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Gun Digest

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THE MAGAZINE

JULY 2025

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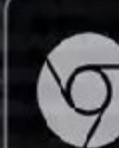
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CANCEL CULTURE

In the court of public opinion, rules are rare and logic even less so. What's popular at one moment is often gone tomorrow, and the fallout is generally hard and fast. Today, we call this nasty phenomenon "cancel culture."

In the fictional world that is social media, the cancel culture progression often blows in and out like an early May cold front. A turnover of the 24-hour news cycle and a new account can give most anyone a new start.

But when it comes to cartridges, cancel culture often lingers, developing slowly and rarely ending with any form of thunderstorm: A cartridge slowly loses popularity, and then loses the support of gun and ammo manufacturers ... until one day it's little more than a pet favorite for a little more than a few shooters.

And as far as the sentencing ... well, most of those effects seem to linger forever.

Look at the 6.5mm Creedmoor. After its inception, the cartridge watched from the bench for more than a decade before rising to No. 1 on the popularity charts. And today, less than 2 decades after birth, I bet it's the most chastised cartridge still in

production ... even though it seems that nearly every rifleman has at least one in their gun safe. Go figure.

But on the other hand, both the .270 Winchester and the .300 H&H celebrate the century mark this year. There's a solid argument to be made about the magnum dying on the vine, but the .270 Winchester continues to ride hard. Thanks, Jack. Phil Massaro covers the 100th birthday of these two cartridges, beginning on page 24.

Additionally, I had Richard Mann research cartridges that are dying on the vine (page 32) and why they no longer catch the public's eye. And to compare apples to oranges, Patrick Sweeney covers the most prolific guns and platforms of all time (page 62), at least as viewed through the public opinion lens of "most guns sold."

Love it or hate it, public opinion has clout ... even when it's ill-informed. Perception, as they say, is reality. **GDTM**

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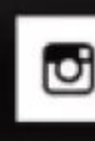


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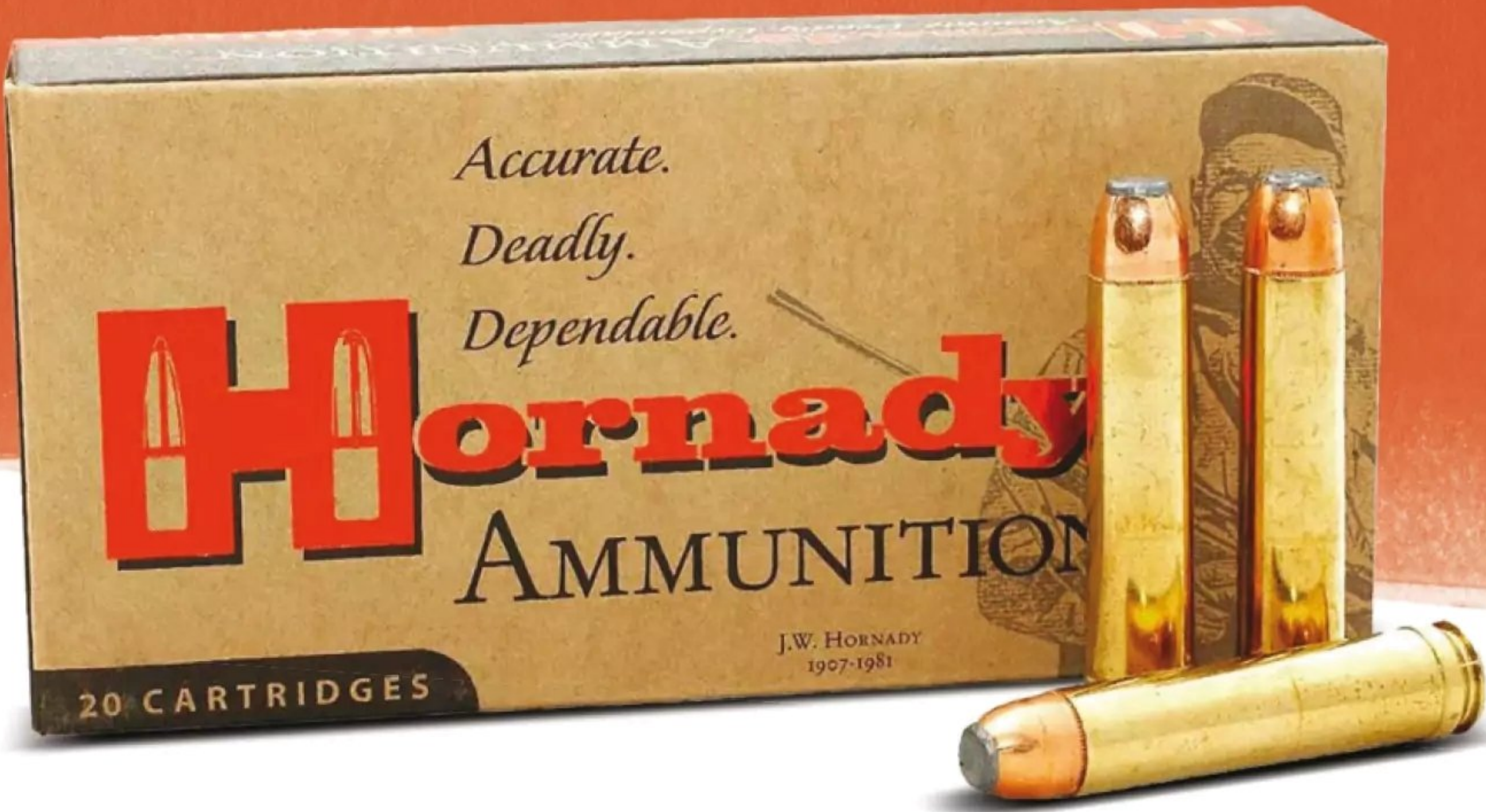
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.450 MARLIN

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HISTORICAL NOTES

Hornady and Marlin announced the .450 Marlin at the 2000 SHOT Show. This was the first new chambering from Marlin since the introduction of the .444 Marlin, in mid-1964. The motivation for this cartridge is simple: Handloaders had been souping up .45-70 loads for use in Marlin’s modern 1895 since the day that gun was introduced. Owing to the many weaker .45-70 rifles still in use, Marlin could not condone this practice, nor could the company stop it.

Something had to give.

Some have asked why Marlin didn’t simply lengthen the .45-70 case and standardize a new higher-pressure cartridge. That alternative wasn’t tenable, because such a cartridge would have chambered in older (potentially weaker) rifles designed for the .45-90, .45-110, etc.

GENERAL COMMENTS

When one considers a simple approach that could have been taken, this cartridge design is a poor, second-best choice for chambering in the M-1895 Marlin. The simple adoption of an Ackley Improved version of the .45-70 would have provided a superior case

design with a cartridge that would function better through the Marlin rifle and would not chamber in any older firearm.

In any case, the .450 Marlin offers lever-action fans a factory chambering with significant ballistic potential. Shooters in this country have a long history of fascination with large-bore lever-action rifles. Except for caliber, Marlin’s cartridge recalls Winchester’s circa-1903 .50-110 Winchester High Velocity load, which originated for the same reason; muzzle energy is essentially identical. This cartridge and rifle make a fine and versatile combination for those who hunt dangerous game under the worst possible conditions.

Given correct bullet choice and shot placement, this is a capable performer for any task.

Interestingly, Lewis Potter, proprietor of Potter & Walker (Evasham, Worcestershire, UK), reports that, around the time the .450 Marlin was being introduced, he—quite coincidentally—successfully shortened and reformed .375 H&H Magnum cases to something quite similar to the new Marlin number, for use in a client’s modified Ruger No. 1. Potter’s wildcat, the performance of which fell somewhere between that of a high-end .45-70 and the .450 Marlin, was playfully christened the .45-70 Nitro Express.

GDTM

.450 MARLIN LOAD DATA AND FACTORY BALLISTICS

BULLET (GRAINS/TYPE)	POWDER	GRAINS	VELOCITY	ENERGY	SOURCE
250 Barnes TSX/FN	H4198	54.0	2,493	3,446	Barnes
300 Nosler PPP	H335	67.0	2,282	3,465	Nosler
350 Hornady FP	RL-7	51.5	2,000	3,105	Hornady
400 Speer JFP	H335	55.0	1,953	3,383	Hodgdon
325 FTX	FL	-	2,225	3,537	Hornady 82750
500 FMJ FN	FL	-	1,625	2,900	Buffalo Bore 22C/20

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IT'S SO LITTLE!

Silencer Central's Banish 9k.

Just a few months ago I discussed pistol suppressors in this column, and I said that short of employment as an assassin, suppressors for pistols are best suited to enhancing the enjoyment of recreational and competitive range sessions or for hunting. This is mostly because, given the compact nature of a pistol, adding a suppressor mostly removes the handgun from practical self-defense application.

For the most part, my opinion has not changed ... but I'll admit that, because of a new pistol suppressor from Silencer Central, I've had to rethink it.

BABY BANISH

The new Banish 9K is, as far as I know, the smallest and lightest suppressor available for a 9mm pistol. Unlike most suppressors that manufacturers piece together with internal baffles fitted inside a welded tube, the Banish 9K is 3D printed in 100 percent high-grade titanium. Now, 3D printing is a rather new concept, and many firearms manufacturers use the process when creating prototypes. But the ability to 3D-print a complete titanium muzzle device—with a lifetime warranty—that can withstand the pressure of escaping gases—long term—is bordering on high-level sorcery. It's like something you would see in a science fiction movie.

The truth is, of course, there's no magic in play at all. In fact, 3D-printing in titanium utilizes a process called laser powder bed fusion (LPBF). With LPBF, layers of titanium powder are melted together using a high-intensity laser to create solid parts. What makes this applicable in suppressor manufacturing is that you can create extremely complex and very lightweight shapes that are not only strong but also corrosion resistant.

As for the Banish 9K, it's only 4.1 inches long and has a diameter of 1.3 inches. Any way you measure it, that's a very compact suppressor.

But just as important as the compactness of this suppressor is its weight.



The Silencer Central Banish 9K suppressor as it compares in size to a Bear Creek Arsenal G17 clone.



Unlike most pistol suppressors, the Silencer Central Banish 9K does not need a piston to work. This is the key to its compactness and lightweight.



The Banish 9K is unbelievably light—it weighs in at only 2.7 ounces.

How light is 2.7 ounces? Well, here's one way to look at it: A single 9mm cartridge weighs about 183 grains, so the Banish 9K weighs less than seven rounds of 9mm ammunition. That means you could screw a Banish 9K on your pistol and download the magazine by seven rounds and the gun's overall weight would not change.

LESS IS WAY MORE

One of the things that allows the Banish 9K to be so compact and light is that, because it is so light, it does not need a Nielsen device for proper functioning. Pistols work by transferring energy from the fired cartridge to cycle the slide. With the short recoil systems of most handguns, the barrel moves, too, and the added weight of the suppressor is usually enough to prevent the gun from properly cycling.

A Nielsen device, also known as a muzzle booster, helps suppressors work with pistols. Some refer to these

devices as pistons, and most handgun suppressors are designed to work with a piston the suppressor mounts to.

Now, this is not a 100 percent guarantee that the Banish 9K will work with your pistol, especially if your pistol is a 1911 with a linked barrel. For example, the Banish 9K worked perfectly on a Bear Creek Arsenal Glock clone, but I had to reduce the recoil spring weight in a Wilson Combat EDC X9 2.0 for reliable functioning. With the heavier recoil spring, the slide would not cycle far enough to the rear for the empty case to engage the ejector.

BUT, HOW'S IT SOUND?

The next thing you're probably wondering is if a suppressor this small can reduce the sound to a hearing safe level. With the 9mm Luger, the Banish 9K reduces the sound level to 132 decibels at the ear. But this suppressor is not just for 9mm pistols. It will also work with a .380 auto pistol, an FN 5.7x28mm, 9mm carbines ... and in

Silencer Central Banish 9K

Length: 4.1 inches

Diameter: 1.3 inches

Baffles: 8

Weight: 2.7 ounces

Material: Titanium

Caliber: 9mm

Caliber/Cartridge Range: 9mm, .380 Auto, 5.7x28mm, .300 Blackout

Finish: Cerakote

Sound Reduction: 26 dB

Mount Style: Direct Thread (1/2x28 or 13.5x1LH)

Full-Auto Rated: 9mm subsonic and .300 Blackout subsonic

Warranty: Lifetime

Price: \$699

300 Blackout with subsonic rounds it's even rated for full auto.

Could you everyday carry a 9mm pistol with a Banish 9K attached? Um, maybe. It would depend on how you carried, and I highly doubt you will be able to find a holster that will accept a pistol with a Banish 9K attached.

However, aside from everyday carry, a pistol with a Banish 9K would clearly be practical for home defense and even for vehicle carry.

I know some folks advise against vehicle carry, but whether it makes sense or not has a great deal to do with the areas you operate in and what you use your vehicle for. The Banish 9K would be great on a pistol you keep in your ranch truck or maybe in the side-by-side you use on the farm.

For the most part, my opinion on suppressed pistols has not changed: I believe they're best suited to enhance the enjoyment of recreational and competitive range sessions, for hunting, and for training new shooters who are recoil and noise sensitive. But the new Banish 9K substantially increases the practical application of a suppressor on a personal protection pistol.

I still don't think it's optimum for concealed, everyday carry, unless maybe you wear a trench coat—you know, like a hit man. **GDTM**



ARMED CITIZEN INTERACTION WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT

Lessons from two experts.

At the 2025 NRA Annual Meeting in Atlanta, the intersection of armed citizenship and law enforcement took center stage in several thought-provoking conversations. Two voices stood out for their unique insights: Jacob Paulsen, president of ConcealedCarry.com, and Glen Hoyer, director of the NRA's Law Enforcement Division. Together, they offered a compelling look at how armed citizens can better navigate encounters with law enforcement—rooted in data and training.

Paulsen's perspective is grounded in hard numbers. His recent article, "What

Over 1,600 Armed Traffic Stops Reveal About Law Enforcement Interactions," dives into a dataset from 560 survey participants who collectively reported over 1,600 armed traffic stops. What the data revealed was as surprising as it was instructive.

FIRST KEY FINDING: DISARMAMENT IS RARE

Contrary to popular belief—and Paulsen's own frequent experiences in Utah—most traffic stops involving legally armed citizens do *not* result in the officer disarming the individual. In fact, disarmament occurred in only about 10 percent of the stops reported.

This suggests that most law enforcement officers are comfortable leaving an armed citizen's firearm in its holster—so long as the interaction is calm, professional and safe.

Interestingly, in nearly 20 percent of those rare disarmament cases, officers asked the citizen to *hand over* the firearm—an approach both Paulsen and law enforcement experts strongly discourage. "The safest thing you can do," Paulsen advises, "is refuse politely and say, 'Officer, I'm not comfortable handling my gun in front of you. You're welcome to retrieve it if needed.'" It's advice echoed by tactical trainers and police alike, who understand how eas-

"Body language and demeanor matter. Hoyer recommends turning on your dome light during nighttime stops, keeping your hands palm-up on the steering wheel, and ensuring that passengers do the same. 'It communicates cooperation. You're showing us, before we even say a word, that you mean no harm.'"

ily such a request could escalate into a deadly misunderstanding.

SECOND KEY FINDING: KNOW YOUR DUTY TO INFORM—AND WHEN NOT TO

Another critical area of confusion involves whether an armed citizen is legally required to inform the officer that they are carrying. Paulsen's survey revealed that about 21 percent of respondents were incorrect about their state's laws on this matter—sometimes believing they had no duty to inform when, in fact, they did, which can carry legal consequences.

Paulsen's takeaway: Know your state's laws *cold*. But beyond legal requirements, there's also a tactical consideration. Does the officer already know? In some states, running a driver's license automatically reveals whether the person has a concealed carry permit. In such cases, failing to disclose may appear deceptive. "If the computer is going to tell them," Paulsen said, "you want it to come from you, not the screen."

THIRD KEY FINDING: BE SMART ABOUT HOW YOU INFORM

If you do choose—or are required—to inform an officer that you're armed, Paulsen and Hoyer both stress the importance of how you do it. Reaching into your glovebox or pockets as the officer approaches is a surefire way to raise alarm. Instead, roll down your window, keep your hands on the wheel and clearly state, "Officer, I have a concealed carry permit, and I am armed. How would you like me to proceed?"

This kind of approach, Paulsen ar-

gues, is especially important because traffic stops are high-stress situations—for both parties. "Practice what you'll say before it happens," he advised. "And be very specific if asked where your firearm is—say, 'It's in a holster at my 4 o'clock position on my belt,' not 'It's back here somewhere.'"

GLEN HOYER'S LAW ENFORCEMENT PERSPECTIVE

From the other side of the badge, Glen Hoyer emphasized the same principles—but added context from decades of police experience. His message was clear: law enforcement officers *don't know who you are* during a stop. Whether you're a good guy or not, you're a potential threat until proven otherwise.

In fact, Hoyer opens his discussion by pointing out how even uniformed officers sometimes mistakenly shoot undercover or off-duty cops. "If we can't always identify our own," he noted, "we certainly can't assume that a civilian with a gun is a good guy."

That's why body language and demeanor matter. Hoyer recommends turning on your dome light during nighttime stops, keeping your hands palm-up on the steering wheel, and ensuring that passengers do the same. "It communicates cooperation. You're showing us, before we even say a word, that you mean no harm."

TRAINING, SCRIPTING AND RECORDING

Both experts also addressed a topic often overlooked: what to do if things

start going sideways. If you're being asked to do something that raises red flags—like handing over your gun—Hoyer and Paulsen agree: Ask for a supervisor. "Every patrol shift has one," Paulsen noted. "Don't be afraid to make that request if you feel unsafe or uncertain."

Recording the encounter is also fair game. In most states, single-party consent laws allow you to legally record interactions with law enforcement. "You don't need to announce it," Paulsen said, "but having a record could be invaluable if something goes wrong."

FINAL TAKEAWAY: IT'S NOT ABOUT WINNING THE ENCOUNTER

Perhaps the most important lesson is this: your goal during a traffic stop—or any interaction with police—is not to "win." It's to make sure everyone goes home safe. That means thinking ahead, knowing your rights and responsibilities, and approaching the moment with humility and clarity.

As both Paulsen and Hoyer made clear at the NRA Annual Meeting, being an armed citizen comes with weighty responsibility. But with the right mindset, training and preparation, these interactions don't have to be tense or dangerous—they can be just another example of what respectful civic engagement looks like. **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.

KEEPING YOUR EDC EDGE

Guns and knives go together like peas and carrots.



Knives are hazardous ... and dull knives are particularly hazardous because you have to use more force to cut, and that means any error can lead to gashes.

The solution?

DMT, the maker of diamond-sharpening tools, has a pocket-sized sharpener so compact that you might lose it in your gear bag or toolbag: the Glide-Pro.

It has four angled pull-through sharpeners, a carbide and ceramic 20-degree, and a carbide and ceramic 30-degree sharpener. There are medium and coarse flat sharpeners, a

carbide plate that lets you free-hand the angle you need, two stones on the bottom and the two ends feature one each of flat-blade and Phillips-head screwdriver.

So, if you have a pistol grip or such that is a tad loose, the Glide-Pro can tighten it for the next job. The flat-blade screwdriver end is also a lanyard loop, so you can keep it attached to the bag it rides in, and it won't get lost. That could happen, as the Glide-Pro is only a bit over 5 inches long, and 0.5 inch by 1.25 inches in size. Yes, it fits into a pocket.

Now, if you're resurrecting a dulled edge on a knife or an axe, this clearly isn't the tool for the job. Oh, you can get it done, but DMT offers much better

tools for those tasks. No, the Glide-Pro is the tool you have handy in your tool-bag for when you realize the knife, axe or whatever you're using is getting dull and needs a bit of tuning up.

While DMT makes a whole series of bench-mount and much larger tools, I can see the Glide-Pro being a lot more useful in the workshop. Yes, it's a "hold with one hand, sharpen with the other" design, but it's tough enough that you could gently clamp it in a bench vise and then use it to sharpen with.

A word about technique: pull.

You do not sharpen with a setup like this by sawing the knife blade back and forth across the V-gap. Set the cutting edge closest to the handle in the V. Draw it back in one smooth motion. As you do so, listen to the rasp of the cutting. (You can even use a Sharpie to darken the edge, and after the first pull,

The DMT Glide-Pro has multiple angles and options for sharpening up whatever it is you cut with.



look at where the ink has been rubbed off.) You can hear the change in tone of the rasp as you cut more steel on each pass. When the tone doesn't change, you have gotten to an equal edge along the blade.

You can also see sharpness. No, I'm not kidding. If you're in good light (and have good eyesight), hold the blade point up with the edge pointing directly

at you (not the point—the edge). You'll then be able to see a flat on the edge where it's dull. Where it's still sharp (blades get dull where used and are still sharp where less used), you won't see an edge. As you sharpen the blade, the flat will get shorter and shorter, or narrower and narrower.

To use the Glide-Pro, look at the edge before you start and then after each

pull. With a bit of experience, you'll be able to see the progression and know when it is sharp. None of this licking a thumb and rubbing it across the edge Hollywood nonsense. Use your eyes. Use the Glide-Pro.

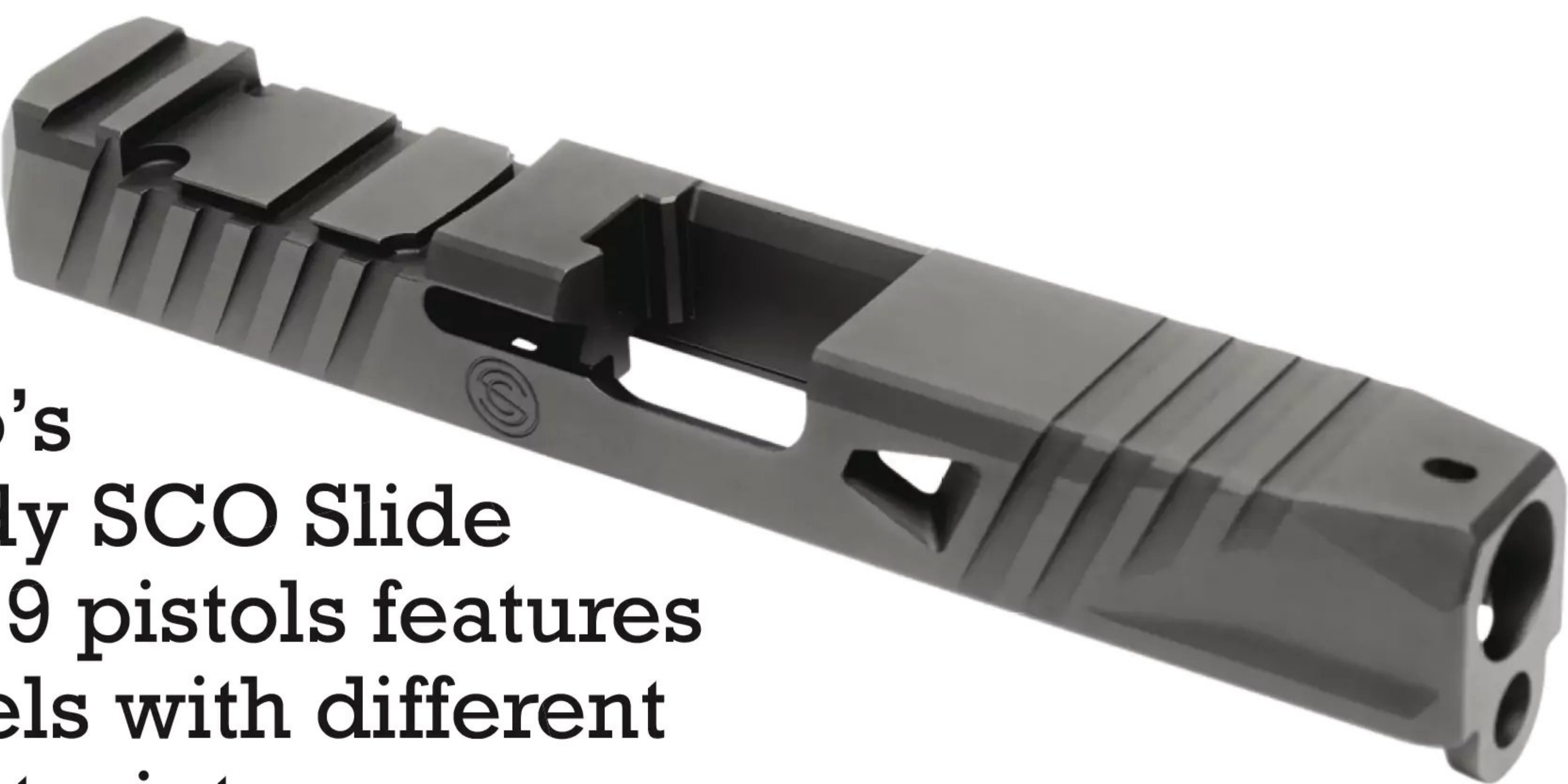
And ... you can get this for a list price of 18 bucks (and I've seen them online for \$15). It's inexpensive enough that when you lose the first one (or one of your buddies heists it), it isn't a big deal to buy the replacement. **GDTM**



The Glide-Pro is compact at just over 5 inches long. It's small and inexpensive enough to keep in your gear bag for when needed.

