#### HANDHELD HEAT

Hottest Semi-Auto Pistols of 2025



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THE MAGAZINE

OCTOBER 2025, VOLUME 42 - ISSUE 10

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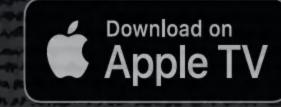


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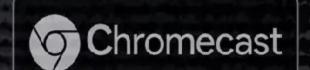












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or the past handful of years now, the October issue has been themed to focus on semi-auto handguns. As one of the most popular and prolific segments of the firearms market, we of course cover them throughout the year—in nearly every issue.

But how does one even begin to take such a gigantic category and whittle it down to a bunch of columns, a handful of features and call it an issue? Well, welcome to the perils of my world.

For this issue's cover, I finally settled on highlighting the Watchtower Apache. Patrick Sweeney penned this piece, and it took a bit of convincing on his part to sway my final decision. Watchtower has been in a bit of a financial and PR skid as of recent, and it was my overly cautious inclination to wait for the dust to settle before diving in.

But if you've been following Sweeney's work for any length of time, it should be quite apparent that he can be very persuasive, and his affinity for the Apache was strong enough to get me to flip on the green light. Check out his full review, and a detailed peek into what the future likely holds for Watchtower.

I also had a recent conversation with regular columnist and feature writer Richard Mann about the overlooked importance of perfecting the art of drawing a handgun from concealment. While an admittedly dry topic, he reminded me that although everyone loves to practice shooting tight little groups with their carry gun, shooting skill is worthless if you lose the draw race in a gunfight.

How could I argue with that?

This issue is of course packed with inkloads of other well-researched topics check out the HARDWARE column if you find yourself in need of a 30-round mag for your pistol—in an effort to tickle your trigger finger, regardless of how exactly you prefer your semi-auto handgun.

Oh, that reminds me: Take a second to at least thumb through the MODERN GUNNERY column, which details the benefits of virtual reality and at-home range practice. Sound too good to be true? It ain't cheap, but it's pretty cool.

Regardless of whether you're dry-firing or live-firing, shoot a lot of ammo and have fun doing it. **GDTM** 

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# SOT WINCESTER Quietly eating the .30-30's

# EVELUTED SOCARTRIDGES 20 CARTRIDGES

#### **HISTORICAL NOTES**

The development of the rimmed .307 Winchester began in 1980, with the first public announcement in December 1982. However, the cartridge—and the Model 94 XTR Angle Eject carbine chambered for it—were not available until early 1983. The Marlin Model 336ER in .307 chambering introduced at the same time is no longer offered.

The Angle Eject feature is a design modification of the beefed-up Model 94 XTR that ejects spent cartridge cases to the side, rather than straight up, the same as earlier Model 94 actions. This was accomplished by changing the position of the extractor and ejector, and by lowering the receiver's right sidewall.

The .307-caliber designation is to avoid confusing this cartridge with the other .30 calibers. It actually uses standard 0.308-inch bullets. The .307 Winchester is essentially a rimmed .308 Winchester, although there is a difference in the overall cartridge length. Original factory loadings had 150- and 180-grain bullets.

#### **GENERAL COMMENTS**

The popular Model 1894 Winchester lever action has always suffered from two

major deficiencies: The design didn't allow center mounting of a scope sight, and the tubular magazine required the use of flat-point bullets to prevent one cartridge from setting off others in the magazine under recoil. These factors combined to relegate the Model 1894 to largely short-range use. The new XTR Angle Eject redesign eliminates the scope-mounting problem and modernizes an old but popular action.

The .307 Winchester can enhance the range and power of lever-action rifles so chambered. It is, based on factory ballistics, faster than the .30-30 by 375 fps in muzzle velocity. Although the .307 Winchester has the same general configuration as the rimless .308 Winchester, there

are slight differences that prevent it from achieving full .308 power. For one, the bullet is seated slightly deeper, to maintain an overall length compatible with the length of the Model 1894 action; for any given barrel length and the same bullet weight, the .308 will deliver about 60 to 110 fps more muzzle velocity. Also, with its pointed bullet, the .308 will lose velocity at a slower rate than the flat-point .307.

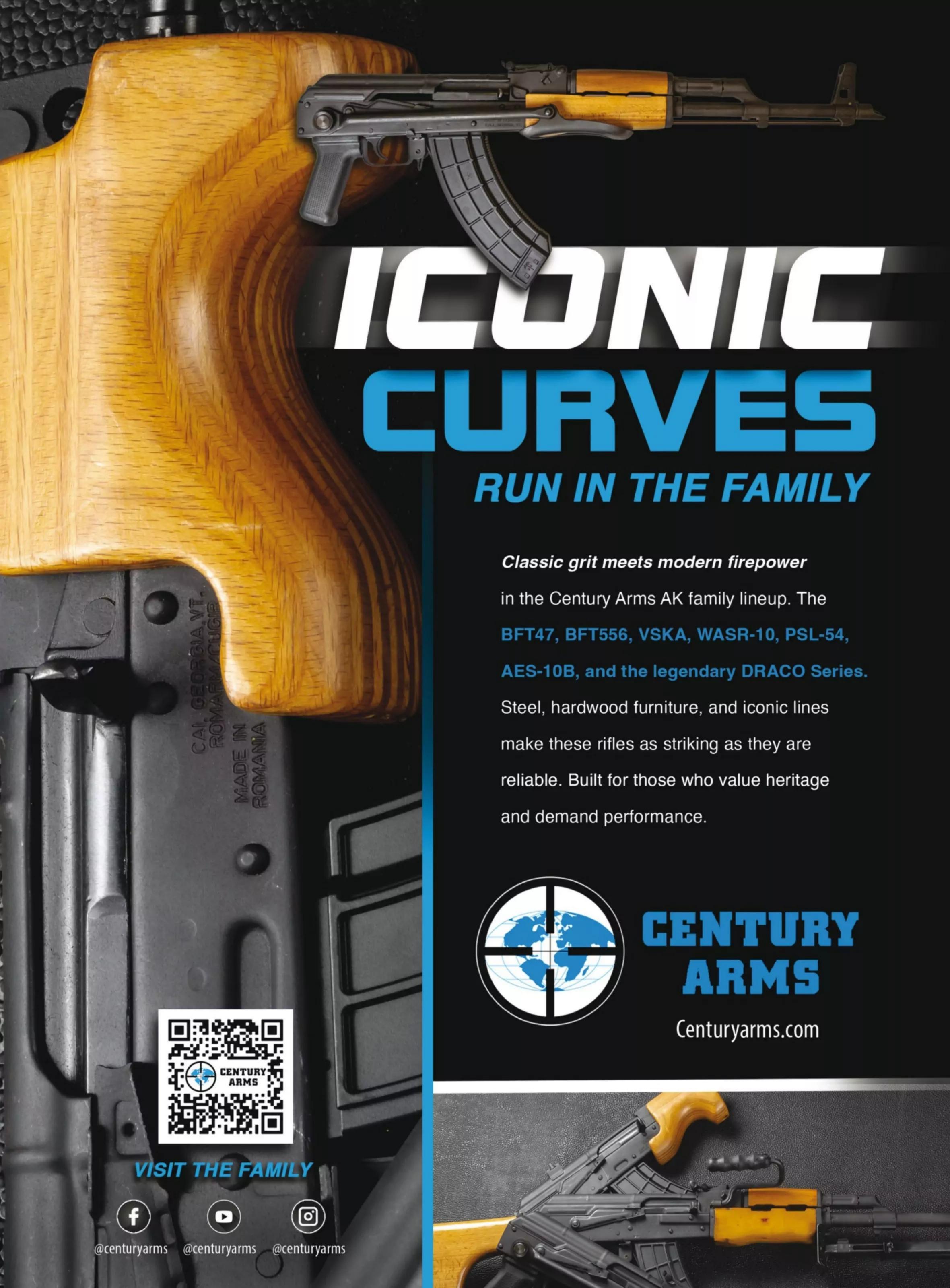
The .307 has slightly less velocity at 200 yards than the .30-30 has at 100 yards. If the .30-30 is an adequate 100-yard-plus deer cartridge, then the .307 is certainly a 200-yard deer cartridge. It's not likely to replace the .30-30 as America's favorite deer cartridge, but it is a more versatile cartridge and certainly takes the Model 94 carbine out of the woods, bush and short-range class. Although it has been reported that the .307 Winchester has thicker case walls and, therefore, reduced internal volume, measurements do not verify this.

GDTM

lunch.

#### .307 WINCHESTER LOADING DATA AND FACTORY BALLISTICS

BULLET (GRAINS/TYPE)	POWDER	GRAINS	VELOCITY	ENERGY	SOURCE
110 Sierra HP	H322	44.0	3,000	2,195	Hodgdon
130 Speer FP	H4895	43.0	2,762	2,200	Hodgdon
150 Hornady RN	H4895	42.0	2,604	2,255	Hodgdon
170 Hornady FP	Bl-C (2)	44.0	2,535	2,425	Hodgdon
170 SP	IMR4064	41.0	2,500	2,360	Hornady
160 FTX	FL	-	2,650	2,650	Hornady 8273
180 SP	FL	-	2,510	2,518	Winchester X3076









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## MAKETRAINING FUN AGAIN

#### It's possible to enjoy the process of learning.

e often take our defensive handgun shooting too seriously—not that being serious about defense handgun shooting is a bad thing. But one of the great things about shooting is that it can be fun, and sometimes having fun is a good thing, even with a serious firearm.

About 7 years ago I developed a comprehensive defensive handgun drill that incorporated five very popular defensive handgun drills. I don't think it's all that practical as a training or evaluation tool, but it's a hell of a lot of fun to shoot, especially when you're

on the range with some buddies and want to have some friendly competition.

We call the shooting range I live on Shadowland, and I named this drill simply the Shadowland Drill. To run the drill, you will need three IDPA targets and a range where you can shoot from three to seven yards. Set the left target at 7 yards, the middle target at 5 yards, and the right target at 3 yards, spacing them about a foot apart. You will also need—at a minimum—15 rounds of ammo, your defensive handgun, a holster and a shot timer.

Five of the most used defensive handgun drills include a single shot

to the head (one shot), a hammer pair (two shots), a failure drill (three shots), a reload drill (four shots) and an adrenalin dump (five shots). If you combine these five drills together, you have the Shadowland Drill that requires 15 shots. And by combining these drills, what I mean is that you shoot them all—one right after another—and use the shot timer to record all 15 shots.

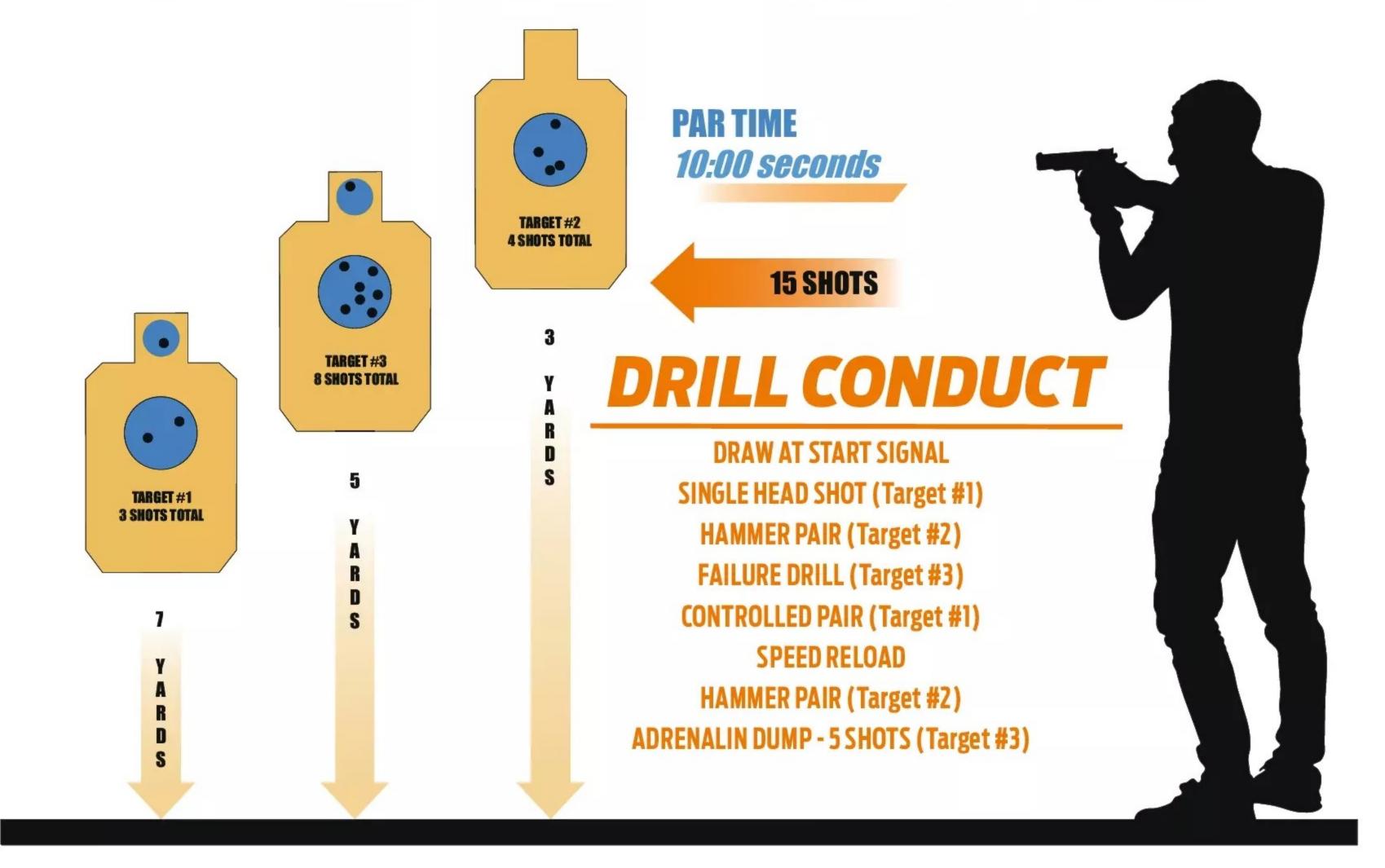
#### THE SHADOWLAND DRILL

Begin the drill holstered, and on the signal from the shot timer, draw and fire a single head shot at the 7-yard target. Then, immediately transition

to the 3-yard target and fire a hammerpair (two shots—one sight picture). After that, your focus shifts to the 5-yard target, where you fire a failure drill (two to the body and one to the head). Then, transition to the 7-yard target and fire a controlled-pair (two shots—two sight pictures). This is the first part of the reload portion of the drill.

Now, conduct a speed reload and fire another hammer-pair (two shots) at the 3-yard target. That's a total of 10 shots, and

#### THE SHADOWLAND DRILL





the final part of the drill is to switch back to the 5-yard target and conduct an adrenalin dump (five shots center mass as fast as possible).

When you're finished, the 7-yard target should have one hit in the 4-inch head circle, and two hits in the 8-inch body circle. In the 5-yard target, you should have one hit in the head circle and seven hits in the body circle. And finally, in the 3-yard target, you should have four hits in the body circle.

You score the drill by time—the total time it takes you to get all 15 hits on the correct target and in the correct location. A clean run in under 10 seconds is very good. I've done it, but I cannot do it every time. A clean run in less than 12.5 seconds is respectable, and if you can run it clean in less than 15 seconds, consider that a decent performance.

This drill is perfect for defensive handguns that hold at least eight rounds, because eight rounds get you through the first two shots of the reload portion of the drill. However, you can run this drill with a five- or six-shot revolver, too; you'll just need to conduct two reloads.

With a five-shot handgun, conduct the first reload after the first two shots of the failure drill on the 5-yard target. Then, conduct the second reload after the second hammer pair on the 3-yard target. With a six-shot handgun, do the first reload after the failure drill on the 5-yard target and do the second reload after the second hammer pair on the 3-yard target. With a five- or six-shot revolver or pistol, a very good score would be a clean run in less than 15 seconds.

#### IT'S JUST A DRILL

There are several reasons this is not a very practical drill. The first is that, whether you're shooting or picking your nose, it's not advisable to stand in one spot for around 10 seconds. If you're in a gunfight, you will likely die, and if you are at a social function, you'll most likely get embarrassed when someone sees you digging for boogers. Another reason it's not very practical is because, if three or more bad guys accosted you, I seriously doubt this formulation of an attack would be the best or the one that you

The target array for the Shadowland Drill is simple and can be set up on most any range.

would choose.

This does not mean the drill is of no value. It requires you to stay on your gun and keep it running at a high speed for around 10 seconds or more. It also requires good shooting. And, just as importantly, it's a great informal competition drill, because the memory and progression aspect can level the playing field between fast shooters and others who are more deliberate and accurate.

As much as this is a shooting exercise, it's also a memory exercise, and learning to think while you shoot fast is a good skill to practice. You must shoot the targets in order, shoot them the correct number of times and shoot them in the correct spots. The actual shooting is not that difficult; trying to do it all in order and at high speed can get frustrating.

To some extent, this drill is also an exercise in humility. Just when you think you've become pretty good with your self-defense handgun, this drill can remind you there is always room for improvement.

Regardless, give the drill a try, mostly because it's fun, and we could all probably use some more fun in our lives. **GDTM** 

If you run this drill several times, you are going to miss a few shots and you're going to get out of sequence, too—especially if you go as fast as you can.





## GUN FAMESAYS

#### How distorted data continues to shape bad policy.

f there's one thing the gun debate Not more shouting, not more spin—just facts. That's why I invited Guy Smith, founder of Gun Facts and author of *Guns and Control*: A Nonpartisan Guide to Understanding Mass Public Shootings, Gun Accidents, Crime, Public Carry, Suicides, Defensive Use, and More onto Forge of Freedom for a recent conversation (Episode 181). What followed was an eye-opening, no-nonsense discussion about firearms, public safety and how distorted data continues to shape bad policy.

Smith isn't your typical gun rights advocate. He describes himself as "an old-school Bay Area liberal," not exactly the stereotype conjured up by the media when they talk about Second Amendment defenders. That's precisely what makes his work so valuable. Smith approaches the issue with the dispassionate lens of a data analyst and researcher.

He's spent years dissecting gun control invented by gun control organizations building a robust, nonpartisan database that challenges the conventional wisdom on firearms.

During our conversation, Smith made one thing clear: Most of what people believe about guns—especially those shaping public policy—is not just wrong, but provably wrong.

#### **DEBUNKING THE 'GUN SHOW LOOPHOLE' AND OTHER MYTHS**

One of the most persistent claims in the gun control narrative is the so-called "gun show loophole." The popular belief is that anyone can walk into a gun show and walk out with an AR-15—no background check, no paperwork, no questions asked. It's a claim repeated in newsrooms, congressional hearings and activist campaigns.

But, as Smith explained, this is pure fiction. "There is no gun show loophole," he said. "That phrase was

desperately needs, it's clarity. claims, citing original sources and because it sounded ominous. But there's nothing special about a gun show. The same laws apply there as anywhere else."

> In truth, licensed dealers are still required to run background checks, even at gun shows. Private sales are a different matter—but those are equally legal if done outside a show. What's really being debated isn't a "loophole" but whether the government should regulate all private transactions.

#### SUICIDE AND GUN DEATH STATIS-**TICS: THE HIDDEN TRUTH**

Smith also shed light on how statistics are often manipulated to create a false sense of crisis. Take the much-cited figure that "40,000 people die from gun violence each year." It's a shocking number—until you realize what it includes.

"The majority of those deaths are suicides," Smith said. "In fact, roughly twothirds of gun deaths are suicides, and those are very different from homicides

"Research shows that mass shootings account for less than I percent of all gun deaths. They're statistical noise. They're emotionally powerful, but from a policy standpoint, you don't write national laws based on extremely rare events."

"For gun owners, that means arming ourselves not just with firearms, but with knowledge. We must be able to defend our rights not only with passion, but with facts. Because, ultimately, the battle for the Second Amendment isn't just fought in the courts or legislatures—it's fought in the minds of our neighbors, our communities and our country."

in terms of causation and prevention."

That distinction matters. Suicide is a public health issue, not a criminal one. Policies aimed at restricting lawful gun ownership in the name of reducing suicide often miss the mark and ignore broader mental health solutions.

Smith pointed to international data showing that countries with strict gun laws, like Japan, still have high suicide rates. "People bent on suicide find a method," he said. "Reducing gun availability doesn't necessarily change that outcome. It just changes the means."

#### MASS SHOOTINGS: RARITY VS. REALITY

Few events capture national attention like mass shootings, and understandably so. They are horrifying, tragic and senseless. But they are also statistically rare, and that's something the media often fails to communicate.

Smith highlighted research showing that mass shootings account for less than 1 percent of all gun deaths. "They're what I call 'statistical noise," he explained. "They're emotionally powerful, but from a policy standpoint, you don't write national laws based on extremely rare events."

That's not to say mass shootings don't matter. But it does mean we should be cautious about building sweeping gun control laws on the back of emotional trauma rather than empirical data.

#### YOU HAVE TO DIG

One of the most important takeaways from my conversation with Smith is this: The information is available, but you won't find it in most media outlets or political speeches. Smith's website, GunFacts.info, compiles peer-reviewed research, government reports and historical data to provide a comprehensive view of gun issues—without the spin.

What makes his work stand out is the commitment to transparency. His claims are footnoted. His charts are well-sourced, and his conclusions invite scrutiny.

That's refreshing in a world where narratives often trump nuance. Whether you're a gun owner, policymaker or concerned citizen, Smith's message is the same: Do your homework.

#### WHY THE TRUTH MATTERS

In today's polarized climate, facts are more than an intellectual exercisethey're a moral obligation. Policies built on lies or half-truths don't just fail to solve problems, they create new ones. When people believe guns are the primary driver of crime, they push laws that restrict liberty without improving safety. When they ignore mental health in favor of targeting inanimate objects, they miss the root causes of violence.

This is why I believe conversations like the one I had with Smith are so important but, unfortunately, so rare. We need more voices willing to cut through the noise, challenge the orthodoxy and follow the evidence wherever it leads.

For gun owners, that means arming ourselves not just with firearms, but with knowledge. We must be able to defend our rights not only with passion, but with facts. Because, ultimately, the battle for the Second Amendment isn't just fought in the courts or legislatures—it's fought in the minds of our neighbors, our communities and our country. GDTM

## About

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.



