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JANUARY 2026, VOLUME 43 • ISSUE 01

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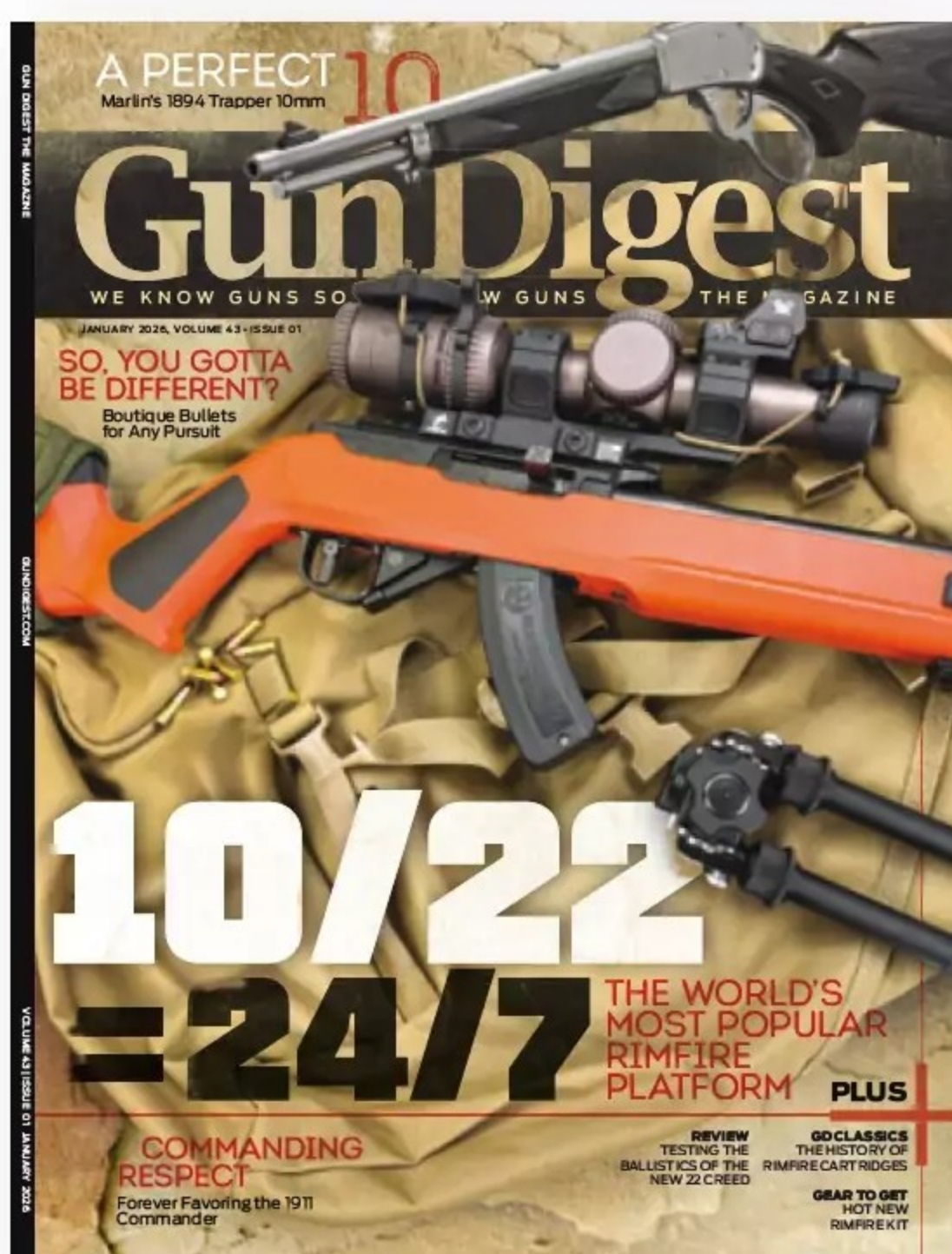
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SUBJECT:

The [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Industry's [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Best Kept Secret [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Will Soon [REDACTED]
Release [REDACTED]
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One will be a personal defense pistol that will shock the industry and feature [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. The other: a [REDACTED] rifle that will also shock the industry and may or may not be based upon the [REDACTED] trusted by [REDACTED].



EVERYTHING CYCLES

Everything cycles ... and I mean absolutely everything.

As a hunter, the most obvious examples of this generally come in the form of population numbers of game and bird species. Ruffed grouse numbers rise and fall in roughly a 10-year cycle. Wolf numbers increase and moose numbers decrease, until the pendulum swings back the other way ... and it always does. Always.

The same things happen with humans annually (ever think about why you're so much hungrier in the fall?) and generationally (recent headlines highlight the declining birth rate).

Everything cycles, and that includes guns—both figuratively and literally. C'mon, that was a little funny.

But it is true. For so long, so many gun and ammo manufacturers have strived to push the biggest bullet possible as fast and as flat as possible ... to a target as far away as possible. And to be clear, I'm all for it: The 7mm Backcountry is capable of sending a 175-grain heater more than 3,100 fps from the muzzle. That's astonishing ... and fun.

But the pendulum is beginning to swing again, and I've noticed a growing uptick in interest and innovation encompassing the smaller bores: .21 Sharp, .22 Creed,

.22 ARC, etc. It seems what has gone up is now coming down, in the form of smaller cartridges shot from lighter guns accomplishing more incredible ballistic feats.

And there's more on the way: I've snooped enough recently to learn of at least two big announcements coming at SHOT focusing on the small- to-medium calibers. You'll have to check out the February issue of Gun Digest for that, as I promised I wouldn't yet tell.

But this issue in your hands is still jammed full of great info ... all nodding toward the ballistic prowess of the small-bores. With new cartridges and new bullet tech, these "little" calibers are capable of doing so much more than previously recognized. So much that, for some shooters, it's going to take a recalibration or perspective: A 500-pound animal taken cleanly with a 22 Creedmoor?

Yup. Entirely possible.

Remember: Everything cycles ... including what we think we know. **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

lmasaoy@npsmediagroup.com

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.25 REMINGTON

Barely hanging on since the 1950s.

HISTORICAL NOTES

The .25 Remington is one of a series of rimless cartridges developed for the Remington Model 8 Autoloading rifle, and then later used in other Remington rifles. It was introduced in 1906. The Remington Model 14 pump action, Model 30 bolt action and Stevens Model 425 lever action also used the .25 Remington.

No rifles have chambered this cartridge since 1942, and the ammunition companies stopped loading it about 1950. Buffalo Arms offers loaded ammunition for this round (AMO-25REM).

GENERAL COMMENTS

The .25 Remington is nothing more than a rimless version of the .25-35, but it differs slightly in shape. The two are

not interchangeable. Since the Remington line of rifles, particularly the Model 30 bolt action, would stand higher pressures than the lever action, it is possible to get slightly better performance out of the .25 Remington. However, the difference is not sufficient to make the rimless version anything but a barely adequate deer cartridge.

It will, however, do for varmints and small to medium game, and deer in a pinch, provided the hunter is a good shot. The .25 Remington is not in the same class as the .250 Savage or the .257 Roberts.

In 2022, Buffalo Arms listed a .25 Remington load in a 117-grain jacketed soft point. **GDTM**

.25 REMINGTON LOADING DATA AND FACTORY BALLISTICS

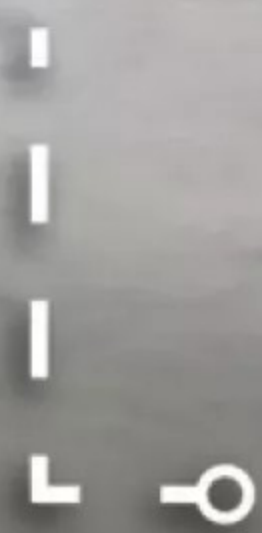
BULLET (GRAINS/TYPE)	POWDER	GRAINS	VELOCITY	ENERGY	SOURCE
60 SP	H4895	31.0	2,900	1,121	Hornady
60 SP	IMR4320	32.0	2,900	1,121	Hornady
117 SP	H4895	26.5	2,200	1,258	Hornady
117 SP	IMR3031	25.5	2,300	1,375	Hornady
100 SP	FL	-	2,330	1,216	Factory load
117 SP	FL	-	2,125	1,175	Buffalo Arms AMO25REM

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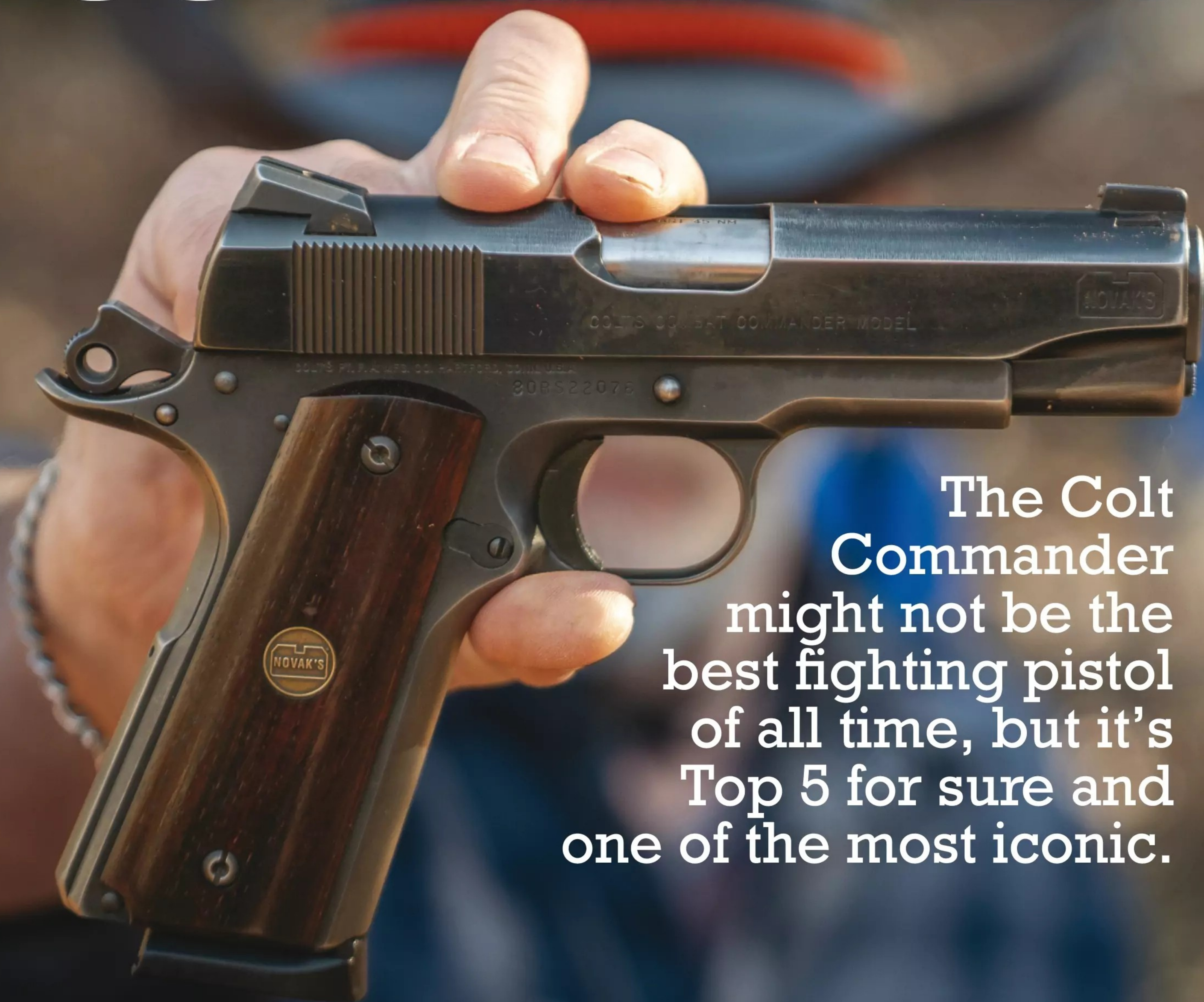


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The Colt
Commander
might not be the
best fighting pistol
of all time, but it's
Top 5 for sure and
one of the most iconic.



The author's steel-framed Commander built by Nighthawk. (2015)

After World War II, the U.S. Military wanted a lighter and more compact pistol for officers to carry. So, Colt created a 1911 with a 4.25-inch barrel chambered in 9mm Luger that was built on a lightweight aluminum alloy frame. In 1950, Colt began manufacturing that pistol—known as the Commander—but they also offered it chambered for the .38 Super and the .45 Auto.

Twenty years later, Colt introduced an all-steel version of this shorter-barreled 1911 called the Combat Commander, and they renamed the original alloy-framed gun the Lightweight Commander. When I became a police officer in 1992, a Colt Lightweight Commander chambered in .45 Auto was considered by many professionals to be the premier off-duty/concealed carry gun.

Of course, I had to have one, but finding one like I wanted was not easy. In 1983, Colt added a firing pin safety to all their 1911s, and this made the trigger—for lack of a better word—horrible. I wanted a pre-80 Series Lightweight Commander chambered for the .45 Auto, because, well, back in the '90s everyone knew you couldn't stop a bad guy with a 9mm.

My first Commander was the Lightweight model in .45 Auto. I stumbled

on it in a local gun shop in 1994. I laid it away, paid for it with overtime money, and then sent it and a lot more overtime money off to Novak's in Parkersburg, West Virginia, for some custom work. That pistol lived on my side for almost a decade when I was off duty and on some stakeouts. I even used it in local combat pistol matches and won sometimes. I shot it so much that the aluminum alloy frame developed a hairline crack, so I sold it.

I acquired my next Commander a few years later after I'd hung up the badge and had begun writing for gun magazines full time. I'd met the lead pistol smith at Para Ordnance, and he insisted on building me a steel-framed, single-stack Para Commander. I had him fit it with XS Big Dot sights, and I carried it out to Gunsite Academy to take my first 250 Pistol Class. On the first day, an instructor asked what pistol I had. When I told him it was a Para Ordnance, he grimaced, gave me the stink eye and said, "Good luck." Turns out I didn't need any luck. The pistol never hiccuped, and I won the man-on-man shoot-off on the last day—even though no one thought it possible with those Big Dot sights.

I carried that pistol a lot, too, but I also longed for the much lighter

Lightweight model, so I ordered a brand-new one from Colt. Like all new 1911s from Colt back then, it needed some work. I took it to Dove's Custom Guns in Princeton, West Virginia, and he made the common adjustments that were considered necessary for a 1911 Commander, essentially building a pistol that was almost exactly like—and just as good as—my first lightweight Commander from Novaks.

That pistol and I spent a lot of time together, too. Just like my original Lightweight Commander, it carried like a dream, but I struggled trying to decide if the comfort of the easier carrying Lightweight Commander was better than the softer-shooting steel-framed Commander. Ultimately, I decided I needed both, and I ordered a full custom steel-framed Commander from Nighthawk. Just like the Para Commander and the Colt customized by Jerry Dove, the Nighthawk Commander also had XS Big Dot sights.

During this time, the performance gap you see on paper between the .45 Auto and the 9mm Luger cartridge was proving to not be the same performance gap you see in real life. Modern 9mm ammunition performs very well, and the dogma associated with the man-stopping qualities of



Sheriff Jim Wilson (left) and Richard Mann (right) with the Novak Custom Combat Commander Sheriff Jim gave him. (2023)

the .45 Auto was beginning to melt away, as it became apparent shot placement meant more than caliber. In addition to being easy to shoot, the increased capacity of 9mm pistols made them very appealing, and I eventually caved.

I caved, partly because of how much I liked the Browning HiPower, but also because of the new EDC X9 pistol from Wilson Combat. In 2017, I put my Commanders away and either carried an EDC X9 or a Browning HiPower. In fact, I sold every Commander I owned (raising kids is expensive) except for the Para Commander. I kept it because of our time at Gunsite together.

But my appreciation and love for the Commander never waned, and I don't know how it could. When you trust your life to a particular pistol for so long it almost becomes a part of you.

Two years ago, I was taking a team tactics class at Gunsite Academy and Sheriff Jim Wilson was serving as a guest instructor. Jim is a former Texas sheriff as well as a gun writer; he and I go way back. We've been on safaris together in Africa twice, we've done a lot of shooting together and, on one occasion down near the Southern border we had to deal with a particularly unwholesome and ornery fellow.

The evening before class started, Jim asked me to come by his room. When I got there, he showed me a Colt Commander he'd been carrying for a while. Like my original Lightweight Commander, this pistol had been to Novak's, and it had all the usual custom tweaks to include the Novak Answer, which is a one-piece backstrap that does away with the 1911 grip safety.

When I went to hand the pistol back to Sheriff Jim, he said, "No, keep it; it's yours." You don't argue with the Sheriff. When I thanked him, he asked, "What you gonna do with it?"

I said, "By God, I'm gonna carry it, sometimes hidden and sometimes for the whole world to see." I changed out



The author's custom Para Commander and the Galco rig he used during his first 250 Pistol Class at Gunsite Academy. (2012)



The author with his Sheriff Jim Wilson/Novak Combat Commander. (2023)

the Novak rear and gold bead front sight for XS Big Dot sights, and sometimes that Combat Commander and I go to town together. Yeah, 42 ounces is a good tug on your belt, but it sure brings back damned good memories.

The Colt Commander might not be the best fighting pistol of all time, but it's Top 5 for sure and one of the most iconic.

I've got mine. Do you have yours?

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TACTICAL FIRST AID

The essential skill armed citizens can't afford to ignore.

The timeline that opened Greg Ellifritz's Tactical First Aid course is something none of us will forget: the 2012 Aurora, Colorado, theater shooting. Seventy people were shot. The first trained medical responders didn't get to the injured for 27 minutes, because police had to clear the scene first. A person with a massive arterial bleed has only 4 to 5 minutes to live without intervention.

In that moment, one reality became painfully clear: Bystanders were the only medics on scene, and their actions determined who lived and who died.

That sobering timeline reinforced a vital truth for every responsibly armed citizen: When disaster strikes, you are your own first responder. Carrying a firearm is only part of protecting yourself and others. Violence or even

everyday accidents produce injuries that no firearm can fix. That's why medical training and, specifically, tactical first aid must be part of the responsible citizen's skillset.

WHAT MAKES TACTICAL FIRST AID DIFFERENT?

Tactical medicine isn't a standard CPR or Red Cross course. Ellifritz, a 20-year law enforcement officer and self-defense instructor, explained that tactical first aid happens in unstable, dangerous, often chaotic settings, possibly in the middle of an ongoing threat. You may not have ambulances or medics arriving within minutes. You might have one trail bag, two hands and people rapidly bleeding around you.

In a conventional first aid class, the assumption is a safe environment: scene secured, team response and ambulance

in transit. Tactical first aid assumes none of that. You might have to treat casualties before the threat is fully neutralized.

THE GRIM REALITY IS THIS:

If the attacker is still alive, stopping the threat comes first, not treating the wounded.

If the scene is unstable, you might have to treat under fire.

You must triage, decide whom you can help and whom, tragically, you might not be able to.

This mindset shift is difficult even for experienced ER doctors. They admitted they knew the medicine but never considered how to apply it when alone, under stress, with minimal supplies and no hospital support. Tactical training pushes medical skills into the real world where perfection is impossible and improvisation is mandatory.

"Gun owners often emphasize the weight of carrying a firearm. But the duty to preserve life does not end when the threat is stopped. It continues with the ability to treat the injured, whether they're a victim, an innocent bystander, a loved one ... or even yourself."

MARCH: A BATTLEFIELD-PROVEN PRIORITY SYSTEM

Most of us grew up with ABC (Airway, Breathing, Circulation) as the standard sequence for first aid care, but tactical medicine and research from modern combat shows that ABC doesn't fit real-world traumatic injuries like gunshots and blast trauma.

Ellifritz taught us MARCH, the protocol used in Tactical Combat Casualty Care (TCCC):

- M** – Massive bleeding
- A** – Airway
- R** – Respiration/chest injuries
- C** – Circulation/shock prevention
- H** – Head injury and hypothermia

Why begin with bleeding? Battlefield data reveals that hemorrhage from extremity wounds causes 60 percent of preventable deaths, far more than airway issues. Blood loss kills faster than almost anything else.

Ellifritz put it plainly: "If I have a heart attack, then follow ABCs. But if I'm bleeding from a gunshot, grab a tourniquet first!"

The training made this real. We practiced sustained direct pressure and learned quickly how exhausting it is to press hard enough to stop bleeding for even a few minutes. That is why tourniquets and pressure bandages matter. They aren't accessories. They are life-lines.

TOOLS THAT SAVE LIVES

As we learned the MARCH protocol, it started to become evident what sorts of items should be included in the trauma kit that every armed citizen should carry or at minimum, keep in their vehicle or range bag. The most essential tools include:

- CAT or SOF-T tourniquet
- Israeli/emergency pressure bandage
- Hemostatic gauze (QuikClot or Celox)
- Chest seals for sucking chest wounds
- Trauma shears, gloves and marker

Students paired up and practiced applying tourniquets on each other. The key lesson: They must be tight—really tight. If it doesn't hurt at least a little, it isn't tight enough. It has to be tight enough to stop your distal pulse. Modern tourniquets are safe to leave on for two hours—hopefully long enough to keep someone alive until higher care arrives.

The Israeli bandage was another standout. With coaching, we wrapped simulated arm wounds in 20 to 30, freeing up our hands and attention to address other threats or other victims. These tools are easy to carry, easy to store and proven by thousands of deployments in combat. What's often missing is training and confidence, the ability to use them under stress.

YOU'LL NEED THESE SKILLS MORE THAN YOUR GUN

Not everyone taking this course imagines themselves in an active shooter scenario, and that's the point. Tactical medical training applies far beyond gunfights. Car crashes, hunting accidents, power-tool mishaps, chainsaw injuries, storm damage, tornadoes, hiking accidents and range accidents are just a few other possibilities.

Statistics are clear: You're far more likely to use medical skills to save a life than you are to use a firearm in self-defense.

That fact alone reframes what it means to be "responsibly armed." The protector mindset isn't limited to stopping threats. It includes preserving life when something goes wrong. Sometimes helping means drawing a firearm. Other times it means putting your hands on a wound to stop the bleeding fast.

MINDSET: YOU ARE THE HELP

The greatest thing this course imparted wasn't just skill. It is a mindset. Ellifritz blends practicality with urgency. His message is never paranoid. It's empowering: We live in a world where help may not come quickly. If no one else is coming, then you are the help.

That mindset shift from bystander to responder is the dividing line between helplessness and preparedness. Tactical first aid training takes you across that line.

It's not about becoming a medic or replacing EMS. It's about filling the gap when time matters most, the minutes before professionals arrive. When every second counts, preparation isn't paranoia, it's responsibility.

THE RESPONSIBILITY TO PRESERVE LIFE

Gun owners often emphasize the weight of carrying a firearm. But the duty to preserve life does not end when the threat is stopped. It continues with the ability to treat the injured, whether they're a victim, an innocent bystander, a loved one ... or even yourself.

Ellifritz's course drove that home powerfully. I plan to train medically just as routinely as I train at the range, and I believe every responsibly armed citizen should do the same.

