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THE MAGAZINE

DECEMBER 2024
VOLUME 41 • ISSUE 13

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OVER!**

How to
Navigate a
Traffic Stop
When You're
Armed

PLUS

Expert Tips:
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KDS9C

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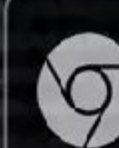
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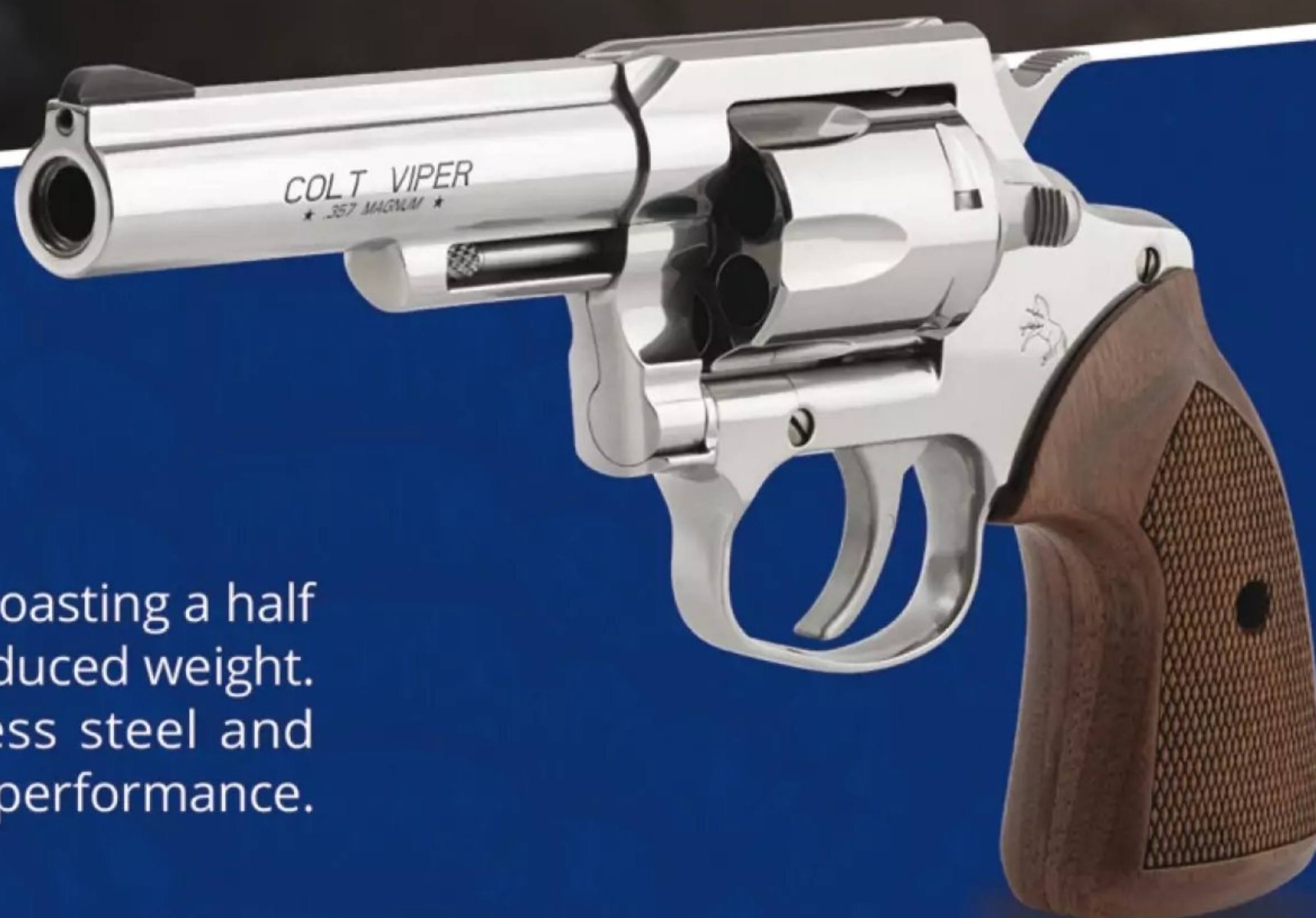


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REFLECT & RELOAD

I don't know what it is about this time of year, but I tend to do a lot more reflecting now than I do while spending time on other pages of the calendar. It makes sense that year-end brings about a natural desire to reflect, but I also do a lot of hunting ... which often leads to an excess of idle time with an idle mind.

A few weeks back I was hunkered against a tree in a deep patch of timber, waiting on a whitetail that was clearly somewhere else: The warm and sunny weather was ideal for comfortable hunting, but less so for actually putting deer on their feet.

I began finger-tracing the color patterns on my rifle's stock (the rifle on the cover of this issue) in an attempt to pass the time, and my mind drifted back to a similar evening nearly 30 years prior, and then to the rifle I carried on that hunt.

That rifle was a Model 70 handed down to me, with all the classic lines that allow any of us gun enthusiasts to instantly pick it out of a gun shop lineup.

And it suddenly struck me how different this gun—a Bergara B-14 Squared

Crest—is compared to the classics fellow stump-sitters carried.

The stock is carbon fiber, not walnut, and shaped dramatically different from the original sporters. It's got QD sling mounts in addition to two sling studs. The bolt and barrel are fluted and matte finished, and the muzzle is threaded.

Heck, even the riflescope looks dramatically different, with no objective bell, and a reticle that would likely give my grandpa something to complain about for at least a year's worth of holiday meals.

So, is all this "evolution" bad? Hell no. It's definitely different, but it's what I would call "contemporary class." A gun like this drives tacks, fills tags and—most importantly—conjures up the same emotions and memories as any Model 70 when I've got it resting in my lap while leaning up against an old cottonwood on a sunny afternoon.

And that's what really matters. **GDTM**

GunDigest

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

GunDigest.com

E-mail us: info@gundigest.com

CARIBOU MEDIA GROUP PUBLISHER

JIM SCHLENDER

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

LUKE HARTLE

MANAGING EDITOR

LAURA PELTAKIAN

ONLINE EDITOR

ELWOOD SHELTON

BOOKS EDITOR

COREY GRAFF

SR. ART DIRECTOR

GENE COO

ART DIRECTOR

KATIA SVERDLOVA

COLUMNISTS

RICHARD MANN, PHIL MASSARO,
ALEX OOLEY, PATRICK SWEENEY

ADVERTISING SALES

ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER

RYAN FARNER

(760) 809-8729

rfarner@recoilweb.com

SENIOR ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

ALEX OSTROWSKI

(920) 212-5677

alex@gundigest.com

SENIOR ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

DAVID FIGG

(813) 418-1060

dfigg@recoilweb.com

SENIOR ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

LORI MCDANIEL

(715) 498-3768

lori@gundigest.com

ADVERTISING ASSISTANT

CHING CORNFORTH

GUN DIGEST MEDIA, LLC

GM/PUBLISHER

GLEN CASTLE

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

JENNIFER SEXSTONE

NETWORK MANAGER

LUKE HARTLE

NEWSSTAND SALES

NPS MEDIA GROUP

rmurray@npsmediagroup.com

Subscription Services

U.S. and Canada: 1 (800) 829-9127

P.O. Box 182

Williamsport, PA 17703

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HISTORICAL NOTES

Likely, the development of the 22 Creedmoor began as far back as 2007, when the 6.5 Creedmoor was introduced, and shooters simultaneously had the notion to neck-down the 6.5 Creedmoor case to accept .224-diameter bullets.

Horizon Firearms of College Station, Texas, claims to have been the first rifle commercial maker to chamber the 22 Creedmoor in early 2014. The company has promoted the wildcat cartridge ever since.

GENERAL COMMENTS

Indeed, the development of the 22 Creedmoor sped up in early 2017, when Hornady introduced 6mm Creedmoor factory ammo, making the step down from .243- to .224-diameter bullets in those cases much more manageable. Getting to 22 Creedmoor from 6 Creedmoor is a straightforward pass through a full-length die.

Also, Alpha Munitions and Peterson Cartridge produce factory 22 Creedmoor brass, and Copper Creek Car-

tridge Co. and Spark Munitions make loaded rounds. The 22 Creedmoor is excellent medicine for predators, and several of the long, heavy bullets are suitable for deer and antelope, where that caliber is legal. A 75-grain 22 Creedmoor, fired in a rifle with a 1:8 twist 24-inch barrel, can achieve an average velocity of 3,450 fps and nearly 1,000 ft-lb of delivered energy at 500 yards.

When starting with 6mm Creedmoor brass, you will need to neck it down to produce 22 Creedmoor. The 6 Creedmoor starts out at a neck diameter of approximately 0.271 inch, and a loaded 22 Creedmoor will end up at

about 0.254-0.255 inch with Hornady brass. Neck-turning will make it closer to 0.252 inch. You can use a full-length sizing die to go from 6mm to .22 caliber in one step. If you use bushings, you will want to neck down in two steps, starting with a 0.260-inch bushing on the first pass and finishing with a 0.250-inch die. **GDTM**

22 CREEDMOOR LOADING DATA

BULLET (GRAINS/TYPE)	POWDER	GRAINS	VELOCITY	ENERGY	SOURCE
55 V-Max	H4350	41.7	3,817	1,779	Peterson Cartridge
75 Hornady ELD-M	FL	-	3,470	2,039	Copper Creek
80.5 Berger VLD	RL26	41.9	3,323	1,973	Peterson Cartridge
90 Sierra MK	FL	-	3,210	2,071	Copper Creek
95 Sierra HPBT	H1000	40.0	3,012	1,913	Peterson Cartridge



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THE TRAFFIC STOP

Calm, cool and collected.

About 30 years ago, I met one of my best friends during a traffic stop. The first words he ever said to me were, “I have a gun.” During the next few moments, we sorted out the violation—nothing more than an expired tag—and then we had a long conversation about guns. I’m not saying you’re likely to meet your next best friend on a traffic stop, but I can give you some advice to keep you from having a dreadful experience and possibly ruining the rest of your day.

But first, understand this: I live in West Virginia, which is a constitution-

al carry state. Here you do not need a permit to carry a concealed handgun or any loaded firearm in your vehicle. However, firearms laws about vehicle transport and notification to law enforcement officers vary. So, you should verify the advice I’m providing with a law enforcement professional or attorney in your jurisdiction.

Patrolman Will McGuire is a police officer in my hometown of Princeton. He’s also a hunter, supporter of the Second Amendment and one of the most talented police marksmen I know. It’s been a few years since I was in uniform and routinely interacting

with the citizenry, so I asked Will for his five most important pieces of advice for those of us who are armed and involved in a traffic stop.

ABOUT YOUR HANDS

“Keep your hands visible during the officer’s initial approach and roll all windows completely down on the approach side of the vehicle.”

This seems straightforward, but let me add some context: Police officers have been trained to watch your hands; when they can see them, they’re more at ease. Also, not every cop will come to the driver-side window, but they do like to be able to see inside the car as they approach. Don’t be digging around in the glove box, console or anywhere else inside the vehicle during this time. Put your hands on the wheel and leave them there. The police officer will be happy for your consideration and will gladly provide you with ample time to secure your necessary credentials. If you’re digging around in your car like a dog looking for a bone, you’re going to put the officer’s spidey senses on edge.

FULL DISCLOSURE

“Quickly and calmly make the officer aware that there is a lawfully possessed firearm present in the vehicle.”

Cops don’t like surprises. If you advise them there’s a gun in your vehicle they’ll not be as startled as they would be if they happen to see it. This could prevent undue agitation, yelling ...



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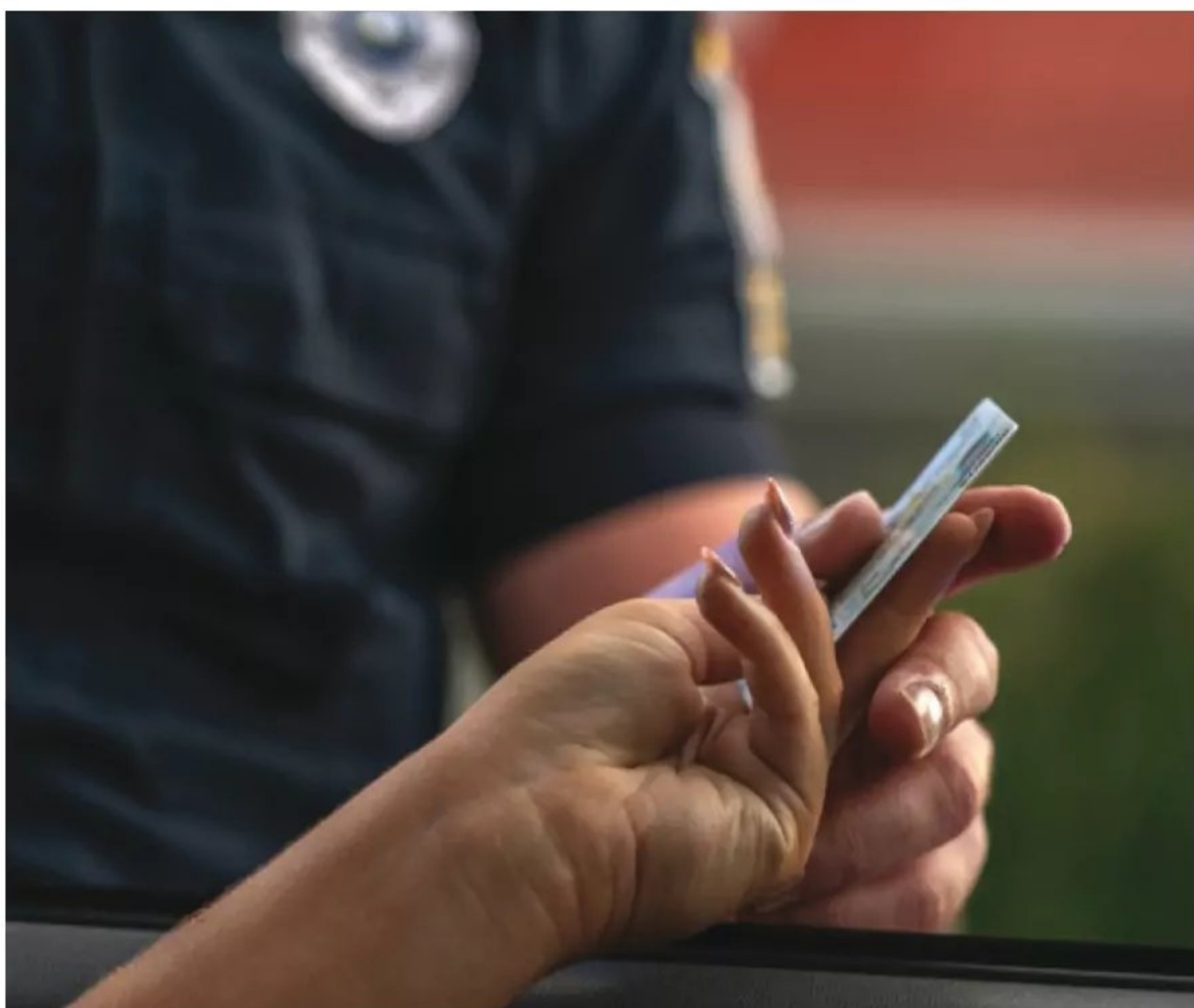
**CLEAR IN ANY
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**BATTLE-READY
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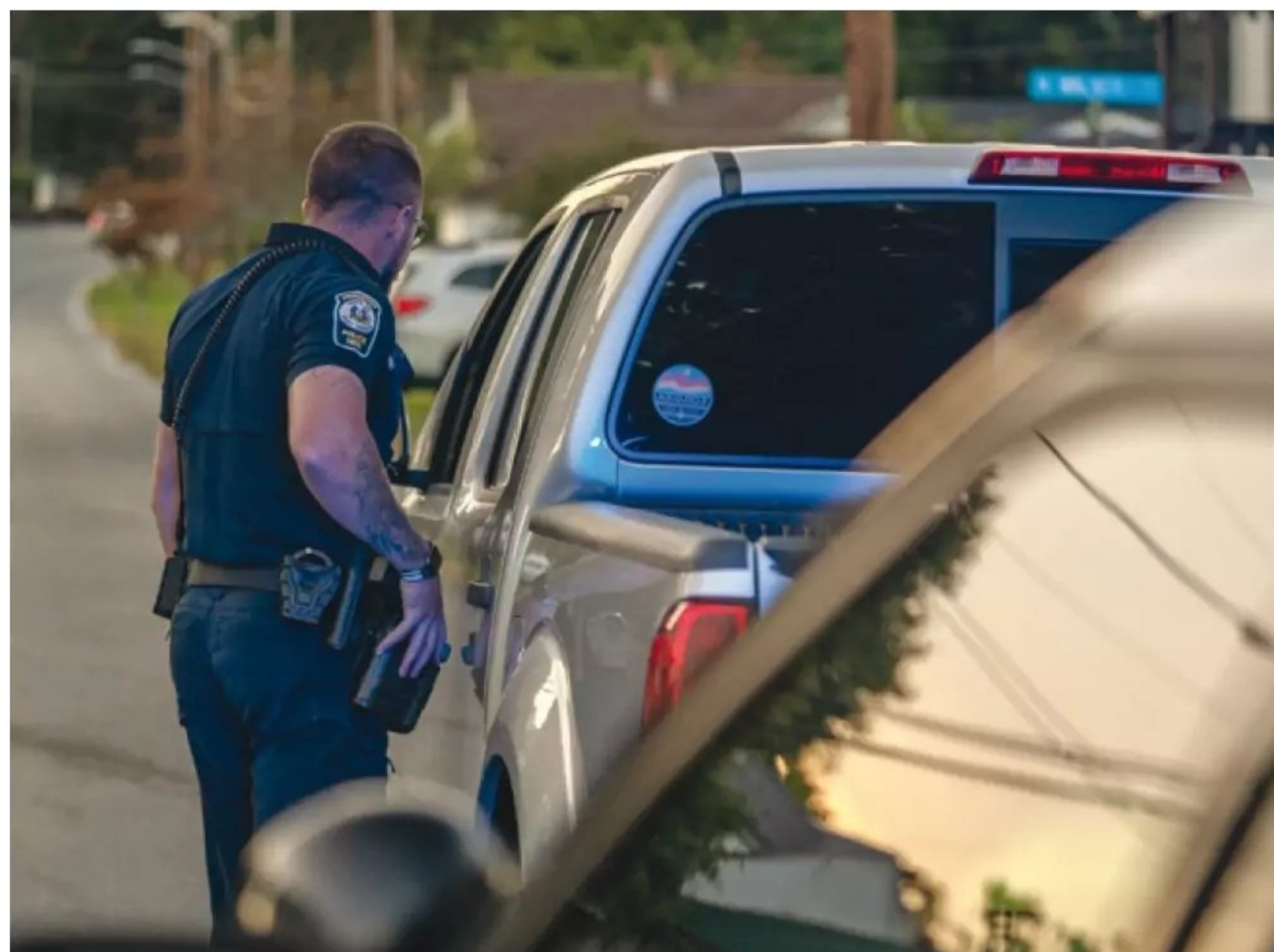
THE ROMEO-X ENCLOSED

OUT NOW



(Left) Drivers, whether carrying concealed or not, should have their documents readily available to give to an officer conducting a traffic stop.

(Right) Cops have a code of conduct to follow during a traffic stop, and drivers—especially those carrying a concealed handgun—should as well.



and the officer from pointing his gun at you. Also, while the disclosure that you're legally armed does not convince a cop you'll not shoot him, it does convey a sense of cooperation. When the officer arrives at your car—while keeping your hands on the wheel—simply say something like, “Officer, I have a concealed carry permit and a loaded handgun with me.” Then, tell the officer where the gun is located.

FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS

“Follow all orders quickly and without discussion or hesitation. The officer might instruct you to step out of the car briefly while he secures your weapon. Do as instructed and the officer will return your weapon—probably unloaded—at the conclusion of the stop.”

One thing I learned during my 13 years on the street is that of all the contacts a police officer has, the traffic stop has the highest probability of going awry. There are several reasons for this, but the main contributing factor is that it's a common and non-confrontational contact that comes with a high probability of encountering unexpected illegal activity. Aside from drunk drivers who want to circumvent detection, officers routinely run into individuals with felony warrants. If the police officer momentarily secures your weapon, there's no chance he will assume you're *going for it* during the traffic stop.

Also, in this new age of cell phone cameras, there's a popular trend for drivers to record police interactions and sometimes become argumentative about things like reasonable articulable suspicion and probable cause. You have the right to act in any way you desire, but the police officer is also permitted reasonable action to ensure their safety. The best way to make a traffic stop go bad is to interfere with the officer's attempts to conduct the stop *safely*. When it's all said and done, if you're unhappy with how the officer treated you, file a complaint or a lawsuit. It's a hell of a lot safer to fight these things in court than on the street.

LICENSE AND REGISTRATION

“Have your documents up to date and easily accessible. Be sure your carry permit is current and with you.”

We're all guilty of not having our poop grouped properly. We participate in traffic stops so rarely that we neglect to have our registration, insurance and license ready and handy for the officer to review. Just take 5 minutes out of your day tomorrow and get your stuff together. Then, store it in your car where you can easily access it. (If you keep your gun in the glove box or console, don't keep your papers in the same place.) I like to have a photocopy of my driver's license and carry permit with my registration and insurance. Sure, the

cop will likely ask for the originals, and then allow you to dig them out of your wallet, but you will have provided him—nearly instantly—with all the information he needs.

KEEP COOL

“Remain calm, you're well within your rights to carry your weapon, and a law enforcement officer is the last person to try to prevent you from doing so.”

This is the hardest and one of the most important things of all that you need to do. During a traffic stop, we're afraid it will cost us money and some of us struggle to deal with the anxiety. The officer will have anxiety, too; traffic stops are terribly dangerous for cops. Calmness is contagious, if you and the cop are both calm, everything will go much smoother. I'd also bet that with most officers—except for the newest and youngest—your calmness and good manners will likely result in a warning for the traffic violation if it was not too serious.

On the other hand, nervous and jittery actions on your part will temper the encounter and can make the meeting uncomfortable. The police officer is doing a job, the easier you make it for him, the better the traffic stop will go for everyone. Don't act like you have a kilo of cocaine under your seat; smile, be friendly ... and you never know what new friend you just might make. **GDTM**

GENERATION

MEETS

INNOVATION



MB47



CENTURY ARMS





THE ODD COUPLE

Embarking on the hunting trip of a lifetime with two unlikely companions: a 6.5 Creedmoor and a 7mm PRC.

WOULD YOU RATHER?

With two teenage girls living under my roof, I get sucked into the occasional game of “would you rather?” It’s not an experience I’d wish upon any grown man, but because I do genuinely enjoy spending time with them (when they’re not trying to maim one another), I’ll play along now and again.

After admitting that I’d rather listen to Rihanna than Taylor Swift—both are forms of cruel and unusual punishment, by the way—I tossed one out to my girls: Would you rather lose an eye or lose a leg? The universal answer was that they’d rather give up a leg than an eye, and I couldn’t agree more: You can always buy a new leg, but seeing ... well, seeing is everything. It’s the last of my senses that I’d ever want to part with.