## MEGAMAG EXTENSIONS

Some ammo is good, more is better.

ore ammo is better. A friend of mine once remarked, "There are only two situations where you can have too much ammo: when you're on fire or trying to swim."

So, how do you get more? Taylor Freelance is the place.

Robin Taylor is a longtime USPSA/IPSC competitor, who understands the need for more. And the need for durability. His magazine extensions (TaylorFreelance.com) are designed and built to withstand the rigors of competition—whether dropped on gravel or in mud—and still work.

He makes nearly a full line of extensions for a variety of firearms. Not all, because some just can't take an extension. How so? Look at your pistol magazine. At the bottom, the tube has lips to hold on the baseplate. If the lips are folded in, then you can't extend it. Out, and you can.

Except for magazines with a crease at the bottom. The Browning Hi-Power is the classic example there. The crease at the bottom of the tube prevents the follower from moving down any further.

You'll notice that magazine extensions are denoted by a plus and number (+2, +4, etc.). That is how many extra rounds it adds. Generally, in 9mm, .40 and .45 calibers will be less. You'll also see some +0 basepads. No, they do not add capacity. But they are often more durable than the factory basepads. And if you opt for the brass ones, they are heavier. You can install those on the

otherwise not-extendable magazines (the ones with the crease at the bottom).

And, yes, brass. You get a choice of brass or aluminum; all machined on state-of-the-art CNC centers. The extra weight means the magazine will fall free when you press the mag button. And it is more likely to land on the brass and not on the magazine lips—no guarantees, of course, but the odds are better.

The website is also a rich source of information. You will notice that there are overlaps in what basepads fit on which magazines. Canik basepads also work just fine on selected Beretta magazines. (Those pesky creases again.) The simple reason is that there are only so many ways you can make a 9mm double-stack magazine. And a pistol designer will often use a common magazine tube, especially if it has an enviable reputation for reliability.

So, there are a lot of commonalities in magazine basepads. It's all in the selections.

The apex of extension is the Goliath magazine extension. This is a +20 or a +30 extension. Yes, 20 or 30 extra rounds. It's made for the Glock 33-round 9mm magazine, and it produces a magazine of absurd dimensions. Taylor Freelance makes this for PCC competition shooters who want to go through a full stage and never reload. You'll spend forever loading it, and you can't go prone, but if you want a magazine that swallows an entire box of ammo, this is the way.

Aluminum or brass—and various colors of aluminum—you have options galore with magazine extensions.



While the brass magazine extensions come in shiny brass, the aluminum ones can be had in a variety of colors, limited mostly by what's popular. I'd bet if you just had to have a color not on the webpage Taylor would do it, but you'd have to place an order for enough of them to do a special anodizing dye run.

Taylor Freelance also makes grip panels, backstraps and magazine funnels. You can significantly increase the weight of a pistol (to dampen recoil) by





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Use virtual reality to bring your shooting

f becoming an excellent shooter is the destination, then dry fire is the road to get there. Ask anyone from USPSA Grand Masters to tier 1 operators to premier firearm instructors, and it's universally agreed that dry fire is critical to growing as a shooter.

And while a Ben Stoeger book of dryfire drills and some paper targets will take you far, what if we could improve the experience with the help of technology?

Virtual reality hasn't taken over the world like it promised it would 10 years ago, but using it to enhance and maximize the potential of dry fire is a revolutionary feat that AceXR is leading.

#### **BASICS**

The short and sweet of it is that AceXR is a VR app and a realistic handset that puts you on a virtual range. It's as close as you can get to being on the shooting range without actually putting on your pants,







getting in the truck and going to one.

#### **ON THE 'RANGE'**

Ace has a pretty impressive set of drills and stages set up—and is adding more every couple of weeks. There are classics like Bill Drills, 22422 and Two One Two One, and a few dozen new drills made by Ace or submitted from groups and train-

While more is better, there is enough content in the "game" to keep you drilling and finding new things to push and do better. Custom stages designed by Ace or USPSA make up the bulk of the options, plus the complete set of Steel Challenge stages.

On top of that, there is the constant allure of just doing better, going faster and

getting a higher score. It's a player cycle that has been in place since *Pong* because it works. While the video game elements help with the dopamine rush and keep you coming back for more, Ace is a training program—not a game. Mostly.

There are a few video game elements in Ace that aren't perfect, but they don't present a real obstacle either. While the game starts with one free in-game pistol and free in-game optic unlock, unlocking more costs an in-game cur-

The AceXR system offers a variety of modes and levels to train various skills and appeal to a wide range of shooting preferences.



rency (Brass) that can only be earned by completing drills, daily drills and weekly series drills.

Because you don't really *need* to unlock more guns since it's just cosmetic—and Ace provides enough Brass to keep you swimming in it after a session or two—it doesn't really impact anything.

For targets, Ace has almost everything. Paper targets in just about all the flavors, plus a standard array of steel targets, and steel that you don't always see at most ranges, like Texas Stars and Polish Plate Racks. Those last two are pretty awesome in VR because they reset with a push of a button and you can do rep after rep on them to discover the best ways of beating them.

I've gotten to shoot a fair number of real Texas Stars and Polish Plate Racks, and the realism is pretty spot on. Not perfect, but really close.

#### **MULTIPLAYER**

Something you might enjoy is the ability to join another player's game or have them join yours. It's a VR range day.

Personally, this mode isn't for me. There is a solid community of players on Discord who meet up regularly, and Ace hosts regular meetups as well if you're looking for friends to play with.

The technical difficulties grow when trying to use the multiplayer, but that's the nature of the beast right now.

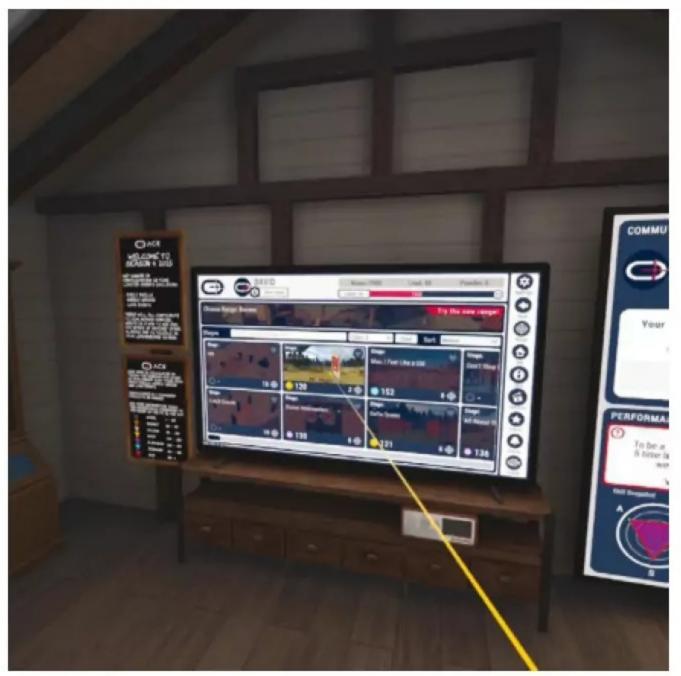
#### **BIGGER IS BETTER**

Most of my time with the Ace app has been using a fairly stationary method of dry fire since this allows me to do it in about a 5x5-foot square space in my living room. For my setup, nothing needed to move, and it's easy to just throw on and get some reps in.

But if you have access to a larger space, like an empty garage or even a backyard, AceXR also offers complete stages—including many stages that were part of USPSA Nationals.

These are simply incredible. Full movement of a real stage, but zero reset and no brass to pick up. Just be really careful to make sure your space is clear, safe and your Meta Quest boundaries are set up correctly.







Running complete USPSA stages in the backyard is insanely fun.

#### **TANGIBLE IMPROVEMENTS**

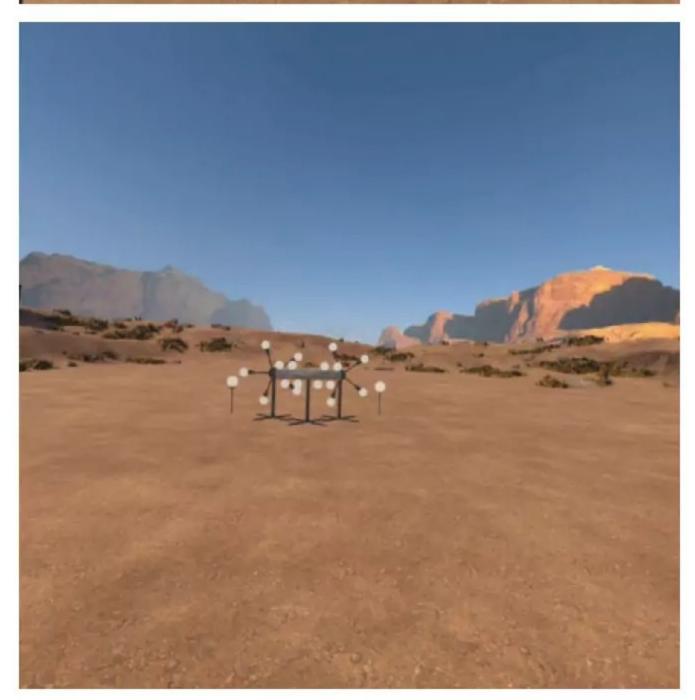
For pistol shooting, there are two major areas that have always been difficult for me, and they both involve speed. My draw is slow, and my shooting is slower overall. Extremely accurate, but slower than it should be. For a little over a year, speeding up has been my main goal, and while progress has been made, it has been incremental.



There is a learning curve when first experiencing virtual reality, especially in training scenarios. But once you get used to the platform, the benefits are limitless and the customization options are many.







In-person classes with Baer Solutions and BRVO Tactical have helped push my rifle speed up dramatically, but my pistol still lags behind.

In June 2024, my draw from buzzer to first shot at 7 yards was about 1.8 seconds. A year of normal dry fire and focusing on my draw at least once a week, plus a 35-day stretch dedicated to draw practice, got me down to 1.5 seconds. Not *horrible*, but not elite either.

Two weeks of AceXR and my draw-to-first-shot time was down to 1.1 seconds *most of the time*. And this wasn't dedicated practice; it just happened. Hitting the real range and doing some live-fire drills, the times remained the same: 1.1-ish when pushing it and 1.2 reliably. Tenths of a second might not sound like a lot, but if you know, you know how much of a real improvement this actually is.

Transitions have improved dramatically, also as evidenced by cutting seconds off my times in the Ace drills and hitting the range to see if it translated to live fire. There is no doubt that time spent with the Ace system has helped improve my shooting, and that it helped more than normal dry fire alone.

#### **COST AND VALUE**

I'll give you the number and then break it down; you're looking at \$650 to \$700 (as of August 2025) to your door for a headset, handset and membership. Google for a coupon code and finding 10 percent off isn't hard, or 20 percent off if you're military or first responder.

The largest potential cost is a VR headset, but the rest of the gear isn't cheap either. For the headset, you have three options: Meta Quest 2, 3S and 3. The Meta Quest 2 isn't in production, but you can find used ones for about \$200 or less. Not recommended, but doable.

Currently supported by Meta are the Quest 3 and 3S. A Quest 3 runs \$500 but has much better resolution and

more storage. If you want to use this for actual gaming on top of Ace, it might be worth it.

Otherwise, the Quest 3S is the trimmed-down version at \$300. Offering less storage and less resolution, the 3S is the budget headset—but it works. Mine came via a Verizon promotion, and it seems these promotions are floating around for a number of things like cable, cell phones, internet, etc.

The Ace handset is \$200 to start with. "To start with" because it's likely that you'll end up spending more if you really want to 1:1 the handset to your main pistol. There is a robust 3D printing community within the Ace community, and a number of aftermarket handsets and mods that you can get from unofficial sources or print yourself. But the tech that makes it all work is the Ace FCU, and those only come in official Ace handsets, and that will run you \$200.

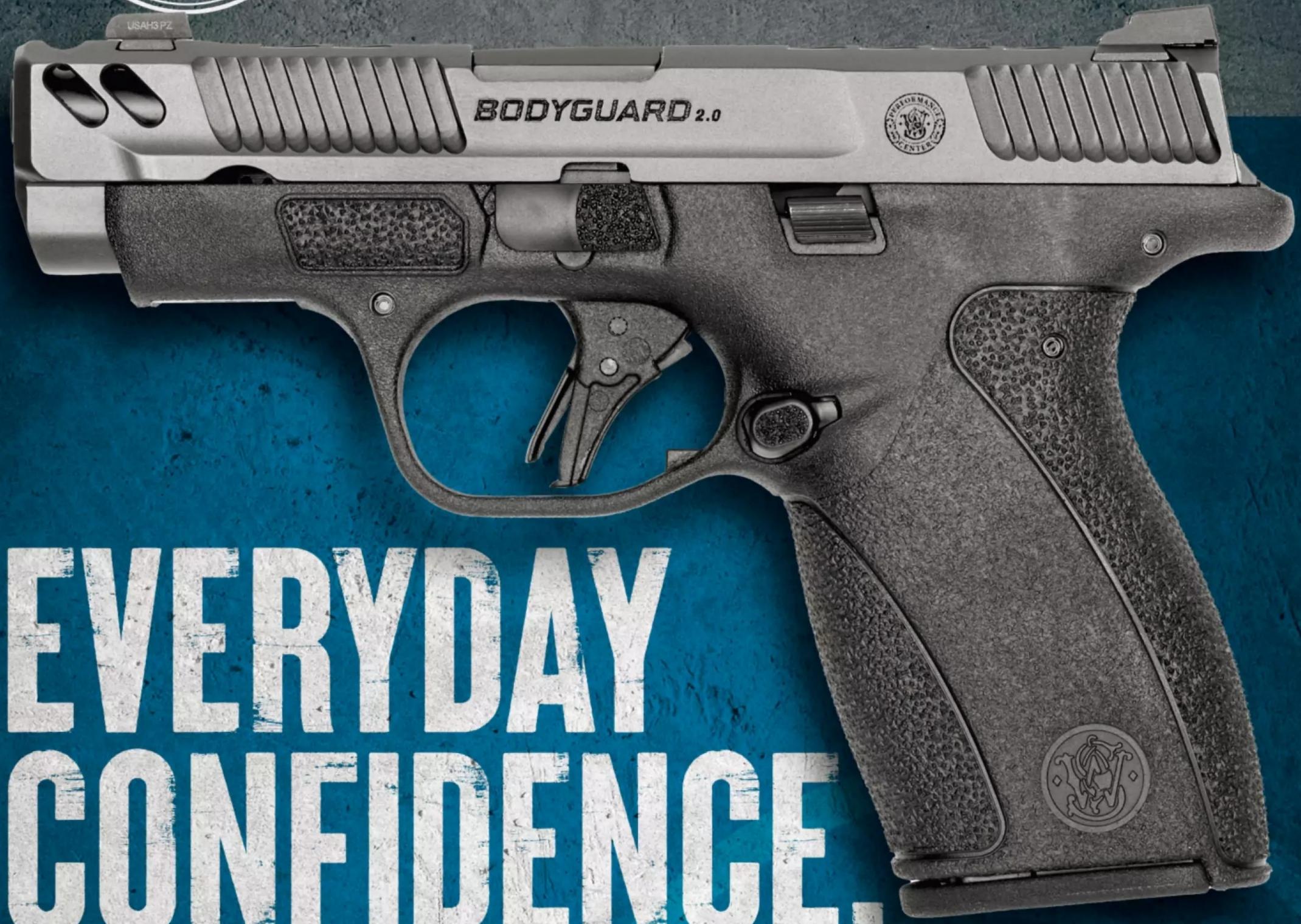
And then there is the monthly or yearly Ace membership: \$19 per month or \$168 a year. A lot of people don't want one more subscription in their lives, but the Ace team is constantly updating the app and adding content. In my book, this is well worth it.

If you get a yearlong membership, handset, and Meta Quest 3S bundle deal from AceXR, you're out the door for \$650 plus shipping/tax. That isn't cheap, especially when normal dry fire is free right?

Think of it this way: Don't look at



# Smith & Wesson® BODY GLIARD® 2.0 CARRY COMP®



#### Cutting Edge Performance - the Bodyguard® 2.0 Carry Comp®

The Performance Center® Bodyguard® 2.0 Carry Comp® is a cutting-edge micro handgun built for pure performance, delivering precision with its sleek design. It's the next evolution for those who are looking for a top-tier micro handgun.





smith-wesson.com



Ace as dry fire, look at it as a training cost. Given the choice of two in-person training classes this year or one class and an Ace setup, the Ace system is a better value. Going forward, the yearly membership isn't that bad if you look at it like a private range membership.

While it doesn't lower the cost, reframing how you think about it helps make it make more sense.

If you put the time and effort into practicing with the Ace system, the gains speak for themselves.

#### **HOLSTER UP**

Again, it depends on how much you want to make your Ace handset match your real pistol—but there are potential added costs. First is a holster. The Ace handset might fit a race holster, but most other holsters won't fit without some modifications. Ace sells holsters designed for the handsets, as does a few other brands like Double Alpha, Black Rhino and FPS Holsters. All of these run \$70 to \$80.

My holster was actually just an old

Dara holster that isn't used anymore and modified using a Dremel.

#### **IT SUPPORT**

The Ace app is surprisingly stable and smooth but isn't free from all bugs—though that has more to do with Meta than they are with Ace itself.

As a lifelong gamer and computer guy, it doesn't frustrate me when computers don't work, and I solve my own problems 99 percent of the time. So far, nothing has come up that couldn't be fixed with just turning either the Ace app or the Meta headset off and back on, but it comes up regularly.

Setting up the Meta headset and making an account, etc. was the most annoying part of the experience, simply because it's Meta. Getting Meta to play nicely with my WiFi was also a surprisingly strange problem that took an hour of resetting and downloading patches.

Every five or six times Ace launches, it needs to be closed and reopened

because it stalls on boot, or the floor doesn't load at the right height or the Drills are "temporarily unavailable" for no reason.

This is honestly not really much of a problem; it's 10 seconds wasted for every six or seven hours of use. But if you're the kind of person who expects everything to work perfectly every time you touch it, you might need to adjust your expectations.

Once the app is launched and you're actively using it, it's almost always problem-free. In almost 30 hours of use, it has only crashed twice, where the app just closed for no reason. I've played a lot of AAA games with worse performance, so that ain't bad.

#### **LOOSE ROUNDS**

I'm a big believer in the AceXR system now and highly recommend it if you're able to take advantage of it and you want to improve as a shooter.

It's not a cheap investment, but it's definitely worth it in my book. Dry



#### **01** Springfield Armory Saint Victor 8.5-Inch 9mm PCC

Springfield's latest Saint Victor offering packs full-size AR performance into a compact 9mm package. The Saint Victor 8.5-inch 9mm Pistol runs a direct-blowback system inside dedicated 9mm forged receivers, with a Melonite-treated 8.5-inch barrel that hits the sweet spot for compact maneuverability and ballistic punch. It features an M-Lok handguard with a handstop, QD mount and the recessed SA Muzzle Drum tucked underneath. Out back is an SB Tactical SBA3 brace, while controls include a short-throw ambi safety and B5 Systems furniture. Feeding from a 32-round Colt-pattern mag, this 9mm blaster is ready for anything.

MSRP: \$1,099

#### 02 Laser Ammo's CQB in a Box

Laser Ammo's CQB in a Box is a portable, wireless training system built for real-world readiness. Designed for law enforcement, military and security pros, it includes three full-size reactive targets with adjustable hit zones for the head, torso and pelvis. Shooters can run simple drills or complex simulations with light-coded shoot/no-shoot scenarios—no range required. The system syncs with a Windows PC for drill analytics and remote control, and it's compatible with Laser Ammo's red and IR laser systems. It all packs neatly into a rugged case for training anywhere.

MSRP: \$2,400 full kit, \$899 single target

#### 03 Federal 7mm Backcountry Terminal Ascent

Federal's new 7mm Backcountry is rewriting the rules for long-action hunting cartridges. With its innovative Peak Alloy case design, it delivers magnum-level speed—up to 3,300 fps with a 155-grain Terminal Ascent bullet—while still running on a standard bolt face. Built for deep penetration and long-range performance, the bonded Terminal Ascent projectile features a high BC (.586), Slipstream tip for reliable expansion and AccuChannel grooves to cut drag and boost accuracy. It's available in 155- and 170-grain loads, both delivering flat trajectories and hard-hitting results



#### 04 C&H ERD-2 Red Dot Optic

C&H Precision's new ERD-2 brings tough, enclosed-emitter performance to shotguns, rifles and PCCs. This 22mm red-dot runs a 3 MOA reticle with 10 brightness settings (including two for NV), and its front-facing sensor auto-adjusts to changing light on the fly. Housed in 7075 aluminum and fully submersible for 30 minutes, the ERD-2 is built to take abuse and keep zero. A 50,000-hour battery life and included Picatinny pedestal mount round out a feature-rich optic that punches above its price.

MSRP: \$280

#### **05** Hawke Optics Frontier Reflex Sight

Hawke's new Frontier Reflex sight brings rugged versatility and a crystal-clear view to pistols, rifles and everything in between. Built with a tough aluminum body and steel shroud, it runs a crisp 3-MOA red dot with 10 brightness levels—including two night-vision settings—and auto-adjusts via on-board sensor. Mounting options are nearly endless, with RMSc, Docter, DeltaPoint Pro, and Weaver/Picatinny compatibility all in one package. Motion-sensing standby conserves battery life, while a side tray makes swaps fast without re-zeroing. At just 0.8 ounce, it's compact, tough and ready for carry, competition or duty.

MSRP: Starting at \$319

#### 06 Primary Arms SLx RS-10R Reflex Sight

Primary Arms just made its popular RS-10 red-dot even more versatile with the new SLx RS-10R. Built around the widely used RMR footprint, it's ready to drop onto a broader range of optics-ready slides and mounts. At just 1.1 ounces, this 7075 aluminum sight is featherweight but rugged, with a 23x19mm multi-coated lens, side-loading battery tray and AutoLive tech that preserves its 40,000-hour battery life. Setting up for duty use or everyday carry, the sight is rock-solid at a fair price.

