

Lipseys S&W
Model 686 Plus

**A TIMELESS
TOUCH**



**LOADED
WITH LIGHT**

8 Must-Knows When
Using Lights with Guns

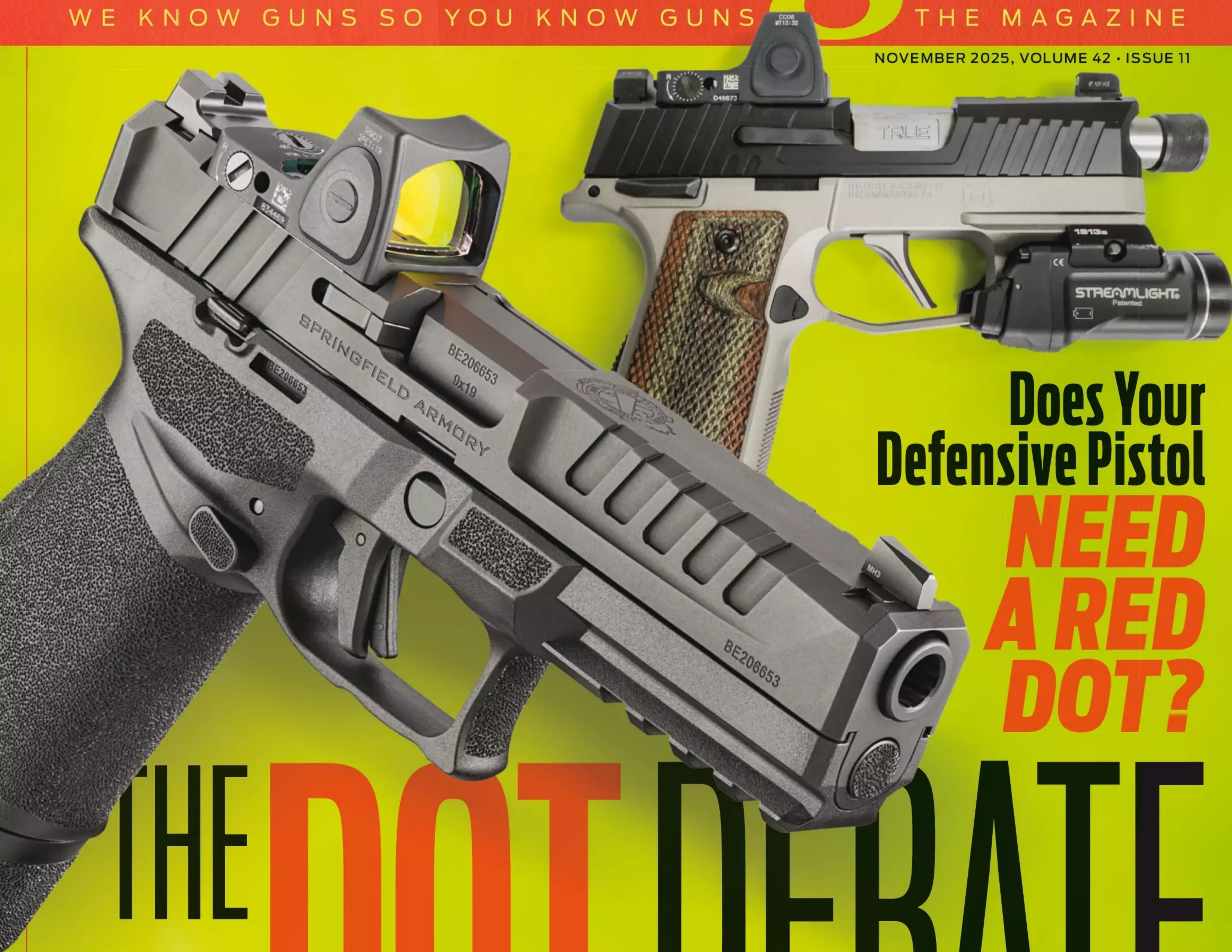


GunDigest

WE KNOW GUNS SO YOU KNOW GUNS

THE MAGAZINE

NOVEMBER 2025, VOLUME 42 • ISSUE 11



Does Your
Defensive Pistol
**NEED
A RED
DOT?**

THE DOT DEBATE

PLUS

REVIEWED
MOSSBERG PRO
TACTICAL SPX

HYPE TEST
PUTTING THE
.338 ARC TO TEST

GEAR TOGET
NEW SHOOTING
PRODUCTS

**WIN YOUR
NEXT GUN
ARGUMENT**

The 'Assault
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CONTENTS

DEPARTMENTS

- 6 First Shot
- 8 Know Your Cartridge

COLUMNS

- 12 Defensive Handgunning RICHARD MANN
- 18 Drawing Conclusions ALEX OOLEY
- 20 Hardware Talk PATRICK SWEENEY
- 24 Modern Gunnery DAVID LANE
- 30 Guns & Gear GDTM EDITORS
- 82 First Look GDTM EDITORS

FEATURES

- 34 Understanding Optic Footprints on Semi-Auto Pistols: Cutting through the facts and frustrations.
JOSH WAYNER
- 42 The Fix and the Eight-Six: Maximizing subsonic and supersonic capabilities.
RICHARD MANN
- 64 Loaded with Light: 8 must-consider factors when packing a light and a gun.
PATRICK SWEENEY
- 70 Defensive Posture: Mossberg engineers a near perfect tactical semi-auto scatter gun.
ELWOOD SHELTON
- 76 My Single-Shot Rifles: An experience of 60 years.
TOWNSEND WHELEN

THE BEST GUN LIST IN PRINT

- 49 Show & Auction Listings
- 52 The Gun Digest Marketplace



p.34



p.42



p.64



p.70



p.76



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AIM SMALL

The products and techniques we use to aim firearms and send bullets exactly where we want them to go are, quite possibly, the most overlooked and underappreciated aspects of what we do as shooters.

Think about it. Guns are interesting, and more often than not they're attractive. Plus, they're fun. Guns are the workhorse of the entire system because they send the bullets. They create the action.

And bullets are, though to a lesser degree, just as fascinating. I'll argue that they're just as attractive as guns and no less fascinating. What a bullet does upon entering a specific medium—we're talking terminal ballistics here—is often nothing short of magical. Yes, it's design and science, but it's still magical.

And then we have the tie that binds ... the aiming solutions—the gear we need that helps us help the gun deliver the bullet exactly where we need it to go. The optics.

Sure, riflescopes are sexy, and when you pair the right scope with the right rifle that not only shoots precisely but

looks great ... man, it's artwork.

But it's been my experience that many shooters think of their aiming solutions last ... and especially when it comes to open sights. The riflescope you choose is so much more than simply the magnification range it offers. Hell, even the open sights of today would make your grandpa's jaw drop.

But this issue is different. This issue in your hands is focused on the riflescopes, red-dots and open sights that so thanklessly send those bullets where we need them to go. From a feature article on the best single optic to crossover between sub- and super-sonic builds, to a deep dive into all the red-dot footprints out there, it's collected within these pages.

So, sit back, enjoy ... and aim small.

GDTM

GunDigest

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

GunDigest.com

E-mail us: info@gundigest.com

CARIBOU MEDIA GROUP PUBLISHER

JIM SCHLENDER

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

LUKE HARTLE

MANAGING EDITOR

LAURA PELTAKIAN

ONLINE EDITOR

ELWOOD SHELTON

BOOKS EDITOR

COREY GRAFF

SR. ART DIRECTOR

GENE COO

ART DIRECTOR

KATIA SVERDLOVA

COLUMNISTS

RICHARD MANN, PHIL MASSARO,
ALEX OOLEY, PATRICK SWEENEY

ADVERTISING SALES

ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER

RYAN FARNER

(760) 809-8729

rfarner@recoilweb.com

SENIOR ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

ALEX OSTROWSKI

(920) 212-5677

alex@gundigest.com

SENIOR ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

DAVID FIGG

(813) 418-1060

dfigg@recoilweb.com

SENIOR ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

LORI MCDANIEL

(715) 498-3768

lori@gundigest.com

ADVERTISING ASSISTANT

CHING CORNFORTH

GUN DIGEST MEDIA, LLC

GM/PUBLISHER

GLEN CASTLE

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

JENNIFER SEXSTONE

NETWORK MANAGER

LUKE HARTLE

NEWSSTAND SALES

NPS MEDIA GROUP

lmasaoay@npsmediagroup.com

Subscription Services

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

P.O. Box 182

Williamsport, PA 17703

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.219 ZIPPER

The way of the dinosaur.

HISTORICAL NOTES

The .219 Zipper was brought out in 1937 by Winchester for its Model 64 lever-action rifle, which was a modernization of the Model 94. This combination (as with the .218 Bee in the Model 65) did not prove sufficiently accurate for long-range shooting on small targets and, in addition, did not allow the proper mounting of telescopic sights. Winchester discontinued the Model 64 after World War II.

The last commercial rifle chambered for the cartridge was Marlin's Model 336 lever action, discontinued in this chambering in 1961. A number of custom-made single-shot and Krag-Jorgensen rifles have been made for the .219 Zipper. It's not and never has been very popular, and it's based on the necked-down .25-35 WCF case.

Winchester dropped the .219 Zipper in 1962, and Remington followed shortly thereafter.

GENERAL COMMENTS

In a good, solid-frame single-shot or bolt-action rifle, the .219 Zipper is just as accurate as any other high-velocity .22 in its class. Since it was designed for tubular magazines, all factory-loaded ammunition is furnished with flat- or round-nosed bullets, and this causes rapid velocity loss.

Although overshadowed by the .222 Remington, it's still an entirely satisfactory small game, varmint or target

cartridge. Given carefully prepared ammunition in a properly functioning lever action, performance of this cartridge and rifle combination is limited more by the necessary use of blunt bullets than by intrinsic accuracy constraints. Such a combination is certainly capable of 200-yard shots on vermin, which is stretching what most shooters can do with iron sights anyway; beyond that range, velocity drops off so fast that trajectory limits usefulness, even given a telescopic sight.

This is one of the few American cartridges that functions well through the British Lee-Enfield action. Some of these rifles have been rebarreled and altered to handle the Zipper. Anecdotal

information from several serious shooters who have bothered to wring out the cartridge's accuracy in the Model 64 suggests that Winchester should have spent more effort on ammunition quality.

In 2022, the Zipper was loaded as complete ammunition by a few custom shops. Hendershot's Extreme Custom Ammunition listed 45- and 55-grain bullet weights with properly headstamped brass. Reed's Ammunition & Research listed loads for 40-, 50-, 55- and 60-grain V-Max bullets and 46-grain flat-nose soft points suitable for use in lever actions, as well as Zipper brass. Buffalo Arms Co. also loaded the 46-grain ammunition. MidwayUSA.com also listed .219 Zipper brass. **GDTM**

.219 ZIPPER LOADING DATA AND FACTORY BALLISTICS

BULLET (GRAINS/TYPE)	POWDER	GRAINS	VELOCITY	ENERGY	SOURCE
45 SP	IMR4320	30.0	3,600	1,295	Hornady
45 SP	BL-C	27.0	3,400	1,152	Hornady
45 SP	H380	30.5	3,500	1,224	Sierra
50 SP	IMR3031	26.0	3,400	1,284	Sierra
50 SP	H380	31.0	3,500	1,360	Hornady, Sierra
55 SP	IMR4320	29.0	3,300	1,330	Hornady, Sierra
55 SP	H380	30.0	3,300	1,330	Hornady, Sierra
55 SP	IMR4320	27.0	3,300	1,330	Sierra
60 SP	IMR4064	28.0	3,300	1,451	Hornady
60 SP	H380	31.0	3,300	1,451	Hornady
45 Hornady HP	FL	-	3,400	-	Hendershot's
55 Sierra HP	FL	-	3,300	-	Hendershot's

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Short Config

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THE MOUNTAIN GUN

Lipsey's S&W Model 686 Plus

Revolvers do not get a lot of interest these days. We could argue the reasons for this, but I think it's apparent that modern shooters are more interested in compact 9mm handguns, which are lighter, easier to shoot and hold more ammunition.

But this world has not changed that much, and a good revolver is just as viable of a tool as it was back during Prohibition when my grandfather was packing a Smith & Wesson Model 10. A new revolver that caught my eye is the S&W Model 686 Plus Mountain Gun from Lipsey's.

CALLED TO DUTY

When I became a police officer in 1992, I was issued a Smith & Wesson Model 686 with a 4-inch barrel. Oddly, everyone else in my department was armed with a Glock Model 22, because the department had just transitioned from the 686 to the Glock. The problem was they did not have enough Glocks to go around.

So, I got the revolver and, in fact, it was the handgun I used when





The 686 Plus Mountain Gun from Lipsey's holds seven, as opposed to six, rounds of .38 Special or .357 Magnum ammo.

The smooth Bear Hug grips on the S&W Model 686 Plus Mountain Gun from Lipsey's were very comfortable.



SHOOTING RESULTS

LOAD	VEL (fps)	SD (fps)	ENG (ft-lb)	PRECISION (inches)
Barnes 357 Magnum 125-grain TAC-XPD	1,378.7	25.1	527.7	0.75
Buffalo Bore (Heavy) .38 Special 125-grain Barnes	1,216.7	16.0	410.9	0.83
Federal 130-grain Hydra-Shock Deep	869.3	14.2	218.1	1.39
Buffalo Bore (Heavy) 357 Magnum Outdoorsman	1,442.8	14.4	832.0	1.25
AVERAGE: 1.05				

Notes: Muzzle velocity, standard velocity deviation and muzzle energy were obtained by firing 10 shots with each load using a Garmin XERO C1 chronograph. Reported precision is the average of three, five-shot groups fired with each load from a rest at 10 yards.



I was attending the West Virginia State Police Academy. I was the only officer in my Academy class using a revolver, but it didn't hinder me. On qualification day I had the top score, so as you might imagine, I have a

bit of an attachment to the 686 and ended up carrying it on duty for almost a year. The Smith & Wesson Model 686 was one of the most popular of all the service revolvers used by police

agencies across America. It had a stellar reputation for reliability and accuracy, and over the years it has saved the lives of a lot of lawmen. It has also been reasonably popular with those looking for a powerful self-defense revolver or hunting or trail gun. The main difference between the 4-inch 686's carried by so many police officers and the new 686 Plus Mountain Gun from Lipsey's is that the Mountain gun does not have a full underlug on the barrel. It has a smooth set of TGW Bear Hug Walnut Grips, a seven-shot capacity, and the front sight has a gold bead instead of the common red insert, ramped sight. I've spent a good bit of time with the 686 Plus Mountain Gun, enough to know it offers the same reliability and precision the 686 is famous for. I tested two .38 Special, and two .357 Magnum loads out of this



revolver, and the average precision for a bunch of five-shot groups at 10 yards from a sandbag rest was right at an inch.

There were no functional issues of any kind, and the single-action trigger pull was quite impressively crisp at only 4 pounds. The double-action pull was surprisingly light at about 8 pounds, but it did have a little drag right at the end. A talented revolver smith should be able to easily smooth this action to perfection.

Many will consider a 4-inch L-frame revolver a bit heavy for concealed carry, but the 686-Plus Mountain Gun only weighs 35 ounces, unloaded. That's less than a full-size, steel-framed 1911. However, even though it might be lighter than a 1911, it is bulkier and a bit more difficult to conceal. As for a gun you might want to use for big game hunting, you might find the distance between the front and rear sight a bit short for making accurate shots at longer ranges, but I had no problem routinely hitting an 8-inch plate offhand at 25 yards.

Where the 686 Mountain Gun shines the brightest is in the role of a trail gun that might need to be used for defense against four- or two-leg predators. The extra round—seven as opposed to six—is nice, and with a load like the .357 Magnum

180-grain Buffalo Bore Outdoorsman, this revolver—if you can stand the wrist-wrenching recoil—can stop any critter in North America.

SAME BUT DIFFERENT

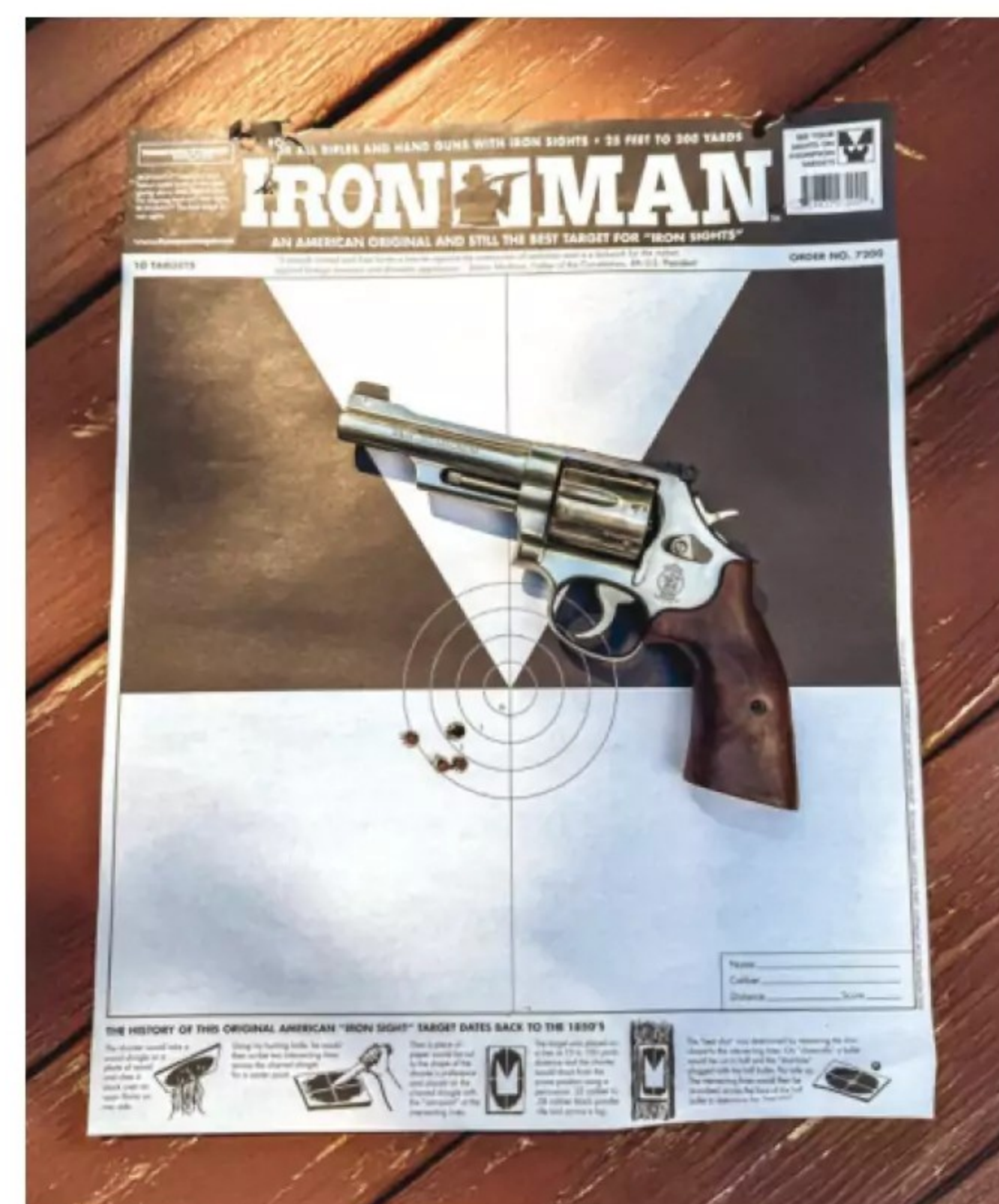
Lipseys's also offers a six-shot, .44 Magnum and 10mm Auto version of the Mountain Gun. Unlike the Model 686, the Model 629 in .44 Magnum and the Model 610 in 10mm Auto are built on the larger N-frame as opposed to the L-frame used by the Model 686.

Interestingly, Lipsey's also offers a Model 617 version of the Mountain Gun chambered for the .22 Long Rifle. It's built on the smaller K-frame, has a 10-shot capacity, and looks just like the other three. In fact, all four of these revolvers are all stainless-steel, have 4-inch barrels and are outfitted with the smooth walnut Bear Hug grips and gold bead front sight. They all also have a retail price of \$1,199.

If I was looking for a trail/mountain gun for predator defense or for occasional hunting, I'd go with the 686 Plus version in .357 Magnum. It's 4 and 5 ounces lighter—respectively—than the .44 Magnum or 10mm Auto versions, and it holds one extra round. It can also shoot the much lighter recoiling .38 Special cartridge, and between the .38

If you like powerful revolvers, the 830 ft-lb of kinetic energy the 686 Plus can deliver with the Buffalo Bore Outdoorsman load will get your attention—and the attention of anything it hits.

A V-type target like this Iron Man target from Thompson Targets can help you shoot better groups with an open-sighted handgun.



V-TYPE TARGETS



I've been conducting accuracy testing with rifles and handguns for a long time, long enough to learn the target—especially when shooting with open sights—matters. Standard bull's-eye targets are not the best option because trying to hold center is too imprecise without an optic. The big, black and white V on the Thompson Target Iron Man target provides a perfect sight picture and allows for very precise sight alignment with conventional open sights.

Unfortunately, it's no longer available, but the red and white Dead Center target is. Thompson Targets offers two versions of the Dead Center. The 19x25-inch version with a 1-inch grid is best for longer ranges (\$6.99 for five, #R-4700-5), or the 9x12-inch grid-less version is great for about 15 yards and in (\$4.99 for 12, #R-4501-12). Alternatively, you can make your own V-type targets, and I bet if you use them, you'll shoot better with your open sights.

Special and .357 Magnum there is a lot of ammo to choose from.

I'd also consider the Model 617 from Lipsey's because it would make a great sub-caliber trainer companion to the 686 Plus Mountain Gun.

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THE 'ASSAULT WEAPON' FALLACY

Unpacking the truth, data and real self-defense.

Few topics in American politics generate as much heat, and as little light, as the debate over so-called “assault weapons.”

For decades, politicians and media outlets have leaned heavily on the term to conjure images of battlefield carnage and mass destruction, often painting civilian ownership of rifles like the AR-15 as both unnecessary and dangerous.

But what if the narrative surrounding these firearms is more rhetoric than reality? What if the “assault weapon” label is little more than a political invention designed to confuse the public and restrict lawful gun ownership?

That’s the question at the heart of the “assault weapon” debate, and it’s one worth answering with facts, history and a sober look at self-defense in the real world.

WHAT’S IN A NAME?

The phrase “assault weapon” is, at its core, a political creation. It first gained traction in the late 1980s and 1990s as lawmakers sought to capitalize on pub-

lic unease about semi-automatic rifles like the AR-15. Unlike the military term “assault rifle,” which refers specifically to select-fire, fully automatic rifles such as the German Sturmgewehr 44, the civilian rifles at the center of controversy are not automatic weapons at all.

The AR-15, for example, is a semi-automatic firearm. It fires a single round with each pull of the trigger, just like most handguns and hunting rifles owned by millions of Americans. It has never been a standard-issue rifle for the U.S. Military. Yet it has been demonized through cosmetic features like pistol grips, collapsible stocks and flash hiders that have no effect on how the action of the rifle operates.

