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APRIL 2025

VOLUME 42 • ISSUE 04

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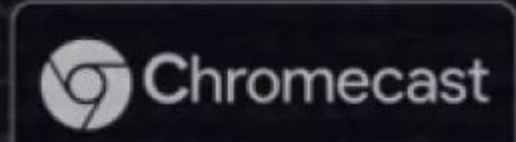
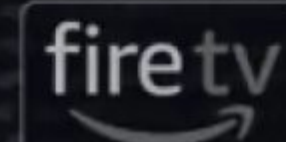
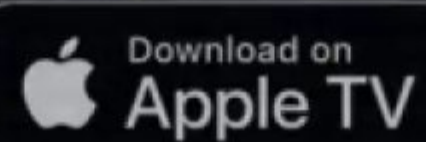
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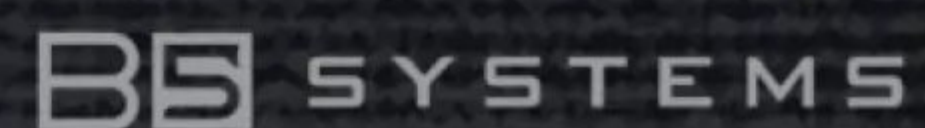
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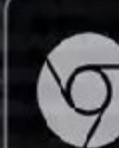
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Gun Digest the Magazine (ISSN 1938-5943) is published monthly by Caribou Media dba Gun Digest Media, LLC. Corporate Headquarters is 5583 W. Waterford Ln., Suite D, Appleton, WI 54913. Periodicals postage paid at Appleton, WI 54913 and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to PO Box 182, Williamsport, PA 17703. Copyright © 2025 Gun Digest Media. GUN DIGEST THE MAGAZINE and its logo are registered trademarks. Other names and logos referred to or displayed in editorial or advertising content may be trademarked or copyrighted. The publisher and advertisers are not liable for typographical errors that may appear in prices or descriptions in advertisements.

**AFTER A TRUCK FIRE,
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After a truck forced Alex Jara off the road and into a ditch, his vehicle caught fire. Then it was hosed down by firefighters. The only thing that survived was his Trijicon RMR®—and it still worked.

See Alex's story at
[Trijicon.com/RMRfireproof](https://www.trijicon.com/RMRfireproof).





BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

In your hands right now is one of my favorite issues of the year: the home defense special. The problem is that it's also the issue I find the most challenging to put together.

Look at it like this:

Your home is your sanctuary, the place you can go and find security when the rest of the world doesn't make a bit of sense. It's also a blank canvas upon which to paint your defensive masterpiece.

The number of truly innovative castle protection products is awe-inspiring. From picture frames to end tables, there's furniture—classy furniture and décor—with hidden compartments in which you can conceal guns of all sizes. Load it, stage it and secure it. Hell, there's even a headboard that'll eject a shotgun into your hands without having to put a foot on the floor.

Security technology, like locks and camera options, is endless. Murphy doors will forever be literally awesome (who doesn't want a concealed room?). And don't get me started on how handsome gun safes have become when you want to drop a vault in the middle of a room as a conver-

sation piece. Have you seen the lockable art that Steelhead Outdoors is building these days?

Then, there are the guns ... and that's exactly where the challenge sneaks in. Why? Because anything—well, almost anything—with a trigger can be a home defense gun. Is a .375 CheyTac the best option? Of course not, but it could work. What about an 870 Wingmaster with a 28-inch bird barrel? Well, sure ... but I'd prefer a double-stack 9mm to the broomstick.

It's a very cliché thing to say, but when it comes to defending your home, you gotta figure out what works best for you and your situation.

So, how am I supposed to suggest anything when I don't know your specific set of circumstances?

I can give you things to think about, and I can give you options.

So, enjoy this issue, and start with Richard Mann's article "The Home Defense Weapon." I sincerely hope it gives you something to think about. **GDTM**

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.22 HORNET

(5.6x35Rmm)

Float like a butterfly,
sting like a bee.

HISTORICAL NOTES

The .22 Hornet, based on the black-powder .22 WCF, was developed during the late 1920s by a group of experimenters at Springfield Armory, including Col. Townsend Whelen, Captain G.L. Wotkins and others.

In 1930, Winchester produced the first commercial ammunition. Within a few years, the Hornet had been standardized by all American manufacturers. The original rifles were based on Springfield M1903 military and Martini single-shot actions. Winchester announced its Model 54 bolt action in .22 Hornet in 1932, but rifles didn't actually reach the market until early 1933.

Savage Model 23-D bolt-action rifles were available in .22 Hornet by August 1932. The Stevens single-shot Model 417 "Walnut Hill" target and 417½ sporting rifles were advertised in .22 Hornet in 1933.

During World War II, military survival rifles were made for the Hornet. At present, Anschütz, CZ, Chiappa, Ruger, Savage, Browning, Lyman, New England Firearms, Pedersoli, Remington and others chamber rifles for the Hornet, and Thompson/Center has the Contender chambered for the round. In Europe, the Hornet is known by the metric designation 5.6x35Rmm.

GENERAL COMMENTS

The .22 Hornet was the pioneer high-velocity small-bore cartridge marketed



in the United States, primarily for varmint and small-game shooting. It has never been commercially available in anything but bolt-action and single-shot rifles. For this reason, it quickly established a reputation for superb accuracy. No other cartridge of this type has ever caught on so fast or achieved such wide popularity.

Although not quite as powerful as the .218 Bee, it's a perfectly adequate small-game and varmint cartridge. It remains popular but suffers in comparison with the .223 Remington and the .22-250. It's a fine choice for economical shooting at ranges between 100 and 150 yards.

Due to its reduced powder capacity, the Hornet won't do as well with heavier bullets of 50 or 55 grains, as will the .218 Bee. It's a good cartridge for use in settled areas, because of the light report and low incidence of ricochet. Early rifles had bores requiring bullets of 0.223-inch diameter. Sierra still offers such bullets. Later rifles had normal bores for 0.224-inch diameter bullets.

Most bullet manufacturers offer special bullets for loading the Hornet. The Improved "K" Hornet is among the best-known wildcats based on the Hornet and the most common of all improved chamberings. **GDTM**

.22 HORNET LOADING DATA AND FACTORY BALLISTICS

BULLET (GRAINS/TYPE)	POWDER	GRAINS	VELOCITY	ENERGY	SOURCE
35 V-Max	H110	11.2	3,060	725	Hodgdon
40 SP	2400	10	2,700	648	Sierra
40 SP	IMR4227	11.4	2,700	648	Speer, Sierra
45 SP	2400	9.2	2,500	725	Hornady, Sierra
45 SP	IMR4227	11	2,600	678	Nosler, Hornady, Sierra
50 SP	2400	9	2,400	640	Nosler, Hornady, Sierra
50 SP	IMR4227	11	2,550	694	Nosler, Hornady, Sierra
55 SP	IMR4227	10.8	2,400	704	Hornady, Sierra
55 SP	IMR4198	12	2,400	704	Sierra
35 V-Max	FL	--	3,100	747	Hornady 8302
45 SP	FL	--	2,690	723	Factory load

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AP5-SD



9mm

AP53



5.56

AP51

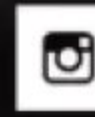


.308



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BEAM ME UP!

Weapon-mounted or handheld lights?

It's no secret that bad things happen in the dark. Evil loves the absence of light, which is why some humans are afraid of the dark. Our literature and movies have contributed to this fear with monsters such as vampires and werewolves; it seems like all the really scary things love the nighttime.

Bad guys like the dark, too. They like the anonymity it offers, appreciating the advantage it gives them as an attacker ... and the disadvantage it lends to their prey.

But you can fight the night with light, which is why one of the most important self-defense tools is a flashlight. The question is: Should you mount your flashlight on your weapon or carry it in your hand?

LOTS OF LUMENS

Back when I was working the street, the high-lumen compact flashlight was just becoming popular. They were bright as hell but expensive as hell, too. This is, of course, one of the reasons most police officers carried a three-cell Maglite (the other reason being it could double as an impact weapon). I was the first officer in my department to purchase an expensive, compact, high-output flashlight, and most of the other officers ribbed me for spending so much money ... well, until they worked a night shift with me and saw the advantage a high-quality flashlight can provide. Today, the high-output flashlight is more common with police officers than donuts.

The higher lumen, lithium battery flashlight soon found its way to weapons, and today they've become what many consider a necessity as opposed to an accessory. Some departments now issue weapon lights for handguns, carbines and shotguns, and the advantages they offer to law enforcement apply to everyone else, too. I know folks who have a weapon light on their everyday carry gun.

However, as practical as it might seem to mount a light to your carry gun or home defense firearm, a mistake many make is to assume a weapon light circumvents the need for a flashlight. While a handheld flashlight *and* a weapon light can provide a distraction to an assail-

You don't have to have a weapon light to shoot well in low light. You can do it effectively with a flashlight.



Weapon lights have the advantage of letting you hold a handgun, carbine or shotgun normally with two hands.



anything you are not willing to destroy. This rule *always* applies, whether you're on the range for recreation or competition, and even if you're in a gunfight. You don't want to point a loaded gun at your patrol partner, wife or one of your children. This is especially true in a high-stress situation when you might also be violating the third rule of firearms safety, which is to keep your finger off the trigger until your sights are on a target you are sure of.

IN GUN OR GRIP?

The point of all of this is to differentiate between a handheld light and a weapon light. It's not to promote one over the other. In fact, savvy shooters will have both.

For example, let's assume you're walking through a dark parking

ant—along with temporary blindness—the weapon light has a primary purpose. A weapon light is intended to help you shoot better in low-light circumstances. A weapon light is not for searching, because if you're searching with a weapon light, you're pointing a loaded gun at everything you want to look at.

Remember the second rule of firearms safety? Never let the muzzle cover

The key to using a handheld light to shoot in low light is to practice perfectly holding the light while simultaneously aiming.



building, and your carry gun has a weapon light. Are you going to pull your handgun and use that light to check your surroundings? No, of course not. The same could apply at home when you hear that bump in the night. You might grab your home defense firearm with its weapon-mounted light to investigate, but you need to be able to safely explore your surroundings without inadvertently pointing a gun at your pet or favorite child.

A more complex example could be a situation where you're holding a threat—human or otherwise—at gunpoint in the dark. Your weapon-mounted light is keeping the threat illuminated and partially blinded, but what if you hear a noise to your left or right that needs to be scrutinized? Are you going to take your gun/light off the threat you've already identified to try to discover the source of another potential threat?

I hope not.

A handheld flashlight is something you should always carry or have readily available. Not only does it allow you to safely search, but you can also use it for shooting in low-light situations. However, the most practical approach is to have a handheld light and a weapon light. I've equipped my home defense handgun with a weapon light, as well as my home defense shotgun and carbine. However, next to them, I



Weapon lights can help you shoot better in low light, but they are not a substitute for a handheld light.

also have a handheld light. One is for looking, and the other is for shooting.

I do not have a weapon light on my carry gun because I've not found a comfortable way to carry a handgun with a weapon light, and comfort is a primary consideration for everyday carry. You, your body type and the way you dress will dictate what and how you carry.

However, I don't leave home without my Galco Flashlight Carrier, which secures a 2.8-ounce, 350-lumen Streamlight ProTac 1L-1AA flashlight. Aside from security and safety concerns, I use that light almost daily to find stuff that rolls under the couch or my truck seat ... or just to read a restaurant menu.

You should be prepared, and when it comes to a weapon or handheld light, both might be the best answer. In either case, follow the rule of the four Ls:

- Lumens: Minimum of 100 lumens
- Lithium: Lithium batteries last longer
- LED: LED bulbs are more rugged
- Lanyard: Use a lanyard on handheld lights

Fortunately—at least for right now—we don't have to worry about vampires and werewolves. But bad humans and bad animals are a real thing, and just like the monsters we feared as a kid, they love the darkness. **GDTM**

It's a good idea to have a lanyard on a tactical flashlight so you can use your hand for other things and not drop your flashlight.





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DEFENDING YOUR DOMAIN

How well do you understand Castle Doctrine?

Castle Doctrine is a legal principle that recognizes the right to defend yourself within the safety of your home, allowing the use of force—including deadly force—without the obligation to retreat. It's rooted in the belief that one's home is a sanctuary, a place where individuals have the right to feel safe and secure.

This concept, deeply embedded in history, continues to shape modern self-defense laws across the United States.

HISTORICAL ORIGINS AND LEGAL FOUNDATIONS

The origins of Castle Doctrine trace back to English common law, captured in the phrase, "An Englishman's home is his castle." The phrase can be traced back to Sir Edward Coke, an influential English jurist of the 17th century. In his work, "The Institutes of the Laws of England" (1628), he wrote, "For a man's house is his castle, et domus sua cuique est tutissimum refugium [and each man's home is his safest refuge]." This statement was part of his commentary on the protections against unlawful entry into one's home.

This age-old principle emphasized the inviolability of the home, asserting that even the king could not enter without permission. When early colonists settled in America, they carried this belief with them, integrating it into the legal systems of the new world. Today, Castle Doctrine remains a vital legal shield, protecting the right to self-defense within one's dwelling.

At its core, Castle Doctrine removes the duty to retreat when an individual is threatened at home. This means that if an intruder enters a residence, the homeowner is not legally required to flee but is justified in using force to protect themselves and their loved ones.

However, the application of this doctrine varies widely across the United States, creating a complex legal landscape.

STATE-BY-STATE VARIATIONS

Castle Doctrine is interpreted differently across states, leading to significant variations in its application. In Massachusetts, for example, Castle Doctrine is narrowly defined, applying strictly within the four

walls of the home. Stepping even one foot outside the front door reinstates the duty to retreat. Conversely, Indiana extends protection beyond the home to surrounding areas, known as "curtilage," and even includes occupied motor vehicles. These state-specific differences highlight the importance of understanding local laws and how they define and apply Castle Doctrine, as ignorance of these nuances can lead to severe legal consequences, even when acting in self-defense.

DEFINING THE 'CASTLE'

One of the most debated aspects of Castle Doctrine is the definition of what constitutes a "castle." In most states, this is the home itself. However, questions arise when considering other structures. Hotel rooms, for example, may be protected if occupied but not in common areas. Recreational vehicles or mobile homes are typically considered dwellings when used as residences but not when stored.

The concept of curtilage—referring to the area around the home where intimate daily activities occur—adds fur-

"Importantly, Castle Doctrine is not a blanket justification for the use of force. Several notable exceptions limit its application. It does not apply if the defender was the initial aggressor or if the defender did not have a legal right to be in the home, such as violating a restraining order."

“At its core, Castle Doctrine removes the duty to retreat when an individual is threatened at home. This means that if an intruder enters a residence, the homeowner is not legally required to flee but is justified in using force to protect themselves and their loved ones.”

ther complexity. In some states, curtilage includes a fenced yard, an attached garage, or a front porch. In others, the definition is narrower, excluding larger areas of land distant from the house. This ambiguity can create challenges in high-stress situations, where split-second decisions are necessary.

WHO CAN CLAIM CASTLE DOCTRINE?

Castle Doctrine protections are not universally granted to everyone within a home. Some states limit its protections to homeowners, while others extend them to guests or temporary occupants. Legal complexities arise when considering cohabitants, such as estranged spouses or roommates.

In certain states, individuals are required to retreat if both parties have a legal right to be in the home, leading to complicated legal battles and difficult moral dilemmas. For example, if a divorced couple shares ownership of a house but one partner has a restraining order, that individual loses the right to claim Castle Doctrine, even if they are still listed on the deed.

These nuances illustrate the importance of understanding the specific rules in each state, as they can significantly impact the outcome of a self-defense case.

EXCEPTIONS AND LIMITATIONS

Importantly, Castle Doctrine is not a blanket justification for the use of force. Several notable exceptions limit its application. It does not apply if the defender was the initial aggressor or if the defender did not have a legal right to be in the home, such as violating a restraining order. Some states also require retreat if the attacker is a cohabitant, regardless of the defender's right to be there.

These exceptions balance the right to self-defense with the need to prevent unnecessary violence, ensuring that Castle Doctrine is not misused. They also highlight the importance of understanding the doctrine's limitations, as misapplication can lead to serious legal consequences.

THE IMPORTANCE OF LEGAL AWARENESS

Castle Doctrine reflects a fundamental belief in the right to protect oneself and one's loved ones. However, its diverse interpretations across state lines make it essential for individuals to stay informed about local laws. Ignorance of these nuances can lead to significant legal repercussions, even when acting in self-defense. It's important to note that while this principle emphasizes the sanctity of one's home, it does not grant absolute

immunity from the law. It should not be interpreted as permission to engage in illegal activities within one's residence.

CONCLUSION: BALANCING SAFETY AND RESPONSIBILITY

Castle Doctrine serves as a vital legal shield, protecting the fundamental right to self-defense. Yet, its protections are not universal, and the rules governing its application are complex and ever-changing. By understanding these intricacies, individuals can exercise their rights responsibly, safeguarding themselves and their families while navigating the legal landscape.

Castle Doctrine is more than just a legal doctrine. It represents a societal value that honors personal property and the sanctity of the home. However, it also reflects the delicate balance between personal liberty and legal responsibility. As state laws continue to evolve, staying informed is crucial. By understanding Castle Doctrine's core principles and variations, individuals can protect not only their homes but also their legal rights. **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.



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The Ram It with loose rounds dropped in (you'll have to keep it more or less vertical) and the ram in place. The rear plate is off to show how it works.

RAM YOUR MAGAZINES

Your fingers will thank you.

The extra rear plate is a stripper-picker-upper. Use it to collect rounds out of the box and in the plate, then insert the plate into the Ram It and load your magazine.

A day at the range is fun. Well, there are some un-fun parts. You know ... taping targets, picking up brass and loading magazines.

Fortunately, J&M Innovative Products company (aka Fastloaders.com) has a solution to that last one: Their Ram It patent-pending gizmo makes loading an AR-15 magazine easy.

The tool is bigger than a magazine, so it won't fit into your pocket ... but that also makes it easier to keep track of. (This has a good chance of being "lost" at the range, if you aren't careful.) And it fits nicely in your range bag next to the magazines it will load.

The system is easy. Take the main housing and slide it onto a magazine. It locks in place, using the magazine latch slot. If you're using loose ammo, slide the rear plate off, drop rounds into the slot and slide the plate back on. Then, use the rammer to shove them into the magazine.

If you have ammo in boxes, use the extra back plate. Slide its slot over the rims of the boxed rounds and lift them out of the box. Slide the back plate into the Ram It, and—bingo—use the rammer.

You can even use rounds that are already on stripper clips. Slide the stripper clips into the Ram It body without the back plate there and shove the rounds into the magazine.

This is cool, but why spend \$40 to load magazines? Simple: It makes life easier.

Unlike the spoon found with a bandolier of ammo, the Ram It locks onto the magazine. And unlike the GI method, you don't use your hand to strip rounds—you've got the tool for that. I've seen more than one instance of someone at a Patrol Rifle class using USGI strippers who ended up bleeding from one sharp edge or another. The spoon is small and easily lost (and bends when stepped on), while the Ram It isn't.

You can get your Ram It in colors—Desert Tan, gray and FDE. And for those who are shooting the big bores, they make one for the AR-10 platform as well.

When I load magazines, I do it in one of two settings. If I'm testing a rifle, I load five of this, then five of that, and so on. It's a hassle, but it's hard to jus-

tify a magazine loader for that. When I'm practicing, training or competing, however, I load up my magazines with only the one type of ammo I'm using. That's where a speedloader like the Ram It (and I have mine, so I'm set) makes life easier.

As I said, the Ram It is too big to fit in a pocket, but that makes it easier to manipulate. And, because it's molded plastic, its size makes it perfect for some stencils and spray paint ... because you're going to want to put your initials on yours to warn off otherwise-envious shooters.

