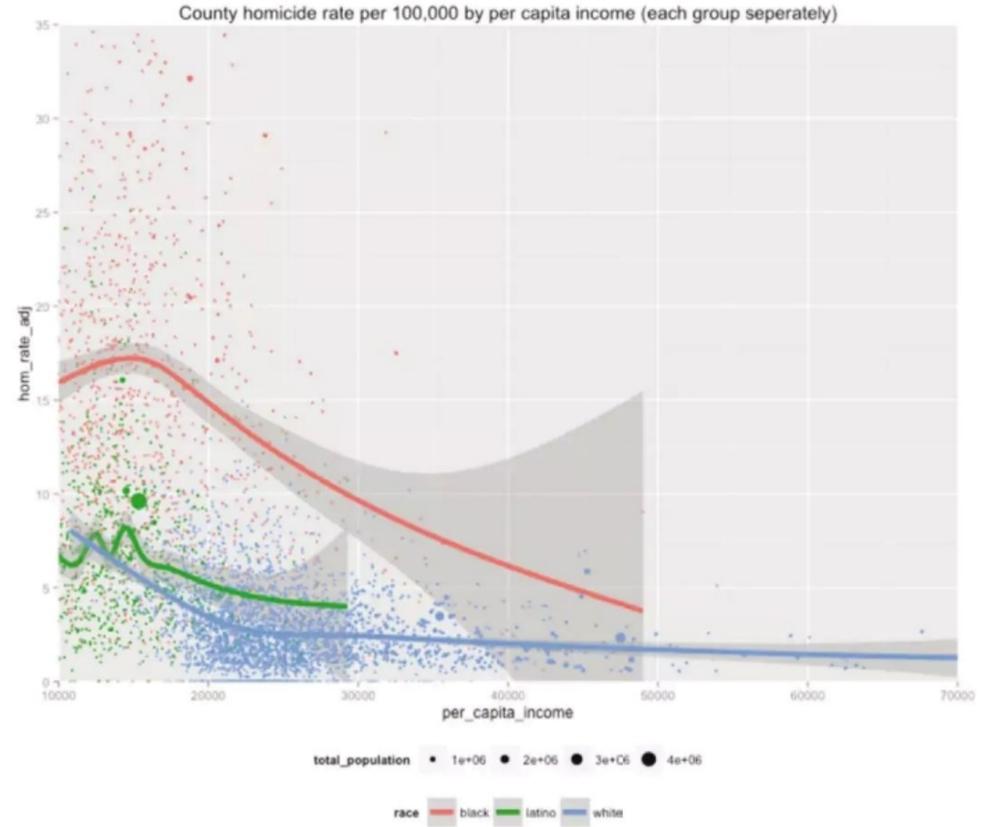
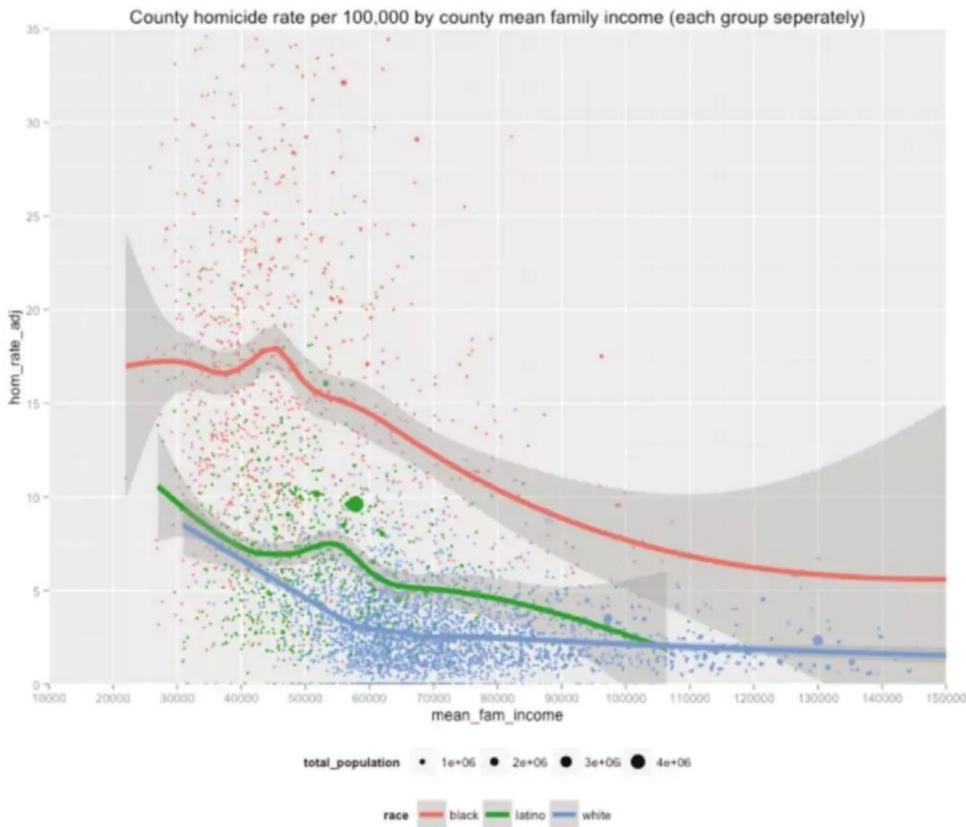
in the United States, we must do two things:

- Increase the ratio of families with a father present across all racial demographics, and,
- Figure out why Black families are disproportionately likely to have no father present as compared to other ra-

cial demographics and fix that.

That's the solution to homicide. The answer screams at you from the numbers. Families matter.

Did modern feminism and no-fault divorce increase the number of single mothers? Possibly. Is the increase in single motherhood in the country related