MORE THAN JUST CANS





SilencerCo's optics-ready SCO Slide for Glock 19 pistols features three models with different red-dot footprints.

Probably the easiest way to add a red-dot sight to your factory non-MOS Glock is to just buy an aftermarket slide for

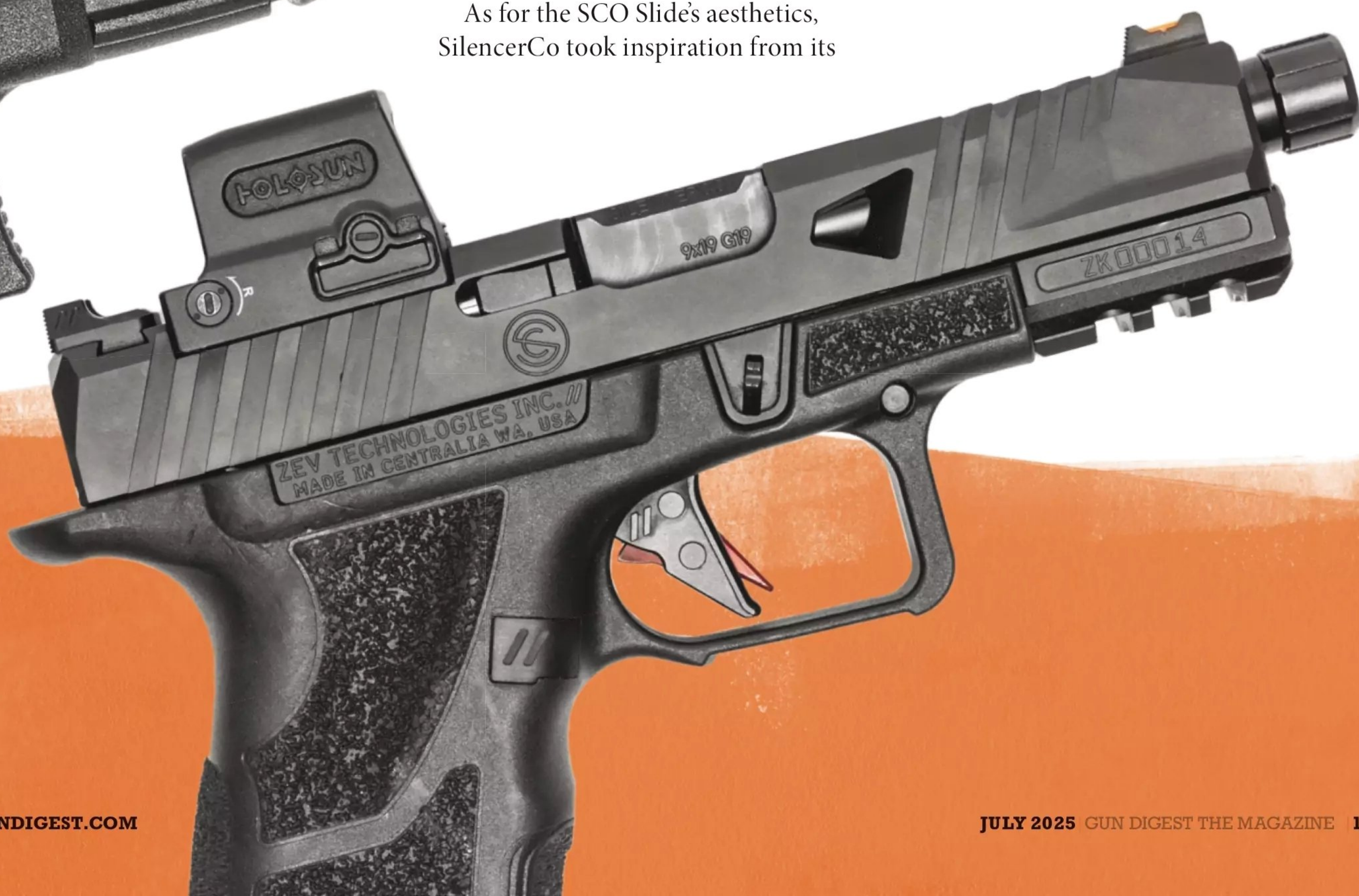
it. Plenty of companies make these, but SilencerCo has just thrown its hat into the ring as well with the SCO Slide.

Designed for Gen 1-3 Glock 19s, the SCO Slide is being launched with three variants available each with a different optic footprint—RMR, ACRO and 509T. The best part is the SCO Slide allows for direct-mounting red dots, so there's no need for an optics plate. The machined slides are made from corrosion-resistant 17-4 stainless-steel and feature a black DLC coating.

As for the SCO Slide's aesthetics, SilencerCo took inspiration from its

integrally suppressed Maxim 9 pistol for the slide serrations. The deep, aggressive cuts should make the slide easy to rack, and it features side-cutout windows too. It's worth noting, however, that the SCO Slide does not ship with a cover plate or mounting screws except for the RMR variant which ships with two screws.

All three SilencerCo SCO Slides for the G19 share an MSRP of \$299 and are available now. **GDTM**



01 Military Armament Corporation MAC IX

Military Armament Corp (MAC) just unveiled the MAC IX—a sleek, no-nonsense 9mm PCC designed in Knoxville, Tennessee. This direct blowback semi-auto runs an AR-style pistol grip, full-length Picatinny rail, M-Lok forearm and accepts MP5 mags. It's compact (15.97 inches overall), lightweight (5 pounds) and tough, with a 7075-T6 aluminum build and black anodized finish. Features include ambi charging handle, adjustable sights, tri-lug + 1/2-28 threading and AR-style takedown pins. Bonus: It ships with two metal mags, a hard case and cleaning gear. It's a modern, modular pistol-caliber carbine that's ready to run right out of the box.

MSRP: \$833

02 Apex Predator TSS

Apex Ammunition is now shipping its hard-hitting Predator line, loaded with ultra-dense Tungsten Super Shot (TSS). Handloaded with care and trusted by top predator hunters, these shells are built to drop tough game like coyotes and hogs with authority. Available in 12-gauge (3 and 3½ inches) and 20-gauge (2¾ inches) with shot sizes 2, 4 and BB, they deliver tight patterns and serious down-range punch.

MSRP: Starting at \$50, box of 5

03 MDT Send It Gen2

Meet the Send It Gen2 Electronic Level—an ultra-compact, high-tech upgrade to precision rifle leveling. Nearly 50 percent smaller than the original, the Gen2 delivers fast, LED-based feedback so you can stay locked on target without glancing away or second-guessing your cant. Designed for competitive and precision shooters, it mounts directly to your optic and lights up when you're level—no bubbles, no guesswork. With a 200-hour battery life, customizable LED modes and flexible mounting options, the Send It Gen2 is built to perform in any condition. If you're serious about precision, this little device could be a game-changer.

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GEAR TO GET



04 Rossi R95 TBP Series

Rossi USA just expanded its popular R95 lineup with the new R95 TBP (Triple Black Pistol)—a compact, hard-hitting lever-action pistol built for those who demand portability without sacrificing power. Carrying over the rugged features of the full-sized Triple Black rifle, the TBP version adds enhanced maneuverability for use in the field, truck or tight quarters. Available in potent calibers like .454 Casull, .45-70 Govt., .44 Mag. and .357 Mag., the R95 TBP includes a paracord-wrapped lever, threaded barrel, black Cerakote finish and a Picatinny rail with peep sight. It's a versatile, tactical-ready platform that delivers serious performance in a compact, eye-catching package.

MSRP: Starting at \$1,274

05 Dead Air/Ruger RXD22Ti

Dead Air Silencers and Ruger Firearms have teamed up to launch the all-new RXD Series of suppressors. Leading the charge is the RXD22Ti, a compact, lightweight suppressor built for rimfire and small-caliber centerfire platforms like .22 LR, 5.7x28mm and .17 HMR. Made using additive manufacturing and featuring Dead Air's Triskelion mono-core, the RXD22Ti offers elite suppression with minimal backpressure and ejection port noise. It's also user-friendly, with tool-free disassembly and the new XRF muzzle brake for multi-platform compatibility and easy cleaning. With no barrel length limits and full-auto ratings in .22 LR, the RXD22Ti sets a new standard.

MSRP: \$499

06 Primary Arms PLxC with ACSS NOVA 5.56/.308 Fiber Wire Reticle

Primary Arms' made its classic PLxC 1-8x24mm SFP Compact Rifle Scope a little better, now offering it with its illuminated ACSS NOVA 5.56/.308 Fiber Wire Reticle. Available in black or FDE, it's compact, tough and packed with smart features like built-in BDC holds, auto-ranging and red-dot bright illumination. The reticle's fiber wire system is paired with Japanese ED glass for stunning clarity and precision, while AutoLive tech helps stretch battery life. At just 9.2 inches long and 16.8 ounces, it's tailor-made for fast, accurate shooting. This scope is ready to ride on your favorite carbine.

MSRP: \$1,500

07 Reptilia Puller AR15 Charging Handle

The Puller has about everything you want in a charging handle—built tough, low-profile and made to perform under pressure. Originally developed for a military end user, the Puller is now available exclusively at Reptilia Corp. Machined from billet 7075-T6 aluminum and finished with MIL-STD Type III anodizing, it's rugged, reliable and built to last. Its ambidextrous design works smoothly from either side, even with gloves on, and it's shaped to reduce snag points without sacrificing control. Simple, durable, and made in the USA, the Puller is a no-nonsense upgrade for anyone running an AR.

MSRP: \$100

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FOREVER FAVORITES



The .270 Winchester
and .300 Holland & Holland Magnum
celebrate their 100th birthdays in 2025.



The .270 Winchester was a great choice a century ago, but premium bullets like the Nosler Partition make its performance even better.

Maintaining popularity for more than a century is quite the accomplishment in the cartridge world. For every one of the “classics” that have made that mark, there are several that fell out of vogue, and many others that have disappeared altogether.

Sure, the .30-06 Springfield, .45-70 Government, .45 ACP, 9mm Luger, .22 Long Rifle and .30-30 Winchester have all made that mark, but the .30-40 Krag, .38-55 Winchester, .300 Savage and .22 Short have lost much of their following of late. And while much of the cartridge market seems to be a popularity contest, a cartridge has to have something substantial to offer to maintain any sort of popularity for more than a century ... especially considering the recent advancements in powder and bullet technologies.

Celebrating their 100th trip around the sun this year are two classic cartridges: the .270 Winchester and the .300 Holland & Holland Magnum. One is an undeniable success story that remains a highly popular choice among big game hunters, and the other has a

Whether on the African plains, the deep woods of the Northeast or the Rocky Mountains, the .300 H&H is right at home. It makes a great all-around rifle chambering.

With factory ammunition choices quite limited these days, handloading for the .300 H&H sure makes sense. The author's rifle is fond of these Northern Precision 200-grain spitzer boat-tails.



provenance that cannot be denied, even if other cartridges have pushed it out of the limelight.

.270 WINCHESTER

Starting with the more popular of the two—Winchester's famous .270—you'll find the most popular of the offspring of the .30-06 Springfield. Or, since we are delving into the history of the birthday cartridges, we might more properly say the offspring of the .30-03 Springfield, which came a bit earlier and has a case length just a bit longer than its much more popular sibling.

The .270 Winchester retains the .30-03 Springfield's 2.54-inch case length, and the 17½-degree shoulder to handle the head-spacing. It has the 0.473-inch case head diameter, which was carried over from the Mauser cartridges and fits perfectly in any long-action receiver.

Exactly where the .277-inch bore diameter came from is, sadly, lost to history. Some say it was an attempt to bridge the gap between the 6.5mm and 7mm bores, without using a metric denomination; others feel it might have been adopted from the groove diameter of the 7mm/275 Rigby. But, as far as I know, there is no definitive answer. In all my research, it seems that Winchester pulled 0.277 inch out of the air, much like they did with the 0.338-inch bullets of the .33 Winchester, and as Rigby did with their now-famous 0.416-inch bore.

Nonetheless, 1925 saw the release of the new Winchester Model 54 bolt-action rifle, chambered for the newfangled .270 Winchester. While it certainly possessed the velocity that would become so popular over the coming decades, rifle optics weren't in vogue in that era, and the Model 54 was designed and stocked for iron sights.

Offering an enhanced velocity level in comparison to the majority of the most popular cartridges in 1925, the .270 Winchester offered bullet weights between 100 grains—a sound choice for the larger furbearers and all varmints—and 150 grains, which was considered suitable for an all-around big-game bullet. The 130-grain bullets performed wonderfully on white-



(above) It might be difficult to come up with a better combination for whitetail deer than a Nosler Ballistic Tip and the .270 Winchester.

For the handloaders, a .270 Winchester and a 130-grain Nosler Ballistic Tip makes affordable and highly potent whitetail medicine.



tail deer, wild sheep, pronghorn antelope and black bear, while those 140- and 150-grain slugs were employed against moose, elk and other large game.

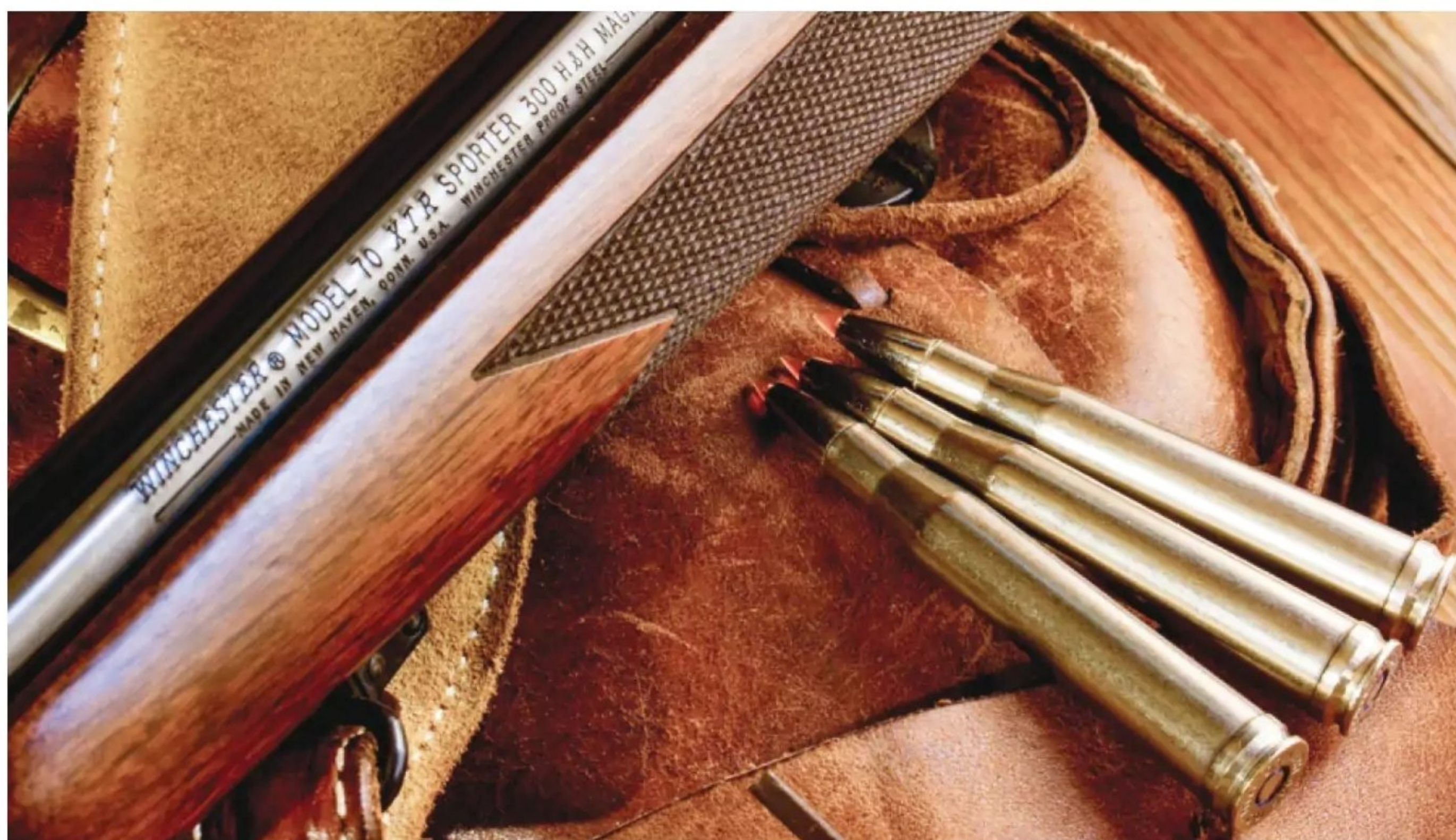
THE .270 WIN. GOT JACKED

One would think that the flexibility and popularity of the .30-06 Springfield might have killed the .270 Winchester before it even got out of the gate, as the 150-grain ammo was stellar on lighter big-game species, and those massive 220-grain round-nose bullets would neatly handle even the heavyweight coastal bears of Alaska. But Professor Jack O'Connor embraced the fledgling cartridge, taking in from the deserts of Arizona and Mexico to the wilds of Canada, and most places in between. His writings in *Outdoor Life*—in an era where the opinion of a gun writer carried more weight than it seems to

today—propelled Winchester's cartridge into the annals of history, and O'Connor seemed to guarantee the future success of the cartridge.

Making good use of the original 130-grain load—with a muzzle velocity of 3,160 fps—O'Connor waxed poetically about the cartridge, ushering in the era of speed, in complete opposition to the heavy-and-slow mentality of the era. Readers followed suit, and it turned out that the .270 Winchester made one helluva whitetail cartridge. The rest is essentially history, because the generation of O'Connor readers took the torch and ran with it. Because it was so popular, it was readily available, and because it was readily available, it remained highly popular.

Truth is, the cartridge is a sound balance of velocity, striking energy and manageable recoil. The .270 Winchester has



the attributes desirable for both Eastern deer hunters and Western hunters after mule deer, pronghorn and, yes, despite so many arguments, bull elk. As the cartridge aged, bullet technology only improved the capabilities of the cartridge, and today—in spite of the developments in cartridge, bullet, and optic technology—it still works just fine.

Despite a couple attempts at dethroning the king—namely in the .270 Weatherby Magnum and .270 Winchester Short Magnum—the only real threat to the .270 Winchester is the 6.8 Western, which employs a faster twist rate to utilize bullets heavier than those normally associated with the .277-inch bore.

And, although I'm a big fan of new cartridges, I don't think the .270 Winchester will ever be unseated.

.300 H&H MAGNUM

Crossing the “pond,” the prestigious London firm of Holland & Holland announced the arrival of the .300 Holland & Holland Belted Magnum—the Super 30—in 1925. The fourth in the H&H line of belted cases—following the .375 Velopex, the .375 H&H Belted Magnum and the .275 H&H Belted Magnum—it mated the successful .375 H&H Magnum case with the .30-caliber bullets of the .30-40 Krag and .30-06 Springfield.

The first commercially successful .300 Magnum, H&H's cartridge used the 2.85-inch case and 3.60-inch overall length of the .375 H&H Magnum, best housed in a magnum-length receiver. Factory am-

munition saw a 180-grain bullet sent at a muzzle velocity of right around 2,700 fps—seemingly loaded down to the level of the .30-06 Springfield in anticipation of the effects of the heat of the tropics on Cordite—but handloaders could easily beat that figure.

The .300 H&H, like the .375 H&H, was picked up by Winchester, Western, Peters and other ammunition companies, with Winchester and Remington offering American-made rifles. In fact, in 1936 Winchester offered the .300 H&H Magnum in the initial release of the Model

70, and Remington's 722 was embraced by many hunters as well. Ben Comfort used the cartridge to win the Wimbledon Cup—the Camp Perry 1,000-yard shooting competition—with a custom Griffin & Howe Remington 30-S rifle, proving the capabilities of the belted beast.

In the hunting fields, many successful reports drew attention to the magnum—whether or not that was a placebo effect—and the three initial loads featuring 150-, 180- and 220-grain bullets covered nearly all the bases in the big-game world, save the true heavyweights. As powder technology improved, the .300 H&H just got better, with ammunition seeing the 180-grain slugs pushed to a muzzle velocity between 2,850 fps and 2,950 fps in modern ammo. The slight 8½-degree shoulder allows the cartridge to feed ever so smoothly, while the belt of brass just north of the extractor groove handles the headspacing duties.

For those who might be recoil sensitive, yet are interested in magnum-level performance, the .300 H&H makes a fantastic choice for a hunting cartridge. I have found that, among the myriad choices of .300 magnums, the .300 H&H is among the easiest on the shoulder, yet offers solid



(above) The author's current .300 H&H rifle: a mid-1980s Winchester push-feed Model 70, gifted to him by a friend, and it's become one of his favorites.

Holland's Super 30 is immediately recognizable, with its signature belt of brass and slight, sloping shoulder.

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The author took this respectable red hartebeest bull at 250 yards in central Namibia, putting him down with a single shot from the .300 H&H Magnum.



field performance. Yes, John Nosler was carrying this cartridge when the 1940s bullet technology let him down hard on a Canadian bull moose, but modern bullets have done nothing but help the century-old cartridge. I have taken the .300 H&H Magnum across the pond on a couple of safaris, not to mention hunting here in the United States; it has been good to me in a number of different scenarios. From whitetail deer in my native New York, to Hartmann's mountain zebra, red hartebeest and eland in Africa, the cartridge has yet to let me down.

I've had a couple of rifles chambered for the excellent cartridge, including a 1959-vintage Colt Coltsman bolt gun, which my wife used to take a great blue wildebeest bull, and my current love, a mid-1980s Winchester 70 push-feed with one of the most beautiful pieces of flamed walnut I've ever encountered in a factory stock. The latter rifle prefers bullets with lots of bearing surface and will put three Nosler AccuBond 200-grain bullets into ¾-inch groups all the livelong day.

THE ATHLETIC YOUNGER BROTHER

Marketing being a funny thing, Winchester's own .300 Magnum is what pushed the H&H design out of the limelight. The shorter case of the .300 Winchester Magnum allowed it to be housed in a budget-friendly long-action receiver, while the ballistics of the younger case ac-

tually bettered those of the .300 H&H.

In spite of the large number of modern .300 magnums that have come to light in the past quarter century, the .300 H&H Magnum still has that "cool" factor; whenever I pull mine out at a range session or on a hunt, guys look on wide-eyed. I've had more than one African Professional Hunter ask to shoot my rifle or beg a cartridge for their collection. Does it make financial sense, being a rarity these days? Probably not, but there are no flies on the ballistic formula, and I will happily attest to the fact that no animal has ever been able to determine whether I was carrying a .300 H&H or a .300 Winchester.

The slight shoulder, the long, tapered case and the history that comes attached to Holland's little gem all combine to offer an undeniable classic rifle experience, harkening back to an era when "300 Magnum" was inscribed on the barrel, and shooters knew it was a .300 H&H Magnum, as there was no commercial offering before 1963.

Whether loaded with modern polymer-tipped boat-tails or a good old round-nosed thumper of a bullet, the .300 H&H is equally at home in the woods of the East in pursuit of whitetails or black bear, as it is on an elk hunt in the Rockies, or in a leopard blind in the Zimbabwean lowveld.

With modern factory ammunition choices being limited, handloading is assuredly the way to keep your .300 H&H

properly fed. It seems to be a forgiving cartridge, as you can use a good number of common propellants, and the choices of component bullets are nearly limitless. Grab a good set of dies and source enough brass to keep yourself in business, and you can hunt the rest of your days with a .300 H&H Magnum. I like a 180- or 200-grain bullet for most applications, though the .300 H&H Magnum will handle the 150-grain bullets very well, unlike many other .300 magnum cases.

TIME MARCHES ON

So, with all the progress we've made over the last century in case, powder and bullet technology, why in the world would a new hunter even consider one of these centennial cartridges? Well, both possess the attributes that any hunter would appreciate, giving a blend of usable features, and both have the pedigree to create that inexorable tie to the past that hunters crave so much.

And, frankly, both of these work—at normal hunting ranges—just as well as anything that has come along in the century since they were introduced. Neither was designed for dedicated target cartridge, though both have the capability to deliver fine accuracy.

Happy 100th birthday to the .270 Winchester and .300 H&H Magnum ... and to many happy returns. **GDTM**



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- Early beta tester

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DYING ON THE VINE

Dead or dying cartridges of the modern era.



In one way or another, all 10 of these cartridges are failures.