MSRP: \$210

#### **07 Leupold Mark 5HD 2-10X FDE Scope**

Leupold has added a fresh twist to its elite Mark 5HD line with a 2-10x30mm variant dressed in flat dark earth and outfitted with the illuminated CMR reticle. Built on a 35mm main tube and using Leupold's M5C3 zero-lock turret system, this scope offers 34.9 mils of elevation in 0.1-mil increments—ideal for precision with semi-auto carbines or compact bolt guns. It's first focal plane, loaded with MST motion-sensing tech and backed by the Pro Grade Optical System for clarity across the zoom range.

MSRP: \$2,699





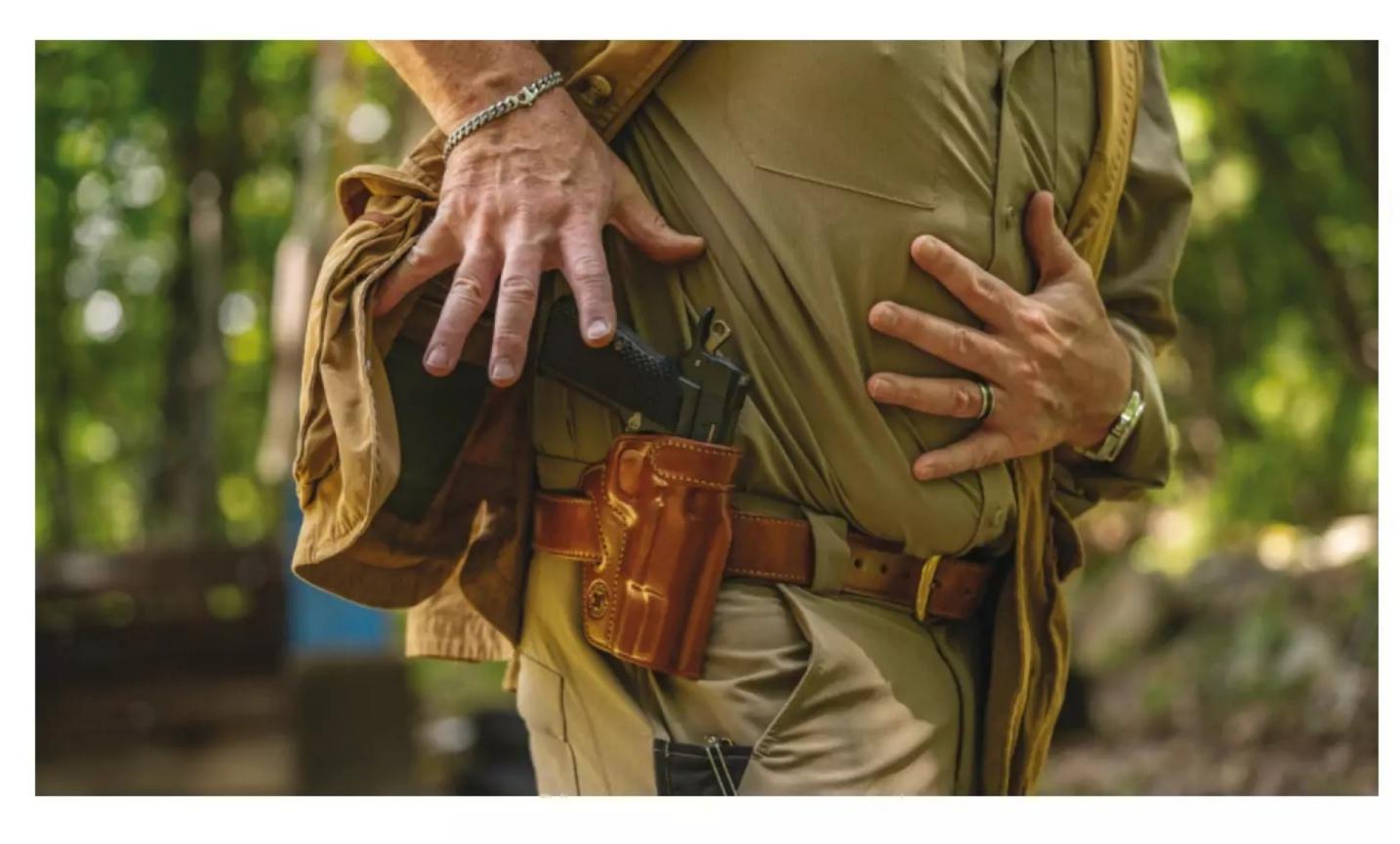


he great thing about improving your skill at presenting your handgun from the holster is that it's a skill you can measurably improve without firing a single shot. Of all the defensive handgun skills you can use dry-fire to develop and practice, presentation is the one where dry-fire can provide the most improvement.

You can break the process of handgun presentation down into four steps. They include clearing for the draw, establishing a shooting grip, clearing the holster and sight acquisition. Let's dissect each of these so you fully understand the draw stroke process.

#### STEP 1: CLEARING/ PREPPING FOR THE DRAW

Before you can draw your handgun, you need to be able to get to your handgun. This is of particular importance if you're carrying concealed. The method will vary a bit depending on



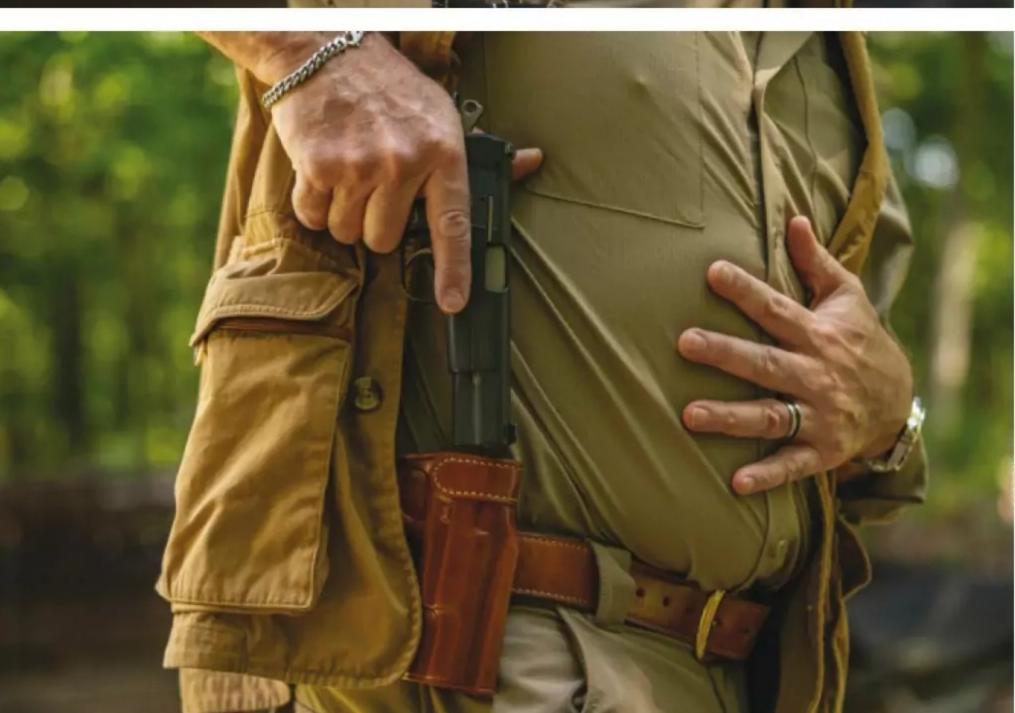
where you're carrying your handgun, but the process is essentially the same. First, obtain a balanced stance, which is a stance that's slightly weight forward where you can remain composed while shooting.

When drawing from concealment, you must use either your support or shooting hand to uncover the handgun.

If you're drawing from your waistband and wearing a cover garment with an open front—like a vest or jacket—use your shooting hand to sweep the garment past your holster.

If your cover garment is a T-shirt or sweater without an open front, use your support hand to grab the bottom of the garment near the holster location and pull it up past the holster. This process would also apply to ankle carry; the difference is your support hand is pulling up your pant leg. Regardless of the situation, exaggerate the clearance of the garment to ensure you can have full and unrestricted access to your holstered handgun.





(Above) Before you can draw a handgun from concealment, you must first clear the concealment garment. With an open-front garment, sweep the garment away with your shooting hand.

Once you've cleared the way to the handgun, you need to establish a shooting grip.

With a shooting grip established, pull the handgun up and out of the holster, far enough the muzzle clears the holster.

#### **STEP 2: ESTABLISHING A SHOOTING GRIP**

Once you pull your handgun from the holster, establishing a proper shooting grip becomes problematic. So, it's very important to establish a shooting grip on your handgun while it's still in the holster. You might be able to deliver a single shot with a poor grip, but you will not be able to shoot accurately and repetitively with speed if you have an improper grip.

Though a proper and comfortable grip will vary slightly from shooter to shooter and from gun to gun, you want your hand to be as high as comfortably possible on the handgun's grip, and you want the handgun—muzzle—to be in line with the forearm of your shooting hand. However, before you attempt to

establish your shooting grip, you must release any retention straps or devices integral to the holster.

As you're establishing your grip with your shooting hand, you should also be positioning your support hand so you can easily establish a two-hand grip without pointing your handgun at your support hand when you draw. You can do this by either placing your support hand at the center of your chest, or, if you just used your support hand to clear your cover garment, hold onto the garment and leave your hand in that location until it's time to obtain a twohand grip.

Another consideration is if you need to use your support hand to fend off an attacker who is very close as you're attempting to draw. If this is the case, try to keep your support hand at least chest high so you don't inadvertently shoot your support hand if you must fire from the retention position, but more on that shortly.

#### STEP 3: CLEARING THE HOLSTER

When you draw a handgun from the holster, you need to bring the handgun straight up—or straight out—of the holster. If the holster has no cant, the gun should come straight up. If the holster has some cant, pull the gun out at an angle equal to the holster's cant. Regardless, the goal is to get the handgun far enough out of the holster so you can get the muzzle oriented toward the threat without holster interference.

Sometimes it's easier to learn to clear the holster in a two-step process. The first being to pull the handgun completely out of the holster and, the second step, to rotate the handgun toward the threat.

#### **STEP 4: SIGHT ACQUISITION**

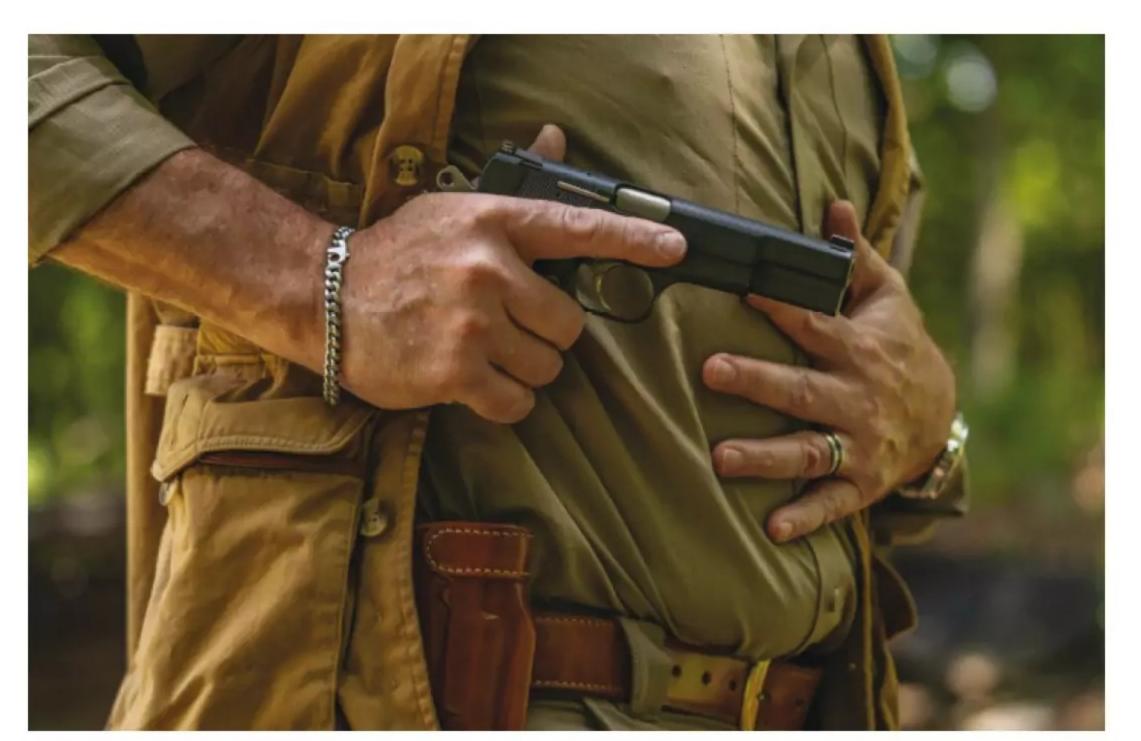
Now you're ready to complete the final step of the draw stroke. Generally, this is the point where you press the handgun out toward the target, often adding your support hand to the grip and finally, establishing a sight picture. At least that's the way most of us would prefer to complete a draw stroke.

Shooting with two hands is always more accurate than shooting with one hand, and shooting with a sight picture is always better than shooting without. The problem is, if the threat is extremely close—within reach—you might not want to extend your handgun toward them, and too, you might not have the time to do that, either.

At this point of the draw stroke, you must make some decisions. The first

will be where you want to shoot from. If you have time and distance allows, you should move the handgun upward toward your line of sight, while at the same time adding your support hand to the grip. Once you have established a proper two-hand grip, press the handgun out toward the target while at the same time attempting to bring the handgun's sights into your line of sight.

Don't make the mistake of lowering



When you have the muzzle clear of the holster, rotate the handgun so it's orientated toward the threat.



As soon as you point your handgun at the target/ threat, you can then add your support hand to the grip.



With a good twohand grip on your handgun, press it toward the target/ threat while raising it so the sights are between your eyes and the target/threat.



your head to pick up the sights. Keep your head erect and move the handgun between your eyes and the target.

If, however, you feel pushing the handgun closer to the threat is not a good idea, you might want to shoot from a retention position. In the standard retention position, you will have a two-hand grip on the handgun, but you will hold it just below or near your chest/nipple on your strong hand side. It can be helpful to cant the pistol

slightly away from your body so your body or clothing does not interfere with the cycling of the slide. You cannot acquire a sight picture in this position, but you can—with practice—point the handgun toward the target to make an accurate shot.

If the threat is right on top of you, you might want to use your support hand to fight off your attacker or to fend off blows to your head from your attacker as you draw. In this case, you

will point your handgun toward the target from the one-hand retention position. This is the same position of the draw stroke where you orientated or rotated the handgun just above the holster.

Regardless of the retention position you're shooting from, sighted fire essentially becomes point shooting.

#### **DECISION TIME**

During each step of the draw stroke, you must be continually aware of the threat level you're dealing with. In a life-and-death self-defense situation, the threat level can change at any moment. Between the time you decide to draw and when you obtain sight acquisition, your attacker might have disengaged or retreated. If that occurs, you will need to decide what to do next. The proper path forward might be to issue verbal warnings while holding your antagonist at gunpoint.

But there are other decisions you must make during the draw stroke, too. If your handgun has a manual safety, when should you disengage it, and at what point during the draw stroke do you place your finger on the trigger?

Regarding a manual safety, disengage it after your handgun has cleared the

If you want or need to point-shoot from the retention position and you're shooting a semiautomatic, it can help to slightly cant the pistol to keep clothing from interfering with slide operation.









When drawing from concealment with an unopened cover garment, use your support hand to pull the garment well above your handgun so you have unobstructed access. Leave your support hand here until you're ready to add it to your grip.

As you begin to establish a shooting grip and pull your handgun from the holster, position your support hand mid body where you can easily transition it to a two-handed grip.





holster, while you're rotating it toward the threat/target. As for placing your finger on the trigger, one of the four firearms safety rules is to keep your finger off the trigger until your sights are on the target. This is a sound rule you should always follow, but what some shooters do not understand is what exactly "sights are on the target" means.

For example, if you're shooting from the retention position, you cannot see your sights—you're point shooting— and you cannot point shoot unless your finger is on the trigger. Similarly, in a self-defense situation, you might need to shoot before you get the handgun fully extended and between your eyes and the target/threat where you can see the sights. Place your finger on the trigger when you're positive you're pointing your handgun toward the target/threat.

#### **GETTING IT RIGHT**

As important as handgun presentation can be in a self-defense situation, it's something you should practice as often as possible. As stated, you can work to perfect your presentation with dry practice. By starting out slow and working to become progressively faster, just a few minutes of dry practice presentation each day can substantially improve your skill level.

Break the process down into the four steps, working on each individually until you can combine the process into a single fluid motion. By using the par time setting on a shot timer, it can help you evaluate your efficiency.

And do not forget to incorporate the retention positions. Some of the laser dry-fire training devices can be extremely helpful with presentation practice, and they can also make the training more enjoyable. **GDTM** 

You can use a shot timer to help evaluate how efficient your handgun presentation is.

Regardless of the type of holster you're using, it's paramount to establish a good shooting grip while your handgun is still in the holster.



# STEEL MEETS STYLE, GIRSAN MC1911 PISTOLS

A great looking firearm doesn't have to break the bank. EAA Corp and Girsan deliver reliable, high quality 1911s loaded with features you'd never expect at this price, backed by a limited lifetime warranty and offered in multiple finishes to complement your style. AIT'S YOUR RIGHT TO BEAR ARMS. IT'S YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO ABIDE BY THE LAW & USE FIREARMS SAFELY

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f you have been looking for a double-stack 1911 pistol (commonly known as a "2011"), you've never had it so good. There was a time when they were "competition guns," and they were heavily used, requiring them to be routinely overhauled and re-fitted by pistolsmiths. But that use taught the 'smiths and makers many lessons, and we have all benefited from the experience.

Now they are everywhere ... and a really good one to lay hands on is the Watchtower Apache.

The overall dimensions of the Apache (named after Operation Apache Snow, aka Hamburger Hill) are the same as a 5-inch government model. Well, a fat one, since there's a double-stack STI/SVI pattern magazine in there. The magazines the Apache arrives with are a flush-fit 17-round magazine and an extended one holding 20 rounds. They are made by Check-Mate, a company with decades of experience at crafting magazines. In the earliest days, we'd have to fit and tune the magazines ourselves, a process involving



rubber mallets and a certain nonchalance about over-tuning. Now, they work 100 percent right out of the box. Again, lessons learned from the forge of competition.

The frame is an assembly, a pre-hardened 4140 machined to be the rails and the holder for the fire control parts. That is married to a composite grip (carbonfiber reinforced with Kevlar) bolted on as the part that holds the magazine ... and the part that you hold on to as well. The grip has a multi-angled set of non-slip traction panels on it, arranged so they work against the movement of recoil. At the bottom is a magwell funnel big enough to be useful but small enough to be concealable if you use the right holster and dress for the occasion.

The frame is lifted on the frontstrap,

pistolsmith shave them down. The trigger is medium length and flat. The steel portion of the frame has an accessory rail that extends all the way to the muzzle for extra weight and complete choice of light or laser mounting.

The slide is aggressively slotted for cocking serrations, and it's also machined to accept an optic. The one tested came with a Trijicon SRO already installed. The front sight is a fiber optic, and the rear is a notch. The irons are just barely visible in the bottom of the optic viewscreen. The metal components are treated to a PVD coating, making them harder than an auditor's heart, but easy to clean.

An added detail is the recoil spring guide rod. Most feature a cross-drilled hole, and you need a high-tech bent paperclip to disassemble. The Apache has a tool-less guide rod. With the slide locked back, pinch the rod to angle the

capture shoulder out and ease it forward. It's now locked, and you can disassemble the Apache—a neat detail and easy to use

The Apache is the same length as a 5-inch government model, but with a difference. The 416 stainless barrel is just over 4½ inches long and has a Clark/Para dimension integral ramp at the chamber. Forward of the muzzle, Watchtower installs a single-port compensator. Comps are the hot new carry item, but they have been in competition use since the mid 1980s.

One detail to be aware of is how a comp works. Basically, it's rocket science. You're taking some of the gases exiting the muzzle and, by changing their direction, using that energy to change the feel of recoil. The more gases, and the higher pressure they are at, the more energy. The best angles and sizes have been worked out since the mid 1980s, so what you have to know is this: lighter bullets. Lighter bullets, generating any given power factor, require more powder



and generate higher pressures than heavy bullets do. That's why the IPSC world switched from .45 ACP to .38 Super back in the 1980s. So, if you want to get the most benefit from a comp, you run the hottest 115- or 124-grain loads you can lay hands on (or reload, within limits, of course).

#### **BUT CAN SHE RUN?**

As a semi-custom pistol (custom features but built as a regular-production inventory item), you'd expect a pistol like the Apache to be accurate and reliable. And you'd be correct in that assumption.

daily carry, and it produced groups that were most gratifying. Reliability was 100 percent to the point of being boring in its routine nature. Load magazine, hose down plate rack, reload, repeat.

As the Apache was the perfect description of the best tool for a particular event at The Pin Shoot, I then tested it with some top-end heavy bullet 9mm loads, found what it liked best and took it north to Central Lake to slay pins. I did my best in the Space Gun event. The load it favored was Michigan Ammo 147-grain JRN, and when I did my part, it shoved off the table with enthusiasm.

Alas, I was not as up to the task as the Apache was, and I finished just out of the standings for the prize table. What are the equipment rules there, you ask?

attached to the barrel. Note the aggressive cocking serrations on the slide.





### WATCHTOWER APACHE

TYPE: Hammer-fired semi-automatic

CALIBER: 9mm

CAPACITY: 17+1 rounds

BARREL: 4.6 inches

**OVERALL LENGTH:** 8.6 inches

**HEIGHT:** 5.6 inches

WIDTH: 1.4 inches

WEIGHT: 2 pounds, 9 ounces (with optic)

FINISH: PVD, graphite, or graphite with

copper accents

**GRIP/FRAME:** Carbon fiber

SIGHTS: Fixed fiber optic front and

adjustable rear

**OPTIC READY: Yes** 

TRIGGER: 3 pounds, 7 ounces

MSRP: \$4,299 without optic

**CONTACT:** WatchtowerFirearms.com,

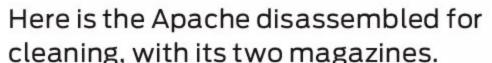
(832) 299-6100

#### **CHRONOGRAPH AND ACCURACY DATA**

АММО	BULLET WEIGHT	VELOCITY	ES	SD	ACCURACY (AVE & BEST)	
Black Hills Honey Badger	100	1,273	52	23.4	1.4"	1.3"
Sig FMJ	115	1,254	12	5.3	1.5"	1.4"
Super Vel +P JHP	115	1,308	37	14.2	1.3"	1.1"
Fiocchi FMJ	115	1,085	72	31.9	1.6"	1.4"
CorBon JHP	124	1,060	58	22.8	1.5"	1.3"
Michigan Ammo FMJ	147	935	53	24.0	1.4"	1.2"

Accuracy results were to be averages of three, five-shot groups at 25 yards off a Champion shooting rest. Velocities are averages of 10 shots measured on a Labradar chronograph set to read 15 feet from the muzzle.