Federal Judge Roger Benitez summed up this absurdity in his ruling striking down California’s assault weapons ban: Rifles banned under the law are functionally identical to many others that remain perfectly legal. The distinction is purely cosmetic. In other words, these bans punish firearms for how they look, not for what they do.

THE DATA DOESN’T LIE

Gun control advocates frequently claim that “assault weapons” are the firearm of choice for mass shooters. But when we look at the actual numbers, the picture changes dramatically.

Research from Dr. John Lott Jr.’s Crime Prevention Research Center, covering mass shootings from 1998 through 2023, found that the most common firearm used in such crimes is not a rifle at all, but a handgun, responsible for over half of all incidents. Rifles of any type, including AR-15s, were used as the sole firearm in fewer than 17 percent of cases.

And here’s a striking fact: Even if every single homicide committed with a rifle were attributed to an AR-15, those crimes would account for less than 0.000018 percent of the total number of AR-15s in civilian hands. Put differently, more than 99.999985 percent of AR-15s are never used in crime.

The data also undercuts claims that the 1994 federal assault weapons ban saved lives. A Department of Justice

“If rifles are not the main driver of mass shootings, what is? The uncomfortable truth is that mass killers don’t primarily choose their weapons. They choose their victims, and they overwhelmingly prefer places where their targets are least able to fight back.”

study commissioned after the ban expired in 2004 concluded it had no measurable effect on reducing gun violence. Subsequent research by economists Mark Guis and Carlisle Moody reached the same conclusion: Neither the federal ban nor various state-level bans reduced firearm homicide rates.

Despite political talking points to the contrary, the hard evidence shows that targeting “assault weapons” does nothing to prevent violence.

THE SECOND AMENDMENT AND THE ROLE OF RIFLES IN DEFENSE

Beyond data and definitions, there is the matter of principle. The Second Amendment, as the Supreme Court has affirmed, protects the right of law-abiding citizens to own and use firearms for self-defense. That right is not confined to muskets, nor is it contingent on whether a firearm has a pistol grip or a flash suppressor.

Modern rifles like the AR-15 play a vital role in personal and home defense, especially in situations where defenders might face multiple attackers. Judge Benitez cited several cases in his ruling:

A pregnant woman in Florida used an AR-15 to defend her family against two armed intruders.

A 61-year-old disabled man in rural America relied on his AR-15 when three men tried to break into his home.

Another homeowner successfully repelled seven armed and masked attackers with his AR-15.

In each case, ordinary citizens faced extraordinary threats. Without the firepower and capacity of a modern rifle, these individuals might well have become mere statistics. Instead, they protected themselves and their loved ones, a constitutionally protected right exercised in its truest sense.

WHY KILLERS CHOOSE “GUN-FREE ZONES”

If rifles are not the main driver of mass shootings, what is? The uncomfortable truth is that mass killers don’t primarily choose their weapons. They choose

their victims, and they overwhelmingly prefer places where their targets are least able to fight back.

Empirical evidence suggests that over 90 percent of mass public shootings occur in so-called “gun-free zones.” The Aurora theater shooter bypassed several closer theaters to attack the one that banned firearms. The Nashville Covenant School shooter specifically avoided another potential target because of its heavy security presence. The Orlando nightclub shooter initially planned to attack Disney World but abandoned the plan after seeing extensive armed security.

The pattern is clear: Killers prefer soft targets. The label on the gun doesn’t matter nearly as much as whether the intended victims can defend themselves.

ACTIVE SHOOTER RESPONSE: WHY SECONDS COUNT

So how can tragedies be prevented or at least mitigated? The answer lies not in waiting for police, nor in relying solely on passive measures like lockdown drills or cameras. As firearms instructor Ed Monk emphasizes, “time and math” dictate outcomes. Every second an attacker remains unopposed increases the body count. To keep casualties in the single digits, a shooter must be confronted within 30 seconds.

Law enforcement, even when fast, usually takes three to eight minutes to arrive—far too long. The only people positioned to act quickly enough are those already on the scene: the intended victims.

That is why armed citizens play such a critical role. From Jack Wilson’s decisive action in a Texas church to Eli Dicken’s intervention in an Indiana mall, everyday Americans have stopped mass shooters with precision and courage ... and often with higher accuracy rates than trained police.

For armed citizens, however, responsibility is paramount. Rule Four of firearm safety, “Be sure of your target and what is beyond it,” must always guide

defensive action. Training is essential to ensure 100 percent accuracy within one’s abilities, minimizing risks of stray rounds.

CONCLUSION: SHIFTING THE FOCUS

The debate over “assault weapons” has never really been about function or effectiveness. It has been about appearances and politics. Cosmetic bans don’t save lives, and statistics show rifles like the AR-15 are rarely used in crimes. Meanwhile, they remain among the most valuable tools available for lawful self-defense.

As Lysander Spooner wisely observed: “To ban guns because criminals use them is to tell the law-abiding that their rights and liberties depend not on their own conduct, but on the conduct of the guilty and the lawless.” That principle is as true today as it was in Spooner’s time.

The focus should not be on restricting rifles that millions of responsible Americans own and use safely. Instead, it should be on empowering individuals with training, preparation, and the mindset necessary to stop violent attackers before they can inflict widespread harm.

Freedom and security are not opposites. They go hand-in-hand, and in a free society, the ultimate responsibility for defense will always rest with the people, not with the government.

GDTM

About the Author

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

YOU NEED LIGHT

SureFire XC3 marks the spot.



The SureFire XC3 is compact enough to hide away from the muzzle, runs on a single CR123 battery, and you can change batteries without taking the SureFire off of the pistol.

The SureFire XC3 is compact, sure, but it's loaded with superb details.

It's in the nature of how our eyes work that you need light. While some of us can see better in "the dark" than others, even then there is some light.

So, more light is better.

But some lights are better than others, and the SureFire XC3 is one such light.

Starting out, it offers 550 lumens for a runtime of 1.75 hours. It has a center beam of 7,500 candelas. Lumens is total output. Candelas is how much the center actually puts on target. You get a bright center, but with enough "spill" that you can see outside the center, which is useful.

The body is made of aluminum and given the expected SureFire Type III hard anodizing. SureFire makes lights and other products not to meet some idea of a warranty, but to keep working even after you haven't. Not to be gloomy, but a SureFire light will still work after experiencing conditions you can't survive, so it won't let you down.

It can be mounted to almost any rail, be it a universal or Picatinny, with

the included adapter lug. It's compact, lightweight and easy to use. At 2.65 ounces, you won't notice its weight. Oh, you'll have to get a holster to accommodate it, but that's the new normal.

It's small enough to fit underneath the slide/frame of most pistols, not protruding past the muzzle. This protects it from impacts and from some of the muzzle blast and powder residue.

It has an ambidextrous toggle as well, so you can control it with either hand or thumb. So far, I've described a bunch of weapon-mounted lights, so what makes the SureFire XC3 such a big thing?

The power and battery swapping.

The XC3 runs on a single CR123 battery. Yep, 550 lumens, 1.75 hours runtime—on a single battery. And the best part? You can change batteries without taking the light off the frame.

The front cap, which is the LED light and reflector, comes off to remove the battery forward out of the housing. (Do this after you have unloaded and shown clear, please.)

No more fussing with screwdrivers and removing the light to swap out the tired or dead batteries. Now you can do it in a minute with no tools ... and just the one battery.

Unfortunately, this coolness does not come cheap.

SureFire's usual customer base goes to dangerous places and puts paid to the careers of dangerous people. They build the gear to stand up to the rigors of that work. If your job starts with a HALO jump, followed by room-clearing, lots of ammo and more than a few explosions, you do not want your pistol light to be DOA when you need it. (After all, if you need a pistol a lot of things have already gone wrong.)

The price? A listed \$299, which means you can probably walk out the door, tax included for less than three Benjamins. At that, it's likely to be half the price of the pistol you are mounting it on.

But until the battery dies, it won't fail you. And when the battery dies, it's a minutes or less to change that—no tools needed.

SureFire ... gotta love it. **GDTM**



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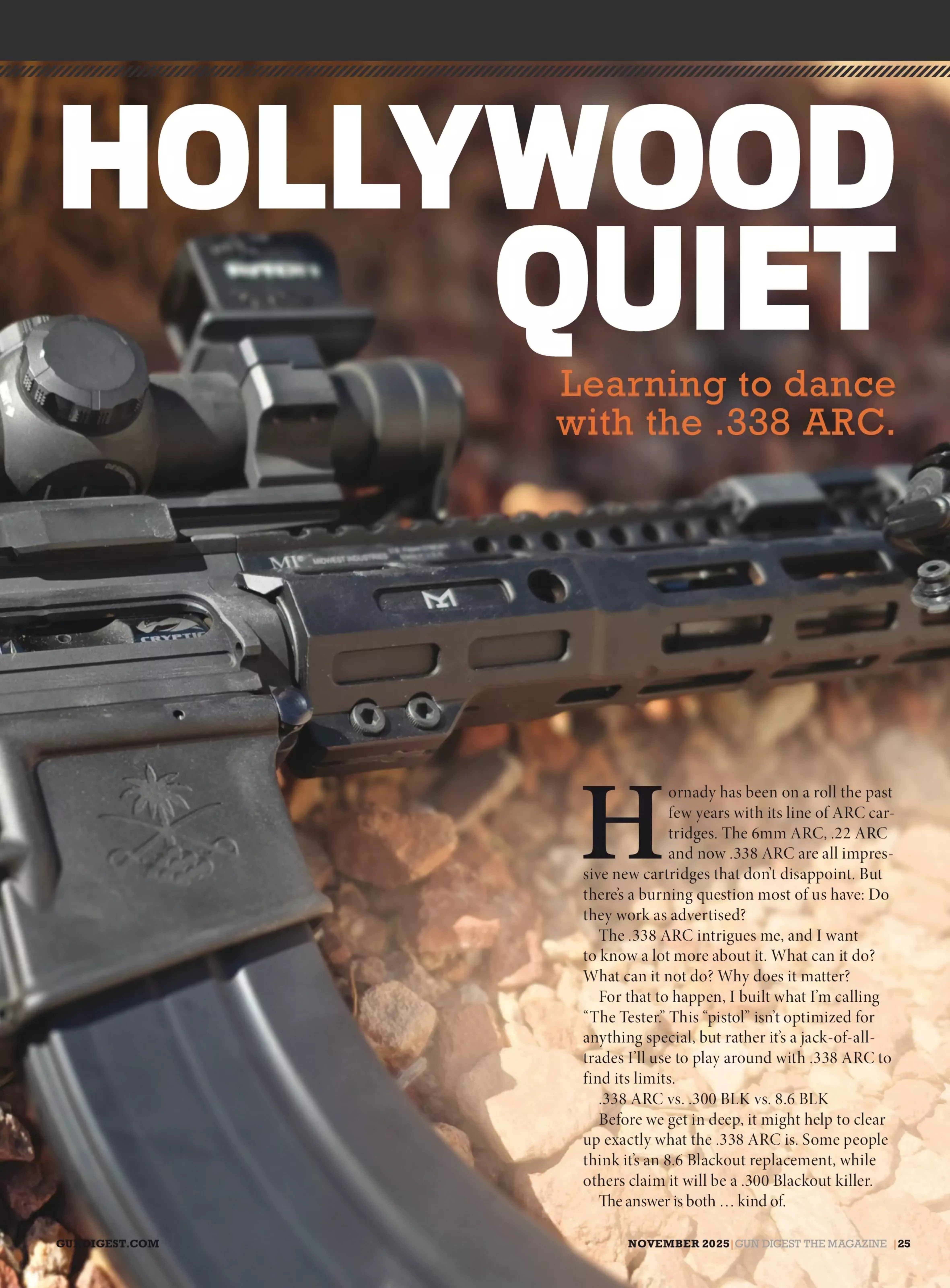
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HOLLYWOOD QUIET

Learning to dance
with the .338 ARC.

Hornady has been on a roll the past few years with its line of ARC cartridges. The 6mm ARC, .22 ARC and now .338 ARC are all impressive new cartridges that don't disappoint. But there's a burning question most of us have: Do they work as advertised?

The .338 ARC intrigues me, and I want to know a lot more about it. What can it do? What can it not do? Why does it matter?

For that to happen, I built what I'm calling "The Tester." This "pistol" isn't optimized for anything special, but rather it's a jack-of-all-trades I'll use to play around with .338 ARC to find its limits.

.338 ARC vs. .300 BLK vs. 8.6 BLK

Before we get in deep, it might help to clear up exactly what the .338 ARC is. Some people think it's an 8.6 Blackout replacement, while others claim it will be a .300 Blackout killer.

The answer is both ... kind of.



If you want a nitty-gritty deep-dive, take a look at Hornady's New .338 ARC vs. .300 Blackout vs. 8.6 Blackout.

The .338 ARC takes many of the strengths from .300 BLK and 8.6 BLK and rolls them into a single cartridge that's arguably better than either Blackout.

ENERGY EXTRAS

If you're looking at subsonic loads, everything has a max muzzle velocity of about 1,050 feet per second (fps); the .338 ARC has a lot more energy than .300 BLK due to the larger, heavier bullets. Most .300 BLK subs are normally loaded with 200-grain bullets, while .338 ARC are around 300 grains. This translates to .338 ARC having about 200 foot-pounds (ft-lb) more energy at the muzzle and around 110 ft-lb at 300

yards while having effectively the same bullet drop. That equates to 35 percent more energy, which is significant.

Typical 8.6 BLK subs generally boast 300- or 342-grain bullets, putting them on par—or slightly more powerful—than .338 ARC subs, but with some major downsides.

First, 8.6 BLK requires an AR-10 size rifle, making it larger and heavier right out of the gate. Second, ammo selection is more limited due to the 8.6 BLK's extremely high twist rate.

.300 BLK 190-grain Hornady: 1,050 fps, 539 ft-lb

.338 ARC 307-grain Hornady: 1,050 fps, 752 ft-lb

8.6 BLK 342-grain Gorilla Ammo: 1,050 fps, 837 ft-lb

When it comes to shooting supersonic, the trend remains the same: The 8.6 BLK is more powerful than the .338 ARC, and the .338 ARC is more powerful than the .300 BLK.

But with supersonic ammo, the gap widens even more. You can massage the numbers in either direction depending on ammo choice, but looking at .300 BLK 110-grain Hornady vs. .338 ARC 175-grain Hornady vs. 8.6 BLK 185-grain Phantom Defense, .300 BLK falls to about half the energy of 8.6 BLK.

.300 BLK 110-grain Hornady: 2,070 fps, 1,047 ft-lb

.338 ARC 175-grain Hornady: 2,075 fps, 1,673 ft-lb

8.6 BLK 185-grain Phantom Defense: 2,235 fps, 2,054 ft-lb



COST CONSIDERATIONS

These really aren't plinking calibers, but if you want to shoot more, .300 BLK is the winner. As I write this, you can find .300 BLK subs for 42 cents per round. That's not a bad deal ... all things considered.

The .338 ARC is less expensive than you might think, but it's far from cheap. The lowest priced .338 ARC ammo at the time of writing was \$1.44 per round.

And there's no easy way to say this: The 8.6 BLK can be painful on your wallet, depending on where you get your ammo. Most of the brands supporting this chambering are the smaller, lesser-known ammo manufacturers, so there isn't a lot of economy of scale helping shooters. The lowest price at the time of this writing was \$1.90 per round.

SAFETY FIRST

Something worth talking about is the fact that .300 BLK has, in my opinion, a design flaw. Because of how the shape and size of .300 BLK and 5.56 NATO cartridges, .300 BLK can chamber and fire in 5.56 NATO rifles. Doing so almost always results in a *KABOOM!* that may or may not harm the shooter. Either way, it will destroy the rifle.

Search the web and you'll find dozens of stories about it happening. Having personally seen it happen at a training class, it's not something I recommend doing.

The .338 ARC and 8.6 BLK don't suffer from this problem.

ON THE RANGE

New guns and new cartridges are always fun, but when you're sending 307-grain

pills that are Hollywood quiet, it's really, really fun.

Function for the Tester was perfect once the gas was dialed in with the Faxon Firearms adjustable gas block. It's easy to use, easy to tune and works just right. Faxon's Gunner profile has always been a winner in my book, and this barrel is no different. The perfect blend of weight and rigidity for suppressed use—it feels great in this configuration.

One downside of .338 ARC is the need for a larger bore suppressor than what most people might already have at home. While some 9mm suppressors are rated for the pressure, not all of them are, and most of the ones that could handle the cartridge haven't been officially tested yet.

The upside is that a new suppressor is always another layer of fun. Tion makes a wide range of great suppressors, and I've gotten to test many of them at various CANCON events. But I acquired my first personal can from them for this build.

THE BUILD



Faxon Firearms .338 ARC
 12.5-inch "Gunner" Profile Barrel
 Midwest Industries Night Fighter 10.5-inch handguard
 TION Dagoon 8.6 Suppressor
 Cryptic Coating .338 ARC / 6 ARC / 6.5 Grendel BCG
 Faxon Firearms adjustable gas block
 Bobro 30mm LPVO mount
 Sig Sauer MSR 1-6x LPVO
 Riton 3 Tactix EED
 Radian Weapons safety and charging handle
 Palmetto State Armory SABRE lower
 UTG Pro upper receiver
 SBA3 Brace



The Tion 8.6 QD is stunningly lightweight due to the all-titanium construction. At 7.5 inches long, it offers a lot of volume but only weighs 11 ounces, helping the Tester to not feel front heavy. The proprietary QD system is one of the best on the market with a hand-tight, ultra-secure lockup.

Green Cerakote was done by Tion ... and it looks amazing. It's taken some hits from being used but still looks

great, and it's doing a solid job protecting the metal under it.

"Tone" is a big deal with suppressors—often more important than the actual dB rating for what makes one suppressor sound better than another. Higher tones generally sound worse, or more offensive, to most people. Something I love about Tion is that their cans always have deeper tones. Instead of a cymbal being struck, firing .338

ARC with the Dagoon sounds more like dirt being slapped.

Recoil with .338 ARC is more than 5.56 NATO and slightly more than .300 BLK, but that's expected. Even subsonic, these are some beefy bullets getting yeeted. Feed and function have been 100 percent using Duramag 6 ARC magazines and Duramag 450 Legend magazines. Hornady recommends the 6 ARC magazine, but some brands have testing showing the .450 Legend mags working better. In my testing, it didn't make a difference.

While this specific build is designed for subs, and I don't have much interest in running supers with it, the Tester handled supers exactly as well as it did subs. More recoil, more noise ... but perfect function.

With the Hornady 307-grain SubX ammo, this gun with the Tion Dagoon is about as quiet as you can get an AR-15.

LOOSE ROUNDS

My first foray into the world of .338 ARC has been a success. The firearm works, the ammo runs, nothing went *KABOOM!* and it's ready for some real-world use.

What comes next? I'm thinking dry-wall testing and maybe a meat target.

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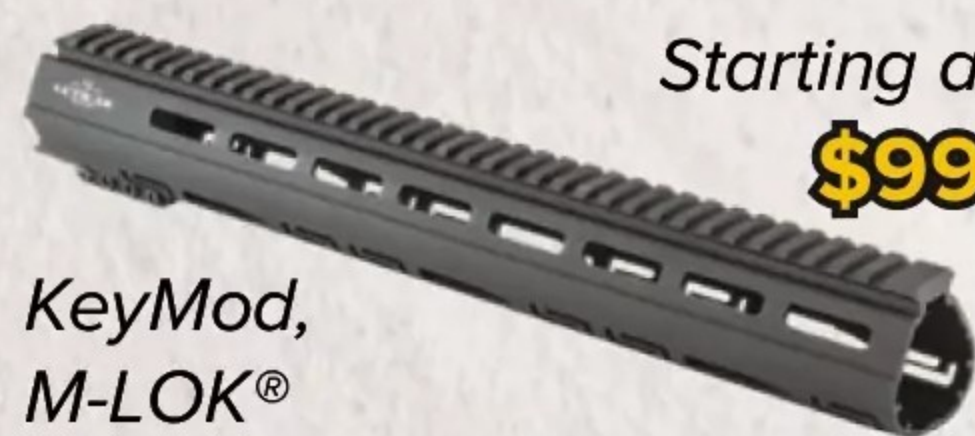


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01 Barnes Bullets Reserve Ammo

Barnes Bullets just dropped Barnes Reserve, a premium, handloaded ammo line built for hunters chasing accuracy in niche calibers. Exclusively available through the Barnes website, each cartridge is assembled in-house to match-grade tolerances, using top-tier components and rigorous QC for ultra-consistent performance. Designed for hard-to-find chamberings like .257 Weatherby Mag, 6.8 Western and 7mm SAUM, Barnes Reserve fills a void serious hunters have long dealt with. Every round features Barnes' renowned LRX or Bore Rider bullets for maximum downrange effect. This isn't just boutique ammo—it's precision built for the field.

MSRP: Starting at \$99 per box

02 Hornady Precision Lab Digital Gun Room Scale

Hornady's Precision Lab Scale brings lab-grade accuracy straight to your reloading bench. With a 3,000-grain capacity and ultra-precise 0.01-grain readout, it's built for serious handloaders chasing consistency. A lab-quality load cell, easy calibration and switchable high/low sensitivity modes give you complete control, while "Compare," "Percent" and "Count" modes adapt to whatever you're measuring. Bonus: It prints directly to a spreadsheet, making load tracking and analysis dead simple. Weighing 4.4 pounds and built like a tank, this isn't your average reloading scale—it's Hornady precision, fully realized.

MSRP: \$393

03 Federal 20-Gauge Gold Medal Paper Shotshells

Federal's Gold Medal Paper line gets a welcome expansion with two new 20-gauge options built for competitive clay shooters. Each 2¾-inch shell features 1-ounce of high-antimony-lead shot—available in No. 7.5 or 8—pushed at 1,250 fps for consistent breaks. The star of the show is Federal's one-piece Podium wad, engineered for tighter patterns and reduced felt recoil. Add in a smooth-cycling brass head and that classic paper hull feel, and you've got a load that blends performance with nostalgia. Whether you're on the trap line or skeet field, these 20-gauge shells keep you in the winner's circle.

MSRP: \$22, box of 25

GEAR TO GET



04 Streamlight Sidewinder Compact III

Streamlight's Sidewinder Compact III crams serious utility into a rugged, palm-sized package. With a 185-degree tilting head, gear and helmet mount compatibility, and user-selectable LED options—including white, IR, and two user-chosen colors (red, green, or blue)—this multi-fuel flashlight is ready for mission-specific use. It runs on either a single AA or CR123A battery, pumping out up to 275 lumens and lasting over 100 hours on low. Built from high-impact nylon and IPX7 waterproof, it's tough enough for field duty and nimble enough for hands-free work. Aviation and military models are also available.

MSRP: \$138, AA // \$198, CR123A

05 Vortex Ranger HD 3000 10x42mm Laser Rangefinding Binocular

Vortex's Ranger HD 3000 laser rangefinding binoculars eliminate the need to juggle gear when it's time to make the shot. Combining crisp 10x42mm HD glass with a built-in laser rangefinder, this all-in-one unit ranges reflective targets out to 3,000 yards—or game animals to 1,500—without sacrificing optical clarity. Edge-to-edge sharpness, strong low-light performance, and excellent color fidelity help hunters pick apart cover, while the integrated ranging function makes quick work of dialing in distance. Whether you're glassing elk, coyotes or a 3D target, the Ranger HD 3000 packs efficiency and precision into one streamlined tool.