A little more than a decade ago, I edited *Gun Digest's 13th Edition of Cartridges of the World*. If you're unfamiliar with that book, it's essentially an encyclopedia of metallic cartridges. I'm not sure how many cartridges the latest volume covers, but the 13th Edition contained the history and specifics for more than 800. Some of those cartridges were, by at least some measure, failures.

What makes a metallic cartridge a

failure? It could be because shooters failed to grasp the cartridge's intended application, or it could be that the manufacturer failed to effectively convey that message. Sometimes manufacturers fail to divine what the shooting public really wants, or they gambled on

past successes with a similar cartridge. On occasion, a cartridge might be too much of a good thing or possibly competitive rules change and neutralize an edge a new cartridge might have had. There are a lot of reasons for a cartridge to be a commercial failure, but that alone does not mean they are a ballistic failure.

Here's a look at 10 cartridges that, for various reasons, failed to become popular. It does not mean these are bad cartridges, so if your favorite is on the list, don't waste your time sending hate mail. The truth is that all these cartridges are very good at their intended purpose; it's just that most folks could care less.

.307 WINCHESTER

The .307 Winchester is just a .308 Winchester with a rim to better work in Winchester's 1894 lever-action rifle. Winchester created a special Angle Eject version of their 94 to house the .307, and with it you could mount a riflescope directly over the action. I bought the first one I saw, hunted with it and handloaded for it. The .307 will push a 150-grain bullet to 2,700 equaling the ballistics of the original 30-06 Springfield load. The problem was that as good as these ballistics are, they were still from a traditional lever-action rifle. Most of what everyone wants to do with a traditional lever-

action rifle, you can do with the 30-30 Winchester.

Year of Introduction: 1982

Reason for Failure: Ballistically outperformed the practical application of the rifle Winchester created it for.

.45 SUPER

Gun World magazine editor Dean Grennell developed the .45 Super as a more powerful version of the .45 Auto. Because it's loaded to a maximum pressure that's 5,000 psi more than .45 Auto +P ammunition, it has about a 250-fps velocity advantage. You can convert most .45 Auto pistols to .45 Super with a new barrel that has a fully supported chamber and a stiffer recoil spring. But the additional velocity comes with about 40 percent more recoil. Buffalo Bore and Underwood Ammunition still load for the .45 Super. Interestingly, it is a shortened 451 Detonics case, which was based on the .45 Winchester Magnum case, which is almost identical to the .45 NAACO cartridge case. North American Arms Corporation's created the .45 NAACO for the Brigadier pistol they designed to meet Canadian service handgun requirements. Talk about a family of failures.

Year of Introduction: 1988

Reason for Failure: Too much of a good thing.

.356 WINCHESTER

As a companion to their .307, Winchester introduced the .356 Winchester, which offered ballistics almost identical to the .358 Winchester. I thought it would become fantastically popular. After all, it's suitable for anything walking around in North America. But, apparently, hunters looking for a large-caliber traditional lever action with more power than a .35 Remington, wanted larger caliber bullets too. The .356 could never compete with the .444 Marlin, .45-70 Government or even the much older and ballistically similar .348 Winchester.

Year of Introduction: 1982

Reason for Failure: Hunters wanted a larger caliber to hunt big critters with a traditional lever gun.

.32 H&R MAGNUM

With some help from Federal, Harrington & Richards introduced the .32 H&R Magnum, which is a .32 Smith & Wesson Long with a slightly longer case that's loaded to a slightly higher pressure. It was marketed as a lighter-recoiling replacement for the .38 Special. It recoiled less, but its terminal





In one way or another, these five handgun cartridges are failures, too. (Left to right: .32 H&R Magnum, .45 Super, .356 TSW, .45 GAP and .30 Super Carry.)

performance did not measure up. In truth, the .32 H&R is a great trail/hunting cartridge for revolvers, with more *umph* than a .22 Magnum but less recoil than the .38 Special. I've owned at least one .32 H&R revolver since 1984, and I've used them a lot. The cartridge has always had a cult following and is probably the most successful cartridge on this list. Fortunately, Federal has not forgotten it; they just introduced two new loads for it. If you love this failure as much as I do, understand it's just hanging on by its cartridge rim.

Year of Introduction: 1984

Reason for Failure: Initial bad marketing and niche application.

.356 TSW

Smith & Wesson designed this cartridge for IPSC competition. It's really nothing more than a 9mm Luger cartridge loaded in a stronger case that is 21.5mm long as opposed to 19mm. The .356 TSW is also loaded to 50,000 psi, but since the cartridge has an overall length similar to the 9mm Luger, it will still work in 9mm magazines. IPSC changed their rules, arguably because of the .356 TSW, and this threw a wrench in the works. Smith & Wesson then tried to rebrand it for personal protection, sort of changing the meaning of TSW from "Team Smith & Wesson" to "Tactical Smith & Wesson." It didn't work. Regardless, this cartridge is a screamer, and you can still get ammo from Underwood Ammunition.

Year of Introduction: 1994

Reason for Failure: Ruled out of contention.

.45 GAP 2003

The Glock pistol changed everything. It took some time for shooters to trust a plastic pistol, but with almost coast to coast adoption by law enforcement, it rose to stardom. With law enforcement being a large portion of Glock sales and a tremendous part of their marketing, Glock thought it a great idea to offer their own cartridge—one that would provide .45 Auto performance from a pistol with a smaller grip, so more cops could properly interface with it. Initially, the 45 GAP—Glock Automatic Pistol—received tremendous fanfare. A year later, hardly anyone cared, and a decade later, no one did. Oddly, Glock still offers three pistols in .45 GAP, possibly only because they do not want to admit it was a mistake.

Year of Introduction: 2003

Reason for Failure: Apparently, shooters and cops with little hands did not want to shoot a .45.

.17 MACH 2

In 2002, Hornady introduced the .17 HMR cartridge, which was based on the .22 Magnum cartridge case. It was an instant success and so popular that two years later Hornady introduced the .17 Mach 2 rimfire cartridge based on of the .22 Long Rifle case. Ballistically, the 17 Mach 2 fell right between the .22 LR and the .17 HMR/.22 Magnum, and while compromising ballistics can sometimes be a good thing, apparently this was a level of performance no one wanted. Currently, a major online retailer only lists two loads for the .17 Mach 2, and no one cares unless you were silly enough to buy one back in the day.



Many rifle cartridges have failed to gain mainstream acceptance, and here are five that failed to make the cut.



The .45 Super pistol cartridge might have just been too much of a good thing.



The .17 Mach 2 is a very cute and zippy little rimfire cartridge, but it was not fast enough to outrun its lack of appeal.



The .356 TSW was created for competition but was ruled into obscurity

Year of Introduction: 2004

Reason for Failure: Too much and too little in the same package.

.25-45 SHARPS

There have been many attempts to create an AR-15 compatible cartridge that offered a ballistic advantage over the .223 Remington for deer hunting. That's why the .25-45 Sharps was created, and it uses a .223 Remington case necked up to accept a 0.257-caliber bullet. The goal was to duplicate the ballistics of the .250 Savage, and the .25-45 Sharps would do that with 87-grain bullets. However, the case was too long to work with the heavier-more-popular 0.257-caliber bullets most deer hunters preferred. I worked with the cartridge a good bit and even

took it to Africa. But limited bullet options combined with the fact most modern shooters did not give a damn about the .250 Savage,

doomed its success.

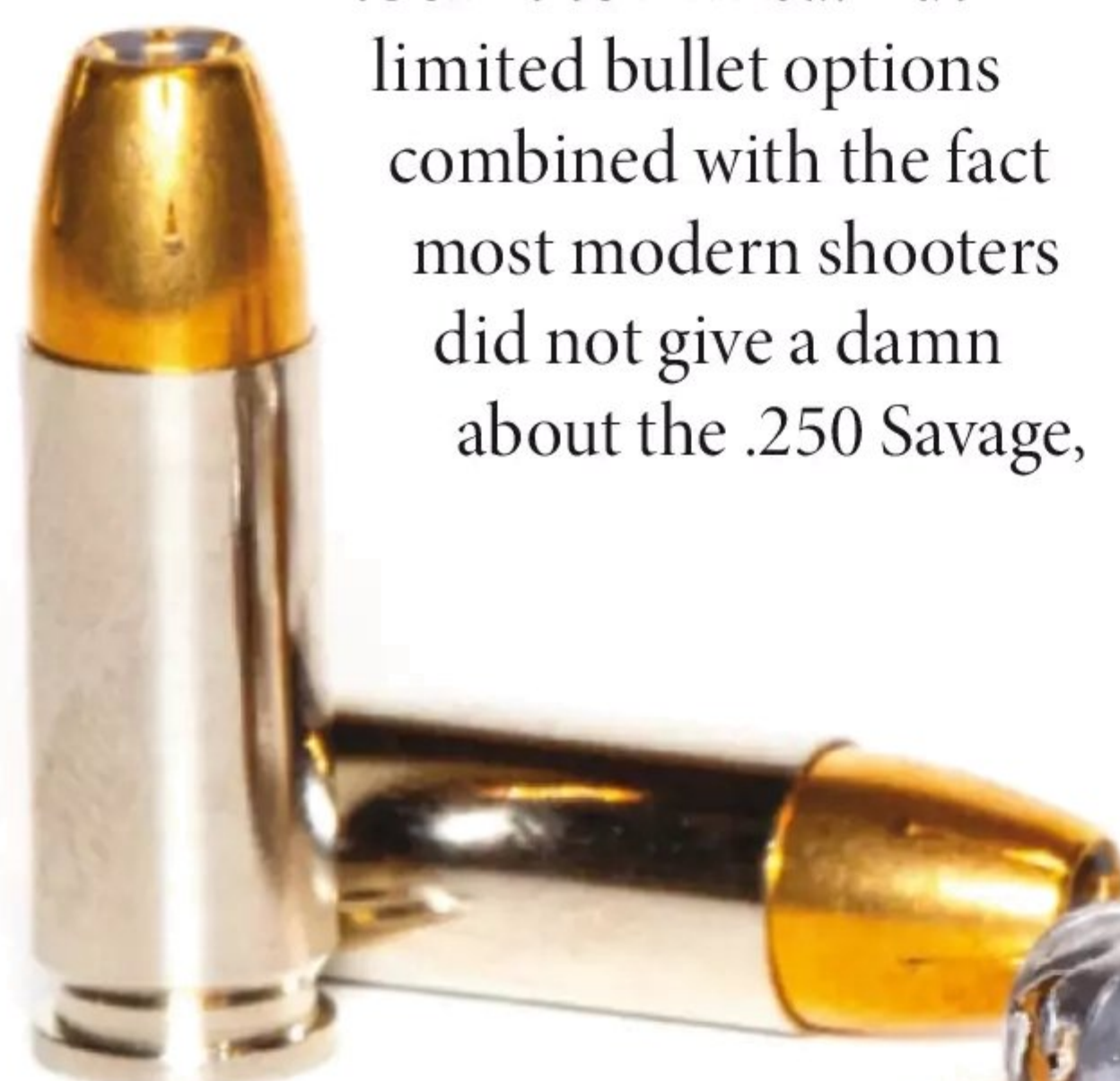
Year of Introduction: 2008

Reason for Failure: Had to compete with the .300 Blackout and was not supported by ammo and firearms manufacturers.

.30 REMINGTON AR

At a time when the media was crucifying the AR-15 rifle for not being suitable for big-game hunting, Remington countered that argument with the .30 Remington AR. It would push a 125-grain bullet to 2,800 fps and a 150-grain bullet to almost 2,600 fps. However, Remington

screwed up the introduction of this cartridge so bad it looked like it was intentional. It took two years to get guns to market, and during that time Remington introduced the .300 AAC Blackout with a much better marketing



The .30 Super Carry is a far better cartridge than sales suggest, partly because shooters don't understand it, but mostly because of lack of support from gun manufacturers.



The .30 Super Carry (left) is just as terminally effective as the 9mm Luger (right), but gun manufacturers have not supported it.

The .30 Remington AR is a fantastic cartridge for big-game hunting with an AR-15 or a micro bolt action rifle, but it is quickly passing into obsolescence.



The .45 GAP was a great idea that no one seemed to care about.



The .25-45 Sharps is an AR compatible cartridge that's ideally adapted for deer hunting, but it never found really got off the ground.



campaign. Additionally, Remington published a widely circulated advertisement showing .30 Remington AR ballistics. The problem was they listed the 300-yard velocities and energies as the performance from the muzzle.

Year of Introduction: 2008

Reason for Failure: Timing and marketing mistakes.



Even though the .307 Winchester essentially duplicates the original ballistics of the .30-06 from a traditional lever-action rifle, it failed to catch on.



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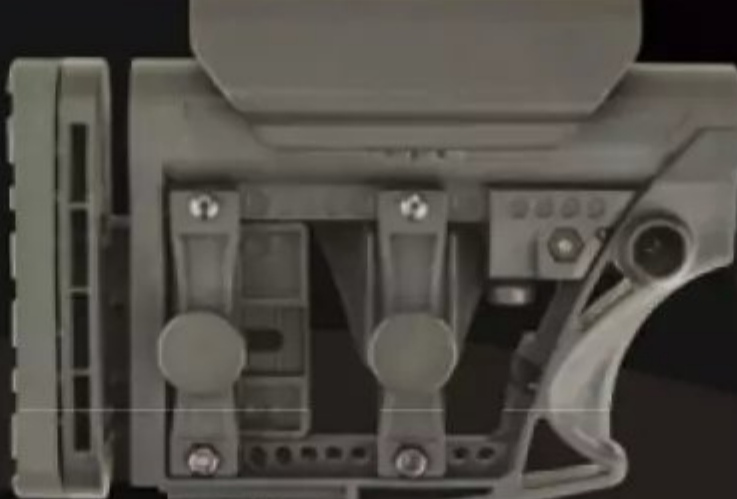
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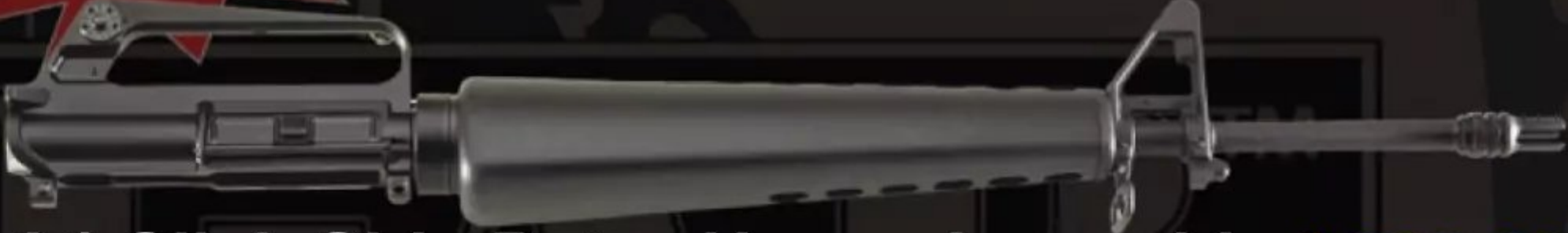


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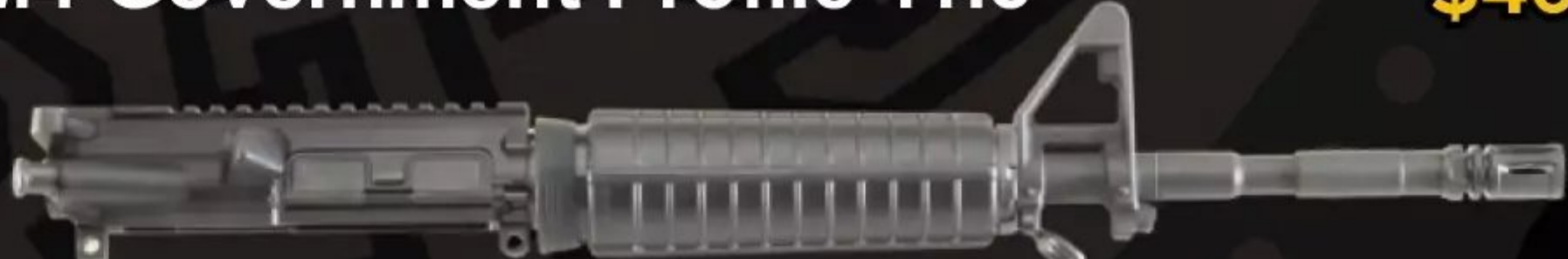


A1 C7 Retro Upper Assembly \$579.99

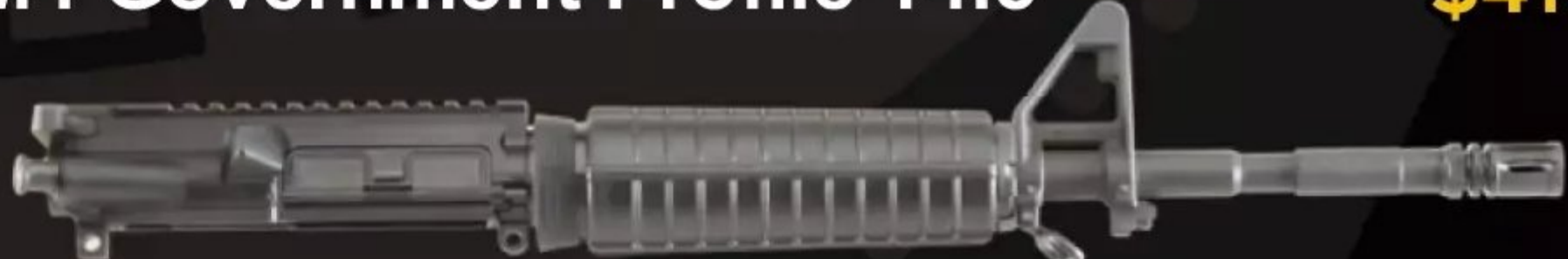
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Though marketed primarily as a self-defense round, the real appeal of the .32 H&R Magnum is as a field/hunting cartridge

.30 SUPER CARRY (2022)

This may be the most misunderstood pistol cartridge. It makes perfect sense because it offers 9mm performance with a 20 percent increase in capacity. Its ballistics are so good because Federal created great bullets for it, and they loaded it to 52,000 psi, which is 20 percent more than 9mm Luger +P ammo is loaded to. When tested in 10 percent ordnance gelatin, the .30 Super Carry performs almost identically to the 9mm. So, why is it not the most popular self-defense pistol cartridge in the world? One reason really: Glock. The .30 Super Carry has been around for three years, but Glock has yet to offer a pistol chambered for it. In fact, Sig Sauer, Springfield Armory and Ruger haven't either. Why? Maybe 52,000 psi is just too much pressure for those guns.

Year of Introduction: 2022

Reason for Failure: No Glock, Ruger or Springfield Armory pistols and consumer misunderstanding. **GDTM**

Though the .25-45 Sharps offered great ballistics for predator and deer hunting from an AR-15, shooters have mostly forgotten it, and many have never heard of it.

Of all the hunting cartridges designed for the AR-15, the .30 Remington AR offers the best ballistics. Remington failed to market and support it, and it's headed to obsolescence.



ANECHOIC

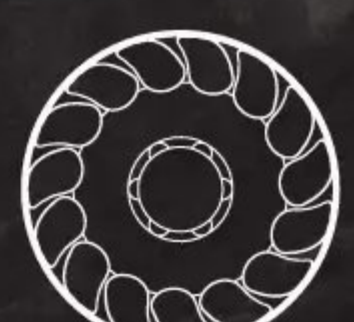
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This PWS rifle in 6 ARC has a piston-operating system. If you look at the physical components of this gas system, for instance flip them upside down, you would see a resemblance to the M1 and M14 rifles with their “op rods” under the barrel. The piston system is tried and true, as well as clean running.



HIT THE GAS

Understanding rifle gas systems.



A PWS gas system against a standard direct gas carrier. In this case, the DI carrier by SA has interior chrome lining and is far and above easier to keep clean ... with all the gas being blowing directly into it.

It's fair to assume that most shooters have at least a general understanding of how their guns work on a technical level. The ins and outs of specific designs can be a fairly specialized knowledge set, but I'd wager that most people using common semi-autos know they are, in large part, gas operated.

However, there is quite a bit of nuance that we're going to dive into here talking about the various gas systems and how they work, especially with suppressors and how things like gas flow and bleed-offs work. This is a technical topic, but I'll spare the jargon and try to relay as much of this as possible in layman's terms so everyone ends on the same page.

GAS SYSTEM TYPES

For what we're talking about here, we're going to be discounting such rifles as bolt actions and anything manually operated. There are, of course, ways that gas interacts with these guns and suppressors, but those are their own topic. Specifically, we're going to look at direct gas and piston-operated rifles, each with its own problems and advantages.

The baseline situation with these guns is that the rifle operates using a port in the barrel that acts as an avenue for gas pressure to be directed. If you are new to this topic, yes, there is in fact a hole in the barrel that is drilled through into the bore itself. This hole is typically called the gas port. A gas block is mounted to this—a fixture that is the interaction point between the barrel and whatever gas system is in use. The shape and style of the gas block varies depending on what is being asked of it, but for our purposes we're going to look at it as a very important piece of this equation.

Before we go too far into gas blocks, we need to look at operating systems. At a point, their function is well-established, and I'll only go into a brief discussion on their designs to save space here. The two basic forms mentioned above are both in common use, with direct gas being the more common today in the AR platform.

Direct-gas guns take the gas pressure from the firing cycle and vent it through the gas block into a thin metal tube, of course called a gas tube. This little tube takes the gas pressure built up in it and blasts it directly into the gas key, a hollow structure atop the bolt carrier group. This gas pressure forces the bolt carrier

group rearward, thus unlocking the bolt, ejecting the spent cartridge, and then, by spring power, travels forward to strip a fresh round off the magazine, thus starting the cycle again.

The downside of this otherwise reliable method of gas operation is that it is, comparatively, very dirty. When firing suppressed, the average AR becomes a mess very quickly. I have been firing all my AR rifles suppressed now for years, and fouling in the guns is about 10 times worse than firing unsuppressed. Your mileage may vary ... but be prepared to do a lot of cleaning. I'm not above just blasting out an AR with a hose and Dawn soap in the backyard.

Piston rifles, by design, are much cleaner in operation. There are endless debates about the reliability of piston guns over direct-gas guns. But the jury is permanently out, as the entire world uses variations of both systems with many nations, including our own, using both in various capacities.

Piston rifles vary a lot in terms of design; some use a fixed piston, such as the AK series rifles, and others have a push rod system where the bolt group is separate from the piston. A rod in the gas tube will push the carrier back. Some argue this is better from the standpoint of maintenance and reduced bolt carrier mass for softer cycling, but



The SCARburator adjustable plug is visible inside the window above the handguard. Rail system by KDG, night vision clip-on by Armasight.



again, the jury is out.

There are too many successful designs out there that use fixed pistons or push rods, and all of them are pretty good ... just different. In either case, the vented gas is used to actuate the piston in what amounts to a closed system, thus keeping propellant gas out of the receiver. Wisdom says that this is more ideal for suppressor use in that it keeps the interior of the gun very clean. In my personal experience, I have found this to be largely true and have come to enjoy the lack of cleaning piston guns offer.

STAYING IN TUNE

The commonality among these systems, aside from being gas operated, is how we can alter the flow of this gas to change the internal pressure in the gun. It works in largely the same way regardless of a rifle being direct gas or piston.

That said, piston guns are somewhat less flexible in how they interact with the gas cycle. While not the rule entirely, rare is a single piston system that's as modular as the direct gas system on the AR platform. Most piston guns are designed to work only as their set specs allow and are often from a single manufacturer.

For instance, the BRN 180 is a piston gun, and so is the FN SCAR. They are in no way compatible, and there isn't anything that can be done on a real level to affect the way these guns work in terms of reliable cycling. You pretty much get what you get; you can regulate the system by reducing the amount of gas ... and therefore pressure in the system.

The AR series is quite the opposite.

There are many distinct gas system lengths that are quite modular, and you can select the type of gas system you need for your individual build. The shorter the gas system, the higher the initial operating pressure. This is why many shorty builds feel snappy compared to a 20-inch barrel with a rifle-length gas system, a combination most regard as very smooth and easy to shoot.

The AR can also be adjusted by using a lightweight bolt carrier and various weights of buffer to achieve the desired balance in the gun. Depending on the car-

tridge you're using, you will want to pick a gas system based on what kind of pressure it uses, such as .300 Blackout, which is best with a very short gas system due to its sometimes very minimal powder charges in subsonic form. It often won't generate enough pressure to cycle the action without a suppressor to help.

A problem that can exist in some cases is over-gassing, especially with suppressor use. What we don't want is to take a rifle that has a gas system regulated for unsuppressed use and then create a situation where the gun is beating the hell out of



Detail of the M14 gas system. Note the "push rod" is extended rearward.