I'm not saying the guys at your gun club can't be trusted, just that they will be giving your Ram It an "I want one of those" looks. **GDTM**



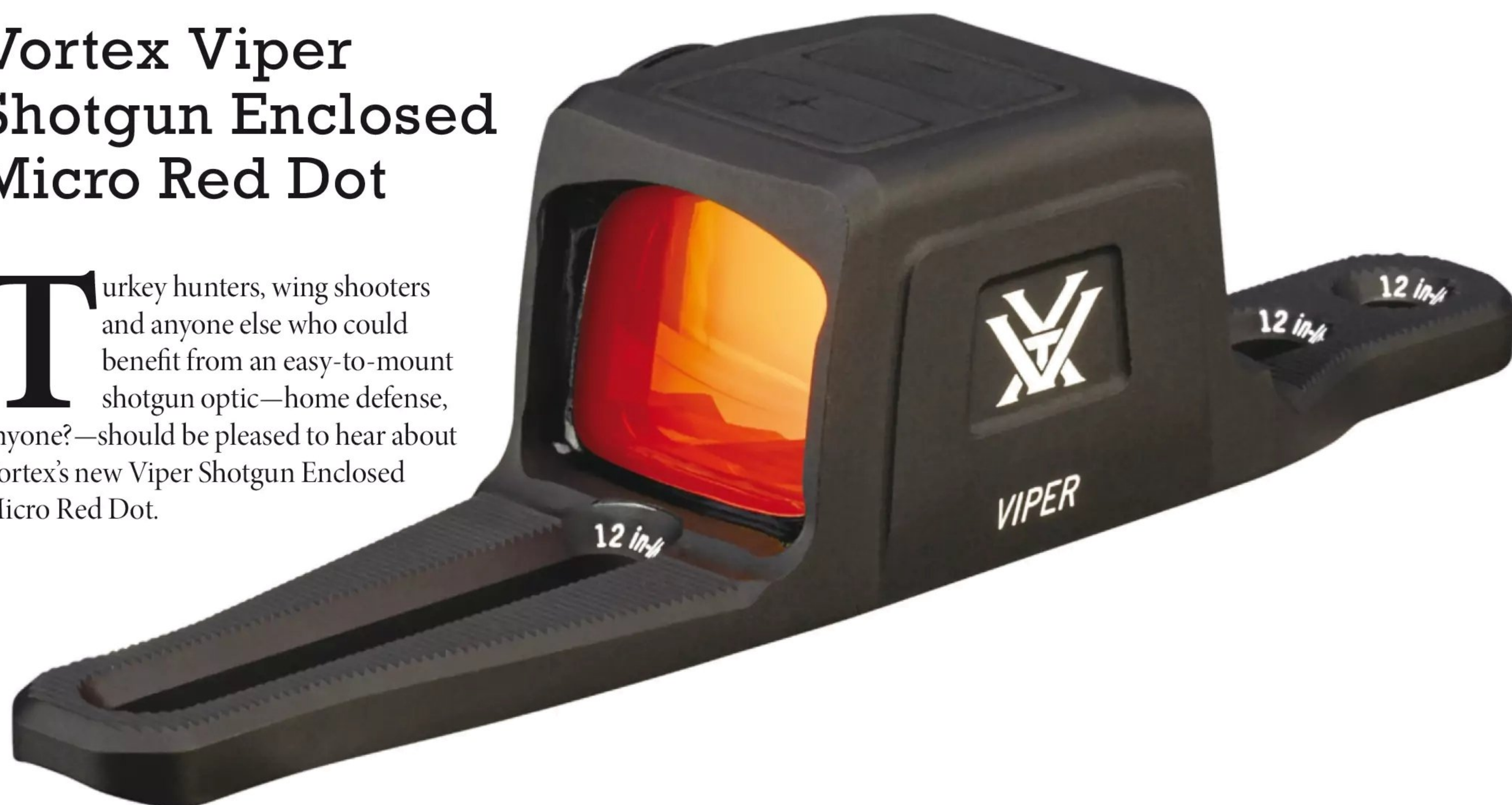
Here's the Ram It with the two rear plates and the ram. This will make range day a whole lot more fun.

SHOTTY VISION



Vortex Viper Shotgun Enclosed Micro Red Dot

Turkey hunters, wing shooters and anyone else who could benefit from an easy-to-mount shotgun optic—home defense, anyone?—should be pleased to hear about Vortex's new Viper Shotgun Enclosed Micro Red Dot.



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Featuring an enclosed housing and an integrated mount designed for shotguns that are drilled and tapped, the new Viper should be rugged in the field and easy to install on a variety of standard shotguns.

The integrated mount doesn't just allow for the Viper to be installed on tons of common shotgun models without any plates or adapters, but it also places the optic in a natural location that plays nicely with a normal cheek weld.

The optic itself is available with either a 3-MOA red-dot or a multi-reticle configuration that allows for seven different combinations of a 3-MOA dot, a 32-MOA circle and a 65-MOA circle, and both models feature 12 brightness settings.

Regarding the multi-reticle Viper model, Vortex says that the 3-MOA dot is best for slow or stationary targets, the 32-MOA circle approximates the pattern of a full choke and is best for targets at a distance and the 65-MOA circle attempts to match the pattern of a modified choke and is best for closer-range targets.

Both versions of the Viper Shotgun Enclosed Micro Red Dot are powered by a single CR2032 battery and have advertised battery lives of 50,000 hours. They also feature side-load battery compartments and automatically activate and shut off based on motion.

MSRP for the 3-MOA dot Viper Shotgun Enclosed Micro Red Dot is \$430, and MSRP for the multi-reticle version is \$500. **GDTM**





LEAD BY DESIGN

Lighter, more accurate, and suppressor capable, the M107A1[®] isn't just a continuation of Barrett's legacy, but an expansion upon it. Every component has been meticulously re-imagined, with a four-pound weight reduction and the integration of the Barrett QDL suppressor, the M107A1 is a revolutionary leap forward.

barrett.net

01 Tanfoglio Tactical Pro

Rugged, reliable and suppressible out of the box, Tanfoglio Tactical Pro checks off all the boxes. Chambered in 9x19, this full-size pistol features a CNC-machined Lothar Walther bull barrel, tactical "X" thread protector and Cerakote OD Green mil-spec finish on its steel "K" frame. Designed for superior control, it boasts ergonomic aluminum grips, extended beavertail and a flared magwell. Best of all, it comes optic-ready with adjustable micrometric sights and enhanced slide serrations. If you're looking for something tactical and competitive angled, you've found your gun. It ships with a 17+1 or 20+1 capacity magazine.

MSRP: \$1,530**02 Heckler & Koch VP9A1**

Heckler & Koch has taken its striker-fired line into the future with VP9A1, designed specifically for the U.S. market, with enhanced usability and shootability features. Available in full-size (VP9A1 F) and compact (VP9A1 K) variants, the A1 models offer improvements such as a nickel-Teflon coated trigger bar, universal ergonomic grip and modular grip panels with length-of-pull adjustment. The VP9A1 also features ambidextrous controls, a flared magwell and added slide serrations. The VP9A1 K, with its 4-inch barrel and 15-round capacity, is a fantastic carry pistol, while the VP9A1 F is a full-size model ideal for duty, home defense or competition.

MSRP: \$979**03 Smith & Wesson CSX E-Series**

Quietly, the CSX had earned a spot as a favored concealed carry piece among many armed citizens. Now, the hammer-fired pistol has gotten quite a bit better. Building on the original model, the CSX E-Series offers enhanced features, including a modular grip adapter for a customizable frame size and improved handling. Available in four 9mm configurations, with 3.1-inch or 3.6-inch barrels, the CSX E-Series includes 12-, 15- and 17-round magazines, plus 10-round compliant variants. These optics-ready pistols feature the ClearSight cut to protect the optic lens, an upgraded trigger for a lighter, cleaner break and ambidextrous controls. Smith & Wesson has continued to make the pistol quite a package.

MSRP: \$699**01** »**02** »

GEAR TO GET

03 »

04 Military Armament Corporation MAC Duty 9 Double Stack

Are you in the market for a cutting-edge 1911 designed for versatility and performance? If so, shake hands with the MAC Duty 9 Double Stack. Engineered in Knoxville, Tennessee, and built by Tisas, this 9mm pistol features a factory RMR optic cut and universal light rail, making it mission ready. A 5-inch bull barrel with QPQ Tenifer finish ensures reduced recoil and superior accuracy, while the polymer grip module provides a firm yet comfortable hold. Additional highlights include a 4140 hammer-forged steel slide and frame, skeletonized hammer and trigger, fiber-optic front sight, and competition magwell.

MSRP: \$1,100

05 Taurus GX2

Affordable yet high-performing, Taurus' GX2 might be the perfect pistol for first-time shooters—though veterans will more than appreciate it. The 9mm features a 13+1 capacity, sharpshooter barrel, ergonomic polymer frame and MIL-STD-1913 accessory rail. Its striker-fired action, hinged trigger safety and manual safety ensure confident handling. Offering premium features at an entry-level price, the Taurus GX2 is definitely something for those looking for budget-friendly personal protection.

MSRP: \$310

06 Henry Lever Action Supreme Rifle

Lever-actions are still getting head turns, and more so if they feed off AR magazines. This is why we expect Henry's Lever Action Supreme Rifle (LASR) to garner a lot of attention. Available in .223 Rem./5.56 NATO and .300 Blackout, the rifle perfectly blends more than 150 years of Henry's heritage with modern innovation. Some of the highlights include a quad-bar linkage and slider crank mechanism, a free-floated blued steel barrel and an internal hammer. Built with premium American walnut stocks and aerospace-grade aluminum receivers, it ships with a 10-round Magpul PMAG.

MSRP: \$1,300

07 Galco EDC Wallet

Crazy as it might sound, streamlining your wallet goes a long way to making concealed carry easier ... and more comfortable. This is where Galco's EDC Wallet comes in. Combining practicality with elegance in a slim, stylish design, this wallet makes an ideal way to lighten your load. Made from calfskin in bridle leather tan, it features angled slots for your ID, CCW permit and other cards, plus a hidden pocket for cash. A secure flap covers your essentials, while a convenient back slot provides quick access to your most-used card. Perfect for everyday carry, the wallet is a sophisticated way to keep your essentials organized ... without bulk.

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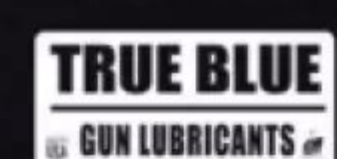
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THE HOME DEFENSE WEAPON

You must match your weapon to your needs.

Before you can discuss home defense weapons, you must first define “home defense.” This is complicated because home defense is not the same for everyone. It’s largely dependent on what type of home you live in and where it’s located. The goal is to match the home defense weapon to your needs, and to do this effectively you *must* define your needs.

WHAT IS HOME DEFENSE?

Needs vary so much it’s impossible to provide definitive examples, but we can create some generalizations. For example, if you live out in the country, you may want to consider defending your yard/ranch in addition to your home. That defense could involve dealing with four- and two-legged critters. In most of the United States, the worst of those would be a black bear, but in some loca-

tions, you might need to worry about the bigger bears, cougars and even wolves. A friend who lives on Kodiak Island had to shoot a marauding brown bear right in front of his home.

If you live in the city, short of a bad accident at the zoo, humans are your main concern, and it’s possible you have no yard at all. You might live in a complex with another family just on the other side of the wall. In a situation like this, the furthest you’ll likely need to shoot is 20 or 30 feet, but you’ll need to be leery of ammunition that might pass through walls. The same is true if you live in a trailer park, but trailer parks exist in the country, too, and you still might have a yard.

Then, there are the in-between domiciles that are not really in the city or the country. There you might also live in a thin-walled trailer, and you very likely will have a yard. And even if you

don’t need to worry about big and bad beasts, there are the lesser critters that can torment your home. This could be anything from a raccoon to a coyote, and rabid animals are always a possibility. I’ve had to deal with more than one rabid animal in my yard.

The point is, there’s no single answer to the home defense question, and what might be optimal for a friend or neighbor, might not be right for you. Ultimately, you have three different weapon systems to consider. They all have their strengths and weaknesses, and the correct answer might be all three.

Let’s look at shotguns, carbines and handguns separately to better understand how they dovetail into a good home defense plan.

THE SHOTGUN

From a terminal performance standpoint, the shotgun can deliver the most

violent blow. However, unless you're using slugs, a shotgun has limited reach. Shotguns are also intimidating to most shooters because of their stiff recoil. Trust me on this: I was a police firearms instructor for more than a decade, and most cops don't like to shoot shotguns. Now, you might not have an issue with shotgun recoil, but those who share your home might, and there's no guarantee you will be the one trying to stop a threat.

Shotguns can also defeat most interior walls, and the outside walls of a mobile home will only slightly slow down buckshot. However, for interior self-defense applications inside 20 or 30 feet, No. 5 or smaller shot can be very effective and there's much less concern over overpenetration. But for those of us who live out in the wilds, you might not keep your shotgun loaded with slugs, but they should be on your shotgun ... or at least near where you keep it.

A shotgun is also a two-hand weapon; to use it effectively, you need both hands. This is not really a problem until you need to call 911 while holding an assailant at gunpoint, or while you're trying to operate a flashlight, render aid to a family member or just get them out of the way. Also, if the assault becomes a hand-to-hand engagement, it's hard to shoot someone with a long-gun if



Shotguns are popular for home defense but might not be the best choice for you and your family.

they're on top of you trying to beat you to a pulp, while you're also trying to keep them from taking the shotgun away from you and using it on you.

PROS:

Maximum wounding capabilities
Versatile ammunition options

CONS:

Two-handed weapon system
Stiff recoil
Limited capacity
Heavy

THE CARBINE

In most instances, I feel a carbine is superior to a shotgun for home defense. It's still a two-handed weapon, but it has much more reach and a much higher capacity. You can also select ammunition that will provide good terminal performance without worries of overpenetration. Carbines—especially those of the AR-15 variety—are very versatile, too. You can use an optical sight and/or a reflex non-magnifying sight, you can attach a weapon light, and you can



The shotgun is a popular choice for home defense but may not be the best choice for everyone and every circumstance.



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With less recoil than a shotgun, a carbine is more manageable by more people in a home defense situation.

To maximize the effectiveness and versatility of a shotgun for home defense, it's wise to keep different ammo types on or with the shotgun.

also run a suppressor. The suppressor might seem overly tactical, but have you ever shot a firearm inside a home? It's deafening.

What I think is one of the most appealing aspects of an AR-15-style carbine is the minimal recoil. This makes the weapon system much more compatible with more family members. Like I've said, you could be unable to man the gun because you're injured, or you might not even be home when the bad thing happens.

One of the biggest drawbacks to two-handed weapon systems, like the shotgun and the carbine, is the difficulty in securely stowing them. Now, you might live alone and never have young or old visitors because no one likes you. If that's the case, it does not matter; you can leave your long gun on the kitchen table. However, if you have children in your home, it's nice to be able to lock firearms away. Of course, that's easy to do with a gun safe, but how fast and easy can you access your gun safe during a home invasion?

PROS:

- High capacity
- Very terminally effective
- Suppressor friendly
- Versatile

CONS:

- Two-handed weapon system
- Heavy

THE HANDGUN

For most, a handgun for home



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There is no reason your everyday carry gun cannot be your home defense gun. And in some ways, it makes good sense.

Of all the home defense weapon systems, the handgun is the most portable and most usable by the most people.



defense makes good sense. This is partly because if you are arming your home, you're probably arming yourself for everyday activities. In other words, you carry concealed. There's no reason your everyday carry gun cannot be your home defense gun. In fact, it makes good sense because you will be more familiar and probably better trained with your carry gun than any other gun you own. (If you're not, you should be.)

Of course, you could have a duplicate

of your carry gun you keep in that special spot for home defense. This is not a bad idea, either. Then, you can arm you and your significant other with the same weapon system. Also, you might want a weapon light on your home defense handgun but not your carry gun.

The handgun is also the most portable of your three alternatives, which makes it easier to maneuver through hallways and in dynamic situations. It's also the best weapon system if you

end up in a hand-to-hand engagement. While you're fending off your attacker with one hand, you can shoot with the other. And, unlike with a two-handed long-gun, you can easily hold an assailant at gunpoint while you effectively do other things with your other hand. You also have the option of suppressing a handgun, though it does destroy some of the platform's maneuverability.

Of course, handgun ammunition can be very penetrative, too, but

When you're implementing a home defense plan you need to consider not just your home but everyone in it who might need to use the weapon you choose.



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

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



ford for home defense, don't feel at a disadvantage, especially if you're competent with it. Skill at arms will always trump equipment. But you might consider working toward an additional option, even if it's just another handgun—maybe with a weapon light—kept at a different location in your home.

Most importantly, consider the totality of your circumstances. It's not what works for your neighbor or me that matters most; it's what will work best for you and your family, inside—and/or outside—your home. **GDTM**

The Wilson Combat EDC X9 is a modified 1911 that does not have a grip safety like the original or most 1911 clones.

fortunately there are a wide assortment of ammo options for the most popular self-defense handgun cartridges. Then, there's the issue of capacity. Except for revolvers, most handguns will hold more ammo than any shotgun, but not quite as much as a carbine. How much ammo do you need? Well, that depends on a lot of things— primarily, how well you shoot and how many targets you need to shoot.

PROS:

- High capacity
- Can shoot accurately with one hand
- Easier to securely store
- More maneuverable/portable

CONS:

- Least terminally effective

PICK ONE, OR TWO ... OR THREE

I'm of the opinion that the best answer to the home defense weapon question is not a singular solution. You can conveniently store a handgun in a compact gun safe near your bed or easy chair. Hell, you can even comfortably wear a handgun around the house. But there's no practical reason to limit yourself to just a handgun. You could also keep a long-gun as handy as possible, and it's a sound practice if you live remote where you might need to deal with external threats or nasty critters.

If your everyday carry gun is your only gun, or the only gun you can af-

There are lots of considerations when it comes to home defense weapon selection. The answer will not be the same for everyone.



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HOW MUCH IS TOO MUCH?

Anything you add to
a gun should make it
easier to use.





An interesting thing happened over the past few years concerning just how much stuff we could add to our guns. Today, however, we are in the midst of some serious advances in technology concerning just what type of accessories we can attach to our firearms, and this race is leading us to some interesting places.

Five years ago, it was common to send out your slide to be milled for an RMR. Now, an increasing majority of pistols are coming standard with optic plates. This jump into the future came suddenly and, for the most part, it's good—but there are some concerns to address during this honeymoon.

ETHICAL PARADIGMS

There is a school of thought that says you should use whatever technology is available, because chances are your enemies will use it against you if they are given the chance. Baseline, this mode of thinking negates all but the most advanced weapons and optical systems, akin to choosing to use a rotary phone when we have satellite communications.

While not quite as large of a jump,

few people today realize just how advanced our firearms and optics are ... and just how small and rugged they can be. I don't take most firearms instructors all that seriously, but that's my personal hangup. I'm not a fan of drinking Kool-Aid in most cases, and I'm a problem student when it comes to asking questions outside the area of supposed expertise. I question the instructor who recoils at the sight of a five-shot J-Frame.

Choosing a deliberate handicap isn't something that many people consciously do. However, there are some notable exceptions, in that there are certain technological aspects we consider to be truly antiquated.

Namely, if we are talking about carrying a revolver, most people will consider this to be a double-action proposition. Single-action revolvers are still very popular and especially useful when we're talking about hunting with powerful cartridges. Are they technically more accurate than double actions? Well, considering most double actions are also capable of single-action fire, that point isn't necessarily valid and it's more of a personal choice.

That said, I don't know anyone who carries a single-action revolver for self-defense, and I can't say that I know anyone who keeps an old six-gun in the nightstand. I am sure that there are plenty of people who do, and this begs the same question we've been asking: Just how much technology is required?

HINDSIGHT AND STATISTICS

Statistically speaking, it could be argued that you will be completely fine defending yourself with a 4¾-inch Colt SAA in .45 Colt. That's a well-known fighting cartridge and packs some serious power. It's just as lethal now as it was when it was introduced: 270 grains of hardcast at 1,000 fps isn't a joke by any stretch of the imagination.

So, knowing this, is simply having the

Draw length and accessories are important to consider. The Staccato C with X300 is the same overall length as a standard 5-inch 1911, here by MAC. If you really wanted the X300, you could go slightly longer in the barrel for no draw speed loss.

gun the stopgap in a bad situation ... or is there more to it?

Looking at how gunfights shake out across the board, there's often an amount of random circumstances that dictate success, and we often find think

can "talk about what they did" in their time in the military or police, and fewer still are instructing on things outside of their own training and experience. Preparing for a fight you will not be in, and being trained by a person who will likely not be there with you, is just playing make-believe in a lot of ways.

The individual sample size of people

tanks developing arms and ammunition that would have done better in a fight we already had, but are somewhat unlikely to have again. Take, for instance, the 1986 FBI Miami Shootout and the subsequent popularity of the 10mm Auto, and the fervent demand to replace 5.56 NATO with something else during the War on Terror campaigns. Neither of these things really grew legs.

What needs to be asked of this technology is this: Would it have made a real difference in the fighting itself? With hindsight always being 20/20, we have the luxury to evaluate and learn, but the next time—in the exact scenario—things might play out entirely differently.