MSRP: \$1,200

06 Viridian RFX42 Compact Enclosed Emitter Green Dot Optic

Viridian's RFX42 hits the sweet spot for carry optics—rugged, compact, and built to run hard on today's slimline pistols. This enclosed-emitter green dot sight uses the RMSc footprint, making it a direct fit for many popular concealed carry guns. The 3.5 MOA dot is bright, fast, and easy to pick up, with 10 brightness settings including two for night vision. Motion-activated Instant-On® tech powers the optic up when drawn and conserves battery life—up to 28,000 hours on a single CR1620. At under 1 ounce and fully IPX6 waterproof, the RFX42 brings serious durability without adding bulk.

MSRP: \$229

07 Hawke Optics Endurance 30 Fiber Dot Riflescopes

Hawke's Endurance 30 FD rifle scopes are built for hunters who don't compromise. Featuring the System H5 optical platform, every model delivers crisp, edge-to-edge clarity, generous 4-inch eye relief, and a wide field of view—perfect for everything from tight timber to open-country glassing. The 30mm mono-tube chassis is rugged yet lightweight, and all six models feature fiber-optic illumination with Motion Activation and Auto Standby to preserve battery life. Zero Lock 'n' Stop turrets and removable zoom levers round out a feature-rich lineup tailored for real-world hunts. From 1–6X to 4.5–27X, there's a scope for every pursuit.

MSRP: \$579



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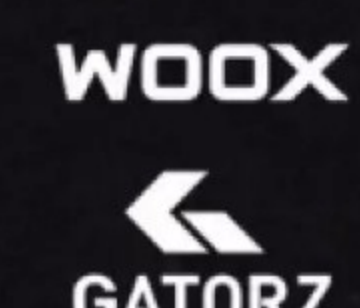
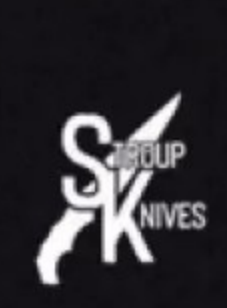
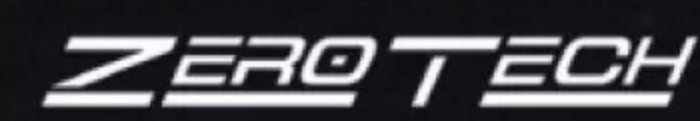
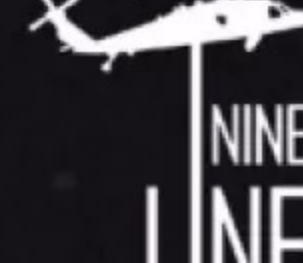
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OPTIC FOOTPRINTS

Cutting through the facts and frustrations.

The idea of putting reflex or red-dot-style sights on pistols has been around for a while longer than you might imagine. What we call “modern optics cuts” also aren’t exactly new, but they are somewhat modern regarding the fact that miniature optics are a somewhat recent invention.

Today, we have a tremendous number of options when it comes to applying a mini optic to your pistol and, well, there’s also a tremendous amount of confusion when it comes to what works with what.

AN ABRIDGED (RECENT) HISTORY OF DOTS ON PISTOLS

The old days of mounting optical sights to pistols revolved around the technology of the time, and the first red-dot sights to be brought to market were quite large and meant for mounting on rifles and shotguns. The mounts designed to integrate these optics onto pistols were typically mounted to the frame, not the slide like we see today. These early dot sights were large and took up a good amount of space across the top of the slide. These guns were typically used in a variety of speed and accuracy competitions and referred to as “race guns” by many in the scene. An interesting

An example of a footprint working out in two very different ways. The True Precision slide is machined directly for the RMRcc, where the Staccato C has a plate that interfaces with the slide to accommodate different footprints.







The RMRcc on a custom True Precision P365. This is a small pistol with a small optic, while accurate and reliable it is on the edge of too large to be considered a pocket pistol. Due to the snappy recoil of the small gun, it could be argued that an RDO is a bit overkill for quick follow-up shots.

note is that it was more common to find full-size hunting revolvers with these big red-dots than semi-autos for a while, which has come full circle with several revolver makers now adding modern optic cuts to their products.

There was really no movement in the market for red dots for a while ... until the early years of the War on Terror, and then things started to take off. By this time, the Trijicon ACOG and Aimpoint dot sights were commonplace, and the general public had taken notice as well. Mini-dot sights did, in fact, exist at this time, circa 2007. The Doctor red-dot sight was among the first to be piggybacked to the ACOG, followed shortly afterward by the early Trijicon Red Dot Sight. Very shortly afterward the big (little) one hit: the first Trijicon RMR, or Ruggedized Miniature Reflex sight, was introduced.

The Vortex LPVO optics here in ADM mounts with One Hundred Concepts scope caps are highly benefited by piggy-backed red-dot sights. Depending on your head placement and the optic style, you can mount them in front of or behind the adjustment turrets.



When these came out in 2009, it was big news—but the potential was far from being realized as we know it today. The original generation of RMR sights were very well designed and rugged; however, there were some issues with the very first attempts to mount them to pistols. Trijicon's subsequent models addressed the small issues and, since then, there have been very few issues.

In my research for this topic, I was un-

able to find just who was the first to mill a pistol slide to take an RMR. There are a lot of people claiming to have been the first to do this, but the earliest examples of this didn't start appearing until several years after the introduction of the RMR itself. It seemed that it was Glock pistols that were the usual host, but there unfortunately isn't much information surrounding this particular topic due to the fact that the majority of customizations were done as one-offs and not standardized by any definition.

The “Roland Special” began to gain traction as an early version of the optically equipped fighting pistol: It was basically a Glock-type pistol with a slide modified to accept an RMR, a compensator mounted on a threaded barrel, a light, and typically a magazine well funnel. It was something of a combination of fighting gun and competition pistol, but it was still just a loose concept and not yet fully accepted by major manufacturers. This concept was popular in the mid 2010s.

The debate started shortly after, adding rhetoric as to whether this concept was actually feasible. I started shooting slide-mounted red-dots in 2015, and there wasn’t a lot available, with the average mounting solution being a plate that mounted into the dovetail of Glock pistols. Initially, I wasn’t impressed and gave up on the concept for a while, instead opting for better iron sights and lights on my pistols.

I revisited this in 2018—after the concept was reaching maturity—and built the custom 1911 that has graced these pages in my photography. It has a slide that was made to accept a Trijicon-integrated RMR mount that includes an integrated rear sight for co-witness. At the time I built this pistol, the RMR was still very much the leader in a somewhat cornered market; the other companies had not quite managed to catch up.

But that wouldn’t last long.

The 2020s have seen virtually every pistol company releasing models with optic cuts, and there are a large number of available footprints for these due to an ever-growing number of new mini-dot style optics. There are a great many available now, and this has led to a certain degree of confusion in the market, especially for consumers.

FOLLOWING THE FOOTPRINTS

The first question I get in any conversion is along the lines of, “How do you pick a footprint?”

Well, in general, the issue comes down to a very specific set of criteria that you will want to individually research, and a lot of this depends on what type of gun

The Staccato C uses an interchangeable optic plate that attaches to the slide as opposed to the slide being milled for a specific footprint. Note that the rear sight is also an integrated part of the plate



The Vortex Defender is at home on just about any gun, from carbines to pistols. You’ll need to be aware of your mounting height, but this optic fits DPP footprints and can be used for a wide range of tasks. Not only is it extremely rugged for carry, but it is also exceedingly fast for hunting and piggy-backs very well.



The optic adapter melts into the slide in several areas. Note that the rear sight is a part of the adapter body and is non-adjustable. The only windage option is on the front sight that came with the optics plate.



you have or, alternatively, what model of sight you want to use. I use the RMR on many pistols, but I also use the RMRcc, the smaller, slimmer carry version. These footprints, despite both being Trijicon RMR sights, are not interchangeable.

The full-size 1911 with a 1-MOA dot is great for hunting out to 50 yards, which is what I do with it. The larger RMR is nice for precision and field-of-view. The RMRcc is smaller and has a larger dot, so the dot itself takes up more of the optical window, making it great for fast shooting at close range. I use this sight on my Staccato C and custom P365 from True Precision. I would need to use something that utilizes the same footprint if I wanted to change

the RMR on my 1911, since it has a fixed base on the slide. The Trijicon RCR and SRO would work for this, for instance.

However, it’s more convoluted today with all the available options ... and also simpler. You might not be able to mount a specific dot to a specific gun, but most pistols being made today can accept at least some form of dot.

The next question I get is, “How many different optics footprints are there?”

Well, this requires a long answer. We have not just the “footprint,” meaning the physical cut dimensions that determines the size of optic that can be mounted, but we also have a variety of adapter plates, plus proprietary interfaces. The list is

An early “transitional” RMR mount on the author’s custom 1911. This mount was designed to be permanently installed into a corresponding slide that would be hand-fit to a 1911 frame. It is not an optics plate, but rather a specific adapter for a specific style of slide for a specific optic.



An example of a “footprint.” Note that this is machined directly into the slide. The little bumps are lugs that help lock the optic in place under recoil.



growing constantly.

The main difference between a true footprint and an adapter plate is the permanent nature of the lugs. Each red-dot footprint has a different lug and mounting screw spacing. The lugs interact with the body of the sight to prevent it from moving, just like the recoil lug on the action of a bolt gun that interfaces with the stock.

If, for instance, you have your slide machined for an RMRcc, it will only be that footprint. Many pistols come with adapter plates that get sandwiched between the sight and slide. The slide is machined to receive only a certain type of adapter plate, so as long as you have these adapters you can use any brand of optic that there is a plate for.

So, in theory, this discussion is so broad that the answer is “almost limit-

less,” depending on what system you choose.

In general, there are some optic footprints that are cross-compatible with a number of brands, and I use a number of them. Now, this is not a comprehensive list because many companies are coming out with new designs as I type this, but nearly every pistol maker is offering optic cuts. A short list has all the usual suspects: Staccato, Glock, Colt, S&W, Ruger, Sig Sauer, Beretta, Springfield Armory, Walther, HK, virtually every 2011 maker, Taurus, FN, custom makers like Ed Brown, Dan Wesson, Nighthawk—and the list goes on.

There is also an expanding market of sights from companies like Vortex, Trijicon, Leupold, Doctor, Holosun, Riton, Swampfox, Bushnell, Hawke, Burris, Aimpoint and more. Again, this is a

rapidly expanding market and, by the time you read these words, there will undoubtedly be more on the market than we’re there yesterday.

The general list of footprints encompasses the RMSC, RMS, RMR, RMRcc, DPP, Glock MOS (adapter plate system), Doctor, ACRO, Holosun K, EPS, 509T and more. The most popular footprints as of today are the RMSC, RMR and DPP. Of note is that many of these companies make sights that are cross-compatible with various mounts, such as the Vortex Defender using the DPP (Leupold DeltaPoint Pro) footprint. Not all companies have a specific design that has produced its own footprint that bears its name, such as the RMR footprint. You can use other optics on the RMR footprint, but the RMR can only work on its namesake.

ALTERNATE OPTICS USES

The micro-dot world started piggybacking to rifle optics ... and then migrated to pistols. Now that this technology is growing and more common, modern micro-dots are making their way back to rifles and carbines, and even shotguns.

The LPVO class of optics has dominated the game for the past decade, and they have gradually become more advanced for their size, as demonstrated by the Vortex Razor 1-10x in this article’s photography. The idea was to hybridize the singular riflescope to allow it to function as a sort of reflex sight while still being a long-range precision item, the Razor here is able to tackle everything from zero to past 1,000 yards on a lightweight carbine.

However, for very close range engagements, it still requires you to get low on the riflestock and look directly through it. I use American Defense Manufacturing mounts on all my rifles, and a huge benefit is that they make rig caps that have machined-in optic footprints. The Vortex Defender line simply mounts to the scope mount and offers fast handling without sacrificing anything the Razor has to offer. I really enjoy this setup; it’s such a no-brainer

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RED-DOT ZEROING AND ACCURACY

The adage “aim small, miss small” comes heavily into play with pistol optics. As I mentioned earlier, I replaced the first-gen RMR on my 1911 with a modern one; this time with a 1 MOA dot. The first optic I had on there was the large 12.9 MOA reticle, and it was fine for close range. But for hunting use, the 1 MOA makes a massive difference.

Now, this is a fine dot to pick up. Most people have settled on a 3-8MOA type, but with deer being a fair challenge for a .45 ACP, I opted for a much finer dot. I zero this pistol point blank for 50 yards using my favorite .45 ACP load, the 220-grain Hornady Critical Duty. The bullet flight path never leaves the heart of the deer out to this distance.

I also find it a useful zero for subsonic loads. The larger the dot, the more im-

portant your knowledge is of where your bullet is impacting inside the dot. There are some big dots out there, and they are easier to see but offer a wider range of error.

I zero most of my self-defense pistols using the RMRcc at 15 yards to impact in the center of the dot. I also take the time to zero my iron sights through the optic, not just treat them as a vestigial organ to the optic. You’ll find that the zero of your irons might be the best range to zero your dot for consistency.

There is discussion of what the best distance to zero your pistol is, but assuming we’re talking 9mm as most people are using these days, the 15-yard zero is pretty good for general use. I don’t like the 10-yard zero: it’s just very close and can introduce a lot of error in bullet impact as you back away. The 20-yard zero is much better, and you can shoot pretty flat with it. You can usually stay on an IDPA silhouette at 75 yards or so. Aiming for the head at 100 yards can usually result in hits.

The further you zero the gun, you do need to be aware of the fact that you’ll be low at closer ranges, not by much ... but enough to know you’ll probably be

impacting at the bottom of your dot or, even optical window, assuming you’re shooting a 3 MOA or similar. So, you’d need to hold slightly high if you were trying to do a pistol match for close targets, but you’d be at an advantage on the long pokes.

The decision is up to you: It’s not hard to test out what is best for you and your setup.

RED DOT REDUX

Optically equipped pistols are here to stay. There are serious advantages to them—and also some downsides—but overall, the technology is maturing at a good rate. As far as footprints go, I stand by the prediction I made on these pages years ago that eventually we’d end up with a few standards after more companies jump in to support them.

I think the RMSC, RMR and DPP footprints will end up being the de facto standards for the next decade, but I wouldn’t be surprised if we end up with even more footprints. After all, standardization often breeds its own innovation.

The future is going to be exciting ... that much is for sure. **GDTM**

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If you want to shoot subsonic and supersonic ammo from an 8.6 Blackout rifle, you can do it effectively with only one optic.

A close-up photograph of a rifle's upper receiver and a scope. The rifle is positioned diagonally across the frame, with its upper receiver and handguard visible. The scope is mounted on the receiver. The background is a wooden surface. The title "THE FIX AND THE EIGHT-SIX" is overlaid in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters.

THE FIX AND THE EIGHT-SIX

Maximizing subsonic and supersonic capabilities.

Up until the introduction of the 8.6 Blackout cartridge I never had much interest in subsonic centerfire rifle cartridges. This was mostly because of the lackluster supersonic capabilities of the .300 Blackout and even the much newer .338 ARC. Once either cartridge is combined with a compact short-barreled-rifle (SBR) all you really have is a subsonic platform with limited application. The 8.6 Blackout is different, mostly because of its incredibly fast twist rate of 1 turn in 3 inches. From a terminal performance perspective this radically fast rotational velocity not only lets it outperform all other



Gorilla Ammunition offers the widest range of factory loaded 8.6 Blackout ammunition with supersonic and subsonic loads.

This comparison shows the difference in the 8.6 Blackout (left), .308 Winchester (center) and .300 Blackout (right).

subsonic cartridges, but it also substantially increases its supersonic capabilities. That high performance dual use intrigues me.

The 8.6 Blackout is a brainchild of Q, a firearms company in New Hampshire that's probably best known for their Honey Badger SBR. I don't know where the company came up with their odd name, but I do remember that Q was where James Bond got all his cool tools. At any rate, the founder of Q was also the founder of AAC (Advanced Armament Corporation) and the creator of the .300 Blackout. As you might guess, Q also makes the best rifle for the 8.6 Blackout cartridge. It's called the Fix.

The Fix is very unique and unlike any other bolt-action rifle you've seen. It is built around an aluminum receiver, but, except for the trigger, all operational components are housed in the striker-fired bolt. It also has a folding stock that's adjustable for length of pull and comb height, and the barrel system is modular, so the end user can swap barrels on their own. A Q Fix SBR in 8.6 Blackout with a 12-inch barrel only weighs 5.18 pounds, so even with a suppressor and a riflescope it's still reasonably light for a rifle that powerful.

I've been working with one for about a year and wanted to maximize its usefulness by selecting a sight system that would allow me to go between subsonic and supersonic ammo with-

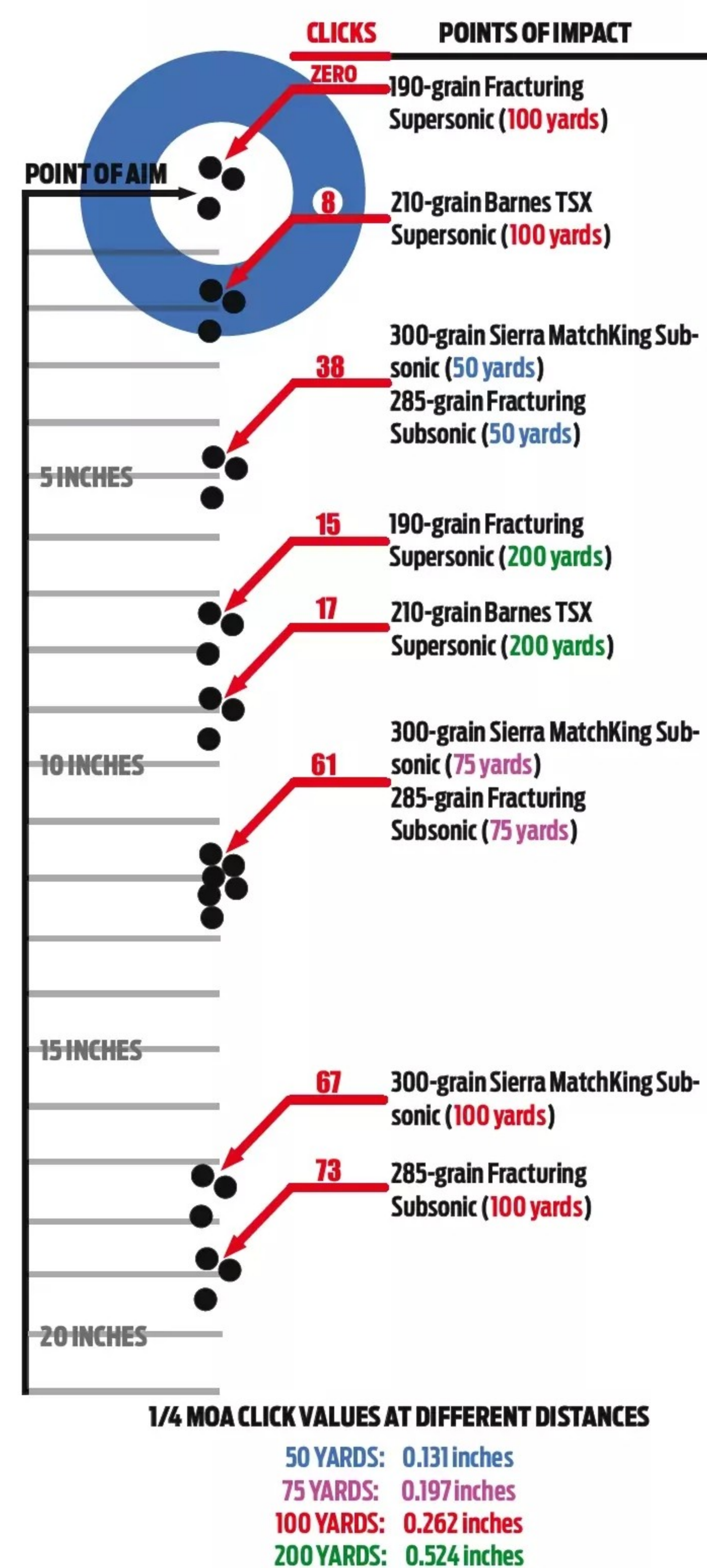
out drastic sight alterations. In other words—ideally—I wanted to be able to shoot accurately, from the muzzle to 200 yards, and let the riflescope do my trajectory correction work for me. The first thing I needed to do to start down this road was establish the DOPE for super and subsonic loads so I could select a riflescope that would best pair with both, and the current best source for 8.6 Blackout ammo is Gorilla (GorillaAmmo.com).

GETTING THE DOPE

This is where things get a bit tricky because you're dealing with trajectory correction at various distances, and this makes the click value of the riflescope change. For example, at 100 yards most riflescopes have a click value of $\frac{1}{4}$ MOA. This equates to about a quarter inch, but to be precise it equals 0.262 inch. At 50 yards, the riflescope has a click value of 0.131-inch ($\frac{1}{8}$ th MOA) per click, at 75 yards the $\frac{1}{4}$ MOA click value equals 0.197 inch, and at 200 yards it's 0.524 inch per click. It is also a bit complicated because you're correcting for loads that shoot reasonably flat and for other loads with a rainbow trajectory.

For my purposes, I decided on the 190-grain Fracturing supersonic load, which is what I zeroed the rifle for at 100 yards. Next, I wanted to know how much that load would drop at 200

This chart shows the impact of the tested loads at different distances. The click adjustments can be confusing because $\frac{1}{4}$ MOA equals different corrections at different distances.



yards. Shots on target confirmed this at about 7.5 inches. Since each elevation click equals 0.524-inch at 200 yards, I needed 14.31(15) clicks.

While I was at it, I also checked the drop of the 210-grain Barnes TSX load at 100 yards. With the rifle zeroed for the 190-grain Fracturing supersonic load, the 210-grain TSX load was 2 inches low at 100, and 9.0 inches low at 200. But I really wanted to be able to shoot accurately out to 100 yards with the 285-grain Fracturing subsonic load.

I started at 50 yards using the 100 yard zero for the 190-grain Fracturing supersonic load. At that distance the 285-grain Fracturing subsonic load impacted 5 inches low. The $\frac{1}{4}$ MOA click value of the scope at 50 yards is 0.131 inch, and to correct for 5 inches I needed 38 clicks. As it turned out, this was the same elevation correction I needed for the Gorilla subsonic 300-grain Sierra MatchKing load.

Next, I shot a target at 75 yards, and both the 285-grain Fracturing and 300-grain Sierra MatchKing subsonic loads struck the target right at about 12 inches low. The $\frac{1}{4}$ MOA click value at 75 yards equals 0.197 inch, which meant I needed to divide 12 inches by 0.197 to determine the number of clicks of correction needed. The math worked out to 60.91 or 61 clicks.