# RCR® TORTURE TEST: SLIDING 40 YARDS ON A TEXAS HIGHWAY.





On a hot Texas night, Jesús Cobos and his Kawasaki Ninja hit a small patch of gravel going 55 mph and slid down the asphalt road. Jesús received severe road rash on the left side of his body. His right side was protected by his Trijicon RCR®, which not only received the brunt of the road rash, but still held zero.

See Jesús' story at Trijicon.com/RCRRoadRash.





For Space Gun, comps and optics are aling efficiency. Next year I'm going to up lowed, and there's no weight limit. That means the 40-plus ounces of the Apache are there to dampen the recoil of 9mm+P equivalent loads.

If comps work best with light bullets, why did I opt for 147-grain bullets for pins? Because 115s and 124s max out in pressure before getting to the upper level of what is needed for pin-whack-

those even more, putting 147s downrange at just over 1,000 fps. The Apache is more than up to that task.

Quality and performance like this does not come cheap. The base Apache is \$4,299, and adding an optic puts the price higher. You don't have to get the Trijicon SRO; you can order the standard Apache and then mount the

If you want to have a superb carry pistol, the Apache is just that. It's a bit heavy and big for everyday carry, but the right holster will deal with that.

red-dot optic that makes your heart go pitter-pat. Add some magazines and you are ready for competition, daily carry or both. **GDTM** 



You might have read about Watchtower being in some kind of financial trouble lately. So, here's the inside scoop.

The original company was F-1 Firearms. Current owner and CEO Jason Colosky put together a group to buy F-1 and renamed it Watchtower after Operation Watchtower, the battle for Guadalcanal. As a second-generation Recon Marine, Colosky is well-read on military history (and other history as well) and names his product lines after military operations where he can.

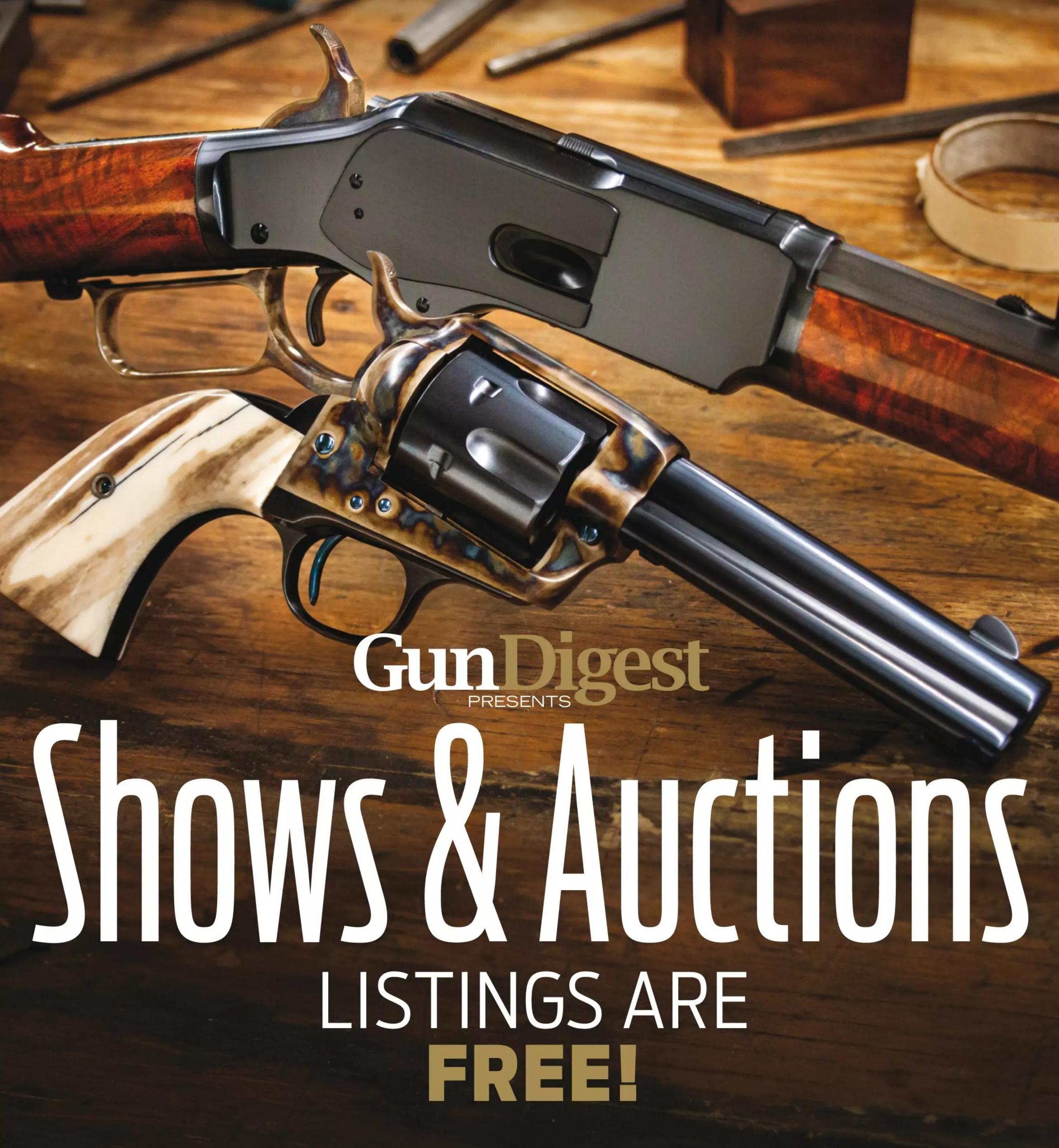
OK, now the financial stuff. Your doom-andgloom shooting buddy at the gun club might not know the difference between Chapter 11 and Chapter 7. Chapter 7 is the "We're all gonna die" bankruptcy where the people who are owed money get to divvy up the company because there's no future for it. Chapter 11 is more like "The economy just threw us a curve, and we need to catch our breath." Rather than standing by while those owed sort out who gets what, the company gets time to square things away, arrange cash flow and streamline operations. This is all in a plan worked out by the company, its creditors and the court.

In a "7," if anyone at the company so much as sells a company-owned paperclip before the creditors show up they can go to jail. In an "11" the idea is to encourage moving inventory. The company isn't going under, they just need elbow room to straighten out some problems.

So, Watchtower and Colosky have been working hard to satisfy everyone. The factory in Spring, Texas, is working near or at capacity, and orders are being filled as quickly as products can be shipped. Everyone is getting paid (employees, creditors, the bank, suppliers, the IRS), and once the contractual agreement has been met (that's what Chapter 11 is, by the way, a contract), Watchtower will have put the problems behind them.

In the meantime, first-class firearms like the Apache will keep heading out the door to eager customers.

Once it is over we can look forward to more excellent product offerings.



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# 38th Year Anniversary

The Show of the Year Sept 27, 28, 2025

# EWSHOWDAIDE

The Show of the Year Sept 27, 28, 2025



Randy Saba, CO

Doug Rainbow, NY













Ken Hamilton, KY

Charles Hancock, TN

WHO'S WHO IN GUNS

CELEBRATE

(PRESENT AT SHOW)

**PROCLAIMED** 

WHO'S WHO IN GUNS

Kelly Ritter, IL

"THE MONEY SHOW"



1250 Tables (8 Ft.)



John Thomas, OK

David Rachwal, OH

Walter Kanzler,FL

Joe

Mazur, CAN.

David Carroll, AL

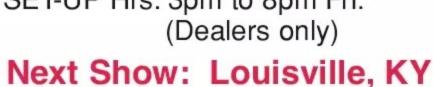
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Don Crum, KY

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Jan 17, 18, 2026

9am to 3pm Sun. SET-UP Hrs: 3pm to 8pm Fri.





Bud Clark, MI



Ralph Petrilli, OH



NO FLEA MARKET ITEMS



Larry Munther, NJ

Jennifer & Gary Gole, OH

John Clark, MI

Jim Behring, MI



Bob Allen, IN



Brian Akins,TN



Richard Binger,IN



Terry Stull, OH

Denny Stima,MI

ALERT!! ALERT!! ALERT!! Please Read! Important!

National Gun Promotions LLC has a new plan, The National Gun Day Shows are being consolidated into TWO MEGA

Special Grand Extavaganza Collector Shows, including modern guns and accessories, per Year. Bigger and Better shows will bring in more

Collectors and the General Public. Our next MEGA Show will be September 27, 28, 2025.

If you would like to part of this New Exciting Plan, please send in your reservation NOW!

It is a WIN, WIN, for everybody!! Everyone wants to see the BIG ONE! can't wait to say "It's Gun Show Time"

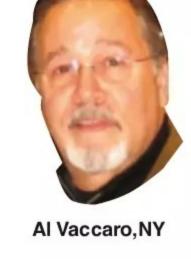


Tony Wilcox, TN

Vin Caponi,NY



Bill Mays, IL













Larry Carpenter,TN



Tim Prince,TN

Dawn & Jim Scannapieco, NY







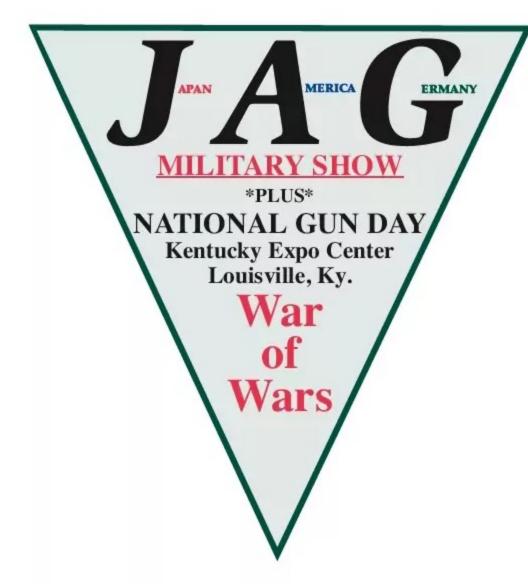


Ed Birnbaum, GA

TRADE TABLE: \$140 E-mail: Ron-Dickson@nationalgunday.com Send to: Ron Dickson, P.O. Box 741, Oxford, Ohio 45056 (Info (513)523-3574) No refund if cancelation is 7 days before show. www.nationalgunday.com







# Exhibitors and Attendees,

I am proud to announce that the <u>THEME</u> of the September 27, 28, 2025, National Gun Day Show, in South Wing "A", of the Kentucky Expo center, in Louisville, Kentucky, will be "LEVER ACTIONS". This will include <u>ALL</u> manufacture's of Volcanic, Henry, Winchester (all models antique & modern), Marlin, Savage, Whitney, Colt-Burgess, Stevens, Sharps, Spencer, and any other manufacturer of LEVER ACTIONS. If your gun has a LEVER, bring it to THE LEVER ACTION CAPITAL OF THE WORLD, Louisville, Ky. This will be an EVENT you will not want to miss. If you are a LEVER ACTION LOVER, this is the show for you. Bring out your BEST!! NO SHOW in the Country can match this WEEKEND!

I have also invited John Gangel (Little John), who is bringing his fabulous "Cabinet of Royal Arms" including King Henry the Great's 1602 Wheelock Pistol, insured for \$1.2 Million dollars, plus many other, GOLD STANDARD, Royal European Arms from the 17th and 18th century for Exhibit and sale at the National Gun Day Show.

Wow, this is going to be an "EVENT", not just a Show!!! That is why they call it the MONEY SHOW!

I suggest very strongly, that you make your reservations as soon as possible and send in your application with payment. If you do not have a application, go to my website <a href="https://www.Nationalgunday.com">www.Nationalgunday.com</a> and print one off. We are using the Crowne Plaza Hotel, \$129 flat rate. Please call 1(866)888-0620 and ask for the "GUN SHOW, Block Code"

LMW" for the special rate, call now!

### You will like this show!

I can't wait to say, "It's Gun Show Time"!!

Ron Dickson

# CAROL WATSON'S ORANGE COAST AUCTIONS

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Sunday, November 2, 2025





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#### **SHOW LISTINGS BY DATE**

#### **SEPTEMBER**

Sep 20-21 SD, Rapid City. Rapid City Rifle Club Association. The Monument Event Center, 444 N W Blvd., Rapid City, SD 57701. SH: Sat. 9am-5pm, Sun. 9am-2pm. A: \$5.00 Daily. T: 205. F: \$50. Rapid City Rifle Club. PO Box 1945, Rapid City, SD 57709. PH: 605-209-1166. www.rapidcityrifleclub.com.

#### **OCTOBER**

Oct 4-5 IN, Valparaiso . Gun & Knife Show . Porter County Exp-Center, 215 East Division Road. SH: Sat. 8am-5pm, Sun. 9am-3pm. A: \$8.00 children 12 & under free with Adult. T: 350. F: \$70.00 8ft.@ run of show . Dunes Rifle & Pistol Club L.L.C.. P.O. Box 345, 812 West Old Ridge Road, Hobart, IN 46342. PH: 219-942-4514. Https://valpogunshow.com.

#### **DECEMBER**

Dec 6-7 SD, Rapid City. Rapid City Rifle Club Association. The Monument Event Center, 444 N W Blvd., Rapid City, SD 57701. SH: Sat. 9am-5pm, Sun. 9am-2pm. A: \$5.00 Daily. T: 205. F: \$50. Rapid City Rifle Club. PO Box 1945, Rapid City, SD 57709. PH: 605-209-1166. www.rapidcityrifleclub.com.



#### **JANUARY**

Jan 17, 18 TN, Lenoir City. Knoxville TN:
Smoky Mountain Gun Collectors Association Gun Show. The Venue at Lenoir City, 7690 Creekwood Park Blvd. SH: Sat. 9am-5pm. A: \$10.00 each day. T: 120. F: \$50.00. Smoky Mountain Gun Collectors Association, Inc. . P.O.Box 9251, Knoxville, TN 37940. PH: 865-333-4970. www. smokymountainguncollectors association.org.

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# **FAIRMONT GUN SHOW**

OCTOBER 4 - 5, 2025 HOURS: SAT 9 - 5 | SUN 9 - 4

MONROEVILLE CONVENTION CENTER MONROEVILLE, PA

# PITTSBURGH GUN SHOW

OCTOBER 11 - 12, 2025 NOV. 29 - 30, 2025 NEW!

DECEMBER 13 - 14, 2025 RESCHEDULED HOURS: SAT 9 - 5 | SUN 9 - 4

C3 SPORTS & EVENT CENTER STATE COLLEGE, PA

# STATE COLLEGE GUN SHOW

OCTOBER 25 - 26, 2025 HOURS: SAT 9 - 5 | SUN 9 - 4

ROCKINGHAM COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS HARRISONBURG, VA

# SHENANDOAH VALLEY GUN SHOW

**NOVEMBER 1 - 2, 2025** 

HOURS: SAT 9 - 5 | SUN 10 - 5

MYLAN PARK MORGANTOWN, WV

# MORGANTOWN GUN SHOW

NOVEMBER 1 - 2, 2025 RESCHEDULED

NOVEMBER 15 - 16, 2025 NEW! HOURS: SAT 9 - 5 | SUN 9 - 4

RICHMOND RACEWAY COMPLEX RICHMOND, VA

# **RICHMOND GUN SHOW**

**NOVEMBER 15 - 16, 2025** HOURS: SAT 9 - 5 | SUN 10 - 5



# FALL 2025 PREMIER FIREARMS & MILITARIA AUCTION

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This is just a small sample of the extraordinary items in our Fall 2025 Premier Auction - view more at www.Poulinauctions.com



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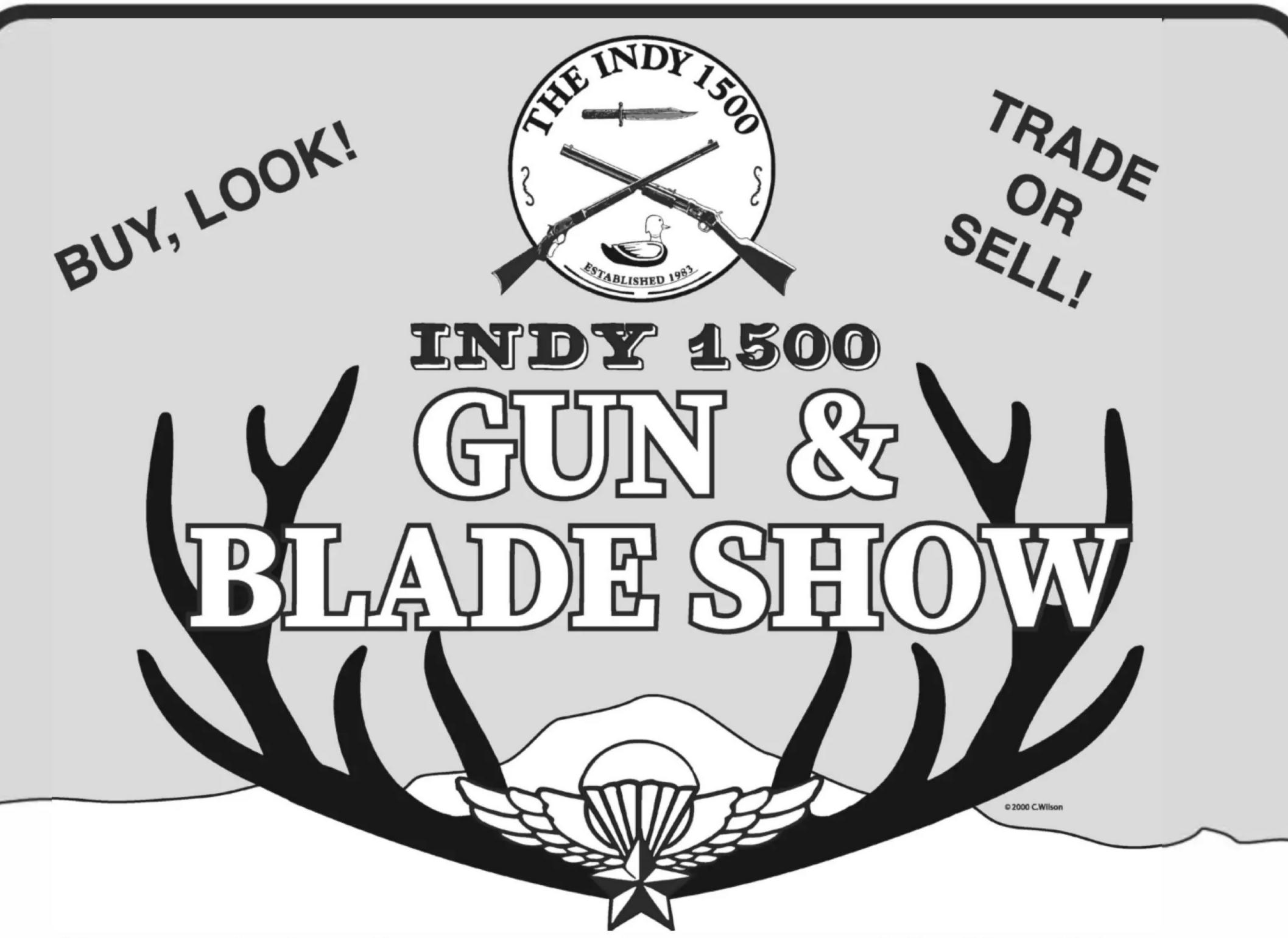
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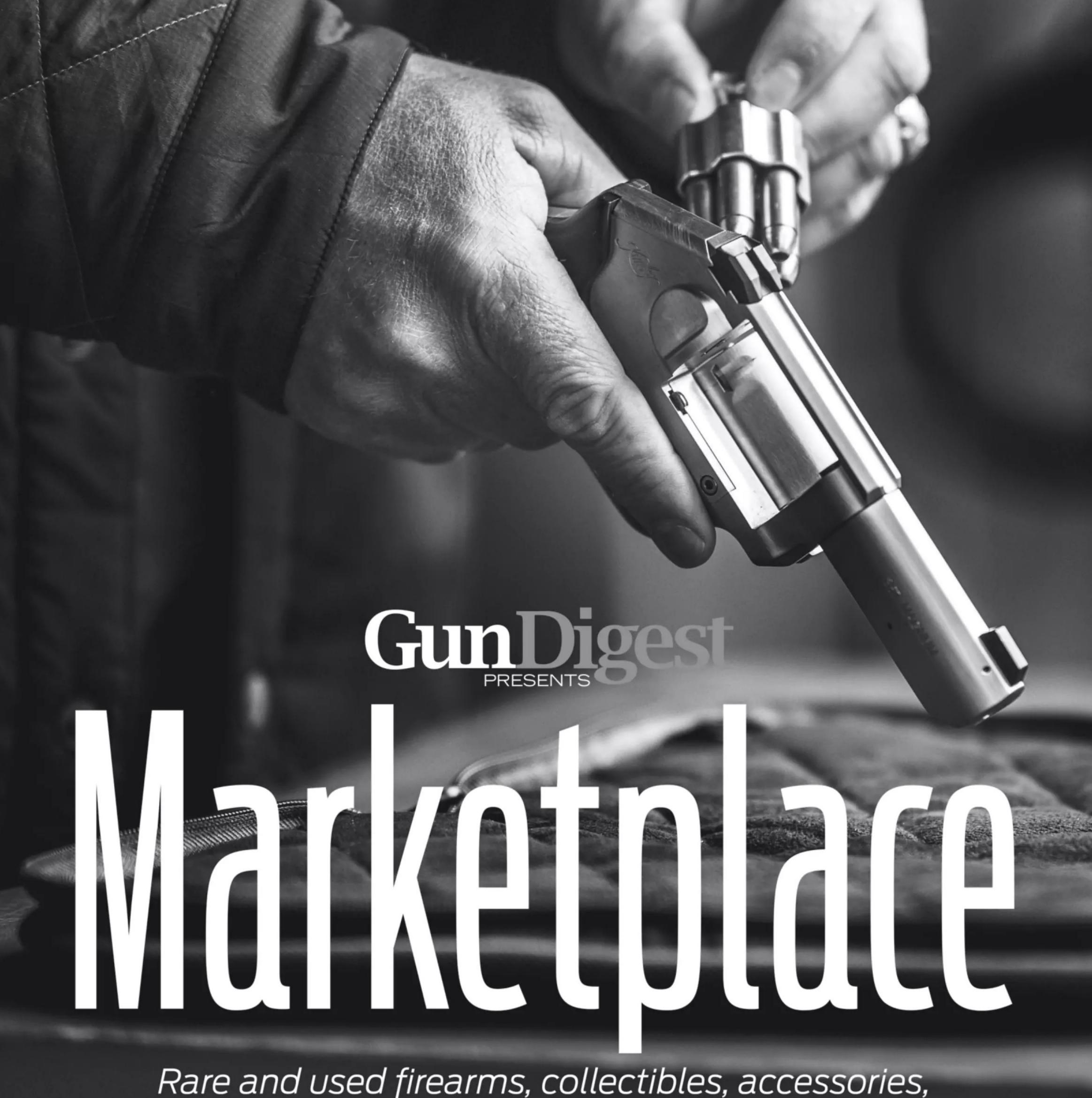
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3% restock fee for items paid with charge card. All firearms sold as "used" collector items only. We do not test fire or guarantee suitability for live firing.