When tragedy strikes, no one has ever regretted having too much knowledge or too much training, but the opposite, the regret for being unprepared, can be a lifelong burden.

Carrying a firearm may help you stop the threat. Carrying medical training may help you save a life. After all, if you can't avoid the fight, surviving the fight is the next best outcome in any fight.

GDTM

About the Author

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





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MAN, THE TOOL-USING ANIMAL

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I still remember the early days of installing an AR-15 barrel. Trying to clamp everything without crushing anything was a major undertaking. That problem was solved long ago, but Otis, as expected, has some improvements.

The Pro+ A15 Uplock is something you need if you plan on installing or replacing a barrel. It's a reaction rod, a simple bar to hold the barrel in place.

A quick look: The front is lugged to match the locking lug slots on the barrel extension. Behind that is a bronze bushing with a roll pin stop. At the back, it's machined with flats, so you can clamp it in the vise.

To use it, simply clamp the rod on your vise, the bigger and stronger the

better. Your bench should be big and strong, too, so it doesn't "walk" around when you do your wrenching.

If you're installing a barrel, slide the receiver over the rod. If the receiver is a loose fit, take the bronze bushing (collar to the rear) and use it as an insert to keep the receiver in place. Slip the barrel onto the rod, engaging the slot in the lugs. Then, spin the barrel nut down and begin to do the barrel nut tightening mambo.

Yes, reaction rods are not new, but the Otis rod is well made, and the addition of the bronze bushing is a boon if you must deal with off-spec receivers. If you don't, it is just as good as it would

be not needing the bronze bushing.

I've got a rolling cabinet full of various gunsmithing tools, and the Otis is at the front of the drawer, because it's the one I want handy when needed. You'll notice the bronze bushing in the photo is reversed—not because that's the way it works, but it acts as a mnemonic for me.

"Bushing back, bushing check" is my mental step to check the rear of the upper receiver opening to see if the bushing is needed. It's easy enough, once the rod is clamped in place, to slide the bushing off and see if it fits into the receiver.





The bronze bushing is on backward here as a memory aid to check fit each time the rod is used.

If it does, I use it. If it doesn't, I put it on the bench while I fit the barrel. Once done, it goes back onto the rod, reversed, as the memory aid for the next installation.

Some of you might be thinking, "Sweeney is getting old, he needs memory aids." Nope.

When the details matter, you want to make sure you have all the details right. Pilots use a checklist for every operation not because they can't remember, but because it matters to get it right.

I appreciate Otis' extra effort and want to have that advantage, enough to keep the bronze bushing on the rod and check it each time. If I took it off and left it loose in the drawer, I might just go ahead on a barrel install when the bushing would have helped.

As a tool making and tool using animal, you really should be in the habit of using tools correctly. **GDTM**

The Otis barrel-holding rod for AR-15 barrel installation is a heavy-duty piece of gear.

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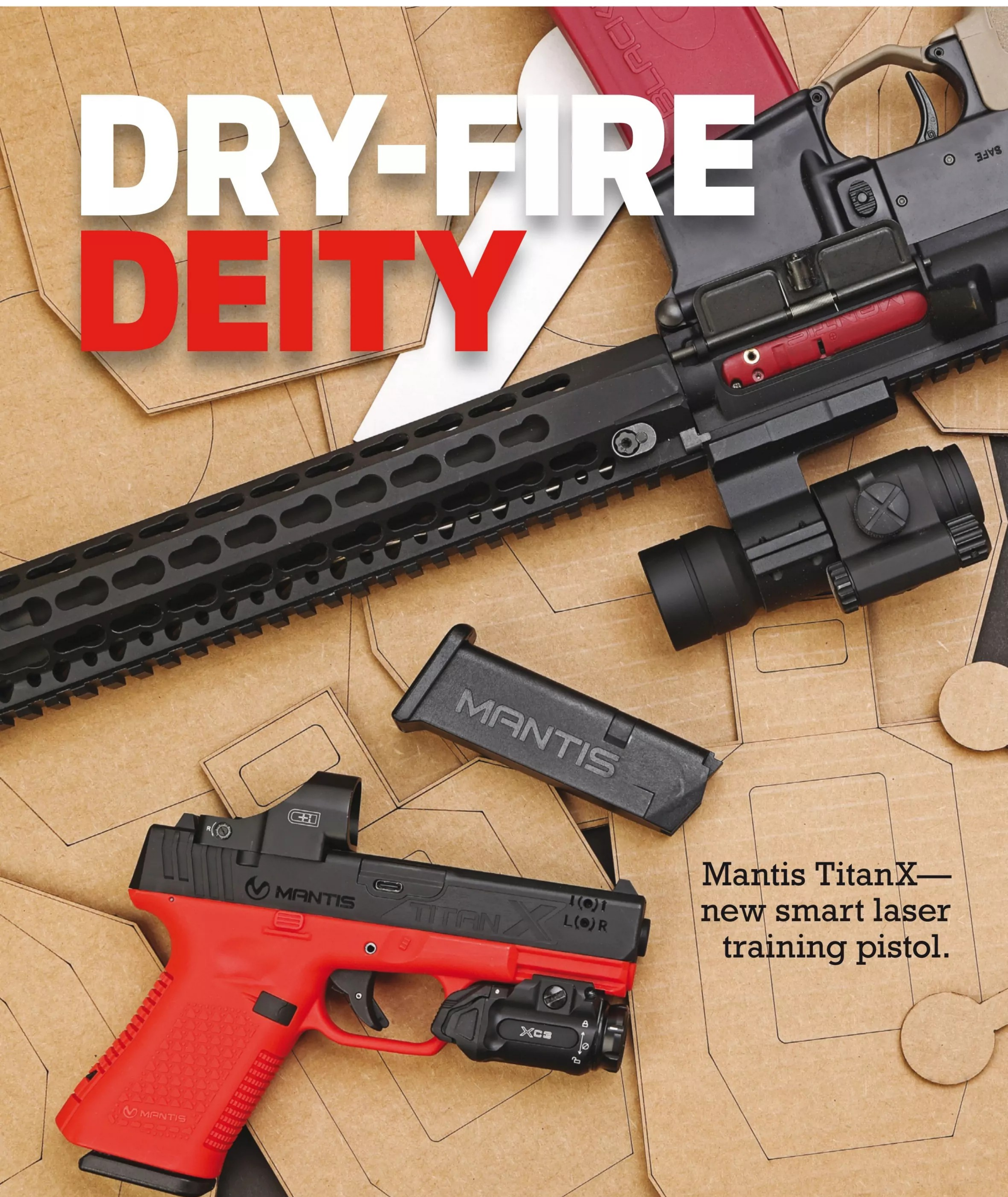
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DRY-FIRE DEITY



Mantis TitanX—
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training pistol.



From left to right: the new Mantis TitanX, bone stock Gen 3 Glock 19, and the grandpappy of modern laser trainers from SIRT.

In Greek mythology, titans were the deities who ruled before the Olympian gods that we all know such as Zeus, Hades and Thor. The titans were the children of the primordial deities of the earth and sky. However, these days most people think of the word “titan” as it’s defined by the Merriam-Webster dictionary: “One that is gigantic in size or power; one that stands out for greatness of achievement.”

Given its moniker, then, Mantis is setting lofty expectations for its new smart laser training pistol, the TitanX. To understand this more deeply, we first need to discuss the value of dry-fire training.

DRY FIRE FOR THE WIN

You won’t find an instructor, top shooter or institution that doesn’t stress the importance of dry fire—practicing with an unloaded firearm—in learning and improving shooting skills.

Without the concussion and bluster of live fire, dry-fire practice helps you

develop everything about your shooting, from fundamentals to advanced skills—at home. Ideally, you’d combine dry and live fire in a comprehensive training plan that feeds on each other in a virtuous loop.

To develop marksmanship fundamentals, practice your stance, grip, sight picture, trigger control (pressing the trigger without disturbing your sights) and follow through.

Work on manipulations like your drawstroke, reloads, and other gun handling. Be smoother and more efficient to gain speed. Keep doing repetitions until it becomes subconscious.

Refine your presentation of your gun so you can draw and present your gun right on target. Do the same with transitions between targets without overshooting them.

Concentrate on visual processing—what you see and how you process it. Develop your ability to shoot with both eyes open, lead with your eyes on transitions and dial in what you need to see to get hits on different types of targets.

Practice moving in and out of shooting positions, shooting on the move and working around barricades. There’s lots more that you can work on as well, incorporating a shot timer, one-handed shooting, support side shooting and so on.

However, using an unloaded firearm for dry fire presents some challenges. Notably, you’ll need to manually rack the slide on a semi-auto gun between each shot, unless you have a double-action gun. This makes it difficult to practice multi-shot strings, not to mention disrupting the flow of practice and consuming extra time.

Additionally, there’s no confirmation of your point of impact. You’ll need to call your shots, noting your exact sight picture when you broke your shot—so you can recognize if your aim was true and if you jerked your sights off target. This is an important skill to master, and dry fire will help. But you won’t have verification if you were right when using an unloaded gun.

Most importantly, you must be very disciplined about firearms safety.

MANTIS TITANX

Mantis is known for its line of training and diagnostic products and software that help shooters improve their shooting skills.

Their MantisX system uses sensors to record telemetry of your gun's movements; the app interprets the data to provide a detailed analysis of the mechanics of your technique. You can use it with dry or live fire and track your progress, focusing on wherever elements you prefer. The small MantisX unit attaches to an accessory rail or magazine.

Mantis also ventured into the world of lasers with the Blackbeard system, which installs in your rifle and emits a laser pulse with each trigger press, then automatically resets the trigger. The BlackBeardX system adds MantisX functionality to the mix.

The new TitanX takes the next step. It's a stand-alone smart laser training pistol, available as a replica of a Glock 19, 17, or 45 with plans to develop other models. It incorporates MantisX technology to analyze your mechanics, a laser to indicate your point of impact, and a resetting trigger that feels similar to the real thing, complete with a trigger safety dingus.

It's inert, made of plastic, and completely safe. The overall shape matches the corresponding Glock model; our test unit is a Glock 19 doppelganger, and it fit in all the Glock holsters we had on hand. The TitanX solves the issues associated with using an unloaded gun for dry fire.

The slide is optic-ready, with a cut-out that takes RMR or RMSc footprint sights. Thankfully, there are metal threaded inserts for the screws. The iron sights are molded into the slide, so you can't install your own. On top is a power switch, and on the side is a USB-C port. Near the muzzle are windage and elevation adjustments for the laser.

You can attach a weapon-mounted light to the light rail, but note it has an actual Picatinny rail like a Gen 5 Glock versus the "universal" rail on older Glocks.

The dummy magazine is weighted, though you can also insert a real mag in the TitanX. Conversely, you can use the dummy mag in an actual Glock as well; it won't lock the slide back so you can use it for dry-fire practice with your gun.

With all-plastic construction, the TitanX is lighter than an actual Glock. This keeps costs down but feels a little

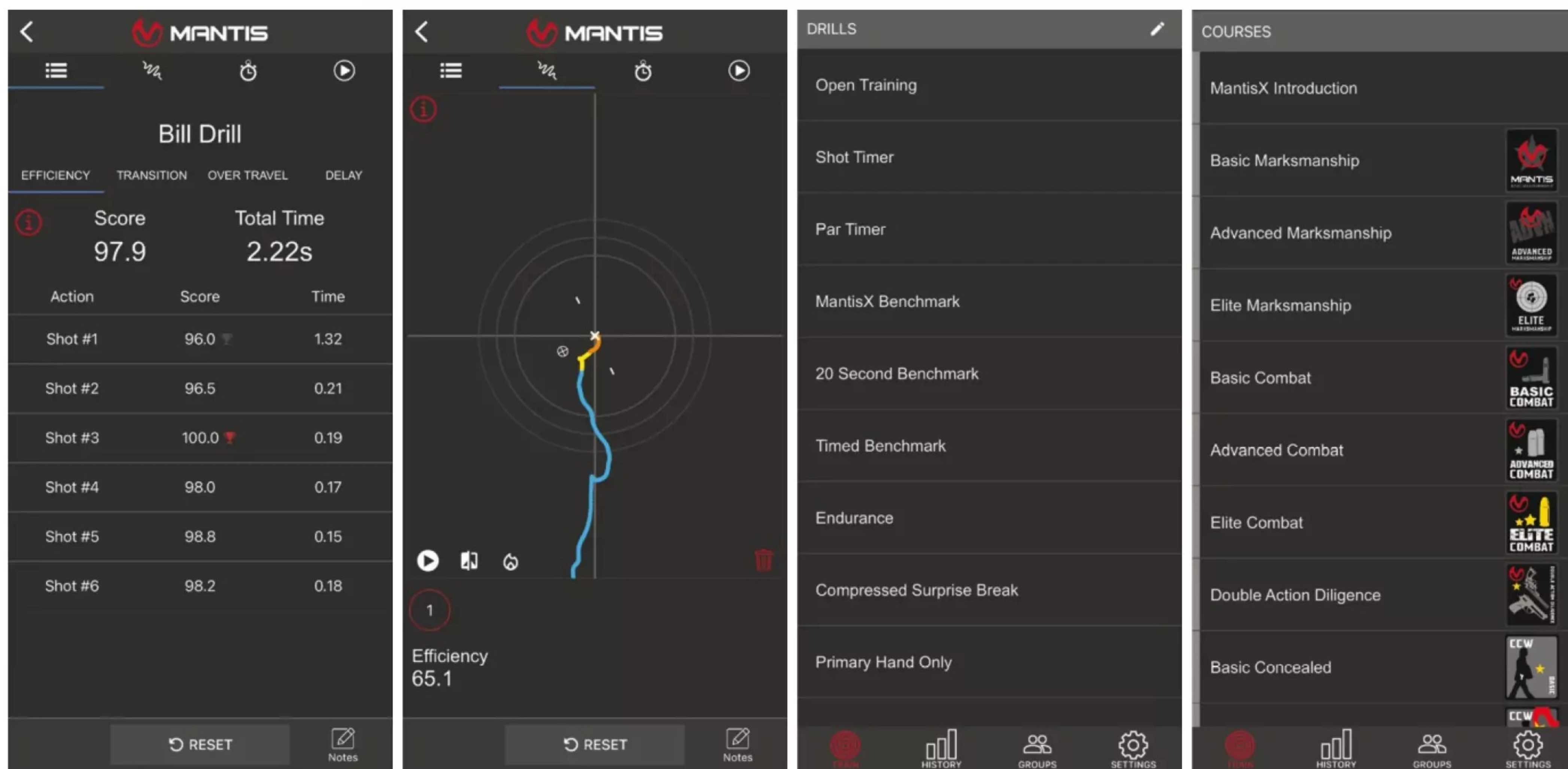
less realistic. Without a magazine, it weighs 7.9 ounces, versus 21 ounces for a Glock 19. The weighted mag weighs 9.3 ounces, compared to 9.7 ounces for a fully loaded 15-rounder. In total, that's 17.2 versus 30.7 ounces. However, with the addition of a C&H Precision COMP red-dot sight and a SureFire XC3 weapon light, our TitanX weighs 21.5 ounces, on par with an unloaded Glock 19. We noticed it might be possible to add more weight in the grip plug area. You could also go with a heavier light or even use a frame weight.

The trigger mimics the feel of a real trigger, though it's not exactly the same. It has take-up, pushing through to the break, and a distinct reset. Our unit broke at just under 4 pounds.

WEAPONS FREE

If you use the TitanX by itself, it functions like a laser training pistol, emitting a short laser burst with each trigger press. But pair it with your smartphone, and you'll have access to all the wonders of the MantisX app and system.

The MantisX app has various configurations and drills for your training needs. Set the shot timer, par times, shot counts and automatically repeat drills. It can specify and detect



Sample screenshots from the MantisX app, showing shot times, trace of a drawstroke, and lists of drills and courses.

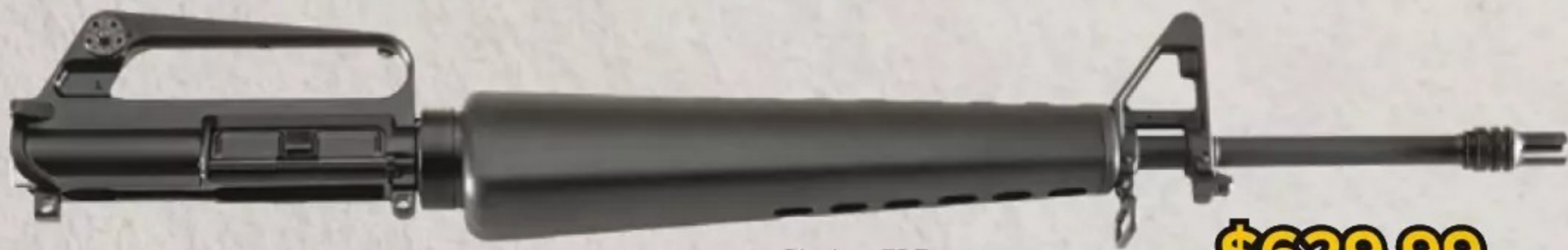


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The TitanX comes in a handy carrying case.



Right, from top to bottom: USB-C port; elevation and windage adjustments for the laser; a peek inside the mag well; optic cut that accommodates RMR and RMSc footprints.



starting positions, such as low ready, high ready and holstered. You can select a magazine capacity in some drills, requiring a reload before proceeding.

The sensor tracks movement, showing if you jerked the trigger, moved off target and how you transitioned between targets. It can analyze your drawstroke and movement.

Configure your own drills or run specified drills such as the El Presidente, bill drills, reload drills, and so on. The app also includes full courses focused on marksmanship, tactical, and concealed carry skills.

There's a wealth of data presented in interesting ways, including timing, movement traces, and scoring. One of the most valuable aspects of the system is "gamifying" the process so that not only is it challenging and fun (thus

making you more likely to practice regularly), but you can also track your progress over time.

We used reduced-size targets from the Ben Stoecker Pro Shop to train realistically in more confined spaces. For example, placing a 1/3 scale target at 10 feet in your bedroom is like engaging a full-size target at 10 yards.

One problem with laser trainers and iron sights is the tendency to watch for splash instead of calling your shots with your sight picture. The beauty of using a red-dot sight is that once you zero the laser with your sight, the splash basically disappears from view, especially if you turn up the brightness on your sight.

You can also use the TitanX with any laser-based training products or apps. Mantis offers their Laser Academy

Training system, which consists of a set of special targets designed to work with an app. The app accesses your smartphone camera to automatically detect targets, run specified drills and detect the laser splash to mark your impacts.

Between MantisX and the Laser Academy, you can put together a great training regimen and effectively bridge the connection between dry-fire gear and live-fire practice to level up your skills. You can safely leave your dry-fire setup and ready to go at home, so you can easily do regular and frequent practice sessions.

At an MSRP of \$199, the TitanX is also affordable compared to other options, with the added bonus of the MantisX sensor technology. Mantis fulfilled its promise with the TitanX—two dry thumbs up. **GDTM**



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01 Henry Repeating Arms Mini Bolt Youth G2 Rifle

Henry's Mini Bolt Youth G2 upgrades the classic single-shot .22 bolt-action for young shooters. The main improvement is an integrated feed ramp for smoother, easier loading. Weighing just 3.25 pounds, it features a stainless-steel barrel and receiver, both built for durability in camp and youth programs. The fiber-optic sights encourage confident shooting, while dual safeties—manual thumb safety and exposed cocking knob—aid in teaching responsible handling. The G2 is available in black or Muddy Girl camo, making it a strong choice for a first rifle.

MSRP: \$335**02 Beretta AX800 Suprema**

When the air gets crisp and quacky, Beretta has just the tool. The Italian firearms juggernaut recently released its AX800 Suprema, a 12-gauge that is certain to become an icon among waterfowlers. Top to bottom, the scattergun is designed to survive and thrive in the rough conditions common to knocking ducks and geese from the sky. But perhaps the most notable aspect of the gun is its B-Link Pro Gas System, which Beretta touts as its fastest and cleanest running design to date. Of course, the gun comes with Beretta Steelium barrels and a host of other bells and whistles—stock adjustment, recoil pad, polymer stock. It's just the medicine your blind needs.

MSRP: Starting at \$2,600**03 MDT CKYE-POD GEN3**

CKYE-PODs are absolute legends in the competitive shooting world, offering more utility than you can shake a precision rifle at. And MDT has only made them better with the introduction of the third generation of the bipods. MDT has enlarged the knobs to make deployment much faster. It's ARCA and Picatinny ready and compatible with A.R.M.S #17 heads. And the leg-lock system offers more control over the bipods, so they don't accidentally deploy on the move. Best of all, MDT is offering them in three heights, Single-Pull, Double-Pull and Triple Pull, so you have the option of up to 2 feet of elevation.

MSRP: Starting at \$600

GEAR TO GET



« 04



02 »



01 »



03 »

04 Winchester Safes VaultLite

Sometimes you simply need a place to secure your guns. It doesn't need to be fancy or protect them from a meteor impact—just keep them under lock and key. Winchester addresses this exact need with its drop of the VaultLite safe. The non-fire-rated safe is light, attachable to a building's fabric and secure. Constructed from 14-gauge steel, 14- and 18-gun capacity options and accessible by both keypad and key, it's just the ticket for temporary or small locations—looking at you, apartment renters.

MSRP: Starting at \$300

05 Smith & Wesson Shield X Carry Comp Model

Smith & Wesson's new PC Shield X Carry Comp takes the Shield X platform up a notch, adding a PowerPort-equipped 3.6-inch fluted barrel to cut muzzle rise and soften recoil. Chambered in 9mm with capacities up to 15+1, it pairs sub-compact size with serious shootability. The extended grip improves control and capacity, while aggressive slide serrations and a reversible mag catch keep handling intuitive. An accessory rail and squared trigger guard support lights or lasers. Sights include an Ameriglo LumiGreen front and serrated U-notch rear for fast pickup in any light. It's also RMSc/K-footprint optics-ready, with a ClearSight Cut to keep gas off your glass.

MSRP: \$699

06 TriStar Arms APOC

Best known for its affordable shotguns, TriStar ventured into new territory recently—striker-fired pistols. Yeah, everyone and their brother seems to have a striker-fired on the roster nowadays, but the Kansas City-based brand's APOC is worth giving a look. If for any reason, the price of the 9mm puts it well into the budget category, while offering plenty in return. Especially nice, the 4-inch barreled pistol boasts a 15-round capacity and is outfitted with a molded accessories rail. Other notables include fiber-optics front and rear sights, front and rear cocking serrations and an optional mag well. It's a tidy package for the price.

MSRP: \$359

07 Rossi RS22 Pistol

Rossi cooked up something more fun than should be legal. Meet the .22-caliber RS22 Pistol. The latest expansion of the company's RS22 platform has been shortened and braced (Strike Industries FSA) to deliver countless hours of plinking fun. Best of all, the semi-automatic platform is tailored for suppression with a 6-inch barrel and 1/2x28 TPI threaded muzzle. The pistol ships with a 10-round magazine but accepts the larger RS22 magazines. It's outfitted with a Picatinny rail for the easy addition of optics. And it has an accessory rail, so adding a light or laser is a snap.