I mention this seemingly pointless bit of information to highlight my perspective when choosing gear for epic hunts: Seeing is everything. And with my wife attending this trip, I wanted to ensure her visual experience was top-notch ... with the selfish intention of her falling in love with Africa, thus making a return trip that much more likely when I present that inevitable sales pitch to her.

If the pictures in this article didn’t already spoil the punch line, I chose

EOTech scopes for both rifles to make damned sure Mama was happy.

If you Google the company, the slug that pops up right there in the results reads “EOTech: Battle-Proven Optics for Military, Police and Professional Shooters.” They need to get one of their IT guys to get off their butt and update that, because it should read “... and for hunters and shooters who demand perfection from their riflescopes.”



Yes, EOTech's foundation is built upon the optics they developed for military and law-enforcement professionals, and it's clear they learned a lot of cool sh*t along the way ... and folded that knowledge into their hunting riflescopes. The viewing experience is exceptional, they track with perfection, and aside from using your rifle as a club to fend off a charging Cape buffalo, you can't hardly break 'em.

On the Bergara 6.5 Creedmoor, I mounted up the 1-10x28mm Vudu FFP. At the risk of allowing my vanity to show a bit here, I was unsure how much I'd like this riflescope because of its straight-tube design: I once thought scopes without an objective bell always seemed to look ... incomplete. And now ... well, I gotta eat a pile of crow on this one, and it's never tasted so sweet.

After 15 days afield with this scope—in terrain foul with gear-scratching rocks and red dust that seeps into cracks (on the gear on my body) that will never come out, the 1-10x28mm Vudu easily lands on my Top 5 list of favorite scopes ... and I've shot a pile of 'em. There isn't a single thing about it that I don't like, and that includes the look.

I expected for the "modified circle-dot" reticle to take some getting used to, but my wife, Molly, easily picked up the rifle and quickly dropped her fallow stag. I might've teared up (just a little bit) when the Land Cruiser rolled into camp

after her hunt. Unfortunately, not even I can make her smile like that.

I paired the Cascade 7mm PRC with a Vudu X 2-12x40mm EOTech. If I had to pick one to rule them all, the 2-12x configuration is my absolute favorite for all-around hunting: I've got an old Nikon on my slug gun (Nikon used to make some outstanding riflescope glass), one on my go-to muzzleloader, and one on a .300 Winchester Magnum—all in the 2-12x. And I like the Vudu X better than all of them.

I handed the rifle to Richard Mann, who writes for Gun Digest and a pile of other notable gun publications—and who came out of his mother's womb a hard-core cynic. He looked over the scope, then looked through the scope, and said, "I need to get me one of those."

Launched just within the past 18 months, the Vudu X is EOTech's magical concoction that blends the company's innovations with a price tag (\$800-ish) that's as easy to swallow as properly aged elk backstraps. Said another way: I'm not going to take any cheap shots at other brands here, but for what you get in regard to durability, functionality, and glass quality with the Vudu X, you'll have to pay a minimum of \$1,500 for elsewhere.

The scope's style is best described as souped-up simplicity, with capped turrets and an illuminated duplex

reticle—with and without holdover and windage striations.

Oh, yeah: It might sound trivial, but EOTech makes it standard practice to include throw levers on their riflescopes for fast zoom adjustments. I'd personally prefer to never go without one of those ever again.

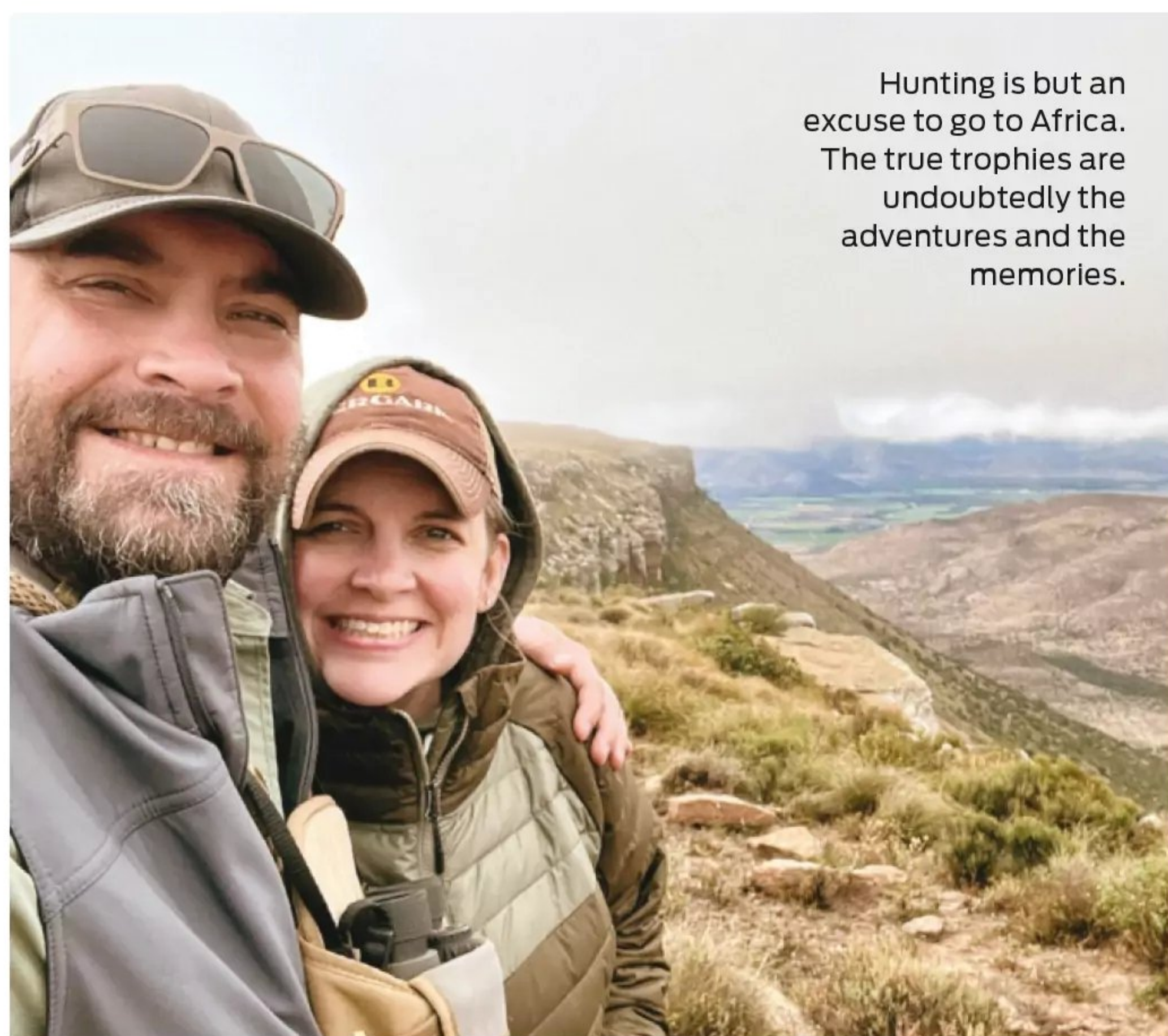
PS: My philosophy worked, by the way. If I ever go back to Africa without my Molly, it's unlikely that she'll be at home when I return. She fell in love with the entire experience (well, minus the 15-hour flight between Atlanta and Johannesburg).

SAFARI POWER

So, I did it: I took two chamberings specifically designed for long-range target work, and I traveled halfway around the world with them ... to hunt.

For this trip, I shouldered a Bergara B14 Squared Crest Carbon, chambered in 6.5mm Creedmoor. With a Silencer Central suppressor, the shot experience was so exceptional that my wife genuinely enjoyed sending each round down-range, and she's not a prolific shooter. The carbon fiber repels dings and scratches, the action seemed to laugh at the challenge of functioning flawlessly while constantly under barrage from red dust ... and Bergara barrels are known for stacking bullets on top of one another.

I know it's uncouth to not bring a



Hunting is but an excuse to go to Africa. The true trophies are undoubtedly the adventures and the memories.





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wood-and-blued rifle to Africa, but some traditions are meant to be broken.

My bigger critter getter was a CVA Cascade Long Range Hunter 7mm PRC. All CVA firearms are fitted with Bergara barrels (read: outstanding accuracy), and the adjustable cheek piece is mandatory—I add a cheek pad, for elevation and not necessarily comfort—to every rifle without an adjustable comb height.

My only asterisk on the performance of this rifle is the weight. At about 8½ pounds naked, the gun is a little heavy; however, that added weight was definitely nice to have when sending a 170-grain bullet out of the muzzle at nearly 3,000 fps.

Also, it might be worth noting that I was consistently called “ungentlemanly” for running this rifle without a suppressor. But I suppose that’s more on me than the rifle, which does come factory threaded.

EFFECTIVE SLEEPING PILLS

Here’s the phrase I use so much that everyone who’s heard it rolls their eyes, but I’m forced to keep using it because so many people don’t listen: The bullet in the chamber will forever be more important than the numbers that are stamped on the outside of the barrel. Read that

again if you have to.

“What rifle ya got there, a .30-06? Oh, it’s a .270 Winchester [insert involuntary eye roll]?” Who cares?! You can kill more effectively with the right bullet in a .270 Win. than with the wrong bullet in a .30-06 ... or even a .300 Win. Mag., for that matter.

With the right bullets, taking a 6.5 Creedmoor and a 7mm PRC to Africa is a picture-collecting adventure. With the wrong bullets, you’ll be paying for a lot of empty blood trails. Target shooters have the luxury of not needing to worry about terminal ballistics. But to hunters, terminal ballistics are as important as aerial ballistics.

Federal has had the Fusion bullet in their lineup for quite a while, and I’ll be the first to stand on an ammo crate and sing the praises of its terminal ballistic accolades. The bonded bullet is a killer, and it’s always shot very accurately. But to fully maximize the aerodynamic proficiencies of the 6.5 Creedmoor afforded

by the cartridge’s long ogives, a polymer tip was added to the Fusion just this year, helping it maintain flight stability over longer distances. Plus, the tip helps control expansion upon contact. Think “consistency.”

The 140-grain Fusion Tipped ammunition helped me give truck rides to everything from tiny jackals to a 250-pound warthog ... and most importantly, my wife’s fallow. The blood trails were short, and the smiles were big. And, as an aside, I’ve personally seen a moose fall to a 6.5 Creedmoor. Now, I wouldn’t recommend it, but with the right bullet put in the right location, the 6.5 Creed is a meat seeker.

Like the 6.5 Creedmoor, the 7mm PRC quickly set up its reputation as a long-range steel-smacker, but on paper, it’s not so different from the 7mm Remington Magnum, whose field accolades have long been established. But, shooter beware: While the aforementioned 6.5 Creed produces recoil even a lady can

Federal’s Terminal Ascent ammunition turns a 7mm PRC “range rod” into a punchy little death wand. That bullet is efficient at killing animals quickly ... with proper placement, of course.



Kudu are big but they aren’t particularly tough, and pursuing them is like spot-and-stalk hunting Midwestern whitetails in way more stunning terrain.

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love, the recoil on the 7mm PRC has some teeth.

I fed my CVA Cascade 170-grain Terminal Ascent ammo exclusively while in Africa, and although it's a bit of an oversimplification, it sure felt like all I had to do was point and shoot that setup at game, and it dropped.

A black wildebeest at 157 yards and blue wildebeest at 289 yards, both of which African PH's refer to as "the poor man's buffalo" because of their ability to soak up bullets? Both dropped. A giant 300-pound warthog, facing me at 130 yards? Never took a step. A running bull kudu at 100 yards, with a shot that was too far back? Lights out.

All hunting bullets are designed to have a sweet-spot range. For some, if shot into a target too close, they'll come apart because the bullet is moving so fast. For others, they won't expand at longer distances because the bullet has slowed down so much. Either situation is detrimental to effective and efficient killing.

Terminal Ascent ammunition was designed to be extremely versatile, holding together up close while still expanding at distance. I've seen diagrams promoting expansion out to nearly 1,000 yards: I cannot verify that because I haven't tested it on animals at that distance, and I don't ever plan to.

But I can verify, through personal testing between 60 and 450 yards, that these bullets do what the box says they'll do. It's great stuff (but it's a pain in the ass to photograph because the bullets and the brass are nickel-plated).

So, don't hesitate to take a "range cartridge" afield for your next meat-gathering adventure ... but do leave that match ammo at home.

FRIENDS FROM AFAR

Because everyone's personality is so different, and because I so often can't stand many individuals whom others adore, I generally refrain from being a match-

maker. Too risky.

But I'll stick my neck out a bit and recommend that you call Geoffrey Wayland at Fort Richmond Safaris if a trip to the Dark Continent might be remotely on your radar. Go spend some time on a working cattle farm, listen to his kid's amateur jokes, over-eat on his wife's "holy sh*t that's good" malva pudding ... and fall in love with Africa. Find yourself a PH who will take selfies with your phone when you're not looking.

It's rare to spend an hour with someone and feel as though you've been sharing campfires your entire life. Imagine what that feels like after a 10-day safari. **GDTM**



It's the unscripted photos that make the best blackmail.

As the author was informed, hunting without a suppressor in 2024 is "ungentlemanly."



Friendships form much more quickly in hunting camp than they do in the outside world.

Bushman cave paintings in the Eastern Cape of South Africa.



Animals = Food

This article originally ran in *Carnivore*, a magazine dedicated to turning animals into food ... and the tools used afield to make that happen. Get yours: **GunDigestStore.com** and search "Carnivore."



SECONDS COUNT

The importance of carrying with a round in the chamber.

As a firearms instructor, one of the most common misconceptions I encounter is the idea that carrying a firearm *without* a round chambered is a safer option than carrying a firearm *with* a round in the chamber. This philosophy, often referred to as “Israeli Carry,” might seem logical at first glance.

The logic goes something like this: A firearm without a round in the chamber is safer and less susceptible to a negligent discharge, which is more common than the use of firearms for self-defense. In a dangerous situation, simply draw your weapon, rack the slide and fire.

However, this seemingly simple action can have devastating consequences in a real-world self-defense scenario.

Let’s consider a real-life example.

A video circulating online shows an Israel Defense Forces (IDF) soldier being attacked in a convenience store. The IDF soldier is standing at the register. You see a man slowly walk up behind the IDF soldier and lunge suddenly toward the IDF soldier, attempting to stab him. A struggle ensues, and the two men go to the ground momentarily before the IDF soldier stands up and draws his sidearm.

Immediately upon drawing the firearm, the IDF soldier fumbles as he racks the slide of the gun to load a cartridge into the chamber. As the attacker begins to stand up, the IDF soldier begins stepping backward as he continues to struggle racking the slide. Luckily, right as the attacker stands up and lunges to-

ward the IDF soldier, the IDF soldier is able to get a round in the chamber and take a shot, stopping the attacker.

There are certainly some lessons to be learned here:

1. Fractions of a Second Matter

In a life-or-death situation, fractions of a second matter. The time it takes to rack the slide can be the difference between stopping a threat and becoming a victim. This example illustrates this point: Don’t give up valuable time when your life is on the line. Carrying without a round in the chamber is almost like saying, “I’ll put on my seatbelt right before the car crash.” Here, the IDF soldier delivers the shot just in the nick of time, but it could easily have turned out differently.

“In a life-or-death situation, fractions of a second matter. The time it takes to rack the slide can be the difference between stopping a threat and becoming a victim.”

“Self-defense situations are inherently stressful, and the ability to perform under pressure is critical. Training goes beyond marksmanship; it teaches you how to manipulate your firearm in various situations and in a safe manner.”

2. Modern Firearms Are Incredibly Safe

Thankfully, modern firearms are incredibly safe when carried with a round chambered, provided they are carried with a proper holster. The concept of “Israeli Carry” originated in a time before the widespread adoption of modern, drop-safe semi-automatic pistols. These advancements in firearm design, pioneered after World War II, led firearms experts like Jeff Cooper to advocate for carrying with a round chambered. This practice has since been adopted by countless law enforcement agencies and responsible citizens across the United States. However, the concept of “Israeli Carry” persists in some circles, even though the original reasoning behind it is no longer as relevant with modern firearms.

3. Training is Paramount

Self-defense situations are inherently stressful, and the ability to perform under pressure is critical. Training goes beyond marksmanship; it teaches you how to manipulate your firearm in various situations and in a safe manner, including clearing malfunctions or

firing one-handed. What if you have a malfunction, for instance? You’ll need the skill of clearing the malfunction to be “second nature” so that you clear the malfunction without fumbling around as precious seconds tick away.

Also, remember the concern about negligent discharges as a reason for “Israeli Carry.” If you are trained properly, you won’t put your finger on the trigger until you are ready to shoot, you will always treat the gun as if it were loaded, and you will always keep the gun pointed in a safe direction until ready to use. The proper solution for negligent discharges is training, not carrying the gun in a way that makes it less useful.

4. Be Prepared to Operate Your Firearm One-Handed

You should be able to manipulate your firearm with one hand, especially in situations where your other hand may be injured or occupied by fending off an attacker. In a self-defense scenario, if your non-dominant hand is occupied with restraining an attacker, holding a child, injured, or otherwise unable to assist, racking the slide becomes significantly more challenging. Of course,

many instructors will teach using the rear sights to hook on the edge of your boot, belt or holster, but this is a task that is easier said than done, especially when someone is stabbing you or bashing your head in. This is a technique that takes practice.

FINAL THOUGHTS

Ultimately, whether you choose to carry with a round in the chamber is up to you. Either way, the decision to carry a firearm is a serious one. If you choose to carry, it’s your responsibility to be prepared to use it safely and effectively when the need arises. Carrying with a round chambered is not about convenience; it’s about maximizing your ability to defend yourself and your loved ones in the split seconds that matter most. By prioritizing proper training and responsible carry practices, you can ensure you are prepared to protect yourself and your loved ones when it matters most.

Remember, when you draw your firearm, it’s because you need it, and you need it *right now*. **GDTM**

About the Author

Alex Ooley is an affiliate attorney with the Armed Citizen’s Legal Defense Network. The views and opinions expressed in this article are his own and do not necessarily reflect those of the Network. This article is for informational purposes only and should not be considered legal advice. For specific legal guidance regarding your situation, please consult with a qualified attorney.

01 Kimber CDS9

As a successor of Kimber's KDS9c family of pistols, the CDS9 looks to continue to give armed citizens the best of both worlds. Not only does the all-metal, micro-compact 9mm offer up the time-tested design of the iconic 1911, but it does so in a modern package with all the bells and whistles you'll find on a polymer striker-fired gun. Of all its assets, the hammer-fired single-action weight is among its most attractive, tipping the scales at only 21.8 ounces—perfect for EDC. Additionally, the CDS9 features an accessory rail, ambidextrous safety and mag release and, to top it all off, it's optics-ready. Plus, 10-, 13- and 15-round magazines are standard.

MSRP: Starting at \$1,075

02 Gemtech Direct Thread Abyss and Neutron Series Suppressors

Funny as it might sound, direct-thread suppressors are making a comeback. No, QD systems aren't dead. As a cheaper overall package, one that's lighter and offers the flexibility of choosing your mounting system, makes the DT option more attractive to shooters. Gemtech has been sensitive to this trend, releasing its Abyss 5.56 and 7.62 and Neutron 7.62 series cans in direct-thread models. Known for their durability and performance, the cans should turn heads—particularly for those looking to get into suppressors economically but haven't settled on a mounting system. Moving the lines this way also gives shooters plenty of options, with the Abyss offering a heavy-use suppressor that does a number on back pressure and the more balanced Neutron, which offers superior performance in a lighter can.

MSRP: Starting at \$710

03 Marlin 1894 Trapper in .357 Magnum

There are few rifles as legendary as the Marlin 1894. Now, the Trapper model has been reintroduced in an all-time classic chambering: .357 Magnum. The side ejector was renowned for its strength and treasured by shooters for its solid steel top for mounting a scope. The now Ruger-made rifle offers up several other assets, including stainless-steel construction, nickel-plating on small parts and classic skinner sights. In the Trapper model, the rifle has a 16.1-inch barrel with a threaded muzzle, remaining a nimble field option even with suppressor mounted. To boot, few other pistol-caliber cartridges perform better out of a long-gun than .357, making this ideal for plinking, hunting ... and even self-defense.

MSRP: \$1,500

GEAR TO GET



04 Hornady HIT Target Impact Indicator

As any long-range shooter knows, start reaching out past 500 yards and it becomes difficult to confirm a hit on a steel target—especially shooting by yourself. With this in mind, Hornady has cooked up an affordable and handy way to make sure you're on target with its HIT Impact Indicator. Simply activated when a steel target is struck, the indicator emits a flashing red light visible to the naked eye from 1,000 yards plus. Interestingly, the flash is programmed to spell "H-I-T" in Morse code—kind of a neat way to let you know you're dialed in. The device is compact, compatible with most stands and features a rechargeable battery that lets you always hit the range with enough juice.

MSRP: \$18, pack of two

05 Primary Arms GLx 1x MicroPrism

Based on Primary Arms' popular SLx MicroPrism, the GLx 1x offers a close-quarter shooter a definite leg up from its predecessor. First and foremost, PA has outfitted the optic with a larger objective lens, giving it greater light-gathering capabilities. To this, the company has also widened the eye box, making eye alignment faster and reducing eye strain on longer shooting sessions. Furthermore, with unlimited eye relief—and multiple mounting systems—the GLx offers nearly unlimited configurations and facilitates nearly every shooting position. Available in both red and green illumination options for its etched ACSS Cyclops reticle, it also gives an incredibly clear and accurate sight picture.

MSRP: \$300

06 Springfield Armory XD Mod.3 OSP 9mm

The XD soldiers on. One of the most popular striker-fired pistols of the past few decades has continued to adapt to shooter preferences with the release of the Mod.3 OSP. The 9mm builds off the success of preceding models but offers some much-appreciated features modern handgunners look for. A-No. 1 is a factory-milled slide, making the pistol optics-ready, and compatible with RMR, DeltaPoint Pro and Docter footprints. To this, Springfield added greater control to the slide, with a unique dual serration pattern both fore and aft. It also has improved texturing on the grip, giving supreme control over the 4-inch barreled pistol. Shipping with both 16- and 10-round magazines, it also has enough on board to handle most situations.

MSRP: \$325

07 Weatherby Mark V Backcountry Guide Rifle

Tramping the hills for a once-in-a-lifetime trophy requires more than your average hunting rifle. These adventures call for an iron that's light, intuitive and, above all, accurate. The Weatherby Mark V Backcountry Guide checks off all these boxes. Tipping the scales at an incredible 5.1 pounds, the rifle is engineered to create little burden on your way to that prime ridgeline. This is thanks to its ultralight carbon-fiber Blacktooth Stock, which features the advanced Spartan Precision carbon-fiber bedding block. Weatherby then adds a BSF carbon-fiber barrel, offering both weight savings and accuracy-enhancing rigidity to the rifle. Then, the company tops it off with a TriggerTech adjustable trigger, to guarantee a crisp and on-target break when it matters most. There are a ton more, but, suffice to say, these alone more than make the rifle on-target.

MSRP: \$3,300







THE BEST RIFLES OF 2024

Great options, from
sub-\$1,000 to \$3,500.

A list that includes the best of anything is largely determined by the parameters governing the list. For example, a list of the best rifles could contain a collection of the most expensive and well-made, the most accurate or the best performing.