#### **PISTOLS AND REVOLVERS**

- 10-A Colt .22 LR "Bullseye Match Target Woodsman" 1st Year Production Auto Pistol 6 5/8" barrel with excellent bore, 97% original bright blue with a little fading and sharp edge silvering, correct elevation adjustable front and fully adjustable target rear sights, very good "elephant ear" checkered wood grips with silver Colt medallions and a nicely repaired crack at front strap, full blue non "Match Target" marked "Colt Woodsman" over "Cal .22 LR" on base magazine, excellent function, very nice looking 1938 made "Bullseye" (C&R) ..................................\$1475
- 11-A Colt .22 LR "Woodsman Bullseye Match Target" Auto Pistol 6 5/8" barrel with excellent bright bore, 96%+ original bright blue with some sharp edge silvering, factory elevation adjustable front and fully adjustable rear target sights, made in 1939, original "elephant ear" wood grips have been replaced with original Colt checkered brown plastic logo grips of the later 1940's military issue style, correct "Colt Woodsman" over "CAL .22 LR" over "Match Target Mod." marked full blue magazine, excellent function and very good looking (C&R) .......\$1195
- 12-A Colt .25 ACP "Model 1908" Vest Pocket Auto Pistol 2" barrel with excellent bore, fixed sights, 98%+ original bright blue, 95% case color on backstrap / grip safety going a silvery gray, excellent Colt logo checkered hard rubber grips with rampant horse, minty two tone original magazine marked "Cal. 25" over "Colt", excellent function, made in 1920 collector quality (C&R) ....... \$895
- 13-A Colt .22 LR "Officers Model Target" 3rd Issue Revolver 6" barrel with mint bore, 98% original bright blue, adjustable front and rear target style sights, target hammer, grooved trigger, excellent original service style checkered Walnut grips with silver Colt medallions (medallion on right side is loose), super tight lockup and excellent timing, made in 1939 (C&R) ............\$1395
- 14-A Colt .38 Special "Detective Special" Double Action Nickel Finish Revolver 2" barrel with excellent bore, fixed sights, 95% original nickel finish with light flaking loss on edges of butt and straps, excellent function with tight lockup, early exposed ejector rod style, good original full checkered Walnut grips with silver Colt medallions, right grip shows heavy carry wear, made in 1964, excellent function both single and double action (C&R) ...................................\$665

- 20-A Harrington & Richardson .22 LR "Model 949 / 49'er" Double / Single Action Western Style Revolver 5 ½" pinned barrel with excellent bright bore, fixed sights, 98% original blue, 8 shot cylinder with ejector rod housing and loading gate, smooth Walnut grips with a few light dings and dents and a shallow crack on left side, excellent function, manufactured 1995-1999 ..... \$285
- 22-A Harrington & Richardson .22 Winchester Magnum "Model 603" Target Double / Single Action Revolver 6" heavy slab sided ribbed barrel with mint bore, target style fully adjustable rear and blade front sight, minty smooth Walnut (2) piece grips, 97% original blue with a few specks of pitting, 6 shot swingout cylinder, excellent function, looks unfired .......\$365
- 23-A Harrington & Richardson .32 S&W (Short) Hammerless Top Break Double Action Revolver 3" ribbed barrel with excellent bore, 98% original nickel and blue, fixed sights, minty target logo hard rubber grips, excellent function and very sharp looking (C&R) ..................\$245

- 29-A High Standard .22 LR "Model SK-100 Sport King" Auto Pistol 6 ¾" barrel with mint bore, 98%+ original blue, fixed sights, mint checkered brown plastic thumb rest grips with "High Standard / Eagle" logos, "Hi Standard" marked full blue 10 shot magazine, push button takedown, near new overall, made in 1954, collector quality (C&R) ................................\$465

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- 34-A Iver Johnson .22 LR "Target Model 57" Double Action Solid Frame Revolver 4 ½" barrel with very good bright bore, 8 shot un-fluted cylinder with recessed chambers and "flash control" front rim, 30% blue with graying from use (not pitted), excellent function, one piece brown plastic thumbrest grips are excellent, target style adjustable sights front and rear (C&R) ..\$165
- 35-A Iver Johnson .32 S&W Short "Safety Automatic 2nd Model Hammer" Top Break Revolver 3" ribbed barrel with very good bright bore, 98% original nickel, blue and case color, mint "owl" logo checkered black hard rubber grips, fixed sights, excellent function both single and double action, crisp auto ejection, very nice looking and collector quality, made around 1911 (C&R) .......\$295
- 36-A Iver Johnson .38 S&W "Safety Hammer" Top Break Revolver 5" ribbed barrel with fair pitted bore, 92% original nickel, faded blue and case color, fixed sights, excellent "owl head" checkered hard rubber grips, excellent function, both single and double action (C&R) ...... \$185

- 43-A Ruger .22 LR "Old Model Bearcat" Single Action Revolver 4" barrel with mint bore, 99% original blue on steel frame and engraved cylinder, early 1971 style revolver with brass anodized aluminum triggerguard, no ".22 Cal" on barrel, mint smooth Walnut grips with silver eagle medallions, excellent overall, collector quality, in early "Bearcat" (not super marked) black and red two piece box with illegible number on side comes with factory letter (C&R) .........................\$695

- **50-A Smith & Wesson .22 LR "Model 43 .22/32 Kit Gun Airweight" Double Action Boxed Revolver** 3 ½" pinned ribbed barrel with mint bore, 1/8" ramp blade front and fully adjustable target style rear sights, 99%+ original bright blue and case colors, lightweight alloy frame and 6 shot cylinder, flat latch, mint checkered Walnut diamond center, square butt matching grips with silver S&W medallions, as new in original (2) piece early non "Bangor Punta" box with correct end label but non matching white grease pencil number on bottom, made in 1958 (C&R) .......\$1595

- 58-A Smith & Wesson 9mm Para "Model 669" Stainless Double Action / Single Action Auto Pistol 3 ½" barrel with excellent bore, all surfaces are excellent, fixed front and drift adjustable rear sights, mint Pachmayr wraparound rubber grips, excellent function, made in 1985 ....\$435

- 61-A Stoeger Luger .22 LR "Luger Model: Auto Pistol 4 ½" barrel with excellent bore, fixed sights, 99% original blue/black finish, excellent smooth Walnut grips, original 10 shot magazine, as new in original box, box looks like someone used it for target practice with a .22 air gun (approximately 5 holes), functions fine with all paperwork and low serial number .......\$375
- 62-A Walther .22 LR "Model PPK/S" Pocket Auto Pistol 3 ¼" barrel with mint bore, fixed sights, 99% original bright blue, mint checkered black plastic Walther banner logo grips, (1) finger rest black bottom magazine, looks and functions as new in original (2) piece Interarms box with matching end label, a "PP" manual and cleaning tools, manufactured 1970 (C&R) ..............\$795

#### **CENTERFIRE RIFLES**

- **66-A Enfield .303 British "SMLE MKIII\*" WW-I Bolt Rifle** 25" barrel with very good bright bore, 90% arsenal rebuild blue, WW-I style military style sights, matching bolt, very good original wood with some small arsenal repairs, brass "trap" style buttplate and canvas sling missing only the front stacking swivel, excellent function and very good look, 1918 made (C&R) .......\$495

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- 67-A Hi Point 9mm Para "Model 995TS-FG" Clip Feed Auto Carbine 16 ½" barrel with mint bore, 99% original black finish, Picatinny rail upper with ghost ring fully adjustable sight, protective ring bead front sight, Picatinny rail on bottom of barrel, skeletonized black synthetic stock with adjustable butt and cheek rest side swivels with nylon sling, pistol grip and folding forward grip, 10 shot magazine, looks and functions as new ..................................\$345

- 73-A Schuetzen 8.15x46R "Buchel Meister" Original Single Shot Dropping Block Rifle 31 ½" octagon barrel with mint bore, very elaborate original stanchion mounted large disc iris target rear sight with "key" adjustments (no key provided), protective "Ear" front ramp sight is "key" adjustable but is missing its "pin head" insert, 97% nice refinish blue on barrel and action, double set triggers, loop opening lever has "Buchel DRGM" checkered hard rubber insert, upper barrel rail has been neatly drilled and tapped for target scope block (none provided), refinished checkered and carved "ram's head" stock with hooked buttplate, excellent function with 25 rounds 8.15 ammo made from 30/30 brass that were fired in this rifle (C&R) .................\$1895
- 74-A Schuetzen 8.15x46R "Haenal Original AYDT" Single Shot Dropping Target Rifle 31 ¾" octagon barrel with excellent bright blue, 97% original blue on barrel and 97% bright case color on receiver, elaborate "Key" adjustable large disc iris rear original sight and Lyman "Globe" style replaceable insert ramp mounted front sight, excellent Walnut checkered straight grip stock with exaggerated deep cheek rest and thumbrest, excellent look style lever with hooked buttplate and factory swivels, double set triggers, excellent function, sharp looking with an added block of Walnut on forend, probably for a palm rest that was never installed, comes with 25 rounds of 8.15x46R brass made from 30/30 ammo and fired in this rifle (C&R) .................\$2195
- 76-A Schuetzen 8.15x46R "System AYDT" Dropping Block Single Shot Target Rifle 32 ½" octagon barrel with mint bore, original rear sight is missing from stanchion but a Anschutz elaborately adjustable large disc iris has been installed on a moveable grooved rail and front sight is a Lyman replaceable insert "Globe" front on original ramp mount, 97% barrel blue, 90% dark case color on plain receiver, typical elaborate stock with deep cheek rest and thumbrest, checkered and carved straight grip, hooked buttplate and factory swivels, forward wood has an added block of Walnut probably for a future addition of a palm rest, excellent functioning double set triggers, light engraving on loop style opening lever, comes with 25 rounds of ammo (unprimed brass) nicely made from 30/30 and fired in this rifle (C&R) ........................\$1195

- 82-A Winchester .308 Winchester "Model 100" Clip Feed Auto Rifle 22" barrel with mint bore, 98% original blue, original ramp bead front (missing hood) and folding open rear sights plus factory drilled and tapped for scope base on receiver, also drilled tapped and plugged for receiver sight, excellent Walnut pistol grip stock with "basket weave" impress checkering, factory swivels and checkered black plastic buttplate, excellent function, manufactured 1967 (C&R) .......\$735

#### RIMFIRE RIFLES

- 84-A Browning .22 LR "Grade I" Belgian Made Butt Tube Feed Auto Rifle 19 ¼" barrel with mint bore, 99% original bright blue, nicely engraved receiver, factory folding open rear and dovetail blade front sights plus factory drilled, tapped and plugged for scope base, cantilever mount on barrel, minty dark highly figured Walnut pistol grip stock with cut checkering and serrated steel buttplate, looks and functions near new, made in 1968 (C&R) .................................\$865

- 91-A Remington .22 LR "Model 241" Butt Tube Feed Auto Rifle 24" barrel with excellent bore, 90%+ original faded blue, factory open sights plus factory drilled, tapped and plugged holes at top rear of receiver for "peep" sight, excellent nicely figured dark Walnut pistol grip stock with checkered blued steel buttplate, excellent function, made in 1935 (C&R) ......\$495

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- 95-A Remington .22 Remington Auto "Model 16" Butt Tube Feed Auto Rifle 22" barrel with very good bore, 87% original bright but faded blue, factory blade dovetail front sight and period "Marbles" sporting open rear sight, nice dark figured Walnut straight grip stock with numerous dings, dents and scrapes, excellent function, made around 1925 (C&R) .......\$725

- 98-A Ruger .22 LR "Model 10/22" Clip Feed Auto Rifle 18 ½" barrel with mint bore, factory sporting open sights plus drilled, tapped and plugged receiver, 99% "breakup infinity" camo finish, made in 2012 and looks new overall, 10 shot rotary magazine .................................\$295
- 100-A Squires Bingham .22 LR "Model 14" Clip Feed Bolt Rifle 22" barrel with excellent bright bore, 96% original blue with some thinning and light peppery pitting, ramp blade hooded front and sporting open rear sights plus grooved receiver, good hardwood pistol grip stock with cut checkering, Monte Carlo, logo grip cap and logo serrated black plastic buttplate, wood shows lots of storage dings and scrapes but is perfectly useable, excellent function (C&R) ........\$145

- 104-A Winchester .22 LR "Model 77" Clip Feed Auto Rifle 22" barrel with mint bore, 98% original blue, grooved receiver, smooth Walnut pistol grip stock, original Winchester logo buttplate, sling swivels, one Winchester magazine, excellent function, manufactured 1955-1963 (C&R) .....\$235
- 105-A Winchester .22 LR "Model 77" Tube Feed Auto Rifle 22" barrel with bright excellent bore, 97%+ original blue with light muzzle wear, field sights, grooved receiver, smooth Walnut pistol grip stock with a Winchester buttplate, excellent function, manufactured 1955-1963 (C&R) ....... \$265
- 107-A Winchester .22 S, L, & LR Model 69A Clip Feed Bolt Rifle 25" barrel with excellent bore, 95% original blue thinning to brown and gray, scattered pin prick pitting on barrel and receiver, open factory sights, smooth Walnut pistol grip stock with original black plastic Winchester logo buttplate, excellent function, comes with one Winchester magazine, manufactured 1935-1963 (C&R) ... \$255
- 108-A Winchester .22 S, L, & LR Model 69A Clip Feed Bolt Rifle 25" barrel with mint bore, 97% original blue with some thinning at muzzle, bolt handle showing blue to gray and triggerguard shows high edge wear, front and rear sights have been removed and filled in with dovetail blanks, receiver drilled and tapped with Weaver mounted scope base and Weaver B4 4x scope, scope has plain reticule and cloudy optics, smooth Walnut pistol grip stock, sling swivels, black plastic Winchester buttplate, excellent function, manufactured 1935-1963 (C&R) .............\$315
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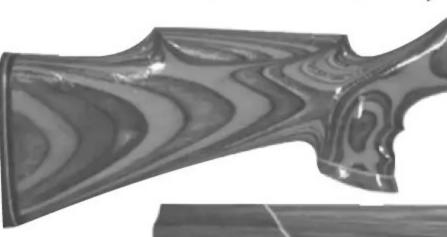
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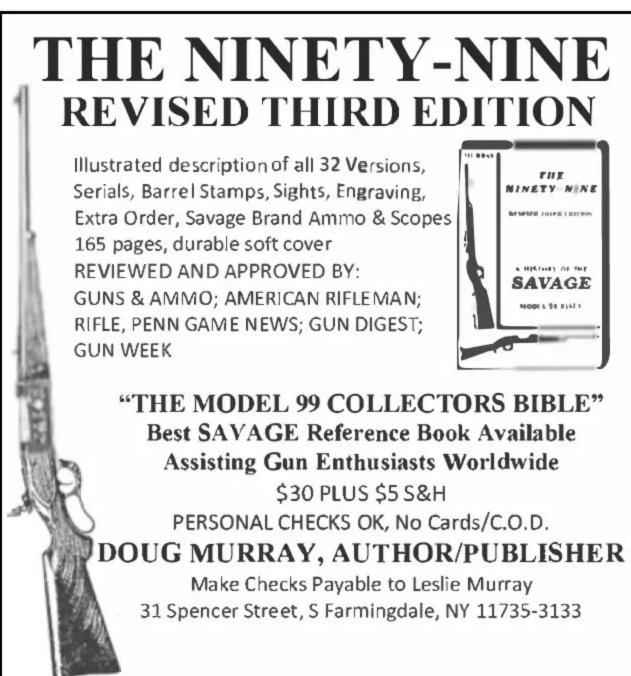
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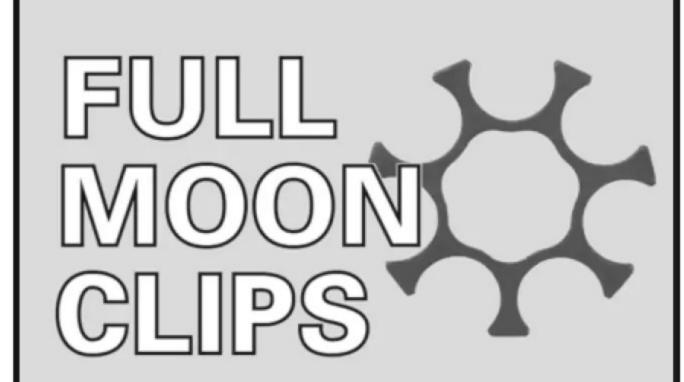
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# PIERCINGTHE IRON CURTAIN

# Shadow Systems releases three new California-compliant pistols.

efore we even start talking about the new Californiacompliant Shadow Systems pistols, let's take a step back. Why should anyone even care what's going on in California or other ban states? Aren't they lost causes? Shouldn't California just drop into the Pacific Ocean and drift away toward the horizon, where it belongs?

Free-state Americans frequently admonish their brethren behind the iron curtain to simply flee to greener pastures—or to flout their draconian state laws. In fact, so many Californians have moved to other states that local newspapers dubbed it the "California Exodus." Every year since 2010, more people have left the state than have come in from other states, citing the high cost of living, crime, politics, and taxes, among other things. Note that this is a measure of net migration from state to state; California's overall population continues to grow due to birthrates and immigration.

That said, millions of people have many generations of families, jobs, businesses and other critical reasons to stay where they are. And if your family relies upon you to provide for them, you can't just ignore laws and risk prosecution.

Not to mention that extremely populous states like New York and California—while considered hot beds

of really bad ideas these days—are huge uses to control its residents, discourage economic engines and integral to the nation, however aggravating they can be. California and New York represent approximately 12 and 6 percent of the total population of the United States, respectively. Together, just those two states comprise nearly 60 million people, or 17 percent of the whole country, according to census estimates for 2024. Even if the Second Amendment is a second-class citizen in those states, think of the sheer numbers of gun owners in an absolute sense.

Indeed, according to analyses of NICS data, Texas, Florida and California each accounted for over 1 million firearms sales in 2023, in total almost a fourth of overall sales nationwide and outpacing all of the other states. When it comes to total firearms by state, Statista estimates that California has the fourth highest number of weapons. Any way that you slice it, California is a significant player in the firearms space, and a key component in the ongoing fight to preserve the Second Amendment. Fortunately, patriots in these states and 2A advocacy groups are strong and persistent, and we should all support their efforts. And don't forget that the landmark Supreme Court Bruen decision came out of New York, too.

One of the methods that states like California, Maryland and Massachusetts (plus the District of Columbia)

gun ownership, stifle innovation and increase costs of ownership is to limit handgun sales to only those models that are on an official roster. These states claim that this requirement filters out so-called "unsafe" handguns from being sold, by imposing design and testing requirements on new guns submitted by manufacturers for approval. The absurdity of this claim and the true motive of preventing gun sales is laid bare when you discover that merely changing the color of an already-approved pistol would render it "unsafe"



This article originally appeared in Gun Digest's sister publication, Concealment, a magazine dedicated to the art of hiding guns in plain sight. Need to know more? Go to GunDigestStore.com and search "Concealment magazine."

until the manufacturer shoulders the substantial expense of submitting samples, paying for testing and covering various upfront and ongoing fees. In fact, California had managed to bring things to a standstill for a decade by the inane and wholly impractical requirement to microstamp unique codes on spent brass, but this was eventually stymied by litigation—only to have state legislators pass yet more laws that loom forth for the future.

In the meantime, requirements for new handgun models to have loaded chamber indicators and magazine disconnect mechanisms remain. These aren't insurmountable challenges, so manufacturers have been steadily adding pistols to the roster, and long-suffering residents have more selections than ever to finally partake in years of advancement in handgun design. We should all celebrate millions of Californians gaining access to the latest guns, expanding support for the Second Amendment,] and adding yet more people to the ranks of gun owners.

#### **BAN THE BLOCKADE**

The Glock template of perfection

doesn't include loaded chamber indicators and magazine disconnects. LCIs aren't a big deal, but magazine disconnects are a legitimate safety hazard on a Glock-pattern pistol. Consider the procedure for disassembling a Glock. Since you must press the trigger to field strip a Glock, one of the most crucial steps for safety is to unload the gun and remove the ammunition source. But a magazine disconnect requires you to reintroduce a magazine to drop the striker. Yeah, that seems like a good idea.

We've reviewed a few of Shadow Systems' recent releases, including the





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The loaded chamber indicator is very straightforward. There's a cutout on the top of the barrel where a spring-loaded lever gets pushed upward when a round is present in the chamber. Many other pistols have a similar design, and the only real downside—besides aesthetics—is that the glass on your optic will get fouled. We wish more companies would incorporate an LCI on the side to avoid this issue. For example, Staccato's new HD P4 for California has one nestled above the extractor.