MSRP: \$390




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Marlin's new 1894
Trapper ... and a
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SPECIFICATIONS



Manufacturer: Marlin Firearms

Model: Trapper Series Model 1894

Stock #: 70453

Chambering: 10mm Automatic

Capacity: 10

Stock: Black and gray laminate

Action: Lever action, stainless steel

Finish: Matte stainless

Sights: Skinner, adjustable aperture rear and white stripped

Weight: 6.3 pounds; **Length:** 33.25 inches

Length of Pull: 13.38 inches

Barrel: 16.1-inch, stainless steel, 1:16 twist and threaded at 5/8x24 with a protector

Suggested Retail Price: \$1,599



Out of the box, the 1894 Trapper in 10mm comes with a Skinner adjustable aperture sight with a screw-out peep.

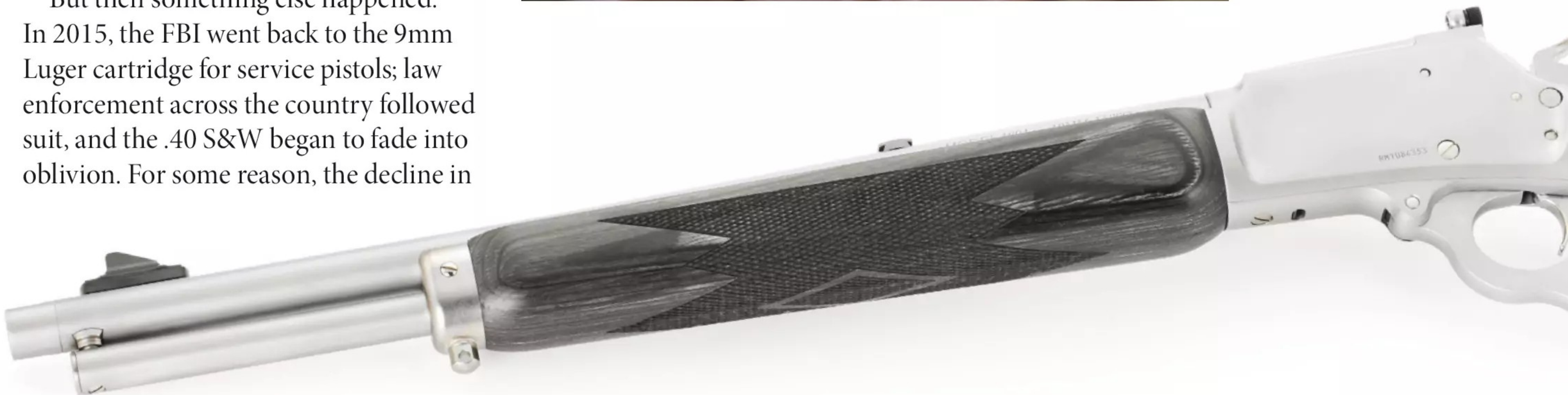


The muzzle on the 1894 Trapper is threaded and capped but the rifle did not like the Banish 46 V2 suppressor that was tested on it.

The 10mm Automatic cartridge has had an up-and-down history. With support from former Marine, gun writer and Gunsite Academy founder Jeff Cooper, Norma introduced the 10mm Automatic cartridge in 1983. Designed for a pistol and loaded to 37,500 psi, it can push a 200-grain bullet to 1,200 fps out of a 5-inch barrel. With adoption by the FBI near the end of the 1980s, it quickly established a good following, especially in Colt's 1911 Delta Elite pistol.

However, with the almost wholesale transition to the .40 S&W cartridge—the “40 Short and Weak”—shortly thereafter, interest in the 10mm began to wane, and I seriously doubt anyone back in the 1990s thought we would ever see a lever gun chambered in 10mm.

But then something else happened. In 2015, the FBI went back to the 9mm Luger cartridge for service pistols; law enforcement across the country followed suit, and the .40 S&W began to fade into oblivion. For some reason, the decline in





popularity of the .40 S&W reignited interest in the more powerful 10mm Auto cartridge. Today, it's even more popular than it was back in the early '90s, and Marlin decided to take it somewhere it has never been—they chambered it in their 1894 lever gun.

You might be wondering what if any appeal there is to a lever gun chambered for the 10mm Auto, because ballistically it really offers no advantage over a lever gun in .357 or .44 Magnum. However, there are two very good reasons for a lever gun in 10mm Auto. The first is that while it might not be ballistically better than the .357 or .44 Magnum, it does allow for a higher capacity. A 16-inch tubular magazine will hold 20 percent more 10mm ammo than it will .357 or .44 ammo. And, for those who have a 10mm pistol or revolver, they now can have a fast-handling and compact lever gun that shares the same ammo.

In the Old West, cowboys, outlaws and lawmen appreciated ammo compatibility between a carbine and a revolver, because they only had to carry one type. Also, with the longer barrel of the lever gun, they could shoot more accurately and with a little more ballistic umph the longer barrel provided. This concept still has practical application today, whether you are an outdoorsman or are looking for a handgun and rifle for self-defense application.



SHOOTING RESULTS

LOAD	MV	SD	ME	PRECISION
Doubletap Lead-Free 125-grain HP	1,868	14.2	969	4.60
Hornady Handgun Hunter 135-grain	1,439	19.2	621	1.99
Hornady LeverEvolution 150-grain FTX	1,315	13.6	576	1.17
CCI Blazer 180-grain FMJ FN	1,364	9.2	744	2.94
Buffalo Bore Heavy 180-grain JHP	1,594	13.9	1,016	3.91
Doubletap Match 180-grain FMJ FP	1,323	15.4	700	2.21
Buffalo Bore Dangerous Game 190-grain	1,173	20.2	581	3.02
Doubletap 200-grain JHP	1,292	11.5	741	5.10
Federal Solid Core 200-grain	1,318	8.8	771	2.50
Buffalo Bore Heavy 200-grain FMJ FN	1,402	29.8	873	2.75
Buffalo Bore Outdoorsman 220-grain HC	1,335	15.4	870	4.01*
Doubletap Hard Cast 230-grain	1,255	7.1	804	3.55

**Tested at 50 yards with open sights.*

THE TRAPPER LINEUP AND DETAILS

Currently, Marlin is offering six rifles in their Trapper configuration. They have two Model 1895 versions: one with a Magpul stock and one with a laminated black and gray hardwood stock. They also offer a Model 336 version of the Trapper in .30-30 Winchester with the laminated stock. And now they have three Model 1894 Trappers that includes one each in .357 and .44 Magnum, and the latest that is chambered for the 10mm Automatic pistol cartridge.

All of these Trapper rifles have a stainless-steel receiver and barrel, and they all have a matte stainless finish. Finish-wise, the only Trapper that's different is the

one in .45-70 with the Magpul stock. The hammer, screws and safety on this rifle have a black finish. Also, unlike all the other Trappers—including the newest in 10mm—the Magpul Trapper has a Picatinny-style scope base with an integral aperture sight. All the other Trappers have the Skinner adjustable aperture sight with a white-striped front sight.

There are two things that set the new Trapper in 10mm Auto apart from the other Trapper models, and these are things you cannot see just by looking at the rifle. They are capacity and price. Trappers in .45-70 and .30-30 Winchester hold five rounds, the Trappers in .357 and .44 Magnum hold eight rounds, and the 10mm Trapper holds 10. As for price, the suggested retail for a Trapper is \$1,499, but the 10mm Trapper retails for \$1,599.

Like all the Trapper rifles I've handled and tested, fit and finish on the new 10mm Trapper were excellent. All new Marlin Trappers also have a threaded muzzle and come with a protective cap. The muzzle on the 10mm Trapper was threaded at 5/8x24, and a nice feature about the cap is that it has two flats to help you remove it with a

wrench if necessary. You will also find a sling swivel stud located on the belly of the butt stock and extending from the nose cap on the forend.

SHOTS FIRED

I mounted an old compact 6X rifle-scope to the 10mm Trapper so I could see what type of precision the rifle was capable of. Since the muzzle was threaded, I also installed a Silencer Central Banish 46 V2 suppressor. However, precision at 100 yards was poor with the suppressor—a few groups exceeded 6 inches. Some rifles just do not like some suppressors so all the shooting for record with the 10mm Trapper was conducted without a can.

From the bench at 100 yards, the little carbine averaged 3.06 inches with multiple five-shot groups fired with a bunch of different loads. Based on my testing over the years, this is about par for the course when it comes to the precision you can expect from a lever gun shooting pistol or revolver ammo. Make no mistake, this 10mm Trapper is not a long-range gun, and you could say the same about any lever gun chambered for a handgun cartridge. However, the new LEVERevolution load from Hornady developed for this rifle shot

Timney's drop-in trigger for Marlin lever guns.



very well, averaging just a shade more than an inch.

There were no extraction issues with fired cases, but there were some hitches with feeding and ejection. Some loads were sometimes a bit finicky during feeding. They always fed, but often you would feel a little glitch or hang up when working the lever.

However, this is not surprising. You must understand that all current factory 10mm ammunition is created to feed and function reliably in a 10mm pistol. After all, that's what the cartridge was designed for. Because of this—the overall dimensions of the cartridge, particularly in relation to the bullet shape and style—issues like this can be expected. It's no different with lever guns chambered for revolver cartridges. Some loads that will work in a revolver where overall length is not as critical may not work in a lever gun.

TIMNEY'S MARLIN TRIGGER



Since Ruger acquired Marlin after the Remington bankruptcy, the triggers on the new lever guns have been markedly better. Over the last several years, I've tested a half-dozen new Marlin lever guns and except for one, they all had triggers I could live with. The Trigger on the new 1894 Trapper in 10mm was reasonably good too. It broke at only 3.5 pounds with a slight amount of creep. The good news is that if you buy one of the new Marlin 1894 Trappers in 10mm and you're not happy with the trigger, or if you already own another Marlin lever gun that does not have a great trigger, Timney has a solution.

Timney Triggers now offers a drop-in trigger for Marlin lever action rifles. It retails for \$199.95, and you can install it with some tools you probably have in that junk drawer in your kitchen. This trigger from Timney will work in any modern Marlin model 1894, 336 or 1895 that has the crossbolt/hammer blocking safety. Of course, you could opt to have a custom gunsmith tune your factory Marlin trigger, but it will cost you about as much as the Timney. However, beware, your run-of-the-mill gunsmith is generally not capable of tuning a lever gun trigger to be as safe and to work as well as the drop-in unit from Timney.



The only other issue associated with functioning concerned ejection. If you cycled the lever gingerly like a child pulls a Band-Aid off, and if it was the last round in the gun, sometimes the empty case would drop down inside the action. The cure for this was to run the gun like you were serious—like you were mad at it—and it would feed, extract and eject every time.

OVERALL ASSESSMENT

I really like this rifle, and it makes me want a 10mm pistol or revolver to go

Marlin's new 1894 carbine lever gun chambered for the 10mm Auto cartridge is light, compact and a lot of fun to shoot.

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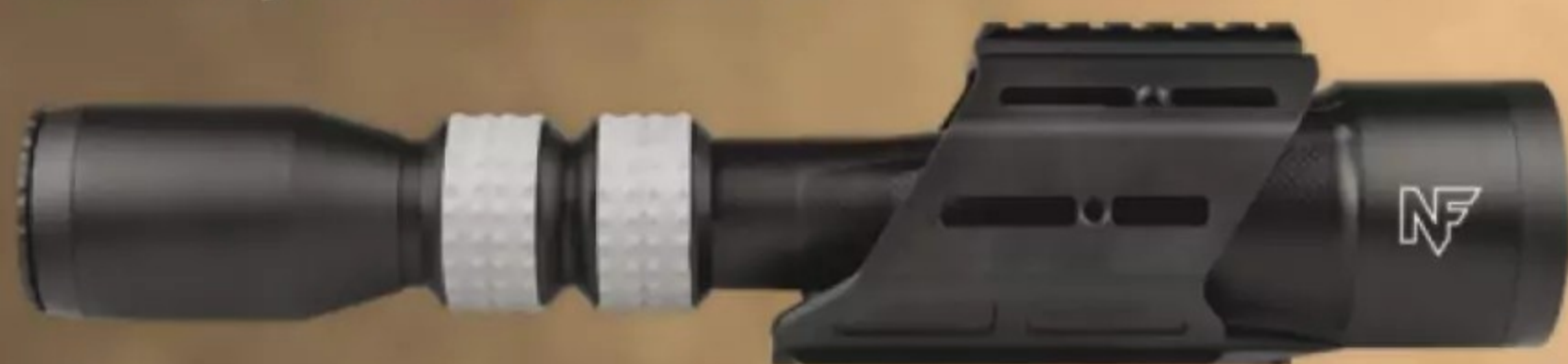
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Though feeding with some loads was a little rough, overall, the 1894 in 10mm functioned well.

with it. It represents a first for the new Ruger owned Marlin and for the gun industry as well. It makes you wonder if a lever gun in 9mm or even .45 Auto might be on some engineer's drawing board at Marlin.

The sticky feeding with some loads does not bother me for two reasons. First, I noticed the more I shot the rifle the smoother it got, and second, there are a boat load of good 10mm Auto loads to choose from. Aside from what you might find from Federal, Remington, Winchester and Hornady, between Buffalo Bore and Doubletap alone—the two best sources for 10mm ammo—there are nearly 30 loads to choose from, many of which should function perfectly.

A 10mm lever gun is a bold step for Marlin to take but I'm betting with the current resurgence of interest in the 10mm Automatic cartridge, along with all the new pistols and revolvers chambered for it, this rifle will do well. Aside from being fun to shoot with almost no recoil, it would be a great short range hunting rifle and—if you carry a 10mm—an even better truck gun. **GDTM**

If you're going to run a riflescope on the 1894 Trapper in 10mm, the included hammer spur makes cocking and decocking the hammer easy.



Like all current Model 1894 rifles, the 1894 Trapper in 10mm loads through a loading gate on the right side of the receiver.



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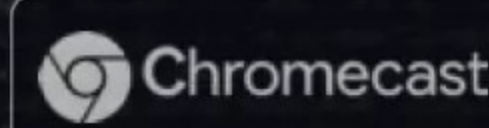
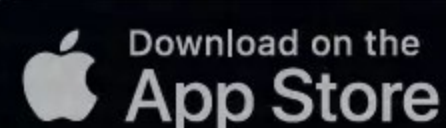
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TURBO 22 BOLT GUN

Build your own barrel burner in .22 Creedmoor.



Now that the 6.5 Creedmoor has supplanted the venerable 308 in terms of sales, particularly with regards to new rifles, there's been an uptick in interest in other calibers based on the parent design. Once it's necked down, the otherwise mild-mannered Creed takes on a bit of a Jekyll-and-Hyde personality, changing from a ho-hum, jorts-and-New-Balance, reliable-but-dull persona into a fire-breathing nutter.

Optimized for heavier bullet weights, the .22 Creedmoor had some teething problems due to operating at the outer limits of current bullet designs. Tales of 90-grain projectiles coming apart as they were spun at eye-watering rates were pretty common. Today, barrel manufacturers

have switched to a slightly larger bore diameter, so as not to stress the bullet quite as badly, and as a result they can be counted on to actually reach the target rather than turning into lead and copper dust. Usually.

With the Creed able to match or exceed 22-250 velocities, you should probably be asking why not simply opt for the old stalwart. Based on the .250 Savage case, the 22-250 has been burning out barrels since its introduction in the 1930s, and at the time was the best option available for anyone who wanted to vaporize small critters such as groundhogs. The years have not been kind however, and its tapered case and 1/14 twist barrel bring problems of their own. Feeding from AICS mags is a tough proposition due to case taper—it's the bolt

gun equivalent of 7.62x39 in an AR, and bullets heavier than 55 grains have a tendency to be marginally stable at best. The .22 Creedmoor gives the user access to heavy-for-caliber bullets, which really take the .224 to another level in terms of downrange lethality, and an easy-feeding case design.

The lock, stock and barrel of this build sheet are top-shelf components, but if you want to get into the .22 Creed game, there are certainly less expensive options. With a barrel life of around 1,000 rounds, this is one area we'd look closely at for cost reduction, but as we've never had a Helix 6 barrel that didn't shoot lights out, the company was an easy choice for a fast 22. We opted for an 18-inch, carbon-wrapped tube with 5/8-25 muzzle threads to maximize suppressor choices and



give plenty of steel at the muzzle end. Helix 6 offers this as a 0.219-inch bore diameter, putting less strain on bullet jackets and allowing us to drive 77- to 88-grain offerings at 22-250 AI velocities. So, we did.

Springfield Armory started quietly selling the actions used in their Waypoint rifles as stand-alone components. So quietly, in fact, that they're not even listed on the company's website, but if you call, you can get one sent to your FFL to build out however you see fit. Given the lead times involved in getting an action from some other manufacturers, this is a welcome opportunity to snag a proven, premium, 700-pattern action at a decent price. As far as features go, the Waypoint leaves nothing on the table. EDM bolt raceways are smooth and clean, the bolt stop is massive and easily accessed, and there's an integral recoil lug. The bolt itself is a two-lug design, but has a Sako-style extractor and is fluted for use in dusty or muddy environments. We were impressed by the action when it first came out, and there's been nothing in the years since that would cause us to change that opinion.

Stepping outside the usual comfort zone of Timney and TriggerTech, we opted for a Rise Armament trigger for this build. Better known for their value AR-15 triggers, Rise are a comparative newcomer to the bolt gun game, offering two models for 700 pattern actions. The Reliant Hunter seen here is adjustable down to 2 pounds, features more of a rollover-style break and retails for just 180

bucks. We've gotten more comfortable with this style, rather than the proverbial glass rod trigger, and so long as there's zero grittiness, actually prefer it on a hunting rifle.

The other components find a home in an MDT CRBN stock, which has an aluminum bedding block wrapped in carbon-fiber composite. Despite its scant, 30-ounce weight, it's adjustable for riser height and length of

pull, and incorporates a full-length ARCA rail at the 6 o'clock position for use on a tripod. When used with a three-round, flush-fitting magazine, its bottom metal looks more like a classic hunting rifle rather than a PRS rig. One of the main criticisms of detachable mag hunting rifles is that in the event of accidentally dropping the mag on a hunt, you're left with a single shot that's very difficult

Springfield's Waypoint action proved to be a worthy base from which to build, checking all the boxes for custom bolt gun.



MDT's CRBN stock uses spacers to adjust length of pull, and its cheekpiece is adjustable for comb height.



to load. MDT neatly sidesteps this problem with a button on the trigger guard that locks the mag catch, making it almost impossible to inadvertently activate.

Titanium suppressors are the bee's knees when it comes to shedding ounces but give up a little in terms of longevity—as a blast baffle material, Ti leaves a lot to be desired. B&T managed to design their way

around the problem by 3D printing a titanium can around an Inconel blast baffle, combining the strengths of both materials where they make most sense. The .22 Creed has a lot more powder volume than a 5.56 round, so a higher volume can is a better fit in this application. Our Print XH-556 suppressor is currently bleeding edge tech on both bolt guns and ARs, where its flow-through design leads

to very little gas coming back at the shooter's face. Best yet, it weighs in at just 10 ounces and produces a very pleasant low tone at the shooter's ear.

One downside the .22 Creedmoor currently faces is that of ammo availability. Hornady and Nosler are the only major sources of factory ammo, but if you roll your own you'll find this is one cartridge that's easy to develop loads for. It likes powder a



6.5 Creedmoor, left, and .22 Creedmoor, right. Necking down the parent case makes for a notable change in character, and a huge increase in velocity.

B&T's Print XH 556 tames the .22 Creed's bark and is one of the most mellow-sounding cans we've ever shot.



lot slower than you'd typically find in a 223—start with your favorite .300 Win. Mag. fuel and you won't go far wrong—but anything from H4350 on up will work. For our load development, we used RCBS dies, Peterson brass, Hornady and Sierra bullets, and powders from Hodgdon and Vihtavuori. Charges were thrown on an RCBS Matchmaster, accurate to 0.1 grain.

Topping off the rig is a Leupold Mk6 HD 3-18x44 scope. Since this rig will serve primarily as a hunting rifle to slay coyotes and medium-sized big game, a second focal plane reticle is preferred, as FFPs tend to disappear at low magnification, especially in low light. The Mk6 HD has great glass for morning and evening hunts, and exposed, zero stop turrets to take advantage of the Creed's extended range.

We've become accustomed to installing Spartan Precision adapters on most of our hunting rifles, as this enables us to easily swap bipods from one to the next and allows access to their ecosystem of tripods and other shooting supports. The M-Lok rail on our MDT stock accepted a Spartan adapter, and we used their Vidarr bipod for all of our load development and accuracy testing.