The thing is, the most expensive, most accurate or best-performing rifles are not always the same. I worked with a lot of new rifles in 2024, and this list represents those I felt were noteworthy, that cover a broad price range, and that I'd readily recommend.

Ruger American Gen II

Ruger's American rifle has been a great success because of the reliability and precision it offered at such an affordable price. The new Gen II Ruger American is just as reliable and accurate, but it also has a plethora of new features and is still very affordable.

The stock is much more ergonomic than the original, and the comb is high with negative drop to aid with eye alignment and recoil. The comb is also modular: You can adjust it and the rifle's length-of-pull with various inserts to provide a perfect fit. Ruger even offers a weight kit

for the stock to help optimize rifle balance when a suppressor is used.

Just like the original American rifle, the Gen II uses Ruger's patented Power Bedding System. And, the rifle comes with a spiral-fluted and free-floated, 20-inch barrel, with a radial port muzzle break, and the muzzle is threaded at $\frac{1}{2}\times 24$.

It also has Ruger's Marksman Adjustable trigger and a 70-degree bolt throw, with a bolt handle that's threaded so you can swap between knobs. There's also a three-position tang safety that locks the bolt in the rear position, and a 14-slot



You can adjust the butt stock on the Ruger American Gen II rifle for comb height and for length of pull. Photo credit: Sebastian "Bat" Mann

The new Ruger American Gen II rifle has a three-position tang safety that locks the bolt handle down when in the safe position. Photo credit: Sebastian "Bat" Mann

Picatinny scope rail is standard. The Gen II American is available in .204 Ruger, .223 Remington, 6.5 Creedmoor, 7mm-08 Remington, .308 Winchester and .450 Bushmaster. The one I tested in 6.5 Creedmoor delivered near MOA performance with every load I tried.

MSRP: \$729

Marlin 1895 Dark

Surprisingly, with everyone seeming to be only interested in shooting at 1,000 yards with their 6.5 Creedmoor, the short-range lever gun is seeing a comeback. Ruger has done great things with Marlin since they acquired the company, especially in terms of quality control. However, the most notable thing the new Marlin may have done is to bring the lever gun into the 21st century with their reintroduction of the Dark model. When Remington owned Marlin—pre-2020—they also offered a Dark model lever gun, but it was not the same as this new Ruger-inspired Marlin 1895 Dark.

The new Marlin Dark might seem expensive for a lever-action rifle ... but not so much when you realize that a lever-action rifle is harder to make to work right than a bolt-action rifle. I classify Marlin rifles into three categories, and the late-model original—*Blue*—Marlins, and



The M-Lok forend of the Marlin 1895 Dark rifle allows for the attachment of various shooting supports. Photo credit: Sebastian "Bat" Mann



the *Green* Marlins made under Remington, were way under priced. Which is of course one of the reasons both companies were almost nearly broke. Ruger has righted the ship, and they're

building exquisite lever-action rifles that I call *Red* Marlins, and the new Marlin Dark is one of the best. This rifle comes with a synthetic buttstock and a snap-on comb riser. It's also fitted with a full-length rail that has an integral aperture sight. The forearm is aluminum with M-Lok slots and QD sling swivel attachment

points. There's also a fiber-optic front sight with a Tritium ring and a radial port break on the threaded muzzle is standard. The new Marlin Dark, which is available in .45-70 Government and .30-30 Winchester, doesn't look like your daddy's lever gun, but your daddy's lever gun won't do what this rifle will.

MSRP: \$1,379

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The straight-pull action of the Beretta BRX1 is a bit odd, but it functioned easily and flawlessly, and the rifle shot very well. Photo credit: Sabastian "Bat" Mann

Beretta BRX1

Two things set this rifle apart. First, it's technically a chassis-style rifle because the action is not housed in the rifle's stock. The second is that this is a straight-pull action. The bolt does not rotate up and back—you just pull it to the rear and push it forward. Now, chassis rifles are becoming increasingly popular in America, but straight-pull rifles have never really found acceptance here.

This rifle might change that.

This is partly because the BRX1 rifle's action is incredibly smooth and fast, but also because the fantastically crisp single-stage trigger is so nice, and it is also adjustable. You can set the pull weight at either 2.1, 2.6 or 3.3 pounds.



You can also reverse the bolt handle from the right to the left side. At almost 7.5 pounds, the rifle is a bit heavy, but the stock is ergonomic, and the rifle has a relatively short, suppressor-friendly, 20-inch barrel.

The rifle's safety is a bit odd, but

practical. On the rear of the bolt, there's a triangular-shaped sliding actuator ... and that's the safety. You press it forward with your thumb to fire the rifle, and to activate the safety, you press the actuator and let it return to the rear. It does take some getting used to, but it works perfectly.

The BRX1 feeds from a five-round detachable magazine that's orange so you'll have to be blind—or color blind—to lose it, and the sample I evaluated averaged just slightly more than 1 MOA with the three hunting loads I tested. The BRX1 is available in 6.5 Creedmoor, .308 Winchester and .300 Winchester Magnum.

MSRP: \$1,499



Shooting from the sticks with the Wilson Combat NULA Model 20S. Photo credit: Sabastian "Bat" Mann

Wilson Combat Model 20S

I've been preaching the wonderfulness of the Melvin Forbes built New Ultra Light Arms rifles for more than two decades because I've always felt they were the pound-for-pound, best-shooting



bolt-action rifles made. But, in 2022, Forbes sold his company to Wilson Combat, and lightweight rifle connoisseurs held their breath waiting to

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(Below left) The ability to takedown the Sauer 505, and to swap barrels and stocks, makes this rifle very unique. Photo credit: Sabastian "Bat" Mann

You can easily adjust the comb on the Sauer 505's stock with the sling swivel/wrench tool that comes with the rifle. Photo credit: Sabastian "Bat" Mann



see what Wilson Combat would do to Forbes' fantastic creation.

In 2023, Wilson Combat introduced their version of the NULA Model 20 rifle. I've evaluated and hunted with five of them, and they're exquisite. But I've always thought the Model 20S, which has an action sized for AR-15-compatible cartridges, was the best of the Melvin Forbes rifles, and, for 2024, Wilson Combat introduced their version of the Model 20S.

Depending on barrel length—16 or 18 inches—and chambering, the Model 20S will weigh in at about 5 pounds or a bit less. Currently, the available cartridges are the .223 Remington, .300 Blackout, the amazing .300 HAMR and the .350 Legend. Wilson Combat fit this mini action into a rugged carbon-fiber stock built by AG Composites, and the rifle comes with a Timney Elite Hunter trigger with a safety that locks the bolt handle.

It also has a hard anodized hinged

aluminum floor plate, and all the steel parts are finished with Armor Tuff. The one I tested in .300 HAMR would shoot the cents off a nickel at 100 yards, which is no surprise since all Wilson Combat NULA rifles come with a sub-MOA accuracy guarantee.

MSRP: \$2,995

J.P. Sauer & Sohn Model 505 Synchro XT

This new rifle could be the one-rifle answer for any hunter, because it has a unique switch-barrel feature that will allow you to go between more than 15 cartridges, from .222 Remington to .375 H&H.

Of all the new-for-2024 rifles I've tested, this rifle was the most impressive—not because it was a tack driver, though it shot very well, and not just because of the switch-barrel feature, which is very cool and practical. It was the most impressive because of how well it was designed, assembled and

everything worked. The adjustable trigger was excellent, the action was butter smooth, and the quick-detach Blaser scope-mount system this rifle uses is fantastic.

One of the coolest features of this rifle is that you can not only swap the barrel, but you can also easily swap out the stock. To swap either, you need a tool, and Sauer smartly made that tool part of the rifle. The QD sling swivel studs are removable, and one of them has an integrated hex wrench. That wrench is the tool you use to remove/replace the stock, to switch the barrel and to adjust the comb height on the stock.

And you can do all of that in about 2 minutes.

Stock options include a conventional profile synthetic stock, a thumbhole synthetic stock, an ultralight carbon-fiber stock and a high-grade wood stock. Yes, this rifle is pricey, but it could be the only rifle you will ever need. **GDTM**

MSRP: \$3,500

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HONORABLE MENTION

Christensen Arms Ridgeline FFT

I recently visited Christensen Arms to see how they built rifles, and they let me build one and shoot it. The Christensen Arms Ridgeline FFT is not a brand-new rifle, but it's included here for several reasons. First, because it's new to me; somehow this rifle's introduction slipped by me, and it might have slipped by you, too. The second reason is that this rifle is outstanding in terms of precision, performance and weight.

A lot of shooters don't realize Christensen Arms pioneered the carbon-wrapped rifle barrel, and

it's a process they've perfected. Combined with the unique Flash Forge Technology Christensen Arms uses to craft their carbon-fiber stocks, it makes the Ridgeline FFT incredibly light. The rifle I put together in 6.5 PRC weighs only 5.5 pounds. It was a tack-driver, too; I fired several sub-MOA three-shot groups, and the next day on a 1,000-yard range, I scored hits on relatively small steel targets out to 1,000 yards.

The heart of this rifle is the twin-lug, push-feed action that has

a Remington 700 footprint and will also accept Remington 700 scope mounts.

But this is not just a Remington 700 action. It's been precision-machined and fitted with a modernized bolt release, a Sako/M16-style extractor, and it comes standard with a TriggerTech trigger. Available chamberings include 19 popular cartridges, ranging from .22-250 Remington to the .300 PRC.

Plus, some left-hand options are also available.

MSRP: \$2,049.99



The author on the 1,000-yard range evaluating the Christensen Arms Ridgeline FFT rifle. Photo credit: Christensen Arms



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IRON LASTS FOREVER

Top DIY pistol sight upgrades.



The era of iron sights is far from over, despite what the red-dot guys are saying. Technology has a pesky way of marching forward, and we are therefore forced to adapt ... or fall behind.

That said, the concept that we are firmly in the electronic era when it comes to ways to aim a pistol is a bit distorted. We're in a great time where there are more ways to customize and make your pistol better, but we also need to realize that this race to the finish line in adapting every single pistol design to use a dot sight is a lofty goal.

Simply put: Some pistols are better off without electronic sights. Let's address the pros and cons of both, and examine where the iron-sight market is today.

AN OBJECTIVE LOOK AT SIGHTS

We're currently at an interesting crossroads between technology and tradition. For a while, things just don't look right until we get used to them: Tactical lever actions, bolt-action chassis rifles, micro red-dots on 1911s ... the list goes on.

The fact is, these technologies often develop faster than the market can reason with, and we get some truly horrifying aesthetic nightmares in the short term as people figure out how to best blend lines and create better interfaces.

As an example, when the "tactical" lever action trend started going, there were some disgusting butcheries of what was considered to be a quintessential firearm silhouette. But now, a couple of years later,



(Right) Co-witnessed irons are an important secondary aiming feature when using electronic sights. Note the dirty lens from being shot suppressed. Something to keep in mind is that dot sights can get filthy in use ... so have good irons.



(Right) Non-illuminated dot sights are present on many pistols, here a Tisas Raider.



Revolvers, like this little J-frame, are benefited by a single, bright Big Dot sight for close range.

many of these guns are classy in their own right and have become accepted by the mainstream shooting community. A great example of this can be seen in the clean lines of the Rossi Triple Black rifle line; it's now common to see threaded barrels and optics rails.

In a recent conversation with a colleague on the training side, he said that, at this point last year, about 10 percent of people came to his classes with a dot sight on their pistols. As of fall 2024, that number is over 50 percent. He says new shooters gravitate to dots, and this results in a much shorter learning curve for them to gain proficiency.

On the other hand, older shooters have a harder time adapting and are more likely to use the irons they are familiar with. I don't know if any of this is entirely the case for the population at large, but when looking over many manufacturer catalogs, I

discovered that optics-ready handguns are about 30 percent of the market as a whole at this point, with many companies having nearly all their pistol models adapted to this technology, such as Sig Sauer.

In this same conversation, my trainer friend got a bit dramatic, saying that iron sights were all but dead, and I couldn't help but disagree. Hell, non-adjustable sights are still commonly available, especially on small revolvers, which obviously remain relevant to the conversation today. Iron sights are at a point where we understand them very well for what they are.

I personally use a variety of sights on my pistols, but most of my modern guns have Trijicon RMR sights on them with a lower 1/3 cowitness for iron sights. I was an early adopter of red-dots on handguns and have had great success with them over time, but there are downsides that do exist.

For example, in darkness I find that iron sights are superior, especially three-dot night sights. Having done a lot of training in after-dark conditions, I don't like the washout on dots when using white light. If I had to pick between a dot and a light on my gun, I would always take the light. The tiny window of most dot sights doesn't matter that much on the range or for hunting, but it can get claustrophobic in low light with lots happening. Picking up a little dot after you blast a room with 1,000 lumens can actually be a bit of a challenge, where bold iron sights offer a clear picture and no washout.

I say all that, but I do have both lights and dots on some of my guns. And if you choose to do the same, just make sure you actually practice in the lighting conditions you're preparing for. Even parking lots can have very bright areas and others that are pitch black. You'd hate to lose a fight because your dot was either too bright or dim. Just things to think about when seconds matter.

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Smaller carry guns are, of course, better with night sights ... if they are applied correctly.

SIGHTS WORTH A LOOK

So, what kind of iron sights are of the best use today? I mentioned I like three-dot tritium night sights on my guns. It's what I grew up with and what I am most used to. Doing a lot of after-dark shooting has made me realize that I don't actually like these sights with an electronic dot involved. The main reason is that it can create a weird "too much" effect when looking through the lens of the sight. When you're looking through most electronic dot sights, your eye position relative to the dot is different from looking at the iron sights—in most cases, if you line up the irons the dot "dives" down.

So, when looking at just the dot, the irons appear to be unaligned in your lower vision, creating a field of green dots cluttering up your sight picture.

My ideal irons for a dot-equipped pistol would be plain, non-reflective black, no tritium. My ideal iron sights are low-profile three-dot, but in my experience now I would prefer a green front and orange/yellow rear.

Suppressor height sights, while not

that much taller, can appear to be a mile high if you aren't using a suppressor or co-witnessing them with a dot. If you have no plans to use a dot or can, get them as low as possible to the slide.

SIG SAUER

The reason I put Sig Sauer on this list is because, while they aren't really known for being a leader in the iron sight market, they are one of the few companies that offer night sights as a standard feature on a very large portion of their pistol line.

Traditionally, I bought Sig pistols because it was easy to get them up and running ... as in not needing to get additional sights that should have come standard. Not to make this a Glock-versus-Sig paragraph, but every Glock I owned I ditched the basic polymer sights. The long-running joke was that Glock factory sights were "dovetail protectors" for when you installed real sights. It could be argued that the entire success of the aftermarket night sight companies was filling Glock dovetails.

Sig Sauer has great night sights, plain

and simple. They are bright and easy to pick up in all lighting conditions. They do sell their excellent XRay3 sights separately, which is great if you want to upgrade an older pistol in your collection.

The way I see it—if you want to make an up-front purchase with as much of the work done for you as possible—Sig's products are hard to beat. If you want to work on your existing guns, the company also offers complete slides with night sights already installed, making it very easy to get your customized pistol in action.

XS SIGHTS

I have years of experience with XS sights. While I no longer own any Glocks (sorry, I'm a 2011 man now), every small Glock I had I equipped with a set of XS Big Dot sights with illuminated front and small lamp in the rear "sight." The rear of these sights is more like a wide, low angle that you simply frame the big dot with. It's very fast up close, but this configuration loses utility the farther out you aim. I really liked

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The Staccato C pictured here has a great optics setup with the RMRcc.

Pay attention to the mounting height of your red-dot if you're planning to still have access to Irons.



The optics plate on the author's 1911 is integrated with the rear sight.

these on the Glock 42 and 43.

In addition, XS has enjoyed a long and successful journey with concealed carry pistols, and they were especially popular among people with vision problems and aging eyes. These Big Dot sights are quite accurate if you know how to use them, and at concealed carry distances center mass is about all that matters. I don't think you're going to be shooting with these sights to win a medal at the National Matches in pistol marksmanship, but they are smooth, easy to acquire and more than enough for most people who

carry for defense.

I like these sights on my J-frame revolvers as well: In that case, it's just the front sight, the rear sight being non-adjustable and machined into the frame. This has worked for me for years and, again, I'm not going to win any accuracy contest with a double-action only lightweight .357 Mag., but more often than not that's what's in my pocket.

TRIJICON

We really can't have a conversation about illuminated sights without talking about Trijicon. I use Trijicon optics on many of my guns and have never had an issue. I've used their iron sights on a large number of guns over the years as well, and I've always found them to be rugged and reliable.

One of the guns you have probably seen on these pages is my custom suppressed 1911. This gun has been my trusted companion on countless adventures and has taken an impressive amount of large game. The iron sights and accompanying RMR sight base are also Trijicon products, the slide being specially machined for this base. I've had these sights on this pistol now for years without incident and they are still bright and easy to see. I prefer to keep my dot off to save battery life in the field; the irons are there, and I know they are just as accurate.

Trijicon makes a ton of sights, and I've

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If your flavor is .45 ACP or 9mm, you're in luck. While custom 1911s have enjoyed a long history of trial and error, brand-new guns like the Staccato C have all the modern advancements built right in.

used them on many pistol brands over time. I particularly like that they are continuing to improve their products and offer a large number of variations. As of right now, the company boasts an impressive six product lines in their iron sight category to encompass everything from suppressor height to competition.

NIGHT FISION

In a changing world of technology, not all companies can adapt, but Night Fision is ignoring the whole “irons are dead because of dots” rhetoric and is instead heavily focused on the integration of dots and irons—to the point that they have little iron sight sets that install into the dot body using the same mounting screws.

Many pistol types lose their rear sights when mounting a dot, but Night Fision will not let that happen. In addition, they have an interesting cowitness selector tool on their website to allow you to pick the perfect sight setup to use both your dot

and irons effectively. This is unique because it shows that you can stick with what works while not dumping tradition for tech. You can have the best of both worlds without the guesswork.

AMERIGLO

I will say that I do not have as much trigger time with Ameriglo as I do with other brands of night sights, but I do like their suppressor-height sights with a plain rear configuration. I used them for a long time with a suppressed Glock 19X and really liked them, but I ultimately sold the gun when the optic cut models came out.

A notable thing about this company is that they sell an absolutely dizzying amount of variants, and even excellent tools for the installation of their products. The sights I have used from them are very bright. Some sights I have used from other companies are a bit dim by comparison, probably due to not wanting to be overwhelming to the shooter. Ameriglo is the

opposite—you would have a hard time not seeing them.

Of note: Some of my shooting buddies have these sights on their pistols with red-dot sights, and yes, they can be a bit much if you are trying to co-witness.

INTO THE FUTURE

At this point, I don't see iron sights going anywhere. I think that, likewise, we will continue to see a proliferation of electronic sights for pistols ... with the biggest issue being too many mounting footprints at a certain point. The market is still expanding, and perhaps down the road we will have a couple dot footprints become dominant. But, until that point, I will just wait and see what happens.

Iron sights, in particular night sights, are better than ever and, while they may not be as flashy as this year's new enclosed red-dot, they don't need batteries, which is something we often take for granted.