Finally, I was shooting the subsonic loads at 100 yards where I was also dealing with the common $\frac{1}{4}$ MOA (0.262-inch) per click correction. At that distance, the 300-grain Sierra MatchKing subsonic load was 17.5 inches low, so it required 67 clicks, and the 285-grain Fracturing subsonic load at 19 inches required 73 clicks.

Any long-range shooter is familiar with an exercise like this; it's called getting your DOPE (Data from Previous Engagement). The difference is that most long-range shooters are only working with a single load, and they're also not trying to use a single zero for two different loads.

Another thing to consider is that the drop of your subsonic loads might not impact the target directly below their



The Q fix with the compact, lightweight and rail mounted EO-Tech 3-9x32mm SFP riflescope mounted. Note: A EOTech mini reflex sight is mounted to the 3-9X scope.



The Maven's RS.6 1-10x28mm riflescope offers two rotations of 25 MOA of correction and has a zero stop.

The Q Fix with the 17-ounce Swarovski's Z5i + L BT riflescope installed.





impact at close range or the impact of the supersonic load at its zero range. This can be a trait of the ammunition, but it's more than likely an indicator your riflescope/reticle is not level, and when you're applying click corrections, you're minutely moving the reticle to the left or right.

FINDING A SCOPE

Once I had my DOPE, I then knew the maximum amount of elevation correction I needed. Since I wanted to shoot to 200 yards with supersonic loads and out to 100 yards with subsonic loads, I needed at least 18.5, or better yet, 19 MOA of correction. Most rifle scopes offer this much elevation adjustment in a single rotation, and some of the more modern riflescopes offer two rotations

DOPE CHART

LOAD	DISTANCE (yards)	DROP (inches)	1/4 MOA (inches)	CLICKS
190-grain supersonic	100 yards	-0-	0.262	0 (0)
210-grain supersonic	100 yards	-2.0	0.262	7.63 (8)
190-grain supersonic	200 yards	-7.5	0.524	14.31 (15)
210-grain supersonic	200 yards	-9.0	0.524	17.17 (17)
285-grain subsonic	50 yards	-5.0	0.131	38.17 (38)
285-grain subsonic	75 yards	-12.0	0.197	60.91 (61)
285-grain subsonic	100 yards	-19.0	0.262	72.52 (73)
300-grain subsonic	50 yards	-5.0	0.131	38.17 (38)
300-grain subsonic	75 yards	-12.0	0.197	60.91 (61)
300-grain subsonic	100 yards	-17.5	0.262	66.79 (67)

If you want to dial in corrections for super and subsonic 8.6 Blackout loads, the Swarovski's Z5i + L BT riflescope is the simplest solution.

correction was only possible by clicking in a solution.

MAVEN'S RS.6 1-10X28MM

I switched to the new Maven RS.6 1-10x28mm riflescope (\$1,600) that comes with the unique MOA3-LPI reticle. This is an MOA Christmas tree style reticle with elevation and windage correction, but it also very uniquely provides red or green illumination. This reticle offers 50 MOA of elevation and 20 MOA of windage correction, in 1 MOA increments, so it would be easy to correct for distance with either load. Of course, with 50 MOA of elevation correction in the turret, I could click-in corrections too.

EOTECH'S 3-9X32MM SFP

Then, I tried the new EOTech 3-9X32mm SFP riflescope which retails for \$1,059. This is an unusual scope because it does not mount via rings. Instead, it uses a rail that interfaces with various height mini-ACOG mounts. The windage and elevation turrets are capped with this scope, but given its size and weight, it was the scope I really hoped worked with this rifle and cartridge. The reticle for the EOTech 3-9X32mm SFP is also an MOA reticle that's illuminated, and it offers 30 MOA of elevation correction and 16 MOA of left and right windage correction.

The EOTech has capped turrets, so dialing DOPE was not really an option. But the SFP's reticle worked just fine for trajectory correction with both loads at the designated distances. However, without any numbering on the MOA hash marks I had to do some counting to select the correct one. Looking at the DOPE chart this seems complicated, but remember, based on my goals, I only wanted four trajectory corrections: 200 yards for the supersonic load, and 50, 75 and 100 yards for the subsonic load. This scope can also be had with a mount for an EOTech EFLX mini reflex

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The Q Fix with the Ma-
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make accurate close-
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by raising your head
and slightly rotating
the rifle.



sight and ring mount for an additional \$370 extra. With the addition of this sight, I can make accurate shots at extremely close quarters just by slightly rotating the rifle and raising my head to look through the reflex sight.

A SYMBIOTIC SUPER/
SUB SYSTEM

With its fantastic varied applications, the Q Fix and the 8.6 Blackout cartridge can be used for hunting, recreation, and personal protection, and all this DOPE illustrates how you can maximize the system by using various optical sights. With the modern optics we have today, options seem endless. I really liked all

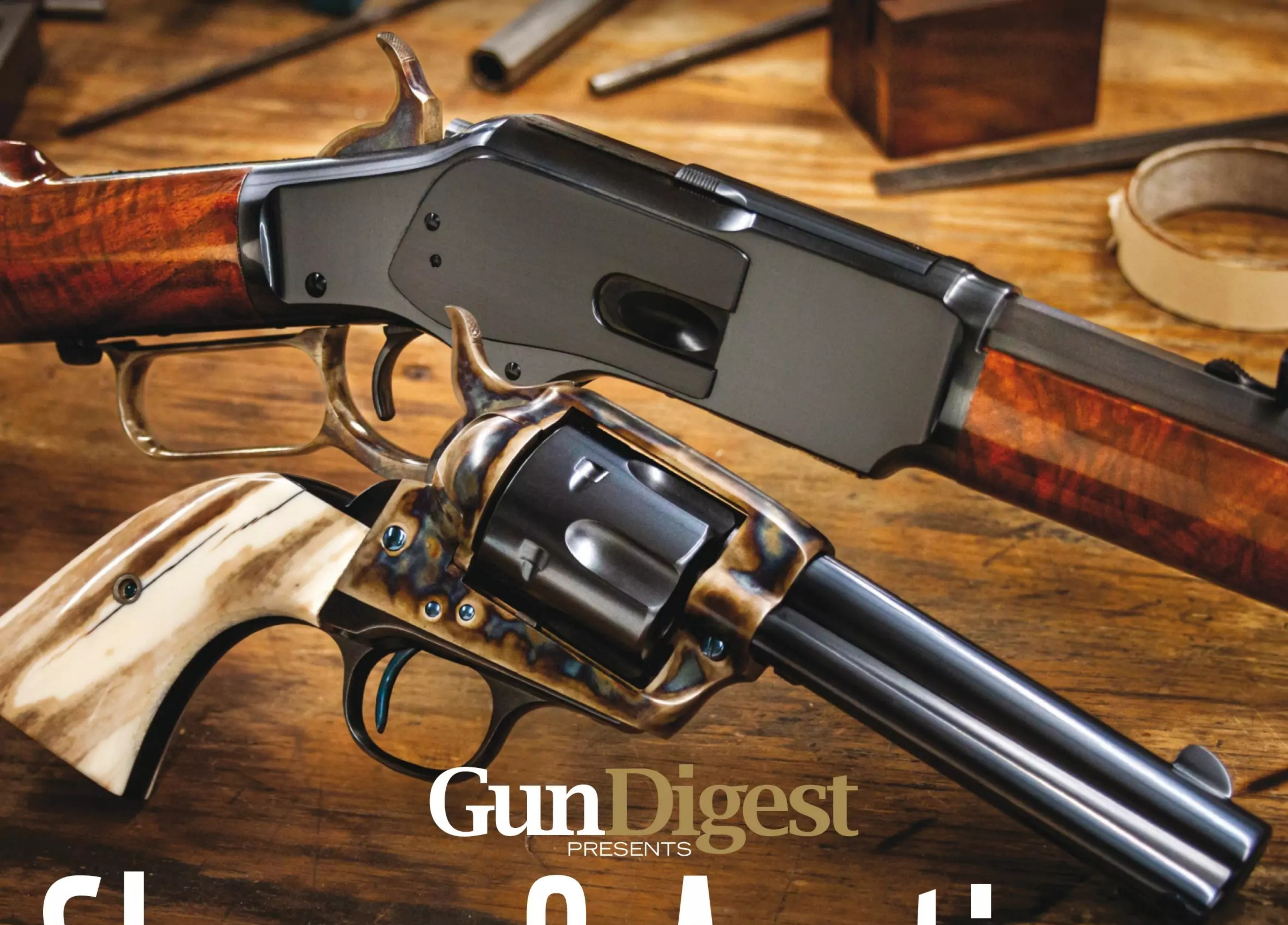
three riflescopes I tried, and it may take some time for me to settle on which one I like best. No matter which way I go I'll have a very symbiotic system that

will allow me to accurately place slow and silent or fast and quiet bullets right where I need them out to 200 yards and beyond. **GDTM**

SHOOTING RESULTS

LOAD	VEL (fps)	ST DEV (fps)	ENG (ft-lb)	PRECISION (inches)
Gorilla 190-grain Fracturing	2,013.2	10.7	1,709.7	1.69
Gorilla 210-grain Barnes TSX	1,927.8	8.5	1,732.6	1.12
Gorilla 285-grain Fracturing	881.6	30.9	492.4	1.64
Gorilla 300-grain Sierra MatchKing	917.3	30.9	561.1	2.88
				Average: 1.83

NOTES: Average muzzle velocity, standard velocity deviation and muzzle energy were obtained with a Garmin Xero C1 chronograph. Average precision is the result of three, five-shot groups fired at 100 yards.



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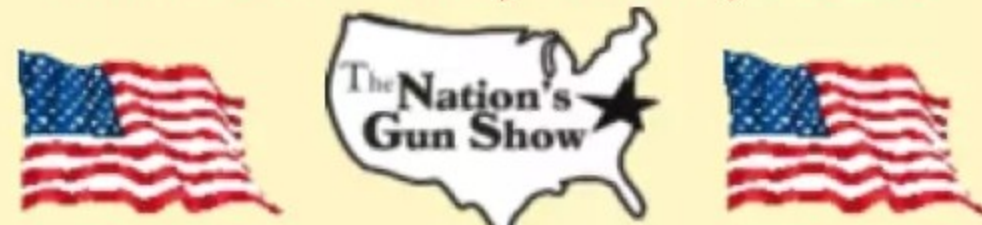
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Jan 17, 18 TN, Lenoir City. Knoxville TN : Smoky Mountain Gun Collectors Association Gun Show. The Venue at Lenoir City, 7690 Creekwood Park Blvd. SH: Sat. 9am-5pm. A: \$10.00 each day. T: 120. F: \$50.00. Smoky Mountain Gun Collectors Association,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

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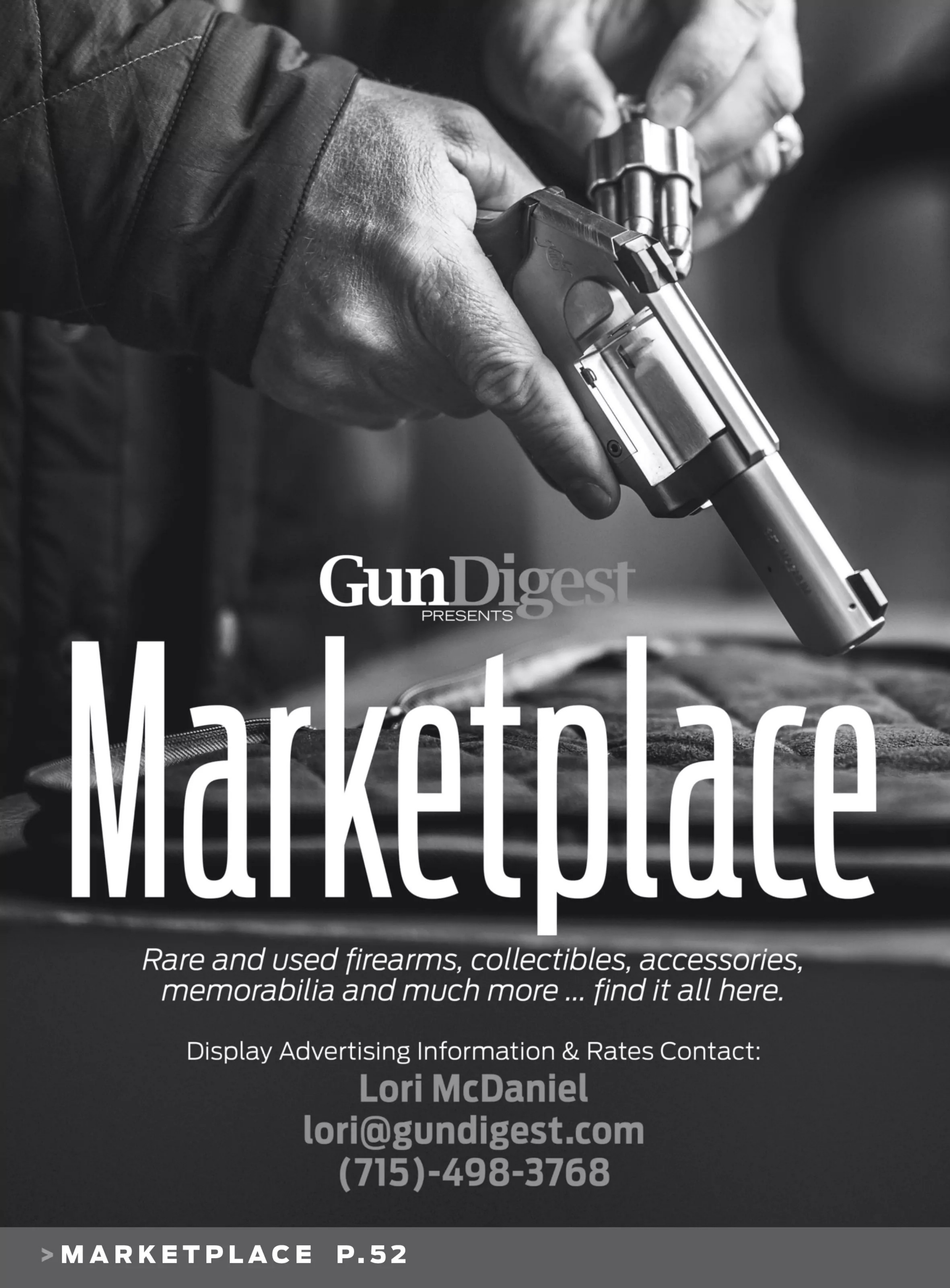
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PISTOLS AND REVOLVERS

1-B Bernardelli .25 ACP "VP Baby" Vest Pocket Auto Pistol 2" barrel with mint bore, fixed sights, 98%+ original bright blue, mint "VB" logo checkered black plastic grips, original 5 shot magazine, nice quality with excellent function, made in 1968, about as small as they come (C&R)\$375

2-B Bernardelli .25 ACP Vest Pocket Auto Pistol 2" barrel with excellent bright bore, 98%+ original bright blue, mint "VB" logo checkered black plastic grips, missing small parts so not operational, missing complete firing pin assembly, safety lever, main recoil spring and guide rod and safety dent bar located in left grip panel, looks like all other parts are present including original clip and grips, 1964 made (C&R)\$185

3-B CZ 9mm Para Model "P-09 Duty" High Cap SA / DA Auto Pistol 4 1/2" barrel with mint bore, 99% original matte black finish, Burris "FastFire 111" red dot slide mounted optical rear sight in place of 2 white dot rear sight, lower Picatinny accessory rail, "Omega" trigger, ambidextrous hammer decocker, polymer stippled logo grips, comes with (1) original 19 shot high cap magazine, as new overall with working optical sight, made around 2014 \$395

4-B Colt .38 Special "Diamondback" Single / Double Action Revolver 4" vent rib barrel with mint bore, 98%+ original bright blue, 1/8" ramped front and fully adjustable target style rear sights, wide target style hammer and grooved trigger, excellent two piece, checkered, light colored Walnut target style grips with gold Colt medallion grips with a little finish wear on butt bottom and sharp edges, excellent function showing little actual use, Mfg. 1969 (C&R) \$1250

5-B Colt .22 LR "Officers Model Target 3rd Issue" Double / Single Action Early Style Target Revolver 6" barrel with mint bore, factory adjustable front and rear target sights, 97% original bright blue with most loss on sharp edges, excellent fancy checkered Rosewood factory grips with deep insert gold Colt medallions, left grip panel has a tiny chipout on bottom edge, excellent smooth function, made in 1930 (introduction year of .22 LR) comes with a Colt factory letter authenticating this 3 digit serial number revolver (C&R) \$995

6-B Colt .22 LR "Officers Model Target 3rd Issue" Double / Single Action Revolver 6" barrel with mint bore, factory adjustable front and rear target style sights, 97% original blue with cylinder getting a little thin, embedded head cylinder, fitted with nice quality period "pointer" target style checkered phenolic grips with thumbrest and diamond at escutcheon by W. Murad Co., excellent smooth function, made in 1939 (C&R)\$725

7-B Colt .38 Special "Officers Model Target" Single / Double Action Target Revolver 6" tapered barrel with mint bore, frame is from an "Officer Model" made in 1918 and nicely refinished blue, old style adjustable front and rear sights, excellent Pachmayr checkered wrap around target grips, tight lockup, very good smooth trigger in both single and double action, better than most .38 specials made today, with tight super lockup and good timing, hardly collector quality but a good reliable revolver for everyday carry or woods use (C&R)\$475

8-B Colt .38 Special "Officers Model 38" Single / Double Action 2nd Issue Target Revolver 6" barrel with mint bore, elevation adjustable bead front sight and windage adjustable "U" notch rear sight, 98% high luster original blue with a few tiny spots of discoloration and blue loss scattered about, fire blue on some screw heads and back of checkered hammer with bright sides, minty checkered Rosewood grips with diamond at escutcheon and deep set Colt gold medallions, all special features for Officers Models in the pre-World War One revolvers, both grips are pencil numbered to gun, excellent function and spectacular looker, Mfg. in 1914, high luster blue finish was dropped in 1916, collector quality (C&R)\$1395

9-B Colt .44 Russian and S&W Special "New Service" Double / Single Action Nickel Finish Revolver 7 1/2" barrel with mint bore, fixed sights, 99% original bright nickel finish, excellent checkered black hard rubber grips with large "Colt" logo and a tiny chipout at top edge of left panel, all screws and original lanyard are nickel finished, made in 1929, collector quality and excellent function, spectacular looker (C&R) \$2695

10-B Colt .22 Short "Cased Set of (2) 4th Model Thuer style" Single Shot Derringers 2 1/2" barrels with mint bores, 98% blue on barrels, 97% dulling nickel on frames, very good+ smooth Walnut birdshead grips, consecutive numbered pair in original logo top display case with red velvet interior, case shows lots of display nicks, dings and spots of finish loss, pistols are very good but show handling wear from being displayed, nickel has dulled and show some hardened oil, "D" suffix serial numbers date to 1963 (C&R)435

11-B Colt .22 LR "Pre Woodsman / Pencil Barrel" Target Auto Pistol 6 5/8" barrel with mint bore, 98%+ original bright blue, factory adjustable front and rear target sights, minty full checkered Walnut grips, mint two tone magazine, excellent look and function, made in 1924, collector quality, not marked "Woodsman" (C&R)\$1395

12-B Colt .22 LR "Pre Woodsman" Target Auto Pistol 6 5/8" pencil barrel with mint bore, factory adjustable target sights front and rear, 98%+ original bright blue with excellent markings (3) tiny letters "WCK" stamped on right upper edge of frame, mint full checkered large diamond center grips, bottom release nice (2) tone magazine marked "Cal. .22" over "Colt", excellent function, collector quality made in 1922 for use with standard velocity ammo, very sharp looking for a 103 year old pistol (C&R)\$1595

13-B Colt .22 LR "Huntsman" Sport Model Auto Pistol 4 1/2" barrel with excellent bright bore, 97% original blue showing a little silvering on sharp edges and some light scratches, excellent checkered black plastic grips with Colt logo impressed on right grip, excellent function with one original 10 shot magazine, made in 1956 (C&R) (6124)\$595

14-B Colt .22 LR "Targetsman Model" 3rd series Auto Pistol 6" barrel with mint bore, 99% original bright blue, blade front and factory fully adjustable target style rear sights, minty checkered Walnut thumbrest grips with just a couple light dings on sharp edge of thumbrest, excellent function, looks like new overall, made in 1976 with one bottom release Colt marked original 10 shot magazine, collector quality (C&R)\$725

15-B Colt .22 LR "Service Model Ace" Post War Auto Pistol 4 3/4" barrel with mint bore and "floating chamber", 99 1/2% original bright blue, mint full checkered Walnut grips with Colt gold medallions, original magazine marked "Colt 22 LR" on base plate, factory target style sights, arched mainspring serrated housing, made around 1980, collector quality\$1795

16-B Harrington & Richardson .22 LR "Model 649" Western Style Double / Single Action 6 Shot Revolver 5 1/2" barrel with mint bore, fixed sights 97% original bright and matte blue finish with some specks of peppery pitting near muzzle and on cylinder, excellent smooth Walnut one piece grips in the Western style, excellent function and nice looking\$265

17-B High Standard .22 LR "Model 103 Sport King" Auto Pistol 4 1/2" barrel with mint bore, 98% original bright and matte blue, blade front and drift adjustable rear sights, mint checkered brown plastic grips with gold eagle medallions, looks and functions near new, manufactured 1962 (C&R) \$385

18-B High Standard .22 LR "Model H-D Military" Auto Pistol 4 1/2" heavy barrel with mint bore, factory original 1/8" blade front and fully adjustable target style rear sights, mint full checkered Walnut grips, minty two tone original 10 shot magazine, made in 1946 and looks new overall, best one I've ever seen, collector quality (C&R) \$865

19-B High Standard .22 LR "Model U.S.A. H-D Military" Auto Pistol 4 1/2" heavy barrel with mint bore, factory original 1/8" blade front and square notch drift adjustable open rear sights, 96% original blue with left side of frame showing a little loss and fine pitting around address, excellent correct original full checkered hard rubber grips, top of barrel marked "Property of" over "U.S.A.", right side of frame marked "Property of" and large "U.S.", minty two tone magazine with a little pitting on base plate, made in 1943 and in excellent condition with high polish blue finish not often encountered in this shape, excellent function (C&R) \$895

20-B Kolb .22 Short "Baby Hammerless Model" Double Action Folding Trigger Revolver 1 1/4" barrel with good bright bore, 96% original bright nickel, front sight is a tiny 1/2 moon blade, excellent fiery mother of pearl round butt smooth grips, complete and very nice looking but as usual not working due to small wire springs missing or broken (C&R)\$195

21-B Ruger .22 LR / .22 Magnum "New Bearcat Convertible" 1st Year Production Dual Cylinder Single Action Revolver 4" barrel with mint bore, 99%+ original blue, fixed sights, mint cylinder scene on both ".22 LR" and ".22 Mag" cylinders with both serial numbered to gun, mint (2) piece Rosewood grips with small silver Ruger medallions, appears unfired (both cylinders), as new black and yellow box that is unlabeled and un-serialized with original owner's manual, made in 1994 and well below the first 1900 guns made, comes with factory letter, collector quality\$2150