All in all, this was a fun project. Turbo 22s punch way above their weight when teamed with fragmenting bullets like the Hornady 80-grain ELD-X or Sierra 77-grain TMK. And while Fudds might *tut-tut* at the thought, we'd have no reservations using this build on game animals up to 500 pounds, at ethical ranges. **GDTM**

PARTS LIST	
Action:	Springfield Armory Waypoint
Barrel:	Helix 6
Stock:	MDT CRBN
Scope:	Leupold VX6 HD 3-18x44
Suppressor:	B&T Print XH-556
Bipod:	Spartan Precision Vidarr



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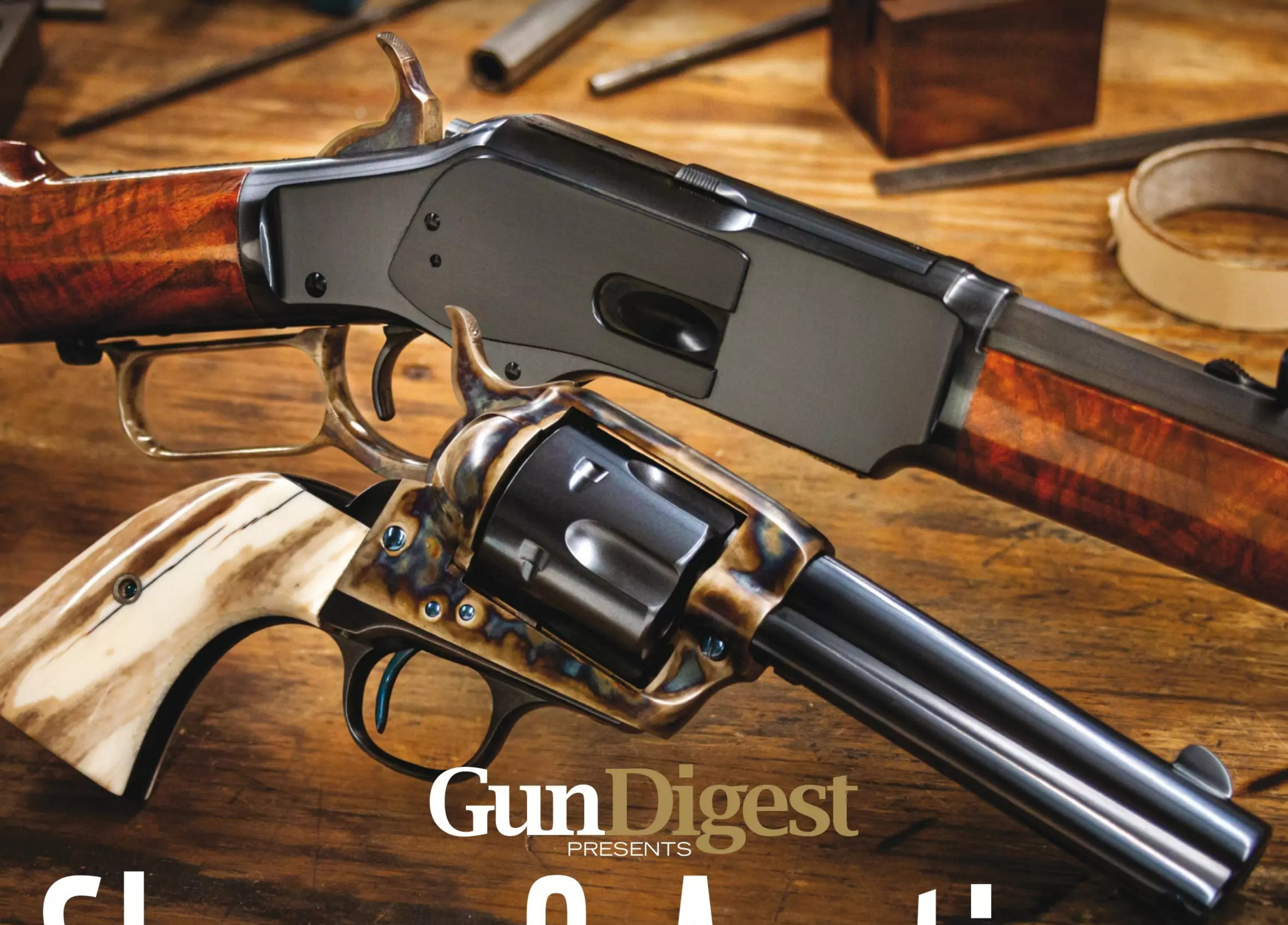


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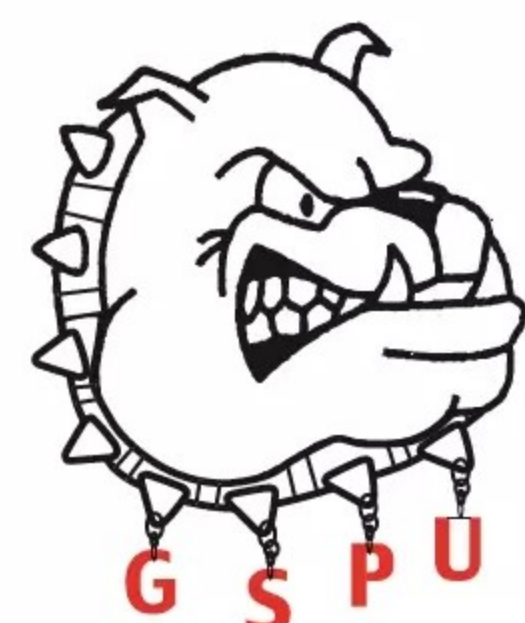
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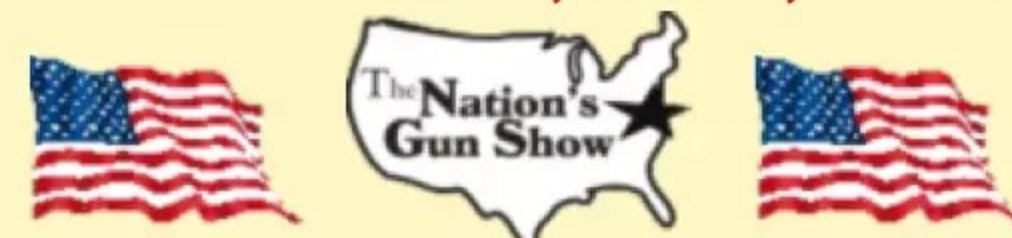
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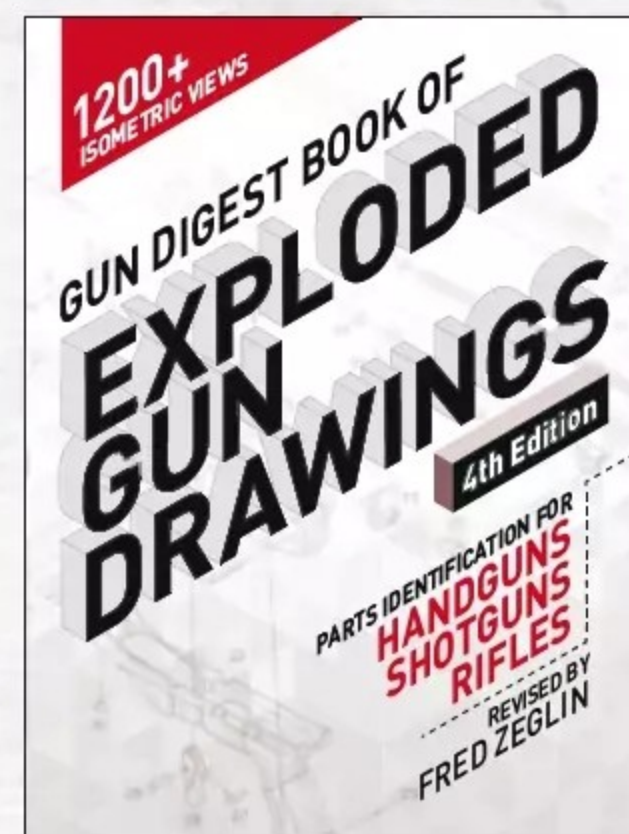
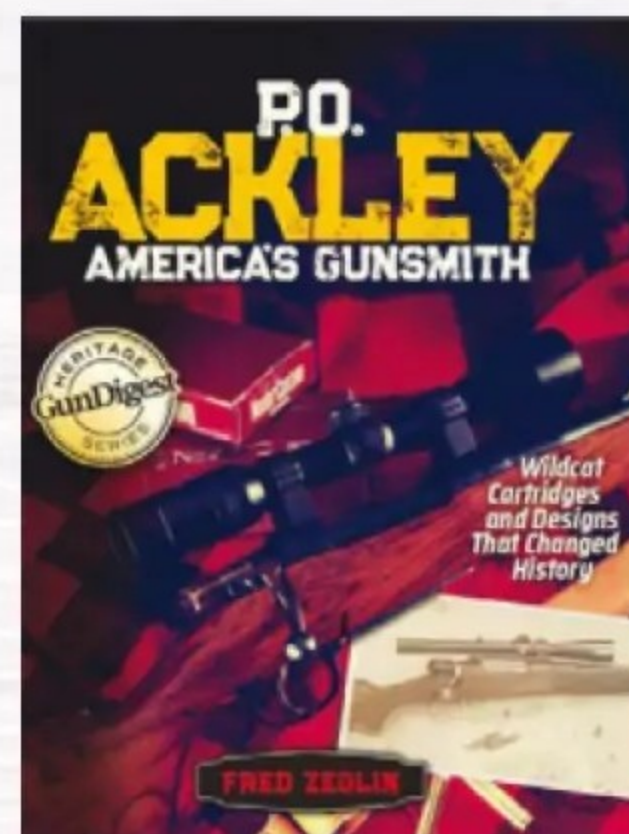
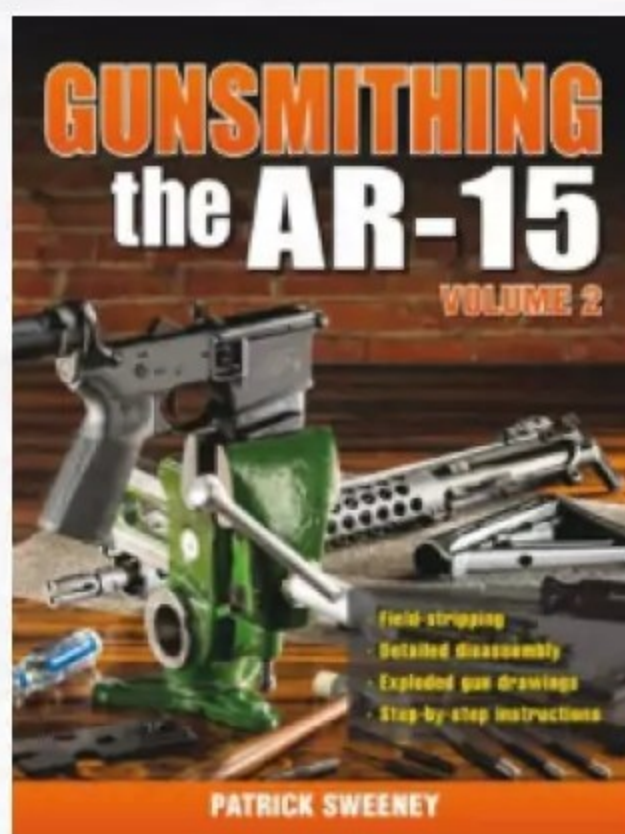
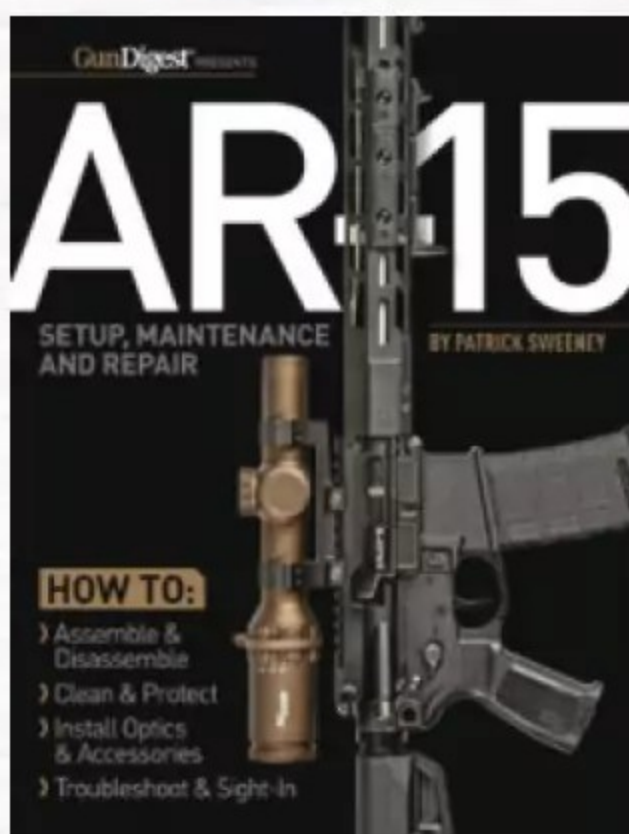
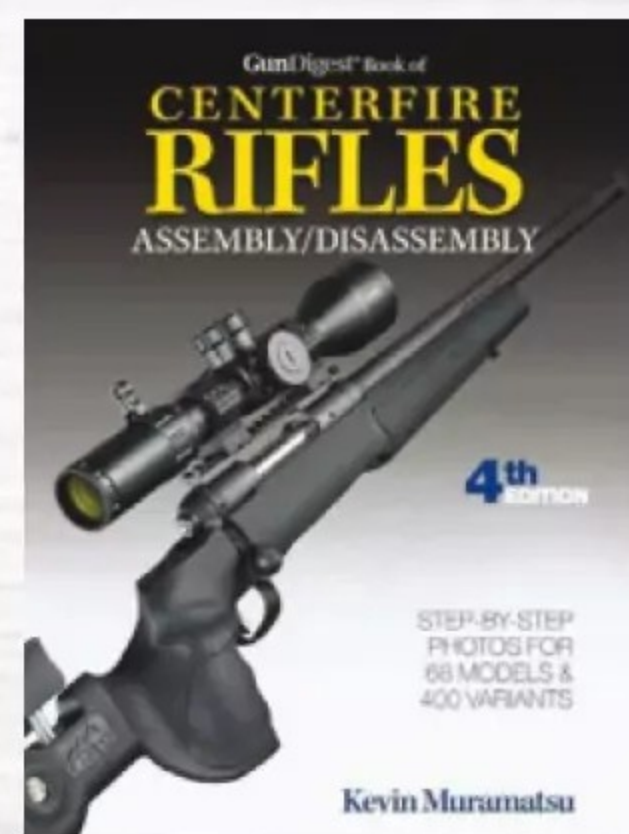
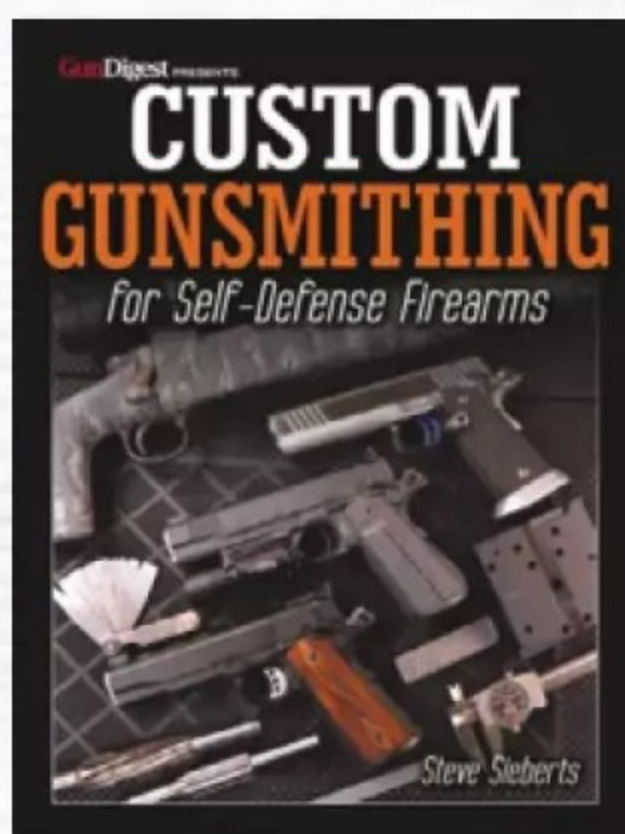
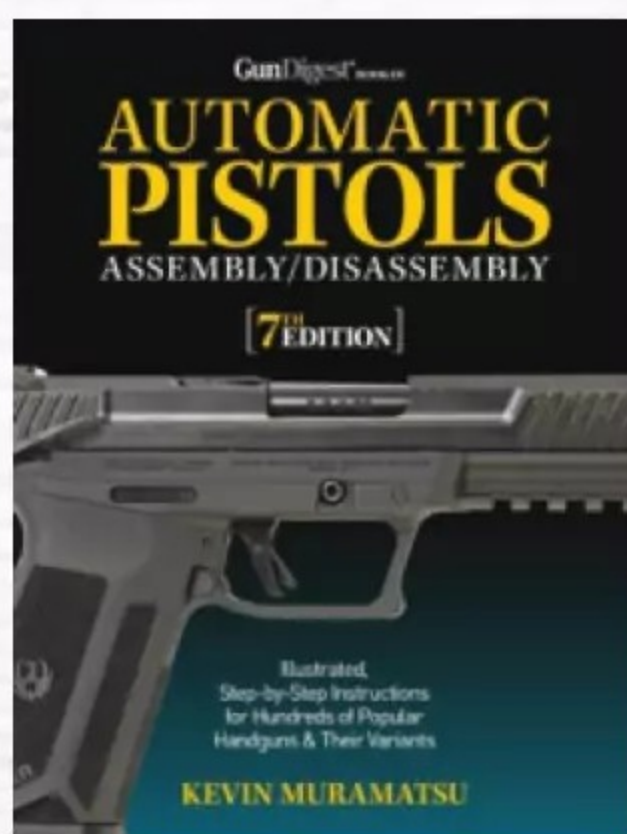
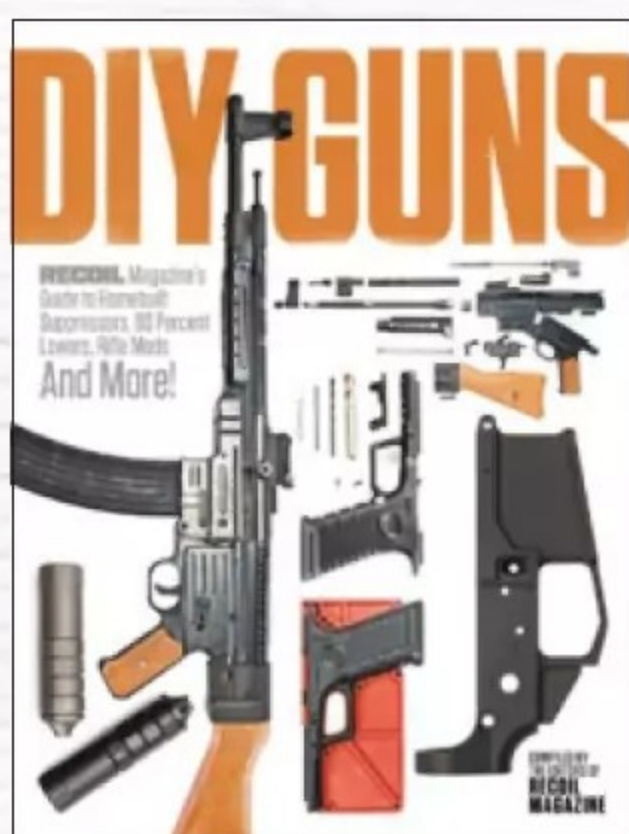
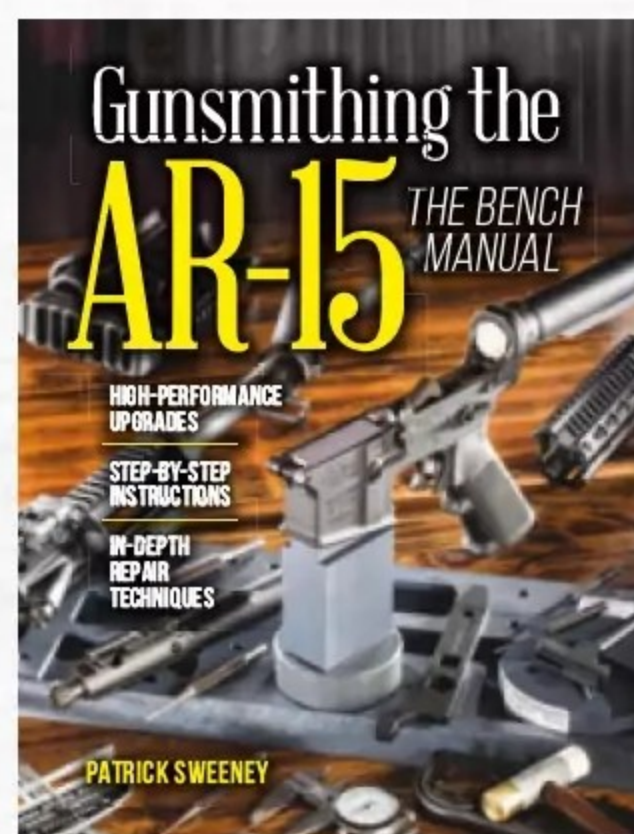
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1-D Accu-Tek .380 ACP "Model AT-380" Pocket Stainless Auto Pistol 2 3/4" barrel with mint bore, all stainless steel construction with matte finish on frame and top of slide, sides of slide finished bright with number "36" vibro engraved on right side of slide, mint serrated black synthetic grips, (1) finger rest magazine, owner's manual and disassembly tool, excellent function\$215

2-D Belgian Made .25 ACP "Libia" Model Vest Pocket Auto Pistol 2" barrel with good but pitted bore, 95% of an old refinish blue, very good "Libia" logo checkered hard rubber grips with a couple "bug bites" out of right panel, nickel plated magazine, both manual and grip safety, works fine (C&R)\$185

3-D Beretta .22 LR "Model U22 Neos Inox" Target Auto Pistol 6" heavy slab sided barrel with mint bore and integrated Picatinny rail which has blade front and fully adjustable white outline target sights plus a "BSA" 2x20mm long eye relief scope installed using Weaver rings, mint polymer lower with textured grip area, comes in original black plastic carry case with manual and lock, outer sleeve is also present and numbered to gun\$425

4-D Browning .22 LR "Challenger" Early F.N. Model Auto Pistol 6 3/4" barrel with mint bore, 99%+ original bright blue with 99% gold plate on trigger, ramp blade front sight and fully adjustable target style rear sight, minty checkered one piece Walnut wrap around grips with flared bottoms, comes with (1) original 10 round magazine, looks and functions as new, made in 1969, collector quality (C&R)\$765

5-D Browning .22 LR "Challenger" Early F.N. Model Auto Pistol 6 3/4" barrel with mint bore, 97% original bright blue with a light scuff on left side of barrel at muzzle from holster carry, 95% gold plate on trigger, ramp blade front sight and fully adjustable target style rear sight, minty checkered one piece Walnut wrap around grips with flared bottoms, comes with (1) original 10 round magazine, excellent function, made in 1969 (C&R)\$695

6-D Browning .22 LR "Challenger Model" Auto Pistol 6 3/4" barrel with mint bore, 99% original bright blue, factory ramp blade front and fully adjustable target style rear sights, mint grooved gold trigger, near excellent one piece checkered Walnut, flared bottom grips with some minor finish loss and some tiny chip outs at perimeter base, made in 1970 and looks and functions near new, collector quality (C&R)\$765

7-D Browning .22 LR "Nomad" F.N. Made Auto Pistol 4 1/2" barrel with mint bore, 99% original bright blue, ramp blade front and fully adjustable target style rear sights, mint checkered one piece black plastic wrap around grips with fared bottoms, excellent function, comes with (1) original 10 shot magazine and original logo black zipper pouch, as new overall, made in 1969, collector quality (C&R)\$645

8-D Chiappa .22 LR "Model 1873-22" Single Action Revolver 4 3/4" barrel with mint bore, 99% original blue, fixed sights, excellent checkered black plastic grips with "CF" gold medallions, excellent function\$155

9-D Colt .22 LR "Trooper Model" Old Style Double / Single Action Revolver 4" barrel with mint bore, factory ramp blade front and fully adjustable target style rear sights, 97% original bright blue, excellent service style checkered Walnut grips with silver Colt medallions, target style hammer and grooved trigger, side plate shows a little touch up blue caused by shooters thumb creating a gray spot in that area, revolver works fine, and looks excellent, made in 1956 (C&R)\$1395

10-D Colt .22 LR "Officers Model" Double / Single Action Target Revolver 6" barrel with mint bore, 98% original bright blue, factory original adjustable front and rear target style sights, excellent function, grips are later oversize checkered Walnut wrap around grips of high quality, made in 1936 and still times and lockup tight as new (C&R)\$865

11-D Colt .38 Special "Agent Model" 2nd Issue 6 Shot Short Barrel Revolver 2" barrel with mint bore, 98%+ early matte blue/black finish, shrouded ejector rod, mint checkered Walnut grips that wrap under grip frame backstrap with gold Colt medallions, made in 1982 and appears unfired, collector quality\$725