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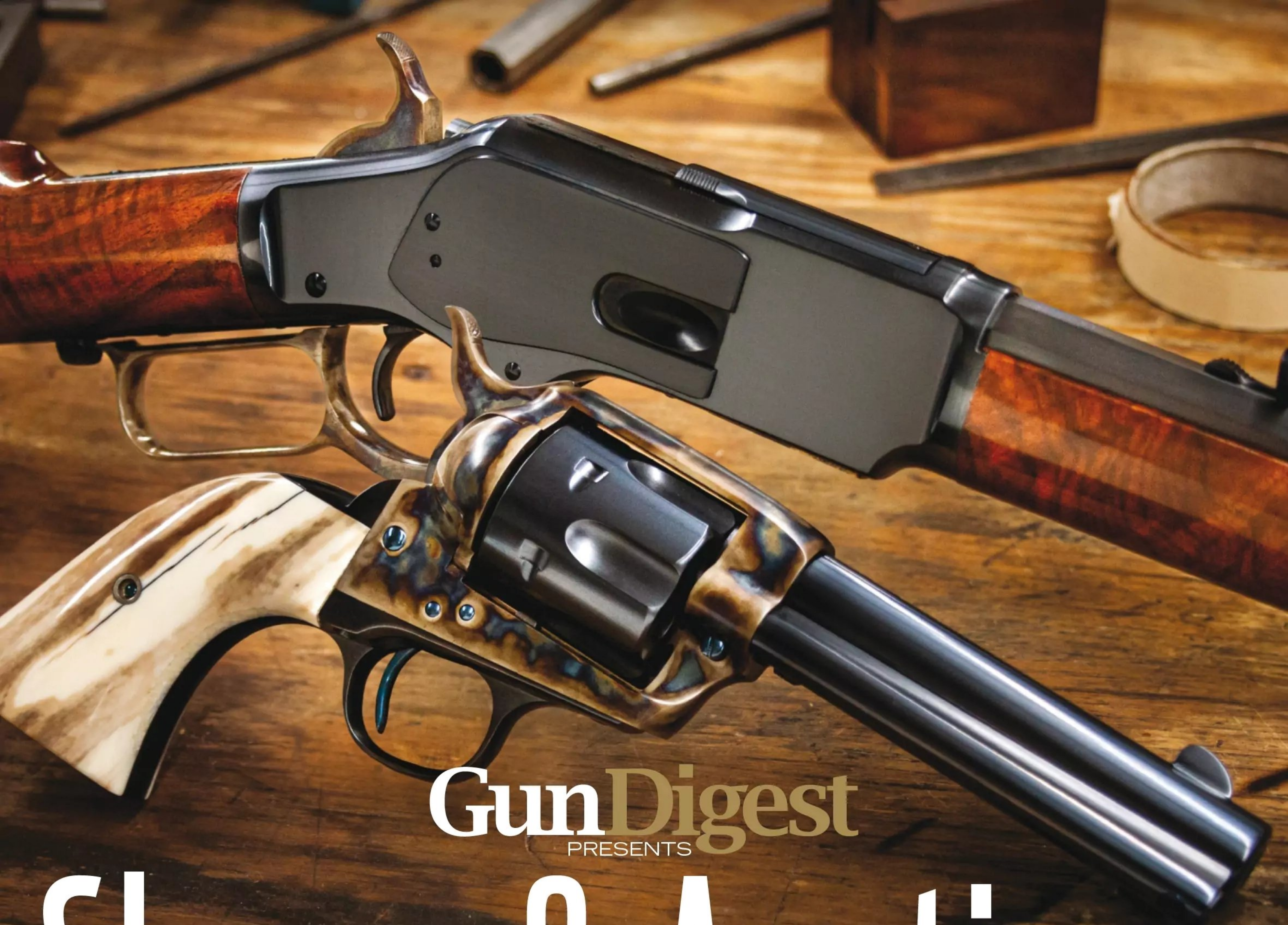
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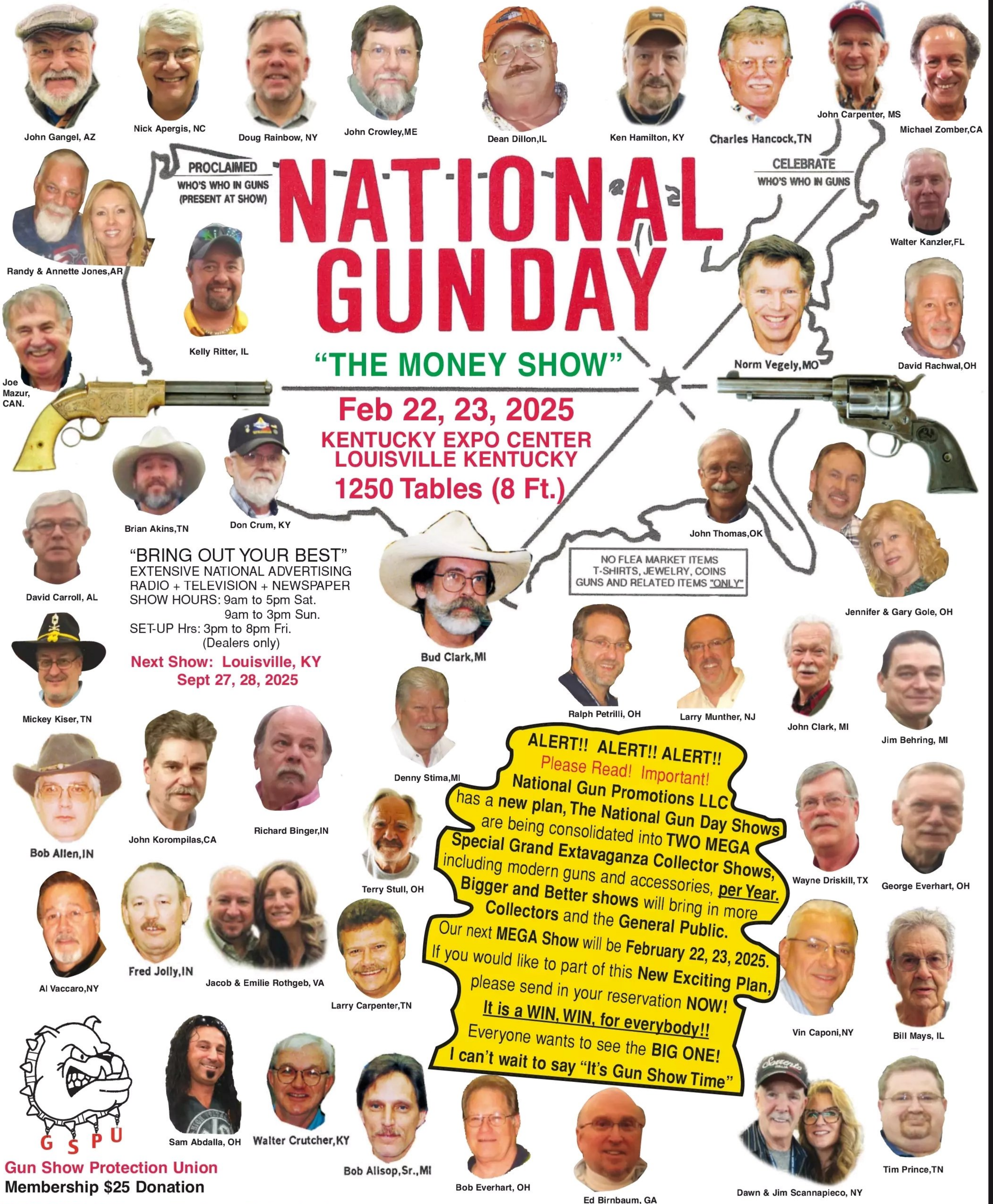
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John Carpenter, MS
Michael Zomber, CA
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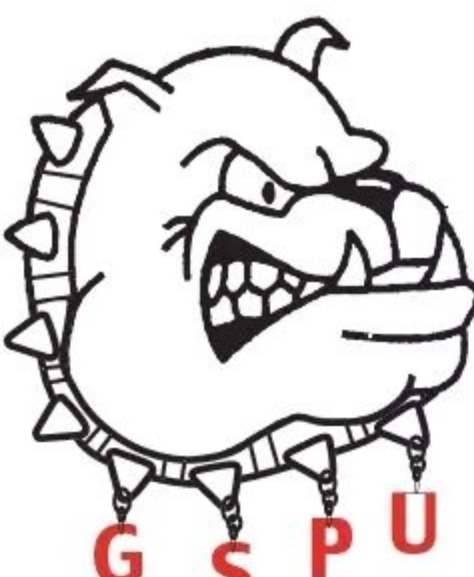
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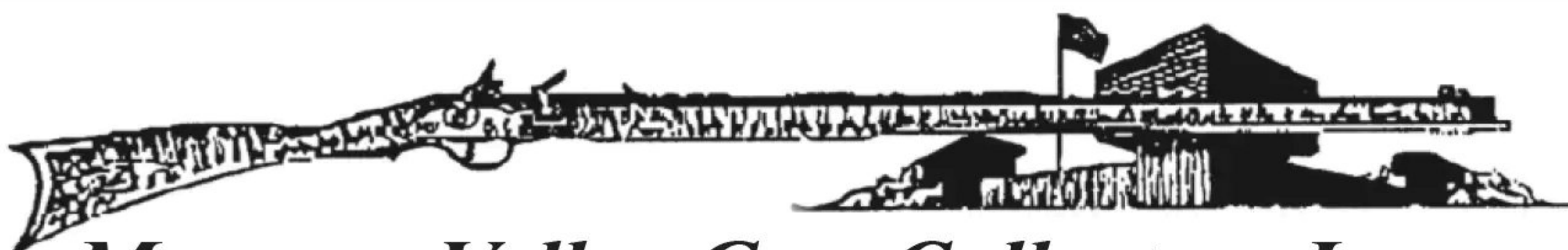
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Dec 7-8 SD, Rapid City. Rapid City Rifle Club Association. The Monument Event Center, 444 N W Blvd., Rapid City, SD 57701. SH: Sat. 9am-5pm, Sun. 9am-2pm. A: \$5.00 daily. T: 205. F: \$50. Rapid City Rifle Club. PO Box 1945, Rapid City, SD 57709. PH: 605-209-1166. www.rapidcityrifleclub.com.

JANUARY

Jan 11-12 SD, RAPID CITY. 33rd Annual Tom Wenn Memorial Winter Gun Show. Fine Arts Bldg., 800 San Francisco St, South LaCrosse Street. SH: Sat. 9am-5pm, Sun. 9am-2pm. A: \$5 Daily. children under 12 free. T: 110. F: \$45.00 prepaid \$50 at show. Rapid City Rifle Club. PO Box 1945, Rapid City, SD 57709. PH: 605-209-1166. www.rapidcityrifleclub.com.

Jan 11-12 SD, RAPID CITY. 33rd Annual Tom Wenn Memorial Winter Gun Show. Fine Arts Bldg., 800 San Francisco St, South LaCrosse Street. SH: Sat. 9am-5pm, Sun. 9am-2pm. A: \$5 Daily. children under 12 free. T: 110. F: \$45.00 prepaid \$50 at show. Rapid City Rifle Club. PO Box 1945, Rapid City, SD 57709. PH: 605-209-1166. www.rapidcityrifleclub.com.

Jan 18 PA, Greencastle. Franklin Co. Pa- Izaak Walton League- Cabin Fever Gun Show. Greencastle Sportsmans Association, 3260 Sportsman's Road. SH: Sat. 8am-3pm. A: \$6.00 adults. T: 70. F: \$25.00. Franklin Co. PA Chapter Izaak Walton League of America. 106 Greenleaf Rd, Chambersburg, PA 17202-3134. PH: 717-977-9240. None.

Jan 18 TN, Knoxville. Knoxville TN : Smoky Mountain Gun Collectors Association Gun Show. Kerbela Shrine Temple, 315 Mimosa Ave. SH: Sat. 9am-5pm. A: \$10.00 each day. T: 120. F: \$50.00. Smoky Mountain Gun Collectors Association, Inc. . P.O.Box 9251, Knoxville, TN 37940. PH: 865-333-4970. www.smoky-mountainguncollectorsassociation.org.

Jan 19 TN, Knoxville. Knoxville TN : Smoky Mountain Gun Collectors Association Gun Show. Kerbela Shrine Temple, 315 Mimosa Ave. SH: Sun. 9am-3pm. A: \$10.00 each day. T: 120. F: \$50.00. Smoky Mountain Gun Collectors Association, Inc. . P.O.Box 9251, Knoxville, TN 37940. PH: 865-333-4970. www.smoky-mountainguncollectorsassociation.org.

MARCH

Mar 7-8 UT, Vernal. Vernal Gun and Knife Show. Uintah Conference Center, 313 East 200 South. SH: Fri. 12pm-7pm, Sat. 9am-5pm. A: \$5.00 daily. T: 175. F: \$50.00. Friend of Buckskin Hills Shooting Complex. P.O.Box 790028, Vernal, UT 84079. PH: 438-247-2254. vknifeshow@gmail.com.

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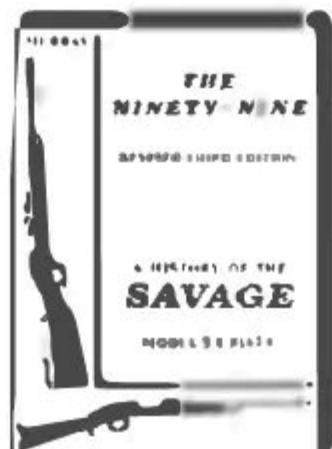
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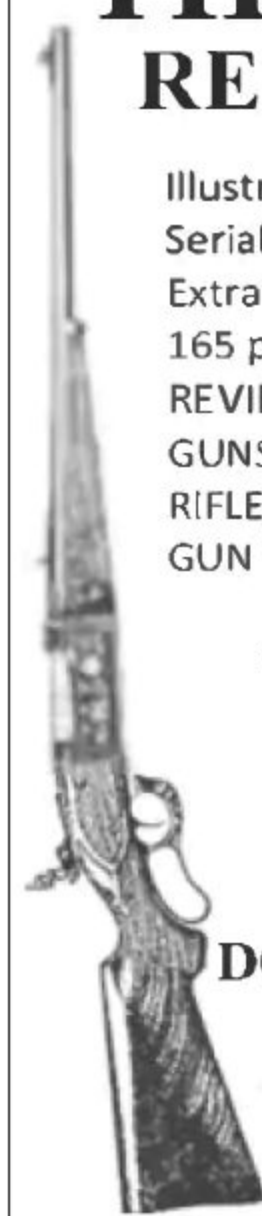
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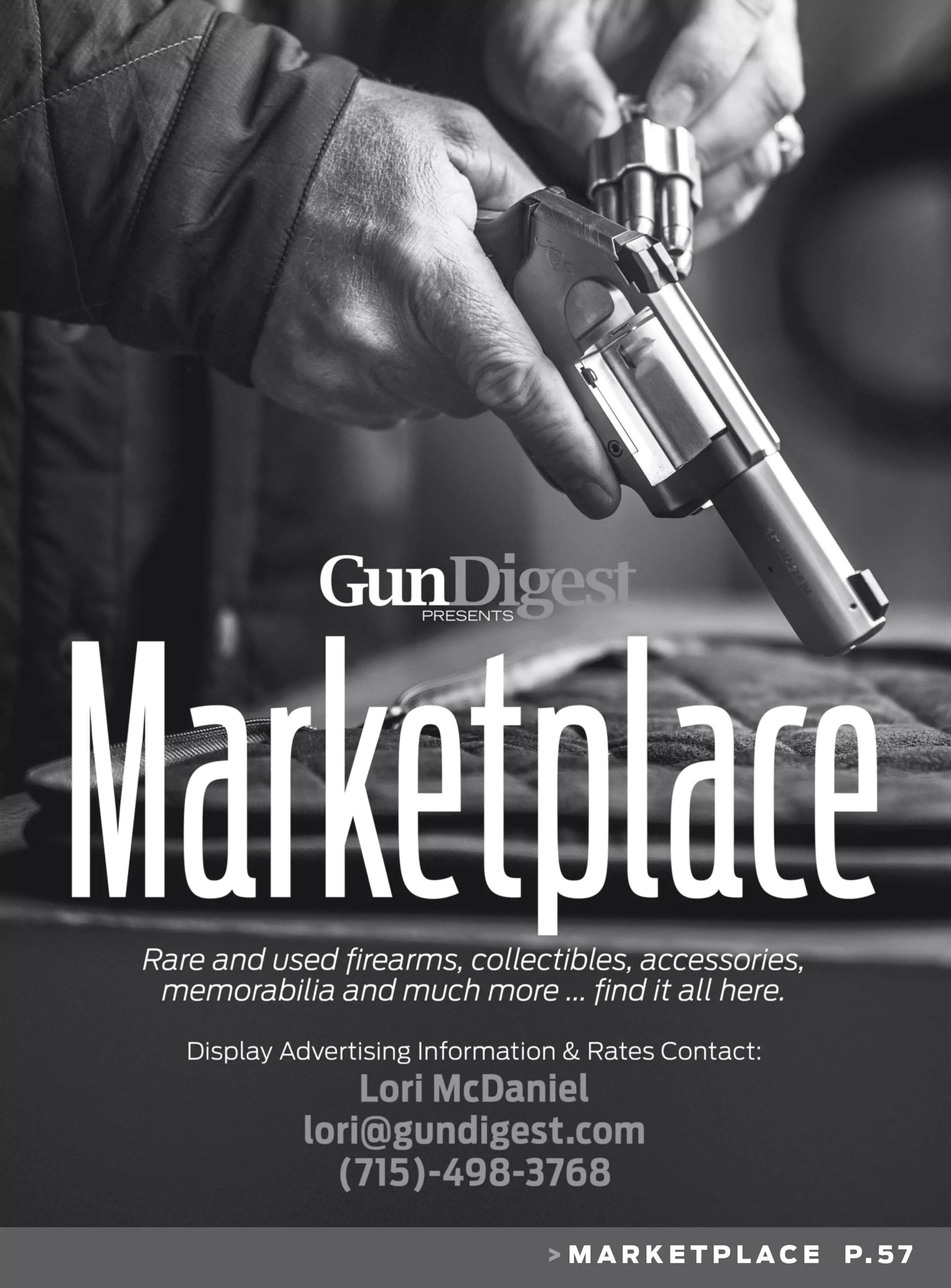
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- 2-P Bernardelli .25 ACP Vest Pocket Tiny Auto Pistol** 2" barrel with mint bore, 98%+ original bright blue, fixed sights, mint "V.B." logo black plastic grips, looks and functions near new, made in 1967 (C&R)\$385
- 3-P Browning .22 LR "Challenger" Auto Pistol** 6 3/4" barrel with mint bore, 99% original bright blue, target style adjustable rear and blade front sights, minty original checkered Walnut wrap around grips, Browning marked original magazine, made in 1968 and shows little or no actual use, collector quality (C&R)\$665
- 4-P Colt .32 ACP "Model 1903 Pocket Hammerless" Auto Pistol** 3 3/4" barrel with mint bore, 99%+ original nickel finish with light scratches, fixed sights, mint mother of pearl grips with "no" medallions, comes with original nickel magazine that has scratched out numbers on left side, excellent function, collector quality, manufactured 1925 (C&R)\$1500
- 5-P Colt .45 ACP "Gold Cup National Match" Target Auto Pistol** 5" barrel with mint bore, 99% original bright blue, factory target sights, mint gold Colt medallion factory wrap around rubber grips, adjustable skeleton trigger, serrated flat mainspring housing, series 70 style collet bushing on barrel, made in 1990 as a "series 80 MKIV", excellent function, shows little or no actual use\$995
- 6-P Colt .22 LR Frontier Scout "Arizona Rangers" Commemorative Single Action Revolver** 5 1/2" barrel with mint bore, looks to be unfired, 99%+ original blue on barrel and cylinder (no dragline), 99% case colors on frame, silver plated triggerguard, 2 piece mint Walnut grips with silver Colt medallions, comes in hardwood case with glass top, case is lockable but no key present, interior is red velvet lined and contains a 5 pointed star badge that reads "Arizona Rangers" long with the revolver, collector quality, like new\$825
- 7-P Colt .22 Short "Rock Island Arsenal Centennial Commemorative" Single Shot Pistol** 6" barrel with mint bore, 99% original black finish, stamped on left side of barrel in gold fill color "1862-Rock Island Centennial Model 1962", smooth Walnut grips, left side has a small chip on edge of butt, fixed sights, comes with blue and gray original case, purple and gray lined with circular Colt logo medallion, comes with original cardboard otter sleeve and cleaning brush, excellent function, collector quality (C&R)\$385
- 8-P Colt .38 New Police 1st Issue "Police Positive" Double Action Revolver** 4" barrel with bright excellent bore, 97% original blue with scattered pin prick pitting, cylinder shows blue going a light gray and some high edge wear, light thinning at muzzle, fixed sights, hard rubber "C" style grips scratch engraved with matching serial number, excellent function, all matching, butt of revolver has been engraved with serial number, manufactured 1917 (C&R)\$800
- 9-P Colt .38 Special "Commando" WW-II Short Barreled "Nickel Finish" Revolver** 2" barrel with excellent bore, fixed sights, matching numbers, small ordnance "bomb" on left side of frame, 95%+ original nickel finish, all markings crisp and clear, mint colorful original checkered "Coltwood" synthetic grips with Colt logo, excellent function, 1942 manufactured, never saw one of these in nickel before but all markings factory crisp and clear with an early serial number (C&R)\$2495
- 10-P Colt .38 Special "New Service" with "King" Modified Sights Double Action "New Style" Revolver** 6" barrel with excellent bright bore, 97% original blue with thinning and graying on backstrap, "King" mirror front sight and "King" modified square notch rear sight with milled half circle at rear of top strap notch that was originally filled with white, excellent checkered Walnut grips with silver Colt medallions, no lanyard at butt, 1926 barrel date patent, excellent function, made in 1932 (C&R)\$1395
- 11-P Colt .38 Special 3rd Issue "Officers Model Target" Revolver** 4 1/2" barrel with bright excellent bore, nicely done 98% re-blue finish, adjustable target sights, checkered backstrap, service hammer and "blued" trigger, hard rubber "C" style grips with non matching serial numbers "scratched" on inside, tight lock up, short barreled officers models are quite rare, manufactured 1926 (C&R)\$1000
- 12-P CZ 7.62 Tokarev "Model 52" Auto Pistol** 4 3/4" barrel with very good bore, 98% arsenal rebuild matte blue finish, fixed sights, mint synthetic grooved grips, made in 1953, excellent function, "CAI" import marked, comes in importers box with cleaning brush (C&R)\$385
- 13-P Enfield .38/200 (.38 S&W) "No. 2 MK I" WW-II Top Break Double Action Only Revolver** 5" flat side barrel with excellent bright bore, factory fixed sights, all matching numbers, marked "England" and "1943" in a very light strike, minty checkered black synthetic grips, lanyard at butt, smooth excellent function (C&R)\$575
- 14-P Erma .22 LR "Model LA22" Baby Luger Auto Pistol** 4 1/2" barrel with mint bore, 99% original blue, fixed sights, mint checkered brown plastic grips, plastic bottom original magazines (2), excellent function, near new in original numbered end label box with some peeling of yellow outer paper, super high quality, made in West Germany, collector quality (C&R)\$525
- 15-P Forehand Arms Co. .32 S&W Hammer Top Break Revolver** 3 1/4" barrel with good but pitted bore, 40% original nickel finish, "F&W" logo hard rubber grips with chipouts at both locating pins, excellent function (C&R).....\$115

- 16-P Forehand Arms Co. .38 S&W Hammerless Top Break Revolver** 3 1/4" ribbed barrel with very good bore, 98% original nickel, blue and case color, excellent double action only, odd opening feature looks like an external hammer, manually operated, safety behind opening latch, very good "F&W" logo checkered hard rubber grips with a small chipout of left panel at locating pin, many advanced features indicate later 1901-1902 manufactured date, excellent function (C&R)\$265
- 17-P French Unique .22 LR "Model 52" Pocket Auto Pistol** 3 1/8" barrel with mint bore, 98% original bright blue, fixed sights, very good checkered brown plastic grips that are warping a bit on edges, excellent function and high quality manufacturing (C&R)\$465
- 18-P French Pyrenees Hendaye Unique .22 LR "Model D4" High End Target Cased Auto Pistol** 9" barrel with mint bore, and factory integral muzzle brake, 98% original blue, "Unique" marked magazine, checkered brown plastic grips with minor cracks on right panel and a large un-repaired upper section on left side, comes in a black French fitted black carry case with manual and original warranty card, nickel plated latches and carry handle, excellent function (C&R)\$895
- 19-P Haenel / Schmedder .25 ACP "Vest Pocket Model" Auto Pistol** 2" barrel with very good bore, 95%+ original blue with a couple spots of very light pitting on right side, fixed sights, cocking indicator, loaded chamber indicator, mint intertwined "HS" logo checkered black hard rubber grips, a nice collectable model 1 pistol (C&R)\$585
- 20-P Harrington & Richardson .22 LR "U.S.R.A. Model" Single Shot Top Break Target Auto Pistol** 10" barrel with mint bore, 98%+ original bright blue, auto ejector, minty oversize checkered Walnut one piece grips on rice frame, fabulous trigger pull, made around 1928, collector quality (C&R)\$1875
- 21-P Harrington & Richardson .25 ACP "Vest Pocket/Self Loading" Auto Pistol** 2 1/8" barrel with very good bore, 95% original blue, factory no open sights, 90% faded case color, mint "H&R" logo checkered black hard rubber grips, nickel plated magazine, excellent function, shows minor carry wear, a very nice first variation pistol (C&R)\$415
- 22-P Harrington & Richardson .22 LR "Model 922" Solid Frame Pull Pin Double Action Revolver** 6" round barrel with excellent bright bore, 98% original blue, fixed sights, minty oversized H&R logo checkered brown plastic wrap around grips, excellent function 9 shot revolver made in Worcester, MA (C&R)\$215
- 23-P Harrington & Richardson .22 LR "Model 939" Swingout Cylinder Double Action Revolver** 6" slab side vent rib barrel with excellent bore, 98% original blue, target style windage adjustable and ramp blade front sights, mint diamond center checkered Walnut thumbrest grips, excellent function both single and double action, near new in original box (C&R)\$395
- 24-P Harrington & Richardson .22 LR "Sportsman" Double Action Target Top Break Revolver** 6" ovoid barrel with excellent bright bore, 97% original bright blue, windage adjustable target style rear and elevation adjustable blade front sights, all matching numbers, firing pin on hammer, (2) patent date cylinder, minty Walnut checkered one piece grips, excellent smooth function, made in 1937 (pre 999 designation), comes in a fitted mahogany wood flip top case with owners pamphlet (C&R)\$695
- 25-P Harrington & Richardson .22 Winchester Magnum "Model 603" Target Double Action Revolver** 6" heavy slab sided ribbed barrel with mint bore, target style fully adjustable rear and blade front sight, minty smooth Walnut (2) piece grips, 97% original blue with a few specks of pitting, 6 shot swingout cylinder, excellent function, looks unfired\$365
- 26-P Harrington & Richardson .32 S&W Long Hammer Top Break Double Action Revolver** 5" ribbed barrel with very good bore, 98% of a nice high quality refinish blue, matching numbers, target logo checkered hard rubber grips, excellent function (C&R)\$165
- 27-P Harrington & Richardson .32 S&W Short Hammerless Top Break Double Action Revolver** 3" ribbed barrel with excellent bore, 98% original nickel and blue, fixed sights, excellent function, minty target logo hard rubber grips\$245
- 28-P Herbert Schmidt .22 LR / .22 Winchester Magnum "Model 21-S Texas Scout" Single Action Western Style Revolver** 5 1/2" barrel with mint bore, 99%+ original bright blue, target style fully adjustable rear and blade front sights, mint smooth Walnut (2) piece grips, very high quality German made single action as new in box with manual and cleaning rod\$295
- 29-P High Standard .22 LR / .22 Winchester Magnum "Sentinel Camp Gun" Double Action Revolver** 4" full underlug barrel with mint bore, fully adjustable target style rear and ramp blade front sights, 99%+ original bright blue, smooth Walnut round butt grips are mint, 9 shot cylinders, excellent function, as new in original end label box with spare .22 Win Mag cylinder, collector quality\$695
- 30-P High Standard .22 LR "Model HD Military" Auto Pistol** 4 1/2" bull barrel with mint bore, 95% original blue with most loss as thinning on straps, factory adjustable rear and blade front sights, excellent full checkered Walnut grips, High Standard marked cadmium plated magazine, excellent function, made in 1947, logo on left side of slide shows some gold fill grease pencil (C&R)\$575
- 31-P High Standard .22 LR "Supermatic Tournament" Target Auto Pistol** 4 1/2" barrel with mint bore, factory adjustable target sights, 96% original blue, excellent checkered Walnut gold medallion grips, High Standard marked magazine, case color on small parts, made in 1963, excellent function (C&R)\$365