22-B Ruger .22 LR "Old Model Letter Series Bearcat" Single Action Revolver 4" barrel with mint bore, 99% original blue and brass anodized triggerguard, mint epoxy resin smooth Rosewood grips, first year manufacture (1958) and "A" prefix serial number, collector quality in near new condition Ruger catalog BC-4, with factory letter (C&R)\$875

23-B Ruger .22 LR "Old Model Letter Series Bearcat" Single Action Revolver 4" barrel with mint bore, 99% original blue and brass anodized triggerguard, mint epoxy resin smooth Rosewood grips, first year manufacture (1958) and "B" prefix serial number, collector quality in near new condition Ruger catalog BC-4, with factory letter (C&R)\$875

24-B Ruger .22 LR "Old Model Letter Series Bearcat" Single Action Revolver 4" barrel with mint bore, 99% original blue and brass anodized triggerguard, mint epoxy resin smooth Rosewood grips, first year manufacture (1958) and "C" prefix serial number, collector quality in near new condition Ruger catalog BC-4, with factory letter (C&R)\$875

25-B Ruger .22 LR "Old Model Bearcat" 1st Year Production Boxed Single Action Revolver 4" barrel with mint bore, fixed sights (un-staked front), 99 1/2% original blue with brass colored aluminum triggerguard, mint (2) piece epoxy resin Rosewood grips, (3) digit serial number, made in 1960 and comes in original (2) piece red and black box with just the last (2) digits of serial number visible in white marker, box shows a little edge wear, comes with factory letter, collector quality (C&R) \$895

26-B Ruger .22 LR "Old Model Bearcat" "S" Suffix on Serial Number Denoting "Second" Single Action Revolver 4" barrel with mint bore, 96% original blue with cylinder getting thin and little wear at muzzle and ejector rod, fixed sights with un-staked front sight looking at little shorter than normal, brass plated triggerguard is a little light in color, mint epoxy resin Rosewood grips, made in 1962 and works fine, comes in it's original (2) piece black and red box with a little edge damage, comes with factory letter (C&R)\$795

27-B Ruger .45 ACP / .45 Colt Dual Cylinder "New Model Flat Top Blackhawk" Single action Revolver 5 1/2" barrel with mint bore, 99% original blue, mint Ruger "eagle" medallions on imitation ivory two piece grips, special manufacturers run for "Lipsey's Distributors" in 2015 as new overall, collector quality\$795

28-B Sig Sauer .40 S&W "Model P229" Double / Single Action Auto Pistol 3.9" barrel with mint bore, 99 1/2% black Nitron finish, "Siglite" night sights, accessory rail, mint black synthetic grips, as new in case with (2) 10 round magazines and all paper.....\$875

29-B Smith & Wesson .22 LR "Model 34" 22/32 Kit Gun Double / Single Action Revolver 4" pinned barrel with excellent bright bore, factory target style sights with fully adjustable rear, flat sloped cylinder latch, square butt smooth Rosewood grips are not S&W originals, 80% fading and graying original blue, made in 1960, works well, comes in original tattered box (C&R) \$495

30-B Smith & Wesson .22 LR "22/32 Kit Gun Model of 1953" Double / Single Action Revolver 4" ribbed barrel with mint bore, factory blade front and fully adjustable target style rear sight, 98% original period blue and case color on hammer and trigger, early improved "I" (4) screw frame, flat latch, mint checkered dark Walnut round butt, diamond center grips with silver medallions, made in 1955 and comes in its original two piece reinforced corner box with end label and serial number on bottom, box is good+ and has original paperwork inside, all matching numbers on metal and grips (C&R)\$1025

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48-B Remington .222 Remington “Model 722A” Bolt Rifle 24” barrel with excellent bore, 98% original blue, ramp bead front sight and open dovetail slot on barrel boss, has a Weaver “KV 2 ½-5x32mm” scope mounted using Weaver rings and (2) piece bases, scope has clear optics and fine crosshairs, excellent dark Walnut pistol grip stock with checkered black aluminum logo buttplate and “pocket” style Q.D. swivel bases with swivels missing, excellent function with nice trigger, manufactured 1950 (C&R)\$475

49-B Savage 303 Savage “Model 99” Lever Rifle 26” barrel with excellent bore, 95% original blue with some light peppering pitting mostly on receiver, factory dovetail bead front and sporting open rear sights, plus factory, drilled and tapped for tang style sights, cocking indicator, cartridge counter, lightly figured dark Walnut straight grip stock with all finish stripped off both buttstock and forend, serrated black buttplate is a modern replacement, shotgun style butt, 303 Savage ammo is still available from custom makers and is slightly more powerful than 30/30 round, excellent function, made in 1916 (C&R) \$495

50-B Springfield 30/06 “Model 1903 Post WW-II” Bolt Rifle 24” Sedgeley made barrel with mint bore and marked “USMC/S”, 90%+ original blue, standard 1903 ladder and blade sights, pistol grip stock with a 1 ½” crack at rear of upper tang and excellent checkered blued steel trap style buttplate, “N.S.” marked bolt (nickel steel), all early milled parts, no “Hatcher hole” receiver shows (2) drilled, tapped and plugged holes on right rear, a very nice rebuild 1903 that should be a fine shooter (C&R)\$975

51-B Weatherby .300 Weatherby Magnum “Mark V” Model German Made Bolt Rifle 24” barrel with mint bore, 98% original high polish blue, made by J.P. Sauer of West Germany in 1960, 9 lock lug bolt, hammer forged barrel, Weatherby started using J.P. Sauer to manufacture the Mark V's in 1958, minty fancy grained Walnut pistol grip stock with skipline diamond cut checkering, Rosewood forend cap and pistol grip cap with diamond center, Weatherby logo black vent rubber recoil pad and factory swivel eyes, Monte Carlo with pronounced cheek rest, no open sights but receiver has an excellent Weatherby 2 ¾-10x44mm scope with focusing ring along with crosshair adjustment, Bueller scope base and rings, the best of the best in 1960 (C&R)\$1875

52-B Winchester 250/3000 Savage “Model 54 Sporter” Bolt Rifle 24” barrel with excellent bright bore, 98% original blue, ramp bead front sight, slot blank in rear barrel boss, “Griffin & Howe” style left side mount (no rings or scope), Redfield receiver sight mounted using factory holes, stock was cut for a different receiver sight and “cut” is oversized for present sight, excellent Walnut pistol grip stock with cut checkering, checkered steel “widows” peak buttplate and added swivel “eyes”, excellent function in a nice classic light recoiling caliber, manufactured 1932 (C&R)\$1385

53-B Winchester 25/35 “Model 94” Saddle Ring Lever Carbine 20” barrel with fair pitted bore, pinned on blade front and (2) position open folding leaf rear sights, 30% original blue mixing with brown and light pitting, long forend with (3) tack decoration on each side, straight grip carbine butt of shotgun style with tack decorated “cross” on right cheek, home made buttplate appear to be thick leather, upper tang broken off and replaced with crudely made riveted on piece, made in 1912 and works surprisingly well (C&R)\$375

54-B Winchester 30/30 “Model 94AE” Saddle Ring Lever Carbine 16” barrel with mint bore, 99%+ original blue, 100th anniversary marked receiver, factory open sights plus factory drilled, tapped and plugged for scope bases (none provided), mint figured Walnut straight grip stock with logo checkered black plastic buttplate, made in 1994 and comes in original box with hang tag and sales slip from 1994, collector quality\$1045

RIMFIRE RIFLES

55-B Anschütz .22 LR "Schneider Model" Clip Feed Target Bolt Rifle 19 1/2" barrel with mint bore, 98% original blue, large "Globe" style replaceable insert front sight, folding open rear sight, grooved receiver mounted fully adjustable large iris target style aperture rear sights, minty Walnut pistol grip stock with stippled pistol grip, vented forend, aluminum forend accessory rail, length adjustable buttplate, comes with (1) red bottom 5 shot Anschütz marked magazine, excellent function\$625

56-B Anschütz .22 LR "Sporter Model" Clip Feed Bolt Rifle 21 1/2" sporter weight barrel with mint bore, hooded ramp bead front and (3) leaf folding open rear sights (graduated 50-75+100 meters) and grooved receiver, 98%+ original bright blue, mint dark lightly figured Walnut pistol grip stock with cut checkering, low European style cheekpiece, serrated black plastic buttplate and factory 1" swivels, 5 shot original magazine, manufactured around 1970, excellent function, super looker (C&R)\$825

57-B Hamilton .22 Cal. "Model No. 27" Tipping Breech Single Shot Boys Parts Rifle 15" barrel with very good original liner, late variation style with 90% original blue and minty board style Walnut buttstock and tiny forend, front sight is present but no rear sight, missing breech block and handle, firing pin and mainspring, no buttplate, remaining parts are all very good to excellent with lots of original blue and excellent wood (C&R)\$145

58-B Hamilton .22 Rimfire "Model No. 27" Tipping Breech Single Shot Boys Parts Rifle 15" barrel with poor pitted original liner, 98% refinish blue, early style missing rear sight, breech block, firing pin and forend wood, buttstock is excellent, no buttplate, nice looking parts gun (C&R)\$125

59-B Hamilton .22 Rimfire "Model No. 27" Late Style Tipping Breech Boys Parts Rifle 15" barrel with fair pitted bore, 98% of a very nice refinish blue, missing its breech cocking bolt and associated parts, excellent wood with custom forend, looks very nice just needs a few parts to complete (C&R)\$125

60-B J.C. Higgins (High Standard) .22 S, L, & LR "Model 31" Tube Feed Auto Rifle 24" barrel with mint bore, 98% original blue, factory open sporting sights, grooved receiver and J.C. Higgins 4x scope, excellent Walnut pistol grip stock with nice grain and color, grip cap and logo serrated black plastic buttplate, excellent function showing little or no actual use, nice quality made by High Standard for Sears (C&R)\$315

61-B Marlin .22 S, L, & LR "Model 100?" Single Shot "Boys Rifle" 24" barrel with excellent bore, early model with no model number on barrel only "Marlin Firearms Co." over "New Haven, Conn. 22, S, L, & LR" single shot with manual cocking by knob at rear of bolt, 98% original blue, blade front sight in a slot groove (not dovetail) and sporting open rear sight with dovetail base and single screw attachment, excellent light colored hardwood pistol grip stock with serrated black hard rubber buttplate, excellent function showing little or no actual use (C&R)\$195

CENTERFIRE RIFLES

block and handle, firing pin and mainspring, no buttplate, remaining parts are all very good to excellent with lots of original blue and excellent wood (C&R)\$145

58-B Hamilton .22 Rimfire "Model No. 27" Tipping Breech Single Shot Boys Parts Rifle 15" barrel with poor pitted original liner, 98% refinish blue, early style missing rear sight, breech block, firing pin and forend wood, buttstock is excellent, no buttplate, nice looking parts gun (C&R)\$125

59-B Hamilton .22 Rimfire "Model No. 27" Late Style Tipping Breech Boys Parts Rifle 15" barrel with fair pitted bore, 98% of a very nice refinish blue, missing its breech cocking bolt and associated parts, excellent wood with custom forend, looks very nice just needs a few parts to complete (C&R)\$125

60-B J.C. Higgins (High Standard) .22 S, L, & LR "Model 31" Tube Feed Auto Rifle 24" barrel with mint bore, 98% original blue, factory open sporting sights, grooved receiver and J.C. Higgins 4x scope, excellent Walnut pistol grip stock with nice grain and color, grip cap and logo serrated black plastic buttplate, excellent function showing little or no actual use, nice quality made by High Standard for Sears (C&R)\$315

61-B Marlin .22 S, L, & LR "Model 100?" Single Shot "Boys Rifle" 24" barrel with excellent bore, early model with no model number on barrel only "Marlin Firearms Co." over "New Haven, Conn. 22, S, L, & LR" single shot with manual cocking by knob at rear of bolt, 98% original blue, blade front sight in a slot groove (not dovetail) and sporting open rear sight with dovetail base and single screw attachment, excellent light colored hardwood pistol grip stock with serrated black hard rubber buttplate, excellent function showing little or no actual use (C&R)\$195

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77-B Savage / Anschutz .22 LR "Model Match 64" Single Shot Target Bolt Rifle 26" heavy barrel with mint bore, 98% original bright blue, Anschutz large "Globe" replaceable insert front sight and elaborate original Anschutz fully adjustable rear target sight mounted on grooved receiver, factory target scope blocks on barrel, near excellent target style Walnut stock with ergonomic stippled grip, full length aluminum accessory rail, cheekpiece and factory black rubber buttplate, shows only minor nicks and dings on wood, excellent function \$695

78-B Savage / Anschutz .22 LR "Model Mark 10" Single Shot Target Bolt Rifle 26" barrel with mint bore, 98% original blue, factory "Globe" front and fully adjustable "peep" rear sights plus grooved receiver, excellent hardwood light colored pistol grip "Marksman" style stock with accessory front rail with handstop/1 ½" sling swivel, rear swivel and a serrated black plastic buttplate, excellent function \$485

79-B Savage / Anschutz .22 LR "Model Mark 10-3" Single Shot Target Bolt Rifle 26" heavy barrel with mint bore, 98% original blue, factory "Globe" replaceable front insert sight and elaborate Anschutz micrometer target "peep" large iris rear sights, grooved receiver, excellent dark stained hardwood pistol grip stock with cheekpiece, aluminum accessory rail, rear sling swivel and serrated black plastic buttplate, excellent function.....\$595

80-B Savage / Anschutz .22 LR "Mark 12 Model" Single Shot Target Bolt Rifle 26" heavy barrel with mint bore, 98% original blue, "Globe" replaceable insert front and fully adjustable target style rear aperture sights, rear sight is attached using the grooved receiver, very good marksman style hardwood pistol grip stock with cheekpiece, serrated black plastic buttplate, factory swivels, triggerguard shows a washer repair of rear, excellent function with only minor loss of finish on stock \$395

81-B Savage / Anschutz .22 LR "Model 164" Clip Feed Sporter Bolt Rifle 24" sporter weight barrel with mint bore, 98%+ original bright blue, hooded ramp bead front and elevation adjustable folding open rear sights, plus grooved receiver, mint light colored Walnut pistol grip stock with Monte Carlo, cheekpiece, cut checkering and serrated black buttplate, excellent function, collector quality, manufactured 1973 (C&R)\$725

82-B Stevens .22 LR "Favorite Model" Dropping Block Single Shot Lever Takedown Rifle 24" octagon barrel with excellent bright bore, "Beeches" folding "Pin head" circular front and standard sporting open rear sights, factory drilled, tapped and plugged for tang sights (none provided), 98%+ original barrel blue with a couple tiny spots of pitting, receiver is a smooth un-pitted mottled gray/brown with "Stevens A&T Co." over "Chicopee Falls, Mass U.S.A.", excellent Walnut straight grip stock with very good+ "Stevens Favorite" banner logo checkered hard rubber buttplate, missing only its "ring" on takedown bolt, collector quality (C&R) \$395

83-B Stevens .22 LR "Favorite Model" Dropping Block Single Shot Lever Takedown Boys Rifle 24" octagon barrel with fair pitted bore, 65% original barrel blue, receiver is a smooth un-pitted dark mottled brown with Stevens "Favorite" on top of receiver Rocky Mountain blade front and sporting open rear sights, drilled tapped and plugged for tang sight (none provided) with "model 1915" on tang, good original wood has been refinished and logo banner hard rubber buttplate shows a crack at lower screw, excellent function (C&R)\$275

84-B Stevens Arms (Savage) .22 S, L, & LR "Visible Loading Repeater" Pump Rifle 22" round barrel with excellent bright bore, 97% original barrel and tube blue, receiver is a mottled gray/blue with some light pitting and hammer impact marked on left side of receiver where someone tried to punch out the "action pin" that had its screw slot head broken off (remains of pin still in action so really no need to remove), excellent function, very nice Walnut straight grip stock and circular grooved pump handle, blued steel buttplate, lots of finish loss on wood with storage dings and scrapes, original open sights, looks very good, made in the 1920's (C&R)\$385

85-B Winchester .22 WRF "Model 1890" Pump Rifle 24" octagon barrel with fair pitted bore, 90% original blue on barrel with light scattered pitting overall, receiver is mostly mottled gray with light peppering pitting, original open sights, very good dark Walnut straight grip stock with crescent steel buttplate, matching grooved pump handle, made in 1916 and good function (C&R) \$425

86-B Winchester .22 S, L, & LR "Model 69A" Target Clip Feed Bolt Rifle 25" barrel with excellent bright bore, 95%+ original blue, ramp bead front sight is missing its hood, target "peep" Winchester model 97B fully adjustable rear sight plus drilled and tapped (4) holes for side mount scope base (none included), very good Walnut pistol grip stock with sling swivels and logo plastic buttplate, works fine but magazine is missing (C&R)\$195

87-B Winchester .22 S, L, & LR "Model 60" Single Shot Bolt Rifle 23" barrel with excellent bore, 95% original slightly faded blue, bead front sight, open rear dovetail, nicely installed Tasco 4x15mm scope on a Weaver style rail on barrel, excellent dark Walnut pistol grip stock with logo hard rubber buttplate, excellent function (C&R)\$295

88-B Winchester .22 LR "Model 55" Single Shot Auto Bottom Ejecting Rifle 22" barrel with mint bore, factory open sporting sights, 99% original blue, excellent Walnut pistol grip stock with logo plastic buttplate, excellent but odd function, collector quality (C&R) \$345

89-B Winchester .22 S, L, & LR "Model 121" Single Shot Barreled Action for Bolt Rifle 20 ½" barrel with excellent bright bore, 98% original blue, grooved receiver, no sights or other parts, pre 1968 (C&R)\$75

90-B Winchester .22 S, L, & LR "Model 121" Single Shot Barreled Action for Bolt Rifle 20 ½" barrel with excellent bright bore, 98% original blue, grooved receiver, no sights or other parts, pre 1968 (C&R)\$75

91-B Winchester .22 S, L, & LR "Model 67" Barreled Action for Single Shot Bolt Rifle 27" barrel with excellent bright bore, 95%+ original blue with some mild peppering pitting, no other parts, just barrel and receiver (C&R)\$70

92-B Winchester .22 S, L, & LR "Model 67" Barreled Action for Single Shot Bolt Rifle 27" barrel with excellent bright bore, 95%+ original blue with some mild peppering pitting, no other parts, just barrel and receiver (C&R)\$70

93-B Florida Firearms Corp. / Zabala 12 Gauge "Field Grade" Side by Side Shotgun 28"
 barrels with raised rib, 3" chambers and fixed full and modified chokes, excellent bores, 98% original blue with some spots of browning and pitting from poor storage, double triggers, extractors, lightly engraved blued boxlock receiver, excellent light color hardwood pistol grip stock with cut checkering, grip cap, full beavertail push button release forend and completely squashed vent recoil pad from sitting on its butt, excellent function, good looking and decent quality (C&R) \$345

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111-B Savage .410 Gauge "Model 220A" Single Shot Shotgun 26" plain barrel with excellent bore, 3" chamber and fixed full choke, 97% original blue and dark case color, good solid dark Walnut pistol grip stock with a short crack behind receiver on left side and no buttplate, works fine (C&R)\$175

112-B Springfield Arms Co. (Stevens) 12 Gauge "Model 315 / Field Grade" Side by Side Shotgun 30" barrels with raised rib, 2 ¾" chambers, mint bores choked improved modified and improved cylinders, 98% original blue with a little less case color on boxlock receiver, double triggers, extractors, excellent dark Walnut pistol grip stock with splinter style forend and added vent rubber recoil pad, excellent function, classic look (C&R)\$425

113-B Stevens 20 Gauge "Model 238A" Clip Feed Bolt Shotgun 26" plain barrel with very good bore, 2 ¾" chamber and fixed improved cylinder choke, metal is a smooth un-pitted thinning blue with brown mixed for about 90% finish, 4 shot detachable magazine, very good Walnut pistol grip stock with replacement solid black rubber buttplate, a good serviceable shotgun for slugs or medium birds, wood shows a little amateur checkering (C&R)\$165

114-B Winchester 12 Gauge "Model 12 Heavy Duck" Pump Shotgun 30" solid rib barrel with mint bore, 3" chamber and fixed full choke, 98% original bright blue, offset Winchester proof on ribbed barrel, very good+ Walnut pistol grip stock with Winchester logo solid red rubber buttpad (slightly deformed at comb which is quite common), correct 13 5/8" length of pull, excellent function showing little actual use and more storage wear on wood and buttpad than anything else, super looker and great duck gun, made in 1954, solid rib barreled Heavy Duck guns are uncommon and sought after by collectors and hunters alike (C&R)\$1095

115-B Winchester 12 Gauge "Model 12 Heavy Duck" Pump Shotgun 30" solid rib barrel with mint bore, 3" chamber and fixed full choke, 99% original bright blue, excellent figured Walnut pistol grip stock with correct 13 5/8" length of pull and factory Winchester logo solid red rubber recoil pad, matching circular grooved pump handle, this one is in near new condition except for a slightly deformed recoil pad (common) from sitting on its butt for 68 years and some very minor scuffs on finish of buttstock, made in 1957 and looks new, collector quality (C&R)\$1350

116-B Winchester 12 Gauge "Model 1200" Pump Shotgun 28" plain barrel with mint bore, 2 ¾" chamber and improved cylinder screw in "Winchoke", 98% original blue, very good Walnut pistol grip stock with impress checkering, grip cap and logo vent rubber recoil pad, wood shows storage dings and scrapes along with a tiny amount of finish loss, a good dependable multi duty shot with excellent function, made in 1974 (C&R)\$295

117-B Winchester 16 Gauge "Model 12" Pump Shotgun 28" plain barrel with mint bore, 99 ½% original bright blue, 2 ¾" chamber, fixed full choke, minty dark Walnut pistol grip stock with original solid red rubber logo butt pad, made in 1955 and looks and functions as new, collector quality (C&R)\$895

(\$5.00 for first book and \$2.00 for any additional books in the same order for shipping and packaging)

118-B Hornady Handbook of Cartridge Reloading Rifle-Pistol Vol. II copyright 1973 by J.W. Hornady, 511 page hardcover with tattered dust jacket, very good information with excellent text\$10

119-B The Modern Gunsmith by James V. Howe, 4th edition, two volumes revised edition with supplement, copyright 1934-1937 and 1941 reprinted 1944, Vol. I 424 page hard cover with dust jacket, Vol. II 424 page hard cover with dust jacket and 62 page supplement, excellent in original red slide cover, by Funk & Wagnalls Co., super condition\$150

120-B Lever Action Magazine Rifles by Samuel L. Maxwell Sr., Copyright 1976, first edition by S. Maxwell printed by Taylor Publishing Co., 368 page hardcover with embossed cover with gold lettering, super condition, signed dedication to a friend by Sam Maxwell\$100

121-B Ruger & His Guns: A History of the Man, The Company and Their Firearms by R.L. Wilson, copyright 1996 by Simon & Schuster, 358 page hardcover with dust jacket, near new condition overall, signed by R.L. Wilson\$70

122-B America's Premier Gunmakers Browning" by K.D. Kirkland, copyright 1989 by Brompton books, 112 page hardcover with dust jacket, excellent overall\$8