These two Ballistic Advantage barrels demonstrate different gas port locations. Depending on your cartridge and barrel length, you'll want to pay attention to this.



itself. Bleeding off gas is the way to solve this, and in some cases with more modular platforms like the AR, you can select different internal parts to help slow the bolt travel, making it less violent.

While most guns won't be horribly damaged by over-gassing, it isn't a great idea and can pretty easily result in parts wearing out quickly. Now, of note if you are using a suppressor, this means that in some cases your rifle will need the suppressor installed to cycle properly. Ideally, your adjusted gas system will kick all your brass out nicely in the same spot. A symptom of over-gassing is erratic brass ejection. When I tune my gas systems, I can expect the rifle to be very gentle in the firing cycle and drop brass consistently in the same area.

It's surprising how little gas you need to cycle a suppressed semi-auto. Some of my rifles will still cycle unsuppressed, but ejections are weak, and the bolt may

not lock back. Many rifles have a factory installed gas selector that lets you switch essentially between "suppressed" and "unsuppressed." In reality, this is a basic gas bleed-off that keeps it simple for the causal shooter.

If you are a dedicated suppressor shooter, you'll want a more finely adjustable gas block that allows you to really dial in your pressure curve inside the gun for best handling and therefore function. A suppressed semi-auto rifle with a properly adjusted gas system should feel smooth and run like a sewing machine with no "thumping" as the bolt moves. In calibers like 5.56 NATO, you can work this to make your rifle have virtually no felt recoil, sometimes to the point of it not moving at all. This is especially great when hunting smaller game at longer ranges and with thermal optics.

Tuning gas systems on unsuppressed rifles can offer a number of benefits—not

so much on direct gas rifles, but on piston guns especially. Many piston rifles are almost over-gassed from the factory and could do for a calming down. Military-based piston rifles are known to cycle hard and for good reason, they are often asked to work with whatever 5.56 or 7.62 NATO is laying around, and it's better to err on the side of function.

The M14 rifle is one that strongly benefits from an adjustable gas plug (note that the M14 has a separate screw-in plug that caps off its gas system), and it can be regulated to be very smooth, especially for match shooting. On these types of rifles, you can really extend the life of parts by smoothing out the system pressure. In the M14 especially, which can be an extremely accurate rifle in defiance of many known accuracy trends, a smoother cycling action just makes it that much more able to compete and shoot with.

My own M14 is a Fulton Armory rifle. They recently sent me their brand-new muzzle thread adapter and an adjustable gas plug to allow suppressed use with the rifle, itself featured in many of my *Gun Digest* topics. When I started to use the rifle suppressed, I was immediately impressed with the difference the upgrades made. The M14 is already soft-recoiling for a .308/7.62 rifle, but with



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The PWS rifle and BRN180 both have factory-standard adjustable gas systems.

the suppressor and FA adjustable plug, it was easy to get it down to nearly unnoticeable levels of recoil. Having shot CMP sports for most of my life locally and at Camp Perry, I can't imagine a better match-shooting machine than this.

NOTABLE AFTERMARKET GAS SYSTEM PARTS

I have a lot of miles on the suppressed SCAR system. The SCAR has a reputation for being hard on optics, and a good amount of this lore comes from the early days it was in use. A cursory internet search shows hundreds of forum posts about SCAR owners breaking scopes. The SCAR 20S that has appeared on these pages boasts a small but necessary part—an adjustable gas plug called the SCAR-burator from Mototech Engineering. This little part absolutely changes the SCAR for the better and is arguably a must for shooting the SCAR suppressed.

The SCAR is a very modular platform but isn't widely owned by comparison to the AR-15 and AR-10 class rifles. I really like it in general ... if I can adapt the lower for SR25 mags in .308. This single part is a must for any SCAR owner in my opinion, on the merit of how these guns handle their gas pressure. While not exactly cheap at \$149, these aren't cheap guns anyway. Just get one.

Superlative Arms might be the biggest player on the block when it comes to blocks ... of the gas variety. When I get guns from the factory, I typically don't

mess with them much, but most guns you see in my photography on these pages I put together myself. I not only build them for photos, but I really do also use them in the field. Range use only does so much, and I believe in only featuring parts and guns that I would personally trust if I was in adverse conditions.

Superlative gas blocks are very easy to use and install, and they come in a variety of finishes. All my direct-gas guns, aside from historical and military builds, have them installed. They operate simply and have a "click" adjustable plug that allows you to repeatably tune your gas system. When bottomed out, the gas is off, and basically you'd have a straight-pull bolt action.

I typically bottom them out as a starting point, and then I open it five clicks to start. You can go one at a time, but in my use of these blocks, five is the minimum to cycle with a rifle-length gas tube and suppressor.

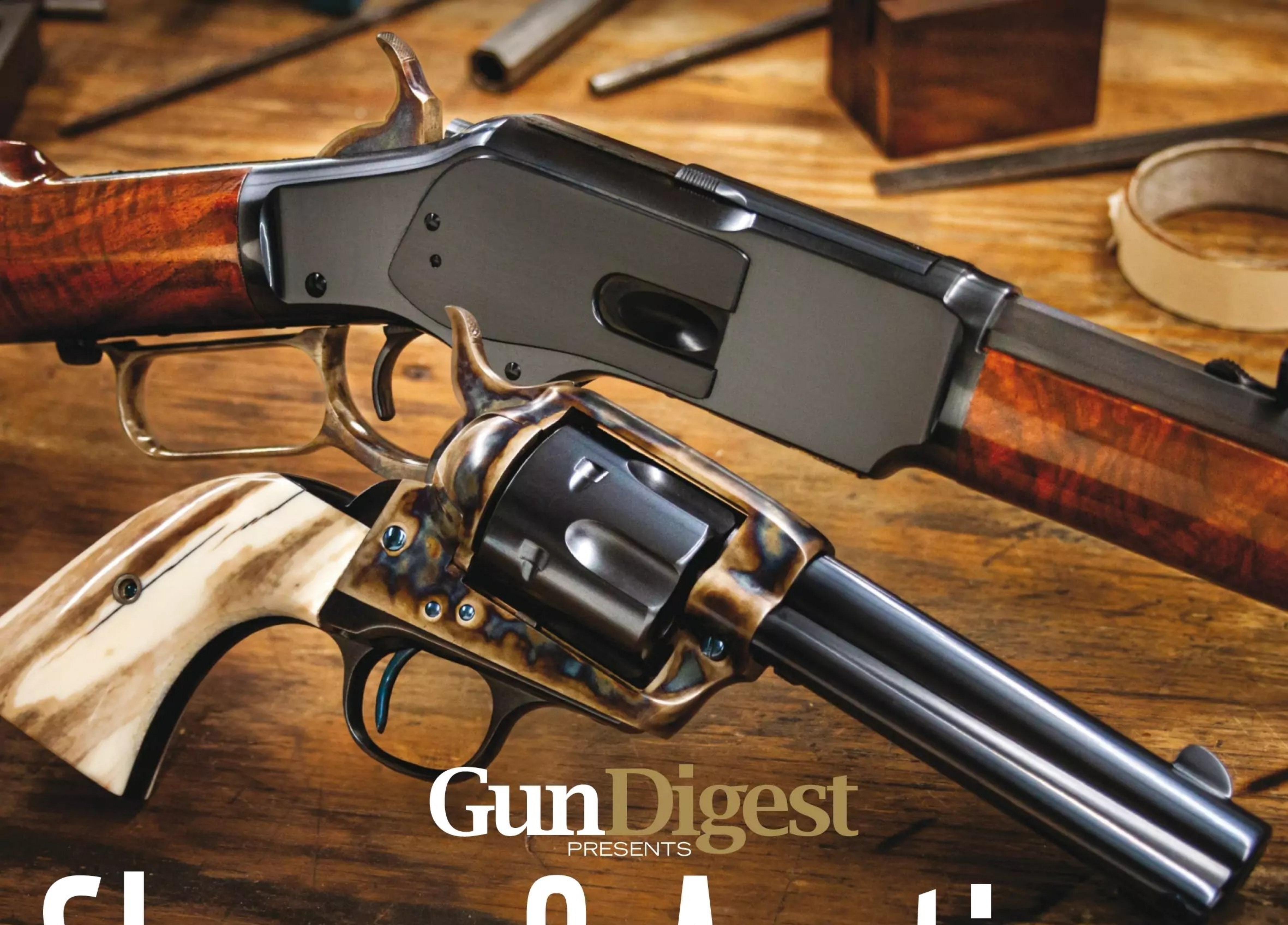
Of note is that Superlative also makes some very smart parts. Their bolt carrier has an internal chrome lining, which is incredible for suppressed use. I hate cleaning my bolt carriers, but it's a must for good operation, and the fact that they hard chromed the inside of it makes my work so much faster and easier. It's honestly a

great feature across the board that I don't know why it isn't standard.

GASSED OUT

As we march forward in terms of technology and knowledge in our industry, the pioneers will always be somewhat alone on the frontier ... waiting for the rest to catch up. We are in a good place now when it comes to our understanding of gas-operated rifles, but the future will undoubtedly hold a much higher degree of standardization for use to perfect and then continue to expand upon.

The products in this article are decidedly aftermarket and will need to be worked on by you, the home builder. The sheer number of products out there, combined with the endless variety of suppressors and ammunition types, makes it so that this discussion is somewhat personal and truly up to you for the time being. Your mileage will vary depending on your chosen end use, but if you are in the business of playing with suppressors and getting your rifles cycling smooth, you need the ability to alter your gas flow—that much is certain. **GDTM**



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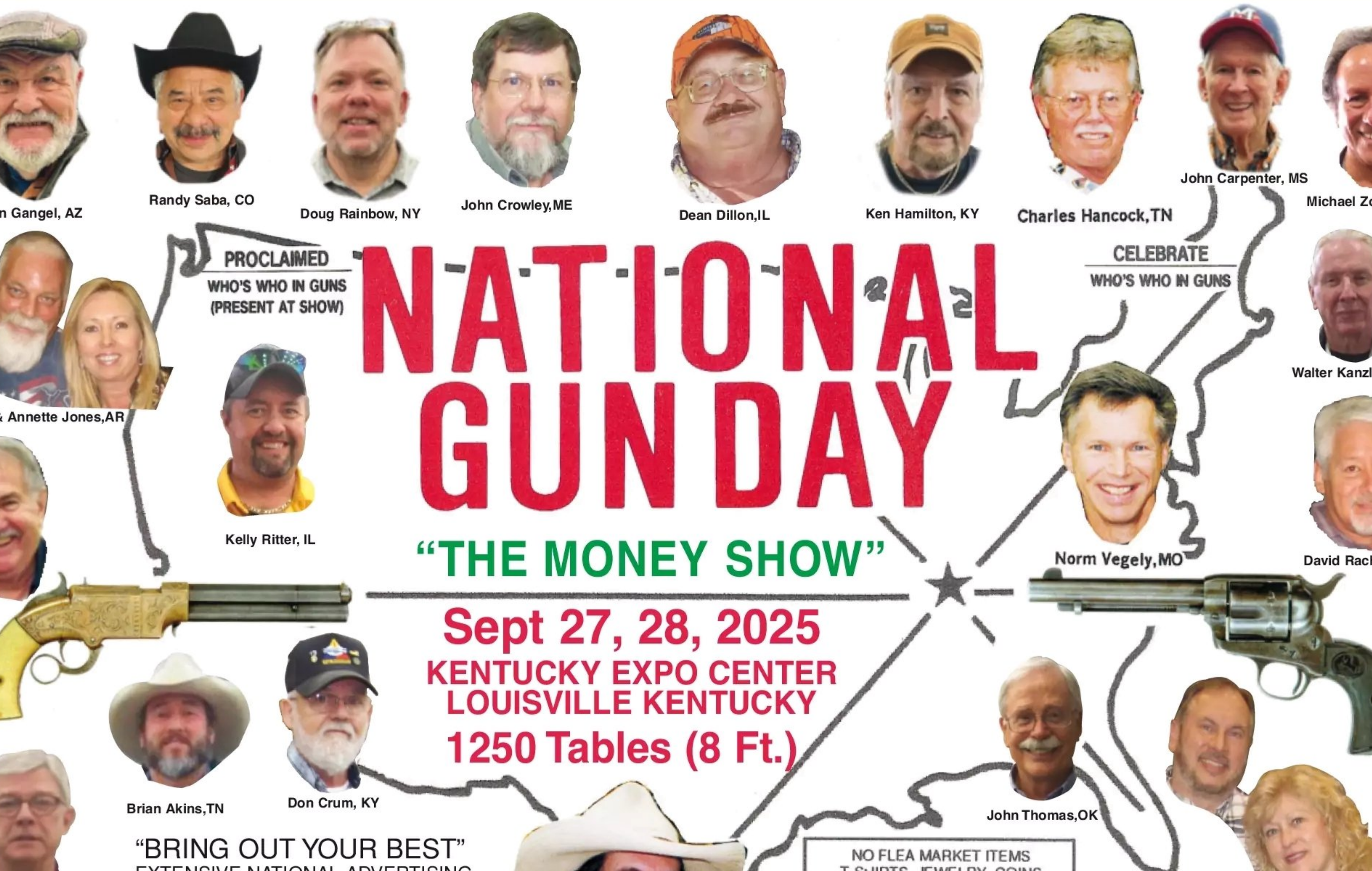
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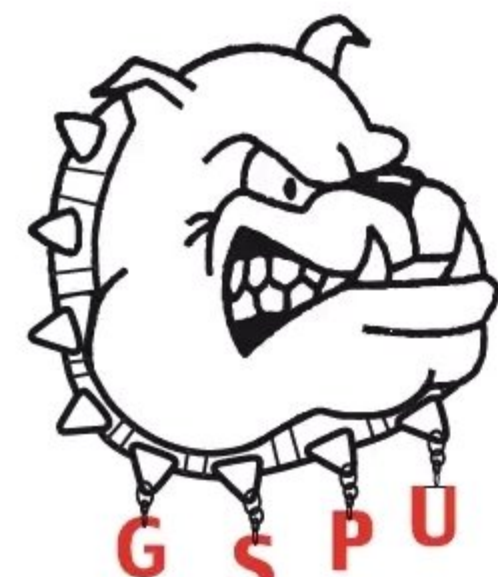
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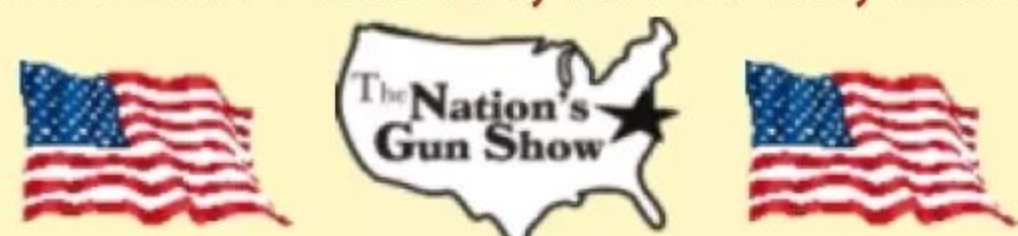
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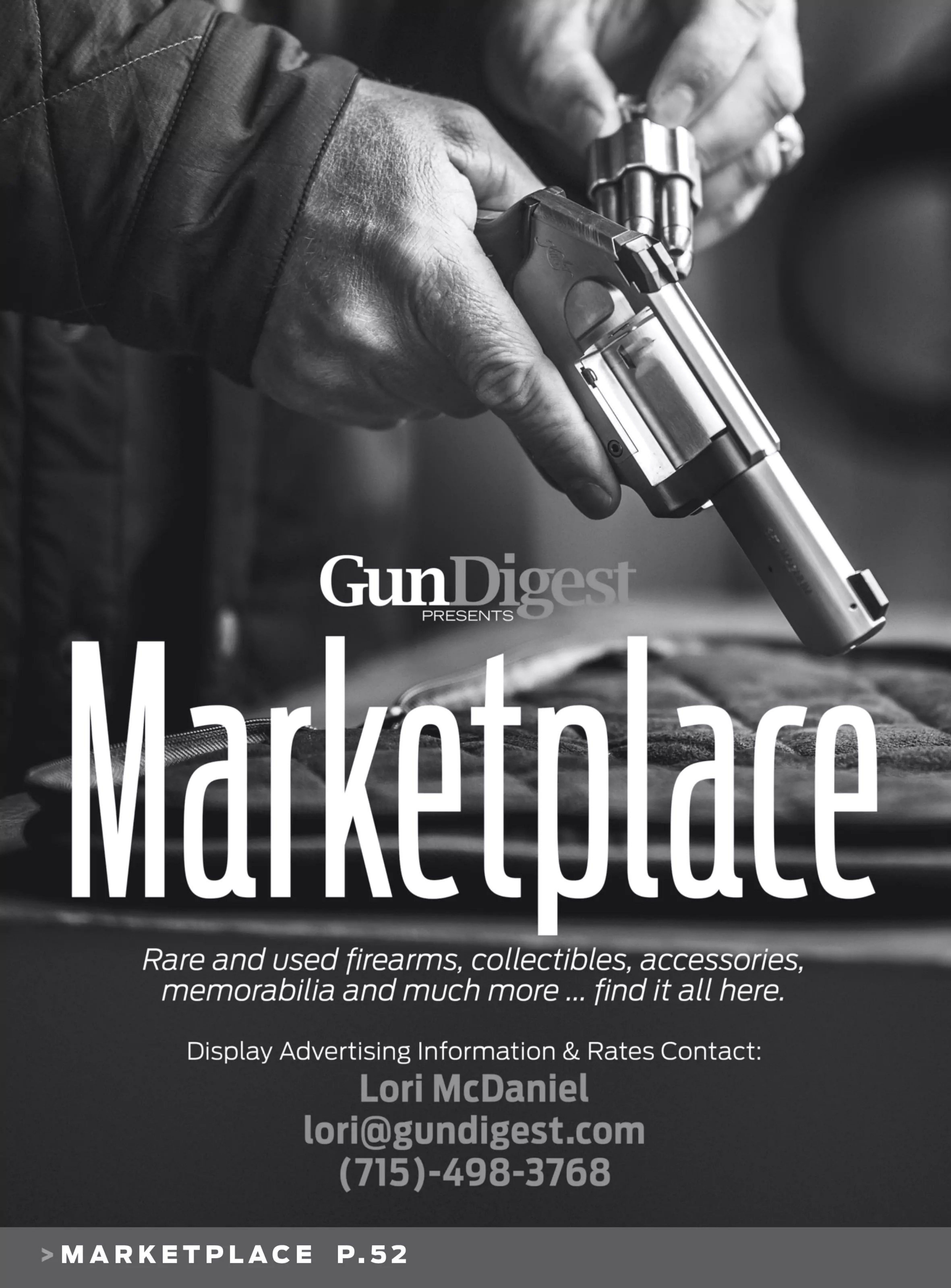
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PISTOLS AND REVOLVERS

1-X Automatic Pistol .25 ACP “Defender Model” Vest Pocket Auto Pistol 2” barrel with good bore, 80% original blue, excellent checkered hard rubber grips, nickel plated magazine, works but appears to be missing its extractor, made in Spain around WW-I (C&R)\$185

2-X Beistegui Hermanos .25 ACP “Grande Precision Model” Vest Pocket Auto Pistol 2” barrel with excellent bright bore, 95%+ original blue, manual safety, excellent “BH” logo checkered hard rubber grips, full blue magazine, very nice looking Spanish pistol made around WW-I (C&R)\$285

3-X Browning / FN .380 ACP “Model 1922” Dutch Contract Auto Pistol 4 ½” barrel with excellent bright bore, fixed sights, 97% original bright blue with just a little loss on barrel extension, slide has large “W” for Queen Wilhelmina’s reign, all matching numbers, “F.N. 9mm” marked blued magazine, mint “F.N.” logo checkered black hard rubber grips, large ring lanyard at butt, super looker and comes in an original leather flap holster with ink stamp inspectors mark and “1935”, brass closure hardware and pocket for a cleaning rod but no rod present, collector quality and all original (C&R)\$975

4-X Colt .25 ACP “Vest Pocket 4th Variation Model” Auto Pistol 2 ¼” barrel with mint bore, fixed sights, exposed hammer, mint checkered dark Walnut grips with silver Colt medallions, 98%+ original bright blue, nickel plated magazine marked “Cal. 25/Colt” on base plate, excellent function, made in 1972 (C&R)\$435

5-X Colt .380 ACP “Model 1908” Pocket Auto Pistol 3 ¾” barrel with very good+ bright bore, 98% original bright blue with backstrap/grip safety having a brown tinge and sharp edges a bit of silvering, fixed sights, mint Colt logo checkered black hard rubber grips, mint “Colt .380” marked original two tone magazine, made in 1925, collector quality (C&R)\$1485

6-X Colt .380 ACP “MK IV Series 80 Mustang Model” Pocket Auto Pistol 2 ¾” barrel with mint bore, fixed sights, 99 ½% original blue, mint checkered black plastic grips with silver Colt medallions, as new in original box with unopened paper work, made in 1987\$725

7-X Colt .22 LR “Frontier Scout Q Model” Single Action Revolver 4 ¾” barrel with mint bore, 98%+ original “duotone” (blue and bright) finish, fixed sights, mint early style checkered black plastic grips with “rampant horse” logo in oval at top, made in 1958 with “F” suffix serial number, comes in an excellent Mahogany stained flip top pine case with Colt logo brand on top cover and fitted red velvet interior, near new overall (C&R)\$635

8-X Colt .32 Police (.32 S&W Long) “Model Police Positive” Double Action Revolver 2 ½” barrel with excellent bright bore, 95%+ original blue, fixed sights, matching numbers, replacement mint logo checkered, nice looking hard rubber grips, excellent function, made in 1919, collector quality (C&R)\$695

9-X Colt .38 Long Colt (Not Special) “Model 1892 New Army / Navy Commercial” Revolver 6” barrel with very good bright but lightly pitted bore, fixed sights, last patent date on barrel is 1888, 60% original blue with most loss on cylinder and straps which have gone a grayish brown with sparse scattered light peppery pitting, all matching assembly numbers, excellent original checkered hard rubber grips with Colt rampant horse showing “Colt” above and “1892” below and scratch numbered to gun on interior (both panels), excellent function, made in 1896 (Antique)\$785

10-X Colt .38 Long Colt (Not Special) “Model 1892 New Army / Navy” Double Action Revolver 4 ½” barrel with fair pitted bore, 95% of an old refinish blue with most markings wiped out from buffing, all matching assembly numbers, replacement checkered brown plastic target style grips, works fine but heavy trigger pull, made in 1900 (C&R)\$235

11-X Colt .38 Special “Detective Special Model” Post War 2nd Issue Double Action Revolver 2” barrel with mint bore, fixed sights, 98% original blue, full grip frame, excellent checkered Walnut (2 piece grips with Colt silver medallions, excellent function, made in 1959, collector quality (C&R)\$1075

12-X CZ .32 ACP “Model 27” Early Nazi Occupation Auto Pistol 3 7/8” barrel with excellent bore, fixed sights, Nazi “WaA 76” Waffen proof on frame plus top of “Bohmisch” marked slide, 98% high polish blue finish, 95% straw color on trigger, minty CZ logo checkered black plastic wrap around grips, “P. Mod 27” marked magazine, excellent function, super looker, collector quality (C&R)\$695

13-X Echae y Arzimendi .25 ACP “1918 Model Bronco” Vest Pocket Auto Pistol 2” barrel with very good bore, 95% original blue, manual and grip safety, nickel plated magazine, excellent “EA” stylized checkered hard rubber grips, tension spring on manual safety appears to be missing or broken, looks very good (C&R)\$245

14-X Forehand Arms Co. .32 S&W Long “Hammer Top Break” Double Action Revolver 3 ¼” ribbed barrel with very good bright but lightly pitted bore, fixed sights, 95% original dulling nickel with a couple tiny spots of flaking, rebounding safety hammer, excellent checkered black hard rubber grips with F&W” logo and U.S. shield, very good function (C&R)\$215

15-X Harrington & Richardson .22 LR “U.S.R.A. Model” Single Shot Target Pistol 10” ribbed barrel with mint bore, 98% original bright blue, 1/8” ramp blade front and fully screw adjustable square notch rear, excellent oversize, one piece checkered Walnut grips, grooved trigger, round plunger type auto ejector, a third variation H&R in super condition, collector quality (C&R) ..\$1465

16-X Harrington & Richardson .22 LR “U.S.R.A. Model” Single Shot Target Pistol 10” ribbed barrel with mint bore, 99% original bright blue, 1/8” ramp blade front and fully screw adjustable square notch rear, excellent oversize, one piece checkered Walnut grips, grooved trigger, round plunger type auto ejector, a third variation H&R in super condition, collector quality (C&R) ..\$1525