12-D Colt .38 Special "Officer Model" Short Barrel Double / Single Action Target Revolver 4 1/2" barrel with mint bore, 99% restoration quality refinish blue, made in 1927 in "Army Special / Official Police" serial number range, all matching numbers on metal with "1926" last patent date on barrel, old style adjustable for elevation bead front sight and "U" notch rear sight adjustable for windage, finely checkered backstrap and trigger face, bright sides on hammer with fire blue on top surfaces, excellent checkered hard rubber grips have a "Fleur-de-Lis" pattern stylized "C" at escutcheon and "Colt" in an oval at top, all correct for a 1926 made gun but not scratch numbered to this gun, excellent function both single and double action, super looker with exceptional restoration, if you look up this serial number on Colt's website it will come up as a 1950 made gun but searching a little finer (use search for revolvers only not all pistols) will result in the correct Army Special / Official Police shared serial number range for "Officers Models" made in 1926, all short barreled Officers models are rare (C&R)\$1295

13-D Colt .38 Special "Officers Model Special" Single / Double Action Target Revolver 6" heavy non-tapered barrel with mint bore, 97% original bright blue with a little light graying at muzzle, ramp blade front sight and "Coltmaster" fully adjustable target style rear sight, excellent period replacement oversize "Murad pointer" model thumb-rest oversize brown plastic grips (nice quality), super tight lockup and timing, made in 1950 and looks excellent (C&R)\$715

14-D Colt .38 Special "Detective Special" 2nd Issue Short Grip Frame Double / Single Action Revolver 2" barrel with mint bore, 97% original blue with some light scattered pitting on sharp edges and sides of hammer, very good+ full checkered Walnut wrap around grips with silver Colt medallions, excellent function, tight lockup and timing, made in 1966 1st year for short grip frame and wrap around grips (C&R)\$695

15-D Colt .38 Special "Detective Special" Double / single Action Revolver 2" barrel with mint bore, fixed sights, 98%+ original bright blue, minty checkered Walnut round butt grips with silver Colt medallions, a collector quality post war 2nd issue detective special made in 1956 (C&R)\$985

16-D Colt .22 LR "Huntsman Sport Model" Auto Pistol 4 1/2" barrel with mint bore, 99% original bright blue, fixed sights, very good checkered Walnut grips with left panel showing wear and a little denting probably from holster carry, original 10 shot bottom release magazine, excellent function, showing little actual use, made in 1962 (C&R)\$635

17-D Colt .22 LR "Huntsman Model" Auto Pistol 6" barrel with mint bore, 97% original thinning blue with a small amount of scattered peppering on frame, fixed sights, upgraded factor thumbrest wood checkered grips from a "Woodsmen" target model, original (10) round bottom release magazine, excellent function, made in 1957 (C&R)\$585

18-D Harrington & Richardson .22 LR "First Model Small Frame Third Variation" Top Break Double Action Revolver 6" ribbed barrel with excellent bore showing light pitting, 98%+ original blue with spots of very light pin prick pitting on cylinder, fixed sights, black checkered hard rubber grips numbered to revolver, excellent function, manufactured 1897-1903, near collector quality (C&R)\$535

19-D Harrington & Richardson .22 LR Model 199 "Sportsman" Single Action Target 4th Variation Pre-War Top Break Revolver 6" ovoid barrel with mint bore, adjustable front and rear target style sights, 97% original blue with light scattered pin prick pitting, light staining on trigger, large one piece Walnut checkered grips, excellent function, manufactured 1937-1941, forerunner of the "999" and in the desirable single action configuration (C&R) ..\$595

20-D Harrington & Richardson .22 LR Model 199 "Sportsman" Single Action Target 3rd Variation "Pre War" Top Break Revolver 6" ovoid barrel with mint bore, adjustable target style sights, 98% original blue, light drag line on cylinder, cylinder has small print "Pat. Date 1904730" marking, large one piece target style checkered Walnut grips, excellent function, manufactured 1936 (C&R)\$585

21-D Harrington & Richardson .22 LR "Sportsman" Double Action Top Break Target Revolver 6" ovoid solid rib barrel with mint bore, 97% original bright blue, factory adjustable front and rear sights, 9 shot cylinder, minty target style checkered Walnut grips, excellent function, showing little use, collector quality (C&R)\$595

22-D Harrington & Richardson .32 S&W "Top Break" Auto Ejecting Double Action Revolver 4" solid rib barrel with fair bore, 97% nickel finish with peppery pin prick pitting, fixed sights, black hard rubber checkered extended grips, excellent function (C&R)\$225

23-D High Standard .22 LR "Sport King" Auto Pistol 4 1/2" barrel with mint bore, 98% original blue with a scratch on left side of frame, fixed sights, mint checkered brown plastic grips with gold medallions, excellent function, push button takedown, made in 1971 (C&R)\$695

24-D High Standard .22 LR "Model GD" Auto Pistol 4 1/2" barrel with excellent bright bore, 97% original blue with one light spot on top of slide, blade front and "Davis" fully adjustable target style rear sights, lever takedown, excellent full checkered Walnut grips, excellent function, sharp looking, made in 1949, near collector quality (C&R)\$645

25-D High Standard .22 LR "Model HB" Auto Pistol 4 1/2" barrel with excellent bore, 96% original blue with light fading on right side of barrel, fixed sights, mint checkered black hard rubber grips with "HS" logo, minty 2 tone 10 shot magazine, a very nice 2nd model HB made in 1948 (C&R)\$425

26-D High Standard .22 LR "Sport King 1st Model" Auto Pistol 4 1/2" barrel with mint bore, lever takedown, fixed sights, 99% original blue, minty checkered brown plastic thumbrest grips, 2 tone blue magazine, excellent function, collector quality, made in 1951 (C&R)\$485

27-D High Standard .22 LR "Sport King 1st Model" Auto Pistol 4 1/2" bull barrel with mint bore, fixed sights, 97% original blue with a few specks of discoloration, extra cost fancy checkered Walnut thumbrest grips, show a repaired crack on right panel and a thinning of thumbrest on left side, full blue magazine shows a little repair work but still functions fine, made in 1951 (C&R)\$335

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

29-D Hopkins & Allen .22 LR "New Model" Single Shot Top Break Target Pistol 8" round barrel with excellent bright bore, 75% original bright blue with most loss as flaked off blue on frame which shows light peppering and splotches of original blue, upper barrel/breach section show 95%+ original blue, stanchion mounted blade front sight and windage adjustable target style rear sights, blade front sight is a "Lyman" pinned on type elevation not adjustable, rear sight has both left and right adjusting screws but is missing it's sheet metal style aperture insert, excellent "high hold" style smooth Walnut extended grips with gold "H&A" medallions, rarely seen in any condition this one is very good in appearance and function (C&R)\$795

30-D Iver Johnson .22 LR "Model TP-22" Clip Feed Auto Pistol 2 3/4" barrel with mint bore, fixed sights, steel slide shows 98% original blue with light pin prick pitting on right side, alloy frame shows thinning blue to dark gray along front strap, black plastic wrap around grips with "IJ" owl logo, comes with two magazines one nickel plated and one blue magazine with finger-rest, comes with two piece red "IJ" cardboard box with matching end label, inside is manual, test fire target and original limited warranty card, excellent function, manufactured 1982-1988.....\$265

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48-D Spanish Astra 9mm Largo “Model 1921” (400) Auto Pistol 6” barrel with good but lightly pitted bore, 90% thinning original blue showing faded blue on front and back straps, lightly faded fire blue shows on safety lever and extractor, top of barrel shows Spanish crown and Astra logo, right side of frame shows “Spain” import mark, checkered black horn grips with Astra logo, small repair to right grip panel, magazine latch pin is missing, all matching numbers, manufactured 1921-1950 (C&R) \$335

49-D Tanfoglio .40 S&W “Witness Model P” Double / Single Action Auto Pistol 4 ½” barrel with mint bore, 99% original matte black finish, (3) white dot sights with low profile windage adjustable rear, full size polymer frame with textured grip area, 14 shot magazine, near new overall..... \$385

50-D Taylor’s 38 Special “The Cavalier” Open Top Navy Model Uberti made Reproduction Revolver 7 ½” barrel with mint bore, 99%+ bright nickel finish, fixed sights, mint smooth ebony one piece grips, a fabulous looking open top Navy cartridge revolver, as new in box with logo pouch, owners manual and small tool, nicely engraved cylinder \$795

51-D Uberti / Taylor’s Co. .357 Magnum “Model 1873 Cattleman” Single Action Revolver 5 ½” barrel with mint bore, 99 ½% original blue and dark case color, fixed sights, mint smooth Walnut one piece grips, as new in original number matched box with “Taylor’s” logo pouch, padlock and manual..... \$550

52-D Uberti / Taylor’s Co. .45 Colt “Model 1873 Gunfighter” Single Action Revolver 5 ½” barrel with mint bore, 99 ½% original blue and case color, fixed sights, mint smooth Walnut one piece grips, super looker, as new in original Taylor’s box serial numbered to gun, Taylor’s pouch and manual \$575

53-D U. S. Revolver / Iver Johnson .32 S&W Short “Hammer Top Break” Revolver 3” ribbed barrel with excellent bore, fixed sights, 97% original nickel, blue and case color, works fine both double and single action, excellent checkered black hard rubber grips with “U.S.” logo, these were price line revolvers made by Iver Johnson but without the “hammer the hammer” safety, this one is excellent overall (C&R) \$235

54-D Chilean 7.62 NATO "Model 1912 Steyr Made" Bolt Rifle 28 ¾" barrel with mint bore, arsenal refinish blue, Chilean crest on receiver bridge, "Steyr" marked side rail, tangent style rear sight graduated to 2000 meters, marked "7.62 NATO" on receiver, good stock with swivels, basics but no swivels and steel buttplate (C&R) \$665

55-D Italian Military / Beretta Made 6.5 Carcano "Model 1938" Cavalry Bolt Carbine 18 ½" barrel with fair, pitted bore, 80% arsenal blue showing some graying and scattered peppery pin prick pitting, front blade sight with fixed "V" notch rear sight, highly desirable folding 13 ½" bayonet attached at muzzle and folds into stock, stock is Walnut straight grip that has been painted black and shows dings, dents and scratches (C&R) \$425

56-D Japanese 7.7mm "Arisaka Type 99" Sporterized Bolt Rifle 25" barrel with very good bore, 98% commercial style re-blue finish, open sight removed and "Weaver" two piece scope bases installed on receiver, welded on nice commercial style swept back bolt handle, standard rear knob safety, very nice "Bishop" Walnut pistol grip stock with logo plastic buttplate, cheekpiece, detachable floorplate and sling swivels, works fine and nice looking..... \$235

57-D Japanese Government / Jinsen Arsenal 7.7mm Arisaka Bolt Rifle 25 ½" barrel with minty bright bore, 95%+ of what looks like an Arsenal rebuild blue, characters and series type are lightly struck and hard to read, bolt looks like matching number (3) digit serial number, tangent style "aircraft" rear sight with no sighting wings, inverted "V" wing protected front sight, ground "mum", (2) piece pistol grip stock with side mount swivels, cupped buttplate and body of wire monopod but no "wire", no cleaning rod, works fine, looks good (C&R) \$425

58-D Mauser 30/06 Brazilian "Model 08/34.30" Bolt Rifle 24" barrel with good strong but lightly pitted bore, 95% original arsenal rebuild blue with excellent crisp markings, Brazilian crest on receiver, all matching numbers, converted t "08" designation in 1930's to chamber 30/06 ammo, 2000 meter tangent rear sight, "wing" protected front blade sight, matching number Walnut pistol grip stock with a decal on right side reading "Escola Preparatoria de campinas" next to stock disc, turned down bolt, has forend sling swivel but no rear swivel, original wiping rod and stacking hook along with bayonet fixture, lightly and incorrectly import marked "Germany" as this is an "Itajuba" Brazilian arsenal rifle, excellent function (C&R) \$695

59-D Mauser 8mm Mauser "Model K-98" WW-II S/42-1938 Code Dated Sporterized Bolt Rifle 24 ½" barrel with very good bore, 98% high polish re-blue, "Redfield" slip on bead front sight, Redfield sporting receiver mounted peep sight plus drilled and tapped receiver, bent scope mount modified bolt, standard safety, milled detachable floorplate, very good commercial Walnut pistol grip plain stock with "red head" vent rubber buttpad, good function, mismatched parts \$235

60-D Mauser 7mm Mauser "Brazilian Model 1908" DWM Made Bolt Rifle 29 ½" barrel with good strong but peppery pitted bore, 95% original blue with receiver correctly in the white, 2000 meter tangent rear sight and blade front, matching bolt with some small parts mismatched, excellent clear Brazilian crest on receiver, very good+ matching Walnut pistol grip stock with steel disk, arsenal cartouche, fixed front sling swivel and correct moveable swivel, smooth steel buttplate, wiping rod, bayonet fixture and stacking hook, made by DWM of Germany and reflects their quality, excellent function and good looking (C&R) \$895

61-D Mauser Banner 7mm "Brazilian Contract Model 1935" Bolt Rifle 29" barrel with mint bore, 95% original blue with "Brazilian crest" crisply stamped on front bridge and "Mauser Banner" on rear of receiver, bolt is from model 1935 short rifle and is all matching to itself, receiver serial number is repeated on a few small parts, excellent pistol grip stock with I.D. circular plate, parade hook and front swivel (no detachable rear swivel), front sight protective muzzle cap and smooth blued steel buttplate, super looker, last of the German Obendorf Mausers, purchased by Brazil, standard tangent leaf rear sight graduated to 2000 meters, lightly import marked on barrel (C&R) \$785

62-D Remington 7mm Mauser "Model No. 5 1902" Rolling Block Single Shot Military Style Rifle 30" barrel with mint bore, 98% original blue and 65% faded case color, blade front sight and tangent "ladder" style military rear sight graduated to 2100 yards, Remington address on upper tang but no other country of use markings, 95% blue on checkered spur hammer and checkered "shield" shaped operating block rotator, wood is original and very good with some scattered denting and smooth steel buttplate, comes with original wiping rod, military style bayonet fixture and original blued sling swivels, excellent function, made for many foreign sales including, Europe, Canada and many south American armies, 123 year old rifle in collector quality condition (C&R) \$1375

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95-D Browning 12 Gauge "Superposed" Boxlock "Pre War" Over/Under "Two Trigger" Shotgun 30" vent rib, 2 3/4" chambers, fixed improved modified and full chokes, bright excellent bores showing light skid marks, 98% original blue with light wear at muzzles, light scratches on barrels, decorative border engraved receiver and triggerguard show 95-97% original blue with some light high edge wear and spots of thinning on underside, shotgun features non automatic safety, auto ejectors, barrel opening lever at 12:00 o'clock position, twin single triggers with one dedicated to fire the top barrel first and one dedicated to fire the low barrel first, upon firing the first shot that trigger is automatically reset to fire the remaining barrel without moving trigger finger this feature gave you instant access to either choked tube, this feature was offered before the development of the current generation of the single selective trigger, checkered Walnut round knob pistol grip stock and forend, left side of forend shows a 3" repaired crack, stock has professionally added red rubber recoil pad, 14 1/8" L.O.P., front bead sight and white mid bead, excellent function, collector quality, manufactured 1931-1938 (C&R) \$895

96-D Coast to Coast Stores (Mossberg) 12 Gauge "Model CC660 "Master Mag" Pump Shotgun 22" smooth bore barrel with 3" chamber and fixed cylinder choke, 95% original blue with anodized receiver showing some scrapes, "Mossberg" marked barrel, very good Walnut pistol grip stock with impress checkering and serrated plastic buttplate, excellent function and a nice riot or slug configuration \$185

97-D Franchi 20 Gauge "Affinity 3 Model" Auto Shotgun 26" vent rib barrel with mint bore, fiber optic front sight, (3) removable choke tubes, modified, improved cylinder and full "Mossy oak bottomland camo" finish throughout, L.O.P. 14 1/4" with extra factory spacers included, as new in box with papers and wrench \$595

98-D Franchi 20 Gauge "Model AL-48" Auto Shotgun 28" plain barrel with excellent bright bore, 2 3/4" chamber and fixed modified choke, 97% original blue, very good+ Walnut pistol grip stock with cut checkering and checkered black plastic logo buttplate, 95% gold on trigger, excellent function, super light weight auto shotgun with long recoil action weighs only 5 1/4 pounds \$435

99-D High Standard 12 Gauge "Supermatic Shadow" Skeet Autoloader Shotgun 26" "airflow" 2 bead vent rib barrel with 2 3/4" chamber, mint bore and fixed skeet chokes, 98% original bright blue, excellent dark figured Walnut pistol grip stock with cut checkering, logo serrated black plastic buttplate and Rosewood grip cap with white diamond inlay, very nice quality made by Niko of Japan around 1974, excellent function, super looker and rarely seen today (C&R) \$595

100-D High Standard .410 Gauge "Model K4111 Flite King Deluxe" Pump Shotgun 26" plain barrel with mint bore, 3" chamber, fixed full choke, 98% original blue with light scratches, single bead front sight, checkered Walnut pistol grip stock and forend, black plastic High Standard logo, buttplate and grip cap, wood shows some scratches and light handling marks, magazine tube factory plugged with wooden dowel, L.O.P. 14 1/4", excellent function for this 1969 shotgun with super quality and classic look and feel (C&R) \$595

101-D Ithaca 16 Gauge "Model 37" Pump Shotgun 28" plain barrel with excellent bright bore, 2 3/4" chamber and fixed full choke, 97% original blue with some specks of flaking on roll engraved receiver, very good dark Walnut pistol grip stock with sharp cut checkering at grip and circular grooved pump handle, stock has black grip cap and logo plastic buttplate, wood shows some short hairline cracks behind receiver, matching numbers on this old model 37 in excellent functional condition, made in 1949 (C&R) \$385

102-D Ithaca 12 Gauge "Lewis Grade 1" Side by Side Shotgun 30" raised "swamped" rib barrels marked "Nitro powder steel", 2 3/4" chambers, fixed full and full chokes and minty bright bores with a couple tiny dings in right tube that are not visible when looking in bore, 97% original blue, 90% slightly faded case color on boxlock receiver with "Ithaca Hammerless" in a banner roll engraved on sides, very good+ Walnut pistol grip stock with cut checkering hard rubber grip cap and checkered black hard rubber logo buttplate, double triggers, extractors, excellent function, made in 1902 and looks excellent overall (C&R) \$695

103-D Iver Johnson 12 Gauge "Champion Model" Single Shot Shotgun 30" plain barrel with very good bright bore, 2 3/4" chamber and fixed tight full choke, 98% original barrel blue spoiled by some light peppery pitting where it was picked up by barrel and not wiped clean, sharp clear markings at breech end, 95% original case color on receiver with a little very light pitting, excellent figured dark Walnut pistol grip stock with excellent "Iver Johnson/owl head" logo buttplate, excellent function with tight lockup, made around 1939 (C&R) ... \$395

104-D Keltec 12 Gauge "Model KSG Bull Pup" Tactical Shotgun 18 1/2" barrel with mint bore, 3" chamber, 14 shot dual (7 on each side) selectable tube shell capacity (2 3/4" shells), black and silver body of high strength polymer, these come with a myriad of feature choices, this one has the long upper Picatinny rail with flip up sight front and rear, short lower Picatinny rail with polymer grip holder, sling attachments with military style green nylon sling with leather keepers, excellent function showing little actual use \$535

105-D Mossberg .410 Gauge "Model 600ET" Pump Shotgun 26" vent rib barrel with mint bore, 3" chamber and fixed full choke, 98% original blue, excellent Walnut stained hardwood pistol grip stock with impress checkering and serrated black plastic buttplate, excellent function \$385

106-D Stoeger 20 Gauge "Zephyr Woodlander" Model Side by Side Shotgun by Victor Sarasqueta of Spain, 25" barrels with raised rib, 3" chambers, fixed improved cylinder and modified chokes and excellent bores, 98%+ original bright blue and case colors on game scene engraved "Greener" cross bolt style Boxlock receiver with side clips, double triggers, extractors, auto safety, excellent Walnut pistol grip stock with cut checkering, "VS" logo serrated black buttplate and matching push button release beavertail forend, very sharp looking early "Stoeger" offering, excellent function (C&R) \$750

107-D TriStar 20 Gauge "Cobra Model" Pump Shotgun 26" vent rib barrel with mint bore, 3" chamber and (3) screw in choke tubes, pistol grip stock with cut checkering and black vent rubber factory buttpad, excellent function about new in original box, Turkish made with very nice quality \$295

108-D Weatherby 20 Gauge "Model PA-08" Pump Shotgun 26" vent rib barrel with 3" chamber, screw in modified choke tube and mint bore, 99% original bright blue, minty dark Walnut lightly figured pistol grip stock with cut checkering and solid soft rubber "W" logo buttpad, appears unfired, Turkish made \$385

109-D Winchester 12 Gauge "Model 12 Heavy Duck" Rebuilt to Sport or Trap Shooting Specifications Pump Shotgun 30" barrel with an added "Simmons" vent rib with oval posts, 3" chamber and fixed full choke, 98% nice restoration quality blue, Walnut lightly figured high quality replacement buttstock and pump handle with fancy Winchester pattern cut checkering, mint finish with "Monte Carlo" comb, Pachmayr vent rubber recoil pad looks new with a L.O.P. of 14 1/2" instead of original 13 5/8", this should make a super trap or fancy duck hunter, excellent smooth function, made in 1953, oddly enough the barrel has an offset "WP" proof so may have been a solid rib gun originally, super looker (C&R) \$795