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125-B Beretta Automatic Pistols by J.B. Wood, copyright 1985 by Stackpole Books, 192 page hardcover, no dust jacket otherwise excellent, first edition published may 1985\$85

126-B Colt Single-Action Revolver Handbook 1955-1975 by Don Wilkerson, copyright 1999 by Don Wilkerson, printed by Wadsworth Publishing, first edition 1999, 224 page hardcover with dust jacket near new condition\$175

127-B German Handguns by Ian V. Hogg, copyright 2001 by Hogg, published January 2001, first edition, 319 page hardcover with dust jacket, near new overall\$45

128-B Complete Guide to Service Handguns by Gene Gangarose, published by Stoeger Publishing Co. May 1988, 304 page soft cover in excellent condition.....\$15

129-B The History of the John Russell Cutlery Co. by Merriam Davis, Brown and Buerger, copyright 1976 by Channing L. Bete Co., 120 page hardcover wit dust jacket, published by Bete Press of Greenfield, MA in about new condition overall\$60

130-B Colt Automatic Pistols Enlarged Revised Edition by Donald B. Bady, copyright 1956/1975 by Borden Publishing Co., 354 page hardcover in very good condition with dust jacket, dust jacket a little ragged, interior is excellent have (2) one without dust cover\$20 each

131-B Single Shot Rifles by James Grant, copyright 1947, first edition, 385 page hardcover, printed by William Morrow and Company in 1947, no dust cover and a bit tattered on boards and binding, very good text and pictures\$35

132-B More Single Shot Rifles by James Grant, copyright 1959 by James Grant, Reprint edition 1976 by the Gun Room Press, excellent overall but no dust cover, 322 page hardcover with excellent text and pictures\$30

133-B Still More Single Shot Rifles by James Grant, copyright 1979, printed by Pioneer Press in 1979, 211 page hardcover with no dust jacket, excellent condition with perfect text and photos\$35

134-B U.S. Firearms 1776-1956 by Major E. Hicks, copyright by James Hicks, published by James Hicks Publishing, 128 page/88 illustration plate hardcover with well tattered and worn dust jacket, excellent text and illustrations, first edition\$35

RUBEN MENDIOLA

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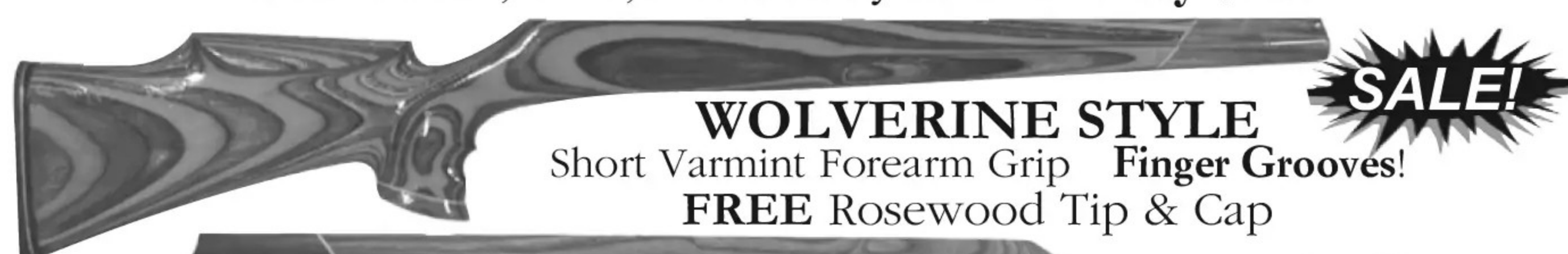
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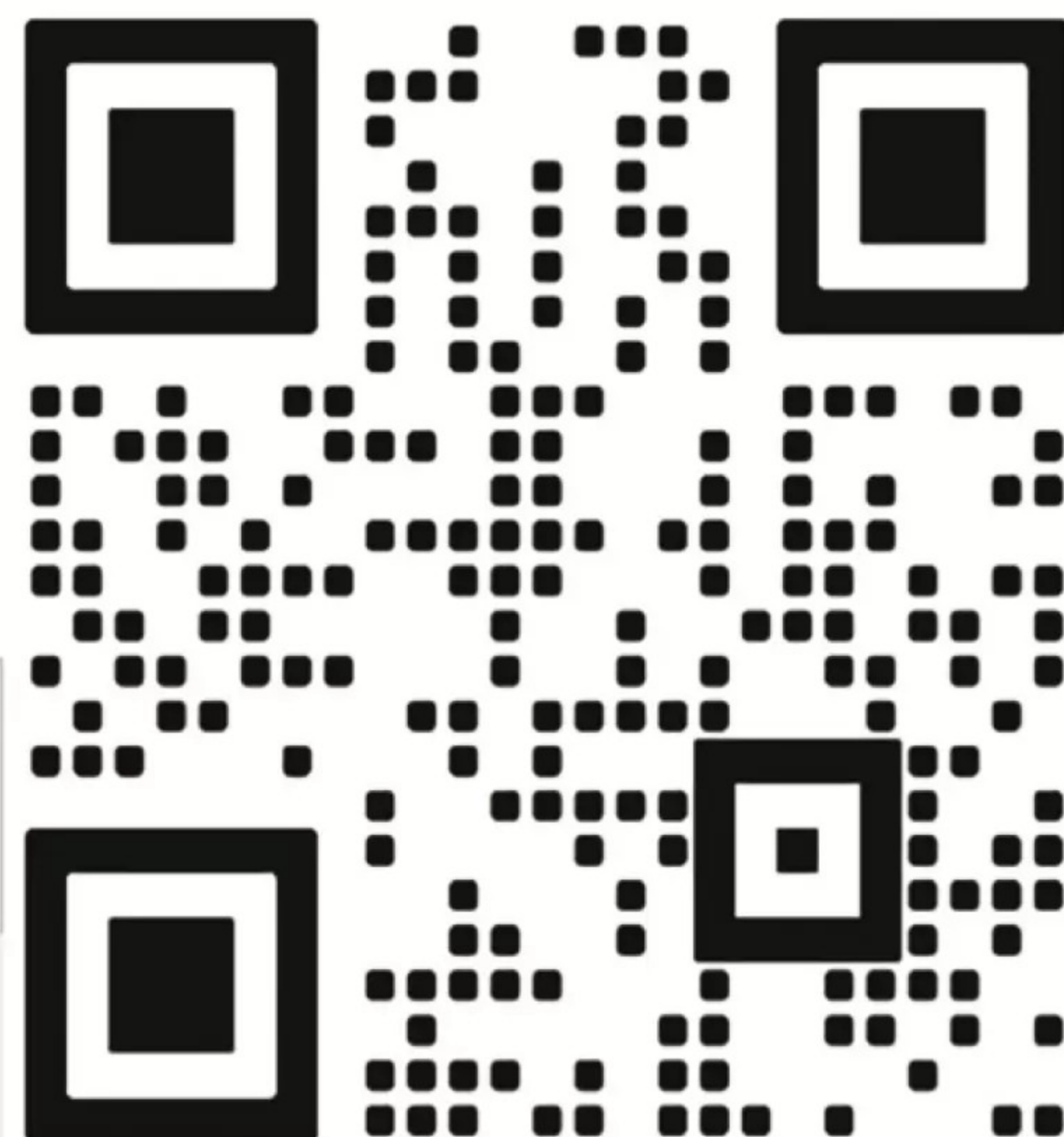
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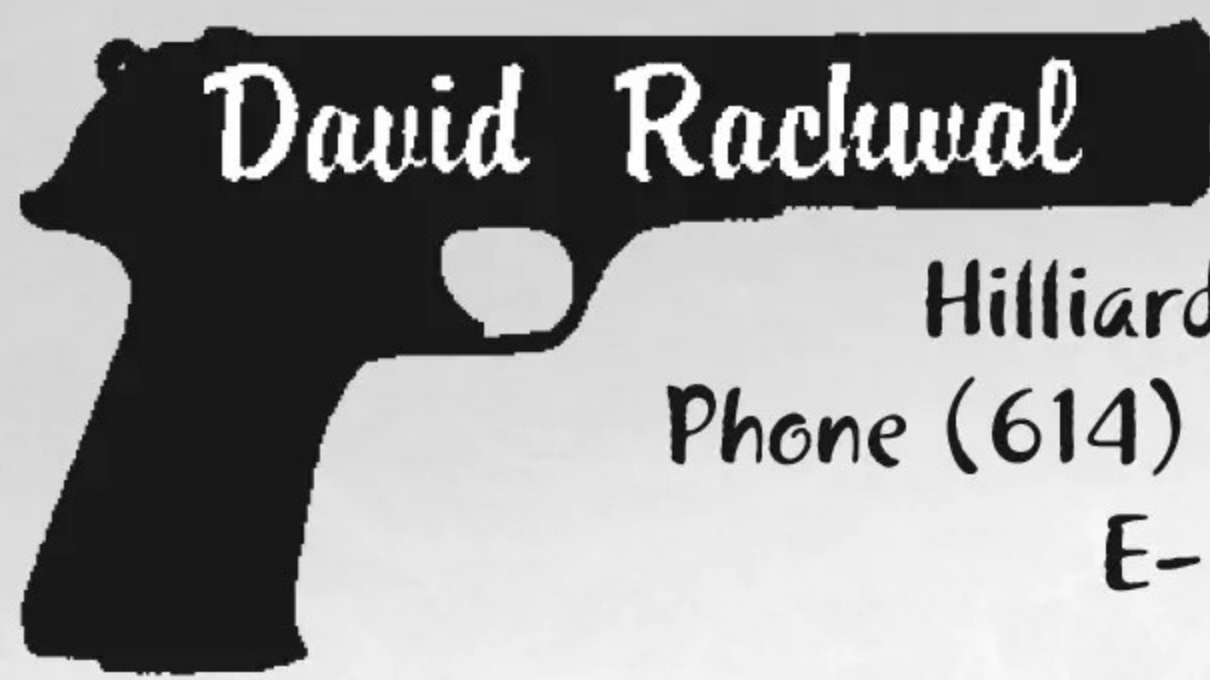
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8 must-consider factors
when packing a light.





Until we learn to use sonar, or genetic manipulation gives us the means of thermal ID, we need light. But because this is America and there are lots of options ... well, that doesn't mean they are all correct.

You have to choose—and you have to choose wisely. Here are a few things to keep in mind.

1. ENOUGH BUT NOT TOO MUCH

The idea of a megawatt light source makes some of us a bit giddy. I mean, who doesn't want to be wielding 2,500 lumens of tactical light or even more?

Well, try doing anything indoors with that light.

Room-clearing would be an awful experience, yes, but just plain searching for the *blasted blankety-blank* thing you need when the power is out would be a chore. In truth, 2,500 lumens will blind you when it hits those

developer-approved Navajo White walls you are fond of.

Show some restraint when buying a light. We were all agog when SureFire came out with its first handheld tactical light. "Sixty lumens? Oh my." That was considered blinding back then.

So, if you need a pocket light, consider one with selectable lumen outputs. And if it's to be mounted on a pistol, keep a hand on your impulses and "settle" for a "mere" 500 lumens—max.

2. MORE THAN ONE

I know what you're thinking: *Oh, right, the two becomes one, one becomes none adage, right?*

Well, yes and no. If you're going to depend on lights, you need backups. But, you also often need more than one tool. Two examples come to mind: dogs and dropped items.

Each night, when I take the dogs out for their last walk of the day, I've got





three lights on me. One is a 2,000-lumen blaster. If there's something moving out there in the dark, I want to do more than just see it. If it might be a hazard, I want its little retinas to fairly sizzle when I light them up.

But when it comes time to pick up dog poop (I'm a responsible dog owner, and the city requires it even if I wasn't), I don't need 2,500 lumens. So, I have an adjustable-lumen light clipped to my pocket programmed to start on "Low."

No dogs?

OK, how about this: You've walked to your car, and at the car you fumbled and dropped something. Are you going to pull out your concealed handgun, turn on your weapon-mounted light and search for it? If you are, I will disclaim any knowledge of your existence. "Bob Smith, the light-on-his-gun-in-the-parking-lot guy? Nope, never met him."

Such things are at the very least going to get you talked about. And if anything at all goes awry, you could find yourself in some serious trouble. Have a regular light so you can see dropped things, find the keyhole on the lock, etc.

3. KNOW YOUR BEAM

Lights come with reflectors, and they determine the shape of the slight spread. If you're going to be putting a light on a rifle in the country to deal with varmints and hogs, yes, you want power. But you also want a "hot" center, lots of throw with a lot of those lumens in the center of the beam. The measure

of that is the candela power, and for reach you need a hot center.

But, if you're going to be working indoors, you want a wide spread so you can see things not in the center. Oh, you'll want a hot center also, but you need spread as well.

So, do your research and buy accordingly. That wide beam doesn't help when trying to hit that coyote at 100 yards, and the high-intensity hot beam is a big fail indoors.

4. CONTROL THE CONTROLS

Light only helps if you can call on it when needed. Learn the controls of your light, and practice until you can do them by "I need this" and it happens.

On handguns, that means learning the controls so you can do momentary or continuous. You can select strobe if you want, and you can turn it off easily. In the dark, under stress, is no time to be learning the controls or trying to remember what you read in the owner's manual, once. On rifles and shotguns that also means training yourself to where the controls are.

Well, first you have to mount them where you can reach them. Then you learn to reach and control them. So, mount the light and its switch (if that is

Out for a walk with the dogs, you need even more options. Yes, a light on the pistol, but also a light for the dark corners as well as "work" within arm's reach.

cabled to be remote) and then practice. If the practice just isn't working, try a different location. "But that's where the SEAL team guy who taught us mounted his."

His light was mounted where it was for a reason. That reason might have been good, or it might have simply been required. His reasons and requirements may or may not be the same as yours.

Mount yours where it works for you.

5. BACKUP YOUR BATTERIES

"Backup" means backup lights and backup batteries for all of them. Your light might come with a battery or batteries. Great. But your practice (and need





I remind you to practice?) will use up some of that juice. Buy more now before you need them.

And here's a hint: Buy in bulk. Why? OK, a common battery for lights is the CR123A. I did a quick search and found six-packs for \$13 or so. Hmm. That's \$2.16 per battery before we even get to shipping? That seems like a lot.

The last time I bought CR123As, I bought a tray of 100 of them. With shipping, it was around \$120. So, \$1.20 per. Yes, that's a lot of batteries, but they do not go bad sitting on the shelf. I have a multi-year supply, and if prices go up (they never go down), my deal gets better and better.

Store yours in a warm, dry place that won't get stuff spilled on it. Label the box. Keep an eye on it if you have friends or relatives who might dip into your supply. You're set.

6. KNOW THE LAW

Actually, pay attention to the law, because in this regard the law is pretty much the same everywhere. Pointing a loaded weapon at someone is an assault, and doing so could bring consequences.

We're back to that search in the parking lot situation. So, there you are, scrambling in the parking lot or the parking structure, using your one-and-only source of illumination, your pistol light, to find what you dropped, and someone asks "Need some help there?" Reflexively, you turn the source of light to see who is talking, and you have just committed an assault.

Will they notice? Will they care? Will they scream for help? Call 911? The responding authorities are not necessarily going to be understanding.

You might get a warning; you might

get more. It would not be unusual in some jurisdictions for you—at the very least—to lose your CPL and not get it back. Or, you might get it back after much legal hassle. So, know when you can use it, and if you do need to, have already worked out the details and processes with your attorney.

7. KNOW THE COMPANY

If you break your light, can it be fixed? Will the company stand behind their warranty? Do tire tracks and hammer marks void the warranty?

Oh, let's stop beating around the bush. Why are you buying a tactical light made out of chinesium? If this is important, it is important. So, buy good gear. The adage "buy once, cry once" comes to mind. Cry over the high price and the performance it brings, not over the failure because the cheap, crappy light failed you when you dropped it, once.

I expect a light, when dropped, to show the marks but still keep working. If I drop a light (hey, we all get clumsy, tired, have our hands full), and the light doesn't work ... hmm. The maker gets one chance to fix it. If they can't, won't or it fails again, I don't use it. And I won't show it in an article. (No, I won't send you a list.)

8. LEARN THE LINGO

Last on this list, but first in your efforts: Learn the lingo. Learn the difference between lumens and candela. Learn the difference between flood and throw. Get a sense of the performance parameters to be had out there. If a



Practice to see if you can reach the switch. If not, move it until you can, regardless of "how the SEALs do it."

new company offers a light that has just as many lumens as the big guys, but promises twice the runtime, be suspicious.

Know what things mean before you are standing at the counter of your local gun shop, perusing tactical lights.

It's your money, after all.

But then again, it's your safety, after all, too. **GDTM**

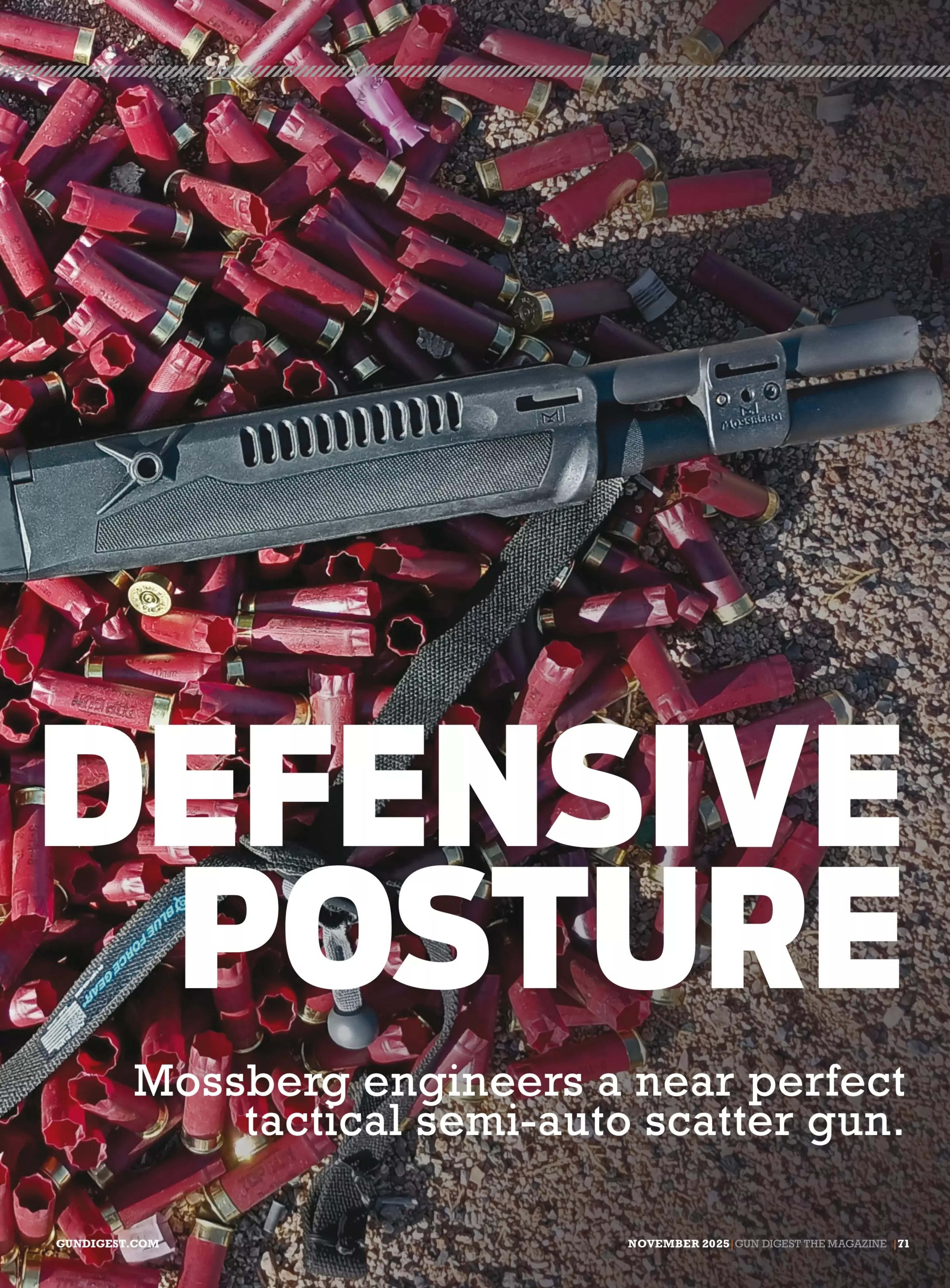


Once you have mounted a light onto your rifle or shotgun ... learn to run it as efficiently as you've learned to run your firearm.

Having a light on your pistol is good, but not enough. You need a non-gun light source to avoid embarrassment ... or worse.

Buy quality and you won't regret it. This light has been dropped (even gun writers can be clumsy), and it still works just fine.





DEFENSIVE POSTURE

Mossberg engineers a near perfect tactical semi-auto scatter gun.

SPECIFICATION



Pro Tactical SPX

Gauge: 12

Action: Gas-operated semi-auto

Chamber Size: 3 inches

Barrel Length: 18.5 inches

Choke: Accu-Choke

Capacity: 7+1

Overall Length: 37 inches

LOP: Adjustable

Sights: Holosun HS407k; front fiber optic

Weight: 7.25 pounds

MSRP: \$1,371

From never-fail striker-fired pistols to potent AR platforms, suppressible and manageable at the shoulder, home defense options are legion. Even with these choices, the 12-gauge shotgun still has a certain daunting mystique when manning the ramparts of your property line and addressing bumps in the night.

Nothing quite says, “Get off my lawn!” more convincingly. And few companies have perfected the defensive scattergun like Mossberg.

Like a dark and avenging spirit, the company’s 500 and 590 series pump guns strike fear into the black hearts of the felonious. However, there’s a fair case to be made that Mossberg’s newest semi-auto smoothbore has the chops to hold its own versus the company’s legends. Smooth shooting, easy to manipulate and fast as AC down copper wire, the newly minted 940 Pro Tactical SPX is built for defense.

BIRTH OF THE 940

If you’re not familiar with the Mossberg 940 line of shotguns, it’s essentially a redemption story. The company’s preceding gas-operated shotgun—the 930—had all the trappings of greatness. However, it proved to require plenty of attention in the maintenance department, lest it throw in the towel and quit due to a malfunction. Bad news in field models, catastrophic in tactical variations.

Well laid out, the SPX proves a capable rendition of a modern fighting semi-auto shotgun.



Chris Currie was a breacher in Iraq during his service with the Marine Corps. He shows the proper way to gain entry to a room, without immediately putting himself in harm’s way and his Pro Tactical SPX at the ready.



Currie works a room clear with his Pro Tactical SPX at the high ready.



Currie pies a corner with his Pro Tactical SPX on his shoulder. The key here is not to hug the wall or overextend your lateral movement.



DRESSED FOR SUCCESS

While the overall furniture on the Pro Tactical SPX is rather what you'd expect—glass-filled nylon—it has some minutiae making the gun much more user-friendly. Perhaps my favorite aspect is the fore, which Mossberg has wrapped around the top of the barrel to create a heat shield. Running the gun hard gets its barrel smoking, but this elegant feature allows you to be bold in how you handle and manipulate the gun.