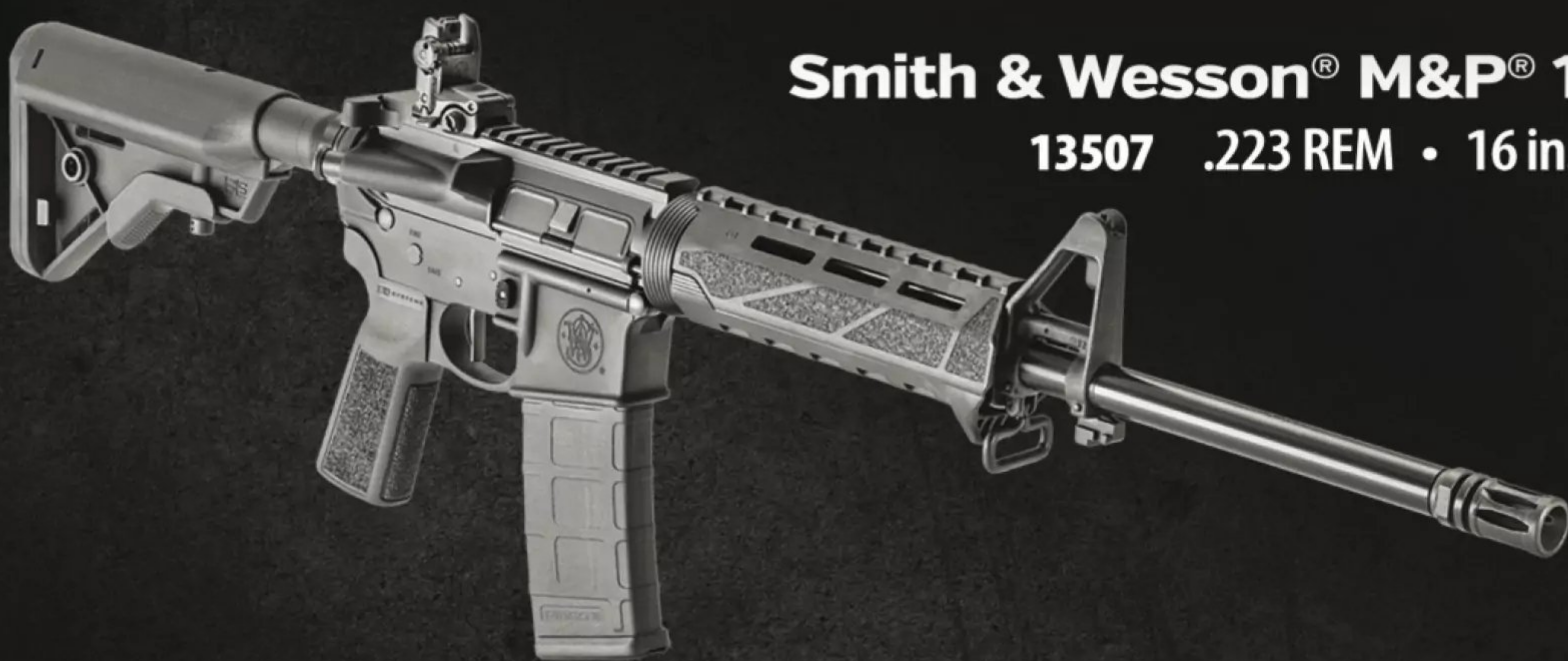
If you were in 10 gunfights (assuming you're just in the wrong place at the wrong time, and manage to survive each time), you'd have a pretty good sample size for this and arguably would be an expert. Few instructors I've met

The size of suppressed handguns is sometimes hard to make practical. You'd obviously not seek to conceal this seriously, but shorter suppressors do exist. However, at a point, the smaller you get the less effective they are. Pistols featured here are a Staccato C with RMRcc and SureFire X300, True Precision custom P365 with RMRcc and Streamlight, S&W .357 Rem. Mag., and Alpha Foxtrot 1911 with SilencerCo Osprey 2.0.





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Size is not relative when it comes to handling and weight. The little Smith is smaller than the 5.56 JK 155 suppressor on the author's M16 Dissipator. In terms of real-world use, the size and weight of these rifles and suppressed pistols is often brushed over. These are not small accessories.

out there fighting with guns regularly is rare, and if they are doing so, it's typically with the support of the world's largest military industrial complex backing them. All that gear is not only expensive and hard to get, but it also requires a lot of people to manage it.

The individual today, out in public, typically will have only a handgun—possibly a rifle or shotgun accessible in the home. That's not exactly what you'd be storming the beaches with alone.

Take into account the now thousands of first-person videos being filmed in the war in Ukraine: All those casualties have armor, helmets and the same cartridges you own. Those who survive are often called upon to instruct with the knowledge they gained from such experiences. The tactics you learn from one of these types of instructors will not stop you from being killed, when in fact most of these guys learn these tactics with the expectation of taking casualties.

Think about that for a moment. Most of the common tactics we have now, and the gear you need for it, are designed around expected loss, a learning

curve that takes into account how many people have been killed doing the same thing.

You're always taking gear into action based on what happened last time.

HOW MUCH IS TOO MUCH?

As a result of the constant technological march, we now have a near complete integration of guns, mounting surfaces, optical equipment, lights, lasers and suppressors. You can build a self-defense gun to include any and all of these things, but the considerations you make need to reflect what your reality is.

Much of my gear is set up with modern technology, but I do acknowledge that a good deal of it is perhaps a bit over-complicated. I really like my guns to look cool, which I believe is a valid consideration to make, and there's certainly enhanced function as a result of some of these accessories. Serious drawbacks do exist, however, and I will get to that in a moment.

So what is the appropriate amount of baseline technology to have on a self-

defense gun?

In general, a good light mounted to the gun is the only accessory I'd consider a must, the rest being somewhat subjective. When I'm in public, most times I dress pretty casual. I will usually have a small flashlight and a folding knife on me just for the sake of utility, and I'm not a big fan of lots of weight on my person.

My typical carry gun is a five-shot .357 Mag., in which I carry .38 Special +P loads. I'm a practical man in this aspect, and yes, I do know the details of the Miami shootout where that was not seen as a good choice in a real gunfight. Well, I won't be going back to 1986, and I don't care for Miami, so my odds are slim that I will be presented with the opportunity to repeat history.

Where I live, I don't really worry about much—but I am always aware of my surroundings. My choice of equipment reflects my attire and lifestyle, as something bigger and heavier would stand out. I never want to look like the guy who appears to have a gun.

This minimalism comes with its own



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Technology, at some point, is considered to be a handicap. A single-action revolver from Ruger is probably not the best option for self-defense. A DA/SA little .38 makes a lot of sense, but the idea you'd still take the time to shoot single action is iffy at best. A purely double-action setup, while not always that accurate in terms of on-paper performance, is a better idea for a violent altercation.



challenges. The little Smith & Wesson double action isn't easy to shoot and isn't exactly geared for accuracy ... just extremely close-range standoffs. I get asked all the time if I think five shots is enough, and I typically reply: "Enough for what?" This is a great question to ask in general, because the gear race is completely real.

We have instructors doing "combat" pistol training at 50 yards or more in some of the classes I've attended, swapping in and out with carbines and other rifles. Tactical training, in my experience, is trending toward the ridiculous. Legally speaking, if you see a person firing a gun at something more than 50 yards away, and you decide to pull your pistol and shoot, well, that's not a good look.

Now, I'm not saying you should get closer on purpose to an obvious threat. No technology as of late makes you bulletproof, and the more advanced technology you have at your disposal doesn't do anything to keep you safe from the legal system.

My take on accessories is that they must do two things: increase your ability to identify threats, and not slow you down. If you are slowed down in acquiring a target by using a slide-mounted optic, don't use one. In a real

fight, you can't script the situation, so don't add in a piece of equipment that slows you down.

THE CONTROVERSIAL PERSPECTIVE

This segues into a topic that I think will be considered a hot take: I'm generally not into suppressors on handguns for defense. I like shooting suppressed pistols and I hunt with them; in fact, they're really handy. I don't, however, consider suppressors to be valid for self-defense, from the standpoint of practicality. Doubling the length of your pistol isn't conducive to a fast draw, and you're not going to be able to use something like that easily in tight confines. A suppressor also makes a gun that much easier to grab if a threat is close enough.

Similarly, having done my fair share of shoot houses, adding a can to a home defense gun makes the maneuverability notably slower, and it's harder to keep the pistol close to your body. As a civilian, you're probably going to be woken up in the dead of night to glass breaking—or in the parking lot and hear someone step behind you when you're

getting your kids into the car. You won't know when this is going to happen, and a suppressor on a pistol is likely going to slow down your defense.

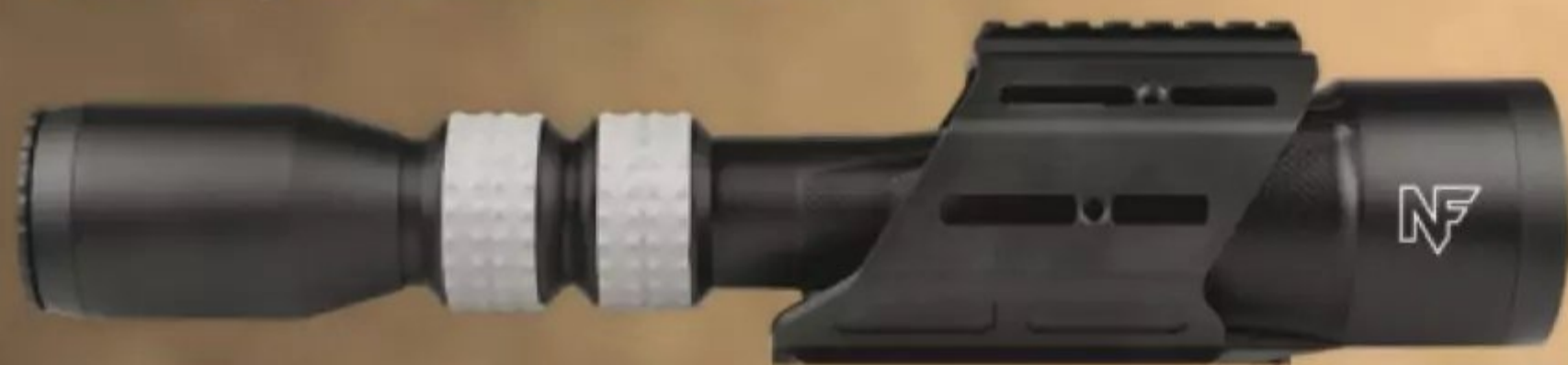
For suppressors in the home, we can reasonably talk about rifles. Rifle suppressors are fantastic—I love them. I barely shoot without them unless it's a classic military rifle. That said, things get long and heavy quickly. With a 16-inch barrel, you're looking at what's a functional minimum of about 6 inches for a shorty suppressor, so while the cosmetics might look smaller, in practice you'd be looking at the same length upper as a 20-inch M16A2 or longer in many cases.

There are, of course, ways to deal with that, such as going the SBR or braced pistol routes, but in general my argument against rifles is that they're a two-handed proposition. If you need to get help, call the cops, shepherd your kids to safety or really anything else, you're going to have to do it at a disadvantage over a handgun with similar technology on it. There are, of course,

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AR carbines are very popular for general use. This PWS-based build is pretty decked out, but in theory its Leupold optic has a low end that's inside the magnification range of most military optics. Thermal for home defense? Probably not. But, if this is what you have, learn to use it effectively.

plenty of advantages to cans in general—it's just something to think about when you're adding more and more to your guns.

Again, cans are great, but beware of their potential downfalls and how they might affect your situation and needs.

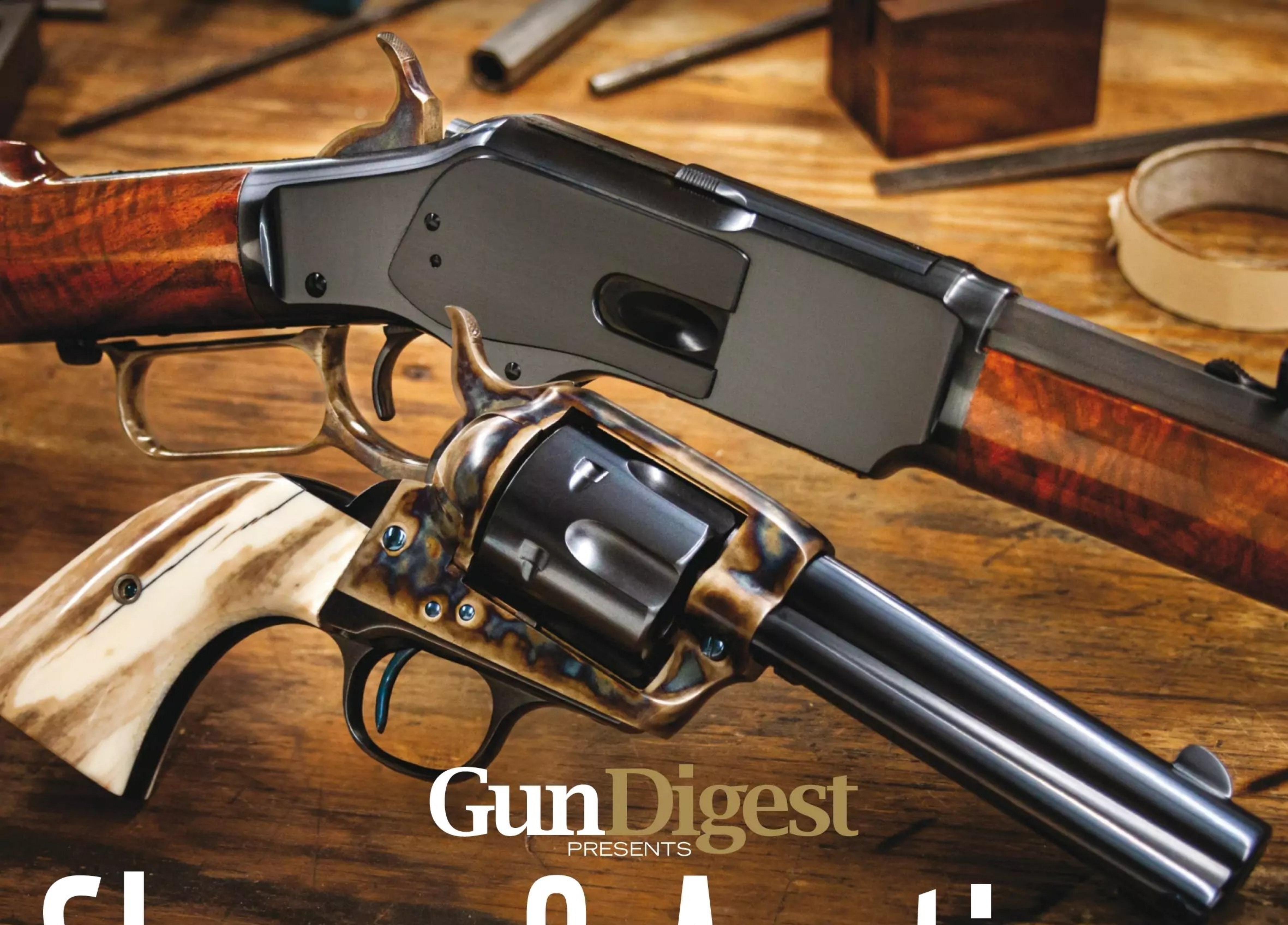
STAY SAFE OUT THERE

To conclude this diatribe, one of the things I strongly recommend is to actually test your upgrades and accessories where you plan to use them. Optics can

get easily washed out by white light, sight bodies can obscure your vision ... and so on. The weight and size are something you and your able-bodied loved ones should all know how to work around in case you're wounded or unable to defend yourself otherwise.

Needless to say, don't make your self-defense weapons so complicated to use for your family that they become a liability if the worst does happen. Anything you add to a gun should make it easier to use, not more likely to cause you problems. **GDTM**





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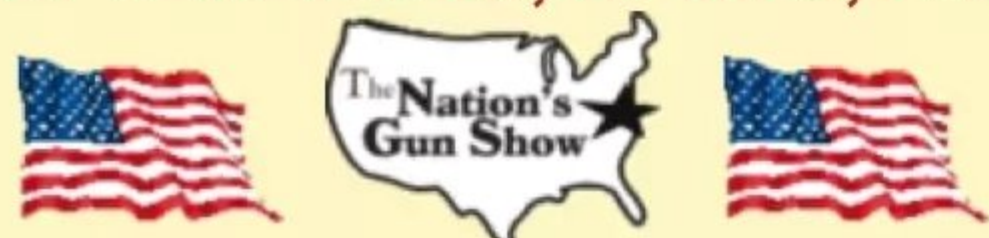
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Apr 5-Aug 3 TN, crossville. Cumberland County Gun & Knife Show. Cumberland County Community Complex, 1398 Livingston Road. SH: Sat. 9am-5pm, Sun. 9am-3pm, Sat. 9am-5pm, Sun. 9am-3pm. A: Saturday: Adult \$5.00, Youth (under 16) FREE Sunday : FREE admission. T: 200. F: \$40 for 6' table with multi table discounts. Cumberland County, TN, contact: Donnie Moody, Phone (931) 250-

1981, email: gkshow@charter.net. 1398 Livingdston Road, Crossville, TN 38571. PH: 931-484-5028. www.gkshow.org.

MAY

May 24-25 WY, Riverton. Wyoming Weapons Collectors 36th Annual Memorial Weekend Gun Show. Fremont County Fairgrounds, 1010 Fairgrounds Road. SH: Sat. 9am-5pm, Sun. 9am-3pm. A: \$6.00, children 12 and under free with an adult. T: 160. F: \$50.00 for members and \$65.00 for non-members. Wyoming Weapons Collectors . P.O. Box 1784, Laramie, WY 82073. PH: 307-742-4630. wyomingweaponscollectors.com.

JULY

Jul 19-20 TN, Lenoir City. Knoxville TN : Smoky Mountain Gun Collectors Association Gun Show. The Venue at Lenoir City, 7690 Creekwood Park Blvd. SH: Sat. 9am-5pm, 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.smokymountainguncollectorsassociation.org.