17-X Harrington & Richardson .22 LR “U.S.R.A. Model” Single Shot Target Auto Pistol 10” barrel with wide top rib, heavy profile and mint bore, adjustable front and rear target sights, long hammer spur, grooved short straight trigger, lever style auto ejector, excellent checkered Walnut one piece target grips, 96% original bright blue with some peppery pitting/spotting on sides of barrel, appears to be a 4th variation, excellent function (C&R)\$1265

18-X Harrington & Richardson .22 LR “U.S.R.A. Model” Sixth Variation Single Shot Target Auto Pistol with rare 7” wide rib oval shaped barrel, 99 ½% original bright blue, 1/8” ramp blade adjustable front and fully adjustable target style rear sights, square side barrel latch, long trigger spur, short grooved trigger, mint checkered Walnut grips, looks new overall and rare in 7” barrel, collector quality (C&R)\$1875

19-X Harrington & Richardson .22 LR “Sportsman” Singe Action Top Break Target Revolver 6” ribbed barrel with excellent bright bore, 90% original blue with one deeply pitted spot on barrel and pitting on part of cylinder, excellent target grips and sights, excellent function (C&R) . \$375

20-X Harrington & Richardson .32 ACP “H&R Self Loading” Auto Pistol 3 ½” barrel with excellent bright bore, 96% high polish blue with a couple spots of pitting on left side of slide where it was lightly dented, top rear of slide shows some light pitting, fixed sights, nickel plated triggerguard and magazine show 98% finish, trigger shows 98% case color, mint “H&R Arms Co.” logo checkered black hard rubber grips, has both lever and grip safeties, made around 1916 and still works fine (C&R)\$495

21-X High Standard .22 LR “Model B” U.S. Property Marked WW-II Auto Pistol 4 ½” barrel with mint bore, fixed sights, 97% original bright blue with thinning on front and rear straps, mint “HS” logo checkered black hard rubber grips, mint original two tone magazine, frame is marked “Property of U.S” over crossed cannons ordnance wheel, excellent function and super collector quality condition, made in 1943 (C&R)\$895

22-X High Standard .22 LR “Model C” Auto Pistol 6 ¾” barrel with mint bore, fixed sights, 97% original bright blue with initials (jeweler inscribed 3 letters in fancy cursive pattern), on right side of slide, minty full checkered hard rubber grips with “HS” logo in a circle, excellent 10 shot magazine, excellent function, made in 1939 and looks sharp (C&R)\$485

23-X High Standard .22 LR “Model H-B” Auto Pistol 6 ¾” barrel with excellent bright bore, 65% original blue with most loss on barrel, fixed sights, excellent checkered black grips of hard rubber with “HS” logo in a circle, 10 shot solid blue magazine, excellent function, made in 1939 (C&R)\$275

24-X High Standard .22 LR “U.S.A. Model H-D” U.S. Property Marked Auto Pistol 4 ½” bull barrel with mint bore, 97% original polished blue finish, fixed sights, exposed hammer, thumb safety, marked “Property of U.S.” on right side of frame, minty full checkered black hard rubber grips, solid blue “High Standard” marked magazine, made in 1944 and shows little actual use (C&R)\$1095

25-X High Standard .22 LR “U.S.A. Model H-D” U.S. Property Marked WW-II Auto Pistol 4 ½” bull barrel with mint bore, 98% original bright blue finish, fixed sights, spur hammer, thumb safety, “Property of U.S.” over ordnance “crossed cannons” inspection stamp, minty full checkered black plastic grips, mint two tone 10 shot magazine, made in 1943 as a government contract pistol, about as clean as they come, collector quality (C&R)\$1195

26-X High Standard .22 LR “U.S.A. Model H-D” U.S. Property Marked Auto Pistol 4 ½” bull barrel with mint bore, fixed sights, spur hammer, 95% original bright blue with light peppery pitting on left side of slide and small scattered patches scattered about, marked “Property of U.S.” over ordnance “crossed cannon” inspection proof, minty full checkered black plastic grips, excellent two tone 10 shot magazine, made in 1944, very good function and slightly used look (C&R)\$785

27-X Hijos De Echeveria .25 ACP “Automatic Pistol Model” Vest Pocket Auto Pistol 2” barrel with very good bore, 90% original blue, “lion” proofed slide and frame, fancy “cal. 6.35” logo checkered hard rubber grips, looks and functions very well (C&R)\$235

28-X Hopkins and Allen Arms Co. .32 S&W Short “Safety Police Model” Hammer Top Break Revolver 3” ribbed barrel with very good bright bore, 97% original bright nickel and case colors, blue on triggerguard has gone gray, mint “H&A” logo checkered black hard rubber grips, unique “dropping hammer” safety feature, excellent function, sharp looker, (serial number under grip and matching) (C&R)\$285

29-X Iver Johnson .32 S&W Short “Safety Hammer” Top Break Revolver 3” ribbed barrel with mint bore, 97% original nickel finish starting to freckle on frame, 95% blue and case colors, excellent “owl” logo fancy checkered hard rubber grips, works fine in double and single action, nice looking 2nd model “hammer the hammer” revolver from the turn of the century (C&R)\$225

30-X Iver Johnson .38 S&W (Not Special) “Safety Hammer” Top Break Revolver 3 ½” ribbed barrel with excellent bright bore with a spot of two of light pitting, 98% bright original nickel and blue with just a bit of flaking on left side of top latch area, 90% case color, matching numbers, mint “owl” logo fancy hard rubber grips, excellent function (C&R)\$285

31-X Japanese 8mm Nambu “Type 14” Pre-WW-II Auto Pistol 4 ½” barrel with excellent bright bore, fixed sights, 95% original blue and 90% straw color with some very fine peppery pitting scattered about, all matching including correct style and type aluminum bottom magazine, slant grooved Asian hardwood grips are very good but unnumbered, “13.1 Showa” dated (January 1938), excellent function, very nice looking and all original, “Nagoya/Kokubunki” manufacture made in small trigger guard configuration (C&R)\$1295

32-X Japanese 8mm Nambu “Type 14” Pre-WW-II Auto Pistol 4 ½” barrel with excellent bright bore, “Nagoya/Kokubunji” marked with “14.9 Showa” (Sept. 1939), 97% original bright blue with some minor pin prick pitting, 70% original straw color, fixed sights, all matching numbers including magazine and very good slant groove Asian hardwood grips, very nice looking overall with excellent function and all original in small trigger guard configuration (C&R)\$1325

33-X Japanese 8mm Nambu “Type 14” Pre-WW-II Auto Pistol 4 ½” barrel with excellent bright bore, fixed sights, 96% original bright blue with a tiny amount of light spotty pitting, 60% original straw color missing mostly on the safety “Nagoya/Kokubunji” marked and 13.4 dated (April 1938) frame, all matching numbers except correct style and type nickel plated aluminum bottom magazine, excellent slant grooved Asian hardwood grips appear to be pencil numbered with matching numbers, excellent function and fine looking (C&R)\$1195

34-X Japanese 8mm Nambu “Type 14” Pre-WW-II Small Trigger Guard Auto Pistol 4 ½” barrel with very good bright bore, 90% original blue dulling from overall light peppery pitting, all matching numbers on metal, mismatched on slant groove Asian hardwood grips and nickel plated aluminum bottom magazine, little or no straw color, excellent function, “Showa 7.8” dated (August 1932) and is very respectable looking, pre-war small trigger guard pistol (C&R)\$1075

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53-X Smith & Wesson .38 S&W "38 Safety Hammerless 4th Model" Top Break Revolver 3 1/4" ribbed barrel with good strong, bright but lightly pitted bore, 97% original bright nickel finish and blued trigger guard and case color on trigger, "T" type lift up top latch, grip safety, all matching numbers except for grips which are a beautiful pair of checkered Walnut, diamond center round butts from a later "I" frame with silver S&W medallions, excellent function, made around 1900 (C&R)\$475

54-X Smith & Wesson .38 S&W (Not Special) "Regulation Police" Double Action Revolver 4" pinned barrel with mint bore, 5 screw pre war "I" frame, 98% original blue with a few light spots of scattered pits, all matching numbers with unnumbered square butt non-medallion, diamond center Walnut checkered grips on a round butt frame (correct style of assembly, serial number on front strap because of this style of construction, excellent function and super looking, collector quality (C&R)\$785

55-X Smith & Wesson .45 ACP "Model 1917" WW-I Double Action Revolver 5 1/2" barrel with excellent bright bore, fixed sights, 95% original blue and case color, U.S. flaming bomb proof on frame and "U.S. Property" marked on bottom of barrel, all matching numbers including pencil numbered, excellent smooth Walnut grips, lanyard at butt, excellent function, just shows a little scattered light pitting on sharp edges (C&R)\$895

56-X Star 9mm Para "Model B Super" Auto Pistol 5" barrel with mint bore, 99 1/2% original blue, (2) white dot fixed sights, loaded chamber indicator, look and feel of a 1911A1 Colt without the grip safety, mint checkered brown plastic grips, lanyard ring at left lower corner, mint original magazine, looks and functions as new\$395

57-X Star 9mm Para "Model Super B" Clip Feed Auto Pistol 5" barrel with mint bore, 98% original blue, safety, slide release, magazine release and barrel takedown all show flat parkerized gray finish, fixed sights, oversized Walnut target grips with thumbrest, "F-2" date code, comes with two original magazines, original blue hard case with correct matching side label, manufactured 1986\$445

58-X Steyr-Hann 9mm Steyr "Model 1912" Stripper Clip Loaded Auto Pistol 5" barrel with excellent bright bore, 98% original bright blue, faded straw color on small parts, fixed sights, minty checkered Walnut grips, lanyard at butt, dated 1917 with "K" inspector marked frame, slide and small parts, excellent function, best I've seen (C&R)\$1395

59-X Walther .380 ACP "Model PPK" Stainless Auto Pistol 3.3" barrel with mint bore, all stainless construction with as new polished and matte finish surfaces, (3) red dot fixed sights, mint checkered black Walther logo grips, imported by Smith & Wesson, excellent function, as new in original hinged black plastic case with (2) stainless magazines (1) flat bottom and one finger rest with all paperwork, made around 2001\$565

CENTERFIRE RIFLES

60-X Beretta 9mm "Model CX4 Storm" Clip Feed High Capacity Auto Carbine 16.6" barrel with mint bore, 99% original matte black finish, adjustable factory open sights plus long Picatinny rail on top, minty tactical one piece synthetic thumbhole pistol grip stock, Q.D. swivels and nylon sling, as new in original black plastic case with (2) 15 shot magazines, rear butt spacers, cleaning kit, manuals and all factory accessories, takes Beretta pistol magazines and 10 shot varieties are available\$750

61-X Brazilian, DWM 7mm Mauser "Model 1908" Bolt Rifle 29 1/2" barrel with mint bore, inverted "V" front sight, tangent rear sight graduated to 2000 meters, 97% arsenal blue, showing sharp edge wear along magazine base plate and triggerguard and some thinning to gray along front barrel band/bayonet lug, receiver and bolt are in the white with receiver ring showing a Brazilian national crest, all serial parts are matching, smooth Walnut straight grip stock painted "143" on left side of buttstock, cleaning rod, sling swivels, buttplate all correct to rifle, manufactured 1908-1968 (C&R)\$955

62-X Brazilian 7mm "Model 1908" Mauser Bolt Rifle 30" barrel with fair but pitted bore, barrel shows 95% blue with scattered pin prick pitting, bolt and receiver show bright white, receiver ring has a nice Brazilian national crest, front inverted "V" sight with protected barrel cap, tangent rear sight graduated to 2000 meters, floorplate, triggerguard, barrel band, bayonet nose cap all show thinning blue with scattered light peppery pin prick pitting, all matching numbers including stocks, steel buttplate is in the white with heavy pin prick pitting, smooth Walnut semi pistol grip stock and handguard shows light normal use dings and dents (C&R)\$765

63-X Browning / FN/Belgian 30/06 "High Power Safari Grade Model" Bolt Rifle 22" barrel with mint bore, 99% original bright blue, hooded ramp bead front and fully adjustable folding open rear sights, factory drilled, tapped and plugged for scope bases, sliding side safety minty figured dark Walnut pistol grip stock with cut checkering, Monte Carlo, cheekpiece and vent rubber recoil pad, factory engraved push button release floorplate, a real sharp looking model in 1967 (C&R)\$1095

64-X B.S.A. / Herters .300 Winchester Magnum "Deluxe" Bolt Rifle 24" sporter weight barrel with mint bore, 95% original bright blue spoiled by one patch of pitting on left side of barrel near muzzle (about 1 2/" long and 1/2" wide), no open sights but has a Tasco 4-16x40mm scope mounted on receiver, nice Walnut pistol grip stock with cut checkering, grip cap, of contrasting wood, forend tip of contrasting wood, Monte Carlo, cheekpiece, factory installed vent rubber recoil pad and swivel "eyes", Damascened bolt, sliding side safety and push button release hinged floorplate, wood shows lots of woods carry wear of finish loss and dings and dents, nice trigger pull and smooth operation, good quality, low price (C&R)\$495

65-X Enfield .303 British "No. 1 MK IV" WW-II Bolt Rifle 25 1/4" barrel with very good bright bore with a counter bore of approximately 1 1/2" to improve accuracy, 90%+ arsenal rebuild blue, late style flip up (2) position rear sight and wing protected blade front sight, good rebuilt wood with brass buttplate, right side disk and sling swivels, missing stacking swivel un-numbered bolt, excellent function with parkerized 10 shot magazine (C&R)\$365

66-X Enfield .303 British "No. 5 MK I / Jungle Carbine" Bolt Carbine 20 1/2" barrel with bright excellent bore, original flashider, 80% original black paint finish, side of receiver dated "6/45", good buttstock with rubber bumper pad, matching bolt, excellent function, a nice representative WW-II dated jungle carbine, lightly sporterized by removing upper handguard, cutting and removing forend wood at barrel band (no band) (C&R)\$895

67-X Enfield .303 British "No. 5 MK I" Jungle Carbine Bolt Rifle 20 1/2" barrel with very good bright but lightly frosted bore, 90% blue finish, flashider on barrel, lightly sporterized with bayonet lug fixture cut down and remnants of drilled, tapped and plugged front receiver, all original sights with flip rear graduated to 800 yards and peep wing protected front sight, good original wood with a repaired crack at upper tang, rubber bump pad at rear, excellent function and nice looking Fazakerly produced carbine (C&R)\$715

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83-X Yugoslavian 8mm Mauser “Model 48” Bolt Rifle 24” barrel with mint bore, 98%+ original blue, bolt is in the white, original “ear” protected front inverted “V” post sight and tangent rear sight graduated to 2000 meters, receiver ring shows crisp Yugoslavian crest and “M48”, matching numbers, cleaning rod, original leather sling, laminated hardwood semi pistol grip stock, plain steel buttplate, all matching numbers, very nice looking (C&R)\$595

84-X Yugoslavian 8mm Mauser “Model M48” Bolt Rifle 24” barrel with bright excellent bore, hooded inverted “V” front sight with tangent rear sight, 97%+ arsenal blue finish, all serialized parts are matching, Burch straight grip stock with dark stain, toe line shows small arsenal repair, stock shows proof marks along with a proof mark on the repair patch, stock is also serialized to rifle, cupped bright steel buttplate, metal surfaces show light scattered surface pin prick pitting, comes with leather sling and cleaning rod, excellent function, manufactured 1950-1952 (C&R)\$575

RIMFIRE RIFLES

85-X Browning .22 LR “T-Bolt” Sporter Clip Feed Bolt Rifle 22” barrel with mint bore, 99%+ original blue finish, gold finish on trigger, no open sights but has receiver mounted scope blocks, rear tang safety, checkered colorful Walnut pistol grip stock showing light scratches, small chip on left side of pistol grip, black plastic Browning logo buttplate, Q.D. sling swivels, excellent function, comes with one 10 shot double helix rotary magazine, manufactured 2008-2019\$685

86-X Ithaca .22 LR “Model X5-C Lightning” Clip Feed Auto Rifle 22” barrel with mint bore, factory orange “ray bar” front and sporting open rear sights, 97% original bright blue, very good dark Walnut pistol grip stock with serrated black plastic logo buttplate, missing it’s magazine, excellent function\$295

87-X Iver Johnson (Erma Werke Waffanfabrik) .22 LR “Model M-1 US” Clip feed Auto Carbine 17 ¾” barrel with mint bore, 99% original blue finish, “ear” protected front sight, adjustable “peep” rear sight, smooth Walnut pistol grip stock with steel buttplate, front barrel band with sling swivel, comes with one 10 round magazine and original box with correct end label and paperwork inside, manufactured 1986-1989\$495

88-X J. C. Higgins .22 LR “Model 29” Tube Feed Auto Rifle 24” barrel with mint bore, front raised blade sight, rear sight missing, open dovetail on barrel, grooved receiver with “RWS” model 200” 3-7x20mm scope, with duplex reticle and slightly foggy optics, 90% original blue on metal, wood shows scattered flaking of old lacquer that was applied over two piece Walnut pistol grip stock, J.C. Higgins logo black plastic buttplate, excellent function (C&R)\$195

89-X Marlin .22 L & LR “Model 81” Tube Feed Bolt Rifle 22” barrel with mint bore, 98%+ original blue, factory open sights plus grooved receiver, minty Walnut pistol grip stock with logo black plastic buttplate, looks and functions as new (C&R)\$195

90-X Marlin .22 S, L & LR “Model 39” Early Production Lever Rifle 24” octagon barrel with excellent bright bore, 97% original blue on barrel, magazine tube, forend tip, bolt and hammer, receiver shows 95%+ slightly faded case color, while case colored lever shows 70% faded color, factory dovetail brass bead front and sporting open rear sights are excellent plus factory drilled, tapped and plugged upper tang for tang sights (none provided) with “star” marking, all screw heads show brilliant blue and untouched slots, very good+ dark Walnut, lightly figured pistol grip stock with “S” shaped bottom of grip, good logo hard rubber buttplate with a crack and some crushed diamonds in checkering at toe, Marlin signature “bulls eye” in toeline of stock, overall a wonderful looking early “39” with wood that shows range use and poor storage, made around 1925, collector quality (C&R)\$3250

91-X Marlin .22 S, L & LR “Model Golden 39-A” Lever Rifle 24” barrel with excellent bright bore, factory sporting style open sights (missing front hood) plus a period Weaver “D6” scope in Weaver rings and one piece rail, 98% of a good quality refinish blue, excellent refinished Walnut pistol grip stock with replacement “Herters” plastic buttplate, excellent smooth function, made around 1947 (C&R)\$695

92-X Marlin .22 S, L & LR “Model Golden 39-A Mountie” Lever Rifle 20” barrel with mint bore, 99% original bright blue, hooded ramp bead front and sporting open rear sights plus factory drilled, tapped and plugged for scope base on top of receiver and side of receiver for peep sight, “micro groove” rifling, minty Walnut straight grip stock with checkered black plastic logo buttplate, fluted comb and factory swivels missing the Marlin “bulls eye” in toeline of buttstock, made in 1958 and looks near new, collector quality (C&R)\$1095

93-X Marlin .22 S, L & LR “Model Golden 39-A” Lever Carbine 20” barrel with mint bore and “Ballard” rifling, factory hood ramp bead front and sporting open rear sights plus factory drilled, tapped and plugged for receiver sights on left side, not factory drilled and tapped for scope base as this is a 1954 made carbine, 99% original bright blue, minty lightly figured Walnut straight grip stock with fluted comb and checkered black plastic logo buttplate, excellent function, appears to be a 3rd model 2nd variation, missing its signature “bulls eye” in toeline of stock, shows as near new overall, collector quality (C&R)\$1295

94-X Mauser .22 LR “Model MS420” Clip Feed Pre War Bolt Rifle 25 ½” barrel with excellent bright bore but showing a shallow “ring” about 3” from muzzle, 80% faded splotchy blue on barrel, light bluish gray Mauser banner receiver with factory groove, rear tangent 200 meter sight has a dual aperture “V” notch and “U” notch aperture along with screw adjustable windage front sight has been removed (originally soldered in place) and ready for a new ramp style base, excellent dark figured Walnut, checkered round knob pistol grip stock has a Mauser roundel cartouche, finger groove forend and broken fancy Mauser logo hard rubber buttplate (toe of plate is broken and replaced with non original piece), factory swivels, excellent function, nice looking but really needs front sight, matching numbers with “DRP DRGM” pre war markings along with “BU”, 5 shot magazine (C&R)\$1200

95-X Mauser .22 LR “Model ES-340” Single Shot Bolt Rifle 25” barrel with excellent bore, 90% original blue thinning to gray/brown, front invert “V” raised ramp sight, rear tangent sight graduated to 200 meters, grooved receiver, all matching numbers, round knob style checkered pistol grip stock with finger groove forend, stock shows dings and dents, scratches on grooves from handling, comes with leather sling, Mauser hard rubber buttplate shows damage to left side, looks like melted or poor repair job, manufactured pre 1935 (C&R)\$575

96-X Mauser .22 LR “Model ES340” Single Shot Bolt Rifle 25 ½” barrel with excellent bright bore, replaceable insert blade front sight, tangent rear open sights graduated to 200 meters, 96%+ slightly faded original blue, Mauser banner logo on grooved receiver, barrel marked “DRP DRGM” pre war “BUG”, very good Walnut pistol grip stock with Mauser roundel banner cartouche, steel Mauser banner buttplate and sling swivels, very nice looking with nicks, dings and scrapes in wood, excellent function (C&R)\$699

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97-X Mossberg .22 S, L, & LR "Model 46-B" Tube Feed Bolt Rifle 26" barrel with mint bore, 97% original blue with light scratches, 70% case colors on bolt handle, sights have been removed and plugged, receiver mounted scope base with attached Tasco 3-9x32mm duplex reticle scope, crisp clear optics, rear swing out aperture sight has been removed, smooth Walnut pistol grip stock with cheekpiece, black plastic buttplate and finger groove triggerguard, "fire / safe" jewels missing and painted red and green, replacement sling swivels, excellent function, manufactured 1938-1945 (C&R) \$195

98-X Mossberg .22 S, L, & LR "Model 46-B" Tube Feed Bolt Rifle 26" barrel with bright excellent bore, 95% original blue, some thinning along barrel with peppery pin prick pitting along both receiver and barrel, multi aperture front sight with no hood, Dockendorfer style Mossberg 2A rear sight and Mossberg No.4 swing out aperture sight, receiver drilled and tapped for scope base, smooth Walnut pistol grip stock with cheekpiece, black finger groove triggerguard that is broken along finger groove, no sling swivels, black serrated buttplate, excellent function, manufactured 1938-1935 (C&R)\$195

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

100-X Remington .22 S, L, & LR "Model 552 BDL Deluxe Speedmaster" Tube Feed Auto Rifle
21" barrel with mint bore, 99%+ original bright blue, factory "shark fin" front sight and fully adjustable open rear sights, grooved receiver, factory shell deflector, mint figured dark Walnut pistol grip stock with fancy impress checkering, logo grip cap and logo black plastic buttplate, looks and functions as new, super looker, made in 1987 \$595

101-X Remington .22 Rem Auto "Model 16" Butt Tube Feed Auto Rifle 22" barrel with excellent bore, factory original sporting open sights, 95% original blue taking on a brown tinge and silvering on sharp edges, good Walnut straight grip stock with a very old crack on left side running from tang about 3 1/2" and a crack on right side starting at rear of receiver and going back about 7", switch type safety inside triggerguard, factory drilled, tapped and plugged for tang sight, excellent function, made around 1995\$895

102-X Remington .22 S, L, & LR "Model 341-P / Sportmaster" Tube Feed Target Bolt Rifle
 24" barrel with mint bore, hooded ramp replaceable insert front sight and factory installed fully adjustable "peep" rear sight (no rear dovetail on barrel), 98% original blue, bright finished bolt shows some factory case color on body, very good+ Walnut pistol grip stock with checkered logo hard rubber buttplate, excellent function, made in 1937 (first year) (C&R)\$375

103-X Remington 22 S, L, & LR "Model 511 Scoremaster" Clip Feed Bolt Rifle 25" barrel with mint bore, factory open sporting sights, 98% original blue with 98% case color on bolt, minty lightly figured Walnut pistol grip stock with checkered black logo hard rubber buttplate, excellent function, made in 1942 and looks un-used (C&R)\$325

104-X Remington .22 S, L, & LR "Model 512 Sportmaster" Tube Feed Bolt Rifle 25" barrel with mint bore, 98% original blue, factory sporting open sights plus a period Weaver V-22 scope in Weaver rings on factory grooved receiver, very good dark Walnut pistol grip stock with checkered black plastic logo buttplate and sling swivels, lots of original case color on bolt, excellent function, made around 1960 and shows only light field use (C&R)\$325

105-X Remington .22 S, L, & LR "Model 12" Pump Rifle 22" barrel with good bright but pitted bore, factory sporting open sights, 80% of an old refinish blue, dark Walnut straight grip stock with a good size chipout at upper right side tang, missing original buttplate, slide handle is bullet shaped circular grooved Walnut in good condition but missing (1) attachment screw and fitted with (1) replacement screw, still works fine for parts or restoration (C&R)\$280