Speaking of operating the SPX, Mossberg has made it simple with an oversized and knurled charging handle and bolt release. It is further enhanced with a beveled loading port and an elevator designed not to bite the thumb that feeds it. A nice touch, a brazen metallic-orange follower that leaves no doubt when the mag is empty. And the safety is in the right spot—tang—and has very aggressive texturing, making it easy to flip.

Overall, this adds up to a shotgun you evaluate and manipulate quickly and run hard.

HIGH-DESERT SHOWDOWN

A handful of other gun writers and I had the opportunity to run the 940 Pro Tactical SPX in the most fitting setting—Gun-site Academy's defensive shotgun course. Under the tutelage of former Glendale, California, Deputy Sheriff Mario Marchman and U.S. Marine Chris Currie, we put the gun through its paces in situational training, urban tactical courses, house-clearing drill, plain-ol' speed and accuracy tests and manipulation drills.

In three days, I did north of 500 shells worth of shooting. Adding a layer of pressure to the participants and the gas-operated Mossberg was the environment. Dry, dusty and hot, June in Arizona isn't exactly inviting ... except, perhaps, to basal cells.

The SPX performed spectacularly, particularly with the Holosun red dot. I particularly appreciated the 940's trigger,

The 940 action set out to remedy this issue by re-engineering several key components, with rock-solid reliability the target. As far as the ones I've shot since its release in 2020, Mossberg has scored a bull's eye. The gas-gun runs like rain

down a gutter and eats practically anything it's fed.

Much of this success, not to mention dependability, of the gun has been its piston. Placed on the outside of the tubular magazine, venting gas forward and



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out of the way of moving parts, it runs much cleaner. Furthermore, a separate spring-loaded valve in the gas block only allows through enough gas as needed to cycle the bolt, again keeping fouling to a minimum.

Does it really cycle through upward of 1,500 shells between cleanings, per Mossberg's marketing hype? I haven't reached that mark personally on a single gun. But the Pro Tactical SPX and the field-grade 940 Pros I've shot haven't hiccuped once through hundreds of shells.

It's worth slipping, the piston system also makes the 940 damned versatile. From No. 8 bird to 300-grain slugs, the 940 chew through them without a hitch. This is no small feat, given that the pressure curves between those loads are worlds away from each other.

The Pro Tactical SPX gives the action plenty to munch on, as the 18.5-inch barreled shotgun has an impressive payload. Chambering 3-inch and 2 3/4-inch shells, the gun has a 6+1 and 7+1 capacity, respectively, thanks to an elongated tubular magazine. If that isn't enough, Mossberg levels it up by including a Vang Comp 6-Shotshell Carrier Card standard, giving you a lucky 13 rounds loaded and at hand if you're running 3-inch ammo.

EYE OF THE BEHOLDER

Tactical in many circumstances simply means the gun is dressed in black and brings little practical to the table. Not the Pro Tactical SPX. Mossberg has incorporated several useful design points into the 12-gauge, making it excel at its intended defensive purpose. None more significant than its optics cut.

The model I ran was the fully stock version available with all the bells and whistles, which included a Holosun HS407K micro red dot. If you're interested in defensive shotguns, chances are you have a streak of late adopter in you, particularly with battery-operated optics. You need to get over this because a red dot takes a defensive shotgun to an entirely different level of effectiveness.

While small, the HS407K is ideal on the SPX. Unlike on a pistol, the optic is close to the eye, thus the dot is fast and easy to acquire when shouldering the shotgun. And what it will do for your target acquisition will spin your head. Why wouldn't you want an unfair advantage like that?

Don't cotton to Holosun? Never fear, the Pro Tactical SPX is compatible with RMSc footprints, and it can adapt to nearly any optic thanks to its adapter plate system.



HOLOSUN HS407K



Holosun has been in the red dot game for a spell now and more than understands the needs of shooters. Hence, the HS407K sight. The small and unassuming addition to a pistol—in my case, a shotgun—vastly enhances your ability not only to acquire targets, but also to hit them.

Down to basics, the HS407K is a micro-red dot primarily designed for pistols, in particular one aimed at concealed carry. Coming in at 0.95 inch in height and 1 ounce in weight, even on this demure class of handguns, the optic doesn't take up much room. Even better, it is small enough that it won't throw the balance of a gun off either.

Given its size, the red dot's window is on the small side; however, crystal-clear glass and a very visible red dot still make it quick onto the target. The dot itself is 6 MOA and has 12 brightness settings, 10 of which are night vision compatible. Plus, it has 30 MOA of windage and elevation.

Additionally, the HS407K features shake-and-wake technology, a battery-saving feature I value. Quite simply, when not in use, the unit turns off, but it comes alive the moment you draw your gun or move it. Just so you know, the unit is powered off of a 1632 battery, which is side-mounted, so when you swap in a fresh cell, you don't lose your zero.

Overall, I walked away impressed with what Holosun brought to the table with the HS407K running it on the Mossberg Pro Tactical SPX. While small, the rear mounting of the unit on the shotgun filled the eye and picked up the pace of my hits.

The red dot is available as part of a package with the fully loaded shotgun. But, from what I saw when running the SPX, I wouldn't hesitate to stick one on a defensive pistol.

MSRP: \$259



In addition to QD points, the SPX also has a length of M-Lok on its barrel separator—a must-have feature to attach a light or other accessory.



Taking the SPX up a notch is the Holosun HS407K, which makes target acquisition much faster and accurate. Incidentally, the shotgun has an optics cut, making adding a red dot simple and painless.

The stop was likely sticky on the fresh-from-the-box shotgun to start but seemed to work itself out through the course of 30 or so shells. From then on, the issue ceased.

PARTING SHOT

Protecting your property and all those who reside in it is a serious job. The 940 Pro Tactical SPX is a serious tool to accomplish this task. The 12-gauge can put hate on target, is quick to manipulate and, above all, is reliable.

Certainly, in this day and age, the smoothbore isn't the first tool some reach for to guard against the ills of this world. But the SPX should make those folks reconsider. Mossberg hasn't simply designed a shotgun; it's engineered a defensive star. **GDTM**

which in tandem made double taps and target transitions lightning fast. And the gun's rock-solid reliability shone through.

None of us did any maintenance on the guns through the course and with four shooters behind 940s, there were zero malfunctions. And this included getting the gun in the desert's talcum-powder dust in drills meant to emulate shooting from under a vehicle.

This alone was enough to leave me impressed. However, the cherry on top was the accuracy potential—with the right load—of the SPX. This was proofed at the end of Gunsite's infamous Urban Scrambler, a course meant to emulate an urban shooting situation and concealment. The passing shot in the course was flipping the paddle on a hostage target without maiming the hostage at 15 yards.

Three of us ran the course twice, and each person slapped the paddle and didn't touch the hostage. We pitched Federal Power-Shok 9-pellet 00 buckshot, showing how surgical the gun could be with the right ammo.

One final point on the SPX after pitching plenty of lead, I valued the gun's butt pad. Designed with hollow cells that collapse on recoil, it went a long way in sparing me the abuse the gun could potentially dish out.

SOME BUGS

While the SPX did not malfunction on me in terms of a failure to extract, feed

or the like, there were some gremlins. In particular, early on the first day of the class, the magazine occasionally prematurely released a shell onto the elevator. This did not affect how the gun cycled but did hinder topping off the magazine—a key aspect in running a defensive shotgun.

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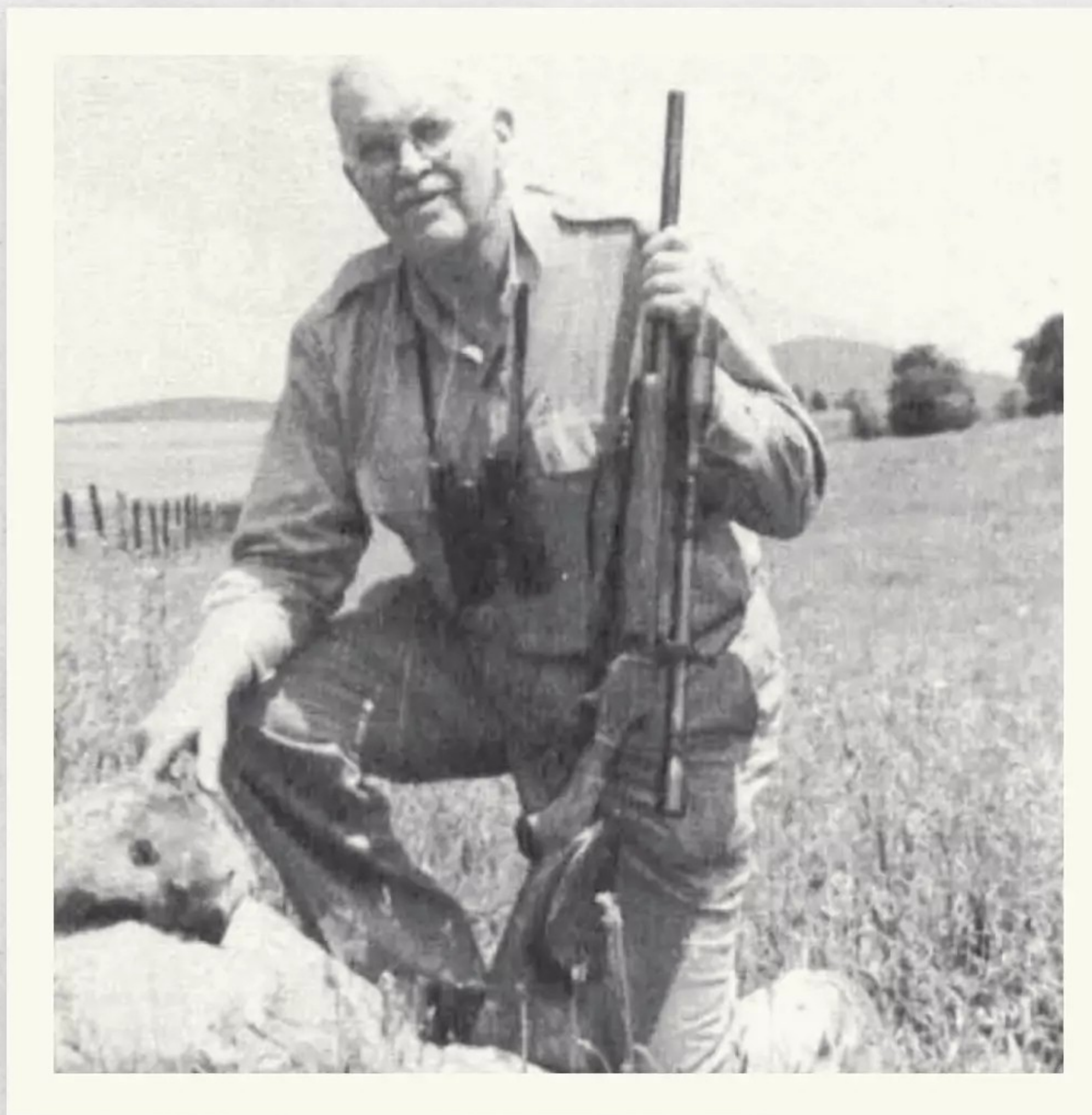
MY SINGLE-SHOT RIFLES

An experience of 60 years.

The dean of firearms writers and editors, Colonel Whelen, is the author of many valuable books, notably, The Hunting Rifle and Small Arms Ballistics and Design. His latest volume, Why Not Load Your Own?, is the least expensive and most practical book on handloading available. In this article, he shares with Gun Digest readers his longtime affection for single-shot rifles.

When I was just a little shaver, there was a Winchester single-shot rifle on exhibit in a gun store in my hometown. It was for the 40–82 cartridge, had a 30-inch, half-octagon No. 3 barrel, pistol grip stock of fancy walnut, checkered, Swiss buttplate, target sights, and was nicely engraved. It was my ideal of a fine rifle, and every day after school, while it remained on view, I tramped the 2 miles downtown to admire it. In some such manner are our tastes formed, and they are likely to remain with us always.

When I was 13, my father gave me my first rifle, a Remington rolling block for the .22 rimfire cartridge. Several months later I saw an advertisement of Lyman sights, and I fitted this rifle with a set. I think I have to thank these sights for my becoming a real rifleman, for with them on this little rifle, I soon became quite a good



With my Winchester single-shot rifle for the 219 Improved Zipper cartridge, I made my longest kill on a woodchuck.

shot, much better than any of my boy friends, and my interest was maintained and matured, as I do not believe it would have been if I had retained the open rear sight on this rifle.

All through my boyhood years I had a lot of fun and sport with this little rifle, and I shot a lot of stuff with it—English sparrows, squirrels, chipmunks, grouse, and one woodchuck. In 1892, I was lucky enough to win a “Fourth of July” rifle match with it in the Adirondack Mountains, and that year I also shot my first buck with it.

When I was 18, I enlisted in the Pennsylvania National Guard and

had no trouble in qualifying as Sharpshooter with the old 45–70 Springfield single-shot rifle, a very sterling, accurate, and reliable arm. The following year I was shooting on my company rifle team, and I also carried this rifle through the first few months of the Spanish-American War until I won my commission. Following that war I “discovered” the magazine *Shooting and Fishing*, and became much interested in the work of Reuben Harwood with 25-caliber rifles. So I purchased a Stevens No. 44 Ideal single-shot rifle for the 25-20 S.S. cartridge, but it did not seem to shoot nearly as accurately

as I was sure I held and aimed it. I know now this was due to the black-powder factory ammunition which in small calibers never was worth a hoot for accuracy. Anyhow, still following Harwood's writings, I obtained a Winchester single-shot rifle (low sidewall) for the 25-20 cartridge, with 26-inch, No. 2 half-octagon barrel, pistol grip and shotgun butt, and I placed a gun-sling on it. I had John Sidle bush and rechamber this rifle for the 25-21 Stevens cartridge, which was Harwood's favorite. Sidle also fitted it with his 5-power Snap-Shot scope, which was unique in its day, as it had a much larger field of view than any other scope and was a fine hunting scope for varmints. With this outfit I got much better results but it never entirely satisfied me in accuracy until I had Harry Pope make me a mould for his 80-grain broad base-band bullet, and furnish me with one of his lubricating pumps. Then, with King's Semi-Smokeless powder the rifle shot as well as I could hold it. I had a lot of fine varmint shooting with this rifle in the hills on either side of the Shenandoah Valley, and when I was ordered to California for station, it proved just the medicine for the Western ground squirrels. For Eastern shooters I will say that these are slightly larger than the gray squirrel, with a shorter and less bushy tail. They live in colonies like prairie dogs and are a great plague to farmers. I disposed of hundreds of them with this little 25-21 rifle. Then, one day, I expressed it to a gunsmith to have some work done on it, and it was lost in transit. I have ever since mourned it.

In the meantime one season I had a chance to go deer shooting in the North Woods and I got a Winchester single-shot rifle for the 38-55 cartridge and had it fitted with a Sidle scope. Sidle was by far our best scope maker in those days. This gun was poorly balanced and too heavy for a handy hunting rifle, but the scope did save me the embarrassment of shooting a cow in mistake for a deer. About this time I also had a Western hunt in view and

I got a similar rifle for the 45-70 cartridge, fitted only with Lyman sights. But despite carefully handloaded ammunition it was not as accurate as the old 45-70 Springfield, and I soon disposed of both these rifles.

Then, in 1900, Horace Kephart published in *Shooting and Fishing* his celebrated article on the use of lead bullets in high-power rifles. He had used a Winchester single-shot rifle for the 30-40 Krag cartridge, and the accuracy he obtained with both jacketed and lead alloy bullets was better than anything I had been able to achieve to that date. So an order went in to Winchester for one of these rifles with a 30-inch Number 3 nickel-steel barrel with .308-inch groove diameter, pistol grip, shotgun butt, and sling. This rifle started a long series of experiments with various loads, methods of resting the rifle, effect of rests on accuracy and location of center of impact, temperature, cleaning, etc., the results of which I gave to riflemen from time to time in the magazine *Arms and the Man*. A little ignition difficulty was experienced, so I had Niedner fit a Mann-Niedner firing pin, .075 inch in diameter, round headed, with an .055-inch protrusion, and this trouble ceased. This is an absolutely necessary alteration with all our single-shot actions, which were designed in blackpowder days. By this time I had been shooting for several years on the Army Infantry Rifle Team, and I felt quite sure that my results were fairly free from errors of aim and hold. By this time I had also discovered the bench rest.

In 1906, I got a 2 months leave and went on a hunt in British Columbia, taking this 30-40 along as my only rifle. It performed there as well as on the range, and I got mule deer, sheep, and goat with it. One very cold day, in a foot of snow, I came on a band of sheep close to timberline. They evidently caught a glimpse of me for they banded together, and started off, but soon slowed down and resumed feeding. I thought I had spotted a ram in the band, and I monkeyed around them

for an hour, by which time I was nearly frozen and had to quit. As I left them, it occurred to me to see if I could unload and load my rifle with my hands badly numbed with cold. I was utterly unable to do so in any reasonable time. To my mind this is the only disadvantage of a single-shot rifle as compared with a repeater. Certainly, the experience of our older sportsmen the world over with good single-shot rifles has been that they can be fired with all the necessary rapidity under normal conditions. However, I must add one other requirement—the single-shot rifle must extract its fired cases easily. Some don't, due usually to poor chambering or excessive loads.

On a hunt a few days later I came on an enormous rock buttress with two peaks standing up like the ears of a great horned owl. The Chilcotin Indians call this rock "Salina," which is their name for this owl. On a ledge on the face of the cliff was a big goat. I guess the range was about 500 yards, and I could see no way to get closer, so I lay down and took the shot, holding 2 feet above the goat's back. Of course I missed that, and two other shots I pulled, and the goat leisurely climbed up and disappeared between the two pinnacles. After a lot of climbing and scrambling, I found my way to the back of this rock mass where it was equally precipitous, and while working around at the base of the cliff I heard something above me, and looking upward I saw the goat or one just like it. At the shot it loosened all holds and, in a shower of small rocks, landed close to me. Then and there I named this rifle "Salina." I continued to use it as a testing piece for many years, and I also hunted a lot with it in Panama from 1915 to 1917. In 1911, I fitted it with a Winchester 5A scope, and thereafter all my dope was recorded in minutes of angle, from which it was easy to determine elevations, trajectory, and bullet drop.

About this time the NRA was developing interest in outdoor shooting with the smallbore rifle at 50, 100 and 200

yards. Before this scarcely anyone had shot the .22 at longer distances than 25 yards and little was known of the capabilities of the .22 Long Rifle cartridge at longer distances. So I got another Winchester single-shot for this cartridge, with 26-inch No. 3 barrel, set triggers, and sling. I fitted it with my 5A scope and proceeded to give it a good trial at all distances up to 200 yards. I soon found that various makes of ammunition have quite different results in accuracy. With the makes that proved best it would just about group in 2½ inches at 100 yards. This has proved to be about the best that can be expected of this rifle with this cartridge, and this limitation was what finally caused Winchester to develop their celebrated Model 52 rifle for smallbore match shooting. Generally speaking, the old Ballard is the only American single-shot action that has given fine accuracy with the .22 Long Rifle cartridge. However, with this Winchester, I did determine the angles of elevation for all distances, which had not been known or at least never published before I published my table. Also, before I did this shooting, it was not known that there was so much difference in the accuracy of various makes of cartridges in a certain individual rifle.

Following the loss of my old 25-21 rifle by the express company, I had to have another varmint rifle, so I procured still another Winchester single-shot for the 25-20 S. S. cartridge, and proceeded to develop smokeless powder loads for it. I finally found that the best was the 86-grain, soft-point, jacketed bullet with a charge of du Pont Schuetzen powder that filled the case to the base of the bullet. This load shot like nobody's business, and it gave the finest accuracy up to 200 yards that I had obtained up to that time or heard of anyone else obtaining except with Pope muzzle-breechloading rifles. But my elation was short-lived, for the barrel began to pit, and in less than 500 rounds it was ruined.

About this time we had been devoting much study to the cleaning of rifles. It seemed to us that stronger ammonia was the only satisfactory cleaning solution, so I had a new barrel fitted to this rifle and cleaned it immediately after firing with this ammonia. This did not do a particle of good, and again the barrel was ruined in 500 rounds. The same thing occurred with a Winchester Model 92 rifle for the 25-20 W.C.F. smokeless cartridge of Winchester make. When I wrote them a letter of complaint, they stated that I should not

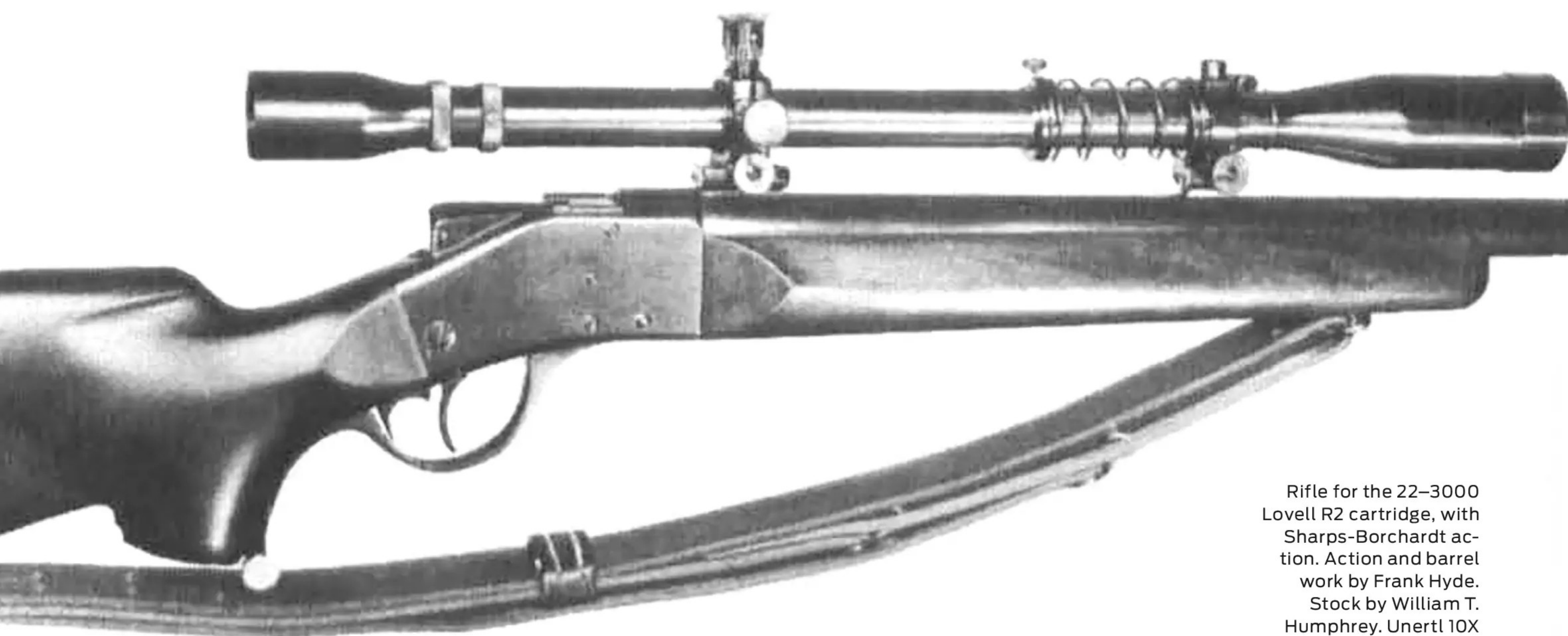
blame the rifle for what was evidently the fault of the powder (which they used)! However, I excuse them for no one knew much about such things in those days. Of course we now know that the old potassium chlorate primer was the devil in the woodshed. With that primer, in small bores like .25 caliber the relatively small charge of powder did not dilute the primer fouling as it did in larger bores like the .30 caliber, and the primer got in its hellish work at once and fast.