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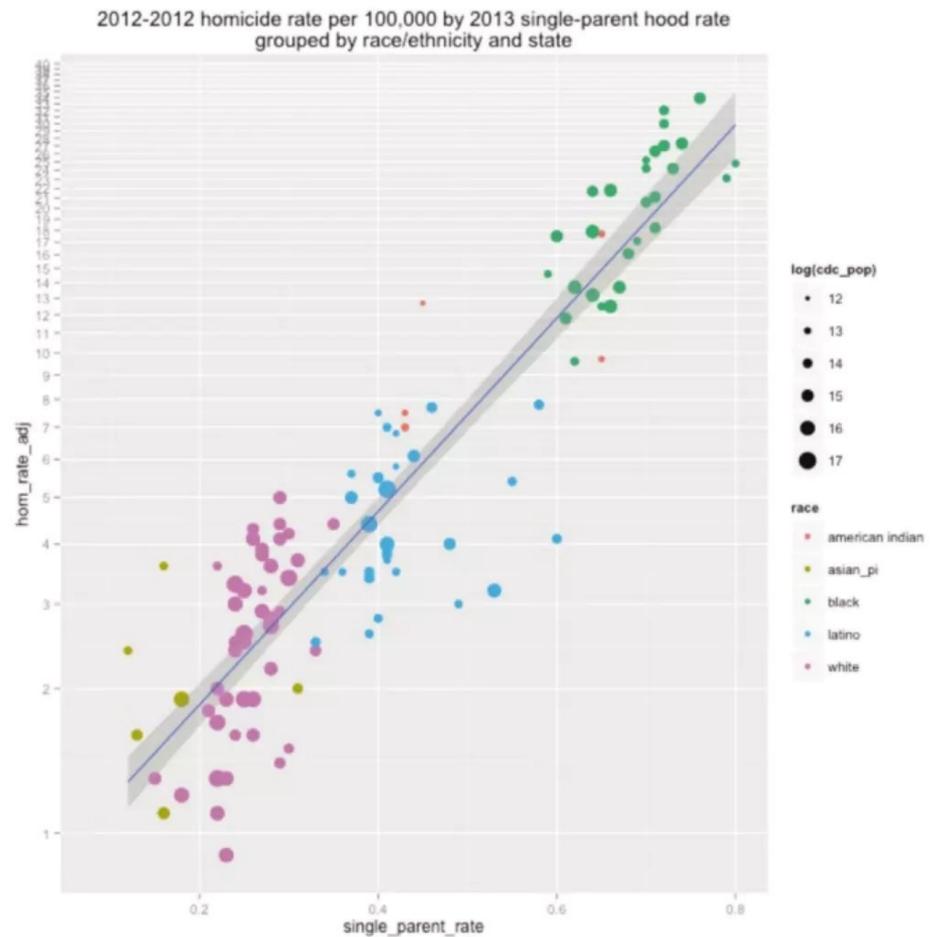
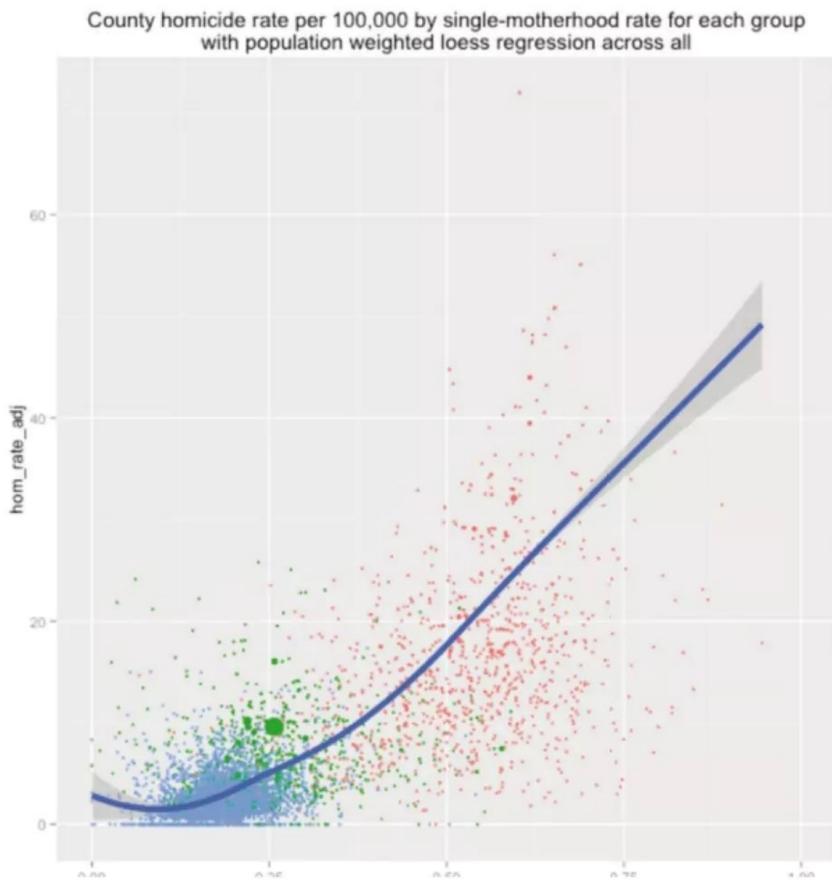
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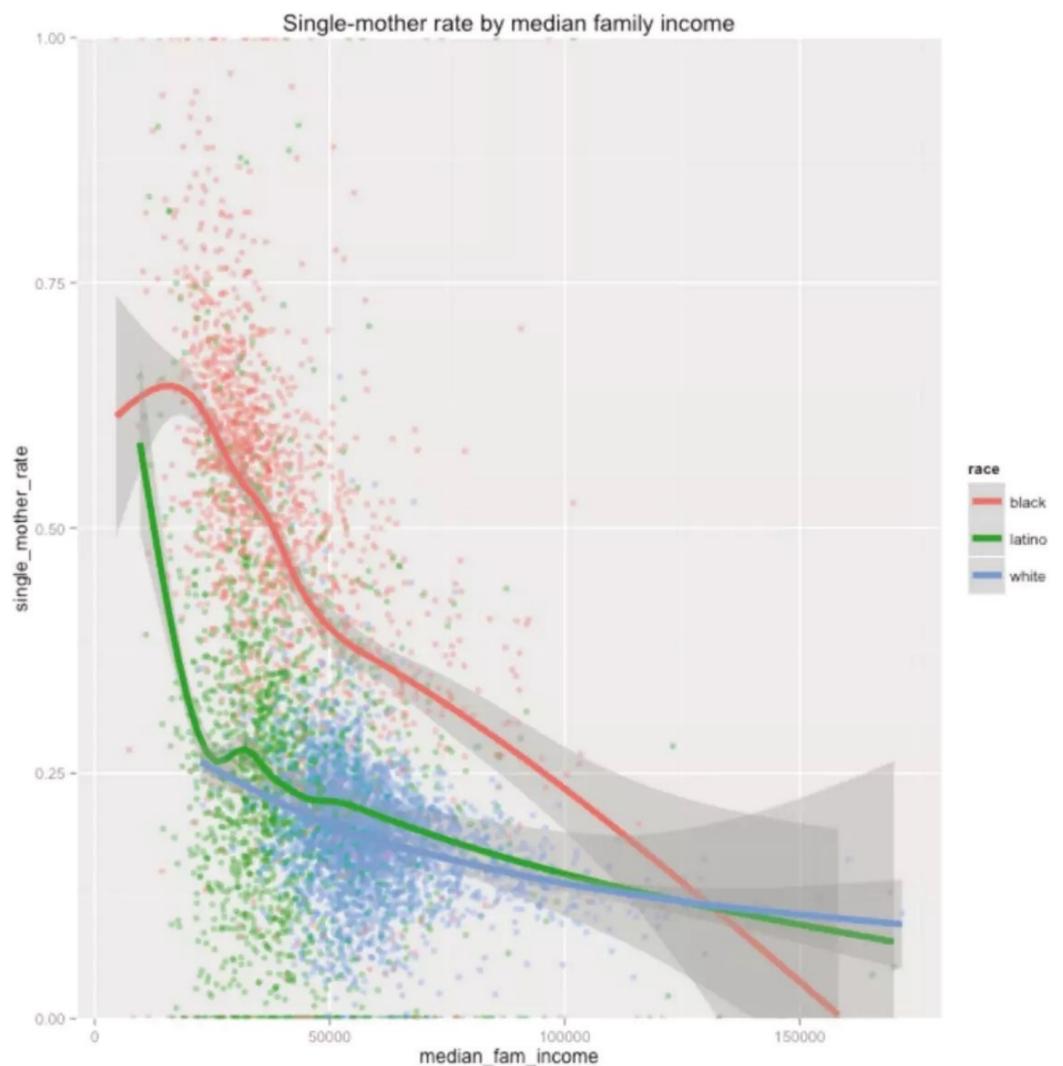
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to falling religiosity? Assuredly. Did falling religiosity disproportionately affect the Black community? Possibly. Are there cultural pressures within the Black community that leave more Black women without men in the house to help raise children? Possibly. Are those exacerbated by disproportionate incarceration, the prison industrial complex, and the school to prison pipeline? Assuredly. Are they exacerbated by the drug war, by distrust of police in the Black community, and by Black men and boys resolving disputes directly in honor-culture style duels instead of through official channels that they don't trust? Assuredly.