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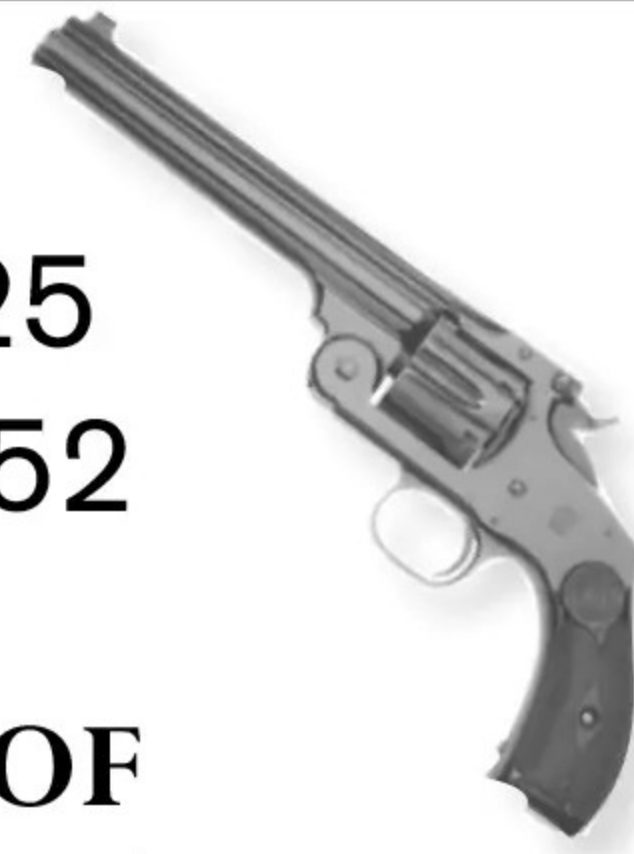
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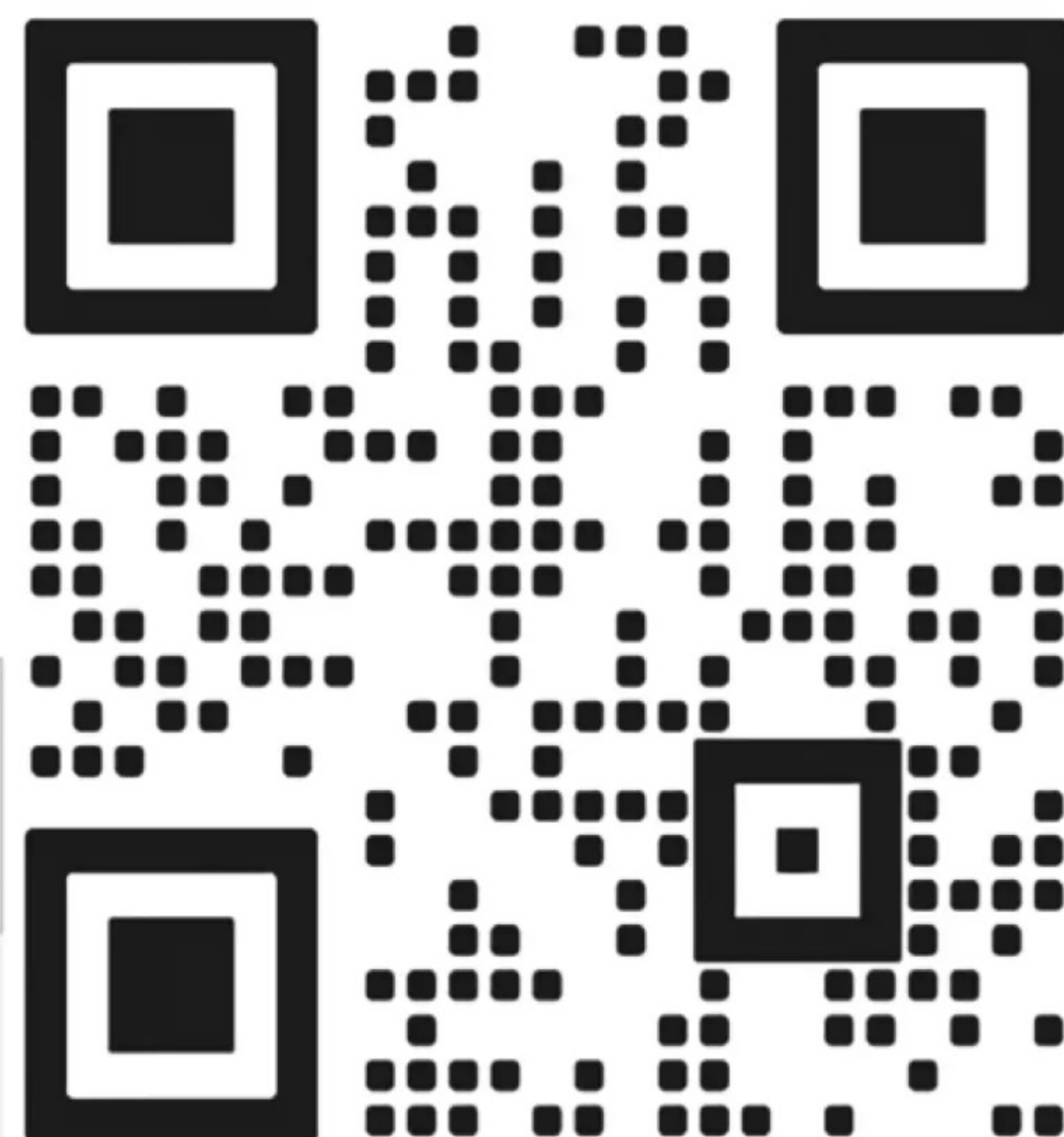
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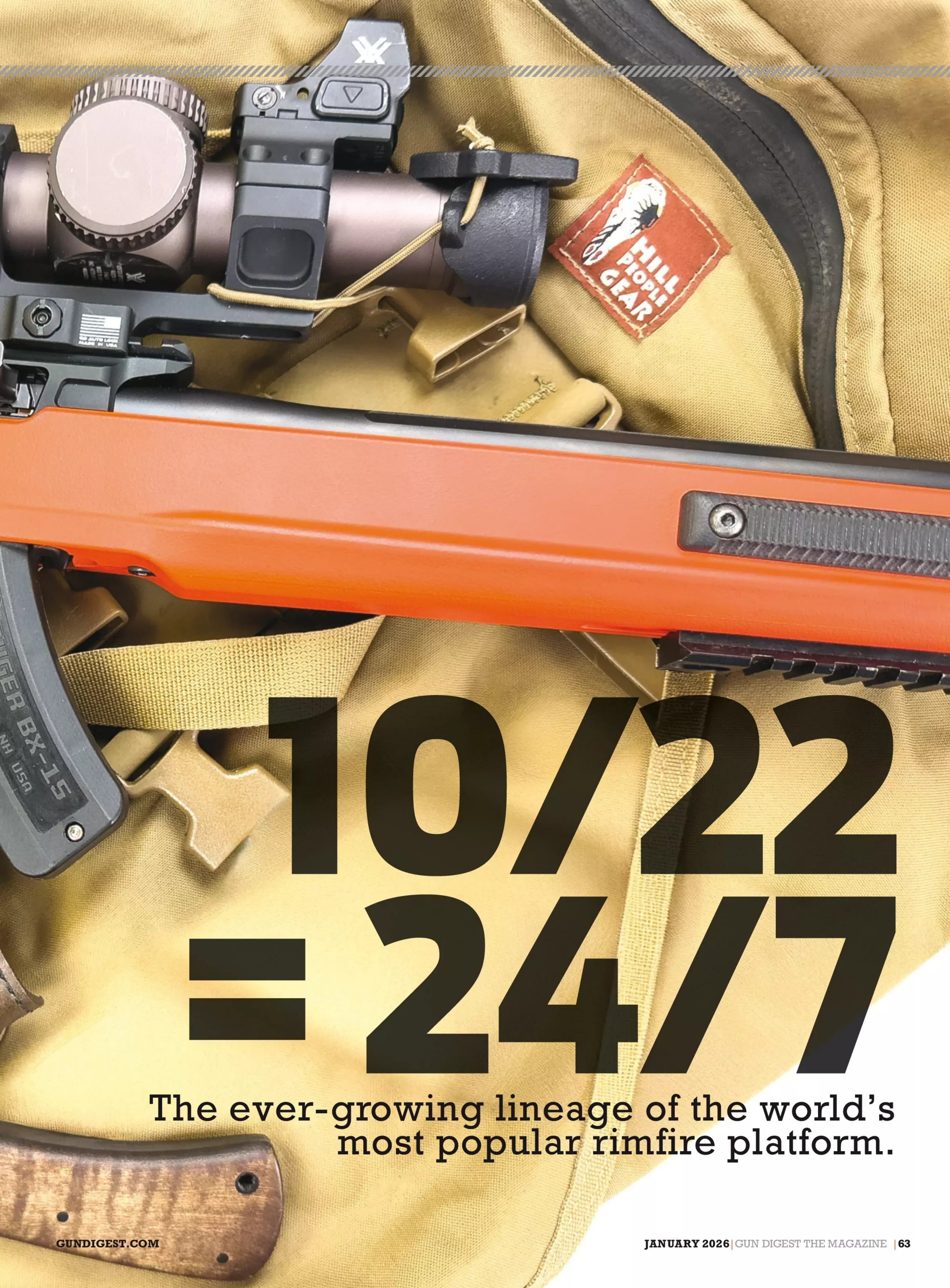
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10/22 = 24/7

The ever-growing lineage of the world's most popular rimfire platform.

Many readers of these esteemed pages had their first shooting experience with a .22 LR rifle, likely as a mere lad or lass fresh out of kindergarten ... and some perhaps even earlier. The humble .22 LR is a staple of American life and is often the foundational element of one's introduction to the shooting sports, be it hunting, target shooting, collecting or just an interest in the fascinating machines that this title is dedicated to.

There is very little that can't be done with a .22 and, for a huge number of shooters out there, the 10/22 is synonymous with the cartridge. The 10/22 market is growing exponentially in our current day and is reaching incredible heights. Now is the best time ever to own this type of rifle, and we're going to take a look at just what makes it so attractive.

RUGER'S LEGACY

Just like the AR-15, Glock, Remington 700—and any other now modern, modular system—the Ruger 10/22 began life as just another design in a sea of comparable models from other companies. Like the guns listed above, you no longer need to go to the company that initially designed and introduced it to make one of your own; in fact, you can make 10/22 compatible gun without any Ruger parts at all.

The aftermarket for the 10/22 is the largest of any rimfire rifle, but just how did we get to this point when there were so many others out there in direct com-

petition with it at the time it was introduced?

The 10/22 was introduced in 1964 and was, for the time, a relatively unique design that incorporated a rotary magazine. This was not to say that the era was populated with total garbage and the 10/22 kicked in the front door of the market. The rifle was simple and, above all else, reliable, which are large factors in what gained it attention. Semi-auto rimfire rifles have often had issues with reliability, owed largely to the design of .22 LR ammunition with its rim and heel-base bullets and how they interact with the mechanism of the rifle itself.

It could be argued that the 10/22 magazine is the real reason behind the success of the rifle, a far step ahead of the typical in-line magazines and tube-fed models, which themselves aren't bad ... just not great for semi-auto operation. Manually operated rifles are usually much more forgiving of magazine type, but in the case of the 10/22, a reliable rimfire magazine that prevents feeding errors was noteworthy for the time.

Fast-forward to today and the 10/22 has continued marching onward into a place of mundane abundances; the rifle is, by sheer numbers alone, one of

the most popular single firearm models in the country. Literally millions and millions have been sold, and still more clones are in current production. The exact number is unknown, but it is likely hovering somewhere in the ballpark of 8-10 million. Recent years have seen the aftermarket grow so large that real estimates are difficult to make. Ruger currently lists more than 60 individual models on their website as of this writing. This, coupled with the aftermarket, shows how enduring this reliable little design is.

THE AFTERMARKET

For the sake of space in this article, this will not be a full review of every company that produces components and complete rifles, there is simply too much out there. A good place to start is just what makes the 10/22 platform a viable option for the aftermarket to begin with.

This is a somewhat simple concept in that the way the 10/22 was designed allows for it to be fully disassembled with basic tools ... and in such a way that new parts can be installed with the same tools. While this seems like a very basic notion, it's not—and the concept is the



The limited-edition True Precision TP/22 Hunter with Vortex optics, JK suppressor in an Armageddon Gear cover, Two Vets tripod and Triad stock pack.

basis for all the modular systems we have today, such as the AR-15 and 700-foot-print bolt guns.

Every single part of these modular systems is made by various companies, allowing you to build as you see fit. Guns that require actual gunsmithing and not just basic assembly have almost universally never achieved an aftermarket following, aside from basic things like stocks or grips.

The basis of the 10/22 is a barrel held onto the receiver with a simple V-block that interacts with a dovetail-style cut on the underside of the barrel. The barrel will self-time on installation using this method, so there isn't a need to head-space or go about complicated gunsmithing tasks. The bolt and spring assembly also installs easily and, again, there are various types to choose from.

Building out a 10/22 platform rifle is extremely easy, even for a person who has never done something like it before. The AR-15, while extremely common, does require some know-how to assemble and all the right tools so you don't scar the parts up installing roll pins and the like.

Now, this is an interesting point in the general conversation surrounding what we consider to be "modular." Very few of the platforms that set the modular stage were originally designed to be that way down to the part. Instead, it was manu-

The complete receiver with barrel and trigger simply drops into the stock of your choice.



The 10/22 platform disassembles with a single screw.



facturing choices that led us to start making easily installed, drop-in replacement parts. It is really that simple.

So, if something is too hard to work on, it usually remains just that, and the design never enters the public domain, so to speak. Companies can either love it or hate it, but, in general, once the aftermarket latches onto a design, the company in question can either embrace it and elevate or decide that design is theirs

only and watch it stagnate.

As previously mentioned, the 10/22 aftermarket is the largest it has ever been, and it continues to grow daily. You can get not just new barrels and receivers, but complete rifles ... and absolutely everything else in between.

RECEIVERS

There is going to be some overlap here with barrel makers, so don't be surprised.

The 10/22 receiver is a somewhat simple design that lends itself to modular construction. Many companies make aftermarket receivers, among them are Faxon Firearms, True Precision, Volquartsen, Brownells, TacSol and a whole lot more. These receivers often come in the "takedown" versions as well, but it varies by company. In general, these are all high quality, and you can take your pick for features and cost. Some do get a little pricey, to the tune of being able to buy a stack of basic Ruger brand rifles instead, but that's up to you, and I personally think the builds are a lot of fun.

Lumping it in with receivers are internals. Fortunately, there isn't much involved in this category, and you can again pick what you want, but most receiver makers will include their own bolt assembly. You can, of course, upgrade your charging handle and spring,



Timney makes some of the best triggers on the market for the 10/22. Note that they install with just a couple pins.



The V-Block assembly is a good, fast way to install barrels. Simply remove the screws and the barrel pops right off.

depending on your needs.

BARRELS

Barrels for the 10/22 platform are pretty neat these days. You can get some very cool colors to match your receiver—or go wild with mix and match. Install-

ing them is exactly the same across the board, and, should you choose, you can have more than one type if you want to tinker around with them.

I've used a good number of barrels from Faxon over the years, and they are wonderful. Likewise, I've had extremely good experience with True Precision. Most of the aftermarket barrels available today come threaded at the muzzle as a standard option, which is great if, like me, you're running suppressed.

In addition to the same companies that make receivers, other companies that make 10/22 barrels include ER Shaw,

Green Mountain, Ballistic Advantage, Proof Research, Summit Precision and many more.

TRIGGERS

Much like the Remington 700 and AR-15, you can easily get triggers for the 10/22 platform. I have gravitated almost exclusively to Timney and have them in all my 10/22 rifles. The trigger assembly is easy to use and usually installs to the receiver with no tools, although tight fitting pins do occasionally need a little bit of encouragement with a small plastic mallet, but don't go to town on them.

While I really like Timney, plenty of other companies make super high-quality trigger assemblies for the 10/22 in a wide range of colors and trigger types. Companies that make great triggers for the 10/22 include, but are not limited to: Volquartsen, Ruger, Powder River, JARD, CMC Triggers, Franklin Armory, Kidd and more.

STOCKS

Luckily, stock installation on basic models of 10/22 are easily installed ... with a single screw. Now, you might have added steps if you want to install a replica M1 Carbine stock assembly or a barrel band type stock, but, generally, dropping your action into a stock is twice as easy as on a Rem 700 with just one screw. The aftermarket space for stocks is vast, but some big players include Magpul, Archangel, Grey Birch, Samson, WOOX, MDT, Luth-AR, Hogue and many, many more. The growing market for modular chassis builds is also worth watching; more are popping up all the time.

AN EXAMPLE OF EXCELLENCE

As you might have noticed in the photography for this article, this is quite an eye-catching rifle in the form of the True Precision TP/22 Hunter. According to True Precision, the rifle is a limited-edition release that includes a special orange Cerakote Magpul stock and Timney Calvin Elite trigger.

I'm still putting this gun through its paces, but it's an example of just how good the semi-auto rimfire market has

You can dress up your 10/22 platform rifle any way you wish. Here we have a 1:1 size and weight M1 Carbine trainer, complete with all the accessories.



become. My first groups with the rifle using a Vortex optic and JK suppressor yielded not only very, very quiet shots ... but one ragged hole at 25 yards, my typical zeroing distance for rimfire rifles. I

backed it to 50 and then 100 yards, where it continued to deliver excellent results using standard velocity and supersonic CCI 40-grain ammunition.

Using subsonics, it was snap-your-fingers quiet. Lapua match loads dropped inside an inch at 100 yards, and at 50

yards, virtually all the ammo I used put them inside a half-inch off the bench.

In general, this type of performance is what I come to expect from high-end companies that stand behind their products, and you should expect your modern 10/22 platform to not just be reliable, but also extremely accurate. The best part about a ready-to-rock rifle like the TP/22 Hunter is that the gun has it all right out of the box, and you don't have to fight to get it running well. Turnkey guns like this take advantage of the best of what is offered in one place, but still afford you the opportunity to make changes if you wish down the road.

The beauty of these modular platforms is that you aren't married to one part, and you're able to do a lot on just your existing receiver should you want to, and you can change barrels and stocks in literally a minute if you're used to the process.

The future is certainly looking bright for the 10/22 platform—that much is certain. **GDTM**



Many companies include their own bolts and charging handles with receivers.

PRECISION
BULLETS

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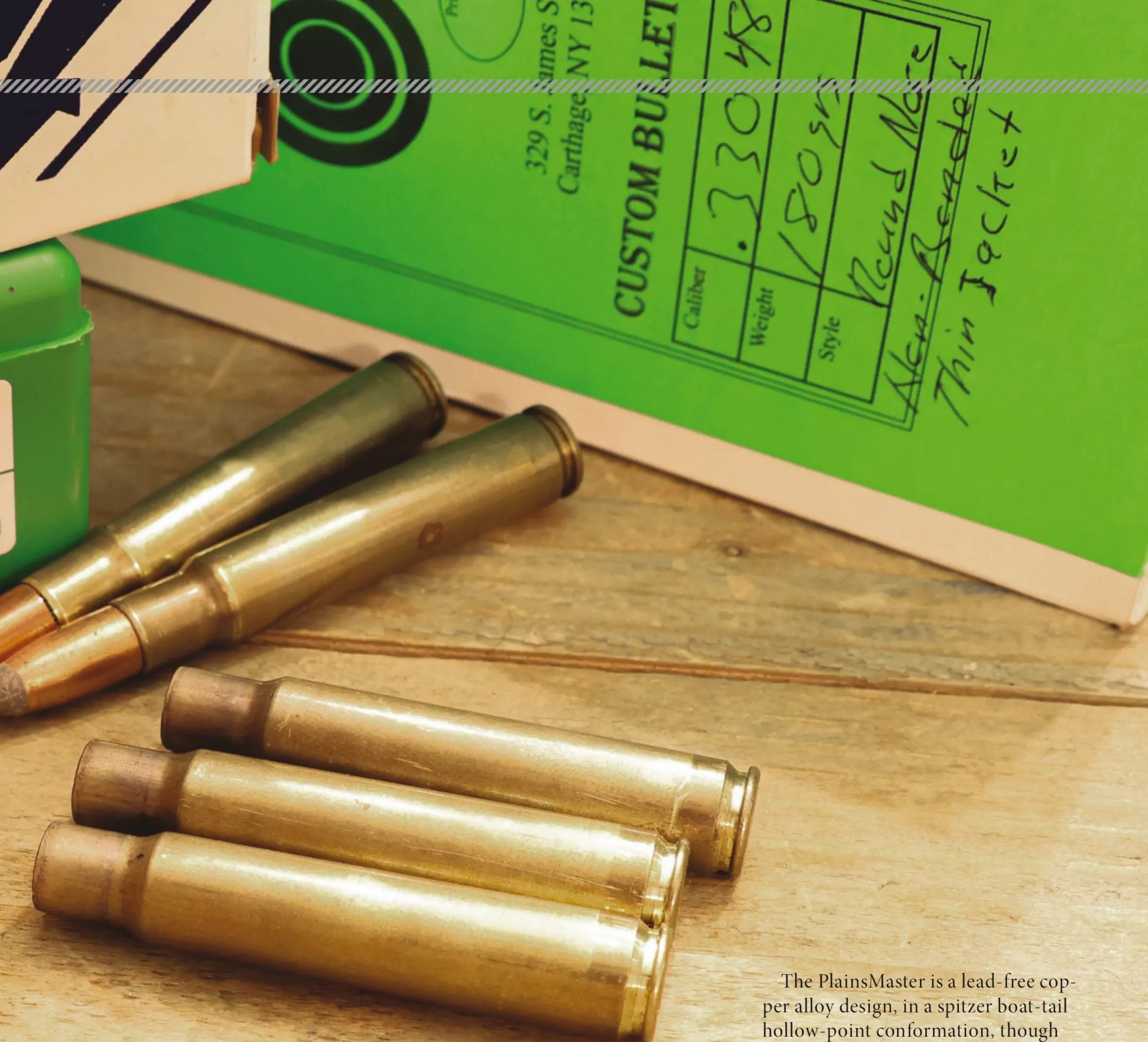
DESCRIPTION

318 RIMLESS NITRO EXP

SHELLHOLDER

SO, YOU WANT TO BE DIFFERENT?

Unique bullet designs that work.



I'll be the first to admit that factory ammunition manufactured today is the best it has ever been, and that the choice of projectiles is wider than ever, but I still have a sense of pride when using my handloads. Whether I'm using a unique projectile in a common cartridge or feeding a rifle or handgun chambered for an obsolete cartridge, handloading the unique is just plain cool.

And while loading a good old Nosler Partition in your .30-06 is surely sensible, sometimes it's just plain fun to be the one using a bullet that can't be bought in loaded ammunition.

Here are some of my favorite projectiles for those looking for a unique experience.

PEREGRINE BULLETS

Hailing from South Africa and imported to the United States by Discreet Ballistics, Peregrine Bullets have a full range of component projectiles—from handgun choices, to match bullets, to a great line of hunting projectiles for riflemen. I have the most experience with their hunting projectiles, having used them here in the States as well as on several safaris, and I've never been disappointed.

The PlainsMaster is a lead-free copper alloy design, in a spitzer boat-tail hollow-point conformation, though the cavity is occupied by a bronze tip used to initiate expansion. For those who enjoy the performance of copper projectiles, the PlainsMaster is among the best I've ever used. My old 6.5-284 would put three of the 129-grain PlainsMasters into $\frac{3}{4}$ -MOA groups religiously, and the whitetail deer were not a fan of this bullet by any means. I'd happily load a Peregrine PlainsMaster of suitable caliber and weight for any hunt in North America or any of the African species shy of the dangerous heavyweights.

For those larger species like Cape buffalo, the bison of North America, coastal grizzlies, Australian water buffalo and

South Africa's Peregrine makes a pair of excellent lead-free hunting bullets in the BushMaster and PlainsMaster.

the like, the Peregrine BushMaster is going to suit you quite well. These species are generally taken at closer distances, and the flat meplat of the BushMaster poses no issues. The large brass plunger sits atop a hollow cavity and drives the sidewalls of the bullet outward upon impact. I've taken several Cape buffalo bulls with this bullet, and it's pretty characteristic of the design to find the expanded bullet against the offside hide after creating a large wound channel. I'm a huge fan of these, especially when stalking the Cape buffalo.

HORNADY A-TIP MATCH

Hornady's factory-loaded ammunition is excellent, and for those who enjoy the sound of ringing steel, their Match ammo line, which features the ELD Match bullet, is a great source of fine accuracy. But for those who want to take things a step further, Hornady offers the A-Tip Match—which I consider one of the finest match bullets ever made. This article is about unique projectiles, and though Hornady is a household name in our industry, these bullets are only available in component form to be handloaded.