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32-P High Standard .22 LR "Victor" Target Auto Pistol 5 1/2" barrel with excellent bright bore, 98% original bright blue with aluminum vent rib showing some silvering of edges, factory target sights, gold plated trigger and magazine release, factory barrel weight, minty "Herett" checkered Walnut thumbrest grips with flared bottom, excellent function, made in 1979 ..\$695

33-P High Standard .22 LR "Victor" Model Target Auto Pistol 5 1/2" heavy barrel with mint bore, 99% original blue with gold trigger, safety and magazine release, factory target style sights, barrel weight installed, mint checkered Walnut thumbrest grips, as new condition, appears unfired, comes with its original end labeled box, made in 1980, collector quality \$695

34-P High Standard / Mitchell Arms .22 LR "Citation II" Target Auto Pistol 5 1/2" barrel with mint bore, all stainless steel construction with little or no signs of actual use, bridge front sights, mint checkered Walnut thumbrest target grips, excellent function\$695

35-P High Standard .22 LR "Model D-100" Over/Under Derringer Auto Pistol 3 1/2" barrels with mint bores, 99% original blue, mint smooth white plastic grips, comes in original red flip top case with original manual, gun is like new, case is a bit tattered, made in 1963, collector quality (C&R) \$495

36-P High Standard .22 LR "Model D-100" Over/Under Derringer Cased Auto Pistol 3 1/2" barrels with mint bores, 99% original blue, mint white plastic grips, made in 1967, in its original red flip top case with owner's manual, top of case shows a small patch of red finish missing (C&R)\$395

37-P Hopkins & Allen .32 S&W Short "Safety Police" Double Action Top Break Revolver 5" ribbed barrel with very good bore, 92% original nickel with faded blue and case color, mint checkered hard rubber grips, excellent function both single and double action, all matching, left side of rib shows some spotty loss of nickel and frame shows some scratches (C&R)\$285

38-P Hopkins & Allen .32 Short Centerfire "XL3 Model" Double Action Solid Frame Boxed Revolver 2 3/4" octagon barrel with very good+ bright bore, 97% original bright nickel with faded case color, folding hammer, minty checkered hard rubber grips, rebounding hammer, excellent function in both single and double action, comes in an original box with end label (C&R)\$515

39-P Iver Johnson .22 Rimfire "Secret Service Special" Double Action Top Break Revolver 5" ribbed barrel with good strong but pitted bore, 95% original nickel, blue and case color, fixed sights, manual push safety on side of frame (not hammer the hammer), minty "SSS" logo checkered extension hard rubber grips with the correct inlaid "U.S." shield in color on left panel, there were at least (2) other manufacturers of "Secret Service Specials" but Iver Johnson's was the best quality and most distinctive, excellent function (C&R)\$485

40-P Iver Johnson .32 S&W Short "Safety Hammerless" Double Action Bicycle Revolver 2" ribbed barrel with mint bore, 98%+ original bright nickel, blue and case color, mint "U.S." marked checkered hard rubber grips, as new condition, appears unfired, comes in an Iver Johnson box with misc. receipts dated from around 1910, box is very good, collector quality (C&R)\$365

41-P Iver Johnson .38 Special "Bulldog Model" Solid Frame 5 Shot Pull Pin Revolver 2 3/8" barrel with mint bore, 99% matte blue finish, case colored hammer, mint "IJ" logo small plastic grips, excellent function, one of the last models from the old Fitchburg, MA factory in 1971 (C&R)\$275

42-P Iver Johnson .38 S&W "Safety Hammer" Top Break Revolver 5" ribbed barrel with fair pitted bore, 92% original nickel, faded blue and case color, fixed sights, excellent "owl head" checkered hard rubber grips, excellent function, both single and double action (C&R)\$185

43-P Llama .32 ACP "Model 1-A" Auto Pistol 3 3/4" barrel with excellent bright bore, 97% original bright blue, fixed sights on vent rib, mint checkered brown plastic logo grips, excellent function, made in 1970 (C&R)\$435

44-P Llama .380 ACP "Model 111-A" Auto Pistol 3 3/4" barrel with mint bore, 99% original bright blue, windage adjustable rear and blade front sights mounted on slide solid rib, loaded chamber indicator, mint checkered brown plastic logo grips, made in 1970, as new in original lightly tattered box with spare magazine and manual (C&R)\$525

45-P Mann .25 ACP "Vest Pocket" Auto Pistol 1 5/8" barrel with excellent bore, 98% original bright blue, fixed sights, mint smooth Walnut original grips, excellent function, made in Germany in 1921, original magazine, "crown N" proofed, tiny little gun with super quality construction, collector quality (C&R)\$1295

46-P N.E.F. / Harrington & Richardson .22 LR "Model R-92" 9 Shot Swingout Cylinder Double Action Revolver 4" barrel with mint bore, 99% original nickel finish, fixed sights, minty smooth Walnut round butt grips with "NEF" medallions, super sturdy and looks unfired ...\$295

47-P N.E.F. / Harrington & Richardson .22 LR "Model R-92" 9 Shot Swingout Cylinder Revolver 4" barrel with mint bore, 99% original matte blue on barrel and frame, 98% blue on bright cylinder, fixed sights, mint smooth Walnut round butt grips with "NEF" medallions, looks and functions near new\$285

48-P North American Arms .32 ACP "Guardian ACP" Model Auto Pistol 2 1/2" barrel with mint bore, all stainless construction, double action only, as new in original box with carry case and paper, spare magazine\$395

49-P Para Ordnance .45 ACP "Model C6.45 LDA" Double Action Only Stainless Compact Auto Pistol 3" barrel with mint bore, all stainless construction looks near new overall, (3) white dot combat sights, grip safety, mint diamond checkered Walnut grips with "PO" gold medallions, 6 shot stainless magazine, looks and functions near new\$825

50-P Ruger .30 Carbine "Old Model Blackhawk" 3 Screw Single Action Revolver 7 1/2" barrel with mint bore, 99% original blue with frame having a purplish tinge, minty smooth Walnut grips with Ruger medallions, (3) screw unconverted frame, excellent function, made in 1971 (C&R)\$925

51-P Savage Arms .32 ACP "Model 1907" Auto Pistol 3 1/2" barrel with excellent bright bore, 96% original bright blue with some silvering on sharp edges marked "Savage" in shadow letters on left of frame, fixed sights, mint Savage logo checkered black hard rubber grips, excellent function, collector quality, comes with Savage historian Roe Clark letter stating a build date of 1912 along with notes from Bailey Brower author of "Savage Pistols" book (C&R)\$595

52-P Savage Arms .32 ACP "Model 1917" Auto Pistol 3 1/2" barrel with excellent bore, 99% original blue, fixed sights, mint Savage logo checkered black hard rubber grips, excellent function, looks near new, collector quality, comes with Roe Clark verification letter, manufactured 1920 with notes from Savage pistol's author (C&R)\$595

53-P Smith & Wesson .22 LR "K-22 Combat Masterpiece" Pre-Model 18 Double Action Revolver 4" pinned barrel with mint bore, 5 screw frame, target sights, 98% original satin blue and brilliant case colors, all matching numbers except correct style and type checkered Walnut, square butt magna grips with silver S&W medallions, collector quality, made in 1953 (C&R)	\$1295
54-P Smith & Wesson .22 LR "Model 34-1" Kit Gun Revolver 2" pinned barrel with mint bore, 98%+ original blue and case color, target style factory sights, minty checkered Walnut round butt grips with silver S&W medallions, manufactured 1966, comes in a Bangor Punta blue reinforced corner box that is unmarked and a belt style leather holster (C&R)	\$725
55-P Smith & Wesson .32 S&W Short "32 Safety Hammerless 3rd Model" Top Break Revolver 3" ribbed barrel with very good bright bore, 92% original nickel finish, all matching excellent S&W logo black checkered hard rubber grips, excellent function, made around 1928 (C&R)	\$295
56-P Smith & Wesson .32 WCF (32/20) "Model 1905-3rd Change" Double Action Revolver 6" pinned barrel with very good bore, 95% original nickel starting to bubble on left side, "FDL" adjustable rear sight mounted using upper sideplate screw hole, mint Pachmayr rubber grips, crisp action with excellent timing and lockup, manufactured 1911 (C&R)	\$795
57-P Smith & Wesson .32 WCF (32/20) "Model 1905-4th Change" Double Action Revolver 4 1/2" pinned barrel with fair pitted bore, fixed sights, all matching numbers, 95% of an old re-nickel finish, good checkered Walnut diamond center non medallion grips showing worn checkering, works well, made around 1920 (C&R)	\$335
58-P Smith & Wesson .38 Special "Model 15-3" Double Action Revolver 4" pinned barrel with mint bore, 98%+ original bright blue and case colors, target style fully adjustable rear and ramp blade front sights, mint checkered Walnut "magna" style matching grips with silver medallions, shows little or no actual use, made in 1977	\$595
59-P Smith & Wesson .38 Special "Model 642 Airweight" Revolver 1 7/8" barrel with mint bore, near new alloy frame and stainless barrel and cylinder, fixed sights, factory checkered, finger groove "boot grips", looks and functions near new	\$495
60-P Smith & Wesson .38 S&W (38/200) "Model K200" British Proofed Double Action M&P Revolver 5" pinned barrel with mint bore, (5) screw frame, fixed sights, 96% original blue and case color, made in the late 1930's (not Victory model), lanyard at butt, all matching except replacement faux ivory square butt grips, excellent function, shows little or no actual use (C&R)	\$495
61-P Smith & Wesson .45 ACP/.45 Auto Rim "Model 1917 U.S. Army" Double Action Revolver 5 1/2" barrel with minty bright bore, fixed sights, 98% original bright blue, "GHS" inspected, all matching including very good smooth Walnut grips (very lightly pencil numbered), 95% muted case color on trigger and circular grooved hammer, "U.S. Property" marked on bottom of barrel, lanyard at butt, includes a S&W factory letter stating delivery to Springfield Armory in 1918, very difficult to upgrade perfect function, collector quality (C&R)	\$2195
62-P Smith & Wesson .357 Magnum "Model 27-3/50th Anniversary Commemorative" Double Action Revolver 5" barrel with mint bore, 99%+ original blue and case color, all target configuration, as new in original flip top Walnut display case with S&W belt buckle and key, early (2) digit serial number of 2500 made	\$1195
63-P Stevens .22 LR "Model No. 43 2nd Issue" Single Shot Tip Up Pistol 5 3/4" barrel with very good bore, factory open sights, 90% original nickel on frame, 40% original blue going gray on barrel with a little light pitting, excellent smooth Walnut grips, excellent function (C&R)	\$265
64-P Stevens .22 Short & Long Diamond "No. 43" 2nd Issue Tip Up Auto Pistol 6" round/part octagon barrel with good but pitted bore, 90% thinning blue on barrel, nickel finish, nice fire blue on trigger and hammer, smooth Walnut grips, push button on frame is broken other than that excellent function, manufactured 1896-1916 (C&R)	\$345
65-P Stevens .22 LR "Model No. 35 Offhand" Single Shot Tip Up Pistol 8" barrel with excellent relined bore, factory open sights missing elevator at rear, 75% original nickel, barrel is stripped of all finish but no pitting, very good+ Walnut grips, excellent function (C&R)	\$225
66-P Stevens .22 Rimfire "Model No. 35 Offhand" Single Shot Tip Up Pistol 10" barrel with fair pitted bore, 75% original nickel and 70% well faded blue, factory open sights, very good+ smooth Walnut grips, excellent function (C&R)	\$235
67-P Taurus .38 Special "Model 851" Double Action Concealed Hammer 5 Shot Revolver 2" full underlug barrel with mint bore, "Ultra-Lite" all stainless construction, fixed sights, mint working "crimson trace" red dot lazer equipped synthetic boot grips, excellent function, near new in original black plastic case with manual and old purchase papers	\$375
68-P Taurus .44 Special "Model 441" Stainless Double Action Revolver 4" full underlug barrel with excellent bore, white outline fully adjustable rear and red ramp front sights, all polished stainless finish looks new, target trigger 5 shot cylinder, minty Pachmayr finger groove wrap around rubber grips, nice quality, excellent function	\$465
69-P OWA .25 ACP "Vest Pocket" Auto Pistol 2" barrel with very good bore, fixed sights, 96% original bright blue, minty "OWA" logo checkered black hard rubber grips, very high quality made in Austria, excellent function (C&R)	\$395
70-P Walther .22 LR "American Model TPH" Stainless Auto Pistol 2 3/4" barrel with mint bore, all stainless construction shows little or no actual use, comes in its original black plastic case with (2) magazines, (2) owner's manuals, and upper part of paper end label	\$785
71-P Walther / Interarms .22 LR "TPH" Double/Single Action Auto Pistol 2 1/4" barrel with mint bore, fixed sights, stainless steel finish, checkered black polymer grips with Walther logo, one original magazine with finger extension, comes with original black polymer hard case and paperwork, excellent function, manufactured 1987-2000	\$900
72-P Warner Arms Co. .32 S&W Short Top Break Double Action Revolver 3" ribbed barrel with very good bore, 98% original nickel, blue and case color, mint checkered black hard rubber grips, excellent function, a rarely seen hammer top break from an early maker, excellent quality (C&R)	\$285
73-P Weiner 6.35mm (.25 ACP) "Little Tom" Auto Pistol 2 3/4" barrel with good but pitted bore, fixed sights, 100% well faded original blue, excellent checkered black hard rubber grips with "Little Tom" on left and "WF" stylized on right side, missing magazine, made in Austria, action is sluggish but still works (C&R)	\$385

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

74-P Yugoslavian 7.62 Tokarev "Model 57" TT-33 Style Auto Pistol 4 1/2" barrel with excellent bore, 97% original blue, fixed sights, mint "SFRS" (5) pointed star logo serrated black synthetic grips, lanyard on left rear of grip and on matching numbered magazine, nice communist Yugoslav crest on rear of slide, import marked on bottom of triggerguard, comes in importer marked cardboard box, excellent function and looks near new (C&R)\$695

CENTERFIRE RIFLES

75-P Argentine .308 Winchester "Model 1909" Sporterized Bolt Rifle 24" "parker-Hale"
barrel with bright excellent bore, raised ramp front sight, rear adjustable folding leaf sight,
receiver has the Argentine national crest located on receiver rig, receiver shows a nice blue to
gray patina, bolt is in the white and is etched "A1152", waffle pattern press checkered Walnut
pistol grip stock with cheekpiece, stock has white line spacer on black plastic grip cap and red
rubber vented recoil pad, sling swivels added, excellent function\$275

76-P Brazilian-Uno 7mm "Model 1908" Mauser Bolt Rifle 30" barrel with fair but pitted bore, barrel shows 95% blue with scattered pin prick pitting, bolt and receiver show bright white, receiver ring has a nice Brazilian national crest, front inverted "V" sight with protected barrel cap, tangent rear sight graduated to 2000 meters, floorplate, triggerguard, barrel band, bayonet nose cap all show thinning blue with scattered light peppery pin prick pitting, all matching numbers including stocks, steel buttplate is in the white with heavy pin prick pitting, smooth Walnut semi pistol grip stock and handguard shows light normal use dings and dents (C&R)\$795

77-P Carl Gustafs 6.5 Swedish "Model 96" Barreled Action 24" barrel with bright excellent bore, receiver ring marked dated "1918" showing blue to gray, barrel shows white, crown proof marks on barrel, bolt and receiver, bolt is in the white with scattered spots of muted blue, no trigger group, only bolt, receiver and bolt (C&R)\$70

78-P Czech .308 Cal. "Model VZ 24" Sporterized Bolt Rifle 24" barrel with bright excellent bore, no sights, 80% arsenal blue on barrel and receiver, floorplate re-blued finish and unnumbered bolt in the white not serialized to receiver, receiver ring shows the Ceskos-Lovenska nation crest, black pebble grain fiberglass pistol grip sporter stock with Q.D. sling swivel studs and a black rubber butt pad, stock made by Bell and Carlson, excellent function, aftermarket trigger\$210

79-P Fabric De Arms 7mm Mauser "Model M1916" Bolt Rifle 22" barrel with good lightly pitted bore, protected front inverted "V" sight, tangent rear sight graduated to 2000 meters, unmarked receiver and barrel both show a plum patina, bayonet lug, barrel band with sling swivel, floorplate and buttplate all show a blue to gray with scattered peppery pin prick pitting (C&R)\$285

80-P Japanese / Nagoya 6.5mm Japanese "Type 38" Bolt Carbine 19" barrel with bright excellent bore with scattered pitting, barrel band, bolt both serialized to rifle, ground mum, no dust cover or cleaning rod, 90% arsenal blue finish with slight peppery pin prick pitting, protected "V" front sight, folding rear leaf sight graduated to 2000 meters, knurled safety with small notch indicator, two piece hardwood stock with handguard and finger grooves, cupped buttplate, sling swivels, excellent function (C&R) \$500

81-P Japanese 7.7 Caliber Type 99 27th Series Bolt Rifle 25 ½" barrel with very good bright bore, 90% original blue with normal pin prick pitting, front inverted "V" sight, fixed peep rear sight, grounded off mum on receiver ring, blob weld safety indicator, cylinder type bolt handle, no dust cover, two piece hardwood stock with short forend handguard, wood buttplate, no cleaning rod, riveted type front barrel band with sling swivel, front late issued barrel band with reviled and bayonet lug, manufactured Arsenal Tokyo Juki Kogyo, Tokyo (C&R)\$700

82-P Marlin 32/20 "Model 27-S" Pump Rifle 24" octagon barrel with very good bore, factory open sights, 98% of an old gunsmith applied blue, 2/3 magazine tube, takedown action, straight grip stock with a (3) triangle inlay on both sides of butt, crescent steel buttplate and excellent circular grooved pump handle, all wood has been refinished, excellent function\$750

83-P Mauser .257 Roberts Sporterized "K98" Bolt Rifle 24 ½" unmarked replaced barrel with mint bore, non professional re-blue finish, no sights, smooth Walnut pistol grip stock with cheekpiece, white line spacers on both pistol grip cap and black checkered Bishop buttplate \$200

84-P Savage 25/20 "Model 23-B" Clip Feed Bolt Rifle 24" barrel with mint bore, 98%+ original bright blue, factory bead front and small Lyman peep sights plus an excellent period correct Weaver B-6 scope mounted using factory drilled and tapped holes for a side mount scope, slot blank in barrel rear dovetail, minty figured dark Walnut pistol grip stock with blued steel, smooth "SVG" logo buttplate, 1 ¼" factory sling swivels, excellent function, collector quality (C&R)\$695

85-P Savage 32/20 "Model 23-C" Clip Feed Bolt Rifle 23" barrel with very good bore, 90% fading original blue, factory open sights, top of receiver poorly drilled and tapped for unknown rear sight, good Walnut pistol grip stock with smooth steel buttplate and unfilled sling swivel holes, excellent function (C&R)\$465

86-P Savage 32/20 "Model 23-C" Clip Feed Bolt Rifle 25" barrel with excellent bore, 98% original blue, browning on triggerguard and buttplate, factory open sights, excellent Walnut pistol grip stock with 1 ¼" sling swivels and "Savage Quality" Indian head logo buttplate, excellent function with (2) tone factory 32/20 sporter marked magazine, collector quality (C&R)\$595

87-P Savage .300 Savage "Super Sporter" Clip Feed Bolt Rifle 24" barrel with excellent bore, 92% original blue thinning on receiver and barrel, factory open sights, excellent dark Walnut pistol grip stock with "SVG" logo serrated steel buttplate, rear lock lugs on bolt, these guns were noted for their accuracy, a nice mild recoiling high powered rifle in overall excellent condition (C&R)\$525

88-P Savage 30/06 "Super Sporter" Clip Feed Bolt Rifle 24" barrel with excellent bore, 95% original blue, bead front sight, small Lyman factory installed receiver sight, slot blank in barrel dovetail, rear locking lugs on bolt, noted for accuracy, excellent dark Walnut pistol grip stock with "SVG" logo, serrated buttplate, sling swivels and old leather sling, excellent function\$495

89-P Stevens / Savage 30/30 "Model 325-C" Clip Feed Bolt Rifle 21" barrel with very good bore, 90% original blue with some spotty pitting on receiver and top of bolt, factory open sights, very good Walnut colored birch pistol grip stock, added swivel "eyes" works well with (1) original magazine, pre-1968 manufacture (C&R)\$295

90-P Savage 30/30 "Model 99" Lever Rifle 24" barrel with excellent bright bore, 98% original bright blue with just a hint of silvering on sharp edges, lever shows 95% muted case color, factory open sights, excellent Walnut pistol grip stock with cut checkering, grip cap, serrated steel buttplate and swivel "eye" in forend and Q.D. swivel in butt, excellent function, made in 1954, collector quality (C&R) \$895

91-P Steyr/BRN .280 Remington "Model 98" "43" Code Mauser Bolt Rifle 24 ½" barrel that is in the white and shows a bright excellent bore, unmarked bolt is also in the white with the bolt handle modified for cope, no sight, safety flag on bolt shows no markings, laminated straight grip stock has no sling swivel forend band and appears to have been cleaned or prepped to be refinished, floorplate and triggerguard match but no other serial numbers match, this would be a great project, manufactured 1940's (C&R)\$185

RIMFIRE RIFLES

92-P Browning .22 LR "Grade I Belgian" Butt Tube Feed Auto Rifle 19 ¼" barrel with mint bore, 98% original blue, factory open sights plus factory grooved receiver, nice scroll engraving, excellent figured light colored Walnut pistol grip stock with cut checkering, made in 1961, little actual use (C&R)\$895

93-P Browning .22 LR "Grade I" Butt Tube Feed Auto Rifle 19 1/4" barrel with mint bore, 99% original blue, factory open sights, mint dark Walnut pistol grip stock with cut checkering, nicely engraved receiver, manufactured 1982 by Miroku, super looker\$695