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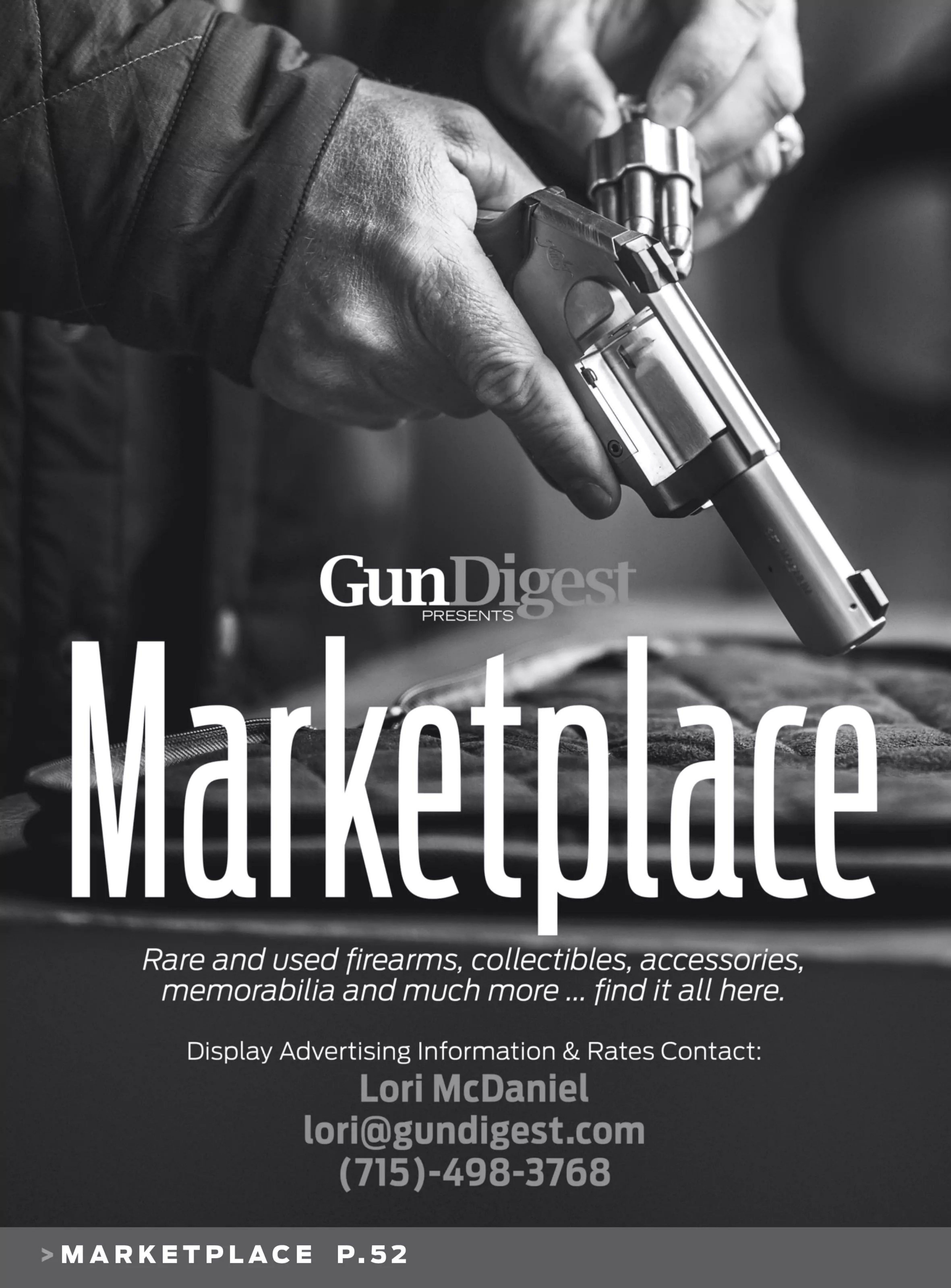
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- 2-U Belgian Made .25 ACP "Libia" Model Vest Pocket Auto Pistol** 2" barrel with good but pitted bore, 95% of an old refinish blue, very good "Libia" logo checkered hard rubber grips with a couple "bug bites" out of right panel, nickel plated magazine, manual and grip safety, works fine (C&R) \$185
- 3-U Beretta .22 LR "Model U22 Neos Inox" Target Auto Pistol** 6" heavy slab sided barrel with mint bore and integrated Picattny rail which has blade front and fully adjustable white outline target sights plus a "BSA" 2x20mm scope installed using Weaver rings, mint polymer lower with textured grip area, comes in original black plastic carry case with manual and lock, outer sleeve is also present and numbered to gun \$425
- 4-U Beretta .25 ACP "Model 21A" Vest Pocket Auto Pistol** 2.4" barrel with mint bore, 97% original bright blue, fixed sights, double action/single action function, mint smooth Walnut grips with "PB" logo medallions, excellent function showing little actual use \$245
- 5-U Browning .22 LR "Challenger Model" Auto Pistol** 6 3/4" barrel with mint bore, 99% original bright blue, factory ramp blade front and fully adjustable target style rear sights, mint grooved gold trigger, near excellent checkered Walnut, flared bottom grips with some minor finish loss and some tiny chipouts at perimeter base, made in 1970 and looks and functions near new (C&R) \$795
- 6-U Browning .22 LR "Challenger Model" Belgian Made Auto Pistol** 4 1/2" barrel with mint bore, 99%+ original bright blue and gold trigger, ramp blade 1/8" front and fully adjustable factory rear sights, minty checkered English Walnut flared bottom grips with a few spots of finish missing, near new overall, looks and functions as new, made in 1973 (C&R) \$795
- 7-U Browning (F.N.) Belgian .22 LR "Challenger" Auto Pistol** 4 1/2" barrel with mint bore, 98% original blue with a few light scratches, front undercut partridge style blade sight with fully adjustable rear target style sight, gold trigger, excellent one piece checkered wraparound Walnut grips, comes with one factory magazine, manufactured 1963 (C&R) \$725
- 8-U Browning .22 LR "Nomad" Auto Pistol** 4 1/2" barrel with mint bore, 99% original bright blue, blade front and fully adjustable target style rear sight, mint checkered black plastic Browning logo grips, excellent function, made in 1966, collector quality (C&R) \$650
- 9-U Browning .25 ACP "Baby" Clip Feed Auto Pistol** 2 1/8" barrel with bright excellent bore, fixed sights, 98% original blue, light wear on top of slide, black plastic checkered original grips, comes with one unmarked magazine, excellent function, manufactured 1964 (C&R) \$785
- 10-U Charter Arms 9mm Federal "Pit Bull Model" Double Action Stainless Revolver** 2 1/2" full underlug barrel with mint bore, fixed sights, mint finger groove round butt rubber grips with Charter Arms logo medallions, looks and functions as new (this is not a 9mm Para caliber pistol but a special rimmed 9mm) \$265
- 11-U Chiappa .22 LR "Model 1873-22" Single Action Army Revolver** 4 3/4" barrel with mint bore, 99% original blue, fixed sights, excellent checkered black plastic grips with "CF" gold medallions, excellent function \$155
- 12-U Colt .22 LR "New Frontier Model" Single Action Revolver** 6" barrel with mint bore, 98%+ original blue and case color, ramp blade front and fully adjustable target style rear sight, mint checkered "American eagle/Colt logo" black plastic grips, looks and functions near new, made in 1974 (C&R) \$625
- 13-U Colt .22 LR "Huntsman Sport Model" Auto Pistol** 4 1/2" barrel with mint bore, fixed sights, 98% original bright blue, excellent checkered Walnut grip, excellent function, near new in original woodgrain box with end label and serial numbered bottom and instruction sheet, manufactured 1969 (C&R) \$785
- 14-U Colt .22 LR "Woodsmen Sport Model" Auto Pistol** 4 1/2" barrel with mint bore, 98%+ original bright blue, ramp 1/8" blade front sight has some added red paint, rear sight is factory target fully adjustable type, minty checkered, after market target style, Walnut grips with a pronounced flared bottom and appears made by "Herett", made in 1959, a super looking and functioning 3rd model sport Woodsman with super classic grips (C&R) ... \$1075
- 15-U Colt .22 LR "Woodsman Target 1st Series" Auto Pistol** 6 5/8" barrel with mint bore, 98%+ original bright blue, factory adjustable front and rear target sights, mint correct factory extended, checkered brown plastic grips with rampant horse logo, made in 1942 and one of the last old style frame Woodsman auto's, minty all blue magazine marked "Colt Woodsman/ Cal. 22 L.R.", extended grip models occur mostly in the 1940-1945 production and were standard equipment on U.S. contract " Bullseye Match Target pistols", looks and functions as new, collector quality (C&R) \$1295
- 16-U Colt .22 LR "Woodman 2nd Series" Auto Pistol** 6" barrel with mint bore, 98% original blue, factory ramp 1/8" blade front and "Colt Master" fully adjustable target sights, mint injection molded, brown plastic thumbrest checkered grips, matching backstrap filler is installed, correct blue magazine for a 2nd series push button release is installed with "Colt/.22 cal." marked baseplate, looks and functions near new, collector quality, made in 1953 (C&R) \$1025
- 17-U Colt .22 LR "Trooper MK III Model" Double Action Revolver** 6" ribbed barrel with mint bore, 99% original high polish blue, factory target grips, target hammer, mint checkered dark Walnut target grips with gold Colt medallions, manufactured 1979, about new in original tattered box with end label intact and having correct matching serial number and Colt manual \$1195
- 18-U Colt 32/20 W.C.F. "Police Positive Special" Double Action Revolver** 4" barrel with excellent bright bore, 98% original bright blue, 2nd issue revolver with 1926 as last patent date on barrel, fixed sights, mint checkered Walnut grips with silver Colt medallions are from a later Colt, excellent function, super looker, made in 1928 and locks up tight as new (C&R) \$695

- 19-U Colt .38 Special "Cobra Model" Lightweight Double Action Revolver** 2" barrel with excellent bright bore, 96% original blue and black anodized finish, fixed sights, minty checkered Walnut grips with silver Colt medallions, excellent 1st issue function, made in 964 (C&R) \$875
- 20-U Colt .38 Special "Officers Model 2nd Issue" Double Action Target Revolver** 6" barrel with excellent bright bore, 98%+ original blue, factory adjustable front and rear target sights, last patent date on barrel is "1905", excellent fiery mother of pearl smooth grips with Colt silver medallions (right side panel has a tiny surface chipout above medallion), fabulous condition for a 1923 made gun, looks and functions near new, collector quality (C&R) \$1065
- 21-U Colt .38 Special "Officers Model/Heavy Barrel" Target Revolver** 6" heavy barrel with mint bore, 97% original blue, factory adjustable front and rear target sights, excellent dark Walnut checkered wood grips with silver medallions, super tight lockup and smooth action, made in 1937, a nice 3rd issue (C&R) \$875
- 22-U Hammerli .22 LR "Lenzberg Made" Swiss Old Model Single Shot Free Pistol** 11.3" barrel with mint bore, 90% original blue with fading and graying on round barrel, "Martini" type lever action with set trigger lever on left side, factory ramp blade front and elaborate fully adjustable rear sights, fully adjustable trigger, fancy contoured Walnut grips are coated in some sort of epoxy black finish which has chipped off or worn away showing badly chipped edges and some repaired sections, forend is plain varnished Walnut, excellent function and fabulous trigger pull, grips make this gun look terrible but still works fine (C&R) \$565
- 23-U Harrington & Richardson .32 ACP 1st Variation "H&R Self Loading" Hammerless Auto Pistol** 3 1/2" barrel with good strong but lightly pitted bore, fixed sights, 95%+ nice high polish blue spoiled by a patch of pitting on left front edge of slide with a little carry over to right side of slide, very good H&R logo checkered hard rubber grips with a small chipout at locating pin on bottom of left panel, some spotty pitting on original magazine (C&R) \$465
- 24-U Harrington & Richardson .32 ACP "2nd Issue" Self Loading Auto Pistol** 3 1/2" barrel with bright excellent bore showing some very tiny spots of pitting, half moon front blade with "V" notch rear sight, 95% original blue showing thinning and pin prick pitting along front and back straps, thinning toward muzzle, 16 slide serrations, cocking indicator at rear and magazine disconnect, excellent hard rubber grips showing very nice H&R logo in a circle, comes with one nickel plated original magazine, manufactured 1910-1920 (C&R) \$395
- 25-U Harrington & Richardson .22 LR / .22 WMR "Model 86" Dual Cylinder Double Action / Single Action Western Style Revolver** 5 1/2" barrel with mint bore, 97% original blue and case color with .22 WMR cylinder installed, .22 LR cylinder shows 80% thinning blue, both cylinders are un-fluted and caliber marked, very good smooth (2) piece wood grips showing some finish loss, excellent function both single and double action \$365
- 26-U Harrington & Richardson .22 LR "Model 676" Pull Pin Cylinder Release Double Action Revolver** 5 1/2" barrel with mint bore, fixed sights, 98% original blue and cyanide case hardened finish, smooth Walnut grips, excellent function, manufactured 1976-1982 in Gardner, MA \$275
- 27-U Harrington & Richardson .22 LR "Sportsman" Double Action Top Break Target Revolver** 6" ovoid solid rib barrel with mint bore, 97% original bright blue, factory adjustable front and rear sights, 9 shot cylinder, minty target checkered Walnut grips, excellent function, showing little use, collector quality (C&R) \$695
- 28-U Harrington & Richardson .22 LR "Sportsman" Single Action Top Break Target Revolver** 6" ovoid barrel with solid top rib with mint bore, factory adjustable front and rear sights, 98% original bright blue, minty checkered Walnut one piece grip on one of the (5) styles of target grips, excellent smooth function, an early style 999, collector quality (C&R) \$795
- 29-U Harrington & Richardson .32 S&W Short "Hammerless Top Break Model" Double Action Revolver** 3" ribbed barrel with excellent bright bore, fixed sights, 96% original bright blue with some scattered light peppering pitting, matching numbers, excellent checkered black hard rubber "bulls eye" logo grips, excellent function (C&R) \$195
- 30-U Harrington & Richardson .38 S&W "Hammer Top Break" D.A. Revolver** 3 1/4" ribbed barrel with mint bore, fixed sights, 95% original nickel, blue and dark case colors with some light scratches and flaking on nickel, excellent auto ejection, but needs a trigger return spring and freeing up of sear tripping lever at rear of trigger guard (doesn't function in single action due to this lever being frozen), excellent checkered black hard rubber logo grips, looks very good and worthy of repair, matching numbers (C&R) \$145
- 31-U High Standard .22 LR "Model D-101" Over / Under Double Derringer Pistol** 3 1/2" barrels with mint bores, 99% original blue, fixed sights, mint faux Ivory smooth grips, excellent function, made in 1970, collector quality and comes in a high quality "K.L. Null" thumb break black leather holster made expressly for a double derringer (C&R) \$425
- 32-U High Standard .22 LR "Model H-D Military" Auto Pistol** 6 3/4" heavy barrel with mint bore, 98%+ original blue, factory target style sights, mint checkered black plastic grips (correct for early guns), looks and functions as new, collector quality, made in 1946 and comes in its original box with correct end label, box is a very good+ with original hang tag and instruction (C&R) \$785
- 33-U High Standard .22 LR "Model H-D Military" Auto Pistol** 4 1/2" heavy barrel with mint bore, 98%+ original blue, factory target style front and rear sights, minty full checkered Walnut grips, excellent function, made in 1947, collector quality and comes in it's original black flip top box with correct matching end label, box shows repair work (C&R) \$715
- 34-U High Standard .22 LR "Model G-B" Auto Pistol** 6 3/4" barrel with mint bore, 98% original blue, 1/8" blade front and drift adjustable rear sight, lever style takedown, mint "HS" logo brown plastic grips, mint (2) tone magazine, made in 1949, hammerless design, lettering has been "whited in" with grease pencil and looks sharp, collector quality (C&R) \$625

CONTINUED ➡

52-U Palmetto 9mm "Dagger Compact" Auto Pistol 4 3/8" threaded barrel with mint bore, Sylvan Arms clamp on compensator on barrel, mint "forest green" slide and black polymer lower, factory fixed open sights plus a "Holosun" red projection beam sight, black textured grip, front rail with "Stream light TLR-7A" high intensity flashlight, comes with one Glock 14 round magazine and one original Palmetto 17 round magazine, both beam rear sight and flashlight work fine, comes in its original compartmentalized soft zipper case with owners manual, and packaging for added accessories \$650

53-U Ruger .22 LR "Model 22/45 Target Model MK III" Auto Pistol 5 1/2" bull barrel with mint bore, 99 1/2% original bright blue upper and matte finish lower, 1/8" ramp blade front and fully adjustable target rear sights, mint checkered Walnut diamond escutcheon, red eagle medallion grips, original magazine, frame is factory drilled, tapped and plugged for scope bases, as new overall, manufactured 2014 \$395

54-U Ruger .22 LR "Mark IV" Target Auto Pistol 5 1/2" bull barrel with mint bore, 99 1/2% original blue, ramp blade front and fully adjustable target rear sights, mint Ruger logo checkered laminate, finger groove target grips, as new in original black plastic carry case with Ruger lock and keys and factory manual \$525

55-U Ruger .22 LR "New Model Single Six" Stainless Steel Single Action Revolver 6 1/2" barrel with mint bore, front raised serrated blade and fully adjustable rear target style sights, light scratches, that will polish out, show on stainless steel, dark Walnut grips with Ruger black Eagle medallions, light dings and dents show on grips, manufactured 1981, excellent function \$535

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

57-U Ruger .380 ACP "Security 380 Model" Compact Auto Pistol 3 3/8" barrel with mint bore, 99% original black finish, fiber optic green front sight and fixed rear, as new overall with (3) original magazines \$305

58-U Smith & Wesson .22 LR "Model 34 / Kit Gun" Double Action Revolver 2" pinned barrel with mint bore, 99%+ original bright blue with just a hint of a turn ring on cylinder, 99% case color on standard hammer and trigger, factory target sights, mint dark Walnut checkered round butt grips with diamond at escutcheon and silver S&W medallions, matching numbers grips, flat latch, looks and functions as new, made in 1960, collector quality (C&R) \$895

59-U Smith & Wesson .22 LR "Model 34-1 / Kit Gun" Double Action Revolver 4" pinned barrel with mint bore, 98%+ original bright blue, factory target sights, 98% case color on standard hammer and trigger, excellent target style checkered Walnut square butt grips with S&W silver medallions, a super nice "J" frame kit gun, made in 1978 \$825

60-U Smith & Wesson .22 Winchester Magnum "Model 48-4" Double Action Revolver 8 3/8" barrel with mint bore, 98%+ original bright blue and case color, factory target sights, standard hammer and trigger, excellent checkered Walnut target grips with silver S&W medallions, excellent function, looks near new overall and fairly rare in 8 3/8" barrel \$1095

61-U Smith & Wesson .38 Special "Model 14-2 / Target Masterpiece" K-38 Revolver 6" pinned barrel with mint bore, 98%+ original bright blue and case color, all target hammer, trigger, sights and checkered Goncalo Alves minty grips, made in 1963 and looks fabulous, collector quality (C&R) \$785

62-U Smith & Wesson .38 Special "Model 37 Airweight" Double Action Revolver 1 7/8" barrel with mint bore, fixed sights, 99% original bright blue and dark case colors, mint dark checkered Walnut round butt grips with silver medallions, looks and function near new \$595

63-U Smith & Wesson .38 Special "Model 38 Bodyguard Airweight" Double Action Revolver 2" pinned barrel with mint bore, fixed sights, 99% original bright blue, shrouded hammer, 95% color case on trigger, made in 1977, mint checkered Walnut round butt grips with silver medallions \$595

64-U Smith & Wesson .38 Special "Model 38-3 Airweight" Double Action Shrouded Hammer "Bodyguard" Revolver 2" barrel with mint bore, 99% original matte black finish, fixed sights plus "Crimson trace" red laser in compact boot grips of wraparound stippled rubber, looks and functions as new, made in 1997, matching numbers \$695

65-U Smith & Wesson .38 Special +P "Model 638-3" Shrouded Hammer Airweight Double Action Revolver 1 7/8" barrel with mint bore, fixed sights, alloy frame shows some minor spotty corrosion, stainless steel barrel and cylinder, mint checkered black rubber boot grips, trigger pull lightened a bit but original springs included in matching original blue plastic case with paper and keys, manufactured 2013 \$485

66-U Smith & Wesson .357 Magnum "Model 19-3" Target Double Action Revolver 6" pinned barrel with mint bore, factory target sights, standard case colored hammer and trigger with 95% color, 98%+ original bright blue, mint Goncalo Alves checkered target grips with silver S&W medallions, made in 1973, near new in original box with tool kit unopened (C&R) \$845

67-U Smith & Wesson .357 Magnum "Model 19-3 / Combat Magnum" Double Action Revolver 4" pinned barrel with mint bore, 97% original bright blue and somewhat faded case colors, most blue loss is on left tip of barrel and cylinder, target sights, standard hammer and trigger, very sharp looking "book matched" smooth Goncalo Alves target grips, made in 1970 and has excellent function (C&R) \$785

68-U Smith & Wesson .357 Magnum "Model 19-3 / Combat Magnum" Double Action Revolver 4" pinned barrel with mint bore, 97% original bright blue and faded case color, target style sights, standard hammer and trigger, excellent checkered Goncalo Alves target grips with silver medallions, excellent function, made in 1974 (C&R) \$795

69-U Spanish Astra 9mm Largo "Model 1921" (400) Auto Pistol 6" barrel with good but lightly pitted bore, 90% thinning original blue showing blue to brown on front and back straps, sides of barrel show blue to gray, light fire blue shows on safety lever and extractor, top of barrel shows Spanish crown and Astra logo, right side of frame shows "Spain" import mark, checkered black horn grips with Astra logo, small repair to right grip panel, magazine latch pin is missing, all matching numbers, manufactured 1921-1950 (C&R) \$395

70-U Tanfoglio .40 S&W "Witness Model P" Double / Single Action Auto Pistol 4 1/2" barrel with mint bore, 99% original matte black finish, (3) white dot sights with low profile windage adjustable rear, full size polymer frame with textured grip area, 14 shot magazine, near new overall \$385

CONTINUED ➡

89-U Mauser Brazilian / DWM 7mm Mauser "Model 1908" Bolt Rifle 29 1/2" barrel with excellent+ bright bore, 95% original lightly faded blue and wonderful Brazilian crest receiver in the white with little or no pitting, all matching numbers and mostly matching inspectors letter, and a good quantity of faded fire blue, Walnut pistol grip stock is matching numbered with inspectors cartouche, steel buttplate, front swivel, wiping rod, bayonet fixture and stacking hook, moveable rear swivel is missing, wood is sound but well dented and scrapped from 115 years of use, collector quality with excellent function and lightly importer marked (C&R) \$1150

90-U Mosin Nagant 7.62x54R "Model 1944" Russian / Izhevsk Arsenal Bolt Carbine 20" barrel with bright excellent bore showing very light pitting toward muzzle, 97% arsenal blue with high edge wear and top handguard metal thinning blue, one piece milled globe/wide base front sight, rear tangent sight graduated to 1000 meters, low wall receiver with import mark, barrel collar marked "Soviet Union Crest / 1946 / RE1961 / and Izhevsk Arsenal mark", 2nd pattern double eared lug barrel/bayonet locking ring with attached folding tri-fluted bayonet, solid hardwood straight grip stock and handguard, post war, pressed escutcheon front and rear sling slots, non detachable magazine, steel buttplate and bolt are all serialized to carbine, all matching, complete with cleaning rod, manufactured 1946 (C&R) \$495

91-U Mosin Nagant 7.62x54R "Model 91/30" Izhevsk Made Bolt Rifle 29" barrel with fair pitted bore, type I hooded front sight, rear sight has been removed, metal surfaces have been re-blued, all matching numbers, straight grip hardwood stock looks to have been refinished with an early repair at heel and toe of buttstock, over all will make a nice project, manufactured 1940 (C&R) \$225

92-U Mossberg 30/06 "Trophy Hunter" Bolt Rifle 22" matte black barrel and receiver with excellent bore, internal 4 round magazine, very nice satin birch checkered stock, 98% overall, unbranded 3-9x40 scope \$375

93-U Savage .300 Savage "Model 99" Lever Rifle 22" barrel with bright excellent bore, 97% original blue with some thinning at belly of receiver, sporting open sights plus "Holden/see through" raised scope blocks, mounting a W33x32V "Taiwan" scope with crisp clear optics and duplex reticule, lever shows mostly silver with traces of case color, checkered Walnut pistol grip stock and forend, stock has dings, dents and plastic buttplate that is not flush to stock, pistol grip cap, excellent function, manufactured 1957 (C&R) \$685