Meanwhile, the magazine disconnect that Shadow Systems devised is very clever. It's essentially a doubledingus—the ever-present safety dingus on the trigger shoe can't move backward or allow the trigger to move unless a magazine is seated in the gun. A spring-loaded lever gets pushed up by the magazine to clear the safety dingus. Since this design piggybacks on the existing trigger safety, the trigger feels exactly the same and is unaffected by the magazine disconnect—unlike, quite famously, the Browning Hi-Power. Moreover, the mechanism is entirely within the trigger shoe, so it's easily removed by simply replacing the trigger/ trigger bar. Or you can drift a pin and excise the mechanism.

#### **MAKING GUNS NORMAL AGAIN**

Shadow Systems might be cautious about describing how to remove these components, but we have no such inhibitions.

First, the usual disclaimer—modify your firearms at your own peril. Begin by field stripping your pistol. Remove the magazine from your weapon and ensure it's unloaded, visually and physically inspecting the chamber. Remove all ammunition from the area and grab an empty magazine. Double check the chamber, insert the empty magazine and pull the trigger. Remove the magazine, then retract the slide ever so slightly while pulling down on the take down lever. Let the slide go forward and pull it off the frame. Remove the recoil spring assembly and barrel.

The LCI is easy to remove. Remove the optic cover plate or your red dot, and take a close look at the LCI. Wiggling the lever will free it from the slide. Then, fish out the small spring. Fouling on the optic is bad enough with the LCI; we don't even want to shoot the gun without one. So, yank it if you like, but we'll leave ours in place.

Dealing with the magazine disconnect takes a little more effort. First, you need to remove the trigger assembly. Grab your frame, and with a 3/23-inch punch, drive out the locking block pin (the one on top). Then, push out the trigger pin; press on it from the left side while jiggling the slide stop lever to get

all the holes aligned. Due to the spring tension, try pushing the lever forward and up a bit. Once the trigger pin is out, the slide stop lever will come out too. Remove the locking block; it's a bit tight so you can pry it out. Push out the plastic trigger housing pin. Now you can pull the whole trigger assembly out of the frame—pull on or pry up on the ejector.

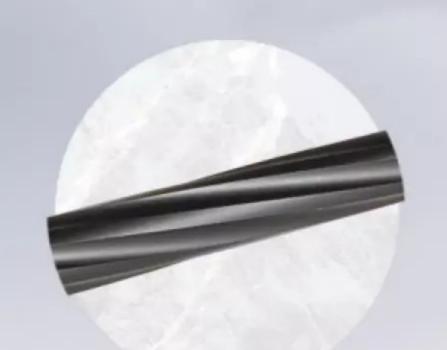
At this point, you can either modify the existing trigger shoe or simply replace part or all of the trigger assembly.

The cheapest option is the former, and by cheapest, we mean free. Examine the silver lever and the silver pin on which it pivots. From the right side, find the pin and rotate the trigger bar upward so you can reach the back of the pin. Use a small punch and thread it past the trigger bar. Push out the pin, then remove the lever and its spring. You're done.

Reinstall everything in reverse order, except install the trigger pin last. Squeeze the slide stop lever and its spring underneath the locking block pin, then insert the trigger pin from the right side while jiggling the slide stop to get the holes to line up again. We modified the XR920 shown here in this manner; it's easy and you can't tell it ever had a magazine disconnect.



# FEATURES



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If you want to leave the original part unmolested, the second option is to replace either the trigger shoe/trigger bar or the entire trigger assembly. Shadow Systems sells replacement trigger shoe/trigger bars for around \$20. Extract the original by pulling it forward and twisting the cruciform out of the housing. Unhook the trigger spring from the trigger bar; pay close attention to the spring's orientation so you can reinstall it the same way with the new part.

Even better, upgrade your trigger. Note that Shadow Systems has a proprietary round firing pin, and owners have reported occasional compatibility issues with aftermarket Glock triggers. We were talking to Johnny Glocks about it and ended up inspiring them to just go ahead and develop a trigger kit specifically for these guns, based on OEM parts they sourced from Shadow Systems. So, to all you Shadow Systems owners out there, you're welcome!

The new Johnny Glocks Umbra trigger kit is a complete replacement and will be in their Combat style, with no separate Competition kit. The flat-faced Vex Duex trigger shoe is new, featuring a longer safety dingus with improved fulcrum point and a reduced power spring. There's also a reduced power firing pin safety spring and three firing pin springs (4, 4.5 and 5 pounds) to dial in your desired feel. All the components are OEM from Shadow Systems and worked over by Johnny to deliver the trigger pull you've grown to expect from him. The modified firing pin is an optional upgrade. We installed the complete kit in the MR920, swapping out the firing pin spring to achieve a 4-pound trigger pull. It's super clean and smooth, with a crisp break, no overtravel and a short reset.

Another alternative is Timney's Alpha Competition Series trigger, which fundamentally changes the gun's operation from a partially cocked to a fully cocked striker—like a single-action pistol. Timney's system nests a sear assembly in the rear trigger housing to hold the striker fully to the rear, releasing it consistently with a very light pull weight, if so desired. Meanwhile, you can retain your full-power firing pin spring for reliable ignition. The trigger was very light and consistent, with some overtravel; we

set it up at 3 pounds in the DR920P for range and match use. However, we only installed the base package, so the stock firing pin safety and spring robbed some smoothness from the experience. We'll need to rectify that later.

#### **CALIFORNIA DREAMING**

Shadow System's new CA models include the MR920 (G19), XR920 (G19X) and DR920P (G17 with a compensator). All three come in the Elite configuration with extensive machining on the slide and fluted barrels in either black or bronze. The MR920 and XR920 are also available in flat dark earth.

While the MR920P we reviewed before required no break-in period at all, these guns went through several boxes of ammo before shaking off occasional feeding issues. Off the bench, they turned in solid accuracy with Federal Syntech Action Pistol 150-grain, delivering the best 20-yard groups at 1.25 inches, though other loads spread out a fair amount. Muzzle velocities out of the shorter guns were about 3 to 4 percent lower than the DR920P.

We ran the pistols with stock triggers

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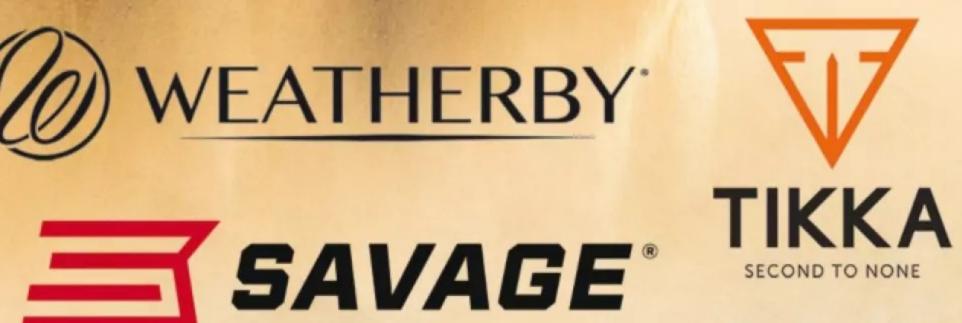
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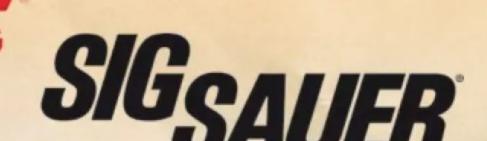


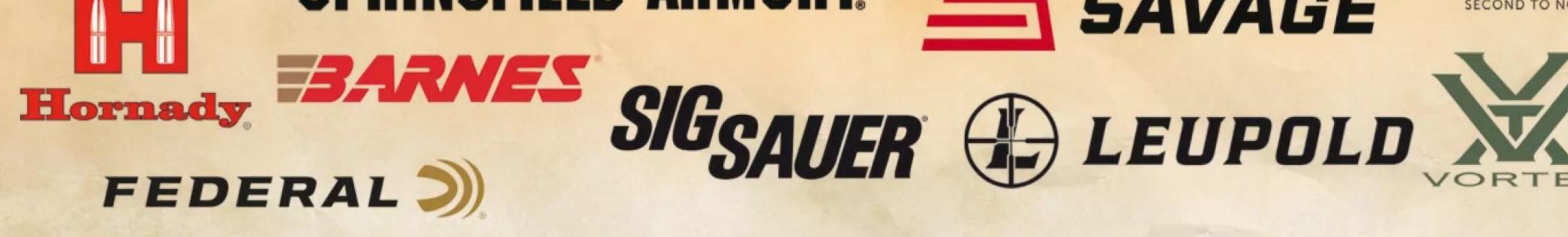














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XR920 and MR920

are also available in

before modifying them, and as you'd expect, you can't feel the magazine disconnect—unless of course you try to shoot one without a magazine. However, quite noticeable was the crud that begins to collect on optics due to the LCI.

Otherwise, the three guns behaved just like normal Shadow Systems pistols—great ergonomics from the frames, with the sticky texturing, double-undercut trigger guard, thumbpads, extended controls, modest magazine well and interchangeable backstraps (small, medium and large are included to fit your preference). The slide work is great for all styles of slide manipulation, and the optic mounting system is top-tier. Shadow Systems shortened the extractor plunger to make room for long, hefty optic mounting screws. The universal

footprint can directly mount RMR, DPP and RMSc footprints very low in the slide, with spacers to fill in the extra space. The guns also come with metal iron sights with serrated plain black rears and tritium fronts with a fluorescent ring.

Note that the DR920P has an islandstyle front sight that's affixed to the compensator so it doesn't reciprocate with the slide, making it easier to track your sights through recoil. Not that it recoils much, as the compensator makes it shoot very flat. All three pistols handled USPSAstyle stages with aplomb.

In California, only gen 3 Glocks are on the approved roster. Not surpris-

ingly, the new Shadow Systems are flying off the shelves of the local gun stores. Yes, they're more expensive, but they come from the factory with custom Glock features, and building your own tricked-out Glock would be quite pricey. So check them out ... if you can find one. **GDTM** 



	Accessories:
Atibal CRD red-dot sight	\$250
C&H Precision Weapons Comp optic	\$250
Johnny Glocks Umbra trigger kit with striker	
Nightstick TCM-10 weaponlight	
SIG Sauer Romeo1 Pro red dot sight	
Streamlight TLR-7 HL-X weaponlight	\$295
SureFire XR1-A weaponlight	\$449
Timney Alpha Competition Series trigg	jer \$130
	URLs:

Atibal Optics: atibal-optics.com

C&H Precision Weapons: chpws.com

Federal Ammunition: federalpremium.com

Global Ordnance (Igman): globalordnance.com

Johnny Glocks: johnnyglocks.com

Nightstick: nightstick.com

SIG Sauer: sigsauer.com

Streamlight: streamlight.com

SureFire: surefire.com

Timney Triggers: timneytriggers.com

#### SHADOW SYSTEMS

# MR920

Caliber: 9mm

Barrel Length: 4 inches

Overall Length: 7.1 inches

Overall Height: 4.8 inches

Width: 1.2 inches

Weight Unloaded: 19.2 ounces

MSRP: \$1,140

## SHADOW SYSTEMS

## XR920

Caliber: 9mm

Barrel Length: 4 inches

Overall Length: 7.3 inches

Overall Height: 5.3 inches

Width: 1.2 inches

Weight Unloaded: 20.4 ounces

MSRP: \$1,164

# SHADOW SYSTEMS

### XR920

Caliber: 9mm

Barrel Length: 4.5 inches

Overall Length: 8.4 inches

Overall Height: 5.3 inches

Width: 1.2 inches

Weight Unloaded: 20.7 ounces

MSRP: \$1,293

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The Configurable Field Spotting Scope (CFS) 6-36x50mm F1 was designed with practical field use in mind. An emphasis on balanced ergonomics, flexible configurations, and refined optical quality, while maintaining the ruggedness Nightforce is known for make the CFS ideal for your next adventure.



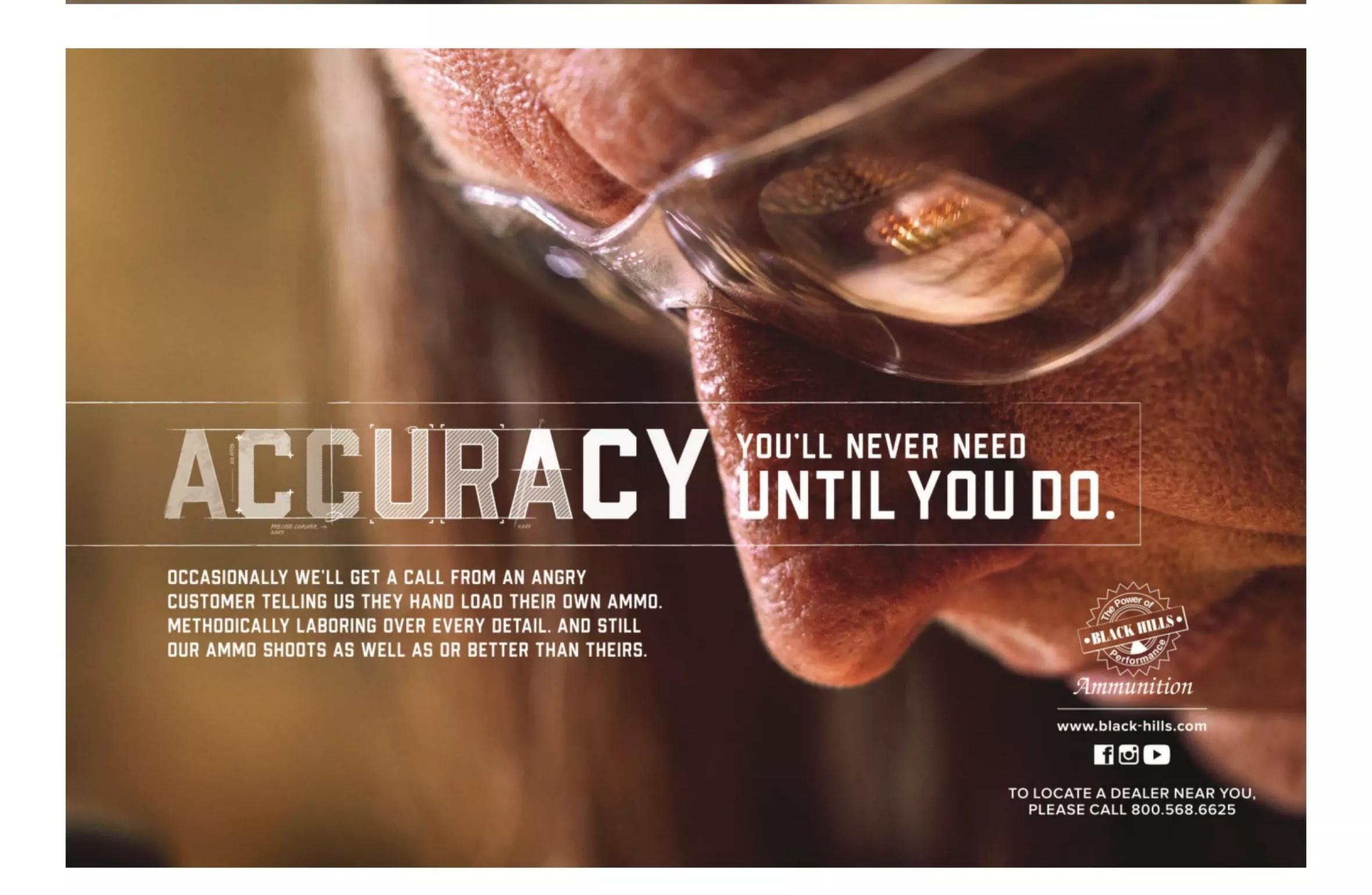


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# 6 MINISTRICTY SUPERIORITY

How the rising 6mm bore challenges the established order.

he 6mm bore has been around for quite some time, and it has almost always been met with a degree of criticism against more powerful—or common—bore diameters such as the .30, 7mm and even 6.5 as of recent. The bore has been used steadily during the past century in both military rifles and hunting guns, the most common and well-known 6mm being the .243 Win.

Many hunters who use this cartridge don't immediately associate it with the 6mm class, mostly because of the American language barrier. The parlance has started to change in the past several years with a few chamberings making serious waves in both the competitive arena and for combat use. While there are still limitations to these rounds against the established pantheon of American classics, two of these are well on their way and gaining a serious following.

Enter 6mm ARC and 6GT, two of the cleverest 6mm rounds yet designed.

### THE AUTHOR'S BOX DILEMMA

When it comes to most types of guns, we are limited to a certain "box" in terms of broad-scale market feasibility. I've talked about this concept often on these pages, so I'll sum this up as the set of dimensions that allow us to have

The 6GT is a peak round for thermal hunting due to its flat shooting nature and very low recoil. Sights like the Armasight Contractor heavily benefit when combined with a low recoil platform.

an aftermarket: the Remington 700 footprint and trigger setup in bolt actions, mil-spec AR dimensions, common muzzle threads, the entire concept of SAAMI spec, and so on.

As an industry, we build new from what already exists. We can't reasonably expect an entirely proprietary system to be immediately successful without at least one standard component or chambering. A brand-new rifle can be entirely different from all others, but it had better take common mags in a common caliber or it risks failure commercially.

The AR and 700-style magazine wells are a small set of dimensions that has served as a graveyard of cartridge designs over the





past several decades, with the majority dying off as a result of botched introductions and poor exceptionality—they didn't do anything better than the next and were eventually dropped.

Magazines have also been a weak point, and cartridges that have a hard time feeding in common mags, or mags that simply cost too much to stock up on, also struggle. Because many of these designs were made first and no reliable mags existed in any quantity, they found themselves wanting against established patterns.

For example, 5.56 NATO mags were mastered long ago, as were a variety of 7.62 NATO and Eastern Bloc mags in their own 7.62 and 5.45 cartridges. 6mm rounds have been used in our common mags for years, but never with any high degree of success. Again, the .243 Win. was undoubtedly the only common 6mm cartridge in regular use at the time 6 ARC and 6GT started to gain traction.

Looking at the AR magwell, all future designs are up against the 5.56/.223 Rem. The 5.56 packs a lot of power into a very small space and is lethally

effective at ranges many shooters consider it to be outclassed at. At National Match courses, we're shooting 4X optics at 600 yards in 5.56 NATO. I typically use Black Hills MK262 77-grain OTM, one of the best rounds made for the chambering, and easily one of the most lethal 5.56 loads at any distance that a .22 bore bullet can be made to fly. All things considered, from a weight-to-lethality and accuracy standpoint, the MK262 is hard to beat in most arenas.

Knowing that there is a limited space on common dimensions with which to work, cartridge designers are challenged to try and knock off an existing round ... or make one that plays well with others in one way or another. This was a great challenge that the 6 ARC and 6GT have both addressed very well without stepping on toes, so to speak.

### 6MM ADVANCED RIFLE CARTRIDGE

The long and short of the history of the 6mm ARC involves Hornady, the Department of Defense and the base AR/

M4 platform. Hornady began designing their ARC line earlier than you may think, and, in fact, the now-released .338 ARC was the first of them, but it was initially held back. Physically, the 6 ARC is a remarkable little round that can deliver 100-grain-class bullets, usually 103 up to 108 grains, at listed velocities up to 2,800 fps, but most people are firing this in much shorter barrels, closer to 2,600 fps or less. I don't lose much speed in 14.5- and 18-inch barrels, the latter being somewhat ideal.

Over the years, I've shot this cartridge in barrels as short as 12 inches out to 800 yards—and it's hardly remarkable, just easy to do, at speeds of about 2,450 fps. The 6mm ARC fires long, slender, low-drag bullets that do their job extremely well. I've shot 6 ARC past 1,000 yards and, while it doesn't ring steel as hard as .300 Win. or .338 Lapua, it can do this from a

Lots of innovation takes place in this relatively small space. The 6 ARC is in an ASC magazine that is designed specifically to feed it. The 5.56 (top) is in an old Magpul 20-round PMAG. The ARC family requires a different internal structure to feed well, whereas the 5.56 feeding reliably has been old news for ages now.

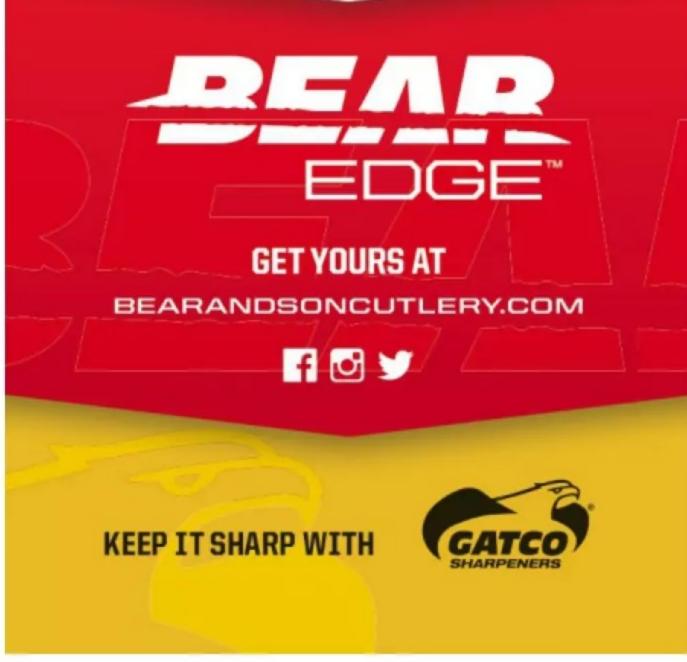












very compact, lightweight semi-auto.

Against 5.56, it offers seriously increased ballistics at distance and is better for hunting medium-sized game. Think of it akin to a .243 Win. in a small-frame AR with less recoil. It suffers regarding magazine capacity and size against 5.56; you will have less rounds for the same mag footprint. While not a shoulder destroyer, it has more recoil than 5.56, even when suppressed—which shouldn't be a surprise.

That said, the 6 ARC wasn't designed to compete with 5.56 NATO: Side by side, I'll always prefer the 5.56 for carbines—but for a long-range AR, the 6 ARC is better. If you're debating getting something outside the AR platform for long-distance shooting, or for hunting animals up to big whitetails, check into the 6 ARC.

### **TAMING THE TIGER**

To address the elephant in the room, or "tiger" rather, the 6GT was born of a need to compete. And since its SAAMI acceptance, it has continued to gain popularity. But this esteem has largely been relegated to the long-range competition world.