94-P Colt .22 LR "The Colteer" Tube Feed Auto Rifle 19 3/8" barrel with mint bore, 98% original blue on barrel, 97% black factory painted aluminum grooved receiver showing light scratches, open sights, front hood missing, smooth Walnut straight grip stock and forend, stock has a small crack on right side approximately 1 1/2' long, stock also shows some handling wear dings and dents, excellent function, manufactured 1965-1968 (C&R)\$455

95-P J. C. Higgins .22 LR "Model 29" Tube Feed Auto Rifle 24" barrel with mint bore, front raised blade sight, rear sight missing, open blank dovetail, grooved receiver with RWS model 200 3-7x20 scope mounted, scope has duplex reticle with partly foggy optics, 90% original blue with scattered flaking of old lacquer that was applied, two piece Walnut pistol grip stock, J.C. Higgins black plastic buttplate, excellent function (C&R) \$225

96-P Marlin .22 WMR "Model 882" Clip Feed Auto Rifle 22" barrel with bright mint bore, 98% factory blue finish, hooded front blade sight with gold bead, rear sight has been removed, grooved receiver with 1" Weaver scope rings attached to a Simmons "Deerfield" 4x32 scope, scope has clean clear optics, duplex reticle, press checkered Walnut pistol grip stock with Q.D. sling swivel studs and brown rubber butt pad, comes with one 7 round magazine, manufactured 1989-2003\$375

97-P Marlin .22 S, L, & LR "Model 25" Clip Feed Bolt Rifle 22" barrel with mint bore, 98% original blue, front post sight, rear sight removed, grooved receiver with mounted Lyman 6x All-American Perma center scope, scope has duplex reticle, clean clear optics, smooth Walnut pistol grip stock, black plastic triggerguard and buttplate, comes with one magazine, manufactured 1984 \$425

98-P Marlin .22 S, L, & LR "Model Golden 39A" Tube Feed Takedown Lever Rifle 24" barrel with bright mint bore, 98% original blue, hooded front sight, adjustable semi buckhorn rear sight, receiver drilled and tapped for scope base, smooth Walnut pistol grip stock and forend, white line spacer grip cap and buttplate, gold color trigger, hammer extension, sling swivels, excellent function, manufactured 1975\$785

99-P Marlin .22 S, L, & LR "Model 38" Pump Rifle 24" octagon barrel with excellent bore, 2/3 magazine tube, 90% original blue with receiver faded and going brown from hand carry, takedown action, factory open sights, excellent lightly figured Walnut pistol grip stock with a nice old refinish and what looks like a Remington serrated black hard rubber buttplate expertly fitted, excellent function and nice looking (C&R)\$695

100-P Mossberg .22 S, L, & LR "Model 46-B" Tube Feed Bolt Rifle 26" barrel with bright excellent bore, 95% original blue, some thinning along barrel with peppery pin pricing along both receiver and barrel, multi aperture front sight with no hood, Dockendorff style Mossberg 2A rear sight and Mossberg No.4 swing out aperture sight, receiver drilled and tapped for scope base, smooth Walnut pistol grip stock with cheekpiece, black finger groove triggerguard that is broken along finger groove, no sling swivels, black serrated buttplate, excellent function, manufactured 1938-1935 (C&R)\$245

101-P Remington .22 Short "Model 24" Butt Tube Feed Takedown Auto Rifle 19" barrel with mint bore, 90% thinning original blue to gray, thinning at muzzle and light scratches, original open field sights, smooth Walnut pistol grip stock and forend, "Browning" semi-auto design, steel buttplate, comes with one black leather hard case, inside is green felt, comes with knurled knob cleaning rod, case is lockable but no key, carry handle is broken and leather is worn, two leather straps also worn but not broken, excellent function, first year production, manufactured 1922 (C&R)\$850

102-P Remington .22 LR "Model 241" Butt Tube Feed Auto Rifle 24" barrel with excellent bore, 90%+ original faded blue, factory open sights plus factory drilled, tapped and plugged holes at top rear of receiver for "peep" sight, excellent nicely figured dark Walnut pistol grip stock with checkered blued steel buttplate. excellent function. made in 1935 (C&R)\$595

103-P Remington .22 S, L, & LR "Model 512 Sportmaster" Tube Feed Grooved Receiver Bolt Rifle 25" barrel with excellent bright bore, 98% original blue, factory open sights plus grooved receiver, excellent Walnut pistol grip stock with a few scratches and dents of left side, Remington logo plastic buttplate, made around 1958 (C&R)\$325

104-P Remington .22 S, L, & LR "Model 12-A Tube Feed Takedown Pump Rifle 22" barrel with bright excellent bore showing light pitting, 80% original blue with barrel showing blue to gray, brown patina, smooth Walnut straight grip stock and small grooved "corn bob" style forend, black Remington UMC hard rubber buttplate, original open field sights, manufactured 1913-1936 (C&R)\$565

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122-P Winchester .22 S, L & LR "Model 60" Single Shot Bolt Rifle early 23" barrel with excellent bore, 97% original blue with a little sharp edge silvering, factory open sights, very good+ Walnut pistol grip stock with logo hard rubber buttplate, excellent function, made early 1930's (C&R)	\$345
123-P Winchester .22 S, L & X Long "Model 1902" Single Shot Bolt Rifle 18" barrel with good lightly pitted bore, factory open sights, 97% good quality bright refinish blue, very good gumwood straight grip stock with excellent original logo hard rubber buttplate and stylized extended triggerguard, all markings still clearly visible, excellent function (C&R)	\$395
SHOTGUNS	
124-P Beretta 12 Gauge "Model BL-2" Boxlock Over/Under Shotgun 26 3/8" barrels with raised vent rib, 2 3/4" chambers, fixed modified and improved cylinder chokes with mint bores, single brass bead front sight, 98% original blue, extractors, tang safety, factory speed trigger, checkered Walnut forend and pistol grip stock, Beretta logo pistol grip cap and black plastic buttplate, excellent function	\$785
125-P Crescent Arms .410 Gauge "Davis Certified" Model Single Shot Shotgun 3" chamber, full choke, 26" barrel with mint bore, 98% original bright blue, 98% nice colorful case hardened receiver, very good Walnut pistol grip stock with some storage scratches in finish, original checkered brown plastic buttplate, made in Norwich, CT., excellent function and sharp looking (C&R)	\$350
126-P High Standard 12 Gauge "SuperMatic C-100" Auto Shotgun 27" barrel with bright good bore, adjustable choke, 2 3/4" chamber, 80% original blue with thinning to brown on receiver and scattered peppery pin prick pitting throughout, single brass bead sight, smooth Walnut pistol grip stock and forend wood, stock has full crack repair in center, missing large piece on right side next to triggerguard, missing return spring for bolt and bolt lever, NOT functioning (C&R)	\$55
127-P Ithaca .410 Enfield "No. 1 MK III" Bolt Shotgun 25" smooth bore barrel with an excellent bright bore, protected front post, tangent rear sight that the elevator has been pinned, smooth Walnut straight grip stock and handguard, 97% original arsenal finish, marked on right side of wrist "crown" over "G.R.I. 1942 No. 1 MK III" and on left side ".410 R.F.I. 1949", stock is marked on right side "T.D.E." within a circle, magewell filled in with block of wood, many cartouche markings on underside of wrist on stock, excellent function, manufactured 1949 (C&R)	\$555
128-P New England Firearms 12 Gauge "Pardner" Top Break Single Shotgun 27 1/2" barrel with 3" chamber and modified choke showing a bright excellent bore with light skid marks, single brass bead front sight hat sits flush with barrel, 98% original blue and tiger stripe case colors on the receiver, push lever barrel opener and ejector, smooth Walnut pistol grip stock and forend wood stock look to have a repair along back tang, black plastic buttplate	\$150
129-P Winchester .410 Gauge "Model 41" Single Shot Bolt Shotgun 24" barrel with excellent bright bore marked "full" choke, 95% original blue with triggerguard going brown, factory bead front and tiny open rear sights, very good Walnut pistol grip stock that shows woods use nicks and dings, wood has been cleaned at some point, "Winchester Repeating Arms" logo checkered hard rubber buttplate, excellent function (C&R)	\$645
ANTIQUE AND BLACKPOWDER FIREARMS (NO FFL REQUIRED): Check your local laws on antiques	
130-P Colt .31 Cal Black Powder 2nd Generation "Baby Dagoon" Revolver 4" octagon barrel with excellent bore, 98% original blue on barrel, trigger and cylinder with very light drag line, beautiful case harden colors on frame and hammer, silver plated backstrap and triggerguard showing nice black patina, smooth wood grips	\$695
131-P Colt .36 Cal. Black Powder 2nd Generation "Model 1862" Pocket Navy Revolver 5 1/2" barrel with excellent bore, 98% original blue on barrel, trigger and cylinder with light drag line, nice case harden colors on frame and hammer, silver plated backstrap and triggerguard starting to show black patina, shows very little wear, smooth wood grips	\$695
132-P Lee Firearms Co. .32 Rimfire Model "Red Jacket" Spur Trigger Revolver 2 1/4" barrel with good lightly pitted bore, 90% original engraved nickel finish, fixed sights, nice smooth bone bird's head grips, manufactured 1877-1880	\$365
133-P Ruger .44 Cal. Black Powder Old Army Revolver 7 1/2" barrel with excellent bore, adjustable sights, stainless steel finish, minor storage wear, smooth wood grips with black and silver Ruger medallions, very nice shape with box, warranty case and factory nipple wrench, manufactured 1989	\$995
134-P Ruger .44 Cal. Black Powder Old Army Revolver 7 1/2" barrel with excellent bore, adjustable sights, stainless steel finish, minor storage wear, smooth wood grips with black and silver Ruger medallions, very nice looking, manufactured 1981	\$895
135-P Smith & Wesson .32 S&W Short "4th Model" Double Action Top Break Revolver 3" barrel with good pitted bore, smoothly rusted or lightly pitted in places, light scratches in areas, mostly faded harden colors fading to gray on hammer and trigger, fixed sights, original grips clean with hairline crack on right side grip butt, good function, manufactured 1883-1888	\$165
136-P Uberti .44 Cal. Black Powder "Dagoon" Single Action Revolver 7 3/8" barrel with excellent bore, 98% original blue on barrel and cylinder showing light ring, cylinder engraved with battle scene and "Model U.S.M.R." beautiful case harden colors on loading rod, hammer and frame, brass backstrap and triggerguard showing some light oxidation and staining in areas, nice smooth wood grips, like new with original box	\$495
137-P Uberti .44 Cal. Black Powder "Dagoon" Single Action Revolver 7 1/2" barrel with excellent bore, 98% original blue on barrel and cylinder, no visible ring, cylinder engraved with battle scene and "model U.S.M.R.", beautiful case harden colors on loading rod, hammer and frame, brass backstrap and triggerguard shows very light handling marks, smooth wood grips with light markings, like new with box	\$495

124-P Beretta 12 Gauge "Model BL-2" Boxlock Over/Under Shotgun 26 3/8" barrels with raised vent rib, 2 3/4" chambers, fixed modified and improved cylinder chokes with mint bores, single brass bead front sight, 98% original blue, extractors, tang safety, factory speed trigger, checkered Walnut forend and pistol grip stock, Beretta logo pistol grip cap and black plastic buttplate, excellent function\$785

125-P Crescent Arms .410 Gauge "Davis Certified" Model Single Shot Shotgun 3" chamber, full choke, 26" barrel with mint bore, 98% original bright blue, 98% nice colorful case hardened receiver, very good Walnut pistol grip stock with some storage scratches in finish, original checkered brown plastic buttplate, made in Norwich, CT., excellent function and sharp looking (C&R)\$350

126-P High Standard 12 Gauge "SuperMatic C-100" Auto Shotgun 27" barrel with bright good bore, adjustable choke, 2 3/4" chamber, 80% original blue with thinning to brown on receiver and scattered peppery pin prick pitting throughout, single brass bead sight, smooth Walnut pistol grip stock and forend wood, stock has full crack repair in center, missing large piece on right side next to triggerguard, missing return spring for bolt and bolt lever, NOT functioning (C&R)\$55

127-P Ishapore .410 Enfield "No. 1 MK III" Bolt Shotgun 25" smooth bore barrel with an excellent bright bore, protected front post, tangent rear sight that the elevator has been pinned, smooth Walnut straight grip stock and handguard, 97% original arsenal finish, marked on right side of wrist "crown" over "G.R.I. 1942 No. 1 MK III" and on left side ".410 R.F.I. 1949", stock is marked on right side "T.D.E." within a circle, magewell filled in with block of wood, many cartouche markings on underside of wrist on stock, excellent function, manufactured 1949 (C&R)\$555

128-P New England Firearms 12 Gauge "Pardner" Top Break Single Shotgun 27 1/2" barrel with 3" chamber and modified choke showing a bright excellent bore with light skid marks, single brass bead front sight hat sits flush with barrel, 98% original blue and tiger stripe case colors on the receiver, push lever barrel opener and ejector, smooth Walnut pistol grip stock and forend wood stock look to have a repair along back tang, black plastic buttplate\$150

129-P Winchester .410 Gauge "Model 41" Single Shot Bolt Shotgun 24" barrel with excellent bright bore marked "full" choke, 95% original blue with triggerguard going brown, factory bead front and tiny open rear sights, very good Walnut pistol grip stock that shows woods use nicks and dings, wood has been cleaned at some point, "Winchester Repeating Arms" logo checkered hard rubber buttplate, excellent function (C&R)\$645

130-P Colt .31 Cal. Black Powder 2nd Generation "Baby Dragon" Revolver 4" octagon barrel with excellent bore, 98% original blue on barrel, trigger and cylinder with very light drag line, beautiful case harden colors on frame and hammer, silver plated backstrap and triggerguard showing nice black patina, smooth wood grips\$695

131-P Colt .36 Cal. Black Powder 2nd Generation "Model 1862" Pocket Navy Revolver 5 1/2" barrel with excellent bore, 98% original blue on barrel, trigger and cylinder with light drag line, nice case harden colors on frame and hammer, silver plated backstrap and triggerguard starting to show black patina, shows very little wear, smooth wood grips\$695

132-P Lee Firearms Co. .32 Rimfire Model "Red Jacket" Spur Trigger Revolver 2 1/4" barrel with good lightly pitted bore, 90% original engraved nickel finish, fixed sights, nice smooth bone bird's head grips, manufactured 1877-1880\$365

133-P Ruger .44 Cal. Black Powder Old Army Revolver 7 1/2" barrel with excellent bore, adjustable sights, stainless steel finish, minor storage wear, smooth wood grips with black and silver Ruger medallions, very nice shape with box, warranty case and factory nipple wrench, manufactured 1989\$995

134-P Ruger .44 Cal. Black Powder Old Army Revolver 7 1/2" barrel with excellent bore, adjustable sights, stainless steel finish, minor storage wear, smooth wood grips with black and silver Ruger medallions, very nice looking, manufactured 1981\$895

135-P Smith & Wesson .32 S&W Short "4th Model" Double Action Top Break Revolver 3" barrel with good pitted bore, smoothly rusted or lightly pitted in places, light scratches in areas, mostly faded harden colors fading to gray on hammer and trigger, fixed sights, original grips clean with hairline crack on right side grip butt, good function, manufactured 1883-1888 \$165

136-P Uberti .44 Cal. Black Powder "Dragoon" Single Action Revolver 7 3/8" barrel with excellent bore, 98% original blue on barrel and cylinder showing light ring, cylinder engraved with battle scene and "Model U.S.M.R." beautiful case harden colors on loading rod, hammer and frame, brass backstrap and triggerguard showing some light oxidation and staining in areas, nice smooth wood grips, like new with original box\$495

137-P Uberti .44 Cal. Black Powder "Dragoon" Single Action Revolver 7 1/2" barrel with excellent bore, 98% original blue on barrel and cylinder, no visible ring, cylinder engraved with battle scene and "model U.S.M.R.", beautiful case harden colors on loading rod, hammer and frame, brass backstrap and triggerguard shows very light handling marks, smooth wood grips with light markings, like new with box\$495

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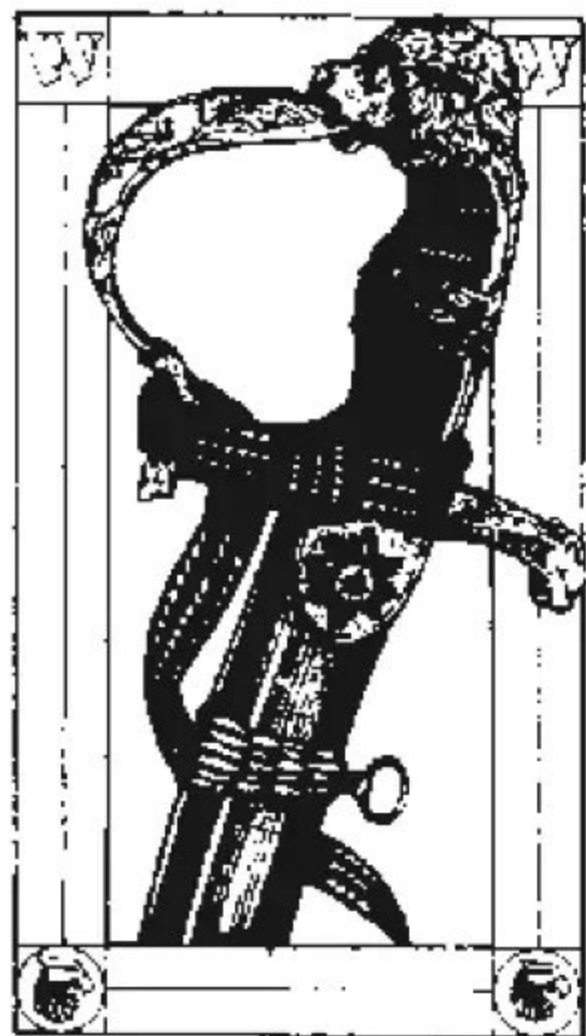


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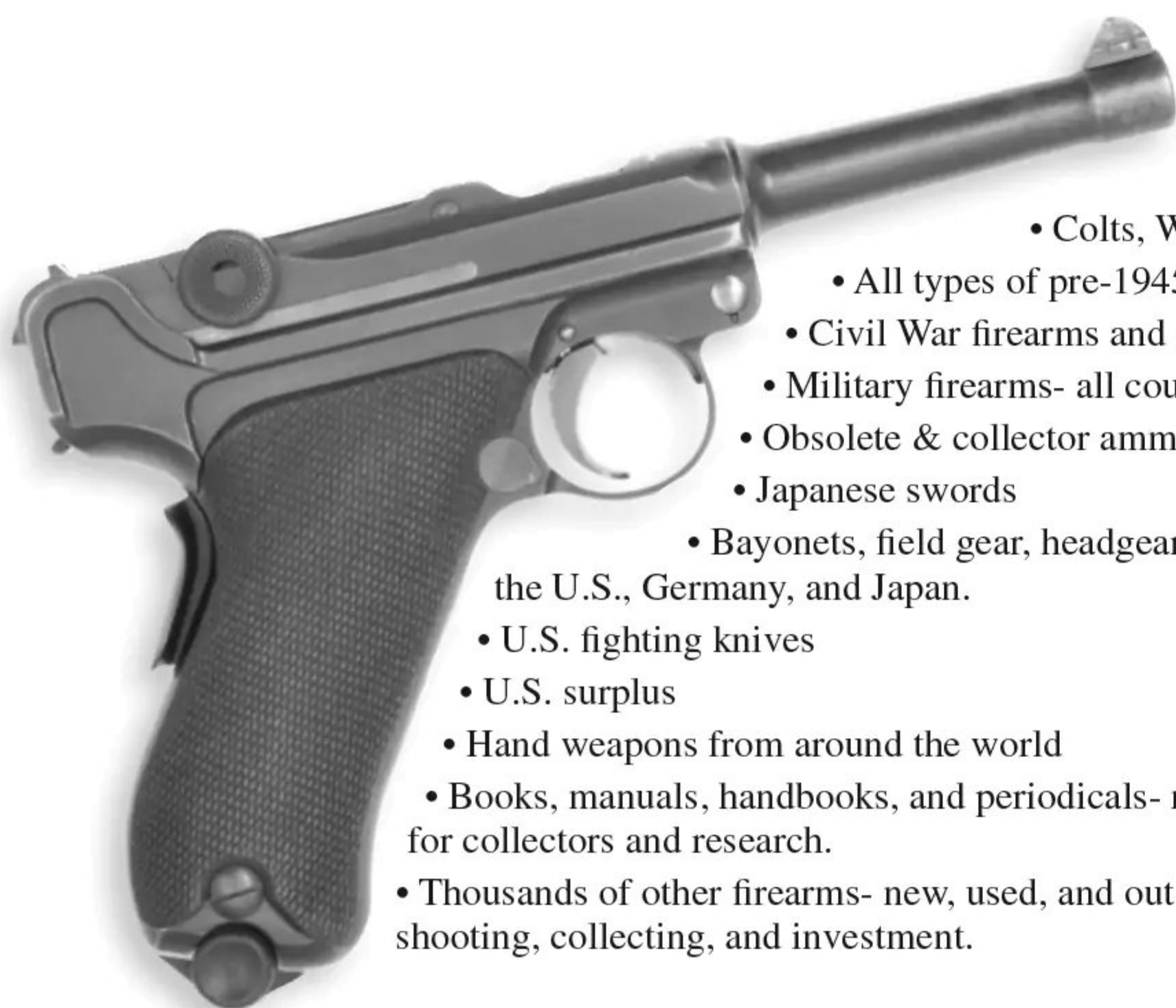
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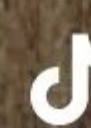
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THIS ONE IS MINE

Three off-the-grid adventures, on two different continents ... with one never-die rifle.

A handful of years ago, I was working the bench during bantam tryouts for our local hockey association. If you've had kids in sports, you know how this goes: You write a check for a stupid amount of money, and as long as you "volunteer" within the organization for a pre-determined amount of hours, they rip up the check.

It's pretty much forced labor, but it's less painful than having them cash that check. So, I was working the bantam (think eighth and ninth graders) boys hockey tryouts.

More often than not, those boys are pretty focused, silent and too tired to give anyone much lip, but they'll generally hit me with a fist bump and thank me for my service (they think it's funny because they know I'm there against my will).

I had been working with these guys all week, and on the final night of tryouts, the boys were handing me their pinnies and heading toward the locker room ... when one of them turned around and came back.

"Thanks for the help, man. And we really need to get you a new hat." Then, he

winked at me.

As he walked away, I pulled off my lid to confirm that I was indeed wearing the hat that I thought I was wearing.

Mossberg.

Being too proud to be bested by a little

hockey punk, I yelled down the hallway just as the locker room door closed behind him.

"I've already killed more sh*t with a Mossberg than you'll lie about in 10 lifetimes."



In the backcountry, looks don't mean a damned thing. If it can't run dirty, don't take it.

Making Friends with Frank

LOCATION: Frank Church Wilderness, Idaho

SPECIES: Rocky Mountain Elk

AMMUNITION: Nosler AccuBond Trophy Grade, 180-grain

OPTICS: Bushnell

NOTES: Despite being a true wilderness (meaning the tree huggers will lock you up and throw away the key for even thinking about internal combustion while within its boundaries), the Frank Church Wilderness still wears and maintains a series of airstrips from the 1920s originally used for fire management.