Precise jackets and uniform lead cores are mated to an aluminum tip, and you'll be challenged to feel the transition from aluminum tip to copper jacket with your fingernail. These are taken directly off the assembly line and put immediately in the packaging; Hornady even included a polishing cloth to remove the oil from the projectiles. You can buy the A-Tip Match in lots up to 500 pieces for the ultimate in consistency.

The A-Tip Match is available in calibers ranging from 0.224 inch up to 0.416 inch, so there should be an option for nearly every target shooter. If you are into the most consistent components, give Hornady's A-Tip Match a whirl, but be sure and use a VLD seating stem to avoid damaging



the meplat.

MCGUIRE BALLISTICS

California's move to mandated lead-free projectiles inspired the folks at McGuire Ballistics to build a better mousetrap. Sam McGuire is the brains behind the company, and as he is equal parts machinist and hunting guide, he knows a thing or two about how hunting bullets should perform. He routinely pursues those big California feral hogs at all sorts of ranges, so he wanted a projectile that would give the needed results in a variety of situations.

Enter his Copper Rose projectile, an all-copper spitzer boat-tail softpoint,

quickly gaining an excellent reputation in the fields and woods. My .300 Winchester Magnum loves the 178-grain Copper Rose (magazine feed variant) over a healthy dose of IMR 4831, printing three-shot groups averaging just over 0.6 inch at my 100-yard range, with very consistent velocities. That particular bullet sports a G1 Ballistic Coefficient of 0.600, so it'll definitely retain a good amount of energy, as well as resisting wind deflection at longer ranges.

This design will certainly work well for deer and hogs, but I wouldn't hesitate to reach for these for an elk, moose or bear hunt, or even for one of the sheep species or a mountain goat.

The Peregrine BushMaster is perfect for dangerous game. These three 500-grain bullets were recovered from Cape buffalo bulls in Zimbabwe from the author's Heym 470 NE double rifle.



It'd also make a great bullet for the serious aoudad hunter, as those rams can take a pounding, and the integrity of the Copper Rose would be most welcome. Available in 0.224-inch 71 grains, 6mm 93 grains, 0.257-inch 95, 117 and 122 grains, 6.5mm 114, 125 and 130 grains, 0.277-inch 128 and 148 grains, 7mm 143, 160 and 168 grains, 0.308-inch 156, 168, 178 and 195 grains, and 0.338-inch 225 and 250 grains.

McGuire also has a match bullet available—their Steel Slayer line—which appear to have the same profile as the Copper Rose projectiles, though I must confess I have yet to lay my hands upon these for any sort of evaluation.

NORTHERN PRECISION CUSTOM PROJECTILES

Based in Western New York, Northern Precision is the brainchild of Bill Noody, and he has some excellent component projectiles for the rifleman and handgunner alike. As Noody is a one-man show, each projectile is hand-formed by him, and he makes some highly consistent products. I love the fact that Noody is approachable and isn't afraid to take on a new project.

After using his stuff in some of the more common calibers and cartridges, Noody and I talked about providing a USA-made option for feeding the .318 Westley Richards I love so much, and it wasn't long before we had a 250-grain round-nose bonded core bullet that works perfectly. It's of a proper shape and weight to get the classic performance the cartridge is famous for, and Noody's projectiles have proved to be just as accurate as the stuff from Kynoch or Woodleigh. Best of all, they're made practically in my backyard. Noody and I also discussed a lighter bullet for that cartridge, culminating in a thin-jacketed 180-grain bullet, in a flat-base round-nose conformation with a bit of dimpled lead at the nose.

Even Noody's more common designs are unique. During some range

testing, I loaded up some of Northern Precision's 165-grain .30-caliber Spitzer RBT Bonded Core Open Tip (that's a mouthful) in my Winchester 70 .300 H&H Magnum. This rifle normally likes bullets on the longer side of things; in fact, the best loads I've seen in this rifle are built around the 200-grain Nosler AccuBond and the same weight of Federal's Terminal Ascent. However, the Northern Precision 165-grain RBT gave excellent results, with three-shot groups averaging 0.7-inch groups at 100 yards, giving me an excellent load for our New York deer and bear season. That Open Tip design will surely give good expansion for deer and similar game, yet the bonded

core will hold together on the heavy bones of a truly large black bear or even an elk or moose.

Noody uses the RBT (Rebated Boat-tail) design, which has what looks like a stepped transition into the boat-tail. This feature is supposed to reduce muzzle blast dispersion by 15 percent or so, which will enhance accuracy and give more consistent velocities. I know this rifle likes them so much; they are headed to the woods with me this fall, celebrating the .300 H&H's 100th birthday. The Sabre-Star handgun bullet line features both bonded and non-bonded designs in a number of common calibers, at useful weights.

My Ruger Blackhawk 45 Colt loves



For those absolutely serious about the long-range accuracy game, Hornady's A-Tip Match is a bullet available only in component form and is capable of fantastic long-range performance.

(below) McGuire Ballistics' Copper Rose bullet was born from the need for an utterly reliable lead-free projectile, to be used at a variety of hunting ranges.





the 270-grain Sabre-Star with the cannelure, while my Sig Sauer 1911 seems very happy with the 200-grain variant, without cannelure. His handgun bullets are limited to 10mm and .45-caliber. Noody has a number of useful designs, from a bonded-core flat-nose 400-grain bullet made to work with the Marlin 45-70 Guide Gun, to more traditional designs for obsolete cartridges like the .405 Winchester, .22 Savage High-Power and .348 Winchester, and he is open to discuss custom options for whatever you may need.

NOSLER'S SOLID BASE BULLET

Rewind the clock to the late 1970s,

and Nosler's Partition was the indisputable flagship of their fleet, but the Ballistic Tip, AccuBond and Expansion Tip—as well as any Nosler factory loaded ammunition—were years away. There was another choice, however, among the component bullets: the Solid Base. A cup-and-core design, with a bit of exposed lead at the nose and a copper jacket that thickens at the base, the Solid Base bullet was recently reintroduced in the Nosler Whitetail Country ammo line. And while the cartridge selection in that ammo line covers a lot of ground, the fact that the Solid Base bullet has recently become available in component form again is great news for handloaders.



New York's Northern Precision offers many great cup-and-core designs, including bonded-core, round nose and RBT boat-tail bullets.

I used this bullet last fall in the .308 Winchester, in the Whitetail Country ammo, and it took a good Catskill Mountain eight-point without issue. Now, if you'd like to use this bullet in a .300 Savage, .30 Remington, 6.5x55 Swede, or .244 Remington, the components are there for you to do so. Nosler has made the Solid Base available in 6mm 100 grains, 6.5mm 140 grains, 0.277-inch 130 grains, 7mm 140 grains, 0.308-inch 150 grains (spitzer and round nose, for the 30-30) and 165 grains.

HAWK BULLETS

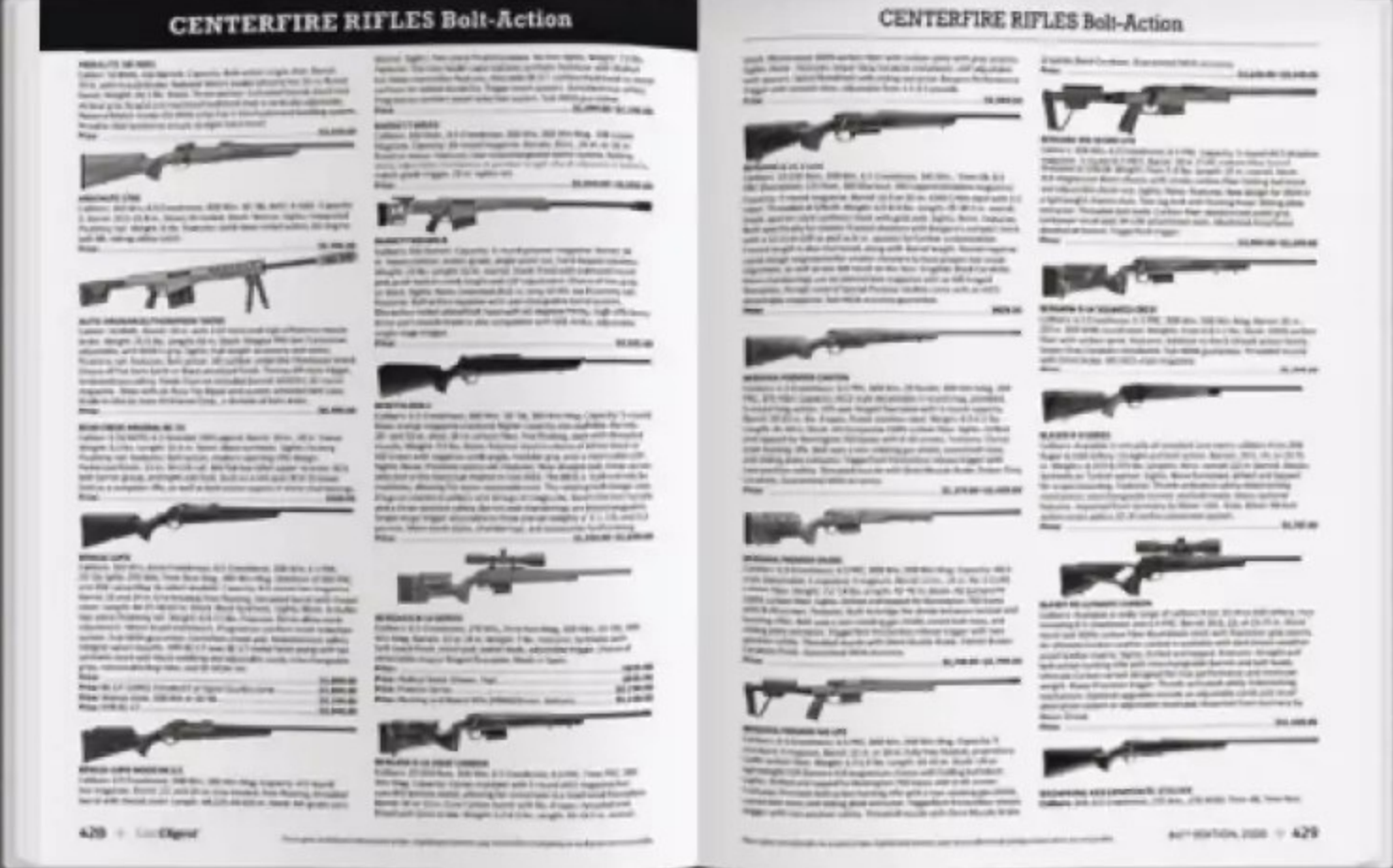
If you've got an oddball cartridge, Hawk can be an invaluable source of projectiles. Using a pure copper jacket and lead core, Hawk's hunting bullets give excellent expansion for a large wound channel (sometimes up to three times the original diameter) and are easy on the older barrels, many of which have been nearly ruined by the modern monometal designs.

Thirty-five years of hunting reports have shown that Hawk's bullet designs work, as they offer a number of nose profiles. But it is the sheer number of obscure bullet diameters offered by Hawk that makes them such a valuable resource. Need a 0.286-inch-diameter bullet for your .280 Ross? No worries. Are you struggling to find ammo for your .333 Jeffery, especially those fabled 300-grain slugs? Hawk has your back. Found a helluva deal on a .475 No. 2 Jefferies, but are now panicking about a source for 0.482-inch-diameter projectiles? Again, Hawk to the rescue. Among the bullet choices, there are a number of different jacket thicknesses to choose from, so you can customize your bullet to a certain degree.

Bill Noody of Northern Precision bullets designed a custom 180-grain thin jacket bullet for the .318 Westley Richards, giving a great option for deer and other thin-skinned game.

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Northern Precision's bonded-core Guide Bullet is optimized to perform in the .45-70 Government, especially in the Marlin Guide Gun and the like.



Hawk Bullets from New Jersey offers a bullet for nearly every shooter, as they specialize in the obscure. Shown here are projectiles for the .318 Westley Richards and the .505 Gibbs.

If you don't see what you want, Hawk accepts custom orders, but you'll have to contact them to discuss the parameters. I've used Hawk's stuff in my .318 Westley Richards. Their 200-grain bullet worked perfectly and in the mighty .505 Gibbs, where the 500-grain round nose gave excellent accuracy. They are worth keep-

ing on your favorites bar, if you like the obscure.

MAKE IT YOUR OWN

There is something special about using a unique combination of cartridge, load and bullet; once the trigger is pulled and the desired results achieved, I feel a sense

of pride nearly unequaled in the shooting world. Yes, I have relied upon the common components and cartridge many times, but the do-it-yourself aspect of handloading ammunition has led to the desire to embrace the unique. Fly your freak flag and sally forth with a combination no one else uses. **GDTM**

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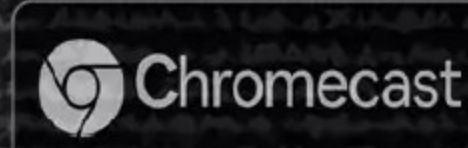
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RIMFIRE HISTORY

There's a cartoon floating around online called "The Invention of Archery."

Three guys are standing beside each other. The first guy says, *I really wanna stab that guy, but he's way over there.*

Firearms were likely dreamt up along the same lines. Someone hit upon the idea that blackpowder stuffed down a tube, topped with a projectile, and touched off with fire,

did spectacular damage downrange. Man, I want to knock that castle down, but it's way over there.

In Europe, cannons showed up in Italy around 1320. For the next 200 years, firearms were essentially hand cannons—short, stout barrels loaded with blackpowder, then packed with rocks, pebbles, and sometimes arrows. You jabbed a hole in the barrel's top or side with a smoldering stick or hot iron. Firing

it was a two-person job. One soldier would hold the hand cannon (while presumably saying his prayers), and a second would grace the touch hole with the red poker. Anyone who's seen a small wheel-mounted cannon go off—the type that shoots golf balls and is popular at sportsmen's clubs in the country on chicken barbecue weekends—can imagine the thrill of holding such a device under one's arm. Hand cannons weren't particu-

the invention of archery

I really wanna stab that guy, but he's way over there.



A replica matchlock. Note the long-burning cord. It would stay lit over many shots. Photo: Kathy Rittyrats

The Internet gets it right, again. Photo: Public domain



A replica Brown Bess flintlock by Davide Pedersoli. Gunsmiths converted many of the early rifles to percussion caps through the 1800s. Photo: Pedersoli



A big rimfire: The Spencer rifle of the American Civil War proved a deciding mechanical advantage for the North.

larly safe or accurate, but when they worked, look out.

By the 15th century, the matchlock came along. A lever, and later a trigger, was added under the barrel. When pulled, the “lock” dropped a lit cord or match into the flash pan and started the ignition process. There was a painful time delay between pulling the trigger, the lock dropping the match into a flash pan that ignited a sprinkle of powder, and the main charge in the barrel going off. Today, engineers still work to reduce that “lock time” between trigger pull and ignition, but now they’re shaving fractions of milliseconds. In contrast, a 1400s French *arquebus* could have taken several seconds to go off.

It’s worth noting, early firearms weren’t more accurate or deadlier than archery tackle, but they were faster to reload than a crossbow and less expensive and time-consuming to manufacture. Firearms flattened the training curve, too. An illiterate peasant with a matchlock and some instruction could knock a mounted knight off his horse in short order. Proficiency with lance or sword or bow could take years of training. Firearms democratized combat in the Middle Ages.

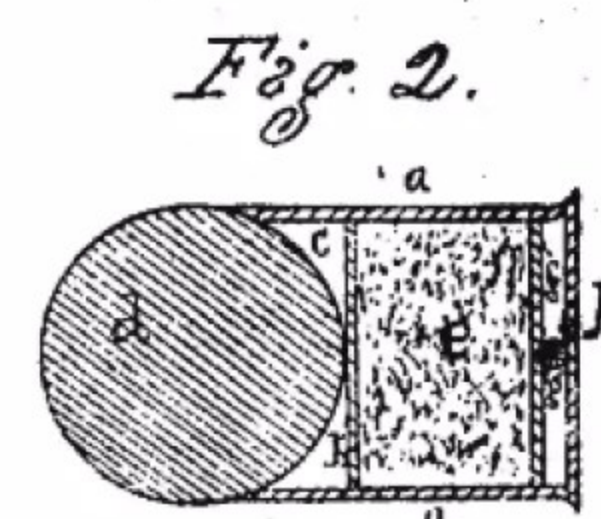
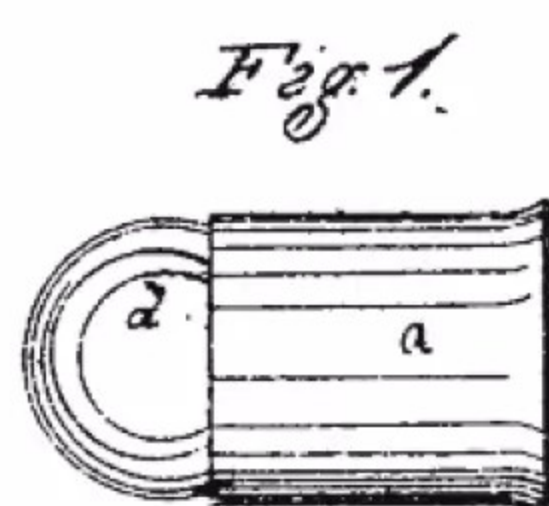
The matchlock evolved into the wheel lock, dog lock, and eventually the flintlock. Instead of a smoldering match dropped in the flash pan, a piece of flint struck steel sending a shower of sparks toward the black-powder. Flintlocks didn’t require an always-smoldering length of cord, but they still had issues. The powder in the pan sent up a noxious yellow smoke cloud before the bullet took off that would often eclipse the target, affecting accuracy and spook game animals.

In 1800, British chemist Edward Charles Howard discovered fulminates—chemical compounds that

exploded on impact. This discovery forever changed firearms for the better. A few years later, a Presbyterian minister in Scotland—annoyed that birds would flush as powder smoked in the pan of his flintlock—adopted fast-acting fulminates to his shotgun lock. British gunsmith Joseph Manton invited a cap-like system in 1814. Still, it took an American artist in Philadelphia, Joshua Shaw, to develop the sealed copper cup laden with fulminates, which we know today as the percussion cap.

Like the M1819 Hall Rifle and the British Brown Bess, many early percussion muskets were

*Smith & Wesson,
Cartridge.
No. 11,496. Patented Aug. 8, 1854.*



Smith & Wesson’s early variation on the Flobert design. Note there is no real rim. The first designs taper fit to the chamber.

flintlock conversions. The flash pan was tossed, replaced with a metal “nipple” connected to the chamber’s powder by a small tube. Copper and sometimes brass percussion caps shaped like miniature top hats sat over the head of the exposed nipple. When you pulled the trigger, a heavy hammer dropped on the percus-

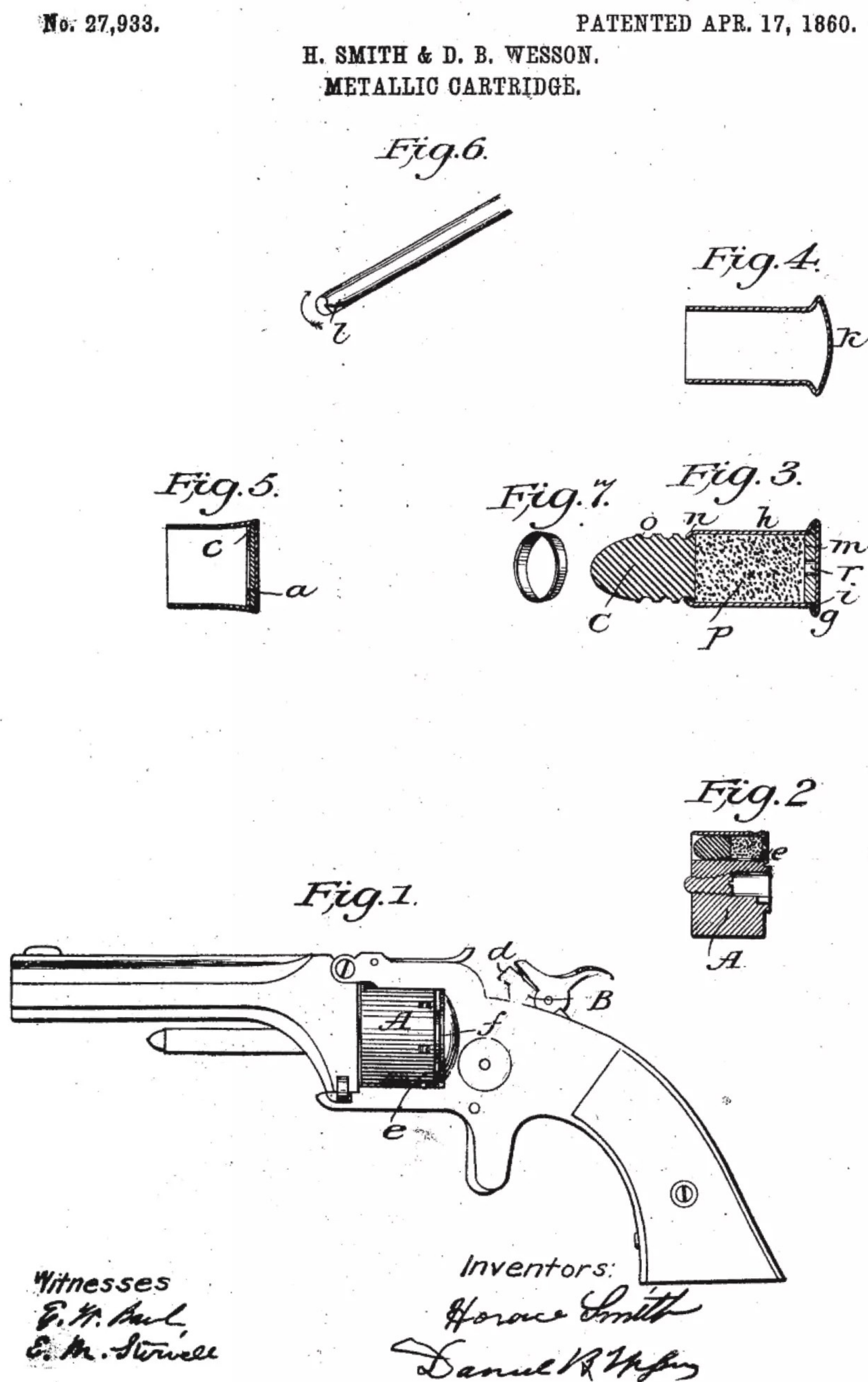
sion cap, detonating the fulminates, which sent sparks to the powder in the barrel, and away the lead ball went. An infantryman armed with a percussion musket or rifle would carry a pouch of caps and another of paper cartridges. To load, he’d rip open the powder end of the cartridge with his teeth, spill the premeasured

slug of blackpowder down his musket barrel, seat the lead ball by hand, then use a ramrod to get the whole package snug at the bottom of the barrel. Musket shouldered, on went the percussion cap. After the first volley, it took a well-trained soldier 20 to 30 seconds to reload. A fighting regiment could get off three volleys a minute.