Could societal messaging praising traditional family units instead of praising go-it-alone mothers help? Possibly. Could similar messaging praising faithful fathers also help? Possibly. Could prison reform, enforcement reform, and drug law reform help? Assuredly. Could a revival of Black community churches or similar institutions help, as both a way to strengthen Black families and provide alternate dispute resolution for beefs? Assuredly. Should liberal organizations campaign to end the family unit? Assuredly not.

Would it help if the Black commu-



nity trusted the police and courts as an honorable and fair arbiter of disagreements, so they no longer resolved them in combat as honor cultures often do? Yeah, but how the hell do we do that?

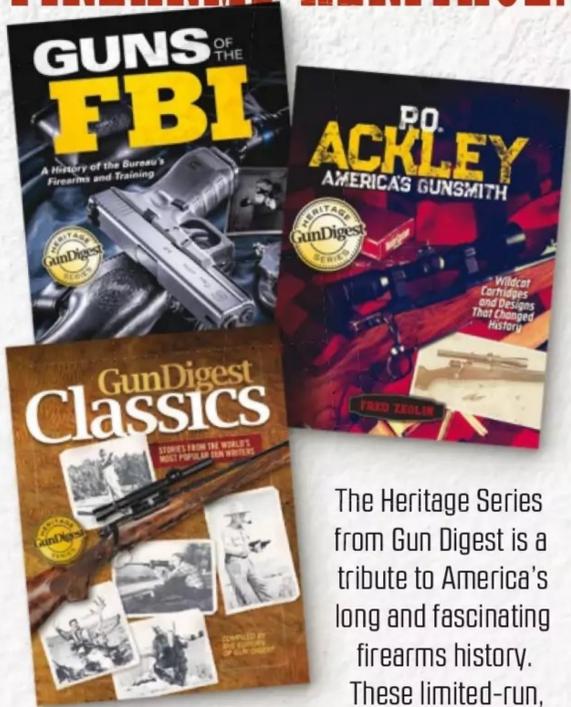
How do I, a rural white dude banging away on a keyboard, affect any of this stuff?

This is the hard work nobody's do-

ing. This is the hard discussion nobody's having. This is why nothing gets fixed. This is why Moms Demand Action makes all the money and nobody's ever heard of Black Fathers Matter. Because the latter organization doesn't exist, and if it did, the rich white female Brady Campaign donors wouldn't donate.

"It's the guns." Yeah, right. **GDTM**

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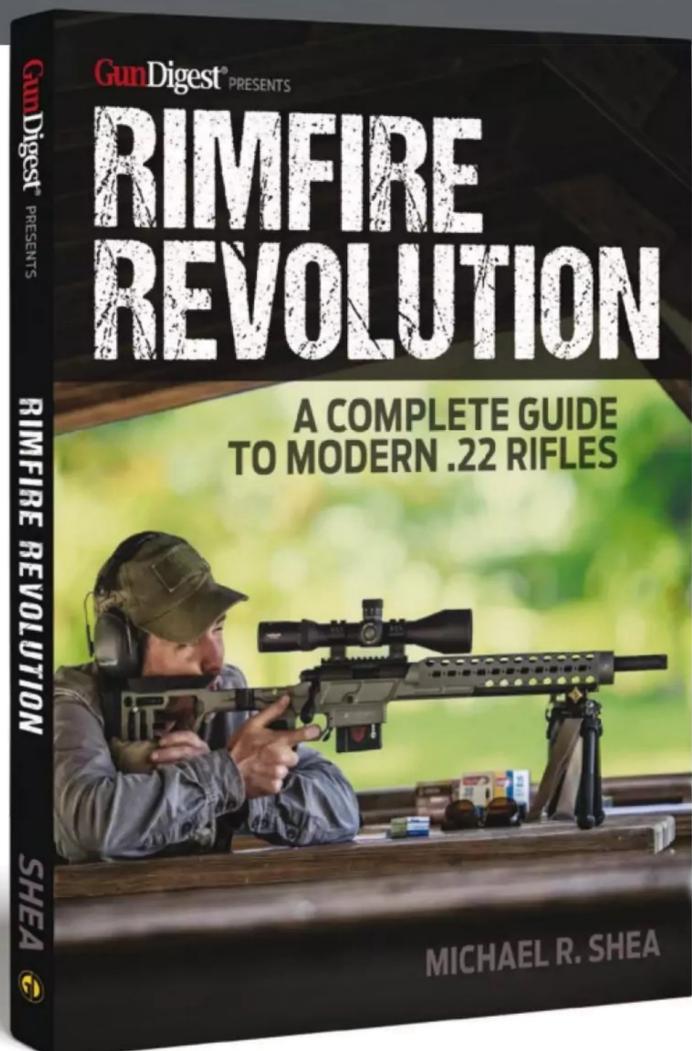
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This scene has played out innumerable times. A new shooter or hunter is at a campfire or gun counter, going down the rabbit hole we all know well. A question arises, which gun should I get next?