94-U Springfield 30/06 "Model 1903" Sporterized Bolt Rifle 24" barrel with bright excellent bore, nice professional quality re-blue finish, raised front blade sight, Lyman 48 aperture rear sight, polished and jeweled bolt, lightly figured commercial checkered Walnut pistol grip stock with cheekpiece, Monte Carlo, ebony forend tip, grip cap and black serrated buttplate all with white line spacers, sling swivel studs, excellent function, super looking showing excellent early conversion work \$895

95-U U.S. Eddystone 30/06 "Model M1917" Bolt Rifle 26" barrel dated "3/18" with fair pitted bore, 95%+ arsenal blue finish showing scattered pin prick pitting along with high edge wear, barrel band and bayonet lug show a blue to gray tone along with steel buttplate, left side of receiver shows an arsenal "flaming bomb" proof, both bolt and Mauser action both show correct Eddystone "E" markings, "wing" protected front post sight and adjustable rear flip up peep sight, smooth Walnut straight grip stock with finger groove forend and matching handguard, stock shows dings and dents, handguard shows small 1/2" crack on right side, rear sight on left side shows silvering (C&R) \$795

96-U U.S. Government / Springfield Armory 30/06 "Model 1903" Arsenal Rebuild Bolt Rifle 24" barrel marked "SA / Ordnance bomb / 7-42" with a good but lightly pitted bore, front blade sight, 2nd variation 1905 rear sight with windage knob and graduated to 2700 yards, 1903 bayonet fixture along with stacking swivel, mid barrel band swivel and rear sling swivel, arsenal rebuild Parkerized finish on barrel, receiver and checkered trap style buttplate, correct 1903A3 style stamped sheet metal triggerguard/floorplate, smooth Walnut "C" type pistol grip stock and handguard, cleaning kit in butt of stock, low number receiver, stock has circled "P" on inside of grip but no other cartouches are visible (C&R) \$825

97-U U.S. Government Springfield Armory 30/06 "Model M1 Garand" Auto Rifle 24" barrel with bright excellent bore dated "SA-6-46", very nice 98% arsenal parkerized finish with some softening along sharp edges and contact points, protected front post sight with a type 3 rear adjustable sight, the top of bolt looks to have the number 167 scribed into it, the op rod is a type 3 "SA" marked with a type 2 latch, smooth Walnut stock and handguard show normal dings and dents with the stock on the left side showing a faint "S.A." over "G.A.W." cartouche also a circled "P" proof mark on bottom of grip, buttplate is original and shows normal wear, overall this rebuilt M1 Garand is in excellent condition both appearance mechanical wise \$1500

RIMFIRE RIFLES

98-U Browning .22 LR “Model SA” Maple AAA Stocked Takedown Auto Rifle 19 3/8” barrel with mint bore, 100% original blue with original satin nickel grade I engraved receiver, original front blade sight and folding open leaf rear sight plus factory drilled tapped and plugged for a cantilever style scope base, cut checkered AAA Maple wood pistol grip stock and forend, comes with original black cardboard box, papers and trigger lock, as new in box, this 2019 shot show special is one of 1050 made and still has “Browning” decal on bottom of forend, collector quality un-used condition \$1200

99-U Henry .22 S, L, & LR “Model H001” Lever Rifle 18 ¼” barrel with excellent bore, 98% original blue on barrel and magazine tube, 15 round tube fed, black receiver has a 1” scratch on right side with a few small marks on left side, hooded front sight, slide ramp rear sight, satin Walnut stock with minor safe dings, comes with manual \$325

100-U Hopkins & Allen .22 LR “Model 4922” Takedown Tube Feed Bolt Rifle 22” barrel with very good bright bore showing some light pitting, 90%+ original blue taking on a brown tinge and thinning, dovetail front sight is missing its “blade”, rear sight is an open sporting style with a unique “2 sighting notch” configuration, very good original Walnut straight grip stock with original steel crescent buttplate and having a small chipout of wood at toe, excellent function and not often seen in this original good condition (C&R) \$295

101-U J.C. Higgins / Marlin .22 Winchester Magnum “Model 44DLM” (Marlin Model 57M) Lever Rifle 24” barrel with mint bore, 98% original blue, factory sporting open sights, no hood on tramp bead front sight, plus 4x32mm Japanese scope mounted using a Weaver style rail and 1” rings, minty Walnut pistol grip stock with Monte Carlo, swivel “eyes” and serrated black plastic buttplate, only real difference between this Sears branded model and a Marlin is the “44DLM” has a nickel plated operating lever, made between 1955 and 1964 (C&R) \$565

CONTINUED ➡

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SHOTGUNS

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

103-U Mossberg .22 S, L, & LR "Model 87A" Tube Feed Auto Rifle 24" barrel with good lightly pitted bore, original sights, blue to brown patina, peppery pin prick pitting throughout, missing rear swing out aperture sight, triggerguard is gray in color, buttplate is brown plastic looks to be old replacement, smooth Walnut pistol grip stock, forend is cracked and crudely repaired (C&R) \$95

104-U Mossberg .22 S, L, & LR "Model 352KB" Clip Feed Auto Carbine 18" barrel with mint bore, 99% original blue, factory open sights and grooved receiver, minty Walnut pistol grip stock with Monte Carlo, side mount sling swivels, black plastic fold down forend and logo plastic buttplate, looks and functions as new, collector quality (C&R) \$265

105-U Mossberg .22 S, L, & LR "Model 42B" Clip Feed Bolt Rifle 24" barrel with bright excellent bore, 90% thinning blue to gray, multi aperture front sight missing it's hood, rear barrel sight and rear receiver swing out aperture sight missing, mounted on receiver is a Mossberg No. 4 scope base and a Mossberg 2 ¾ power scope, lightly cloudy optics with plain crosshairs, Walnut pistol grip stock showing normal wear, plastic finger groove triggerguard that is flush to stock, missing sling swivels with open holes remaining, one original 5 round magazine, excellent function, manufactured 1938-1941 (C&R) \$195

106-U Norinco .22 LR "Model JW-15" Clip Feed Bolt Rifle 24" barrel with mint bore, 99% original bright blue, factory open sights with hood missing from ramp blade front, grooved receiver, minty Walnut stained hardwood pistol grip stock with grip cap, factory sling swivels and serrated black plastic buttplate, very high quality man size .22 bolt action \$225

107-U Remington .22 S, L & LR "Model 550-1" Tube Feed Auto Rifle 24" barrel with mint bore, factory sporting open front and rear sights, factory shell deflector on receiver, minty dark Walnut pistol grip stock with checkered black plastic logo buttplate, made in 1947 (second year of production, one of the few .22 autoloaders that will actually work as an autoloader using all (3) ammo types) (C&R) \$365

108-U Ruger .22 LR "Model 10/22 Compact" Auto Rifle 16" barrel with bright excellent bore, 99% original blue and black oxide finish, original open sights have been removed and Weaver 503m and 504 rear scope base added along with Weaver 1" rings, topping it off is a Bushnell Banner .22 scope with duplex reticule crisp clear optics, black synthetic pistol grip stock with Q.D. sling swivel studs, comes with one magazine and added extended magazine release, excellent function \$325

109-U Savage .22 S, L, & LR "Model 29A" Takedown Post War Tube Feed Pump Rifle 24" barrel with good bore, 80% brown patina on barrel with frame showing thinning brown to gray with high edge wear, original sights, factory drilled, tapped and plugged tang for peep sight, checkered Walnut pistol grip stock and forend wood shows added high luster finish, wood shows normal wear, dings and dents, small repair shows on right side of grip at tang, pistol grip base has initials "M.L.B." scratches into wood, manufactured 1951 (C&R) \$395

110-U Sears .22 S, L, & LR "Model 25" (High Standard Sport King Deluxe) Tube Feed Auto Rifle 22 ¼" barrel with mint bore, factory open sights plus grooved receiver with Sears 4x20mm scope mounted, 98%+ original blue, excellent lightly figured Walnut pistol grip stock with logo black plastic buttplate, excellent function, very nice looking (C&R) \$225

111-U Walther .22 LR "Model KKJ" Sporter Bolt Rifle 22" barrel with bright excellent bore, 98% original blue with light handling wear marks, hooded front sight, tangent rear sight, grooved receiver, checkered Walnut hogback comb pistol grip stock with European style cheekpiece, serrated plastic buttplate and metal grip cap, sling swivels and comes with one magazine, manufactured 1960-1970 (C&R) \$975

112-U Weatherby .22 LR "Model XXII Tube Feed Auto Rifle 24" barrel with mint bore, 99% original blue and black anodized finishes, front blade with brass bead sight, missing its hood, folding express leaf sight and grooved receiver, high polished Monte Carlo pistol grip stock with left side cheek piece and contrasting rosewood forend tip and grip cap both with white line spacers factory swivel studs, manufactured in Japan by "Nikko" 1973-1980, excellent function, super looker \$895

113-U Winchester .22 LR "Model 74" Butt Tube Feed Auto Rifle 22" barrel with excellent bright bore, factory open sights, 92% original blue with most loss due to over zealous cleaning, excellent dark Walnut pistol grip stock, excellent function, made in 1949 (C&R) \$265

114-U Winchester .22 S, L, & LR "Model 190" Tuber Feed Auto Carbine 20 ½" barrel with mint bore, factory open sights plus grooved receiver, 98% original blue with some very light scratching on alloy receiver, excellent hardwood pistol grip stock with logo buttplate, excellent function \$195

115-U Winchester .22 S, L, & LR "Model 69A Target" Clip Feed Bolt Rifle 25" barrel with good bright bore with a couple shallow rings and no rear dovetail, receiver has a couple extra drilled holes on left side along with the open holes where the original peep sight was mounted, front sight is a replaceable insert "Globe" style by Lyman, Walnut pistol grip stock is very good without buttplate but with sling swivels, floorplate and push button release, all other parts are missing (bolt, clip, internal parts, rear sight (originally a 69A target) parts only (C&R) \$75

116-U Winchester .22 S, L, & LR "Model 72 Target" Tube Feed Bolt Rifle 25" barrel with excellent bright bore, factory front bead sight (missing hood) and Lyman 57 EF peep rear sight, no rear barrel dovetail, entire bolt, magazine tube and triggerguard are missing, metal retains most blue but getting thin and taking on a brown tinge, Walnut pistol grip stock is very good with logo hard rubber buttplate, for parts or easy restoration (C&R) \$175

117-U Winchester .22 Short & Long "Model 1904" Single Shot Bolt Rifle 21" barrel with poor pitted bore, factory open sights, metal is a nice smooth brown/blue with little or no pitting, good Walnut straight grip stock with correct looped triggerguard and crescent butt, wood shows numerous dings, dents and cracks, excellent function (C&R) \$195

118-U Winchester .22 S, L, & LR "Model 61" Pump Rifle 24" barrel with mint bore, 98% original blue, factory open sights, excellent+ dark figured Walnut pistol grip stock with mint checkered black plastic logo buttplate, looks and functions near new, collector quality, made in 1952 (C&R) \$895

119-U Winchester .22 S, L, & LR "Model 55" Single Shot Auto Ejecting Rifle 22" barrel with mint bore, 98%+ original bright blue, original factory open sights, excellent dark Walnut pistol grip stock with a few minor dings in forend, manufactured between 1958-1961, collector quality (C&R) \$395

120-U F.N. Browning 12 Gauge "Light 12 Auto-5" Auto Shotgun 28" solid raised rib, fixed modified choke, 2 3/4" chamber and mint bore, single silver bead front sight, 97% original blue with light thinning on the scroll engraved receiver, gold color trigger, round knob checkered Walnut stock and checkered Walnut forend, "F.N." logo buttplate, excellent function, manufactured 1961 (C&R) \$965

121-U F.N. Browning 12 Gauge "Twelvette Double" Auto Shotgun 26" vent rib barrel, fixed modified choke, 2 3/4" chamber, bright excellent bore, single silver bead front sight, 99% original "dragon black" finish with "Twelvette" stamped above loading port, crisp gold foil accent engraving on aircraft alloy "Hiduminium" receiver, excellent round knob "prince of Wales" buttstock with a small 1 1/2" crack on underside of grip at triggerguard, excellent checkered Walnut forend, original Browning logo buttplate, excellent function, manufactured 1969 (C&R) \$1095

122-U Franchi 20 Gauge "Model AL-48" Auto Shotgun 28" plain barrel with excellent bright bore, 2 3/4" chamber and fixed modified choke, 97% original blue, very good+ Walnut pistol grip stock with cut checkering and checkered black plastic logo buttplate, 95% gold on trigger, excellent function, super light weight auto shotgun with long recoil action weighs only 5 1/4 pounds \$535

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

124-U High Standard 12 Gauge "Flight King Deluxe /Model K-121" Pump Shotgun 28" raised vent rib barrel with mint bore, fixed modified choke, 2 3/4" chamber, 97% original blue showing light scratches on receiver, light thinning toward muzzle and wear along magazine tube, press checkered Walnut pistol grip stock and forend, stock shows varnish wear along grip and low luster finish on stock, grip cap and brown rubber recoil pad, excellent function, manufactured 1966-1973 (C&R) \$265

125-U Ithaca / Western Arms .410 Gauge "Long Range" Small Bore Boxlock Double Trigger Hammerless Side by Side Shotgun 26" solid raised rib barrel with fixed full and improved modified chokes, 23/4" chambers, bright excellent bores, 80% thinning original blue with scattered pin prick pitting along barrels, receiver is mostly gray with areas of light case colors still showing, barrel lever is right of center, single brass bead front sight, auto safety lever on tang, smooth Walnut pistol grip stock and splinter style forend wood, factory hard rubber checkered buttplate, excellent function on this 1930's era shotgun (C&R) \$765

126-U Mossberg 12 Gauge "Model 500A" Deluxe Pump Shotgun 28" vent rib barrel with 3" chamber, modified screw in choke tube, 98% + original blue, top of receiver is factory drilled, tapped and plugged for scope bases, excellent hardwood pistol grip stock with cut checkering, grip cap and vent rubber recoil pad, looks and functions near new \$375

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

128-U Remington 20 Gauge "Model 1100" Autoloader Shotgun 28" vent rib barrel with excellent bright bore, 2 3/4" chamber and is marked "Mod" but has a "Colonial" brand screw in tube also marked "modified", 95%+ original bright blue, engraved receiver and bolt, very good Walnut pistol grip stock with "fleur-de-lis" impress checkering, grip cap and serrated logo black plastic buttplate, manufactured in 1965 (C&R) \$595

129-U Savage / Springfield 12 Gauge "Model 67" Pump Shotgun 28" plain barrel, fixed full choke, 3" chamber, bright excellent bore, single silver bead front sight, 97% original blue with some thinning along barrel and at muzzle, receiver shows fine scratches, smooth hardwood pistol grip stock and grooved forend show scratches and dings, black rubber buttpad, Q.D. sling swivel stud in toe line, excellent function (C&R) \$185

130-U Savage / Springfield 12 Gauge "Model 67-C" Pump Shotgun 28" barrel with bright excellent bore, 2 3/4" chamber, fixed modified choke, 97% original blue with thinning along barrel and light scratches along alloy receiver, hardwood pistol grip stock shows varnish chipping, scratches, red rubber recoil pad is a replacement and is not well fitted to butt (C&R) \$145

131-U Savage / Stevens 12 Gauge "Model 67 Series E" Pump Shotgun 21" barrel with bright excellent bore showing light skid marks, 2 3/4" chamber, improved cylinder fixed choke, raised front blade, adjustable folding leaf rear sight, 65% original thinning blue to gray with receiver showing mostly gray on sides, press checkered hardwood stock and forend, showing dings and dents, all metal surfaces show peppery pin prick pitting, black serrated buttplate, excellent function, made in 1952 (C&R) \$195

132-U Savage / Stevens 20 Gauge "Model 258B" Clip Feed Bolt Shotgun 26" barrel with good bore, 80% original blue, thinning to gray along receiver, pin prick pitting on receiver and thinning to gray, single bead front sight, smooth Walnut pistol grip stock with ebony forend, black plastic buttplate unable to retain a magazine due to broken magazine well spring, no magazine, parts or repair shotgun \$95

133-U Wards WesternField 12 Gauge "Model 600AER" (Remington SPT-58) Autoloader Shotgun 30" plain barrel with 2 3/4" chamber fixed full choke and mint bore, 98% original blue, roll engraved receiver, very good Walnut pistol grip stock with checkered forend and plain grip, sling swivel at rear and swivel eye at takedown knob, excellent function and nice looking (C&R) \$285

134-U Winchester 12 Gauge "Model 59" Auto Shotgun 28" plain "Win-lite barrel", 2 3/4" chamber, fixed modified choke with bright excellent bore, 95% original black enamel and anodized finishes, some high edge wear along engraved receiver depicting upland and lowland game scenes, excellent checkered Walnut pistol grip stock and forend, wood shows light dings and dents, excellent function, manufactured 1960-1965 (C&R) \$485

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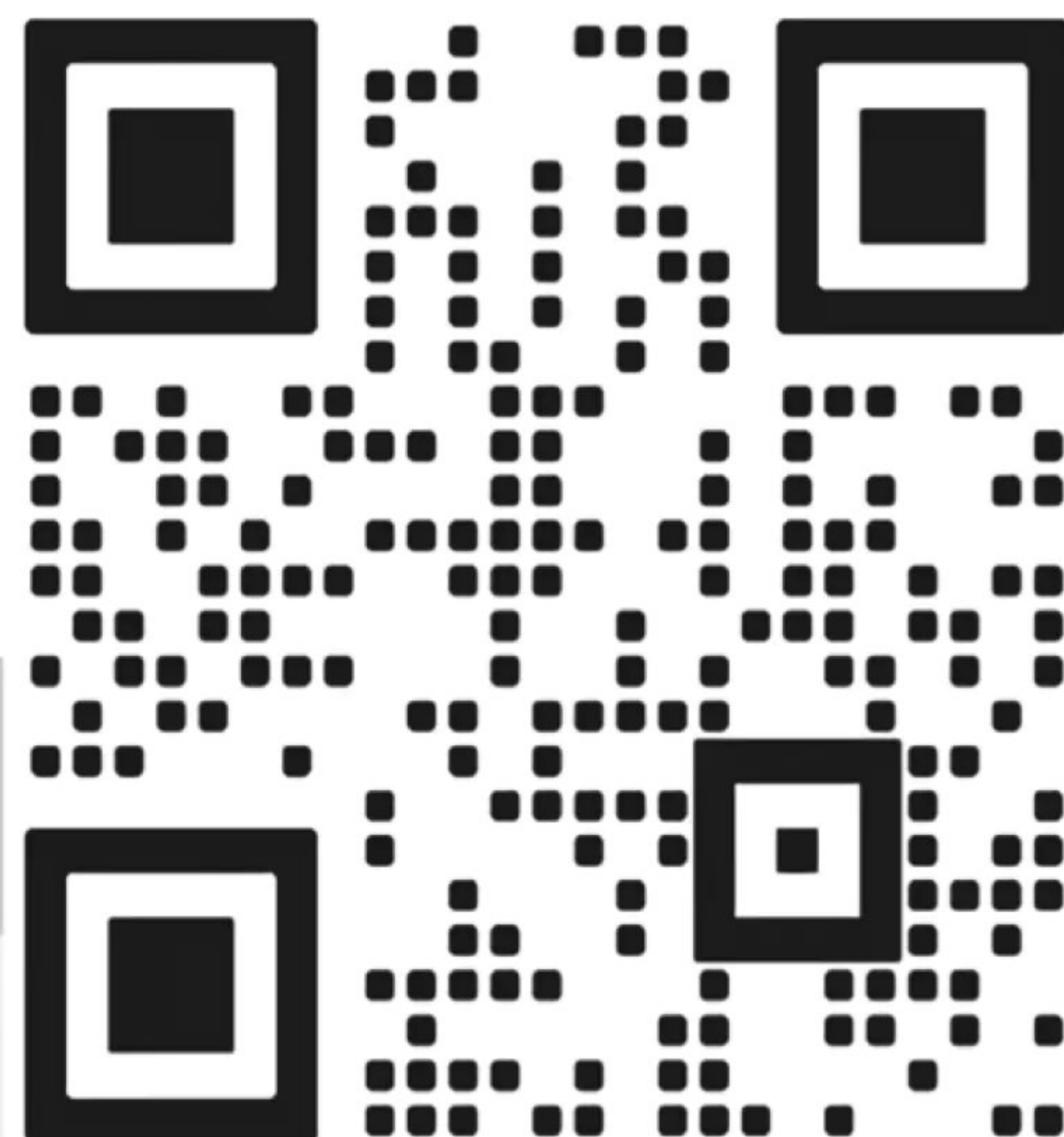
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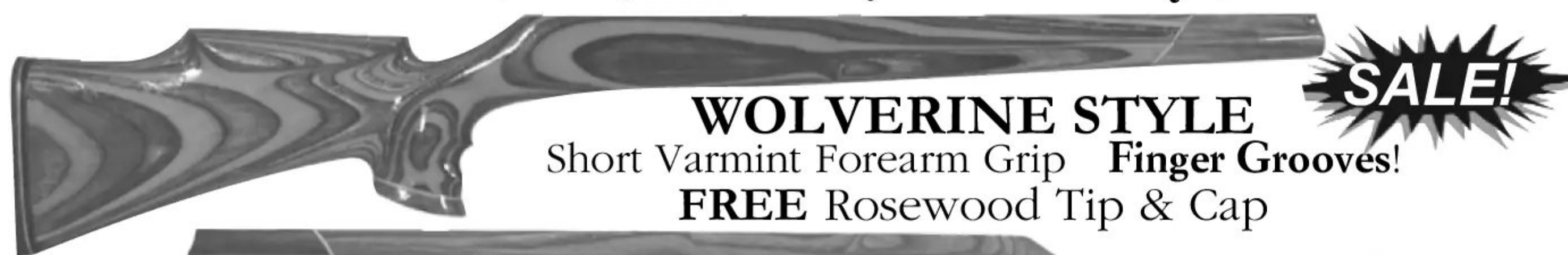


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SPICED SECURITY

Oleoresin capsicum: How to choose the best pepper spray.