That means a rifleman can catch a ride deep in into the backcountry and hunt elk in the middle of September ... and in case that subtle bit of hunting trivia went over your head, rare is the opportunity to hunt elk with a rifle during the bugle.

And, more importantly, it means that it's possible for a hunter to catch a plane ride to a pack of mules and not have to be chaffed and exhausted well before ever reaching camp. In the words of a very wise Canadian friend of mine: "Strong like bull, smart like tractor."

Unless you're the lead horse, the view never changes ... or not. Views in the Frank Church Wilderness are spectacular.

For the next couple days, I remember stewing about that spontaneous little interaction. Partly because I wasn't sure that little brat heard my verbal twist of the knife before the door closed behind him, but I was mostly perturbed because this kid's thoughts on Mossberg are not isolated. I wanted him to know how wrong he was and why he was so wrong.

So, I headed to the basement and started counting coup. Turns out, I've got a handful of Mossbergs in my working guns collection.

There's a FLEX shotgun (remember those?) I used in Alaska to tag a pair of Sitka blacktails and my first harlequin. There's also a little .410 bantam shotty my daughter has used to kill her first two Eastern turkeys ... and it's the gun my son used to miss his first turkey the first time we hunted together (yes, he cried like a newborn). And, although it hasn't been fired in a while, I've still got the Mossberg 4X4 I used to give my fire mule a ride in the truck.

And then there's the .300 Winchester Magnum Patriot, complete with the



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Above: Good company is hard to find in the wilderness, especially when they're not bugling. Walk softly and carry a big rifle.

Left: As a gun nerd, recovering a bullet is nearly as good as the antlers that grow on top of the meat. This is the single 180-grain Nosler AccuBond that ended the old bull's reign.

Right: With late-September overnight temps bottoming out near freezing, hanging meat for days on end wasn't a concern. Luckily, bears weren't a concern, either.



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Marine Coat finish Mossberg once used before anyone in the gun industry had ever heard of Cerakote. Together, that rifle and I are more lethal than a redhead on a bad hair day.

There isn't a one of those guns that will fetch a pile of money, but each of them has been at my side while creating some of my favorite memories afield ... and that's what makes a gun truly invaluable.

So, here's the scrapbook of that .300 Win. Mag. (same barreled action, wearing two different stocks) and I on three different unique vacations, when we left my wife at home and made some pretty intimate memories together.

And, "hockey kid," if you somehow stumble across this little nod to my Mossberg hat ... I'll sell it to ya for a thousand dollars. **GDTM**

Hunting Below the Belt

LOCATION: Northern Cape of South Africa, near Kimberley

SPECIES: Warthog, gemsbok and kudu

AMMUNITION: SIG Sauer Elite Hunting HT, 165-grain

OPTICS: SIG Electro-Optics

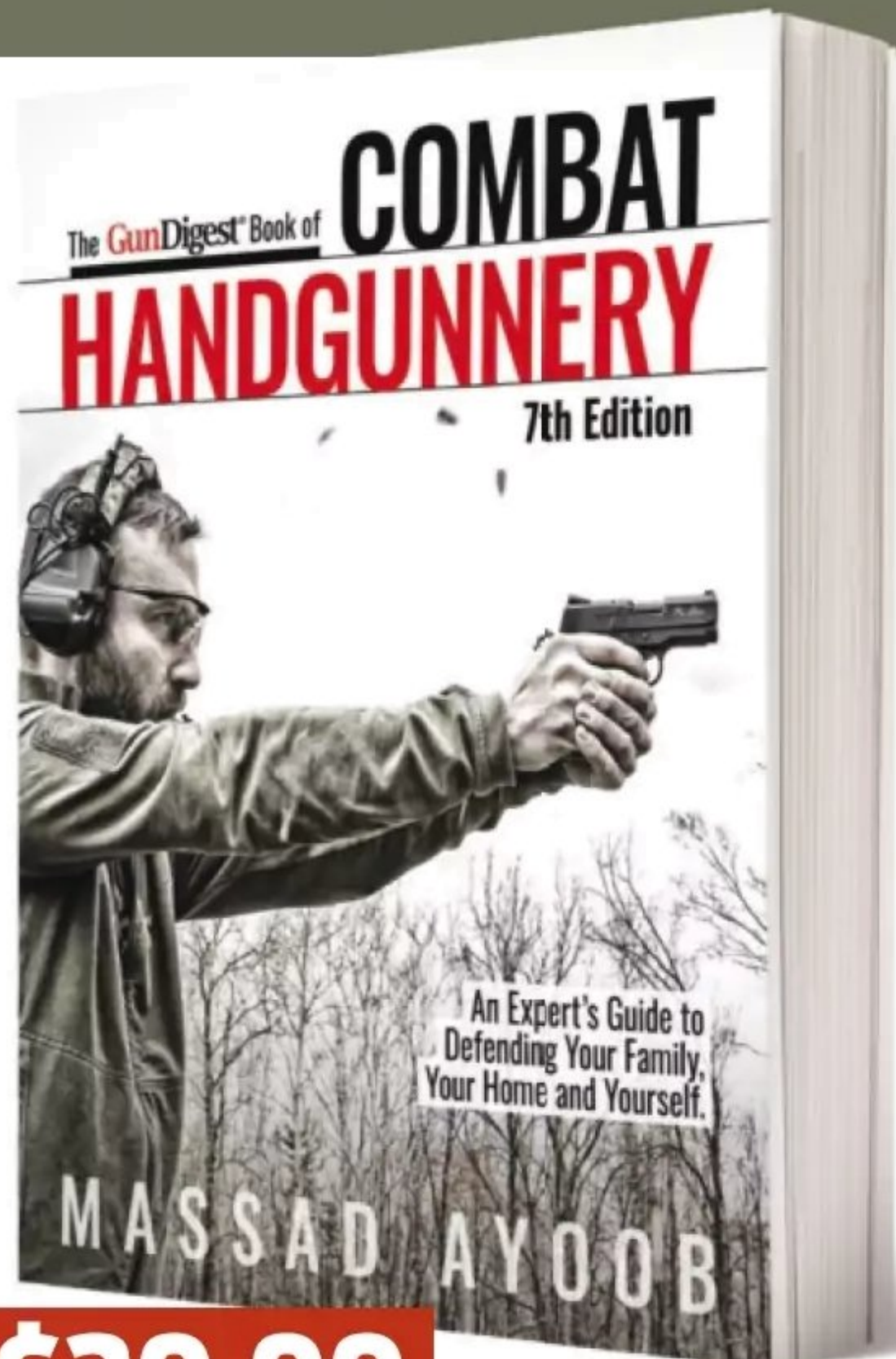
NOTES: When it comes to Africa, there seems to be two distinct camps of hunters with very little middle ground to share: those who have been there and cannot wait to go back ... and those who don't understand the appeal because they haven't been there yet.

Hunting on the other side of the Earth's hemisphere belt is indeed an experience that cannot be compared to any type of hunting available in the United States. From meeting the people to chasing the critters, it's an unexpectedly addicting venture.

And, if that's not enough to get you on a plane, it's also worth noting that the American dollar goes so far in South Africa that it's possible to feel incredibly wealthy while spending a very responsible amount on the trip of a lifetime.



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A Moon-Walk in Texas

LOCATION: Far West Texas, near Alpine

SPECIES: Scimitar-Horned Oryx

AMMUNITION: Remington Premier Long Range, 190-grain

OPTICS: Riton

NOTES: No need to hit up Elon Musk on X to beg for a ride to the moon when you can visit the borderlands of West Texas. Heck, you might even get a rare glimpse of illegal aliens going for a quick swim in a river. And if that doesn't entice ya, what about the opportunity to hunt an extinct animal? Yes, you read that correctly. Because there are no longer sustainable populations in their historical home ranges within Nepal and Chad, the scimitar-horned oryx is technically considered extinct ... despite there being a healthy and huntable free-ranging population thriving under the watchful eye of local ranchers and outfitters. (Texas does not regulate the hunting or trade of exotics.) And, in case you're wondering, extinct animal meat has a rather heavy grain structure but is surprisingly tender. Almost sweet.



Field to Fork

This article is from *Carnivore* #10, a sister publication of *Gun Digest*, focused on hunting, the tools of the trade, and proven recipes from the pros. Go to [GunDigestStore.com](https://www.gundigeststore.com) and search “Carnivore.”

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HORNADY'S NEW .22 ARC

Should the universally adored .223 Remington be worried?

When I got into law enforcement, I soon discovered one of my most important duties would be to write incident reports. I also learned that, to write an effective incident report that accurately conveyed the situation and provided me with a solid reference in court, it would have to be based on fact. In other words, like *Dragnet* television series character Sergeant Joe Friday is so famously credited with saying, “Just the facts, ma’am.”

That’s what you have here: a report without hype or hyperbole on the facts as they relate to Hornady’s new .22 ARC (Advanced Rifle Cartridge). Interestingly, Sergeant Friday’s original—real—quote was, “All we want are the facts, ma’am.”

THE CARTRIDGE CASE

In 1974, Dr. Louis Palmisano and Ferris Pindell created a wildcat cartridge

for benchrest competition. It was based on the .220 Russian cartridge, which was an adaptation of the 7.62x39mm Russian cartridge. They called their wildcat the .22 PPC (Palmisano Pindell Cartridge), and it became very popular for benchrest shooting. However, it never gained SAAMI (Sporting Arms and Ammunition Manufacturer’s Institute) acceptance, but, in 1989, the CIP (Commission Internationale Permanente), which is Europe’s equivalent of SAAMI, did approve the .22 PPC.

Still, without SAAMI acceptance, the .22 PPC was doomed to the life of a wildcat.

In 2024, on the heels of their successful launch of the 6mm ARC, which was Hornady’s adaptation of the 6mm PPC cartridge, Hornady introduced the .22 ARC. The .22 ARC is a slightly modified .22 PPC. Hornady reduced the cartridge’s rim by 0.003, the circumference of the case body by 0.002, and also made slight modifications to the case length.



The .22 ARC is a very compact cartridge that is designed to work in an AR-15 platform. However, bolt-action rifles for this cartridge are being offered as well.



With the .22 ARC, it's all about the arc—the minimal arc of the bullet from the muzzle to targets that are a long ways off.

The three most notable changes Hornady made to the .22 PPC were to increase the overall cartridge length to 2.260 inches, to double the speed of the rifling twist rate and to decrease the maximum average chamber pressure (MAP) from 58,000 psi to 52,000 psi.

THE BULLET

Like all other popular 0.224-caliber centerfire cartridges, the .22 ARC uses the same diameter bullet. However, because of its faster 1:7 rifling twist rate, the .22 ARC can stabilize heavier—longer—bullets that have a higher ballistic coefficient (BC). You can effectively load and shoot any 0.224-caliber bullet in a .22 ARC, and Hodgdon lists load data for bullets ranging in weight from 55 to 95 grains.

Hornady currently offers factory ammo loaded with 62-, 75- and 88-grain bullets. As a comparison, the highest BC bullet Hornady loads for

the .223 Remington is a 73-grain ELD-Match bullet with a G1 BC of 0.398. The BC of Hornady's 88-grain ELD-Match bullet they load in the .22 ARC has a G1 BC of 0.545. That's an increase in bullet BC of 27 percent.

PRIMERS AND POWDERS

Just as with most centerfire 0.224-caliber rifle cartridges—.223 Remington, 5.56 NATO, .224 Valkyrie and .22 Nosler—the .22 ARC uses a small rifle primer. Interestingly, the 7.62x39mm Russian cartridge, which is the parent case for the .22 PPC/.22 ARC, originally used large rifle primers.

However, today's manufacturers offer 7.62x39mm ammunition and brass for both large and small primers. Powder choice for the .22 ARC varies greatly depending on the bullet weight chosen, but typically powders with a burn rate somewhere between Accurate 2230 and Hybrid 100 V work best.

LOAD DATA

If you are a handloader interested in working with the .22 ARC, you will want load data. Hodgdon lists a wide array of loads on their website, but all these loads are held within the cartridge's MAP of 52,000 psi, which was approved by SAAMI.

Though you might only think of the .22 ARC as a cartridge for an AR-15, it will also work in a bolt action rifle and Hornady—unusually—provides higher pressure .22 ARC load data for bolt-action rifles. Maximum loads created with this data can have a MAP as high as 62,000 psi and are not safe in AR-15 rifles. For example, Hornady lists a maximum load for a 75-grain bullet for a gas gun at 29.8 grains of CFE .223, but for the same load in a bolt-action rifle they list a maximum charge of 31.5 grains.

MUZZLE VELOCITY

Velocity will vary based on the weight of the bullet and powder used ... along with barrel length. The fastest velocity Hodgdon lists for a handloaded 55-grain bullet in the .22 ARC is 3,469 fps, using a 55-grain Hornady V-Max ahead of 31.2 grains of Accurate 2520 powder and a Federal No. 205 small rifle primer. For the heavier 95-grain bullet, Hodgdon lists a muzzle velocity of 2,665 fps out of a 24-inch barrel using a 95-grain Sierra HPBT bullet ahead of 28.5 grains of Accurate 2,700 and the same primer.

For their factory-loaded ammunition, Hornady lists a muzzle velocity of 3,300 fps with a 62-grain bullet, 3,075 fps with a 75-grain bullet and 2,820 fps with an 88-grain bullet. Testing out of a Ballistic Advantage AR-15 with an 18-inch barrel delivered respective velocities of 3,114 fps with the 62-grain load, 2,909 fps with the 75-grain load and 2,719 fps with the 88-grain load.

Compared to other .22 centerfire AR-15 compatible cartridges loaded with a 75-grain bullet, the .22 ARC is about 200-fps faster than the .223 Remington and about 100-fps faster than the .22 Nosler and .224 Valkyrie.



EXTERNAL BALLISTICS

Because of its higher muzzle velocity, combined with the higher BC bullets it can stabilize, the .22 ARC shoots flatter than other .22 centerfire AR-15 compatible cartridges. With its best-performing factory load, the .22 ARC will push a bullet to 1,000 yards in about 1.5 seconds.

Comparably, the .223 Remington can

push a bullet to 1,000 yards in about 1.69 seconds, the .22 Nosler in about 1.62 seconds and the .223 Valkyrie in about 1.59 seconds. Since time of flight directly correlates to the amount of time gravity and wind have to pull and push on a bullet in flight, the .22 ARC shoots flatter with less drift.

When you compare the best long-range loads for these four AR-15 com-

patible cartridges, the .22 ARC will drop about 15 percent less than the .223 Remington, about 11 percent less than the .22 Nosler, and about 7 percent less than the .224 Valkyrie.

As for wind drift, the much higher BC bullets the .22 ARC uses make a tremendous difference. In a 10 mph, 90-degree crosswind, the .22 ARC will drift about 32 percent less than a .223



Hornady currently offers three factory loads for the .22 ARC cartridge.

The .22 ARC is perfectly sized to work with AR-15 magazines—specifically those for the 6.5 Grendel.

BALLISTIC ADVANTAGE



I had some difficulty securing an AR-15 chambered for the .22 ARC so I could evaluate the cartridge. Proof Research provided a bolt-action rifle in .22 ARC, but I ended up having to build an AR-15. For that, I used a Ballistic Advantage upper with an 18-inch barrel, a Ballistic Advantage Breach Charging Handle and a Ballistic Advantage enhanced lower with a Bravo Systems B5 stock. I added a Timney Impact trigger but had to use the bolt carrier group from my Stag Arms Stag 15 in 6.5 Grendel because Ballistic Advantage did not have one available.

I evaluated all the Hornady factory ammunition by shooting multiple five-shot groups from a sandbag rest at 100 yards while using a Silencer Central Banish Backcountry suppressor. The ammunition was very consistent with standard velocity deviations of less than 20 fps, and my DIY AR-15 using Ballistic Advantage parts performed very well ... and somewhat endeared me to the components and the cartridge. I'd strongly suggest anyone looking to put together an AR-15 in .22 ARC give Ballistic Advantage components a serious look.

The rifle in .22 ARC, built at home using parts from Ballistic Advantage, was reliable and delivered better-than-average precision for an AR-15.



BALLISTIC ADVANTAGE .22 ARC

LOAD	MV	SD	ENG	PRE
Hornady 62 grain ELD-VT	3,114	18.9	1,335	1.27
Hornady 75-grain ELD Match Black	2,909	18.7	1,409	1.39
Hornady 88-grain ELD Match	2,719	15.3	1,444	0.84
AVERAGE: 1.17				

NOTES: The average chronographed muzzle velocity (MV,) standard velocity deviation (SD), and muzzle energy (ENG), were obtained by firing 10 shots over a Caldwell G2 chronograph with the screens positioned 10 feet from the muzzle. Average reported precision (PRE) is the result of five, five-shot groups fired with each load at 100 yards from a sandbag rest. Temperature: 91 degrees F, humidity: 36 percent, pressure: 29.94 in-Hg, and elevation: 2,200 feet.

Remington, and about 15 percent less than the .22 Nosler and .224 Valkyrie. And, of course, the ability for bullets from the .22 ARC to retain their velocity better at distance also equates to more energy down range.

OPINION
Initially, I told you that this article would only contain facts, and I have

presented them to you as clear and concisely as space allows. Unlike police officers do when writing incident reports, in articles, readers expect gun writers to also provide opinion. A police officer will author his report and include the facts that support things like reasonable suspicion and probable cause, both of which are fact-based determinations. Gun writers do something similar; they



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The .22 ARC is one of the newest factory loaded cartridges. It is essentially a redesigned .22 PPC cartridge, which was a popular wildcat cartridge for bench rest shooting.

If you're looking for the best cartridge to use at long range from an AR-15, look no further than the .22 ARC.



take the facts and temper them with their experience to provide opinion. So, in the interest of doing my job, here's some opinion for you to consider.

I think we should celebrate Hornady for legitimizing—and slightly modifying—the .22 PPC, which is one of the greatest .22 centerfire cartridges of all time. I also think if you want to shoot at extreme distances with an AR-15, the .22 ARC is unquestionably the best cartridge to do that with. For that matter, if you want to shoot at extreme range with a bolt-action .22 centerfire, the .22 ARC is an excellent choice as well.

However, I also believe that the .22 ARC will never measure up to the .223 Remington in terms of available factory loads. And because .22 ARC ammo is more expensive and .22 ARC rifles have reduced magazine capacity, I do not think the .22 ARC will ever be anywhere near as popular *or as versatile* as the .223 Remington.

I do predict that it will ultimately be the second most popular AR-15 compatible .22 centerfire cartridge. If our industry ever stabilizes, more manufacturers will begin loading ammunition for the .22 ARC, and I believe it will soon be surpassing the popularity of the .22 Valkyrie and .22 Nosler. **GDTM**

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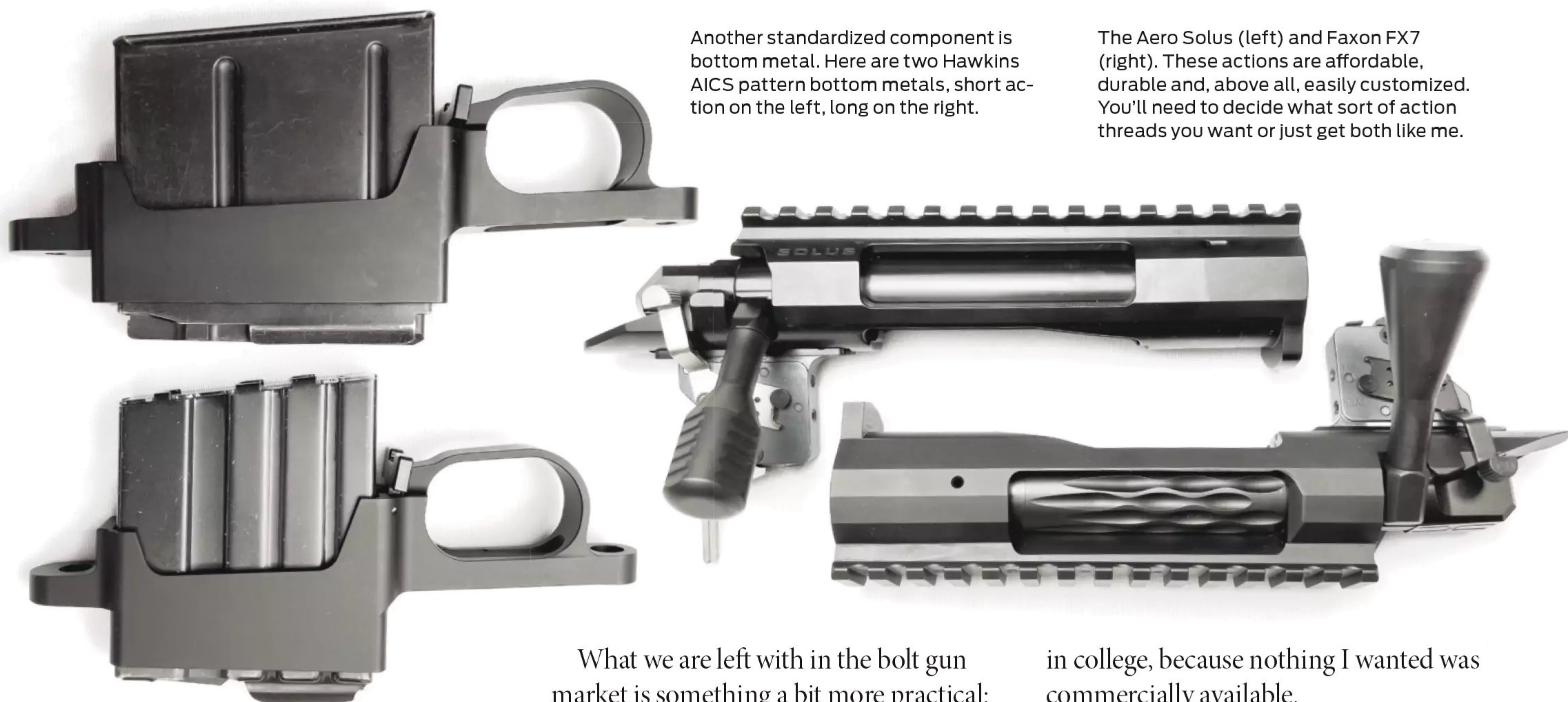




BOLT-ACTION BUILDING

Building your dream rifle from
scratch is much less complicated
than it used to be.





Another standardized component is bottom metal. Here are two Hawkins AICS pattern bottom metals, short action on the left, long on the right.

The Aero Solus (left) and Faxon FX7 (right). These actions are affordable, durable and, above all, easily customized. You'll need to decide what sort of action threads you want or just get both like me.

If you've been paying attention to the bolt gun scene these days, you'll have noticed there are lots of words and phrases that have started to pop up that you might not be familiar with: pre-fit barrels, RemAge, small shank, large shank ... and many more.

The baseline point here is that bolt guns are officially entering the drop-in-ready world, much like how the AR platform did two decades ago. However, much like in the early days when everyone was still figuring out how to work on these guns at home, the modular bolt action is still in its infancy, and there will be something of a learning curve for both consumers and manufacturers.

THE MAN BEHIND THE CURTAIN

Bolt-action enthusiasts arrived at a problematic point in the recent past: As the AR market grew and parts became far more available and inexpensive, there was a noted decline in the interest with bolt guns, largely due to a substantially smaller aftermarket that relied on custom options and special knowledge.