My answer is the list below, 10 guns everyone should experience at some point. However, before you get your pitchforks sharpened and torches lit, this isn't a list of firearms you need for the rest of your life (though you would be well-armed). Think of this as 10 guns you need to get your hands on at some point simply because they are timeless classics.

A WELL-BUILT AR-15

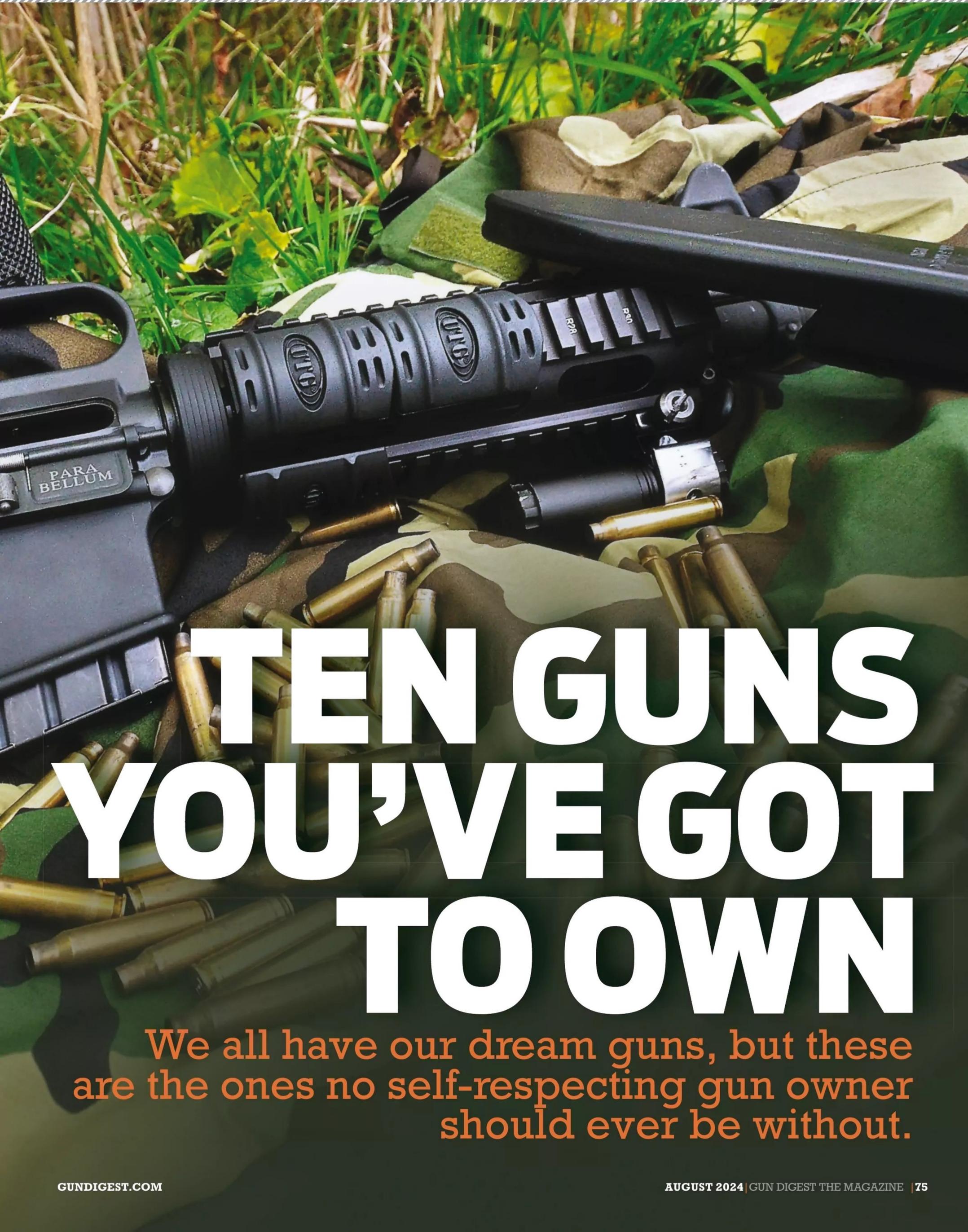
Eugene Stoner blessed us with an absolute classic when he designed the M16/AR-15 platform many years ago. While hundreds of manufacturers have produced the AR in many different iterations, the spectrum is broad and varied. It has been chambered in many different calibers, so I'm referring to a good-quality carbine or rifle variant in .223/5.56 NATO chambering.

What makes the AR-15 so handy? It's lightweight, easy to operate and maintain, and it shoots cheap ammo. From a self-defense standpoint, my AR-15 is the first gun I grab when things go bump in the night. With a standard-capacity magazine of 30 cartridges, it's serious firepower and relatively low recoil for faster follow-up shots. If you told me I could only have one rifle, it would likely be a well-built AR-15 in .223/5.56. Is it the perfect cartridge for taking big game in North America? Absolutely not. Much has been written about shot placement and bullet construction, but I can say that I have taken many whitetails in America and springboks in Africa with this chambering.

Note that I said good quality. There are a lot of great manufacturers, such as FN, Colt, Cobalt Kinetics, Knights Armament Corp., Barrett and Noveske. You can't go wrong with any of these.

The popularity of the AR-15 in America is a double-edged sword. On the one hand, the platform is so modular that most people can build one in the garage. This is fantastic from a modularity standpoint because a rifle that is perfectly set up for me might be the complete opposite of what might work for





TEN GUNS YOU'VE GOT TO OWN

We all have our dream guns, but these are the ones no self-respecting gun owner should ever be without.

Few pistols feel better in hand than a well-built 1911.



you regarding trigger, barrel, stock, gas system, etc. On the other hand, this ease of building leads to some manufacturers putting together the cheapest parts they can source to sell to the consumer.

You want a name brand with a reputation for reliability, accuracy, and quality fit and finish. You don't want a random, cobbled-together rifle you bought at a gun show the morning after a few dudes with a garage FFL slapped it together after polishing off a six-pack. It seems like every election cycle many new AR-15 manufacturers appear out of nowhere. Some are good; others are not so great.

Backup/alternate: Ruger Mini-14—If you live in one of the “ban” states, get a standard Ruger Mini-14 in 5.56/223. While some question this rifle's accuracy, the current production will hang with any off-the-shelf AR-15 variants at the same price point. How accurate? You will still hit a man-sized torso steel target out to 400 yards all day and will certainly maintain 2 MOA with good ammo. Accuracy like that is more than acceptable for anything I will ask of such a rifle.

1911 HANDGUN

Over a hundred years ago, the legendary John Moses Browning—a genius in busi-

ness and firearms design—began the development of a semi-automatic handgun for military trials that resulted in several successful designs. Still, the one that the U.S. military would adopt would be the model of 1911 produced by Colt.