Pepper spray, also called OC spray for the active ingredient of oleoresin capsicum, is the most effective less-lethal weapon available. Whether carried alongside a firearm or instead of one, pepper spray can make for an excellent addition to anyone's arsenal.

So, what pepper spray should you buy? What brand? What type? Let's take a closer look at exactly what features make for the best pepper spray models and which ones are just glorified hot sauce.

A QUICK RUNDOWN ON PEPPER SPRAY

Pepper spray was developed in the late 1980s/early 1990s as a riot control agent by Kamran Loghman, a scientist working for the FBI. The idea was to create something akin to tear gas that was effective at gaining control of suspects but was also more portable, and therefore usable by individual officers.

"Tear gas" (of various types) has been in use since the early 20th century in warfare and riot control. Tear gases are known as lachrymators, substances that cause the eyes to water. This makes pepper sprays lachrymators as well since they cause irritation of the eyes among other things. What separates pepper sprays from conventional tear gases like CS gas is mostly what they're made from.

The active ingredient in pepper spray is capsaicin, a vanilloid compound found in chili peppers, which are in the plant genus *capsicum* and part of the nightshade family. Capsaicin is an irritant, causing a burning sensation on the skin and any other tissue it contacts.

To make pepper spray, chili peppers are soaked in a solvent that extracts capsaicin from the flesh of the pepper. The solvent is evaporated or distilled off, leaving oleoresin (a waxy compound) of capsaicin, aka oleoresin cap-

saicin or OC.

The concentration of capsaicin depends on the peppers used, as some chilis have a lot (habaneros, Scotch bonnets, ghost peppers, etc.) and some have comparatively little, such as guajillo, jalapeno or Hatch chilies. This means that OC content alone isn't always the best way to determine the efficacy of a pepper spray.

Chemistry is complicated, and there are plenty of other factors that will impact just how good a given spray is at incapacitating someone. Rather than buying the highest content OC spray you can find or trying to unravel the intricacies of these complex compounds, your best bet will be to stick with a proven brand and model with a long record of effective use.

To aerosolize it, the oleoresin must be emulsified with some sort of agent (typically propylene glycol) and water, which is pressurized to make it sprayable. This



A U.S. soldier receiving OC spray to the face as part of his training. Photo: Wikipedia

is where many brands will differ the most because the exact formulation will impact how the consistency affects the accuracy, range and pattern of a spray. Much of this will come down to personal preference, however, as there are pros and cons to the different styles.

After its introduction, OC spray was also noted for its effectiveness against animals, which is why it's used as bear spray as well. Bears have many more times the olfactory receptors of humans, making them even more susceptible to its effects when correctly deployed.

So ... what's the difference between bear spray and self-defense spray?

For the most part ... marketing. The concentration of most bear sprays is 2 percent, which is about the same or only slightly stronger than most self-defense sprays. Where bear spray usually has an advantage over self-defense OC spray isn't the potency of the compound, but the larger and therefore easier to use delivery system. This is why many riot police use OC spray canisters that more closely resemble bear sprays than traditional pocket-sized defensive models.

WHY SHOULD YOU CARRY PEPPER SPRAY?

As John Correia of Active Self Protection likes to say, OC spray gives you an option between "a harsh word and a gun."

OC spray is more effective than any other less-lethal tool. Electrical weapons (e.g., Axon-brand TASERs) have a failure rate close to (or more than) 50 percent, making pepper spray the far more reliable option.

Pepper spray can be an indispensable tool for both uniformed officers and private citizens. For the former, it helps to gain control of a violent suspect without resorting to beating or shooting them. For the latter, it provides a self-defense solution for situations where lethal force may not be justified.

Pepper spray can also give you a tiered force response if carried in conjunction with a firearm. For example, maybe a wild dog is approaching you with aggressive body language. Pre-emptively putting a hole in it before it actually attacks you may result in legal trouble or upsetting your neighbors, but deploying OC spray can silently dissuade the situation before it has a chance to escalate.

If a person wanted to carry a weapon of some sort but not necessarily a firearm or anything else potentially lethal, pepper spray is far and away the best option regardless of gender. Man or woman, cop or civilian, pepper spray works if used correctly.

IS OC SPRAY LEGAL?

International regulation is mixed. Some

countries prohibit possession, some require a background check or a permit, and some countries let anyone of age buy it.

In the United States, federal law only regulates possession of OC spray on airlines. You can carry up to a 4-ounce container in your checked baggage.

Just as with firearm laws, state regulations vary wildly. California only prohibits carrying OC spray with more than 2.5 ounces of spray, as well as possession by minors and felons. Florida likewise doesn't mandate who can possess it but forbids carrying a canister with more than 2 ounces of spray. New Jersey doesn't prohibit possession, but limits capacity to 0.75 ounces.

Similarly, New York mandates it to be purchased in person from a pharmacy or sporting goods or gun store, but the OC content can't be more than 0.7 percent. Michigan restricts purchase and possession by anyone under 18, and purchase of any OC spray with an OC content of more than 18 percent. Nearby Wisconsin, which has a football team that's actually good, restricts the sale of any OC sprays with more than 10 percent OC content. Wisconsin also mandates the container have a safety device and be sold in a tamper-proof container.

This isn't a comprehensive list of all the states' different regulations, so make sure you look into your own local laws regarding OC spray before deciding to carry one. Since they can set their own policy in many states, some colleges forbid possession on campus and others do not. Bear that in mind if purchasing some for a student, or if you carry pepper spray and will be visiting (or attending) a college.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN PEPPER SPRAY?

High OC content is a good thing, but it's also not the only factor to consider. Some sprays that advertise a high OC content may be achieving that number through methods that actually negatively impact its effectiveness in other ways.

It's simpler to just look for a reputable



Above: A woman practicing with her OC foam. Photo: Wikipedia

Right: A larger style OC spray canister carried by some police. Photo: Wikipedia



brand that has plenty of recommendations from respected trainers and/or law enforcement agencies. If the brand has a presence in the LE market, it tends to be good.

Avoid any OC spray or other OC device that looks like a gun. Police and militaries use regular old pepper spray in canisters, not gimmick devices. That there is a clue. Further, police happening upon a scene where a person holding a gun-shaped object is not likely to end well.

The more important aspects of choosing an OC spray are its size, safety mechanism and delivery style. The best bear sprays will feature a large canister, be quick to deploy and have a long-range stream that's resilient to wind. For EDC, however, the best pepper spray models

come in smaller canisters and feature fast and intuitive safety systems that are unobtrusive but effective.

It's also good to look for a pepper spray that has an inert version so you can practice and train with it. Just like you'd pattern your shotgun, pattern your pepper spray.

Gel or spray is down to preference. Gel is less susceptible to wind, has a longer effective range and is safer to use indoors, but requires more accurate placement.

You may also notice that some sprays are advertised as having UV (ultraviolet) dye mixed in. This dye is only visible under blacklight and is added to aid in the identification of a suspect who has been sprayed. Whether that's something you want yours to have is up to you, but

it will have no bearing on the immediate efficacy of deterring an attacker.

Something else to keep in mind is that most sprays have about a four-year shelf life, so remember to replace them periodically if they don't get used!

HOW I CHOSE THE PEPPER SPRAY

I went through an exhaustive process of evaluating pepper sprays, just short of live testing on humans (none of the interns were takers). My evaluation standards were based on effective range of each spray, how well it carried throughout the day, how many bursts a canister held and a proven mixture of active ingredients. Of all the sprays I tested these were the ones that most consistently met these testing criteria.

THE 5 BEST PEPPER SPRAY COMPARISON

MODELS	ACTIVE INGREDIENTS	PAYLOAD (FLUID OUNCES)	CONTAINER HEIGHT (INCHES)	CONTAINER DIAMETER (INCHES)	EFFECTIVE RANGE (FEET)	MSRP
POM Pepper Spray	Oleoresin capsicum, major capsaicinoids	.5	3.5	1	12	\$14.20
SABRE Campus Safety Pepper Gel	Oleoresin capsicum	.54	3.6	1	12	\$11.99
Counter Assault Bear Deterrent	Capsaicin and related capsaicinoids	10.2	8.5	2.25	40	\$64.99
Mace Police Strength Pepper Spray	Oleoresin Capsicum, UV dye	.6	1	3.5	12	\$17.99
SABRE Red Compact	Oleoresin capsicum	.67	4	.875	10	\$9.99

BEST PEPPER SPRAYS

Best Overall Pepper Spray: POM Pepper Spray

Best Pepper Gel: SABRE Campus Safety Pepper Gel

Best Backwoods Pepper Spray: Counter Assault Bear Deterrent

Best Police-Grade Pepper Spray: Mace Police Strength Pepper Spray

Best Compact Pepper Spray: SABRE Red Compact



SABRE Campus Safety Pepper Gel

Active Ingredients: Oleoresin capsicum

Payload: 0.54 fluid ounce

Container Height: 3.6 inches

Container Diameter: 1 inch

Effective Range: 12 feet

MSRP: \$11.99

Overview: SABRE is one of the most trusted brands of pepper sprays, and the Campus Safety Pepper Gel is a good choice if you prefer a gel to a stream or spray. It holds just under 1 ounce of 1.3-percent gel, good for 25 bursts up to 12 feet of range. The Campus Safety model includes a hard polymer housing, with a twist lock safety, and a lanyard loop for the included quick-release keyring. Inert models are available as well, and they can be bought in black or pink.

Pros

- Reduced blowback
- Twist-lock safety
- Quick-release keyring

Cons

- Requires more precision to aim

SABRE Red Compact

Active Ingredients: Oleoresin capsicum

Payload: 0.67 fluid ounce

Container Height: 4 inches

Container Diameter: 0.875 inch

Effective Range: 10 feet

MSRP: \$9.99

Overview: SABRE Red is common in police use and is one of the most highly recommended sprays on the market, with an OC content of 1.3 percent with included UV dye. The Compact model is better for EDC, being roughly 4 inches long and 1 inch in diameter. The Compact emits a stream rather than a spray, with a 0.67-ounce capacity, max distance of 10 feet and up to 35 bursts. It has a swiveling safety mechanism (push to align and spray) and an included pocket clip. SABRE Red Compact sprays can be bought online or in stores for around \$10 per, though two-packs can be had for about \$15, making it affordable as well. Inert cans are also available for practice and training.

Pros:

- High number of bursts for its size
- Affordable pricing
- EDC sized

Cons:

- Shorter spray range

POM Pepper Spray

Active Ingredients: Oleoresin Capsicum, Major Capsaicinoids, UV dye

Payload: 0.5 fluid ounce

Container Height: 3.5 inches

Container Diameter: 1 inch

Effective Range: 12 feet

MSRP: \$14.20

Overview: POM pepper spray is affordable, portable and one of the most trusted names in OC sprays. The standard canister is pocket-sized, roughly double the size of a AA battery. You can get it with a pocket clip or lanyard ring with an included keychain. It has a flip-top safety device covering the spray button, with 2 ounces of 1.4-percent spray with UV dye. Each canister has about a 10- to 12-foot range and holds about 12 seconds worth of spray. Inert canisters are available too for practice, and you can buy them in single, double, triple or even six-packs.

Pros

- Compact and portable
- Decent range and duration
- Practice canisters available

Cons

- Clip and lanyard options could be more secure

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Counter Assault Bear Deterrent

Active Ingredients: Capsaicin and related capsaicinoids

Payload: 10.2 fluid ounces

Container Height: 8.5 inches

Container Diameter: 2.25 inches

Effective Range: 40 feet

MSRP: \$64.99

Overview: Counter Assault is one of the most common bear sprays on the market and has been used successfully to deter bears and other predators, including human threats. It comes in a standard 10.2-ounce canister with an included holster. The spray paddle has a simple wedge safety that's easy to disengage. The spray is 2 percent capsaicin, with a 40-foot spray distance and up to 8 seconds of spray in the can. It can be found online and in many sporting goods stores but has a typical price of around \$50 or more. Combined with the extra bulk, this probably isn't the best pepper spray for everyday carry, but if concealability and price aren't of concern, this is certainly one of the most effective options available.

Pros

- Stronger than standard spray
- Large capacity
- Includes holsters

Cons

- Too large for EDC

Mace Police Strength Pepper Spray

Active Ingredients: Oleoresin capsicum, UV dye

Payload: 0.6 fluid ounce

Container Height: 1 inch

Container Diameter: 3.5 inches

Effective Range: 12 feet

MSRP: \$17.99

Overview: The Mace brand is synonymous with self-defense sprays, to the point that some people still refer to any pepper spray colloquially as "Mace." Their Police Strength Pepper Spray model is a good choice of compact spray for daily carry. The polymer housing has a flip-top safety cap, with Personal-, Pocket- and Police-sizes ranging from less than 1 ounce to about 3 ounces. All models are about 1 inch in diameter and 3 to 5 inches in length. Content is over 1 percent, so more than potent enough. Lanyard loops and pocket clips are included as well.

Pros

- Multiple carry options
- Discreet
- Good safety

Cons:

- Limited spray duration

PEPPER SPRAY FAQ

What brand of pepper spray do police use?

While many different police forces use many different brands of pepper spray, Sabre is among the most utilized. Specifically, Sabre Red is preferred by many in law enforcement.

Is it illegal to carry pepper spray?

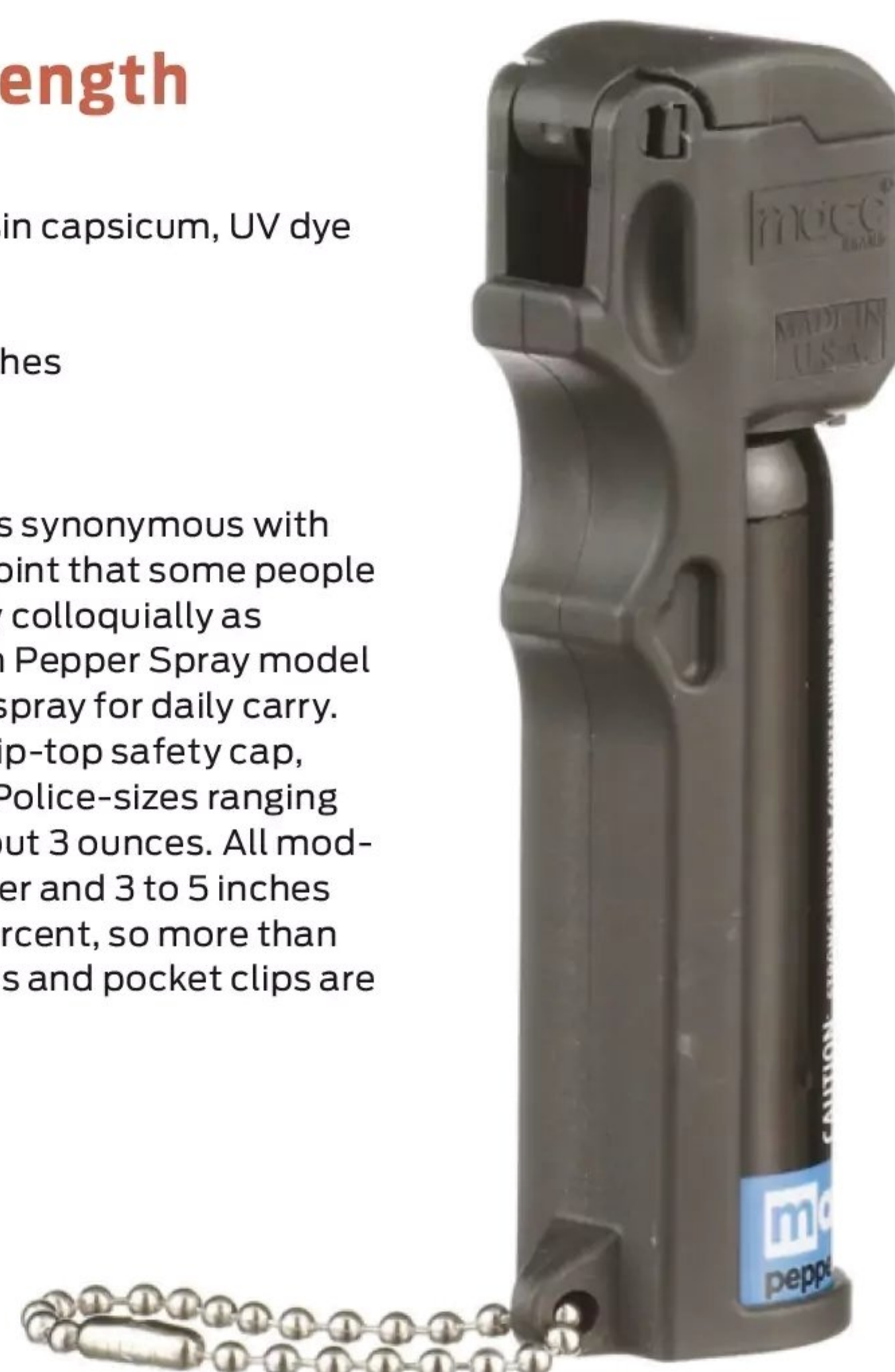
Pepper spray is legal in all 50 states; however, there are some state laws restricting certain aspects of the less-than-lethal option. For instance, California does not allow canisters larger than 2.5 ounces and you need a license to carry pepper spray in Massachusetts. Always review your local laws before purchasing pepper spray.

What do you look for when buying pepper spray?

There are many points to consider when buying pepper spray, but some of the main ones are the product's spray pattern, effective range, safety features, portability and percentage of oleoresin capsicum (the active ingredient).

What is better, pepper spray or mace?

The original chemical mace has largely been abandoned by law enforcement due to injuries caused to LEOs. Pepper spray is the standard today and performs better, given it is effective against those under influence of alcohol, drugs or psychotics. Mace was not always successful against those individuals.



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Thorough testing of bullets has produced the best designs ever, but even at that they cannot be depended on to expand each and every time. Since that is the case, starting with bigger gives you more leeway when production is, shall we say, underwhelming. (Yes, that's auto glass used in the testing treatment.)

Back when John Browning fine-tuned the .45 ACP (he didn't invent it, but he did make it perfect), the premier arm of the military was the cavalry. Part of their job was stopping opposing cavalry—even if it meant stopping horses. (As horse lovers, that had to hurt.) That's why the U.S. Army insisted on something .45 back then, when Roosevelt the First and Taft were presidents, and they would not accept the newfangled .30 and 9mm pistol cartridges that were gaining popularity in Europe.

Fast-forward a century, and the FBI kicks the .45 to the curb, as the 9mm is “as good as the .45” because of “bullet construction improvements.” Basically, they said the decision was made because they couldn't see a difference.

I've said this before, but I'll say it again: Once he got over the shock of smokeless powder and self-loading pistols, Sir Isaac Newton would have told the FBI to stuff it. Oh, he'd have been polite, and it would have been written in Latin (because all learned discourses back then were done in Latin), but he'd have given them a smackdown, because

The Rock Island 1911 shot to the sights, and it produces groups you can certainly depend on.



Anyone who makes hollow-point bullets in pistol ammo makes it for the .45 ACP. There's no such thing as a “9mm exclusive hollow-point.”





Does the .45 ACP have recoil? Of course. You can't get something for nothing, but it's easily controlled.

more is always more.

That the FBI cannot see it, or will not see it, matters not one whit to physics.

Now, I'm not as blinded by excess enough to say that .45 hardball is a 95 percent stopper (which was once the given, virtually dogma, in practical shooting circles a few decades ago), but it does better than 9mm ball.

"But with expanding bullets, the 9mm does it better." Hmm, yes, perhaps ... and perhaps not.

But if we're going to compare, we have to compare like to like. Comparing .45 hardball to the latest expanding 9mm is, in the words of a long-gone radio broadcaster friend of mine, like "comparing apples to cinder blocks."