106-X Savage .22 S, L, & LR "Model 25" Pump Rifle 24" octagon barrel with very good bore, 95% original blue just thinning a bit, Rocky Mountain silver blade front and sporting open rear sights, good serviceable Walnut pistol grip stock that was broken at wrist and hastily repaired, logo smooth steel buttplate, excellent circular grooved pump handle, excellent function (C&R)\$235

107-X Sears / Roebuck .22 LR "Model 6C" Sears number /273.528132" Clip Feed Auto Rifle 20" barrel with bright excellent bore, 98% original blue, factory sporting open sights plus grooved receiver, smooth Walnut pistol grip stock with serrated plastic buttplate, plastic triggerguard, stock shows dings, dents and normal wear, missing magazine, manufactured in Canada, by Winchester / Cooley 64B rifle for Sears sales, manufactured in 1975-1977\$150

108-X Springfield .22 LR / .410 Gauge "Model M6 Survival" Over / Under Combo Gun 18 1/4" barrel with mint bores, 99%+ original parkerized finish, blade front and dual aperture rear sights, (V notch and peep) all metal construction, rubber covered top of comb on buttstock opens to expose ammo storage for 15 rounds on .22LR and 4 rounds of .410 shot shells, as new overall in original box with outer shipping sleeve.....\$965

109-X Stevens .22 LR "Model No. 14 1/2 Little Scout" Rolling Block Single Shot Rifle 18" barrel
with good strong but pitted bore, 97% slightly faded original blue and case colored receiver,
excellent straight grip stock with blued steel buttplate and matching small forend, excellent
function, very hard to find in this condition, collector quality (C&R)\$495

110-X Stevens .22 S, L & LR "Visible Loading" Pump Rifle 20" barrel with dark pitted bore, excellent pump handle, straight grip stock has a large chipout on left side of upper tang, excellent original hard rubber buttplate, original open sights with modification to rear, all there and working but held together with hardware store nuts and bolts, magazine tuber present, metal is mostly light brown, parts gun or restore\$105

111-X Weatherby .22 LR "Model XXII" Clip Feed Auto Rifle 24" barrel with bright excellent bore, 98% original blue and black anodized finish, ramp front sight and express folding leaf rear sight, hood is missing, grooved receiver and mounted with original Weatherby 4x50 MK XX II Scope, scope has plain crosshairs, crisp, clear optics, Walnut Monte Carlo pistol grip stock with skipline cut checkering, cheekpiece, rosewood forend tip, grip cap both with white line spacers, factory rubber buttpad with white and black spacers, sling swivel "eyes", comes with one 5 round magazine, excellent function, stock shows dings and dents, manufactured in Italy by Beretta 1964-1971 (C&R)\$825

112-X Weatherby .22 LR "Model MK XXII" Tube Feed Auto Rifle 24" barrel with mint bore, 98%+ original blue, front raised ramp blade sight (no hood), sporting open 3 leaf folding rear sight, grooved receiver with "Weatherby 4x50 MK XXII scope", scope has plain crosshair reticule with crisp clear optics, skip-line checkered figured Walnut pistol grip Monte Carlo stock with cheekpiece, Rosewood forend tip, pistol grip cap and factory brown rubber butt pad, one small scratch on left side of stock, sling swivels, excellent function, manufactured in Japan 1973-1980 \$1145

113-X Winchester .22 LR "Model 74" Butt Tube Feed Auto Rifle 22" barrel with mint bore, 98%+ original bright blue, factory open sporting sights, "pop out" bolt, minty lightly figured dark Walnut pistol grip stock with checkered blued steel buttplate, near new overall, collector quality, made in 1953 (C&R)\$395

114-X Winchester .22 LR "Model 77" Clip Feed Auto Rifle 22" barrel with mint bore, 99%+ original bright blue, factory open sporting sights plus grooved receiver with period Weaver "J4" scope in Weaver mount, minty dark figured Walnut pistol grip stock with logo plastic buttplate, 7 shot magazine, looks and functions as new, collector quality, made around 1958 (C&R) \$365

115-X Winchester .22 S, L, & LR "Model 62A" Pump Rifle 23" barrel with mint bore, 97% original bright blue, factory open sights, excellent Walnut straight grip stock with logo plastic buttplate, flat bottom serrated slide handle, all factory markings are correct but serial number is way out of range for this model, last known numbers were in the 400,000 range, this rifle is in the 800,000 range, probably an older "cleanup" gun from parts inventory, Winchester did the same thing with the models 1890 and 1906 but this is the first one I've seen in the modern series, still very nice looking and slick function (C&R)\$695

116-X Winchester .22 Short "Model 1890" Pump Rifle 24" octagon barrel with very good lightly pitted bore, original open sporting sights, 95% original barrel blue with nice crisp clear markings, receiver shows about 60% scratchy blue with bolt and tangs going a gray/brown, very good dark nicely grained Walnut straight grip stock with steel crescent buttplate, excellent small circular ribbed slide hammer, excellent function, made in 1920 (C&R)\$695

117-X Winchester .22 Winchester Magnum "Model 9422M" Lever Carbine 20" barrel with mint bore, 96% original bright blue with some light scratches on receiver, ramp bead front (missing hood and bead) and sporting open adjustable rear with over bent elevation arm, excellent lightly figured Walnut straight grip stock with checkered black plastic logo buttplate, works fine, manufactured 1975 (C&R) **\$985**

SHOTGUNS

118-X Harrington & Richardson .410 Gauge Standard Light Weight Model Single Shot Break Open Shotgun 26" barrel with excellent bright bore, 3" chamber, fixed full choke , 95% original blue showing light peppery pin pricking, receiver shows 60% factory "tiger stripe" style case coloring with gray tone, hammer, ejector, barrel latch is at 12 o'clock, smooth Walnut pistol grip stock and forend wood, hard rubber H&R buttplate with a chip missing at toe, manufactured 1916-1943 (C&R)\$265

119-X Ithaca 12 Gauge "Model 600 Boxlock" Over/Under Shotgun 26" vent rib barrels with bright excellent bores, 2 ¾" chambers, improved cylinder and modified fixed chokes, 97% original blue with light high edge wear along the engraved receiver, barrels show some light thinning and light pin pricking, "High Viz" orange front bead, silver mid bead sight, greener safety, ejectors, single selective trigger, tang safety, checkered Walnut pistol grip stock with grip cap, brown rubber vented Pachmayr buttpad, checkered forend wood with latch style release excellent function.....\$745

120-X Ithaca 20 Gauge "Model 37 Ultra Featherlight" Pump 2 Barrel Shotgun 26" vent rib barrel with excellent bright bore and fixed modified choke, factory fiber optic front sight, brass mid bead, 98% original blue, hunting scene engraved receiver, English straight grip stock with checkering and decelerator buttpad, L.O.P. 14 1/4", comes with an extra 25" Ultra Featherlight vent rib barrel with fixed improved cylinder choke and white front bead, very nice overall with excellent smooth function and bottom ejection.....\$695

121-X Iver Johnson 12 Gauge "Hercules Grade" Boxlock Special Order Side by Side Shotgun 32"
barrels with raised rob, 2 ¾" chambers and fixed full chokes, excellent bright bores, 90%+ original barrel blue going a bit brown and showing some light peppery pitting, receiver is a mottled gray/blue case colored boxlock type with hunting dog engraved on left side, double triggers, extractors and auto safety, excellent dark Walnut checkered pistol grip stock with logo hard rubber grip cap and "owl" Iver Johnson logo hard rubber buttplate, splinter style checkered forend is very good with a little denting, very nice looking special order Hercules Grade (32" barrels) with excellent function, made around 1930 and is a classical side by side of the era (C&R)\$895

122-X Mitchell / High Standard 12 Gauge "Model 9801-B" Pump Tactical Shotgun 20" plain barrel with excellent bore, 2 3/4" chamber and fixed cylinder choke, extended magazine is 20" long, 95% original blue, brass bead front sight, hardwood pistol grip buttstock is factory painted black as is the circular grooved pump handle, works fine, just a good utility pump with paint worn off bottom of pump handle \$185

123-X Mossberg 12 Gauge "Model 835 ULTI-MAG" Pump Shotgun 28" vent rib barrel, Accu-mag extra full choke tube, 3 1/2" chamber with mint bore, front and mid bead sights, receiver factory drilled and tapped for scope bases, 98% matte black and olive drab green factory camo, black synthetic grooved forend and pistol grip stock, L.O.P. 13 3/4", excellent function, comes with it's original Styrofoam carton, no outer sleeve\$295

124-X Mossberg 12 Gauge "Model 835" Pump 2 Barrel Shotgun 24" rifled "slugster" barrel
with excellent bore and 3" chamber, 98% original blue, olive drab camo synthetic stock with
comb pad, factory drilled and tapped receiver, comes with an extra 28" vent rib barrel with screw
in accu-choke system with excellent bore\$325

125-X Sears / Mossberg 12 Gauge "Model 446.511761 (Mossberg 500 ALS)" 2 Barrel Pump Shotgun 18" smooth bore slug barrel with fixed cylinder bore, 2 3/4" chamber with excellent bore, spare 28" plain barrel with fixed modified choke, 2 3/4" chamber with excellent bore, 99% original blue, raised front sight, folding leaf rear sight, top of receiver is factory drilled and taped for scope bases, smooth Walnut pistol grip stock with rubber recoil pad, grooved forend wood, excellent function, manufactured 1977-1980.....\$285

126-X Winchester 12 Gauge "Model 1400" Auto Shotgun 26" plain barrel with bright excellent bore, 2 3/4" chamber, fixed improved cylinder chamber, 98% original blue, receiver shows dings, scratches mostly on left side, single bead front sight, press basket weave checkered pistol grip stock and forend, black plain grip cap, red rubber recoil Winchester pad, excellent function, manufactured 1964-1981.....\$235

127-X Winchester 12 Gauge "Model 12 Heavy Duck" Pump Shotgun 30" plain barrel with very good bright bore with 3" chamber and fixed full choke, 95% fading original blue, very good+ dark Walnut pistol grip stock with red rubber logo factory butt pad with correct 13 5/8" L.O.P., excellent smooth function, made in 1952 (C&R)\$765

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

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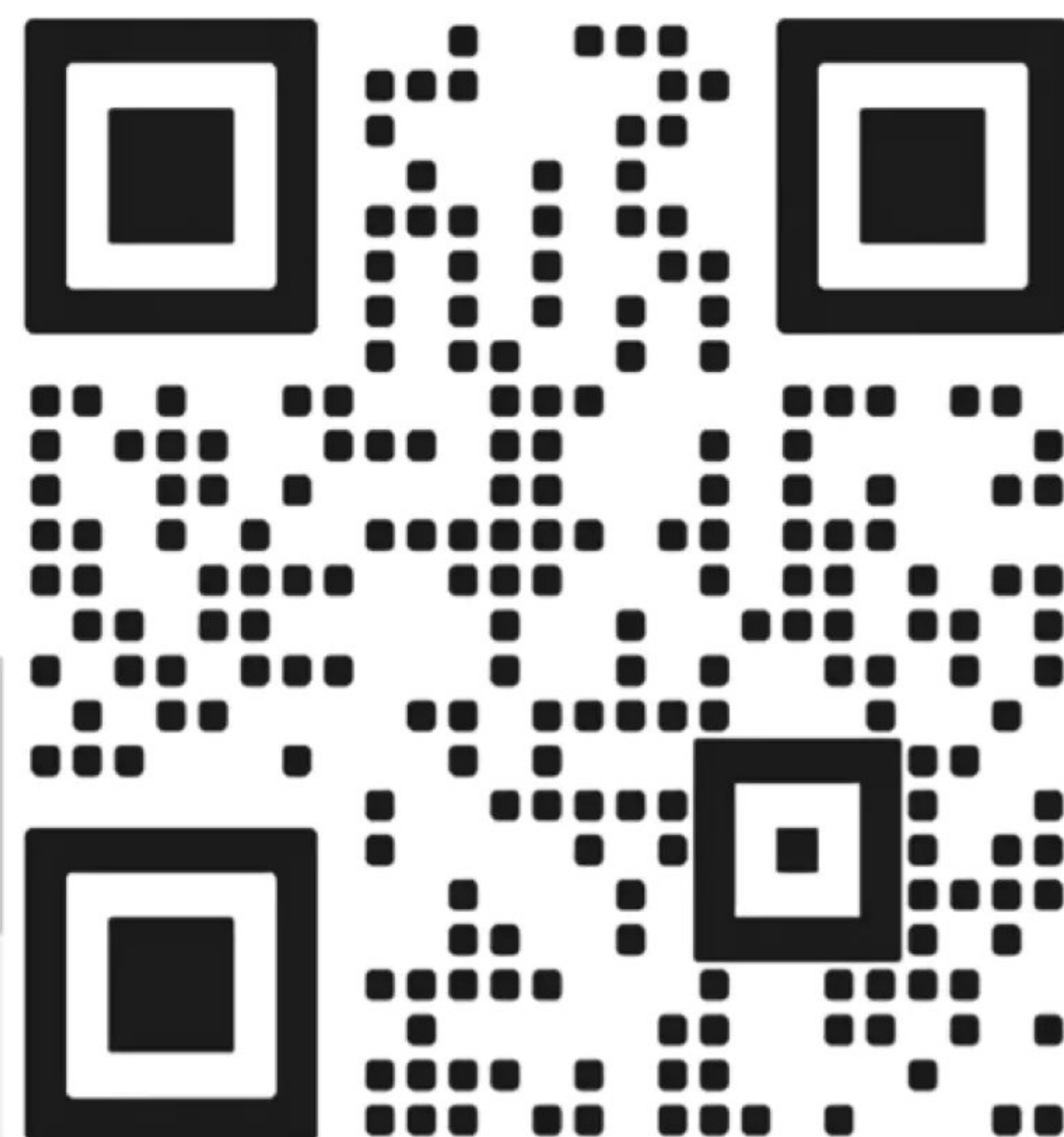
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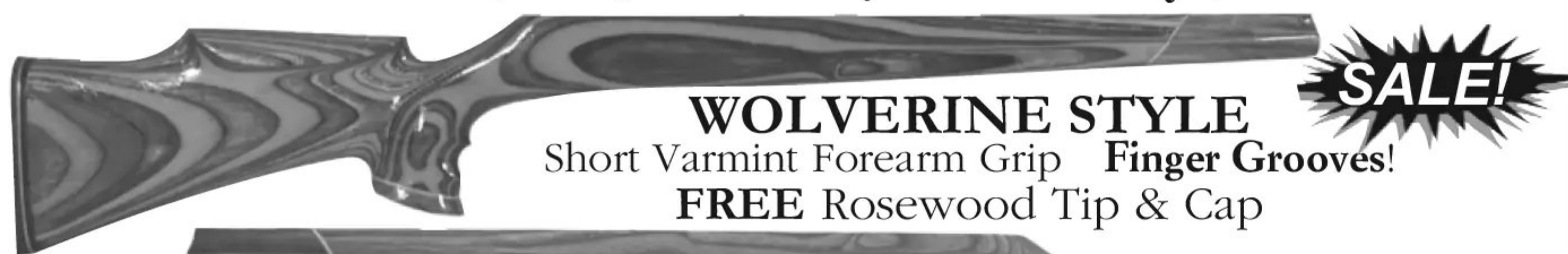
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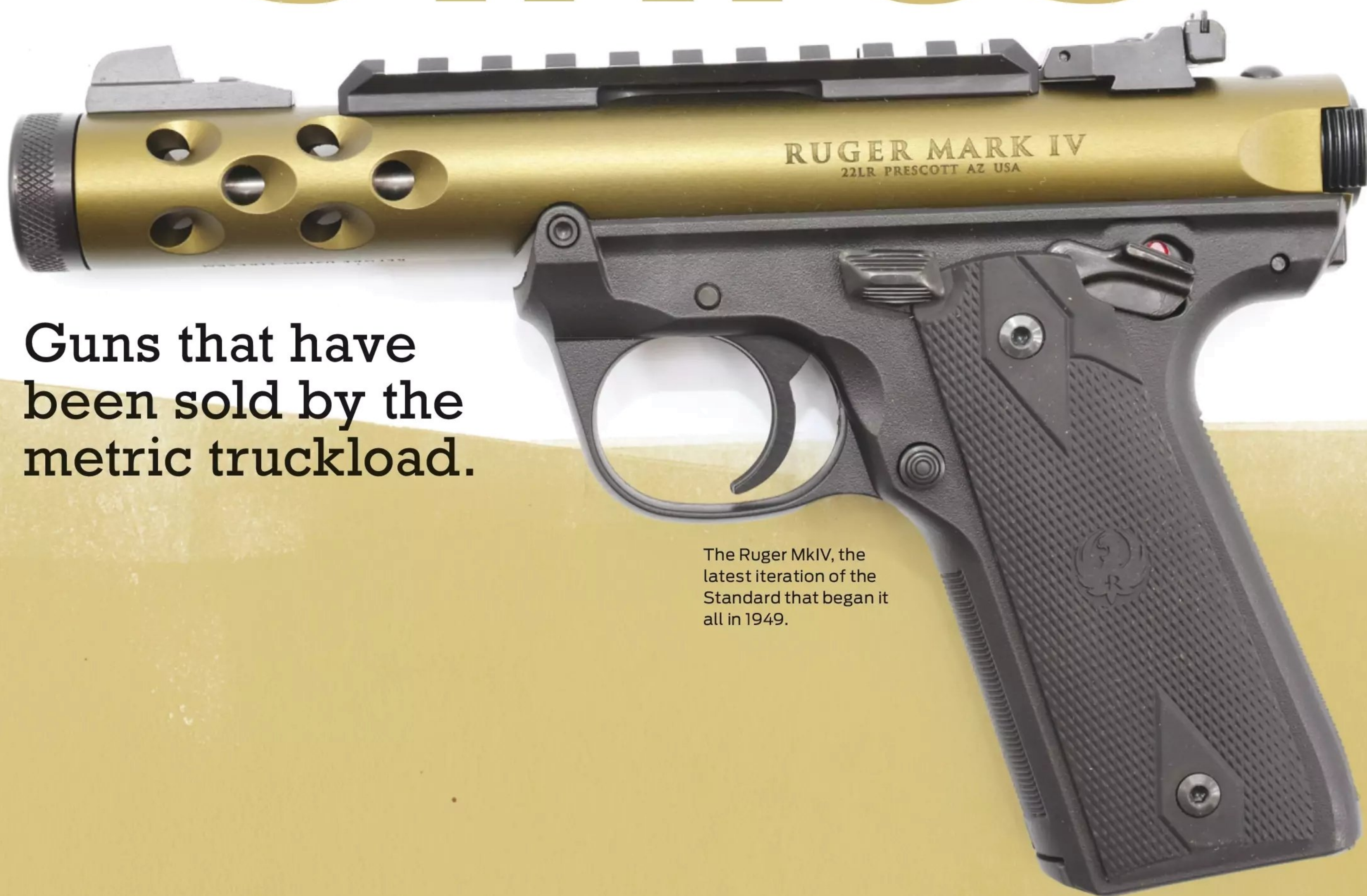


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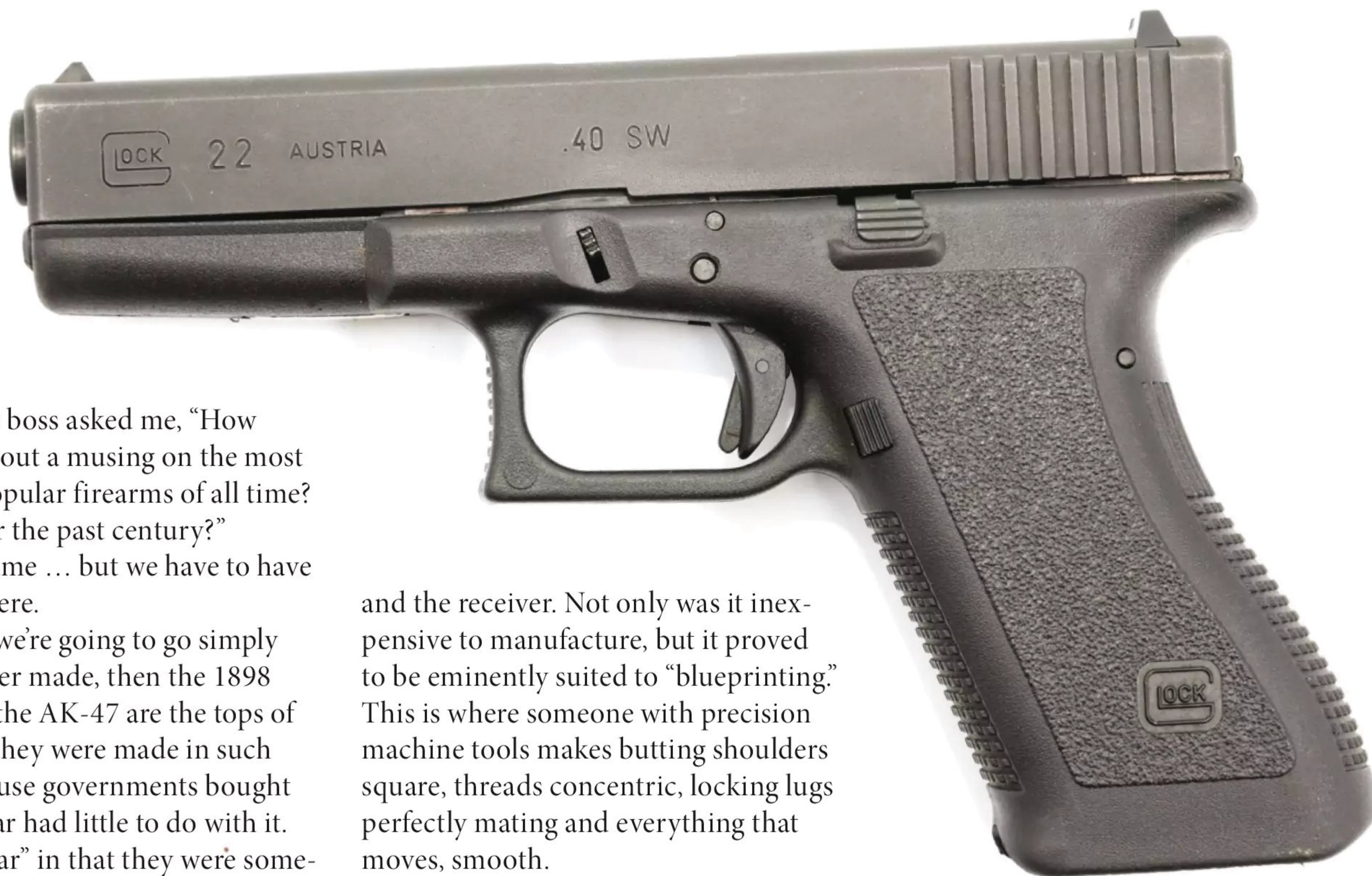
Guns that have
been sold by the
metric truckload.

The Ruger MkIV, the
latest iteration of the
Standard that began it
all in 1949.



The Remington 870 is ultra-reliable. The author has won more than his fair share of loot in various competitions in the decades since he acquired it.

The Glock, in all its variants, has been made for 45 years, and more than 20 million of them are to be found.



The boss asked me, “How about a musing on the most popular firearms of all time? Or the past century?”

OK, I’m game ... but we have to have some rules here.

I mean, if we’re going to go simply by the number made, then the 1898 Mauser and the AK-47 are the tops of the top. But they were made in such volume because governments bought them. Popular had little to do with it.

So, “popular” in that they were something that people reached into their pockets and pulled out their own cash to buy is what we’re looking for here.

I used to work on radio broadcasting, where I first heard the “went platinum” term. That meant 1 million albums and 2 million singles. (There were other limits back in the old days, but the first million-seller was Glenn Miller. Yes, that Glenn Miller.)

So, million-selling firearms that people paid for with their own money. And if not a million, then a whole heck of a lot.

REMINGTON 700

The 700 was an engineering marvel when it came out. Gone was the forged receiver that required a day’s worth of machining operations to craft—instead, a seamless steel tube, broached for rails and locking lugs, and threaded for a barrel. The recoil lug is simply a plate trapped between the screwed-in barrel

and the receiver. Not only was it inexpensive to manufacture, but it proved to be eminently suited to “blueprinting.” This is where someone with precision machine tools makes butting shoulders square, threads concentric, locking lugs perfectly mating and everything that moves, smooth.

Made in the millions (5 at last count), it’s so popular that new, ultra-precision rifles are quick to mention “700 pattern” in the bolt and receiver.