It should come as no surprise that a significant contributing factor to the gun's popularity was that multiple generations of service members came home and bought what they were familiar with, leading to the 1911's widespread use.

A well-built 1911 truly is a shooting experience to behold. But, like the AR-15, popularity leads to a wide range of offerings. It can't be stressed enough: Buy quality 1911s. While this may seem snobbish, remember that the 1911 design does not lend itself well to cheap mass production. Because a gun is technically a 1911 design, it is not inherently great.

Start with quality. It will save you time and money in the long run. Where is the line of quality? The baseline offerings from Springfield Armory and Colt are an excellent starting point.

As a good friend of mine (ironically, he's in the UK gun industry) once said, the 1911 is the embodiment of America's pistol. I couldn't agree more with this statement; it's a gun every red-blooded

American should own and enjoy.

Backup/alternate: Browning Hi-Power—The Hi-Power is undoubtedly one of my favorite semi-auto handguns. Some would even argue that it was the natural progression of the 1911 design. You can never go wrong with this classy 9mm semi-auto.

SMITH & WESSON MODEL 29 REVOLVER

In 1955, a match made in heaven was brokered by the god of wheel guns himself, Elmer Keith. Keith was an Idaho big-game hunter and guide and one of our most influential gun writers. He used his pull to bring about a new cartridge designed around what he believed the current .44 Special should have been performance-wise; enter the .44 Remington Magnum cartridge paired with the new Smith & Wesson Model 29 revolver on the N-frame.

It's a big gun, easy to control and versatile. Keith was an avid handgun hunter and rancher. The .44 Mag. was designed with his needs in mind. You can do it all with the classic 4-inch barrel configuration (my preferred variant).

While the .44 Magnum cartridge is a reloader's dream, if you don't handload, there is a wide assortment of .44 Magnum and .44 Special factory loads commercially available to cover everything from hunting to self-defense. If I'm in the woods or on the water, my Model 29 is on my hip. I wear mine in a Simply Rugged pancake-style holster called the Sourdough. The holster distributes the weight of this massive boat anchor of a handgun. But once you get used to the weight, you will find it a benefit regarding recoil control.

If given the restriction of only being able to own one handgun, a 4-inch blued finish Model 29 would be my choice.

Backup/alternate: Ruger Redhawk—If the Model 29 isn't your speed and you want to be slightly different, go with the Ruger Redhawk. The Redhawk is beefier, heavier and a bit less refined in the trigger department when compared to a pre-lock S&W. The Redhawk is more robust, though, and its weight can be helpful

when shooting heavy loads.

RUGER MKIV .22 PISTOL

After WWII, prolific firearm designer Bill Ruger entered the American gun scene. He was a fan of the Japanese Nambu pistol and its bolt design. In 1949, he introduced the gun known as the Ruger Standard Auto in .22 LR. The Standard Auto was the first generation in a series of pistols currently in the fourth iteration (Mark IV).

So what sets the MKIV apart from the others? The takedown system. Anyone who has owned a Ruger Standard Auto in the first three generations will tell you it's an amazing gun with one major drawback: disassembling it requires black magic, luck and a rubber mallet. It isn't that bad once you learn a few tricks and get used to it, but it certainly was a significant drawback. The latest generation has a button on the back of the frame you push, and the gun hinges open for easy field stripping and cleaning.

The MKIV also has one of the cleanest triggers of any commercially available rimfire pistol today. I love guns that are good to go right out of the box. After properly sighting in an Aimpoint Micro T2 on top of mine, we frequently made hits on a 6-inch gong at 100 yards.

If you live in a freedom-loving state, buy the threaded model and get a suppressor (I highly recommend the Q Erector).

Backup/alternate: Taurus TX22 Competition—The Competition variant is my top pick of the TX22 line as it comes threaded with an optics mounting plate. I will be the first to admit I was not a fan of Taurus for many years, but this is one of the guns that made me a believer that the Taurus of today is an entirely different company putting out high-quality products. I'll purchase one next for backpacking, as it's a bit lighter than the Ruger.

THE RUGER NO. 1 SINGLE-SHOT RIFLE

You won't find an American-made rifle with more class and style than the Ruger No. 1. Get your pith helmets and tweed field coat ready. The brainchild of Bill Ruger and Leonard Brownell, the No. 1 gave Americans a single-shot rifle that is a mashup between classical British and American gun-making styles. Through the years, it has come in many configurations in stainless and blued finishes and everything from varmint rifles to true big-bore safari guns—all built on the same indestructible falling block action.

I like the No. 1A configuration best, a blued half-stock sporter variant with a beautiful Alexander Henry-style forend and banded front sight. The barrel is of light contour, and it makes for a lovely stalking rifle that makes you want to glass red stags in the Scottish highlands

or kudu through the mopane brush.

They aren't winning any awards in the accuracy department, but some of my Ruger No. 1s are the most accurate rifles I have ever owned. That said, others needed a little love and were picky on ammo. My current No. 1A in .275 Rigby (7x57 Mauser) will shoot an honest 3/4-inch three-shot group all day long from a cold bore with 140-grain Nosler Accubonds. With most other factory ammo, it's a 1.5 MOA gun. Is it going to beat any accuracy records? Absolutely not! Am I pleased with it, and will it suit my needs? Absolutely yes! What level of accuracy do you expect and need? My No. 1A in .275 Rigby is a stalking rifle for medium-sized game, and I am taking shots 250 yards and closer. For my needs, the rifle works perfectly fine.

Backup/alternate: Browning 1885—The Browning 1885 is equally classic; if having an exposed hammer is more your speed, this is the route you want to go. It's also one of John Browning's masterpieces.