APPLES, MEET ORANGES

A matched set of hollow-points in 9mm and .45 ACP? OK, the 9mm might expand to as much as the .45 starts out with, maybe even a bit more in perfect conditions. But the .45 is not going to shrink, and it will not be less than 0.451 inch in diameter. And any expansion that happens only makes the difference greater.

Keep in mind the word *potential*, because bullets are not guaranteed to expand. I have talked to a number of people in the various aspects of practical, tactical and law enforcement shooting, and the percentage of pistol bullets that fail to expand is almost depressing to consider. So, if expansion doesn't happen, then we're back to comparing 0.355 inch versus 0.451 inch as the baseline consideration.

The differences can be dramatic. There was a recent shooting in Dearborn Heights, a suburb that's contiguous to Detroit (and all that entails). The homeowner realized there was an intruder, and when challenged, the intruder started shooting. So, the homeowner responded with gunfire. After a few seconds, everyone involved had been hit by projectiles, even the sleeping girlfriend. The girlfriend and the homeowner were treated at the hospital, while the intruder, hit in the leg by a single round of .45 hardball, required more care. He eventually had to have his leg amputated. And that was with .45 hardball, no expansion.

Not to be gruesome, but ballistic gelatin is a uniform and consistent media,

and people are not. It's just that we can test in ballistic gel in a consistent and safe and legal manner.

Good old hardball, a jacketed 230-grain round-nose has been the standard for over a century, and with good reason. It's accurate enough, and it's ultra-reliable. Most pistols fed most 230-grain hardball loads are going to be more accurate than the shooter is capable. However, if you really need an extra dollop of accuracy, then you can invest in some Hornady XTP loads. They are brilliantly accurate, and they expand.

Now, it's a rare 1911 these days (and I think of the 1911 for reliability problems more as a historical thing than a current thing) that will balk at .230 jacketed round-nose. And, with the fierce competition in the marketplace these days, everyone makes a reliable pistol, so you aren't "stuck" with hardball. However, if you want expansion, or at least the potential, then you can go with Gold Dot.

One reason you might want to go with a hollow-point bullet is when you are indoors. All handgun bullets penetrate too much on interior walls, but hollow-points penetrate less than hardball does.



The Rock Island Standard Full Size is just that, a government sized all-steel pistol, and Rock Island adds on extra features at a bargain price.

That's worth a thought and some planning. When using a firearm indoors, Rule No. 4 (know your target, and what is behind it) really becomes important.

With prudence, and planning, you might find that using a .45 ACP means less of your house structure and furniture is cover for the intruder, and more of it's merely concealment. This you have to actually think about, consider and plan for. Your builder will not be marking the parts of your house as "cover" and "concealment" for you.

While it seems the world is a 9mm place these days, you will have no lack of options for ammo and bullet design choices in the .45 ACP.

MORE IS MORE. MORE IS BETTER.

Now, Newton would also tell us that, while more is always more, it costs ... one way or another. It costs in recoil and magazine capacity. You have to be willing to put up with the recoil of .45 in order to get the power of a .45-caliber projectile. That's not a real problem, as there are a number of female competitors in the USPSA/IPSC circuit who are not tall nor heavy and find the recoil of a .45 ACP

(or a near .45) pistol to be no big deal. If someone who stands at 5-foot-nothing and weighs 90 pounds can shoot a .45 accurately and quickly, what's your problem? (Typically, it's lack of practice. There, I said it.)

Capacity is another. A double-stack 9mm can still be very trim (the 9mm makers are getting down to "This holds how many?" sizes for pistols) and still be manageable. But a double-stack .45, even in the slimmest versions, is a big-hands gun. Remember that the single-stack 1911 pistol has been in continuous production since 1911 for a reason. It holds enough ammunition that you probably won't need more, and if you do, the reloads are mighty quick.

Oh, and one more cost that I have to admit to: actual cost. As in, .45 ammunition of any kind costs more in dollars than 9mm does, if only because there is more material in it. A quick check shows 9mm 115-grain ball in un-reloadable steel cases at \$200 per thousand rounds. Reloadable brass ammo runs \$230 per thousand. Meanwhile, .45 ACP runs \$390 per thousand in reloadable form. I'll admit, that's a bunch more.

TIMES, THEY CHANGE

However, an extra bonus from the fierce competition in the .45 marketplace is that a durable, reliable, 1911-based or

even 1911 pistol can be had for not much money. If you want extra features, then they don't cost much, either.

An example is the Rock Island Rock Standard Full Size Cerakote .45 ACP. It has forward cocking serrations, Novak-style combat sights, a high-grip beavertail and ambidextrous thumb safety, all done up in a Cerakote finish. It comes with G10 grips checkered for a non-slip grip, lowered ejection port and commander hammer, and it's built on a Series 70 frame. That means no firing pin blocking the safety plunger to potentially cause problems.

Built on a 4140 alloy steel parts set, the small parts are parkerized, it takes any and all 1911 single-stack magazines, it comes with an eight-round magazine, and it is listed at an affordable \$759. Which means you can probably find it in the display case of your local gun shop for under \$700.

The sights are dovetail-mounted so you can swap them if you really feel the need (or have a compulsion for home-gunsmithing). Everything on it is as close

The Rock Island Standard Full Size comes with an eight-round magazine. The current crop of 1911 magazines is the best that have ever been made and at great prices as well.



Here on the back end of things you can see the commander hammer, Novak-style sights, ambidextrous safety and beavertail grip safety.



The grips are G10 and machined to provide a non-slip grip. In that, they succeed very well. There's even a groove to help you reach the magazine release for fast reloads.

to mil-spec dimensionally as is possible these days. So, you can change things you might not like or find that they don't fit you.

Try that with a polymer-framed pistol.

YOU CAN HANDLE IT

Oh, and back to the controllability question?

When the 1911 pistol was adopted, the average height of the American man was all of 5 feet, 8 inches. (Women were 5 feet, 3 inches.) Browning knew this (he could have hardly not known), so the 1911 is as ergonomic as he could make it for the average man of his time. Today, the average height of men is 2 inches greater, so stop complaining about grip size in 1911s.

Right out of the box, I found that the Rock Island Standard Full Size hit to the sights, it shot nice-sized groups, and it has yet to fail, despite being fed a wide variety of ammunition.

Back when I started shooting competitively (we will not discuss who was president then), just getting the sights, beavertail, custom grips and adjustable trigger—all details that the Rock Island pistol has on it—onto a box-stock

1911A1 would have run more than the cost of the Rock Island pistol. No, seriously.

Firing up the old inflation calculator, \$759 in 2025 dollars equates to (darn, now I have to admit when I started this journey) \$155 in 1978. I paid more than that for the first 1911A1 surplus pistol that I then handed over to a pistolsmith to have him upgrade it. And I paid more for the work than I had for that surplus pistol. Calculating forward, that first pistol ran me about \$2,400 in 2025 dollars, and I still was using absolutely miserable magazines in it. That's all we had back then.

That's the other good thing about the .45 ACP and the 1911 these days: The current offerings of magazines are superb in function and durability. I can recommend—without hesitation—both Wilson and Chip McCormick magazines. And if eight rounds isn't enough, you can get extended, 10-round magazines for your single-stack 1911.

So, power, style, class and more than a little retro vibe. What's wrong with the .45 ACP? Nothing. And what's wrong with using it in a 1911? Nothing at all.

There: FBI, take that. **GDTM**







Built for RICHARD MAN
Ridgeline 6.5 PRC 1-8

WOVEN WONDER

Christensen Arms' Ridgeline FFT
is carbon-crafted precision.

The Christensen Arms Ridgeline FFT rifle is a lightweight big-game rifle designed for the field. Depending on chambering, it only weighs about 5.4 pounds.



Though I've been writing about guns for more than a quarter-century, I'm a bit embarrassed I have not previously delved into the rifles produced by Christensen Arms. Carbon-fiber-wrapped rifle barrels and carbon-fiber-infused stocks are very popular today, and Christensen Arms pioneered the carbon-fiber-wrapped barrel.

They've also been instrumental in the development of carbon-fiber stocks. You could say I've been derelict in my duties, but I recently had an opportunity to correct that ... and I'm glad I did. During a recent visit to Christensen Arms, I discovered the Ridgeline FFT rifle, and I'd rate it as one of the best bolt-action hunting rifles currently made.

DISSECTING THE DETAILS

The action on the Ridgeline FFT is a copy of the Remington 700 action. In fact, it's compatible with Remington 700 scope mounts. However, Christensen Arms has perfected the action, correcting some of the issues often complained about.

For starters, Christensen Arms moved the bolt stop/release to the left side of the action. They also re-engineered the extractor from the ring/clip style used on the Remington 700 to a design similar to what's used on an M16. Also, instead of a single plunger ejector, the bolt face on the Ridgeline FFT is fitted with two. And, finally, Christensen Arms utilizes a TriggerTech trigger that's user adjustable.

The barrel is made of 416 stainless-steel, and it's button-rifled and hand-honed at

the factory. It's also machined with steps that reduce in diameter from each end to the barrel's center, which is a proprietary and secret process. The barrel is then wrapped in various layers of aero-grade carbon fiber and then finished for a seamless contour from breach to muzzle. The muzzle is threaded at either 5/8x24 or 1/2x28, depending on chambering, and the rifle ships with a stainless-steel, side-baffle brake. A thread protector is provided.

The stock really sets this rifle apart. Using proprietary FFT technology, the stock is handcrafted in-house. It's a monocoque design, meaning there's no internal structuring support, and the finished stock with the buttpad installed weighs only 20 ounces. By



comparison, a similar—fully finished—carbon-fiber stock from AG Composites will weigh about 25 ounces, and the fully finished stocks Melvin Forbes used on his famous Ultra Light Arms rifles weighed 18 ounces.

You might look at this stock like an eggshell, but a hell of a lot stronger. The stock does utilize carbon-fiber bedding pillars for the action screws and is glass bedded at the recoil lug to ensure free floating.

Other features include an aluminum hinged floor plate, dual sling swivel studs, an enlarged bolt knob, a spiral-fluted bolt, Cerakoted steel and left-handed versions in nine different chamberings. Since I was at the factory to help with the assembly of the test

rifle, I had Christensen Arms install the Spartan Precision gunsmith adapter that works with all of the Spartan Precision bipods and tripods I so often use.

BUT CAN SHE SHOOT?

The day after assembling the rifle we headed to a local 1,000-yard range. The load we chose was the Berger 156-grain Elite Hunter. The day before I'd used that same load to zero the rifle in Christensen Arms' underground test tunnel—and had fired a 0.76-inch three-shot group.

At the range, I first confirmed the rifle's zero and then started whacking steel in 100-yard increments. Most of the targets were 12 inches in diameter, and I did not miss a single target until the range reached 800 yards. By then, the wind had picked up a bit and was gusting, but I still managed multiple hits out to 1,000 yards and only fired one box of ammo.

When I got the rifle home, I got more

serious about precision testing. I had several boxes of Federal's new Tipped Fusion load and some Hornady Precision Hunter. I fired three, five-shot groups with each load from a sandbag rest at 100 yards, and the overall average for the six groups fired was only 0.86 inch.

However, there's an aspect of this testing that needs to be explained: Part of the appeal of a carbon-fiber-wrapped barrel is heat dissipation, and I wanted to see how well this rifle would maintain precision with a hot barrel.

For all the groups, I used a Silencer Central Backcountry suppressor, and all five shots for each group were fired in less than 60 seconds. After each five-shot group, the barrel was allowed to cool, but it's worth noting that these five-shot groups were fired in a hurry. It's a testament to how well Christensen Arms has perfected the carbon barrel wrapping process.

Of course, in the real world, the prac-



This is something you don't see very often: the case from the proof load that was fired in the Ridgeline FFT test rifle. Proof loads are fired at extremely high pressure to test all new Christensen Arms rifles. (Photo: Christensen Arms)



The author helped with the assembly of the Christensen Arms Ridgeline FFT test rifle. (Photo: Christensen Arms)

CHRISTENSEN
ARMS
RIDGELINE
FFT



CHAMBERINGS: .22-250 Rem., .243 Win., 6mm Creedmoor, 6.5 Creedmoor, 6.5-284 Norma, 6.5 PRC (tested), .270 Win., 6.8 Western, 7mm-08 Rem., .280 Ackley, 7mm Rem. Mag., 7mm PRC, .28 Nosler, .308 Win., .30-06 Springfield, .300 WSM, .300 Win. Mag., .300 RUM, .300 PRC

BARREL: Stainless-steel, carbon-fiber wrapped, 16 to 24 inches, with threaded muzzle and brake

LENGTH: 38 to 44 inches

WEIGHT: 5.45 pounds (as tested)

ACTION: Christensen Arms Model 14, bolt action, two-lug

FINISH: Cerakote

TRIGGER: TriggerTech adjustable, 2.25 pounds (as tested)

CAPACITY: 3+1

PRICE: \$2,049.99

URL: christensenarms.com

SHOOTING RESULTS

LOAD	VEL	SVD	ENG	PRECISION
Federal Fusion 140-grain Tipped	2,890	19.3	2,596	0.94
Hornady 143-grain ELD-X Precision Hunter	2,860	26.3	2,597	0.77
				AVERAGE: 0.86

NOTES: VEL = average muzzle velocity, SD = standard velocity deviation, ENG = average muzzle energy

hunter, rifle interface and handling characteristics are more important. In addition to being incredibly light, the rifle's stock was comfortable, and the comb positioned the head and eye almost perfectly behind the scope, which was mounted in extra low—0.418-inch high—Talley Alloy Lightweight mounts. For those who like the long-range game, Talley offers these mounts with a 20-MOA offset.

The muzzle brake was effective but loud, so I tossed it and went with the suppressor. Without the suppressor, the rifle balanced almost perfectly. With it, it was just a tad muzzle heavy, balancing about 2 inches forward of the front guard screw. This is a very good balance for shooting off-hand at stationary targets, and I had no issues ringing 8-inch steel from field shooting positions out to 200 yards.

Overall, the rifle functioned to perfection—and it fed, fired, extracted and eject-

ed flawlessly. I would've liked a safety that locked the bolt handle down when placed on safe, especially since this rifle has an oversized bolt handle. Original Remington 700s had this feature, and it's the only negative aspect of the modern Remington 700 action—which lacks that feature—Christensen Arms did not address.

A FEW FINAL WORDS

In 1979, I'd saved enough money to buy my first big-game rifle. It was a Remington 700, and I spent just a tad more than \$200 for it. Times have changed; today, \$200 will only buy you a couple boxes of ammunition. I recently compiled some data on all the rifles I'd reviewed over the past several years. What I discovered was that, to get a factory rifle that will consistently shoot five-shot groups of less than an inch with several factory loads, you'll have to spend more than \$2,000. Granted, there

tical application of a big-game rifle will rarely, if ever, require you to fire five shots in less than 60 seconds. For the big-game



The author consulted ballistic data on the 1,000-yard range while testing the Christensen Arms Ridgeline FFT. (Photo: Christensen Arms)



At its price point, the Christensen Arms Ridgeline FFT is one of the lightest and best-shooting big-game rifles currently made by any manufacturer.

Though the Ridgeline FFT utilizes an internal magazine with a hinged floor plate, it's compatible with aftermarket detachable box magazines assemblies.



are exceptions, but generally that's the cost of precision in 2025.

The Christensen Arms Ridgeline FFT will meet that precision standard. In fact, it comes with a sub-MOA guarantee, and its suggested price is right in line with what you should expect to pay for a rifle that shoots that well.

However, with the Ridgeline FFT, you get that level of precision from a rifle that weighs less than 5.5 pounds. That puts it in a category all its own. Sure, there are lighter rifles that will shoot this good, but you're going to have to pay half again as much as you will for the Ridgeline FFT to get one. By my estimation, that makes the Ridgeline FFT a very special rifle. **GDTM**

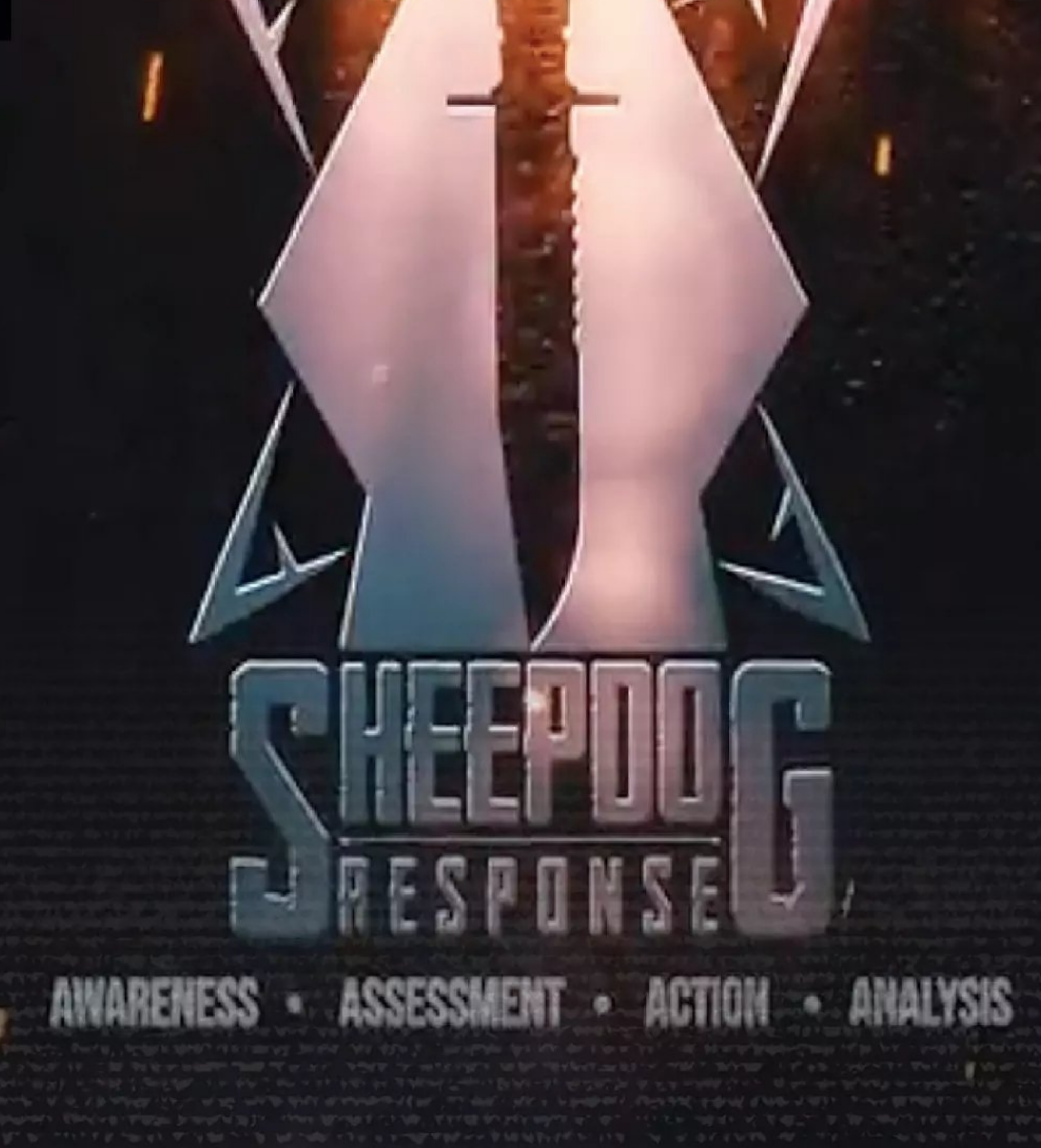


CHRISTENSEN ARMS HISTORY

Roland Christensen had a PhD in mechanical engineering and was the founder of ACT Aerospace. Armed with those skills and related aerospace technology, out of his shop in Fayette, Utah, he began making products regular folks could appreciate ... such as arrows and golf club heads. Ultimately, he believed he could use all he'd learned and utilize carbon fiber to strengthen a rifle's barrel. His first product in 1995 was a barrel for a .22 rimfire. But, over time, Christensen Arms also began building carbon-fiber rifle stocks. The use of carbon fiber in rifle stocks was not new. Melvin Forbes did it a decade prior with the stocks he made for his Ultra Light Arms rifles. But the use of carbon fiber on rifle barrels was new and innovative, and the Christensen Arms Carbon Cannon rifle was the first large-caliber hunting rifle with a carbon-fiber-wrapped barrel. During the next 30 years, Christensen Arms not only perfected the production of carbon-fiber-wrapped barrels, but they also began offering a stable of bolt-action rifles. In 2010, they even introduced the CA-15 MSR rifle.

Then, in 2011, Christensen Arms introduced the Classic rifle, which was not only fitted with a carbon-fiber-wrapped barrel and carbon-fiber stock, but it also utilized Christensen Arms own action. The Classic established Christensen Arms as a full-fledged rifle manufacturer. But that was not the end of the company's growth: Wanting to transition from a hunting rifle company to a recognized leader in firearms manufacturing, in 2011, Christensen also began building high-end 1911 pistols with a titanium frame and a Damascus steel slide.