Yes, for years bolt gun guys (including myself) bemoaned the time and expense it took to get a "real" rifle shooting well—without turning it completely into a bench gun that weighed more than a dozen pounds.

What we are left with in the bolt gun market is something a bit more practical: Most of the popular cartridges today are ones we've had, with a couple newcomers that have made an impression, namely 6.5 PRC. Because not much has changed and the winds still favor 6.5 Creedmoor and .308 Win., we see the first builder-focused modular bolt guns centering on popular, common short-action cartridges and their peripheral counterparts like AICS magazines and 700-footprint stocks and triggers.

But, at this time nothing is truly standardized. Here's the how and why of what's happening in the bolt gun world.

THE LOOSE THREAD

Up until recently, there were only a few methods of installing a bolt-action barrel. One was to send it back to the factory to get replaced. Another was to have the action sent out where a gunsmith would do some special voodoo and install a custom barrel to your action. The third was relatively limited in scope: If you had a Savage rifle, you could find a company making "finished" barrels that you would install yourself using a headspace gauge.

Point being, unless you were a machinist or had the right tools and skills, you were stuck with what you had. Even threaded muzzles were not common a decade ago. I remember taking barrel blanks to my gunsmith to be cut and threaded for my Savage actions back when I was

in college, because nothing I wanted was commercially available.

As a result of Savage actions being the only common ones available for garage builders, the Savage small-shank barrel became the chosen barrel of hobby builders. What you need to understand is that these barrels were not headspaced—they had a variable shoulder, known better as the famous Savage barrel nut. While I have the option of using shouldered pre-fit barrels, I still prefer to use what I grew up with, and I like to headspace my barrels manually using a barrel nut. This isn't necessary today, but the option exists.

The old method of installing a barrel would be much more challenging. Take the example of the golden age of surplus: You probably saw dozens of ads in the early 2000s for "Short-Chambered Large Ring Mauser" barrels in magazines and sports catalogs. These barrels would need to be installed and tightened down. Then, a reamer would need to be used to physically remove metal in the chamber, with the builder checking headspace with gauges constantly. If you messed up, well, tough luck ... and you'd had better own a lathe to fix your mistake. This is still how many custom rifle gunsmiths install a barrel on an action.

With Savage barrels being something of a hobby standard, we later began seeing early custom actions that could use the Savage barrel thread. While not getting too technical, the Savage thread is finer



A Magpul chassis showing the "700 Footprint." Any Remington-based action will work in this chassis.

than Remington (the other main thread type, more on that shortly), and it's debated if it provides better accuracy over a coarser thread. Having used them both long term, I do not think this matters.

Later, Remington 700 owners who wanted the same capabilities as Savage owners began requesting variable shoulder 700 barrels, aptly called RemAge (for Remington/Savage) that used a barrel nut and a Savage nut wrench. Be aware that many companies use their own action threads, so not everything is divided into Camp Savage or Camp Remington ... for now.

Today, we're entering an even more interesting era with factory pre-fits. The two main players in this area are Faxon Firearms and Aero Precision with their respective FX7 and Solus actions. At the time of this writing, you can in fact purchase what amounts to drop-in ready pre-fits for these actions. Simply put the barrel in a barrel vice, spin the action on and insert the action wrench (both companies offer action wrenches—you'll need them, don't damage your action being cheap) and give it a good tightening. Don't use a hammer or Loctite, just a good bit of leverage.

And you're good to go right away; just assemble the rifle like you normally would. While it might surprise you, many custom pre-fit barrels today that use this method have wrench flats on them, enabling you to change barrels in the field. I hope to see this feature on factory pre-fits soon.

Now, the Faxon and Aero receivers

do use different barrel threads, but they have a good deal in common relevant to the rest of this article. The Faxon uses the RemAge thread pattern; the Aero uses Savage. There are advantages here on both, but they're not interchangeable. Faxon RemAge barrels can be used on the 700 short action, so if you are already a Remington fan this would probably make a lot of sense.

Likewise, the Aero Solus can use Savage barrels but it also can share with actions like Zermatt, also featured in this article. These two camps are not enemies, with Faxon even making Savage-thread barrels now. I do think that there may be a change in the winds down the road, and my money is on the Aero/Zermatt-style pre-fit becoming the "standard" barrel that other companies will start offering.

Who knows: In five years, we might have dozens of bolt action barrels available from a bunch of companies ... just like we have with AR barrels today.

FINDING COMMON GROUND

Other parts have managed to become standardized across the board, unlike barrel thread patterns, although threaded barrels are standard now.

As a shooting community, we like muzzle devices and suppressors, and the ability to choose what's right for each of us is what it's all about. For today's common/popular calibers, we have a handful of muzzle threads, with the most common being $\frac{1}{2}$ -28 inch for .22 bore and $\frac{5}{8}$ -24 inch for most things up to .30 caliber—so virtually all hunting and field chamberings.

The bigger you go the less standardized thread patterns become, and many

Timney is the author's choice in bolt gun triggers.



companies thread for what they want. For instance, multiple .45-caliber threads are out there. I personally favor $\frac{11}{16}$ -24 inch for .450 bores. You really can't go wrong with many of today's muzzle accessories, and there are more every day that will suit your new bolt gun build.

Another area of commonality is stocks. Aftermarket Remington 700 stocks began to take off in the early 2000s, and eventually they spawned an entire market with dozens of different traditional versions, as well as competition and tactical chassis designs. Today, we see that the field for these stocks is populated densely with two footprints: the Remington 700 long action and Remington 700 short action. Many actions today are made to fit these respective screw spacings and dimensions. As a result, virtually all new actions made are

Muzzle threading is common today, probably now the norm. Devices vary quite a bit, but here the author has suppressor mounts installed.



designed to work in just about any stock. You have lots of options, and the majority have generous barrel channels to accommodate even the heaviest tubes.

Another thing that has become the standard is the AICS (Accuracy International Chassis System) magazines. These are meant to work in many chassis models and various bottom metals, in particular

with another de facto standard: the M5 bottom metal. Magazines used to be proprietary to the manufacturer, but now you aren't limited to this, and you have high flexibility in the magazine capacity and cartridge. The AICS pattern in short action can be had in everything from special .22 LR mags that can use the full magwell (popular in long range rimfire) up to and including short-action magnums and straight-wall cases like .450 Bushmaster.

Triggers are the next thing that is largely universal. Most actions today use the Remington 700 trigger assembly. This is a bit of a no-brainer because it's so easy to install and it's a self-contained unit, unlike many other types of triggers that are dedicated to their respective actions. There is, therefore, less specialization when a company designs an action, giving them a proven trigger and you the ability to select your own for your end use. I personally use only Timney triggers in my bolt guns. I've used these triggers for years and I have come to completely trust them. There are,



A Preferred Barrel Blanks Savage-style small-shank barrel with variable shoulder on the left, a Faxon shouldered pre-fit with Remington style thread on the right. These are the two most common types of action threads.

After chucking the barrel in a vice (make sure you get the good ones at Brownells, not from places like Harbor Freight or other generic tool stores), you will need an action-specific wrench to tighten it to the barrel.



of course, many fine brands out there, and it's hard to go wrong.

When it comes to overall size of the rifles, we see that the market is favoring short actions. At the time of this writing, neither Faxon nor Aero lists long-action versions of the FX7 or Solus, but the LA Solus had been announced earlier in the year. Time will tell what other variations arise. Likewise, neither company lists long-action caliber pre-fits or any long-action chambered barrels at all. The short action market will likely continue to dominate the conversation for some time, with long-action builds being of more interest to hunters seeking more powerful cartridges. With great short-action rounds like 6.5 PRC out there that can take most American large game, I can't speculate on the success of these long actions with their smaller aftermarket.

THE AUTHOR'S TIPS

I've been building out bolt guns since I

was 14, and I've learned a thing or two about how to do it right. The old guard of bolt guns have essentially been gatekeepers to knowledge and sometimes kept it secret to help give their builds an edge—and a high price tag.

Here's the thing: Today's guns and barrels are pretty darn good. I've owned factory Savage rifles that shot better than some very high-end precision guns. It's become far easier to acquire and build accurate rifles today than ever. Off-the-shelf parts are becoming increasingly better, and the need for things like glass bedding and lapped scope rings are just not as necessary today as they once were.

If you want a custom bolt gun built for you, do not let me persuade you from doing so. But in today's world, you shouldn't be surprised if someone's less expensive home build is just as accurate. Even at that, don't be surprised if a semi-auto gives your bolt gun a run for its money. Times are changing.

It's also worth noting here that headspacing is one of those things that people get freaked out about. Well, back when headspacing a barrel meant possibly doing it wrong, such as getting chatter in the chamber from the reamer, this was a costly, sweaty-palms proposition. I can tell you honestly that headspacing the old

way is hard, but I will also say that you shouldn't stress about it: These days, headspacing gauges are pretty easy to use and understand. After you do it once with a barrel nut setup, it's like second nature.

The next pointer I have is on the budget scale. I work with some very high-end products in order to produce the best content for your eyes to delight in, and in that pursuit, I have come to see that many people are very conceited about their brands of choice. I like to look at what is happening with actions, but, in reality, most are more similar than they are different.

See, if we're working inside the 700 footprint, with 700 triggers, 700 chassis systems, stocks and AICS mags, we're actually working in a somewhat limited space. I've been accused of both being a "snob" and at the same time have had the FX7 and Solus actions I am using here called "budget" actions. That's BS. Having used many actions, I can readily say that most of them are overpriced for what they offer. Don't let anyone action-shame you.

Barrels, however, are not something to go cheap on. All things being the same, a high-end barrel will typically shoot better than lower-cost options. But, at the same time, manufacturing technology is so good now that factory pre-fit barrels I have here are all shooting under 1 MOA right out of the box. **GDTM**



Two hunting rifle builds the author uses in the field. These have a large number of interchangeable parts.





NOT ANOTHER 2011

Kimber's KDS9C has all the features shooters asked for.

These days, it seems that if you're a gun maker and you don't offer a 2011, you ain't sh*t. Rather than follow the crowd, Kimber decided to put its own spin on the double-stack, 9mm, single-action-only formula, and we're actually glad they did. Instead of being wedded to the 2011 magazine, the KDS9C manages to shave off a few millimeters from its grip dimensions by being built around a metal mag designed from the outset for the 9mm Luger cartridge, rather than swaging down a .45ACP tube. It's the same tactic employed by

Takedown is per classic 1911, with a twist. Note reverse recoil plug, full-length guide rod and flat wire recoil spring.



KIMBER KDS9C RAIL

CALIBER: 9mm

BARREL LENGTH: 4 inches

OVERALL LENGTH: 7.75 inches

WEIGHT: 30 ounces (unloaded)

MAGAZINE CAPACITY: 15, 18

URL: kimberamerica.com

MSRP: \$1,900

Wilson Combat and their EDC X9 and SFT9 (see CONCEALMENT Issue 36), only at a lower price point.

NUTS AND BOLTS

Up top, the KDS9C uses a somewhat traditional 1911-style slide. Purists will turn their noses up at the external extractor, or perhaps with this being decidedly not an old-school 1911, they

may merely overlook the improvement. There's a host of custom 1911-style touches, such as the tri-topped upper surfaces, front cocking serrations, and grooved rib, while the front sight is dovetailed and tritium-illuminated. So far, so good.

Kimber has done away with the classic 1911 locking lugs, instead mating the barrel to the slide by means of the Sig/Petter shelf, which keys into the ejection port, just like about every other modern design using a Browning-style tilting barrel. This no doubt cuts down on machine time and hand-fitting while still producing excellent accuracy, aided by a bull profile muzzle that engages directly with the slide, deleting the 1911's barrel bushing. Browning's original swinging link still serves to unlock the barrel, but the recoil spring is now updated to a flat wire version, retained by a reverse plug. Thankfully, Kimber didn't see fit to endow their creation with an 80's

series firing pin safety, so superfluous parts are ditched, and that sweet single-action trigger feel is maintained.

The option to install a MRDS is offered through the use of a mounting plate designed around the Shield RMSc footprint, and our test gun came with a Holosun 407 already bolted up. Should you sport a dapper mustache and prefer your carry gun to be devoid of all newfangled gadgets, then a plate matching the slide contours can be swapped in, complete with a U-notch, tritium-illuminated rear sight. You also can forgo the option of adding a

weapon-mounted light, because who the hell needs to PID their target, amirite? For those of us who think advancements in battery, reflector and LED technology can be harnessed at zero cost to firearm reliability, then the four-slot Pic rail milled into the dustcover might be of interest.

Kimber attracted some well-deserved criticism when they first rolled out the KDS9c, as the initial models were Fudd-centric and lacked a rail; while they were optics-ready, the adapter plates didn't arrive until months after the launch, which left red-dot users somewhat bemused. Now that WMLs and MRDS can be added by the user, the result is a much more capable CCW

piece that bridges the gap between the classic steel-and-walnut 1911 and the polymer-framed, soulless, striker-fired bullet appliances we're more used to. Don't want to have either on your gun? Cool, carry on, this is America.

The Kimber's frame is milled from a single piece of 7075 aluminum, and aside from the aforementioned Pic rail, features broad serrations cut into the frontstrap and mainspring housing. G10 grip panels are held in place with a single screw and have the same type of gripping grooves milled into them. The result feels fatter in the hand than we were expecting—if you have small paws then grinding down the panels on a belt

sander isn't a bad idea, as for now, thinner ones aren't an aftermarket option. After pulling the panels off completely, the gun felt both slimmer and

less prone to torquing due to its flatter sides—in our XXL-sized meat hooks, anyway. This is purely a personal preference thing, and you might have a strong opinion in the other direction, so try before you buy—or grind.

Although there's a separate beaver-tail let into the backstrap, there's thankfully no grip safety to deactivate—this part comprises one unit with the mainspring housing, and the result is that the rear of the gun has some very smooth, palm-filling curves. Length-wise, there's enough space for a full, four-finger grip, with a little to spare, courtesy of the 15-round magazine's basepad. The mags are virtually identical to those made by Walther (and by extension, Canik, seeing as how they ripped off the design), with the exception of the mag catch location. While we don't see someone breaking out the Dremel in order to save 20 bucks on a magazine after dropping almost two grand on a handgun, it's good to know it's a proven design with millions in circulation.

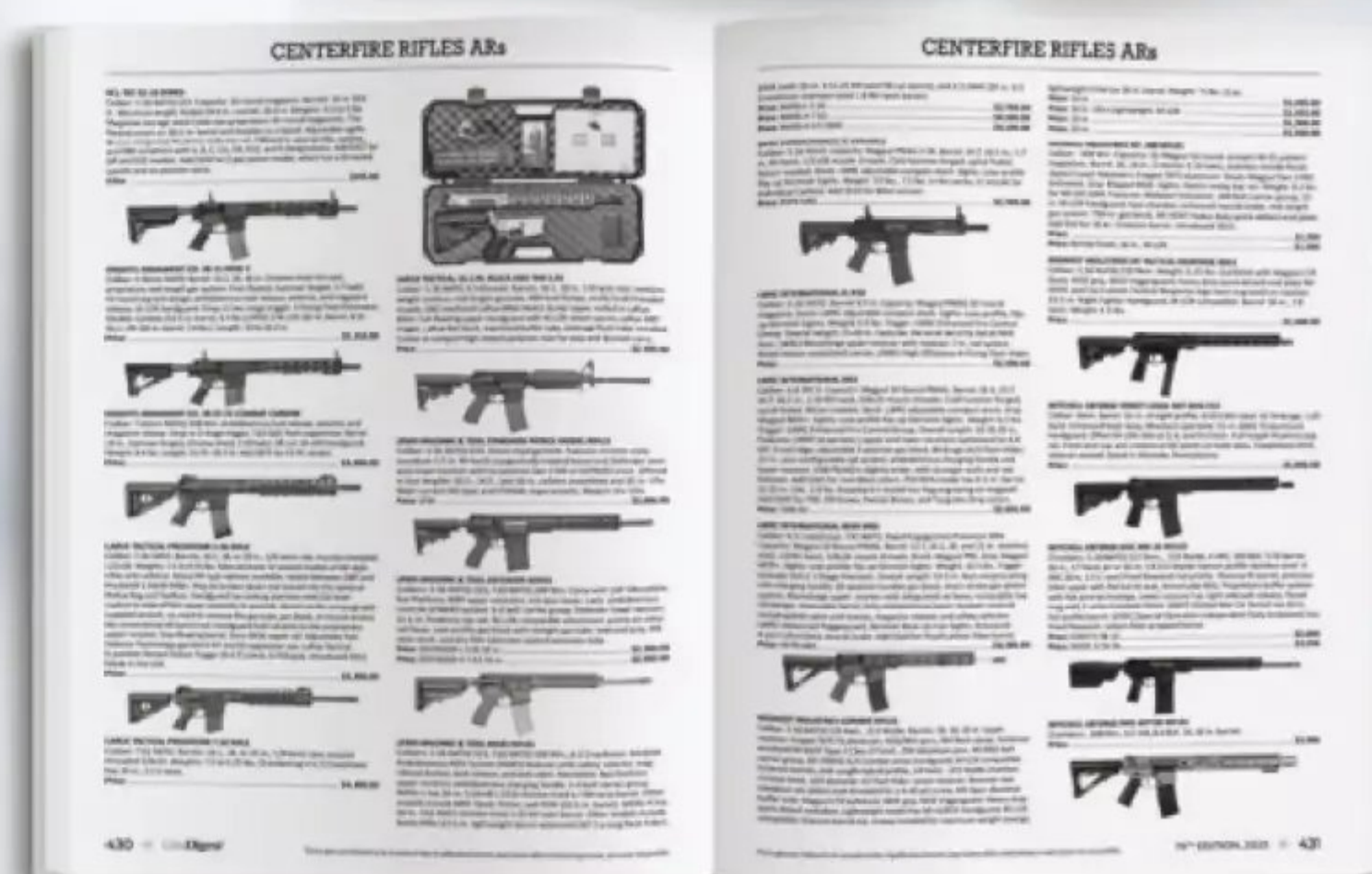
The KDS9c's controls are good. An ambi thumb



The Kimber's Pic rail is set up to accept a full-size WML—switches are in the right place, hard up against the trigger guard. We'd probably install a compact light if this was our EDC.

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safety snicks between positions with authority, and there's enough real estate for a high thumb grip without straying into racegun territory. While we personally eschew ambis on carry guns due to their tendency to be accidentally swept off while in the holster, this one is positive enough to resist that. The mag release is slightly extended rearward to accommodate those with smaller hands and is swappable to satisfy lefties, while the slide release is right side only and likewise stretched a hair rearward. Although it can be hit with the master thumb to send the slide home on a reload, it's easier to find with the support thumb, a la 1911. In case you were wondering (and you should), the fire control components are MIM, rather than billet, which is a bit disappointing in a pistol with this kind of price tag, but if you compare it to the Wilson EDC9, you can swap in a billet hammer, sear and disconnect and still have 900 bucks in your pocket. In any case, as issued, they should last many thousands of rounds and the 3-pound, 10-ounce trigger pull they produce is plenty good enough.

ON THE RANGE

We tested the KDS9c with ammunition loaded with bullets weighing from 115 to 147 grains, and with a variety of profiles. In the course of 500 rounds, give or take a magazine's worth, we had exactly zero stoppages. Federal's 124-grain Punch self-defense load turned in the tightest groups, at just 1.5 inches at 25 yards, with the pistol rested on our a range bag. When compared

to a G19-sized, polymer-framed handgun, the recoil impulse differs in that it's a little sharper due to lack of frame flex, but the gun tracks well and recovers quickly. If you're used to the typical grip angle of most plastic fantasies, you'll probably find the Kimber points low—we had to retrain in order to consistently find the dot, but that's a function of many live- and dry-fire sessions with other pistols. If this one winds up becoming your daily driver, then it's probably a non-issue so long as you dedicate time to it, or if you're already a hard-core 1911 shooter.

If you're looking for something a bit different, appreciate the kind of trigger feel that only a 1911 fire control system offers, but still require the option to add a red dot and weapon light, then

the Kimber KDS9c is worthy of your consideration. It's reliable, well featured, accurate and handsome, just like your reviewer. **GDTM**



Hide In Plain Sight

This article is but a small taste of *Concealment* magazine, a *Gun Digest* sister publication devoted to informing the armed citizens who carry concealed. To subscribe or to get a copy, go to **GunDigestStore.com** and search "Concealment."



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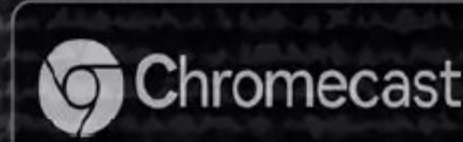
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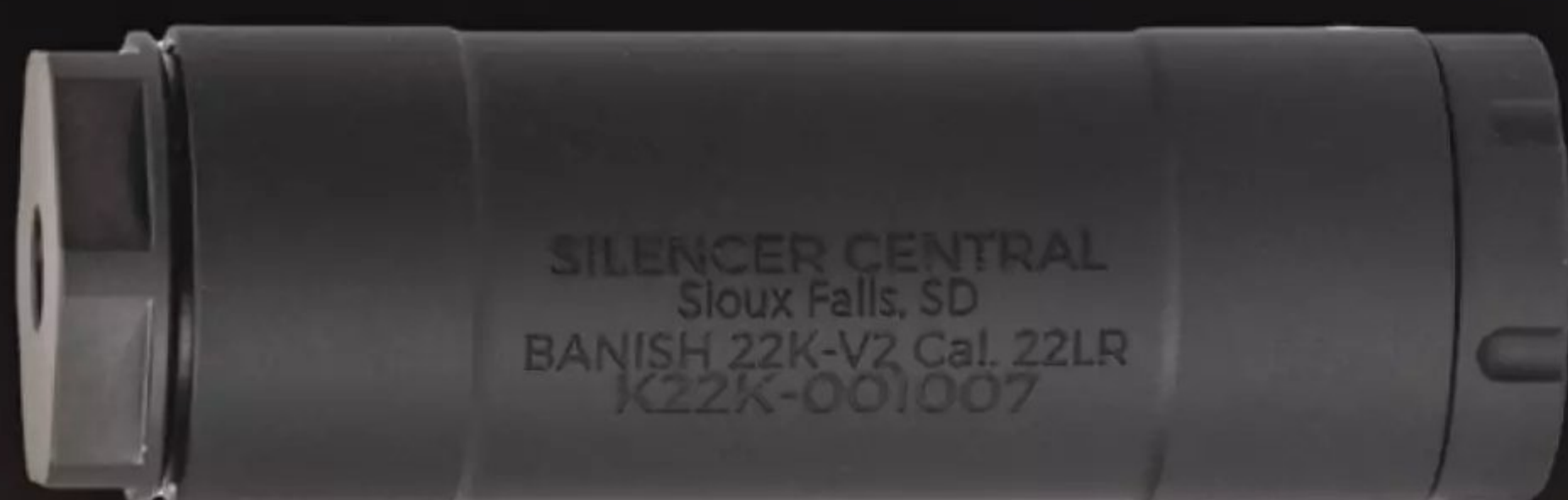
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SUPERIORITY

TRANSFORMED

MC9L

MeCANiK MO1

6.28" SLIDE

5.45" OVERALL HEIGHT

MC9LS

6.73" SLIDE

17+1 RD CAPACITY

1.18" WIDTH

CANiK

SUPERIOR FIREARMS