GLOCK

The G17 started it, and the ease of production and low cost meant the Glock was going to be popular—so popular that it seems there is an entire industry devoted to making a close that is better. (And some, perhaps many, are.) Fiercely opaque about many things, the Glock company doesn’t shout out sales figures, but the import numbers have to be recorded by Federal regulation, and the serial numbers give a lot a way as well.

Starting with AAA001, that pattern alone meant they had made 1.7 million by the time they had to change the serial number pattern. Travel anywhere in the world, see a holstered pistol on a police officer, and it’s likely a Glock.

Last I checked, it’s something on the order of 20 million.

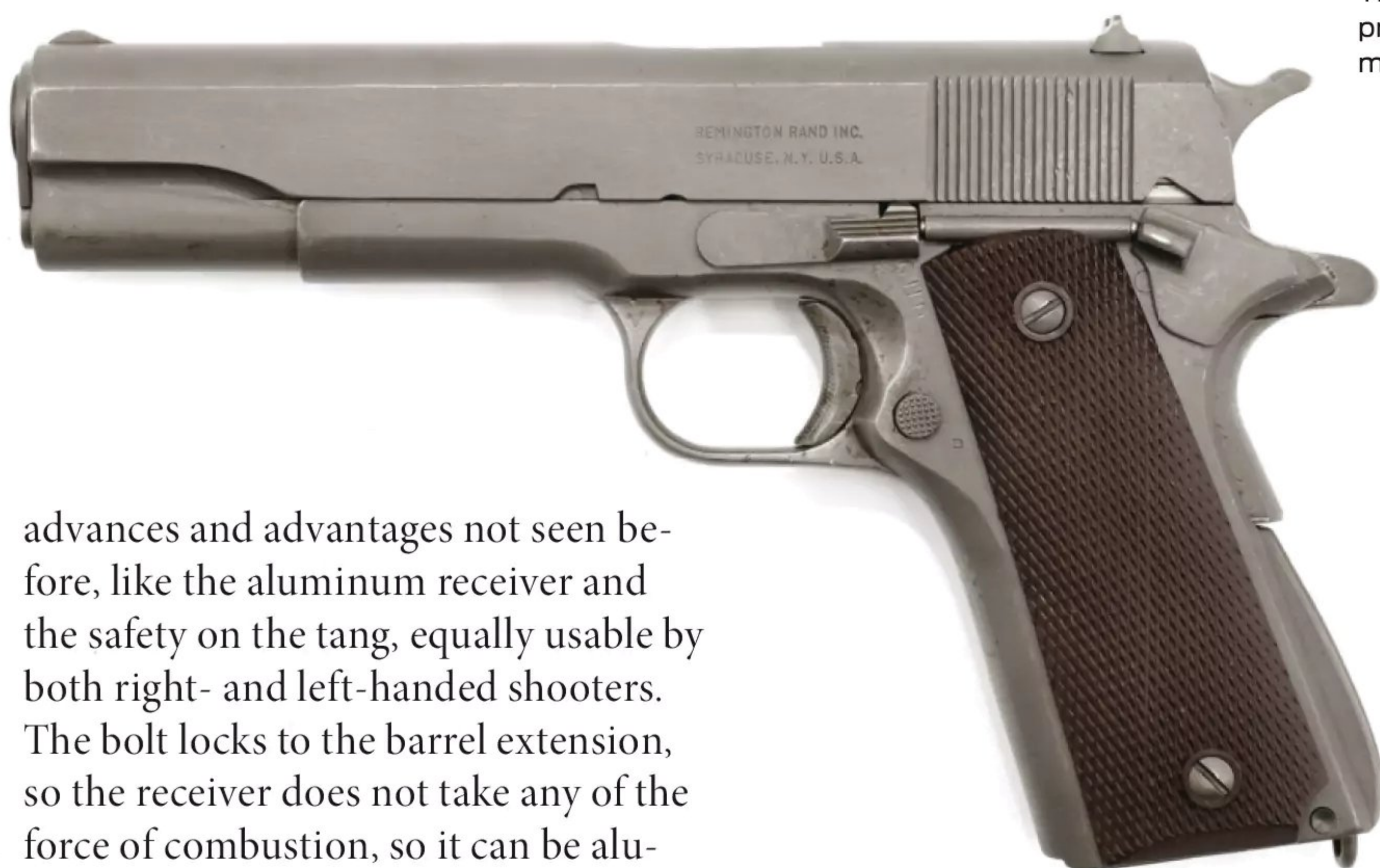
1911

Yes, the government bought a bunch, but then we bought those from the government. The 1911 has been in continual production since it was adopted in 1911, and in the past few decades, there have been more makers of this design than ever before.

So great is the demand that there are manufacturers in Turkey, the Philippines and elsewhere that are making and shipping them to the United States. If you can find a gun shop that doesn’t have a 1911 in the display case made by someone, you have to wonder what they do sell. Ten million? Not unreasonable.

MOSSBERG 500

Starting in 1961, the Mossberg offered



The 1911 and the 1911A1 have been so popular that the production lines have never stopped. And the number of makers has only increased. A 1911 is a forever tool.

advances and advantages not seen before, like the aluminum receiver and the safety on the tang, equally usable by both right- and left-handed shooters. The bolt locks to the barrel extension, so the receiver does not take any of the force of combustion, so it can be aluminum.

And barrels can readily be swapped. Add in the lower cost than the competitors of the time, and it is no wonder Mossberg was a hit, then and now. Then, they were adopted by the U.S. military, and the 500 just kept evolving. Last I heard, more than 12 million have been made ... and more are pouring out.

RUGER 10/22

Before, 10/22 .22 LR semi-autos were finicky, hard to clean, not particularly accurate, and could not be serviced by the owner. The 10/22 changed all that. The rotary magazine made feeding ultra-reliable. The ease of disassembly and cleaning meant even more reli-

ability. And once aftermarket makers figured things out, swapping stocks, barrels and triggers became a winter hobby.

From a short-range plinker, the .22 LR rifle could become a long-range target rifle. I've spent more than one afternoon tagging steel plates at 200 and 300 yards. The platform is so popular that you can now buy all of the parts, none made by Ruger, and assemble your own 10/22. Over 6 million served.



REMINGTON 870

There was a time when "pump shotgun" meant "Remington 870." Before the 870, a spare barrel also had to have the hardware for attaching it to the receiver as part of the swap. That meant extra expense. By locking the bolt to the barrel extension, Remington took forces off of the receiver and could make the barrel swap easier and less expensive.

From riot to Trap, with rib and bead or rifle sights, you could change your 870 almost daily. No wonder they've sold (well before bankruptcy, anyway) 11 million of them.



The Ruger 10/22 is so common that you can even build one from parts, none of which were made by Ruger.



The Remington 700 is a simple manufacturing item, and it can be improved to the point where it is almost a different firearm.

RUGER STANDARD

Now up to the Mk IV, the Ruger pistol was the firearm that made Ruger. Another marvel of engineering efficiency and insight, the Standard was a Colt killer, a High Standard replacement, and a high-enough bar to future competitors that trying to compete is not an easy task. You can't just offer up your take on a .22 LR pistol, and expect prospective buyers to not compare it to the Ruger MkIV next to it in the case. Now, the earlier models had a reassembly trick that was aggravating, but the MkIV solved that. And since it was introduced in 1949, Ruger has made over 3 million of them.



The Mossberg 500 has evolved into the 590, and has been bought by the military because a good shotgun is always a useful tool.



The S&W K Frame, this a Model 14, has been around since 1898 and deservedly so.

S&W K FRAME

The K Frame has been with us since 1898, when S&W unveiled it in .32-20. The next year they added their own cartridge, the .38 S&W Special. The pair have been with us ever since. A K Frame made today, while some parts won't fully interchange, is so much so the same as the first ones made that a pistolsmith who was working in the first Roosevelt era could work on one made yesterday and not be at all out of sync.

The K Frame is perfectly sized for the .38, and it's an ergonomic marvel. If someone has the hand size big enough to handle a firearm at all, and the strength to handle a cartridge at all, they can handle the K Frame in .38 Special. Once fully adopted by police

officers and departments (right after The Great War) it went on to serve for the next 7 decades without being seriously challenged. As a result, there have been some 6 million of them made ... and S&W is still making them.

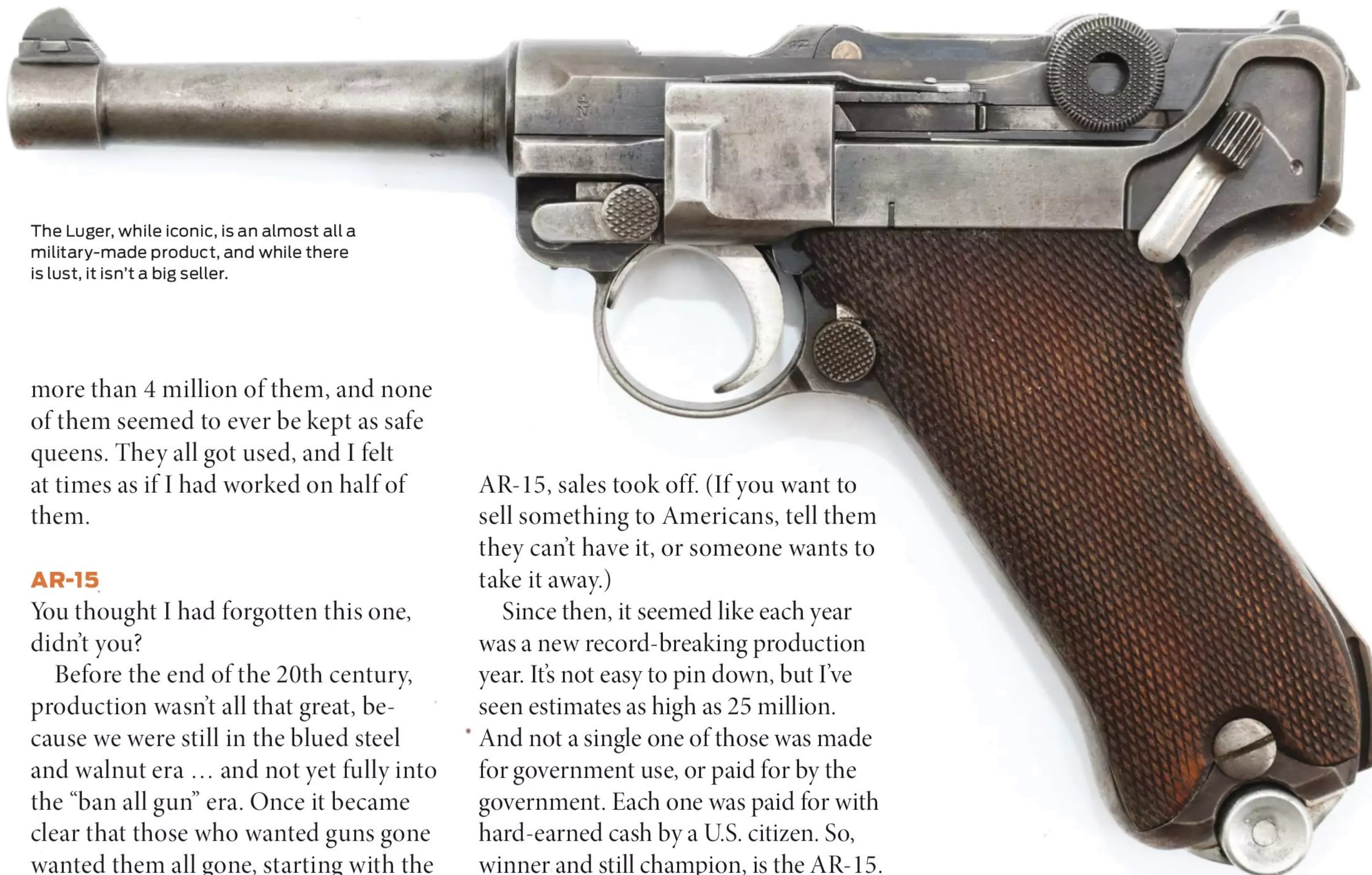


REMINGTON 1100

Before the 1100, auto shotguns were not common. Oh, the Browning Auto 5 was well-known, but it was expensive, it still hammered you in use, and it required some special maintenance in order to work well and not beat itself up. The 1100? Soft-shooting. And, like the 870, it was easy to swap barrels. The 1100 soon ruled the skeet and trap fields, and it was so common in duck and geese blinds that to show up with something else was to require explanations.

As a gunsmith, I could count on the time between Labor Day and Opening Day as "1100 time." They would pour in, needing cleaning, rust removal, parts replacement and cracked wood repairs. Not because they were particularly fragile, but because there were so many, and they often led hard lives. Many were simply stashed away in the closet after duck season, and the next summer emerged needing work.

As to the volume, Remington made



The Luger, while iconic, is an almost all a military-made product, and while there is lust, it isn't a big seller.

more than 4 million of them, and none of them seemed to ever be kept as safe queens. They all got used, and I felt at times as if I had worked on half of them.

AR-15

You thought I had forgotten this one, didn't you?

Before the end of the 20th century, production wasn't all that great, because we were still in the blued steel and walnut era ... and not yet fully into the "ban all gun" era. Once it became clear that those who wanted guns gone wanted them all gone, starting with the

AR-15, sales took off. (If you want to sell something to Americans, tell them they can't have it, or someone wants to take it away.)

Since then, it seemed like each year was a new record-breaking production year. It's not easy to pin down, but I've seen estimates as high as 25 million. And not a single one of those was made for government use, or paid for by the government. Each one was paid for with hard-earned cash by a U.S. citizen. So, winner and still champion, is the AR-15.



The Browning Hi Power is sought-after, but hasn't quite gotten the love that so many other firearms received.

OTHERS

Now there are some that deserve to be mentioned even though they don't quite meet our rules. (Hey, I have to draw the line someplace.)

LUGER

Yes, this is iconic. There were 3 million

made, but the vast majority of them were made for military use. Those that shooters here own were bring-backs, souvenirs and collectibles. No one uses them in target competition. No one uses them in practical shooting matches. No one selects a Luger to use as a daily-carry pistol, or as a home-defense pistol. Oh, I'm sure there are some being used that way, but that's not the norm.

Many look longingly at a Luger, perhaps even lustfully. But few break out their wallet and buy one.

BROWNING HI POWER

Another lustfully desired pistol, but

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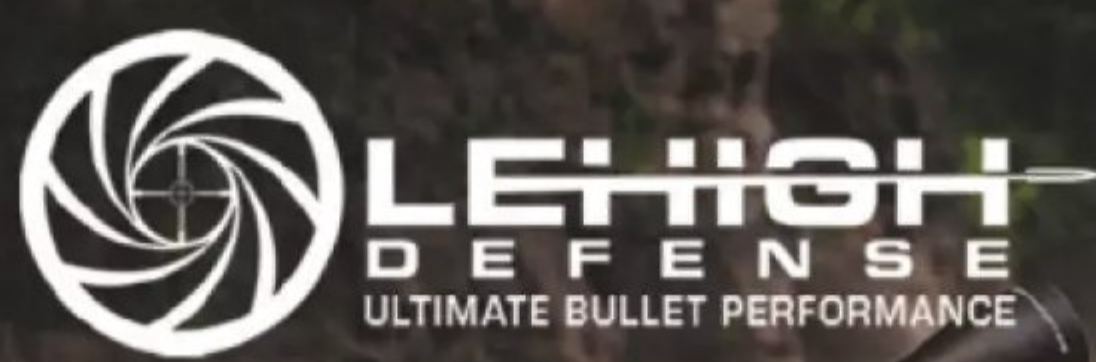


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THE MILITARY EFFECT



And what about the military-production firearms? The numbers are impressive, even a bit staggering. And also broad estimates, due to secrecy and wartime losses.

So, the 1898 Mauser, in all its variants, numbers something like 30 to 40 million.

The AK-47, depending on who you believe, numbers more than 40 million, and perhaps more than 100 million. (No wonder you can't turn over a rock without finding an AK buried under it.)

Mosin-Nagant? Easily more than 30 million.

The M16 lifetime production run is closing in on 20 million, and that doesn't include the AR-15.

Also: Lee-Enfield, FAL, G3, Arisakas and Garands ... all in the millions each.

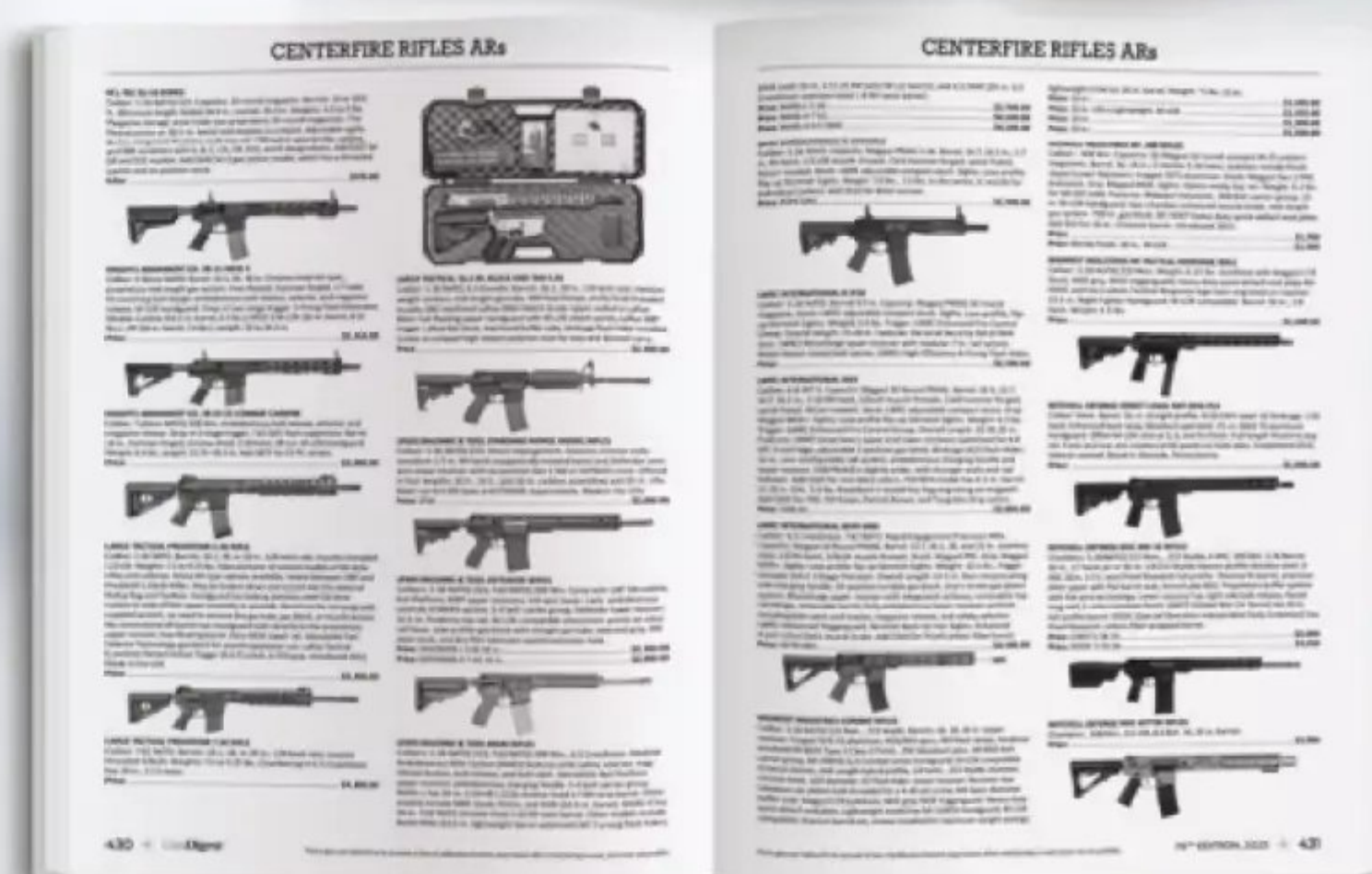
not one that has been all that common, actually. The last of the John Browning designs, brought to fruition by Saive, suffered by comparison to the 1911. For a long time 9mm ammo wasn't a first choice, and the BHP was only a 9mm.

Estimates of production are all over the map: A million-plus by FN in Belgium. But then there were the Inglis pistols, and the Indian Army made truckloads of them. Now, the Turkish firearms makers are offering better-than-ever BHPs, with harder steel and tighter tolerances than the classic FNs. This one is in an in-between status. Classic like the Luger, but with increased production and interest, it could make the leap up to the big list with the others. **GDTM**



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CLOSE AND DESTROY

Gun Digest's first feature-length fiction.

Earlier this year, *Gun Digest's* parent publisher Caribou Media, LLC released its debut foray into commercial fiction, penned by former staff editor Tom Marshall. Some of you may know his byline from his Vets Vices column in RECOIL, or from his time as editor of RECOIL OFFGRID, but he's also been harboring a lifelong passion for military thriller fiction that has manifested in his first full-length novel: *Close and Destroy*.

Close and Destroy follows the men and women of Windsor Kraft Strategies, a well-heeled private military company combating a thriving insurgency in the (mostly) fictitious failing nation state of Daristan. If the premise sounds ripped-from-the-headlines, that's because it's informed directly by Tom's own experience in Iraq and Afghanistan where he logged 14 separate deployments between the two theaters as both a U.S. Army officer and a private military contractor.

What follows are two separate excerpts from the novel, as well as photos depicting the real-world guns and gear featured throughout. Stay tuned for more detailed coverage of the top-notch kit shown here.



HILTON PIERCE
CALLSIGN “ALLEY CAT”
RECCE TROOP – WINDSOR KRAFT
STRATEGIES
TARKENT INTERNATIONAL
AIRPORT
TARKENT, DARISTAN
1540 HOURS, LOCAL

Through the darkness, Hilton felt the afternoon sun against his face, bright and brutal. The sour, peaty stench of unwashed people—punctuated by the sweet chemical tinge of burnt explosives—filled the front of his skull. It wasn't until someone stepped on his ankle that his eyes snapped open in a bolt of pain. That's when he realized his ears were ringing—again—and the world was sideways. All he could see were smears of pasty gray muck and brown, sandal-clad feet.

Still in the fetal position, Hilton's hands clawed for the hem of his button-down, plaid shirt. In a motion rehearsed thousands of times over the last decade, his left hand hiked the shirt up as his right snatched a Staccato HD pistol out of the holster tucked into his jeans just behind the zipper. A chorus of screams and the intermittent popping of AK-47 fire overtook the ringing in his ears.

Holding the pistol tight to his chest, Hilton rolled to all fours, then reared back on his heels before clamoring to his feet in a low crouch. He craned his head to look over one shoulder. Behind him was the airport's pedestrian gate—an earthen wall interrupted by chain-link fence, shielded by a line of American paratroopers from the 82nd Airborne. A herd of Daristani civilians crashed against their riot line like waves on the shore. Already desperate to flee their collapsing country, the explosion in the crowd rocked them forward en masse against the group of young soldiers. On the walls above them, more paratroopers huddled behind their M4 carbines and M240 machine guns. Some fired short strings over top of the crowd while others swept their muzzles frantically back and forth, unable to shoot without killing innocents.

Hilton's head whipped forward, following the gunfire. At the back edge of the crowd was a shallow, scorched crater where the suicide bomber had detonated. A macabre confetti of blood and viscera scattered around the charred cement. Further back, across the street, a squad of black-clad insurgents with AKs fired wildly toward the gate.

Hilton pushed his way through the crowd, stepping over fallen bodies shot or trampled in the panic. Once he was on the edge of the chaos, Hilton leveled the Staccato, placing its red-dot sight over an insurgent fumbling to reload his AK. He let out a slow breath and pressed the trigger four times in a row. Just as the insurgent started to collapse, someone burst out of the crowd and grabbed Hilton's pistol, wrenching it out of his grip. As Hilton scrambled to put space between them, the man raised a large screwdriver, its slotted head sharpened to a crude point. Hilton shoved the man away from him and backpedaled, hands digging under his shirt once more. The man regained his balance and charged Hilton with the screwdriver, but Hilton's hand came back up with a double-edged Contingency dagger just as the two collided like linebackers. Hilton went down on

his back, and the insurgent plunged the screwdriver down into his chest. The point of the screwdriver skipped off the front plate of Hilton's body armor—hidden under his shirt—and sank an inch deep into the edge of his pectoral muscle.

Hilton rolled into the stab wound, then back the other way, burying his knife deep into the man's armpit in a backhanded stabbing motion. The angled point of Hilton's dagger severed the man's brachial artery. Hilton pulled the knife out and stabbed again, this time slamming his blade into the side of the man's neck. Instinctively, the man grabbed Hilton's forearm with both hands and pushed the blade out. A pulse of bright, red blood sprayed across Hilton's face as the man collapsed on top of him, gurgling and wheezing frantically as blood from the severed vessels poured into his lungs. Hilton bear-hugged the man and rolled them both over.