By 2015, Christensen Arms had sold a lot of firearms, and their Ridgeline rifle, which sold for less than \$2,000, would turn out to be their most popular product. During the next 10 years, Christensen Arms would introduce the Mesa rifle (2016), gen 2 versions of the CA-15 rifles and the Mesa Long Range (2017), the Modern Precision Rifle (2018) and the Traverse bolt-action rifle (2019). Since 1995, Christensen Arms has sold tens of thousands of firearms. They offer bolt-action rimfire and centerfire rifles priced from less than \$900 to \$6,000, and they offer MSR rifles priced from \$1,900 to \$3,400. They've also perfected the creation of carbon-fiber-wrapped rifle barrels and carbon-fiber rifle stocks, which together reduce overall rifle weight and allow for extreme precision. It's exciting to wonder what we'll see next from Christensen Arms.



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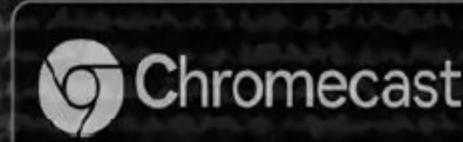
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FLAT CIRCLE

The ongoing cold war between the .308 Win. and the 6.5 Creedmoor.

As shooters and hunters, we're always chasing something, be it the game or the high score in a match. As a result, we end up trying new things as well as reinventing old concepts. Today, we are debating a thin line of performance in our rifle cartridges that's as much factual as it is sentimental, an ever-present past that we judge the future against. In a



way, it's a flat circle: We often forget what we had that worked ... and have to see it come around again to remember that it wasn't all that bad in the first place.

The ultimate success of a rifle cartridge isn't to be the latest trend, but rather become something of a reliable choice that withstands the test of time. Until recently, there has been something of a rivalry between the classic .308 Winchester and the "new" kid on the block, the 6.5 Creedmoor.

Here I'm going to make the case for both.

WHAT MAKES A CARTRIDGE STICK

For a rifle cartridge to succeed, it needs to be something new enough to gather

interest and also do something different than its competing class. The obvious discussion here isn't whether the .338 Lapua Magnum is going to replace 5.56 NATO in carbines for home defense. However, it's a good illustration of just how lost we can get in terms of discussing the realities of ballistic performance in things that are, in fact, far more similar than they are different.

The nature of our industrial production, at least in America, has trended toward the modular. The AR-15 paved the path to this, and in the past decade, we now have hundreds of companies producing AR parts, and we also have an ever-growing open-source ecosystem that's

providing common parts for "Glock" pistols, Sig P365 and P320 aftermarket, and bolt-action systems that will eventually be fully integrated into common industry standards. Even suppressors are trending to HUB base thread systems to accommodate different guns and mounting interfaces.

In the early days of this, which were not that far in the past, we didn't have a lot of options for increasing or altering performance beyond totally custom options. The main dilemma centered on available magazines and bolt faces: introducing something outside of these specs would necessitate a completely new set of operating parts that would complicate things



Legendary brands like Federal produce their excellent match loads for both the 6.5 CM and .308 Win. Having shot these loads extensively, I'd happily take either; they're both extremely accurate.



The 150-grain .308 Win., here from Remington, is always a solid choice for game.

An ideal .308 Win. rifle build based on an Aero Precision Solus short action. The rifle uses an Aero 18-inch barrel that installs as a pre-fit option. The suppressor is a SilencerCo Scythe Ti. The barreled action is mounted into a Manners Night Stalker with an internal chassis. The optical package is a Leupold MK5 HD in ADM mount with One Hundred Concepts scope covers. The thermal clip-on is courtesy of Armasight. Tripod by Two Vets Tripods. The build is representative of all features that make a .308 valuable today. Short-action rifles are common today, thanks to the success of the .308 Winchester. There's an endless number of varieties available today.



for the mass market and, therefore, influence the feasibility of new rounds.

In broader manufacturing, we're somewhat stuck in the box: The ideas we have now are all somewhat limited because the base systems we shoot them out of are almost entirely rigid in their own design. Open-source rifle designs, or at least what we call "footprint" variations, are almost guaranteed to perform with cartridge options that fit in their magazines. So, what we end up with isn't entirely a form of innovation, rather niche filling in a set space we've all agreed to with our wallets over decades.

The .308 Winchester has been a mainstay for the American shooter for decades. It has a special reverence in our culture and is one of the most popular hunting and fighting rounds available. It has a reputation for success, and it has become so commonplace that it has been the basis for several rifle families and magazine types. The .308 Win. is the "fa-

therly" short-action rifle round and also is the main influence on AR-10-class rifles.

So, knowing that, there was obviously some ground to start playing around in the .308's backyard—namely in the guise of necking it up and down, but ultimately keeping its case head diameter.

As a baseline rifle cartridge that has been instrumental in establishing a host of firearms, standardized magazines, parts and ammunition types, the .308 is, in fact, very hard to beat. In today's cartridge race, we often forget what our most established and widely available rounds are capable of. Yes, it's somewhat easy to "beat" the .308 Win. in terms of trajectory at a given distance, but that's only one metric of performance being considered. We tend to give advantages to things by way of marketing that are otherwise easily dismissed in ballistically identical cartridges that simply aren't new or popular.

For instance, there are few talks about the 6mm Creedmoor besting the .243 Win., or if the 6 ARC is a viable contender in the same space. In terms of real-world performance, these three rounds each offer something great in

the 100-grain +/- .243-inch bullet class. We don't see this debate because it's not a point of contention—none of these around are trying to "replace" the other, which, in general, was the argument of .308 Win. against 6.5 Creedmoor.

You've seen article after article by now: "Will the 6.5 Creedmoor Finally Kill the .308 Win.?" But why are we asking that at all? In a way, this was comparing apples to oranges that share a case-head diameter. The strengths of the .308 Win. have, at least in our media, been watered down to create controversy in areas it wasn't meant for.

THE LONG-RANGE PROBLEM

Let's consider the 1,000-yard benchmark and the practical effective uses we see in the field.

The shooting industry went through a pretty long zombie phase, and the 6.5 Creedmoor was introduced during this somewhat bonkers time, and it slowly began to take root. Initially, it confused many shooters, who were not familiar with metric designations on American cartridges; the bulk of 6.5mm experience was with wildcats like 6.5-284 ...



The .308 was a cartridge that spurred the development of many types of rifles. Here, a Magpul AICS mag and a steel M14 magazine from Check Mate. The 6.5 Creedmoor will feed in any .308 mags commonly available.



The .308 Win. enjoys a great variation in bullet types and weights, making it a viable choice for small game ... up to the largest animals on the continent.



A 6.5 Creedmoor and a .308 Win. in all their glory.

Bullet shape plays a large role in long-range performance. The abbreviated profile of the .308 Win. isn't necessarily a function of what can be done with .30-caliber bullets, but the best shape for the available magazine dimensions. Many .30-caliber bullets available today in dedicated long-range cartridges like .300 PRC are far longer and heavier.



and classic military rounds like 6.5x55 Swedish.

It was a gamble to introduce something with a relatively unfamiliar bullet diameter during what was the height of the surplus market, with cheap ammo everywhere and the rising popularity of the modular AR-15, itself spurring the development of .30-caliber rounds like .300 Blackout.

Suffice to say, these two introductions, the 6.5 Creedmoor and 300 Blackout, were instrumental in changing our landscape. The 6.5 Creedmoor is largely responsible for the long-range trend we had, the .300 Blackout for helping make suppressor ownership commonplace. Today, we see a melding of these two things as shorter barrels with suppressors are becoming more the norm.

After we lost interest in killing zombies, the next big trend became long-range shooting—and the 6.5 Creedmoor was the newly crowned king. One-thousand yards had suddenly become accessible to the average shooter with a regular

short-action rifle and cost-effective ammo. The culture moved to hits on steel as sports like PRS grew. Making contact with plates was the name of the game, and the industry responded in kind.

The practicality became lost over time, and the sports became their own punchline: bullet golf. To me, long range has always been training for field shooting on game, which takes place ethically at much shorter ranges that neglect the imaginary 1,000-yard benchmark. I've shot .308 Win. to a mile, as well as with .338 Lapua, 6.5 Creedmoor and .300 Win. Mag. It's hard with any of them.

In terms of "rivalry," what really needs to be understood is that the .308 Winchester was not designed as a long-range cartridge ... while the 6.5 Creedmoor was. Of course, there was more that went into this, but the .308/7.62 NATO was a general-purpose cartridge developed in the post-World War II years to replace the .30-06 Springfield and other foreign military cartridges as the Western world aligned itself against the Soviet sphere. The standard

cartridges of the era are what appeared in what was considered precision rifles, .308/7.62 NATO and 7.62x54R becoming the dominant chamberings. Over time, there were certainly attempts to increase long-range performance.

For general recreation, the 6.5 Creedmoor is a great round, and it's worthy to note that it was far from the first 6.5mm/.264 cartridge utilized in .308 actions. The .260 Remington is still around in limited circumstances; however, it, too, was not designed with modern bullets in mind. The case dimensions and intent to use these modern bullets was what set it apart when Hornady introduced it. Everything about this cartridge was well thought out, and Hornady deserves a lot of praise for what is likely one of the most successful new cartridge introductions in history.

The main thing that needs to be understood is that the 6.5 Creedmoor was introduced into the .308's manufacturing base with the idea it would offer an improvement for long-range shooting,

whereas the .308 was designed as a cartridge, and guns were designed around it. The rivalry here is purely media bias in our own industry, neither can nor even should replace the other.

REAL-WORLD BROTHERHOOD

I've taken game of various types all over the country with both the 6.5 Creedmoor and .308 Winchester. Likewise, I've shot matches of all kinds, from CMP military matches to long range on moving targets. In all practicality, I've not been one to understand the idea that one needs to beat the other. In general, I don't get the hype for the 6.5 Creedmoor and don't get the hate for .308 Winchester that I hear so often.

Let's add some numerical context. The .450 Bushmaster, on a good day, is a 200-yard cartridge. Drop is measured in feet at most ranges. In contrast, the .308 and 6.5 zeroed at 100 meters are both dropping less than a half mil—mere inches—at 200 meters. In general, you

don't need to compensate too much until you get past 300 meters. Both .308 and 6.5 can easily do this with rudimentary holdovers. In fact, many chamberings can.

In practical terms, you should think about owning both of these cartridges from a purely pragmatic standpoint. The .308 Winchester established the basis for the success of the 6.5 Creedmoor, but it isn't really competing in the same ways as the 6.5 Creedmoor has been made to compete with it in return. Both of these rounds offer unique benefits, and both are nearly interchangeable in terms of the firearms they are used in. It's really the best of all worlds to be able to have the flexibility of .308 Winchester and the extended-range performance of 6.5 Creedmoor.

There's no reason to declare one a winner when they are both such distinguished gentlemen in their own rights. It's better to have more friends than fewer, at least that's how I see things. **GDTM**

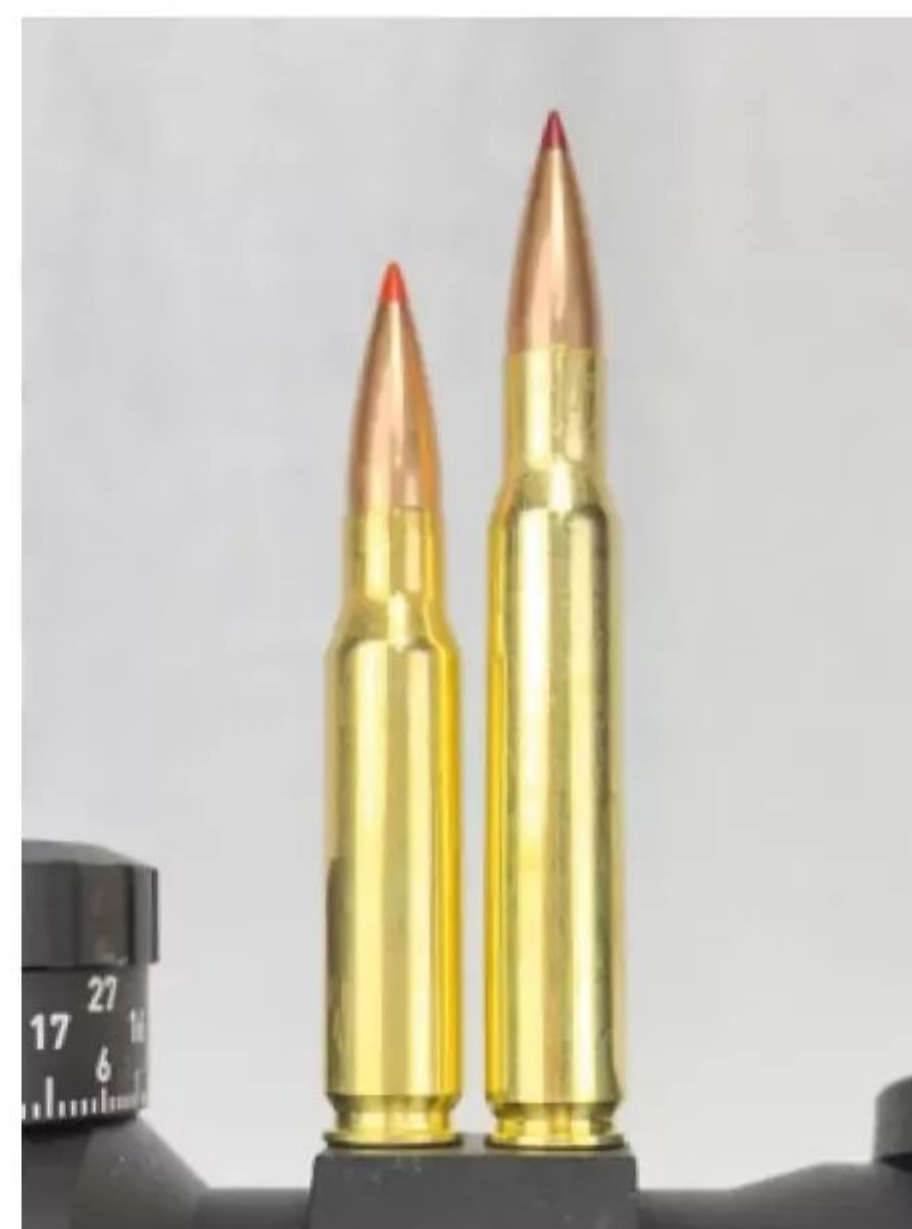
The newer 6mm ARC next to 6.5 Creedmoor, a testament to successful case design that can use bullets dedicated for longer ranges.



The M14, here a .308 Win. Fulton Armory build in National Match form, is an example of a rifle and cartridge that has been pressed into long-range roles by necessity. This is still an extremely accurate rifle, easily able to ring steel at long range.



The .308 Win. and .30-06 Springfield, here both match loads by Hornady. Note the similar body profiles and bullet seating depth.



Older-style case designs are a reason things get the "replacement" banter. The case design of the two NATO cartridges here didn't take into account the later development of long-range-dedicated bullets. In general, to get a better bullet, you have to seat it deeper in the case, which isn't always the best solution.



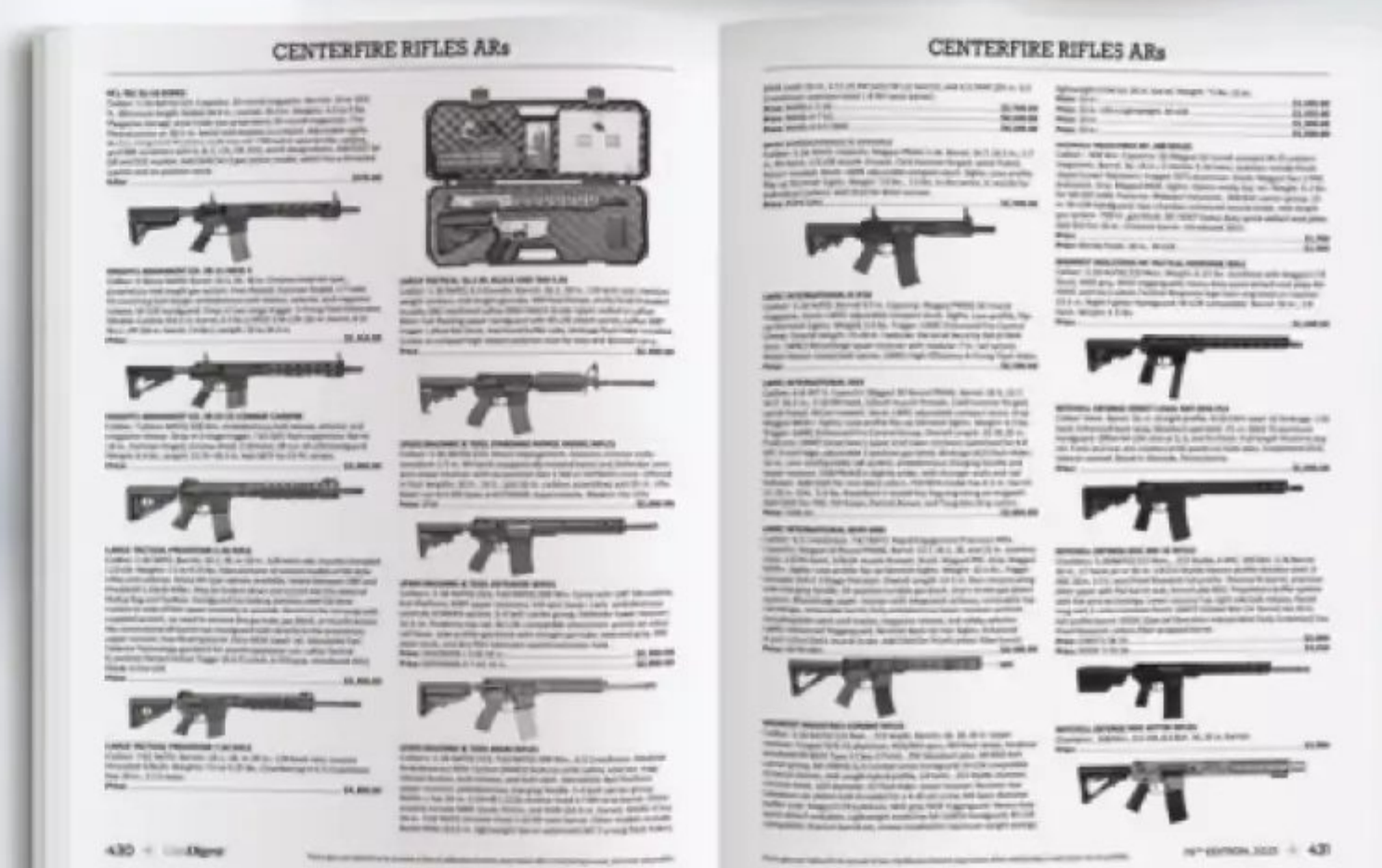
Noteworthy is the design of Hornady's modern cases. The 6 ARC and 5.56 NATO, here a 77-grain Black Hills load, display the disparity in body design emphasizing bullet shape and length given magazine dimensions.



Here's a brand-new, stripped short action from Detroit Gun Works. The dimensions of this state-of-the-art action were determined ages ago thanks to the .308 Win., the Remington 700, and the ingenuity of the American shooter to keep improving. This action is a testament to the success of the .308 Win. and just how good we can make precision rifles these days.

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SMALL YET SIGNIFICANT

Springfield Armory 1911 DS Prodigy Compacts.

We've reviewed Springfield Armory's standard 1911 DS Prodigy before and walked away impressed.

However, while the guns might have proven great on the range and for home defense, their size kept them from being an ideal concealed carry option. For those interested in carrying one, Springfield has just announced the 1911 DS Prodigy Compact series.



Compared to the standard models, the 1911 DS Prodigy Compacts feature shorter grips and a reduced magazine capacity of 15 rounds with the two included flush-fit mags. They're also available with either an officer-sized 3.5-inch

barrel or a commander-sized 4.25-inch barrel. Besides their barrel lengths, the two Prodigy Compact models are otherwise the same.

Some other features that set the compact models apart from their full-sized counterparts include their tritium front post night sights, recontoured hammers and beavertails to minimize bulk, and billet machined 7075-T6 aluminum frames to reduce weight.

The new frames mean that the 3.5-inch model only weighs 25.5 ounces, and the 4.25-inch model weighs just 29 ounces.

Most of the DS Prodigy Compacts' other features are the same as on the standard model, including U-notch rear sights, ambidextrous safeties and optics-

ready slides that use AOS (Agency Optic System) plates.

Steve Kramer, vice president of Marketing for Springfield Armory, said this about the new pistols:

"The release of these compact variants of the popular 1911 DS Prodigy offers EDC enthusiasts an exciting new option ... combining double-stack capacity with ease of carry and the excellent shooting characteristics of the proven 1911 pistol, the new Prodigy Compact warrants serious consideration for your self-defense needs."

Both Springfield Armory 1911 DS Prodigy Compact models are available now, and they share an MSRP of \$1,549.

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