THE REMINGTON 870 PUMP SHOTGUN

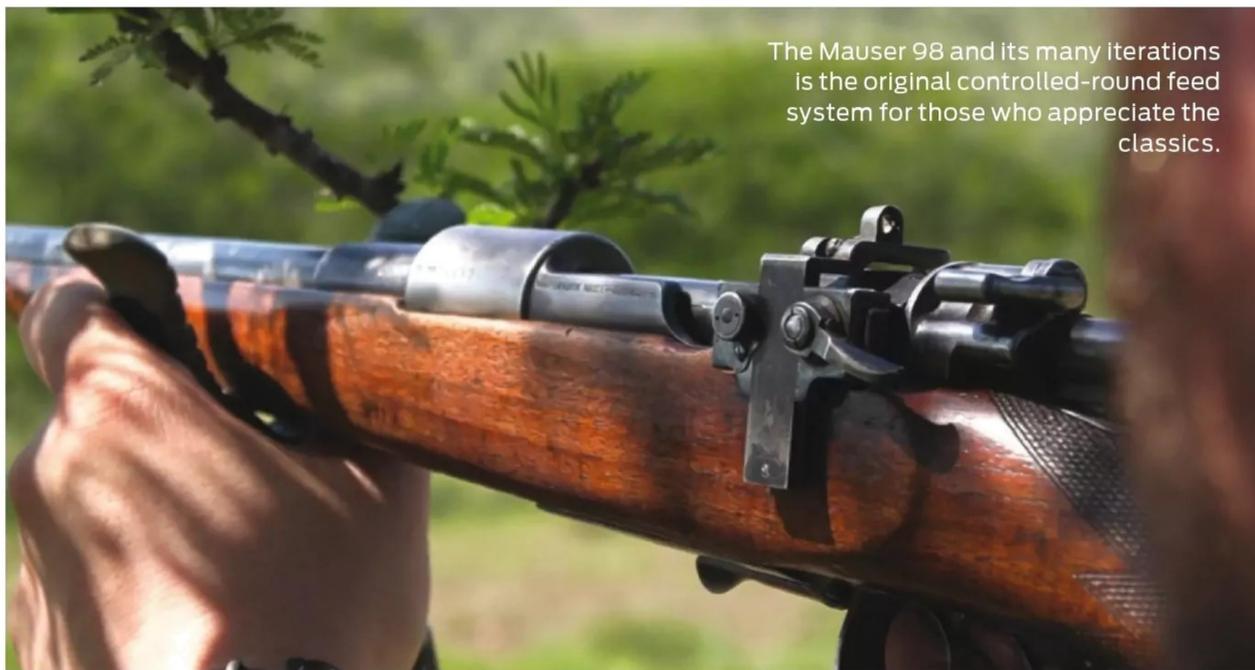
If you ever want to experience a pump-action shotgun, buy a Remington 870. With production numbers in the millions, if you ask most people about their first pump-action shotgun, it was likely an 870.

The 870 is the literal definition of a workhorse; it's so reliable that it's boring. But this rugged pedestrian reliability has a charm all of its own. I am constantly adding guns to my collection, but one thing has stayed constant throughout my years of wheeling and dealing: I have always owned at least one 12-gauge Remington 870. An 18-inch cylinder bore barrel is an excellent home defense option to complement my defensive carbine and handguns. With a regular 28-inch hunting barrel installed, I give it to every new shooter and hunter who joins me in the field. If a buddy shows up to a hunt without a gun, I hand them an 870.

My advice when looking for one: if you are OK with only shooting 2¾-inch shells, find an older Wingmaster model. The 870



Elmer Keith was right. The ultimate packing and do-all field revolver is a 4-inch Model 29 .44 magnum.



The Mauser 98 and its many iterations is the original controlled-round feed system for those who appreciate the classics.

Wingmaster has a lighter receiver and generally a better fit and finish than the Express line of guns. The best part? A used Remington 870 of any variety is generally one of the best values on the market. And if you don't like buying used, they are back in production. Given its popularity over the years, parts are everywhere and not going anywhere anytime soon. Servicing or swapping out 870 parts will be affordable and accessible for generations.

Backup/alternate: Winchester Model 12—While it doesn't have the aftermarket support of the Remington 870 and hasn't been in production for decades, the Winchester Model 12 pump action is for those who love the classics. No pump action has a tactile lockup as satisfactory as a well-worn Winchester model 12.

WINCHESTER MODEL 70 BOLT-ACTION RIFLE

In 1936, Winchester did something extraordinary: It listened to seasoned gun writers and the American shooting community and gave us the best bolt-action American sporting rifle ever produced, the Model 70.

American soldiers returning from WWI got a taste for bolt-action rifles, and Winchester responded in 1925 with the Model 54. While the Model 54 was terrific by the standards of its day, it could use a few tweaks. The main issue was that it was introduced when most American shooters were still shooting iron sights, and the bolt handle's shape and flag safety did not lend themselves well to optics.

Fast-forward 11 years to 1936, when

Winchester introduced the model 70, a very refined Model 54. This time, Winchester hit the nail on the head. The Model 70 was named the "Rifleman's Rifle" for good reason.

There are three main categories of Winchester Model 70. (Collectors, you can put your pitchforks away as I'm giving the CliffsNotes version of the generations.) The most desirable from a collectible standpoint is the pre-'64 series. This is a 1936-1964 production. These rifles had controlled-round feed bolts and are considered the gold standard among American-made bolt guns. Then you have post-'64 push-feed rifles. These went through multiple generations but are generally characterized by the lack of a Mauser-type claw extractor. Next came the post-'64 controlled-round feeds. These are produced today and are called such because though production is post-'64, they have a Mauser-type claw extractor found on the pre-'64 guns.

Literal volumes have been written over the years, arguing the merits and benefits of each series. I will let you in on a secret, though: They're all great. Even the post-'64 push-feed Model 70s, which don't hold the serious collector value of the earlier guns, are amazing deals and generally very accurate rifles. The pre-'64 models are a throwback to the best in American gun making, but they aren't any more accurate than later generations. A current production Winchester Model 70, produced by FN, is on my short list of firearms I can't wait to snag next.

Backup/alternate: Mauser 98—This one

deserves an article all of its own, but rest assured, anything prewar commercial Mauser or postwar FN on a commercial Mauser action is generally a great gun.

BROWNING A5 SEMI-AUTO SHOTGUN

The Browning A5 was in production for almost a century. What's funny about this shotgun is that it's the model that put FN on the map. When John Browning offered the design to Winchester, his long-time partner, it declined to buy it, stating that the automatic shotgun would not sell. So, he brought the design to a little-known, small Belgian firearms manufacturer, FN (Fabrique Nationale), and the rest is history.

The A5 is highly recognizable from its "humpback" design, housing a long recoil operating system that oozes classic cool and makes you want to wear waxed canvas in a duck blind. Like many popular shotgun designs, it has gone through multiple iterations and has been produced in 12-, 20- and 16-gauge.

The Browning A5 variant that makes me smile the most is the Sweet 16. If there ever was a true classic American auto-loader that defined wingshooting upland birds, this was it. It's the one I pick for most of my wingshooting, from doves to Canada geese and everything in between. The Sweet 16 sports an actual 16-gauge-sized frame. Sometimes, when a gun company wants to introduce a 16-gauge, it puts a 16-gauge barrel and parts on a 12-gauge receiver. That takes away the advantage of running a 16-gauge which, to me, is lighter weight.

Like the Winchester post- and pre-'64 Model 70s, the Browning A5 has two main series—Belgian-made and later Japanese-made. The Belgian ones bring more money and have a higher collector value, but the Japanese-produced A5s are every bit as good, if not better, mechanically. Buy the one you can strike a deal on and take it in the field; they are all great.