Now on top of his attacker, Hilton stabbed him directly through one eye, dropping his full bodyweight onto the pommel of the knife. The man let out a feral wet scream. Hilton heaved downward again, using his armor plate to hammer the knife through the man's orbital socket. The scream stopped short, like shutting off a light switch.

Hilton leaned back, placed a knee on the man's chest, and pried the knife free. He sheathed the blade on his belt and climbed off the corpse, scrabbling around on all fours to find his handgun as more bullets snapped overhead ...

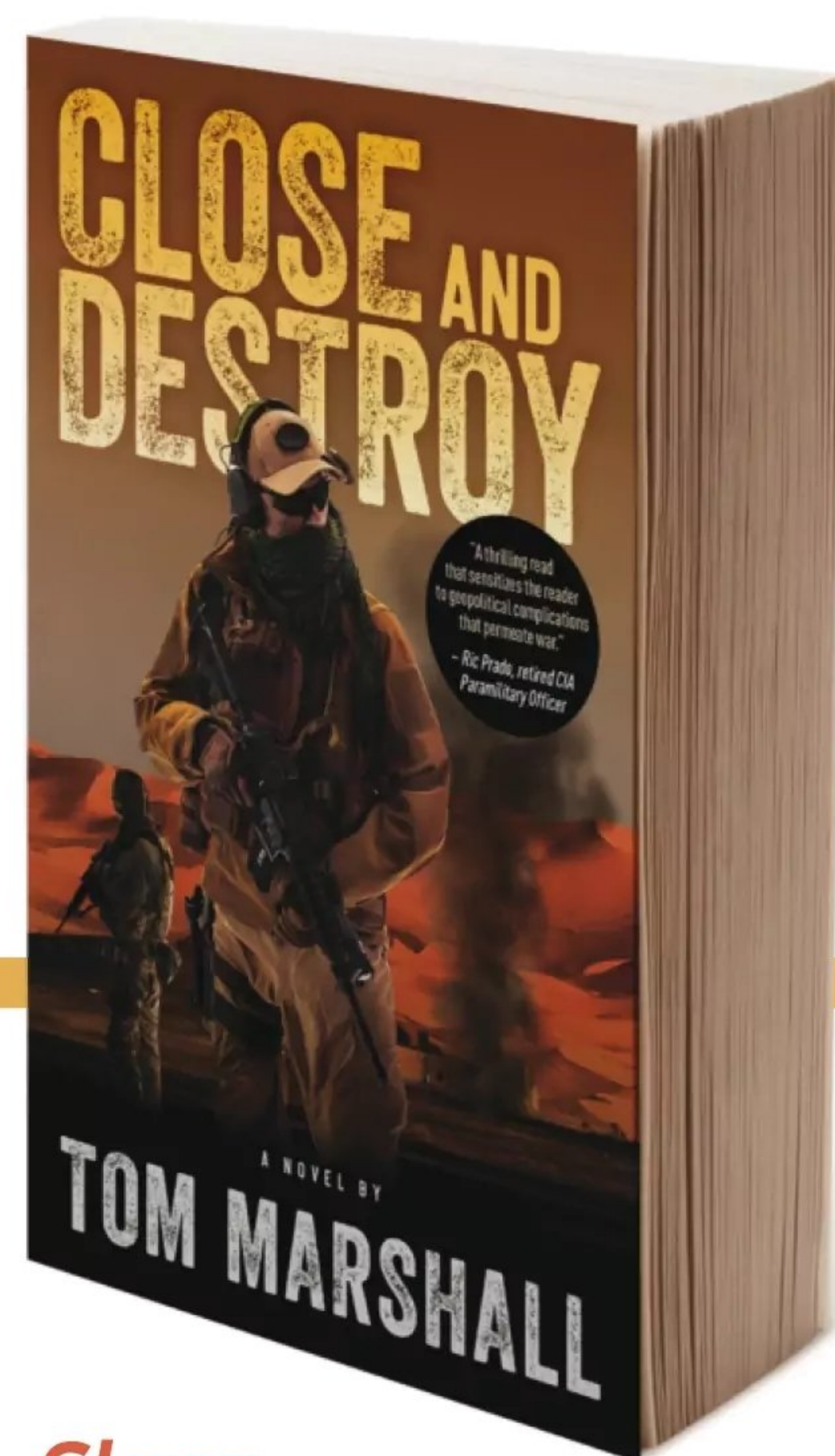
**JIMMY TOOMS
CALLSIGN "JAMESON"
COMBAT ADVISORY TROOP —
WINDSOR KRAFT STRATEGIES
HAFIZA, DARISTAN (350KM WEST
OF TARKENT)
0618 HOURS, LOCAL**

Jimmy chugged half the lukewarm water bottle, then poured the rest over his head, blowing out a long breath as the water cascaded over his nose and

mouth. Tossing the bottle into the dirt behind him, he picked up the garden hose draped over the Hilux's tailgate. He squeezed the pistol grip in a quick double-tap to test water pressure. Then, he put one foot on the truck's back tire and hoisted himself over the sidewall into the truck bed. He squatted down on his heels and started spraying.

Swirling eddies of water, the color and consistency of grapefruit juice, sluiced back and forth across the truck bed, and the tops of Jimmy's boots. He angled the hose nozzle, using water pressure to push bits of flesh and fragments of bone off the tailgate, onto the dirt behind the truck. Several skull fragments still had hair stuck to them.

Four dead, out of his 15-man team of Daristani commandos. The locals called them Owls, because they were cunning, moved quietly and hunted at night. Also, the night-vision goggles they wore gave them the appearance



Close and Destroy

Close and Destroy is available on Gun Digest Store (GunDigestStore.com) in paperback, and Amazon in paperback and eBook, with Audible coming soon.

of unnaturally large, owl-like eyes. It didn't sound as fearsome as other indigenous guerrilla units he'd worked with in the past—who always wanted to name themselves after tigers or panthers or some other big cat. But he liked it.

Jimmy wagged the hose nozzle back and forth, using the water jet like a push broom to sweep human remains out of the truck bed. When the water in the bed finally dripped clear, he

hopped off the truck, slammed the tailgate closed, and used the same wagging motion to rinse a trail of bloody handprints off the tailgate itself, as well as off the rear quarter panels and cab doors.

The trail of prints told a very clear story; a gaggle of men—bleeding and fleeing—ripping open the doors or pulling themselves over the quarters, seeking shelter from hundreds

of incoming AK and PKM rounds. One side of the truck had a torso-width smear of blood where two of the survivors had pulled their comrade's corpse into the truck bed before speeding off. It was the only body of four recovered off the objective. Jimmy wouldn't be able to wash off the multiple strings of bullet holes, but those were far less shocking to the psyche than the dozens of smeared bloody handprints.

"Hey brother, I'll give you a hand with that."

Jimmy turned around to Ben Gordon, callsign "Flash." Ben was a former SARC—Special Amphibious Reconnaissance Corpsman—who ran another 15-man Owl team alongside Jimmy the night before. He dressed identically to Jimmy: 5.11 combat pants and matching shirt, drop-leg holster slung off one hip. Streaks of dried blood, now the color of bricks, ran down both of Ben's sleeves and one whole pant leg. As a former recon medic, he'd spent most of the night performing first aid on wounded Owls. He'd only lost one, but



nine of his 15 had been shot over the course of the two-hour firefight with Al Badari's insurgents.

Jimmy shook his head, shrugging off the help. "I got it," he said.

One corner of Ben's mouth turned up. He understood the reluctance. But he persisted. "C'mon, Jameson. You don't clean up your own dead."

Jimmy turned back to the truck and started spraying again. Ben put a hand on his shoulder. Jimmy tensed for a moment but stopped spraying. He looked over his shoulder at Ben. "I don't need a hug, doc."

"Good, 'cause I'm out of those. What I do have is empty mags. You pull ammo out of the connex, I'll finish cleaning the trucks."

"I know what you're doing," Jimmy said.

"While you're at it, we need 40 mike-mike, flash-bangs, and two thermite grenades. I tossed both of mine in the police station."

"On it," Jimmy said, holding out the hose. Ben took it, and Jimmy walked away to the half-dozen shipping containers full of ordnance a hundred meters behind them.

Al Badari's forces had overrun the Hafiza regional police precinct. Ben and Jimmy, with their Owl commando teams, had helped local police officers repel the initial assault. But Al Badari returned with a larger wave of attackers, this time using trucks, RPGs, recoilless rifles and one mortar. When it became clear they couldn't hold the ground, Ben set the precinct on fire with incendiary grenades and left the compound burning behind them as they broke contact.

When Jimmy was out of sight, Ben looked over the truck, front to back. Under the rear bumper was a mud puddle, mired with thick strings of red runoff and ivory-colored flecks. Ben clenched his teeth and punched the side of the Hilux hard enough to dent the door panel. After two deep, sucking breaths, he wiggled his fingers to check for broken bones. Then, he went back to spraying ... **GDTM**



Close and Destroy follows the men and women of Windsor Kraft Strategies, a well-heeled private military company combating a thriving insurgency in the (mostly) fictitious failing nation state of Daristan.





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PARKWEST ARMS SD-22

Some may question the practicality of a high-end custom 22 LR rifle, but not this author.

The SD-22 is the Parkwest Arms entry into the rimfire market, and it makes a splash like no other.

My buddy Frank writes with a Montblanc pen. I once asked him why. “First and foremost, I like nice things,” he said, “Second, I do sales, and when you hand a client a nice pen to sign the contract with, it helps them feel good about the decision because the act of signing is made into a pleasure and a feeling of success.”

There is no limit on who can enjoy luxury items. That’s how I see Parkwest Arms and, in particular, the SD-22 we are looking at in this article. Parkwest’s guns delight the senses. When the new owners started up the company, they hired as many of the experienced craftsmen as they could from the old Dakota Arms. They have since added even more talented people to their team who have the specialized skills to build heirloom-quality guns.

I think most people can sense the value and quality of any product the minute they handle it for the first time. Certainly, when you handle a nice gun, there are things that jump out at you. Beauty tops my list, then the sounds emanating from the gun when you work its solid action. Custom guns should have clean, crisp lines, pleasing to the eye and hand. These are unlike off-the-shelf guns that must be built with an eye toward minimizing costs. There is nothing wrong with that, it is simply a function of the marketplace that some products must be utilitarian. At the same time, the market demands products for the luxury segment.

If the quality of a firearm alone caused small game to drop dead, the SD-22 would be illegal in all 50 States. This rimfire model was new in 2024. Parkwest treats it with all the love, attention to detail, and care that goes into any of its custom hand-built big game rifles.

Steve Rabakoff, one of the owners at Parkwest, tells me that this model is selling even better than they had hoped. It turns out that gun-lovers like to shoot a lot, and this little 22 LR gives them a premium gun that they can shoot everyday if they desire. Ammo



Admiring the SD-22’s details makes the author think of warm evenings by the fire with a good dog sleeping nearby, and great memories of the days afield.

is relatively cheap and available, as opposed to some centerfire ammunition. Plus, it’s quiet, easy to share with the kids or grandkids, and has no recoil. I love the idea of introducing the next generation to the sport with a classic rifle design.

Rabakoff wanted me to see one of the new rimfire rifles they were releasing. He was clearly enthused by this project, not just because it’s his company, but because they are offering something unique. The SD-22 is not your grandpa’s .22; unless grandpa had a professional gunmaker for a buddy and got him to build a rifle to match his favorite hunting rifle. We are talking about an adult-sized gun, weighing 7.5 pounds, 41 inches in overall length, with a 23-inch barrel standard.

An alternative is to switch from a wood stock to synthetic, this drops about one pound from the rifle’s weight. If you are getting ready for a sheep hunt and want a training rifle, this lighter version could be your ticket. Personally, I will not be doing any mountain climbing, so I prefer the beauty of a wood stock.

My grumpy old gunsmith friend Mike Harmon saw this rifle when it came out of the case, and said, “I want to shoot that!” Gunsmiths are notorious for being jaded. They get to handle a wide variety of guns while they ply their trade. So, when gunsmiths get excited about a gun, you know it is something special.

Grumpy and I are both suckers for

a nice piece of walnut, and the SD-22 that I received for testing played directly to our weakness—beautiful contrasting colors and copious fiddle-back figure. The hand-rubbed oil finish enhanced the figure nicely, giving it the depth it deserves. We stepped out into the sunlight to get the full effect. The light reflecting from the wood provides quite a show, giving the stock depth and character. There is a warmth to wood that no synthetic stock can ever provide (sorry, you will never change my mind). This was a gun I knew would be a pleasure to take to the range or the field.

Not all that far in the past, we shooters were all hoarding 22 LR ammunition. At least one good thing came about from that shortage: I now have a broad collection of different brands of .22 LR. Where I live in Northwest Montana, ammunition availability during the shortage was totally random. As a result, I have a little bit of many different brands in my reserves. I went to the cupboard and pulled out a selection of ammo for our accuracy tests.

With my arbitrary collection of ammo, it was off to the range to see what this fine rifle was capable of. I’m lucky to have an indoor range in my locale, membership gets you a security code and 24-hour a day shooting privileges. Uniform temperatures and an utter lack of wind make shooting for accuracy a much easier process. I set up on the 50-foot range to do my testing. Each group shown here is five shots.

First, I loaded the magazine with

five rounds and shot a group just to see where the scope was hitting and to foul the barrel. With that warm-up group out of the way, I set about collecting groups for the assorted ammunition that I had brought to the bench. All brands produced good minute-of-squirrel accuracy, some much better. The Winchester Wildcat ammo has a 40-grain lead round-nose bullet. The Standard velocity I had is some old “white box” Olin/Winchester and for all the world looks like the same bullet that was loaded in the Wildcat ammo. CCI Mini-Mags use a 36-grain hollow-point with a copper wash.

Parkwest shipped the rifle to me with a Leupold VX Freedom 3-9x40 Rimfire MOA mounted and bore-sighted—an excellent choice for a gun that is intended to have the profile of an American classic hunting rifle. It provided plenty of magnification for a .22 and the glass was clear as you would expect from Leupold. Of course, Parkwest will help you with any optic you prefer on your rifle.

The Armscor ammo was a 36-grain hollow-point coated bullet. Aguila is loaded with a 40-grain round-nose copper-plated projectile. Finally, the Federal Champion bulk ammo bullet was a 36-grain hollow-point, copper-plated. To be fair, the flyer from the Federal ammo could easily have been a result of switching ammo without a fouling shot, as it was the first shot fired with that load. Or it could be old eyes. Either way, the squirrel would still be dead.

IMPRESSIONS FROM THE RANGE

A pleasant surprise, it was better than expected; yes, I am gushing. Fun, enjoyable and satisfying. I have shot an untold number of rimfire rifles over the years. I couldn’t even guess at how much .22 ammo I have burned over the decades. This rifle ranks as one of the most accurate sporting .22s I have ever shot. More than that, it was special, and memorable; I don’t say that sort of thing about guns very often.

Hand checkering on the stock is

clean and sharp with two panels on the grip and a wraparound pattern on the forend. The wood color and figure shows through the checkering so that the checkering only adds to the rifle’s attractive look—as well-executed checkering should do. In addition, the bolt handle had a nice three-panel metal checkering to match the stock, and yes, there are other options for the bolt handle, so you can make it your own.

Parkwest lists the chamber for the SD-22 as a Bentz, this is typically a popular match chamber for semi-auto guns. Over time, it has become popular in other guns as well. The Bentz chamber falls between the SAAMI Match and SAAMI Sporting chambers for .22 LR. I suspect that Parkwest selected it because it is more versatile than a match chamber and will work with a broader selection of ammo. Match chambers



Howell-style sling swivels and a contrasting tip are two options you can choose on Parkwest’s SD-22 rimfire.



Several of the custom touches include a steel buttplate, skeleton grip cap, Howell swivels, and the cheek-piece and checkering.



Note the nicely executed skeleton buttplate with a widow's peak. It looks like the wood grew around it.



are shorter than the average sporting chamber for .22 LR, but the Bentz chamber features a long-tapered throat compared to most rimfire ones. This chamber is well known for producing excellent accuracy with a wide range of ammunition brands and types. Obviously, Parkwest made a good choice based on our results.

The SD-22 comes with a ½-MOA guarantee for accuracy and is delivered

with a target from the factory. Clearly, all my groups met that standard, some by a large margin. Several of my groups were just over 0.250 inch or 50 percent better than promised. I'm betting there is an even better ammo out there; I just ran out of time at the range.

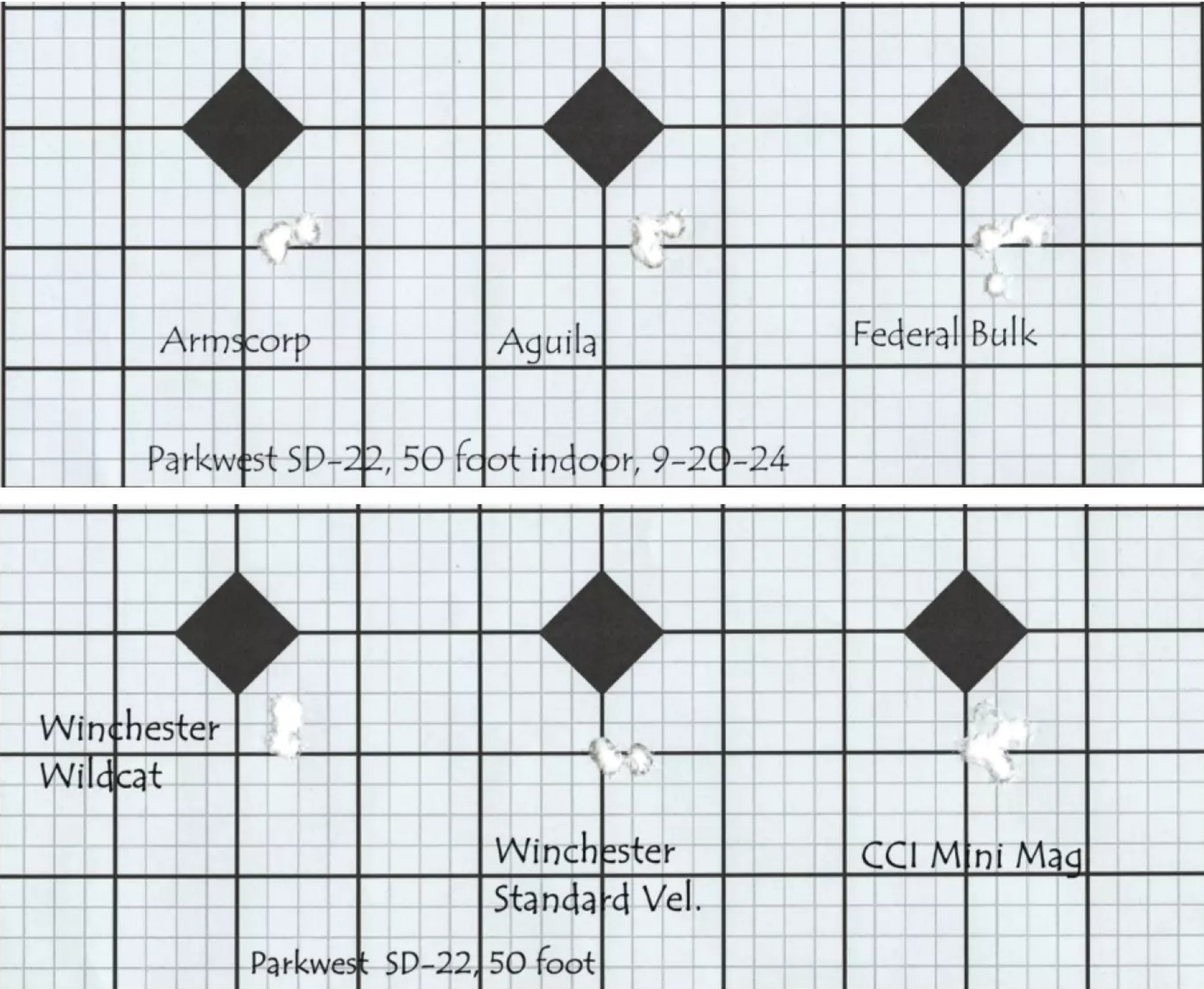
Actions for the SD-22 are available for right- or left-handed shooters. Standard in chromoly (blue) steel, each rifle is supplied with two five-round

magazines. That second magazine is a nice thing to have with any gun. For reliable feeding and ejection, the bolt is designed with dual extractors. The gun fed flawlessly with all the ammo we tried. The standard rifle comes with a XXX Claro walnut stock, solid steel grip cap, and ½-inch recoil pad to add to the classic look of the rifle.

Avid shooters will tell you that much of the accuracy potential in a rifle comes from a quality trigger, so Parkwest added a TriggerTech adjustable trigger standard, as well. I appreciated the fine single-stage trigger on the test gun set to about 2 pounds. The release was crisp and repeatable with no perceptible creep.

That seems like an extensive list of features, and it is. Still, Parkwest offers a long list of custom options so you can have exactly what you desire. It's not likely you will ever see two SD-22 rifles that look alike, unless of course you ordered them to match.

The rifle I tested had many optional features and did a great job of showing off what the experts at Parkwest Arms are capable of. The metal is all hand polished, the standard model is blued, but can be ordered in numerous finish types, including Cerakote or slow rust blue. Note that our test gun had a color-cased receiver and scope mounts



The SD-22 offers the same silhouette as the SD-76 centerfire rifles, so you can practice like you play. Color casehardening is a classy touch.



along with premium polished bluing on the rest of the gun. The color case is well done; preparation is the key when performing color casehardening. The degree of polish applied to the metal can greatly enhance the resulting colors from the process.

The iron sights on my test gun were also upgraded. The rear sight was mounted on a quarter-rib and a banded front sight completed the set. “Practice like you play.” If I was getting ready for a plains game hunt, practicing with the same sights on my .22

would not be a bad thing.

Parkwest Arms offers you a particular touch that only a true custom gunmaker can offer, a personalized serial number to make your rifle fully unique. FDZ are my initials; I am thinking of ordering “Fudzy” as my serial number, it’s a nickname of sorts. That way I can tell my grandson, “Shhh, be werwy, werwy quiet, we are hunting wabbits.” It would be worth it just to see the eye roll.

On its website, Parkwest has a build-your-own-rifle feature that allows you to stroll through all the options. Items you can customize include the wood grade, contrasting forend tip, checkering, different types of sling swivels, or cross bolts. We are not done yet; recoil pads, buttplates (solid or skeleton), tip and toe plates, and just as many choices for grip caps. On top of that, you can add engraving, as simple or extensive as you like. In short, you can make it a dream rifle with the features that you want.

Why?

If you must ask ... I guess I did a poor job of explaining what the experience of handling a well-executed product like the SD-22 is really like. To be as direct as possible, it is a beautiful handmade rifle of the highest quality, and completely tailored to your personal taste. So, why not? **GDTM**



The banded ramp front sight matches up with the express rear sight mounted on a quarter rib.



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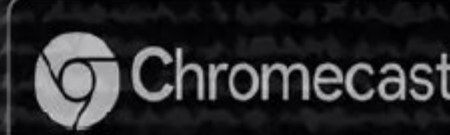
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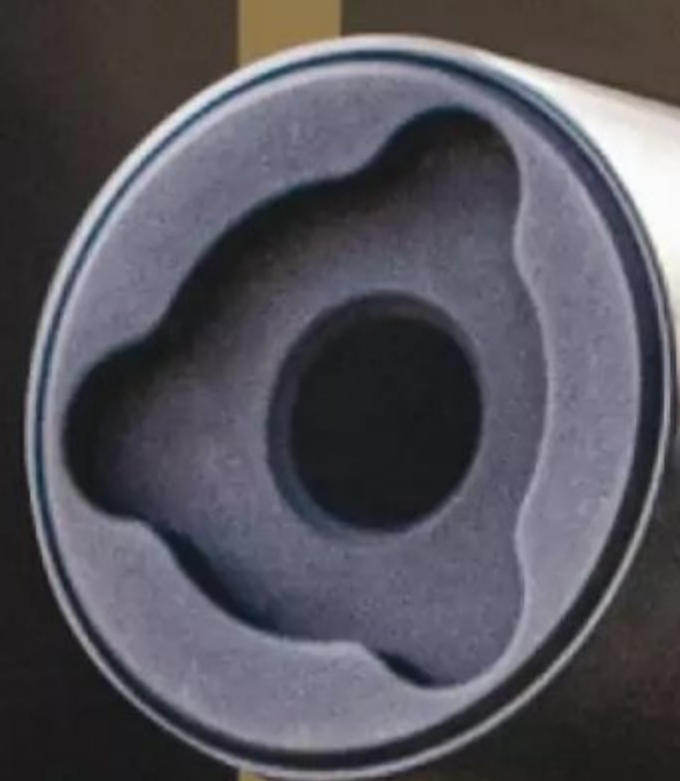
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DIAMETER	1.35"
CALIBER	9mm
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