There are already a bunch of articles written on the development of this round, its history in PRS, and its merits for striking plates. But what has seldom been written about is the 6GT as a practical round in a shorter barrel with a suppressor ... for the field.

I first shot this round when it was effectively a wildcat and was impressed with the 1,000-yard

Interesting intermediate rounds that the 6 ARC has an association with, both familial and competitive, left to right: the 5.45x39, 5.56 NATO, .224 Valkyrie, 6 ARC, .300 Blackout and .338 ARC.



performance and utter lack of recoil, and the 6GT offers a wide range of benefits over other small-bore precision rounds. It's somewhat in a league of its own, so it doesn't directly compete with rounds like .308 Win. and 6.5 Creedmoor, but it does exist within their box with a bit of crossover.

For the reloader, it's very forgiving and quite mild. Many guys I know are getting long brass life and have improved barrel life over rounds like 6 BR and 6 Creedmoor, as well as an accuracy advantage over .243 and other 6mm rounds due to its design around VLD bullets. It's a reloader's dream, and it does really well with some com-

mon powers like Varget, which I use in just about everything I load for—from 6.5x55 to .308 Win. Velocity out of the longer comp barrels is usually around 2,900 fps.

For a field crossover gun, there are notable examples of its untapped potential. For one, it marries well with thermal optics. Shooting a suppressed 6GT with thermal is a dream; it shoots flat, hits hard at medium range and is easy to get along with at longer ranges where higher recoil can induce flinching or discomfort.

The round also suppresses extremely well, making it just that more comfortable to use. I opted to use a much shorter barrel than the common 26- or 28-inch competition barrels. The barrel I had specially made for this experiment



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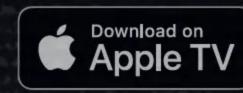


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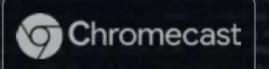












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was a Solus prefit from Straight Jacket Armory, 18 inches long in Heavy Palma contour. This, in a new KRG Whiskey chassis, is field ready and compact ... yet it delivers superior accuracy with low recoil and excellent ergonomics. With Hornady factory 109-grain loads, I'm getting a modest 2,675 fps with very low recoil using this shorter barrel. The 6GT fits in well alongside your .308, 6.5 and 5.56 NATO—while doing things its own way.

### THE INEVITABLE 6MM

The modern 6mm rounds we're talking about here have somewhat of an uphill battle with average shooters who can't see how they integrate into what is already established, yet we see a somewhat global trend to this general diameter. Even Russia is developing a 6mm round to potentially replace both 5.45 and 7.62x39, but that remains to be seen. When 6ARC was introduced, I gave it a good, "We'll see," and then I started shooting it and loved it for what it did. My friends also shot it, and the first thing they said was something to the effect of, "It will kill the 5.56."

No, it won't.

Likewise, when I started shooting 6GT, I was not convinced that this little plate-ringer was worth it for anything else other than a sport I was exiting. This was largely because the rifles I was using were total boat anchors, and

suppressed. Again, the guys saying it will kill 6.5 CM are just flat out wrong, except in their specific target shooting discipline where there is a never-ending gear race. Yet, as time goes on, the merits of 6mm are becoming more evident.

Cartridge wars, as we call them, are utterly subjective barstool arguments we enjoy having for fun, and nobody gets convinced until they go shooting. You can read these pages all you want, but until you get to the range ... you're just guessing. Rifles are asked to do a vastly different job than handguns or shotguns, and driving innovation in them is based on driving innovation in cartridges, not just platforms, and we see this as a very competitive arena with a number of factors determining

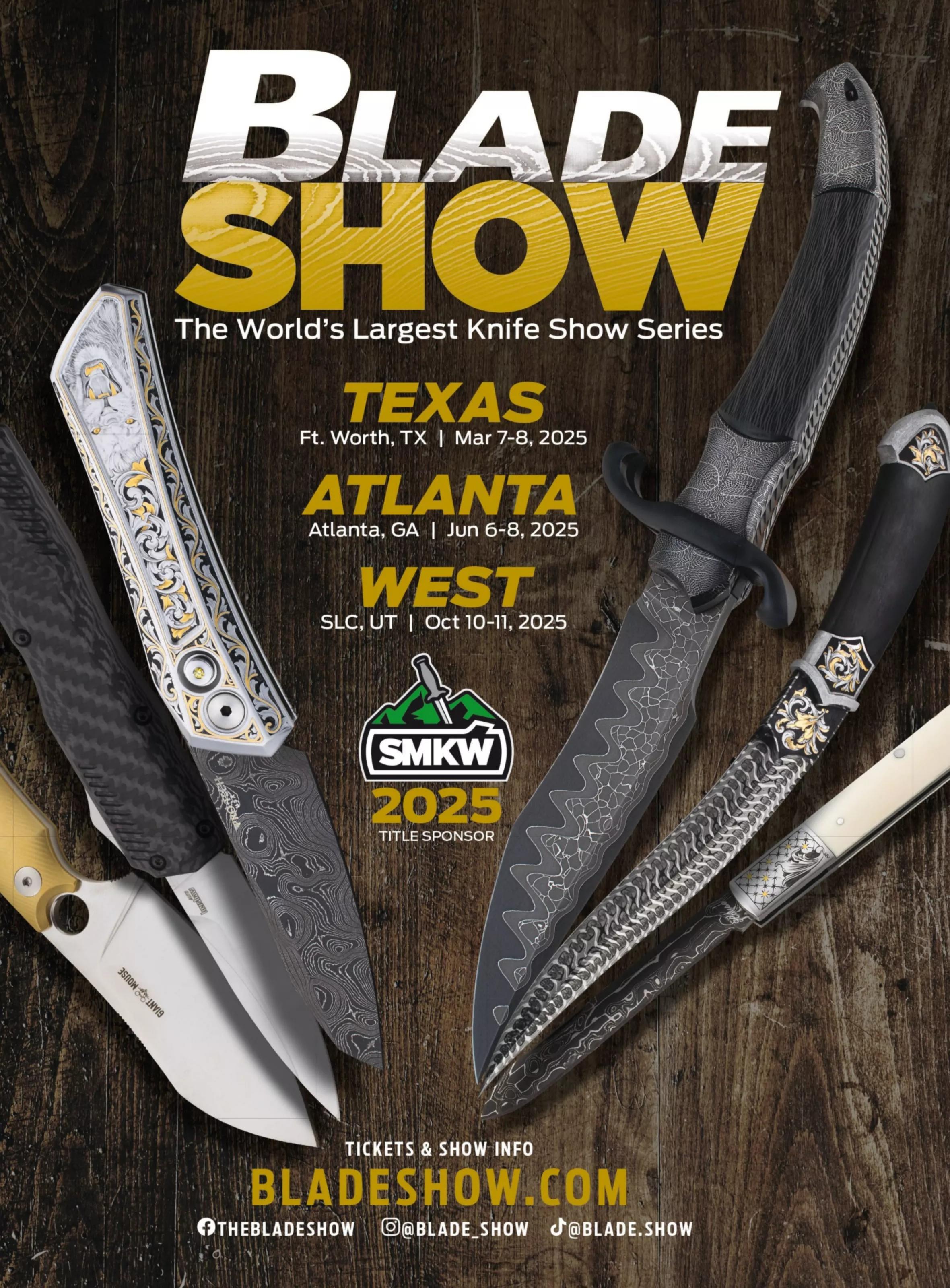
what leads to success.

That success simply isn't based on ballistics alone. Countless examples of internet videos, and plenty of articles, many of which I've penned myself on these pages, talk about the superiority or inferiority of given rounds and why some exist in the first place. The modern 6 ARC and 6GT represent some of the best thinking to come to rifle cartridges in a long time, but the downside is that neither will likely see the praise they deserve for this because they are still relatively niche as compared to .308 Win., 6.5 CM or 5.56 NATO, and the representative sample of shooters using them is but a minor fraction of our hundreds of millions of gun owners.

In our fixed space of innovation, we've seen some pretty interesting designs that have varied from 5.56 with the intent to defeat it. The 6.8 SPC and 6.5 Grendel were imagined to be the rounds vying to replace the 5.56 in military usage during the War on Terror years. Reading the old articles on these pages, as well as the classic press by the on-the-ground personalities in legacy Shotgun News and others in the gritty pages of Soldier of Fortune, you'd think the 5.56 NATO would be in the dustbin of history by now. Well, that never happened, and the 5.56 managed to curb-stomp everything in terms of popularity.

A good deal of innovation went into

the thinking behind both 6.8 SPC and I didn't see the field utility, especially Left to right: the .308 Win., 6.5 Creedmoor and 6GT. **GUNDIGEST.COM** 



6.5 Grendel. The exact histories of these rounds are too long to recount here but, suffice to say, both were generally looked at as "better" than 5.56 for fighting use against vehicles, long-range accuracy and more. What they both failed to do was deliver anything worthwhile against advanced 5.56 rounds, considering that was what was in development and the weight savings and true energy gains were simply not enough to ever justify a switch in any direction.

Making the 5.56 rifle platform better was simply easier and more productive, yielding famous iterations like the MK12 SPR and favorites like the M4 variant Block 1.5 and 2 carbines, arguably some of the most popular out there for military cloners today.

The main technical issues came from the on-paper ballistics of these cartridges against what they could deliver in real-world terms. While there were—and are—some good merits, the main problem with the 6.5 Grendel was that it really needed to play with the 120-grain-class .264 bullets to make it worthwhile, and it was ominously compared to .308 Win. at the time, which it certainly cannot match. The 6.5 Grendel is not able to match the 6.5

that distinct from .308 Win. in most rifle platforms at normal ranges inside a half-mile. There is a separation at a point, but in general out of a peer-quality rifle, you won't see a huge difference until your own skill maxes out.

Far too often we see the "numbers people" making a case for one round or another when shooting paper or plates, but I also look at their performance for hunting big game animals. If we're talking plates, then, sure, whatever rings them best. For bone and flesh on medium to large game, well, that approach is different, and if I had an unlimited budget I'd probably be firing just .338 Lapua or .338 Norma Magnum. If the 6.5 Grendel and 6.8 SPC were really that great, they'd still be relevant, but that's just not the case—they never left the "niche" classification.

The 6.5 Grendel provided the initial groundwork that would eventually spawn the 6 ARC, likewise the same with the .308 and 6GT. The sports that bred the 6GT were started by guys shooting .308, which at the time was the predominant long range-round aside from .300 Win. Mag. The honing of both rounds for the AR and the 700 short action eventually culminated

with the modern "ultimate" long-range rounds being 6mm. It could be said that the 6GT is a downgrade in terms of power over heavier bullets, especially when compared to 6.5 Creedmoor. It is likely true that the 6.5 CM and .308 Win. are better as hunting rounds, but the 6GT is absolutely notable for just how easy it is to shoot.

### IF THERE WAS ONLY ONE

If there had to be just one between the 6mm ARC and 6GT for general use, I'd have to give it to 6 ARC on the merit that it's accomplishing a good amount of what the 6GT does ... but in a small, light semi-auto platform. While my own 6GT build here is fairly light and short, I'm not getting close to the desired 2,900 fps from a short barrel, but it's one-hole accurate at 100 meters. The 6 ARC in 18-inch length for the AR platform is getting most of that speed with most of the bullet weight and is fast for field use. If you're a reloader or competitor, the 6GT is probably the better choice with lots of excellent options for brass and bullets.

This is an exciting time to be in the 6mm game, and I'm sure there will be much more coming as more people jump on the bandwagon. **GDTM** 



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THE FIREARMS LIFESTYLE DESTINATION

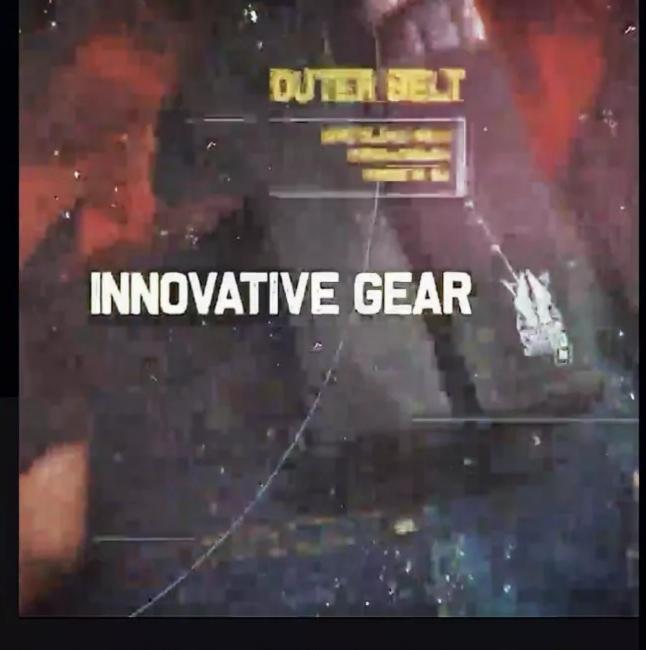
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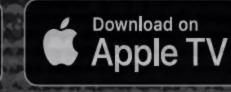


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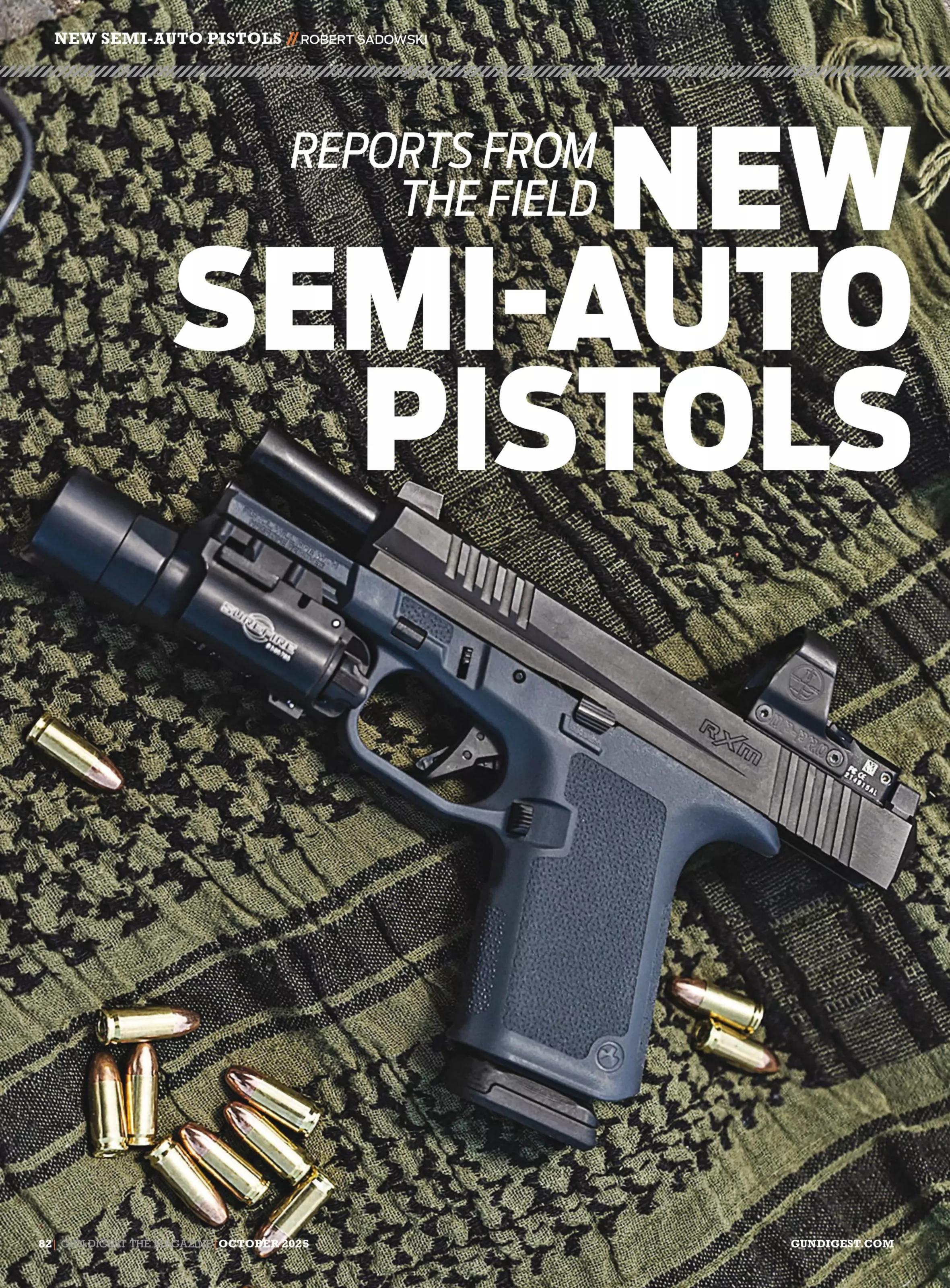












or all those who think the 1911's day has passed, think again. Various manufacturers continue to produce the doublestack 1911 platform at price ranges we mere mortals can afford. EAA and SDS are at the low end, Springfield Armory is in the middle, and Staccato is at the high end. Colt is even offering a 1911 with a red-dot cut. Beretta continues to innovate with its legacy products, namely the Model 90 Series. Glock offers factory-mounted Aimpoint red-dots, while FN is enlarging its Reflex lines for that just right feel and balance. CZ continues morphing the Shadow 2 pistol, be it for concealed carry or competition. H&K USA is also getting new guns into American hands faster with manufacturing here in the U.S. Finally, the new polymer is metal, as far as Smith & Wesson is concerned. Here is all that's new in semi-auto pistols.

### **BERETTA**

Think the .380 Auto is a has-been caliber? Beretta doesn't. The 80X Cheetah Tactical Urban (MSRP \$749) is chambered in .380 ACP and designed for concealed carry. This cat is loaded with features like a Vertec-style grip, Xtreme-S trigger, skeletonized hammer, easier-to-rack slide, suppressor-ready threaded 4.4-inch barrel and is optics-ready. It comes with black polymer grips and two 15-round magazines.

Beretta continues to reinvent the iconic Model 92 into competition-ready pistols like the 92XI SAO Gara (MSRP \$1,499), 92XI SAO Corsa (\$1,599) and 92XI SAO Sabbia (\$1,299). These 92s are equipped with single-action-only (SAO) triggers, chambered in 9mm and have a skeletonized hammer, 92X Performance hammer spring, frame-mounted safety, extended mag release, and Toni System magwell and compensator. The Gara and the Corsa come with a Toni System Compensator. The Gara has LOK Grips in red and black G10 panels and a red match aluminum trigger. The Corsa sports gold-colored accents, LOK Grips' carbon-fiber grip panels with a yellow outline. The Sabbia has a 5.1-inch black



threaded barrel. All come with three 22-round magazines. beretta.com

### **BROWNING**

New to the Buck Mark line of rimfire pistols is the Contour Pro (MSRP \$799) designed for competition and plinking. The 5.9-inch barrel is contoured and threaded. It's equipped with a removable compensator, Pro-Target white outline adjustable rear sight, TRUGLO/Marble Arms fiber-optic front sight, Picatinny optics rail and accessory rail, and gray/black G-10 grips. One 10-round mag is included. browning.com

### COLT

The original manufacture of the 1911 has gone new school with a competition line

### THE WORLD'S GREATEST GUN BOOK

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of optics-ready 1911 models chambered in 9mm (MSRP \$1,399) and .45 ACP (\$1,399). Like all its competition pistols, these are made of stainless steel with a matte finish, blue G10 grips and a Series 70 firing system for a clean, crisp trigger pull. colt.com

### CZ-USA

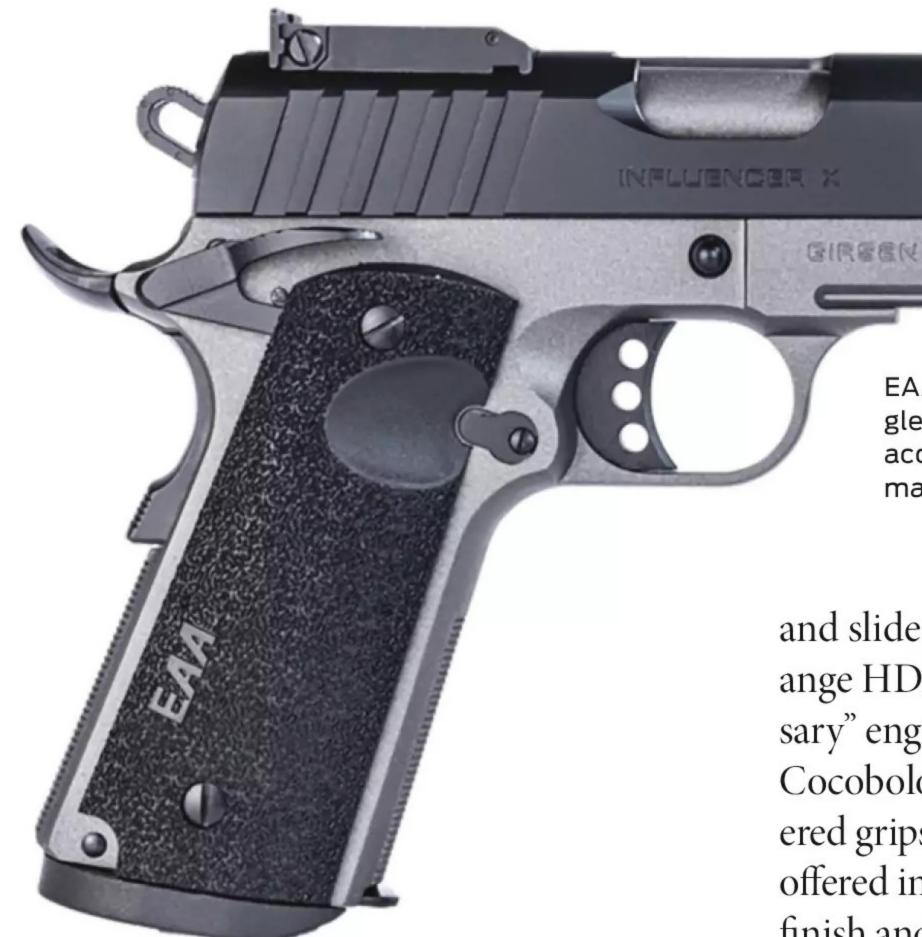
CZ continues to build on the Shadow 2 platform. The CZ Shadow 2 Target (MSRP \$2,342) is designed for bull's-eye shooters. Features include a 5- or 6-inch match barrel, undercut triggerguard for a higher grip, longer and deeper cocking serrations, adjustable trigger shoe and trigger, an interface for attaching frame weights and adjustable sights. It's chambered in 9mm with a 17+1-round capacity.