Backup/alternate: Remington Model 11—While it was not in production for as many years, Remington had a license to produce the Browning design. These Model 11s do not have interchangeable

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If you are interested in hunting big game anywhere in the world, get a Winchester Model 70. It's the gold standard to which other bolt-action hunting rifles are held.

The Winchester Model 12 epitomizes the gentleman's pump gun.



parts with the Browning A5 but look similar and are rock solid. The 12-gauge models can generally be had for a steal.

MARLIN 39

I can remember this moment as clearly as day. I was maybe 11, and my mom brought us into town. Naturally, I found my way to the gun magazines and started reading. I can't remember the publication or author, but there it was, the Marlin 39 in a featured piece. The photo had a Marlin 39 .22 rifle set against some barnboard with a red plaid hunting jacket, a Case trapper pocket knife, a brass compass, a few traps, and a fox tail. I was immediately taken in by what I read about this classic American rimfire rifle. I had to have one.

Unfortunately, I soon found out that the Marlin 39s have quite the following, but I would not end up with my first one until I was a freshman in college. I then proceeded to hunt small game every weekend I legally could, and it was a constant companion on the trapline and on summer camping trips.

What made this rifle so handy with such appeal? For starters, it was a shooter. I only have a peep sight on mine, but putting 10 shots into a quarter-sized group at 50 yards is easily achievable. The Marlin 39 is not a "youth"-sized rifle. It is a full-sized gun that happens to be chambered in .22 LR. These guns are not lightweight in the standard configuration by any means, but

if you are Sasquatch-sized like me, you will appreciate the full size. Working the action feels like you are winding the finest precision pocket watch.

Here's the best part, it's a takedown. Remove one captive screw in the receiver, and the rifle breaks in half for easy transport or cleaning. I carry mine in a Skinner takedown rifle bag, and away it goes into the field.

Marlin produced this rifle for over a century before the company's recent sale to Ruger. I hope Ruger brings it back, as it is my favorite lever-action rimfire ever produced.

Backup/alternate: Winchester 9422—While not a takedown, this alternate gets an honorable mention as it's a great rifle to add to the collection. The Winchester 9422 is a classic and came in a .22 WMR variant.

WINCHESTER 94 LEVER-ACTION RIFLE

The end of the 19th century was a wild time for gun design. John Browning wanted to make a lever-action rifle chambered in the then-new smokeless rifle cartridges. He used the locking system that was already a success from the 1886 and 1892 models and adapted it into what we now have as the Model 94.

The Model 94 is the quintessential brush gun. The standard 20-inch barrel carbine configuration, chambered in .30-30 Win., has put deer in the cooler

for over a century. There is no other rifle I can think of that is as comfortable to carry. If you want to experience a fantastic brush gun that is relatively low recoil, lightweight, handy and quick to shoulder, the Winchester 94 should be the first gun you try.

The 94 was in production until 2006, when Winchester closed its New Haven plant. Luckily for us, Browning, which now owns Winchester, is producing them again at the Miroku plant in Japan, and they are as good as the older ones.

Backup/alternate: Marlin 336—While the Marlin 336 does not have the longevity and Old West mystique of the Winchester 94, it is arguably a better rifle in some regards. That's especially true if you wish to mount a magnified optic. The Winchester 94 is not forgiving regarding optics mounting options due to the top eject receiver, unless you get the angled eject variant, whereas the Marlin 336 has a side ejection port and a solid top receiver. The deciding factor between these two should be whether you wish to mount an optic.

CONCLUSION

While you should never restrict yourself to 10 guns, these are the ones you should consider owning and shooting at some point. Remember, they're best experienced in the field and range. A gun in a safe doesn't build nearly as many memories as one that gets shot and carried. **GDTM**

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Neo Noir: The Diamondback SDR in .357 Magnum.

Diamondback has been in the manufacturing space for decades and producing their own firearms since 2009. A believer in American production, Diamondback Firearms brings groundbreaking designs to market (a 5.7mm PDW, the DB57, was featured on the cover of sister pub RECOIL Magazine Issue 53) in quantity and at prices people can afford.

Diamondback started their revolver journey a couple years ago with what

many would consider a toy: the Sidekick series of .22 wheel guns. Instead of six rounds, they take nine. Instead of one caliber, they come with two cylinders (.22 LR and .22 WMR).

The folks at Diamondback took some lessons learned there to bring us their latest: the Self-Defense Revolver (SDR)

DETAILS

In late 2021, lead designers Stuart Braudrick and Dave McCabe began

sketching out their self-defense revolver concept. The SDR idea emerged from collaborative brainstorming; inspired by traditional wheel guns, but enhanced by modern innovation for performance and aesthetics. Since those early days, many team members at Diamondback have contributed to the refinement and success of the SDR.

The Diamondback SDR you see on these pages is technically a preproduction, but only just technically. There are



The cylinder release is a simple push button and very smooth.

no anticipated changes between our example and the one on the shelf in your local shop; the difference mostly comes down to ours not coming with a manual.

Firearms manufacturers often use code words. “Tactical” means that it comes in matte black or baby poop brown. Marketed to women? Shrink it and pink it. Self-defense? Ugly or unrefined, but with claimed reliability. The SDR has self-defense right in the name, but it’s far from crude.

What is the Diamondback SDR? A gun that looks like a classic Smith & Wesson J-frame in the hand. But instead of five shots, there are six. Instead of .38 Special, it’s .357 Magnum. Instead of a basic blade sight, there are dovetailed fiber-optics.

The stainless-steel is smooth, beautiful, and highly polished (enough to make taking pictures of it a pain!). And it’s all finished off with a Diamondback-marked Hogue rubberized grip.

But if you don’t like Hogue, no worries. The Diamondback SDR is compatible with J-frame grips so you go as classy or as trashy as you’d like.

TRIGGER

The universal comment of the SDR while on the range was about how excellent the trigger is. Diamondback describes the trigger as match grade, but that’s underselling it—it’s downright indulgent. The trigger doesn’t stack; there’s no sudden weight increase at the end.

However, you can feel a “stop” before the break, not unlike a good Smith & Wesson trigger. It’s immediately recognizable and consistent. All told, the double-action pull is a smooth 10 pounds. If you thumb the hammer back for a single-action shot, you’re gifted with an extremely short (measured in the hundredths of an inch) pull that breaks just a hair under 3 pounds. The SDR might just be the best factory snubby trigger out of the box. You can do better, but you’ll have to go custom to do it.

CONTROLS

One of the nice parts about developing something new is that you get to make some decisions. Controls can be a funny thing, and a great many debates have been had about push-versus-pull cylinder releases. Diamondback said screw those, and instead of copying Smith or Colt, we commend Diamondback for aping Ruger’s push-button release.