For a while there seemed to be no solution for this problem of smokeless powder in small bores. Then, Winchester came out with stainless steel barrels made to order, so I had them build me still another rifle with this barrel, and modeled almost exactly like the fine old 25-21 that I had lost, only it was chambered for the 25-20 W.C.F. repeater cartridge, because I had an idea that the single-shot cartridge would soon be obsolete, which it was. Clyde Baker stocked this rifle, and fitted it with a finger lever that hugged the pistol grip. But before I had time to do much with it, the Kleanbore primer was developed, and this solved all our cleaning and rusting problems. Also at this time the development of the .22 Hornet cartridge shifted our work from the older cartridges to the modern high-intensity types. Later, however, I found that I could obtain splendid results with my 25-20 W.C.F. rifle with a load consisting of the 87-grain, soft point, spitzer bullet made for the 250–3000 Savage cartridge, bullet seated far enough out of the case to touch the lands, and a charge of 11 grains of du Pont No. 4227 powder. The trajectory seems to indicate that the velocity is about 2,000 fps.; evidently, a fine wild turkey load. Of course, the overall length of the load is too great for 25-20 repeater rifles.

Up to this time you will note that I had been using Winchester actions exclusively on all my single shots, both because of their strength and durability, and because they were the only



Winchester single-shot rifle for the 25-20 W.C.F. cartridge, with stainless steel barrel. Stock and lock work by Clyde Baker. The first attempt to solve the corrosion problem resulting from chlorate primers.



Rifle for the 22–3000 Lovell R2 cartridge, with Sharps-Borchardt action. Action and barrel work by Frank Hyde. Stock by William T. Humphrey. Unertl 10X Varmint scope.

new actions that could be procured at that time. After working for some years with the .22 Hornet cartridge in bolt-action rifles, a friend gave me a good Sharps-Borchardt action, so I had Frank Hyde obtain a 22-caliber Remington high-pressure steel barrel with a 15-inch twist, and fit it to this action and chamber it for the 22–3000 Lovell R2 cartridge. Frank also worked over the firing pin, and made the pin retract with the first down movement of the lever, two very necessary alterations with this action. This rifle, fitted with a 10X Unertl Varmint scope, is a fine, accurate varmint rifle. With good 50-grain bullets and 15.5 grains of 4227 powder it will group reliably, day after day, in about a minute of angle, which is the best that can be expected from this cartridge and a single-shot action. Occasionally, a five-shot group as small as half an inch turns up at 100 yards, but such is a lucky group. This rifle, however, has one peculiarity. Almost invariably the first shot fired from a clean, cold bore strikes from half an inch to an inch above the succeeding group at 100 yards. I think this is because the groove diameter of the barrel is 0.2235 inch, while all the bul-

lets I have used so far have measured .224. This is no drawback because, knowing it I can allow for it, or can fire a fouling shot before starting on the day's hunt.

It has quite generally been proven that with equal barrels and loads, a single-shot action will not give as fine accuracy as a modern bolt action. There are apparently only two exceptions, the Ballard action for the .22 Long Rifle cartridge, and the Hauck single-shot action, which is a horse of a different color with its better bedding, ignition, and breeching up. I do not mean to imply that there have not been any single-shot rifles that would give gilt-edge accuracy. There have been quite a few, but I would think that any custom riflemaker who guaranteed to produce a single-shot rifle that would average groups under a minute would soon go broke. So far as we have been able to determine, the difficulties with the single-shot action seem to be in the two-piece stock, the breeching up and the ignition. The single-shot rifle also seems to have a greater jump and barrel vibration than the bolt action. The difference in elevation required between full charges and reduced loads is much

greater with it. In this connection it has long been my experience that to get the best accuracy from a single-shot rifle the forearm should not touch the receiver. It should be possible to pass a thin sheet of paper between the two.

The most accurate single-shot rifle that I have owned is one for the 219 Improved Zipper cartridge. I traded Bill Humphrey out of a fine Winchester rifle with 26-inch, No. 3 Diller barrel, .224-inch groove diameter and 16-inch twist, double set triggers, and a fine stock made by him. I had this chambered for the Improved Zipper cartridge with a very perfect reamer made by Red Elliott. This cartridge is simply the 219 Winchester Zipper case fire-formed to a 30-degree shoulder angle. You simply fire the factory cartridge in the rifle and it comes out improved. The best load I have found for this rifle has been 32 grains of du Pont No. 3031 powder with the 50-grain Sierra bullet. M.V. is probably around 3,900 fps. After working up this load and sighting in, it gave three five-shot groups at 100 yards measuring .65, .80 and .80 inch. For 3 years, I have used this rifle almost exclusively for all my chuck shooting. Its accuracy and very flat trajectory



Squirrel rifle for the .25 Rimfire cartridge. Ballard action, gunsmithing by Niedner, Shelhammer, and Kornbrath. Lyman Challenger scope. Owned by James P. Garland.

have given a high percentage of hits at long ranges. With it I made the longest first-shot hit I have ever pulled off on a chuck; difficult to pace because it was up and down hill over rough ground, but it was certainly considerably in excess of 300 yards.

The Stevens No. 44½ action is another on which a most excellent and accurate rifle can be built, particularly for cartridges not to exceed the 219 Donaldson in power. My old friend Jim Garland, who has been my companion on many chuck hunts over the past fifteen years, has a glorious piece built on this action. The Diller barrel was chambered and fitted for the R2 Lovell cartridge, and the lock work done by C. C. Johnson. Bill Humphrey made the stock and the scope is a superb 6X Bear Cub Double. With each lot of cartridges that Jim loads for it, usually with 15.5 grains of 4227 powder, he tests it on the bench, and it has never failed to average under an inch, and with some lots of bullets it gives around ¾ inch. He regards it as his best varmint rifle, and its bag numbers in excess of 300

chucks and hawks. I remember one afternoon 2 years ago when we were separated by a range of hills. Every 2 or 3 minutes I would hear Jim shoot, and toward sundown I wandered over to see what in thunder he had been shooting at. He had a stand on a hill above a creek bottom that was honeycombed with holes, and toward dusk the chucks began to come out. When we went down, we picked up 36 of them shot at distances from 150 to 250 yards. Both Jim and I are rather of the opinion that a first-rate riflemaker will turn out a larger proportion of gilt-edge shooting rifles when he uses the Stevens 44½ action than with any other.

Jim also has a superb engraved Ballard for the 25 Rimfire cartridge, the work of Niedner, Shelhammer and Kornbrath. With Remington or Peters cartridges, it groups the first 10 shots at 50 yards in about ¾ inch, and the second 10 when it is warmed up a little, in about half an inch, and is his favorite squirrel rifle.

My latest venture in the realm of single shots has been one of the most

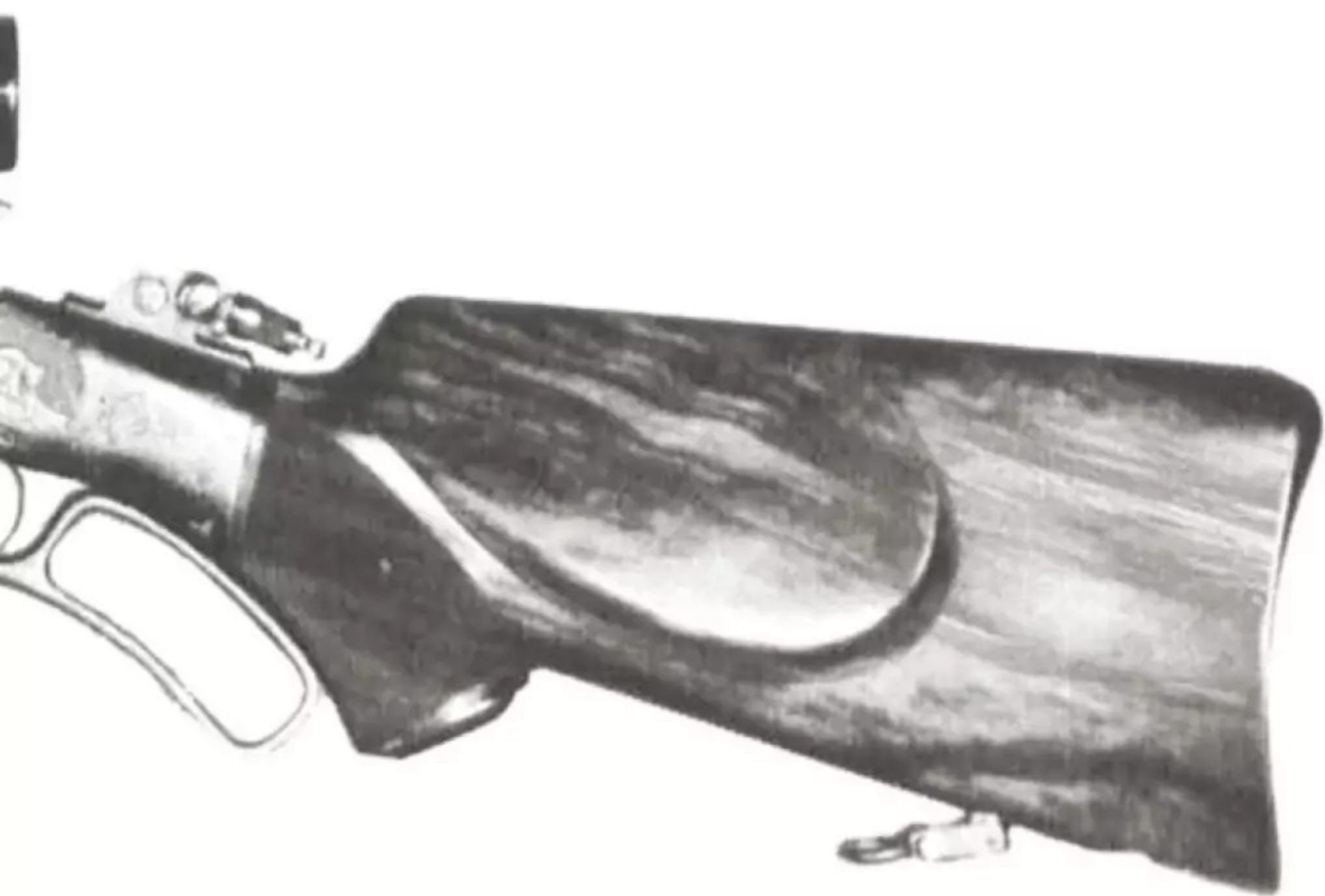
interesting. Three years ago I took Salina, my old 30–40 Winchester Single Shot, out of the box where it had been in store for several years, well covered in and out with Rig [Editor's note: Rig is wonderfully effective gun grease, which I have used since childhood], with the intention of trying some new bullets



in it. To my consternation, when I put a patch through the bore it came out with red rust and many bodies of big, black ants. Ants had nested in the bore and their acid had ruined it. One day last year, looking at the old piece that had served me so well for half a century, I decided it was entitled to have something done to rejuvenate it. I had on hand a fine 25-caliber Douglas barrel, .257-inch groove diameter and 13-inch twist. So I had H. L. Culver, my metal gunsmith, fit this barrel to the action, and I asked him to chamber it for the Krag case necked down to



"Salina," 1901, after rejuvenation in 1951. Douglas barrel chambered by Culver for the 25 Culver-Krag cartridge. Stock by Humphrey. 4X Bear Cub scope.



Rifle for the 22-3000
towell R2 cartridge,
with Stevens No. 44½
action, owned by James
P. Garland. Diller barrel,
stock by Humphrey, 6X
Bear Cub scope. This
rifle has accounted for
hundreds of woodchucks
and hawks.

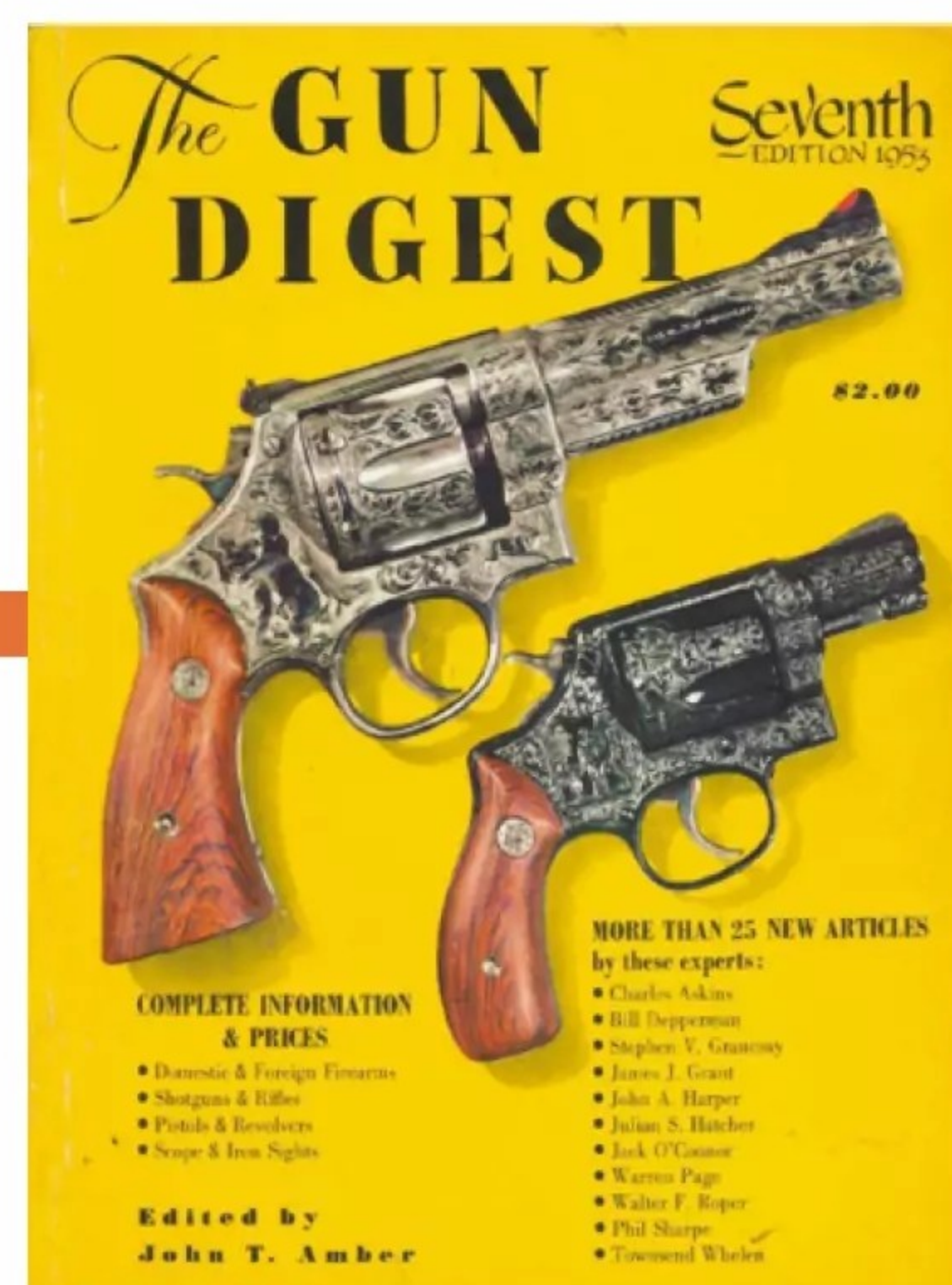
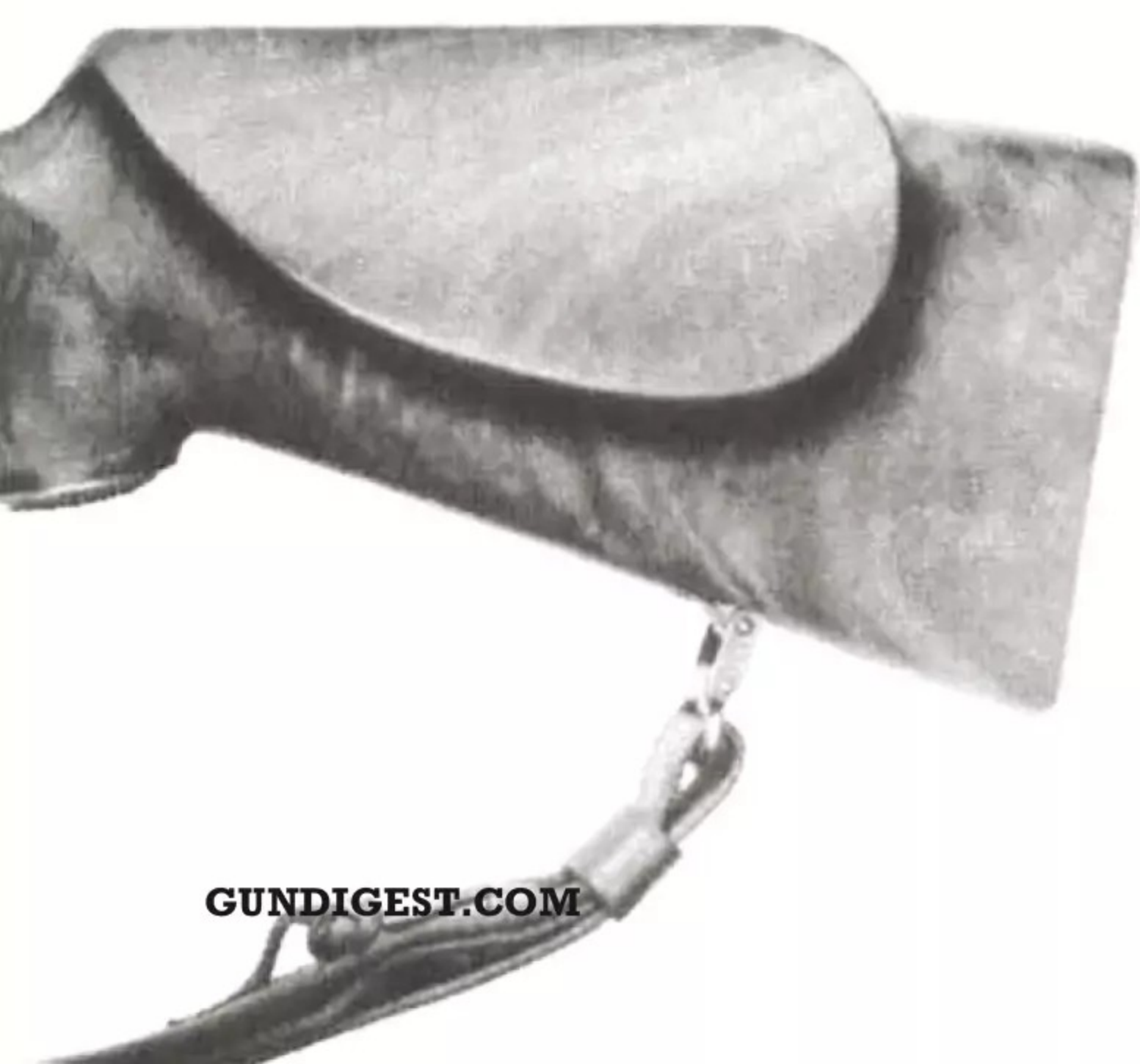


.25 caliber with a 30-degree shoulder angle. As it turned out, this case is very similar in shape and capacity to the 25 Donaldson Ace. We called it the 25 Culver-Krag. Then, Bill Humphrey made a beautiful new stock and forearm to my exact dimensions, and Mark Stith fitted one of his 4X Bear Cub Double scopes, and I had just about the finest appearing, best balanced and fitting, and steadiest holding rifle I have ever had in my hands. The intention had been to produce an all-around hunting rifle rather than one for varmint or target shooting, and it has turned out to be just that. I have only worked up one load for it so far—the

100-grain Sierra soft point spitzer bullet and 40 grains of 4350 powder. After sighting in I fired five, five-shot groups with it at 100 yards, measuring 1.75, 1.12, .88, 1.85 and 1.98 inches. Before you criticize these groups, consider that they were fired with a rather light-barreled single-shot rifle aimed with a low-power scope having a flat top post reticle, and that the charge was quite a powerful one. It is much more difficult to get a fine grouping with a heavy load than with a light one. Last summer and fall I carried Salina in her new garb for probably a total of 350 miles afoot in my wanderings over the mountains adjacent to my summer home, occasionally gathering in a chuck, crow, hawk or porcupine, and always hoping for a bear or bobcat which never materialized. I have never carried a rifle that seemed as friendly.

All this pernicious activity with single-shot rifles, covering a period of 60 years, started with that rifle in the

gun store window when I was a little boy, and that is the way with most of our preference for single shots. It is not their superiority that causes us to select and work with them, but rather some romantic or historic association. An urge to acquire and experiment, not always wise, but usually one that gives deep satisfaction. It seems to many of us that the highly efficient bolt action is but a remodeled musket in a way, that the lever action is a product of America's unrivaled quantity-production industry, but that the single shot constructed on fine and beautiful lines by a master riflemaker is a gentleman's piece. **GDTM**



Editor's note: This article appeared in the 1953 7th Edition of *Gun Digest*, and, keenly aware that we tread on sacred ground, we have only lightly edited it.



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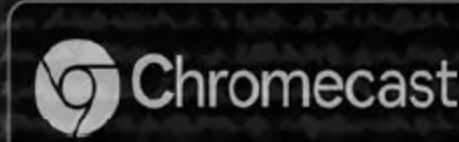
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ISN'T SHE LOVELY?



Ruger's 2025 Collector's Series.

Ruger started its Collector's Series in 2014 for the 10/22's 50th anniversary, but the company has continued to release new, unique, limited-run models for collectors.

This year's additions to the series include three new models: a 10/22 Sporter, a Mark IV 22/45 and a Super Wrangler revolver.

This year's Collector's Series theme

is an oak leaf and basket weave design. In the case of the 10/22 Sporter, it's featured on the stock. In the case of the handguns, the same handsome pattern is on the grips. As a bonus, each Ruger Collector's Series gun will ship with a metal license plate, a decal and a lapel pin.

The Ruger Collector's Series 10/22 and Mark IV 22/45 share an MSRP of \$600, and the Super Wrangler has an MSRP of \$370. **GDTM**





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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	REAR SIGHT: Adjustable	CARTRIDGE: 9mm Luger	BARREL LENGTH: 4.6"
CAPACITY: 18+1 rounds	MAGAZINE: (2) 18 Round Magazines and (1) + 3 Extension	FRAME MATERIAL: Synthetic	HEIGHT: 5.87"
FRONT SIGHT: HiViz® fiber optic front sight	FINISH COLOR: TTI SMOKE	OVERALL LENGTH: 7.85"	WIDTH: 1.41"

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