For concealed carry, the Shadow 2 Compact (MSRP \$1,499) is smaller still with a 4-inch barrel. The trigger is tuned for speed and consistency for fast followup shots. Chambered in 9mm, the Shadow 2 Compact feeds off a flush-fit 15-round magazine.

New to CZ's P-09 series is the P-09 Nocturne (MSRP \$579) with enhanced ergonomics and the ability to mount a red-dot sight. The Nocturne is available in a full-size version with a 4.5-inch barrel and 19+1-round capacity and a compact configuration with a 3.7-inch barrel and 15+1-round capacity. cz-usa.com

### EAA

European American Armory or EAA Corp continues to build guns on the Beretta 90 series and the 1911 platforms. The 9mm Girsan Regard MC X (MSRP \$519) is a Beretta-style 90 series pistol with a spiral-fluted and threaded barrel, two-tone black and tungsten Cerakote finish, tuned trigger, ambidextrous safety and 19-round capacity. The Girsan Influencer X (MSRP \$689) is a full-size, single-stack 1911 equipped with a fulllength accessory rail, flared magazine well, extended beavertail, ambidextrous thumb safety, aggressive grip texturing, two-tone Cerakote finish, and lightening-cut slide. Calibers available include 9mm, 10mm Auto, .45 ACP, or



.38 Super. The Golden Brat (MSRP \$889) is a special edition of the Witness2311 in 9mm with a compact 3.4-inch barrel, 17+1-round double-stack magazine and a striking high-contrast golden slide and matte black frame. eaacorp.com

### **ED BROWN PRODUCTS**

The limited edition Kobra Carry 25th Anniversary Custom 1911 (MSRP \$3,295) is a 4.25-inch barrel Commander model with a single-stack Bobtail frame. Details include snakeskin texture treatment on the frontstrap, Bobtail housing, and slide; fixed black rear sight and orange HDXR front sight; "25th Anniversary" engraving on the frame; and exotic Cocobolo wood double diamond checkered grips with the Ed Brown logo. It's offered in all stainless steel or black Gen4 finish and in .45 Auto only. edbrown.com

many other refined touches.

Warning Road Salety Manual

EAA Corp's Influencer X-1 is a full-size, sin-

gle-stack 1911 equipped with a full-length

accessory rail, flared magazine well, and

resec-servededd

### **FN AMERICA**

The Reflex XL MRD (MSRP \$719) follows other manufacturers' micro compact trends. However, the slide, barrel and grip are slightly enlarged to enhance the pistol's usability. Features include a 15-round flush-fit magazine, slide cut for a RMSc/K-series optic footprint, and it uses an internal-hammer-fired design with a 5-pound single-action-only trigger.

FN has also expanded its popular Reflex micro-compact, semi-automatic pistol line with the Reflex XL MRD





### **ITALIAN FIREARMS GROUP**

The Tanfoglio is again being imported into the U.S. and this time by the Italian Firearms Group. Tanfoglio pistols are based on the CZ 75 platform and the new Tactical Pro pistol (MSRP \$1,530) in 9mm offers a host of cutting-edge features, like a full-size frame, hammer-fired action, DA/SA trigger, threaded tactical bull barrel, Cerakote OD green milspec finish, aluminum grips, extended beavertail, accessory rail, oversized controls, and a flared mag well. It is opticsready and ships with two magazines: a 17-round flush fit and 20-round extended. italianfirearmsgroup.com

The latest pistol from KelTec is the PR57 (MSRP \$399)—a compact concealed carry pistol chambered in 5.7x28mm.

### **GLOCK**

Glock added an out-of-box Aimpoint COA variant, which resulted from a collaboration with Aimpoint. The limited edition series is available on five Glock 9mm pistols: G43X (MSRP \$834), G48 (\$834), G19 (\$970), G45 (\$970) and G47 (\$970). The Glocks have an A-Cut interface milled into the slide that is compatible with the ultra-compact Aimpoint COA optic and co-witnesses with standard iron sights. us.glock.com

### **H&K USA**

H&K USA, the new H&K manufacturing facility in the U.S., has introduced some exciting striker-fire pistols: The HKCC9 (MSRP \$699), the VP9A1 K (\$979) and the VP9A1 F (\$979). The HKCC9 is a sub-compact 9mm strikerfired pistol designed for concealed carry. Its overall width is less than 1 inch, and it features a 10-round flush-fit magazine or a 12-round extended mag. The VP9A1 K and the VP9A1 F are the next-generation VP9 pistols. The K model has a new compact-size frame, is equipped with a 4-inch barrel and uses a 15-round flush-

fit magazine. The F model is a full-sized version with a new, longer slide and barrel (4.5 inches), flush-fit 15-round magazine, and an extended 20-round mag. Enhanced features include wider slide serrations, flared magazine well, flat front gripstrap, charging supports at the rear of the slide, and a high-visibility Tritium front sight. The polymer grip is user-adjustable with small, medium and large backstraps and grip panels. Both the K and F models are also available with a factory-mounted Holosun SCS optic. hk-usa.com

Unique to the PR57 is a rotary barrel and top-loading fixed magazine with a hefty 20-round capacity. That toploading design means rounds are loaded via 10-round stripper clips or manually inserted one at a time. The overall length is 7.1 inches and the weight unloaded is 13.8 ounces. keltecweapons.com

HK's full-size VP9A1 F

model shown with a

20-round magazine.

### **KIMBER**

Kimber's 2K11 series pistols are built on a 1911 high-capacity double-stack platform. All three 2K11 variants are hammer-fired with SAO triggers. The 2K11 (OR) (MSRP \$1,995 in 9mm, \$2,125 in 45 ACP) is the standard model. The 2K11 Target (OR) (\$2,595 in 9mm, \$2,595 in 45 ACP) is a target configuration with adjustable rear sights and a fiber-optic front sight. The 2K11 Target (OI) (MSRP \$3,095 in 9mm) is similar to the Target



and rear serrations, Type III hard-anodized aluminum grip modules, and GT triggers with a 3- to 4-pound trigger pull. All models come with three magazines and one C&H optic mounting plate. The standard 2K11 (OR) model has a matte DLC-coated frame and brush-polished slide flats with DLC coating. The 2K11 Target (OR) model has a ported slide, adjustable rear target sight, Stan Chen Customs competition magwell and a matte black finish frame and brush-polished Coyote PVD-coated slide. They're available in 9mm with 17- and 20-round magazines or .45 ACP with two 13-round mags. kimberamerica.com

### MILITARY ARMAMENT CORPORATION (MAC)

The latest MAC Duty 9 Double Stack (MSRP \$1,099) has a new slide cut design. The Duty 9 is chambered in 9mm with a SAO trigger. It's also equipped with an RMR-pattern optics cut on the slide, accessory rail on the dustcover, 5-inch bull barrel, flat-face trigger, fiber-optic front sight and black serrated rear sight. It ships with two 17-round magazines.

Another addition to the MAC 9
Double Stack series is the MAC 9 Double
Stack Comp 9mm handgun (MSRP
\$1,079). It has a 4.25-inch bull barrel with a built-in compensator. Other
features include a skeletonized hammer
and trigger, Tenifer QPQ finish, serrated front sight, extended slide stop and
RMR-pattern optics cut on the slide. It
ships with two 17-round mags. milarmamentcorp.com

### **NIGHTHAWK CUSTOM**

The new Double Agent (MSRP \$5,899.00) from Nighthawk was developed in partnership with Agency Arms to created a commander-sized double-stack 1911 for concealed carry. The Double Agent is chambered in 9mm and has a 16-round capacity. The commander-length slide is knurled to provide texture during slide manipulations

without abrasion. Other features include a Straight Eight Heinie Ledge rear sight and Tritium front sight, and the trigger set to 3.5 to 3.75 pounds pull weight. The new Sand Hawk (MSRP \$5,199) is touted to be Nighthawk's softest-shooting single-stack 1911 ever. Available in 9mm, .45 ACP and 10mm, the Sand Hawk is built on a steel-frame with a square triggerguard, dimpled front and rear backstraps, and a full-length accessory rail that sits flush with an integrated compensator. nighthawkcustom.com

### RUGER

A collaboration between Ruger and Magpul produced the RXM (MSRP \$499), a 9mm striker-fired, polymerframe pistol designed for concealed carry. Unique to the RXM is a removable serialized stainless steel Fire Control Insert (FCI) that fits inside the Magpul Enhanced Handgun Grip (EHG). The FCI has a flat-faced trigger, smooth trigger pull, and tactile reset. The Magpul EHG features Magpul's TSP texture for a secure grip without abrasion. Plus, it has textured indexing pads for consistent finger and thumb placement, an undercut triggerguard, and a high beavertail grip. The slide cut is compatible with



RMR, DeltaPoint Pro (DPP), and RMSc-pattern optics and the high steel tritium sights cowitness with optics. For finishes, the EHG comes in stealth gray and the slide sports black nitride. It ships with two Magpul PMAG 15 GL9 15-round magazines; a 10-round magazine compliant model is also available. All RXM pistols are compatible with Glock Gen3 aftermarket parts, holsters and accessories.

Two new Mark IV 22/45 Lite (MSRP \$739) rimfire pistols combine reliability and accuracy with an updated style. Chambered in .22 LR, both models are feature-rich and have 4.40-inch threaded barrels, adjustable sights, a Picatinny rail, and an ambidextrous manual safety. The receiver is machined from aerospacegrade aluminum with ventilated slots and flats. One pistol features a black receiver, black grip panels, gold trigger

and a gold barrel. The other has a champagne-colored receiver, black grip panels, and a black trigger. ruger.com

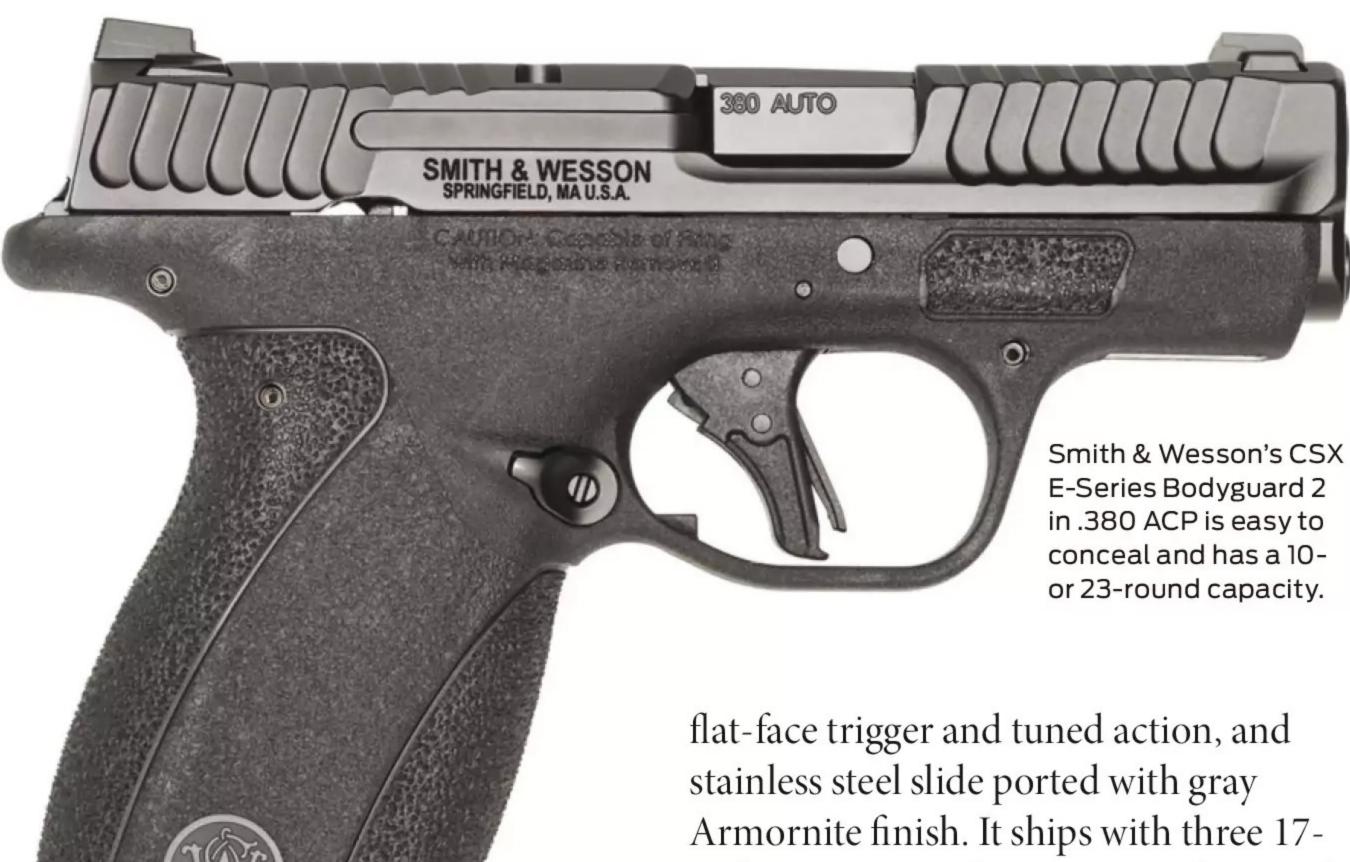
### **SDS IMPORTS**

SDS makes owning a double-stack 1911 easy on your finances. The Tisas 1911 Duty B9R Double Stack 1911 (MSRP \$749) takes the 9mm 1911 platform to the next level by offering a bushingless-style bull barrel, RMSc/K slide cuts, steel frame and slide with polymer grip, ambi safety, and crisp, smooth trigger. It ships

with one 17-round magazine. New to the Nightstalker series is the 1911 Carry Night Stalker Bobtail Comp (MSRP \$879) single-stack available in either 9mm or .45 Auto. Features include a bobtail frame design, compensated barrel for reduced recoil, optics-ready slide, accessory rail, and an ambi manual safety. sdsimportsusa.com

### **SIG SAUER**

The P322-COMP (MSRP \$658) is a tricked-out, competition-ready P322, featuring a compensator-equipped barrel, a takedown lever that acts like an



extended gas pedal, and a RomeoZero red-dot with Elite slide racker so it's easier and faster to rack the slide. It comes with a 20- and 25-round mag. Remember to buy plenty of .22 LR ammo to run through this rimfire. sigsauer.com

### SMITH & WESSON

Metal is the new polymer when it comes to Smith & Wesson's M&P striker-fire pistols. New to the M&P Metal compactframed pistol series are two 9mm models: a Compact 3.6-inch (MSRP \$899) and a Compact 4-inch Compact AOS (\$899). The M&P 9 M2.0 3.6 Inch Metal Compact has a 3.6-inch barrel and the M&P 9 M2.0 4 Inch Metal Compact has a 4-inch barrel. Both striker-fire pistols feature an optics-ready C.O.R.E. System slide, flat-face trigger, white-dot open sights, four interchangeable palmswell grip inserts and tungsten gray Cerakote finish. They ship with a 15-round magazine. Models are available with and without a manual thumb safety.

From the Performance Center is the M&P 9 M2.0 Full-Size Carry Comp (MSRP \$799)—a full-size polymer pistol to take advantage of the Carry Comp Power Port, which diverts gases upward to reduce felt recoil, meaning you can stay on target better, all in a sleek design. This 9mm semi-automatic pistol is optics-ready with features such as a

flat-face trigger and tuned action, and stainless steel slide ported with gray Armornite finish. It ships with three 17-and two 23-round magazines. The metal version is the M&P 9 M2.0 Metal Carry Comp (\$999)—a full-size metal-frame striker-fire pistol set up with a compensator, tuned triggers and aggressive slide serrations. The 40 S&W caliber is getting a second wind with the M&P 40 M2.0 Metal (\$899) with a metal frame and all the M2.0 features.

Smith's CSX line now has two new CSX E-Series (\$699) models, a 3.1-inch barrel and a 3.6-inch barrel model. They have an enhanced E-Series trigger with a clean break and reset, extensive grip texture coverage and a modular grip adapter that converts from micro-compact to

compact frame size. Both models are optics-ready, chambered in 9mm and have 12-, 15- or 17-round capacity options. The Bodyguard 380 Auto pistol has evolved into the ergonomic and ultra-concealable Bodyguard 2.0 (\$449). At only 9.8 ounces and 5.5 inches long, the Bodyguard 2.0 is easy to conceal and has a 10- or 23-round capacity. You'll also like the flat-face trigger, extensive grip texture, and aggressive slide serrations. Models are available with a manual thumb safety. smith-wesson.com

### **SPRINGFIELD ARMORY**

New to Springfield Armory's Saint Victor series is the Saint Victor Pistol (MSRP \$1,099) a compact package featuring a 5.5-inch barrel with SA Muzzle Drum, full-length top Picatinny rail, 32-round Colt-pattern magazines and an SB Tactical SB-A3 brace. The Echelon 4.0C (\$679-\$719, depending on finish) was designed for concealed carry and is equipped with a 4-inch barrel, compact frame, Variable Interface System to provide direct-mount compatibility with popular red-dot sights and Tritium Udot iron sights. It ships with a 15-round flush magazine and an 18-round extended mag. Finish options include black, OD green and desert FDE.



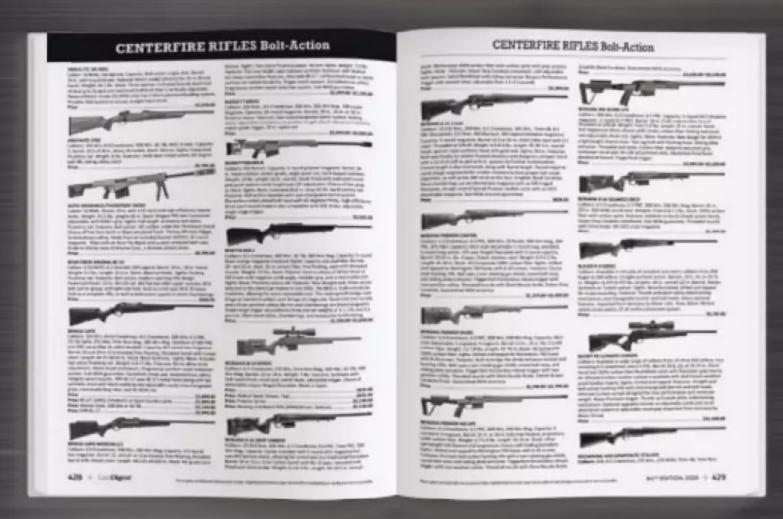
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the 1911 DS Prodigy series with two new compact variants: a 3.5-inch Compact AOS (\$1,549) and a 4.25-inch Compact AOS (\$1,549). These pistols were designed for concealed carry and built around a 15-round double-stack magazine, so the grip module is smaller and more compact. springfield-armory.com

### **STACCATO**

Staccato completely overhauled the ergonomics of its new Staccato HD P4 (MSRP \$2,499) and HD P4.5 (\$2,699) 1911-style double-stack pistols. The 1911s are chambered in 9mm and have a new optics mounting system, improved recoil for better durability and shootability, and are compatible with Glock-style magazines. The HD P4 is equipped with a 4-inch bull barrel and the HD P4.5 has a 4.5-inch barrel. staccato 2011.com

### **STOEGER**

The STR-9 Thinline (MSRP \$529) has a slender, 1-inch-wide slide and frame.

Chambered in 9mm and fed from 14and 16-round magazines, it's designed for everyday carry. The STR-9 Thinline includes front and rear Tritium sights and an optics cut that is compatible with the RMSc Shield footprint. stoegerindustries.com

### **TAURUS**

Taurus' new budget-priced GX2 (MSRP \$250) is designed for entry-level, first-time shooters. It's chambered in 9mm, has a 13-round capacity and uses a striker-fired action. The 3.3-inch barrel and light weight make it an ideal EDC option. The steel sights are compatible

with Glock sights and the frame has an accessory rail. Two finishes are available: Matte black and two-tone with a stainless slide and black frame. taurususa.com

### TRISTAR ARMS

TriStar is offering a high-value handgun line with the APOC and Protégé X Sub Compact, both chambered in 9mm. The APOC (MSRP \$279) is a 9mm Glockinspired striker-fired pistol with updates, including enhanced ergonomics, front and rear slide serrations, steel fiber-optic sights and textured memory pad forward of the trigger. It comes with two interchangeable backstraps, two 15-round Glock-pattern magazines and in four color options. The Protégé X Sub Compact (\$549) is an all-metal, hammer-fired pistol inspired by the classic 1911. Features include a 3.2-inch barrel and 7+1 capacity. It ships with two Kimber Micro 9-pattern mags; one with a finger rest and one flush fit. tristararms.com **GDTM** 

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### **DOUBLE STACK 1911s IN STOCK FROM:**

Phoenix Trinity
Nighthawk
Alpha American
Staccato 2011

Atlas Gunworks

Gun Crafters
King's River
Jacob Grey
Combat Precision
Wilson Combat

Taran Tactical Inn.
Watchtower Firearms
Miller Precision
Race City Defense
Viking Firearms

BG Defense Dark Forge Cardinal CNC

















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### CANik® TTI Combat "SMOKE"

Superiority gets a bold new finish with the CANIK® TTI Combat SMOKE—born from the elite partnership between CANIK® and Taran Tactical Innovations. Designed by world champion Taran Butler, this pistol features a custom polymer frame, ported and spiral-fluted PVD coated barrel, CANiK's first compensator, aggressive grip texture, aluminum flat faced trigger with 90° degree break, premium TTI +3 base pad, adjustable sights, and a low-profile optic cut.

WEIGHT: 29.5 oz

CAPACITY: 18+1 rounds

FRONT SIGHT: HiViz® fiber optic front sight

REAR SIGHT: Adjustable

MAGAZINE: (2) 18 Round Magazines and (1) + 3 Extension FINISH COLOR: TTI SMOKE

CARTRIDGE: 9mm Luger

FRAME MATERIAL: Synthetic **OVERALL LENGTH: 7.85"** 

BARREL LENGTH: 4.6" HEIGHT: 5.87"

WIDTH: 1.41"