But there’s another curious button on the right side, just above and forward of the trigger. This one is for removing the

The OEM fiber-optic sights are bright, eye-catching, and easy to track under recoil.

cylinder entirely, a trick Diamondback learned with their Sidekick. While someday Diamondback may sell spare cylinders (we had visions of using them for rapid reloads just like on some 19th century single-actions), this is mostly for ease of cleaning and other maintenance.

As a nice note, with the cylinder not in place (either for reloading or removed), both the trigger and hammer lock up.

CALIBER

The .357 Magnum was developed in the early 20th century essentially as a hot-rod .38 Special. Because the newer .357 has more ass than the parent cartridge, the brass gained an extra eighth of an inch to prevent chambering in older guns. By nature of design, ammunition fired from revolvers performs under their potential; a great deal of gas escapes in the gap between the cylinder and barrel (and also the reason why revolvers, unless modified very particularly, are



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terrible with silencers).

To really see the advantages of .357 Magnum over .38 Special from a revolver, you need a barrel length of 4 inches or more. Or put another way, a barrel twice as long as the SDR. Granted, more is still more—but along with that marginal velocity increase from a short barrel, the flash and felt recoil also ramp up considerably.

While the typical plan for a .357 revolver is to practice with .38 Special and carry the Magnum, here it's probably best to carry a stout .38 +P round instead (but keep some .357 on-hand for range time with friends).

One of the advantages of revolvers in general is that the ammunition selection doesn't matter as much in terms of function of the firearm. You can feed it everything from underpowered shotshells to supercharged magnums without complaint.



HOLSTERS & ACCESSORIES

Holsters are a continual problem for new guns in general, but frankly it's not so bad when it comes to revolvers. While you might get the Diamondback SDR into a Kydex or other thermoplastic holster meant for a five-shot .38 Special, you can definitely get one inside the great many leather options out there.

And even still, while we wouldn't be the first ones to advocate for a clip-type holster for a semi-auto, it can be a different story when it comes to revolvers. While the trigger on the Diamondback SDR is incredibly smooth, it still takes a double-digit pull and a considerable amount of travel to touch it off when in double-action mode. Which is to say, these guns are much safer (rather than

The SDR accepts J-frame grips but the OEM Hogue is very nice.

(Left) The cylinder disconnect is just above and forward of the trigger. It's easy and you'll never hit it by accident.

(bottom left): A universal Clip-Draw works with the SDR but certainly isn't aesthetic.

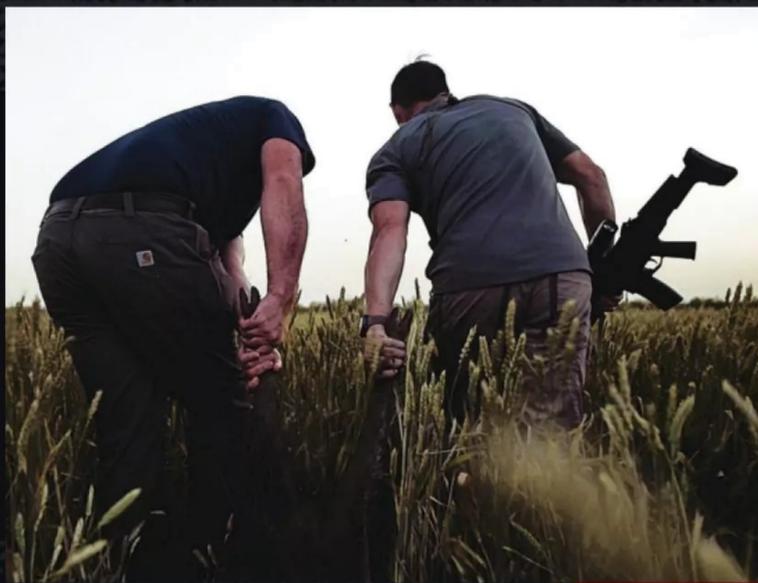


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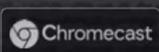
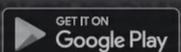
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SPECS

MANUFACTURER: Diamondback

MODEL: SDR

WEB: DiamondbackFirearms.com

CALIBER: .357 Magnum

WEIGHT UNLOADED: 21.2 ounces

MAGAZINE CAPACITY: 6

OVERALL HEIGHT: 4.44 inches

BARREL LENGTH: 2 inches

OVERALL LENGTH: 6.53 inches

MSRP: \$777

HKS DS-A speedloaders work great, and of course speed strips can be used too.

“safe”) than striker-fires inside the pants, purse or pocket even if the trigger ends up exposed.

While the SDR fits a great many things intended for the J-frame, the ClipDraw itself isn't one of them because of dissimilar screw placement (though they have a universal with 3M adhesive—which might be worthwhile if you prep it properly). As the SDR accepts J-frame grips, other options include the DeSantis ClipGrip and the Barami Hip-Grip.

No, there are no provisions for weapon-mounted lights on this one. But yes, you can still get one in the form of weird grips like the Hyskore. Laser grips like Crimson Trace will also work but you may have to look elsewhere for ones that bolt to the frame.

If you're not a fan of the fiber-optic sights, Diamondback has already been working with some aftermarket companies to increase your options. A little MRDS would be hot fire, and it certainly wouldn't be difficult to make an adapter.

In terms of reloads, we know the cylinder swap is out (for now) but you still got options. You can use flat speed

strips, which are great in the pocket but universally slow. For speedloaders, the HKS DS-A is compatible, as is the 5 Star D6-357/38, and the Speed Beez for the Kimber K6. Undoubtedly more as well, but these we can confirm.

THE FUTURE & LOOSE ROUNDS

The Diamondback SDR meets or exceeds everything you'd ask for in a snubby. There's just something about a nice revolver, done right. The polished stainless steel of the SDR enhances the *je ne sais quoi*, and even the black rubberized grips in lieu of hardwood seem perfectly in place.

It'd be really great to see a factory dot option in the future, or at the very least an adapter. This gun is practically begging for a bobbed or concealed hammer model, especially with the slick-smooth double-action trigger. And although they don't see as much use in the 21st century, an SDR with a barrel long enough to take advantage of .357

ballistics would be welcome, at least for those who want to play space-cowboy-future-Dirty-Harry, or the hunters among us.

When we asked about these features, Diamondback told us, “All of these are potentials. We are committed to making a name for ourselves in the revolver world, first with the Sidekick two years ago, and now with the SDR. We have no plans to stop.”

No plans to stop? Hot damn—we're here for it. **GDTM**



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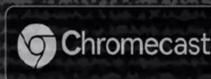
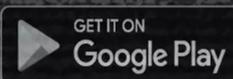
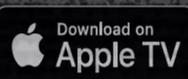
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