Throughout the 1800s, firearms development coincided with cartridge development. Engineers, inventors, gunsmiths, and crackpots tried various ways to speed reloads by integrating fulminate primer, powder and bullet into a single package—then they built guns around their idea.

In 1808, the Swiss gunsmith Jean Samuel Pauly developed a self-contained paper cartridge with primer snugged behind the bullet. You loaded this gun from the breech end, much like a modern break-action shotgun. When you pulled the trigger, a needle struck through the paper and detonated the primer. Frenchman Casimir Lefauchaux took this idea and replaced the paper for brass to develop the pinfire cartridge. Each round had a firing pin that jutted off the cartridge’s side at a 90-degree angle. Trip the trigger on an early pinfire, and the hammer dropped, striking the integrated pin, detonating the primer. Then, around 1845, another Frenchman, Louis-Nicolas Flobert, created the first modern firearm cartridge.

The Parisian Flobert took a simple copper cup, loaded it with fulminate primer compound and topped it with a round ball—essentially a bullet crimped to a percussion cap. There was no real rim or flange at a 90-degree angle in his first designs. The case head had a taper that wedged the cartridge in the chamber. There was no powder in the case, only the primer and the lead ball. Flobert’s rifles and revolvers were designed for indoor parlor shooting or whacking a troublesome rodent in the pantry.



Smith & Wesson's .22 Short patent illustration shows a clear rim and convex case head it believed led to better primer ignition. The firm patented the Short along with the Model 1 revolver that fired it.

They were gallery guns, designed to punch paper or tip over little tin animals at a few steps, much like gallery shooting games prevalent at American carnivals and country fairs until recent times. The early Flobert designs had heavy hammers that crushed the primer side of the self-contained metallic cartridge. In later versions, he added a firing pin to the action.

At the London Exposition of 1851, Flobert exhibited his small .22-caliber rifle. Attending were two Americans, Horace Smith and Daniel Wesson. They were impressed, and by 1857 they had developed a new cartridge of similar design, the .22 Short, for the new Smith & Wesson Model 1 revolver. They patented the cartridge on April 17, 1860, as the “S&W .22 Rim Fire.”

This new metallic cartridge had a straight case and hollow rim—a first in the United States. The hollow rim allowed Smith & Wesson to use a wet priming mixture, spun to the rim’s edge and dried. You could then add the powder to the case without mixing it with powdered primer—a problem that led to constant misfires in the duo’s other post-London designs. Smith & Wesson loaded its first .22s with 4 grains of fine blackpowder. The powder sat atop a perforated-paper wad to further prevent the dried primer from mixing with the powder. (Later, as S&W perfected the wet-primer process, it dropped the paper disc.) The head of the case was convex or dished out, not flat like modern rimfire ammo. There was no headstamp. Smith & Wesson thought the dished head helped more evenly distribute the primer around the rim. Pull the trigger and a firing pin stabbed the brass case’s rim, igniting the primer.

Like today, yesteryear’s ammo makers loaded the first .22 Shorts with a 29-grain lead round-nose bullet. The bullet had a tapered heel that reduced the backside of its diameter so it would fit in the

case. This design became known as a “heeled” or “outside lubricated” design. You applied wax or grease to the bullet outside the case to prevent lead buildup in the bore. (All .22 rimfire bullets are still heeled and outside lubricated except for the .22 Winchester Magnum Rimfire.) Smith & Wesson’s 1860 patent shows three lubrication grooves, or can-

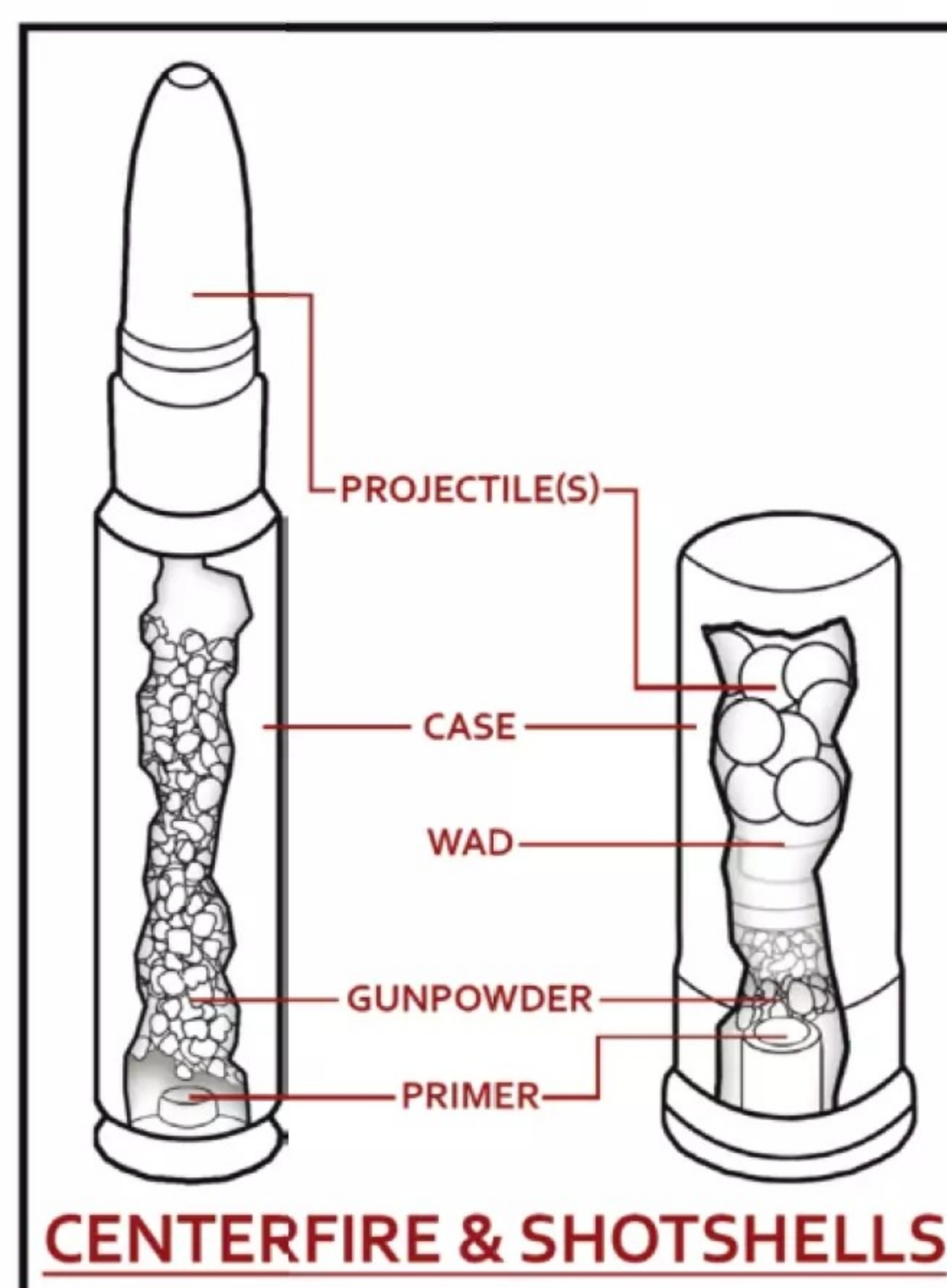
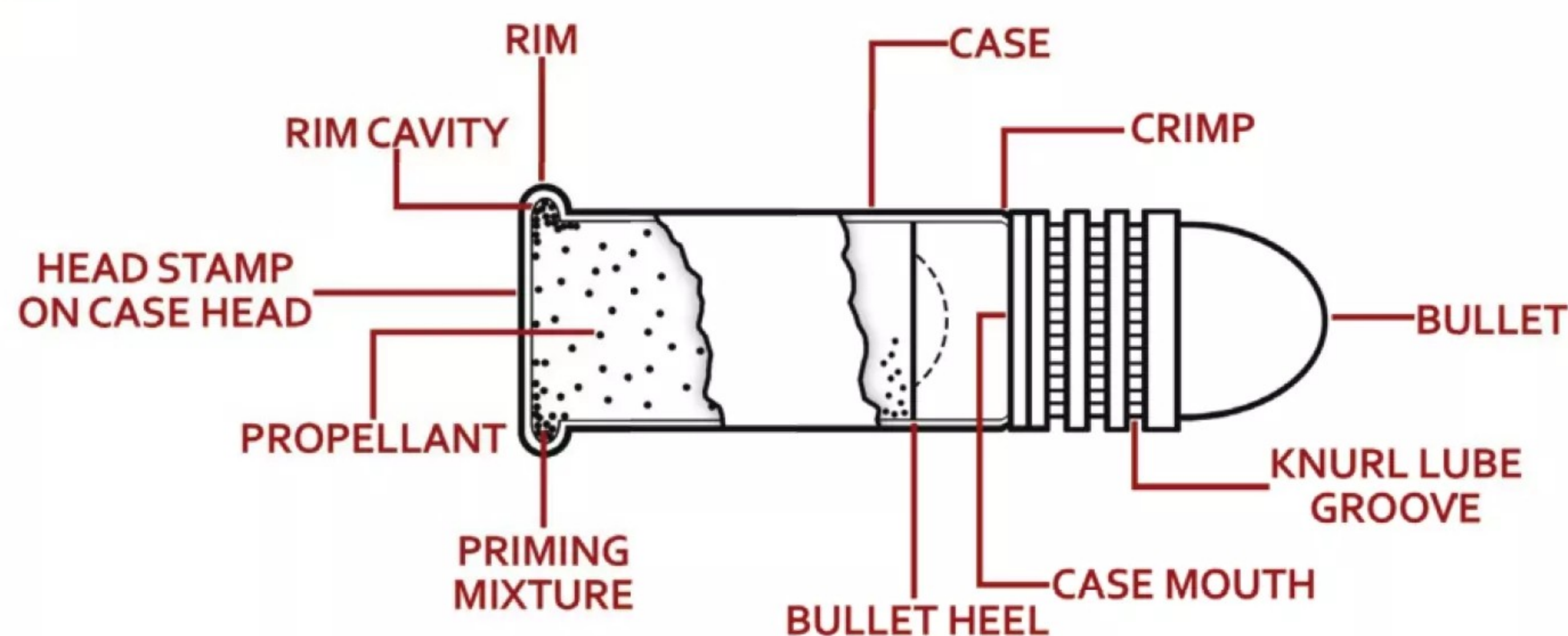
nelure, along the bullet’s diameter. The cartridge case had a light crimp on the bottommost cannelure to secure the bullet in place. With this design, the diameter of the brass case matched the outside caliber diameter of the bullet. The bullet base was convex or dished as if you pressed a BB into the lead—a likely design holdover from the caseless

The advertisement features three Wilson Combat pistols arranged vertically against a dark, smoky background. The top pistol is labeled 'CLEAR ANODIZED FRAME'. The middle pistol is labeled 'INTEGRATED COMPENSATOR'. The bottom pistol is labeled 'OPTIC READY'. On the left side, the words 'SHORTS' are written vertically in a large, white, stylized font. On the right side, the words 'WILSON COMBAT' are written vertically in a large, white, sans-serif font, with a registered trademark symbol (®) at the end.

An early Flobert design. The trigger pull drops a heavy hammer that slams a short, squat firing pin into the back of the round. These guns were popular in the United States until the start of World War II. Flobert manufactured this rifle in 1933.



RIMFIRE



Volcanic and Rocket Ball cartridges that were cutting edge in their day. Modern bullet and cartridge designs have abandoned most of these principles, but you could never call these features unsuccessful. The .22 rimfires are still the most widely produced arms and ammo in the world. The antique .22 Short remained an Olympian as the official round for international rapid-fire pistol competition until 2004, when the .22 LR replaced it.

While underpowered by today's standards, the Model 1 in .22 Short became a popular compact self-defense revolver with soldiers on both sides of the Civil War. Smith & Wesson's first pistol and cartridge were a major early financial success, too, thanks mainly to the rimfire manufacturing process it developed. Like copper and copper-alloys like brass, soft metal could be rolled into thin sheet metal, then punched into small discs. These discs were then

“drawn” into little tubes with one end closed. A rim was “bumped” into the head, much like how a handloader uses a resizing die to shape centerfire brass. The malleable metal didn’t tear or split through the forming process. Hundreds of these little cups could be drawn and bumped in a single pass of a 19th-century machine press. This process made ammunition for the Model 1 widely available and affordable. Several U.S. manufacturers started producing the easy-to-make “.22 Rim Fire.” Overseas, Eley of England manufactured it as the .230 Rimfire. By 1871, annual round production hit 30 million.

Flobert’s cartridge developed more of a rim and became known as the .22 BB Cap. The BB stands for “bullet breech,” a reference to the breech-end loading in Flobert rifles and pistols. (Later came the .22 CB for Conical Bullet.) When multiple variations on the Smith & Wesson cartridge appeared in the 1870s, including the .22 Long in 1871, the firm renamed it the .22 Short.

The hollow rim and wet-priming process pioneered by Smith & Wesson did several things very well. First, the rim of a rimfire held the cartridge securely in the breechface. A closed action effectively clamped the round in place. (Many of the early Flobert actions didn’t even lock. A stout mainspring held tight enough.) Second, the ammunition was relatively weather-sealed with the bullet pressed in place surrounded by a copper case—a dramatic improvement over loose powder and paper cartridges. Third, the malleable copper case created a seal at the breech end and further expanded to the chamber on detonation, so all the toxic fulminate gases and blackpowder smoke went down the barrel and away from the shooter’s face. Four, the rim provided an excellent gripping surface for reliable extraction and ejection. (Extraction and ejection issues plagued early

needle-fires and pinfires). Five, the rim provided an effective way to measure and build proper headspace into bolts and barrels, which helped make the round accurate. Headspace is the distance between the bolt face and the chamber’s part that prevents the case from moving forward. With a rimfire, the headspace takes up the rim thickness, sandwiched between the bolt face and the breech.

Inventors flooded patent offices in the U.S. and Europe with rimfire designs between the 1860s and 1890s. There were many new but inconsequential .22s developed, but most were much larger.

In 1860, B. Tyler Henry patented a rimfire repeater with a cartridge called the .44 Henry Flat. By 1865, repeating carbines utilizing .56- and .58-caliber rimfire cartridges like the Sharps and the Spencer outmatched all muzzleloading small arms on

the battlefield and helped the North win the Civil War. The U.S. Army reportedly resisted the Spencer rifle, chambered in .56-56 Spencer, but after President Abraham Lincoln shot a Spencer himself in 1863, he insisted a large order get placed. After the war, the Winchester 1866 “yellow boy” in .44 Rimfire went on to win the West—and Winchester the imaginations of shooters everywhere. By 1880, a catalog for Union Metallic Cartridge Company listed 40 rimfire cartridges for sale. Only two were .22s. More than half ranged between the Colt .41 and .58 Joslyn.

Rimmed big-bore cartridges dominated small arms until the advent of smokeless powder required cartridges to handle high pressures. Like the French Poudre B, early smokeless powders proved three times more potent than blackpowder by weight and produced much

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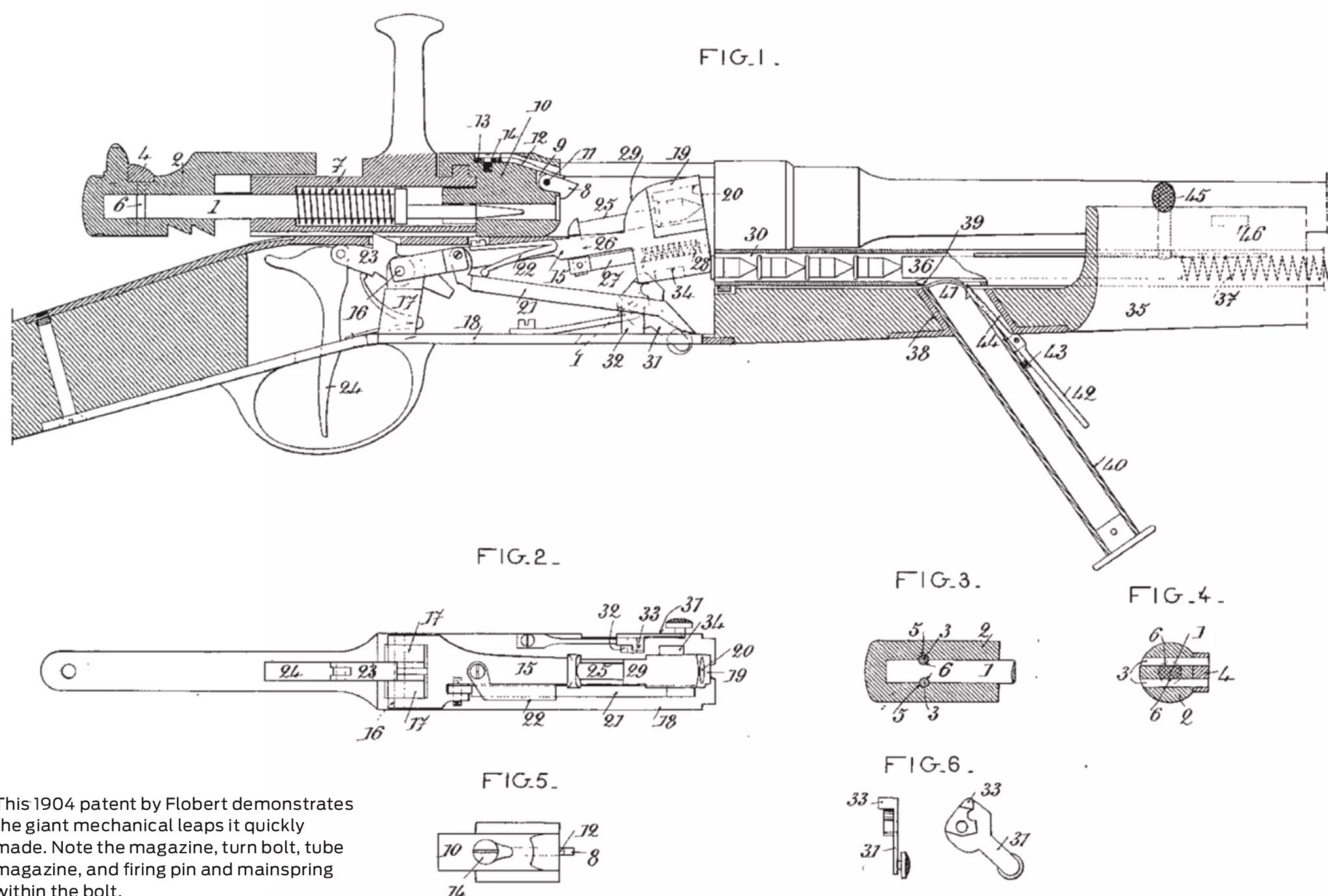
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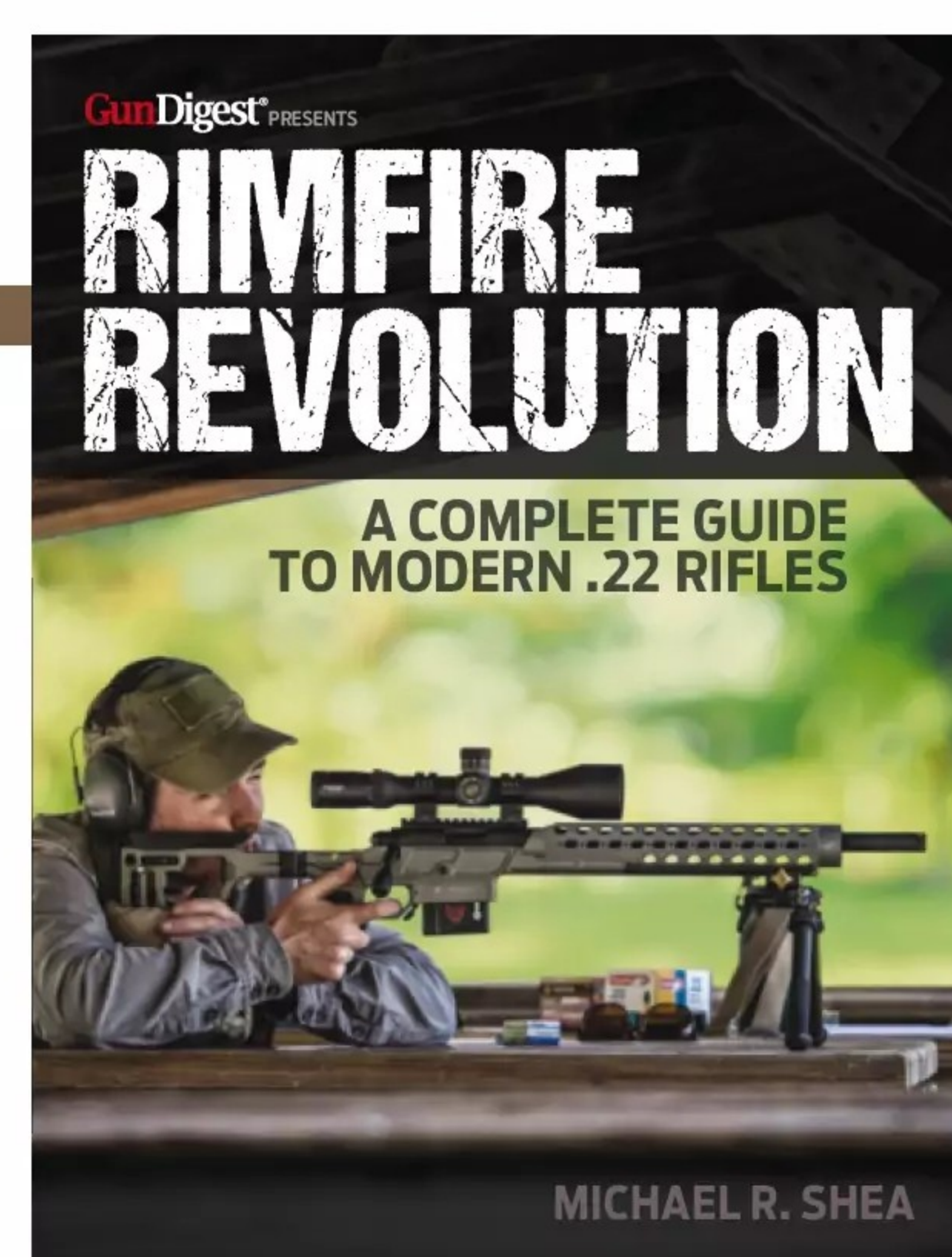


This 1904 patent by Flobert demonstrates the giant mechanical leaps it quickly made. Note the magazine, turn bolt, tube magazine, and firing pin and mainspring within the bolt.

less smoke. Rimfire cases by design straddled the pressure curve from the very beginning. The brass case had to be soft enough for a firing pin to depress the rim and ignite the primer and strong enough not to blow out the case head or split the case in the chamber. In small doses, smokeless worked well in rimfire cartridges, but the brass of big bores like the .44 Henry pushed a 200-grain bullet with 28 grains of blackpowder and could not handle the equivalent weight of smokeless or semi-smokeless. One of the largest rimfires ever developed, the .58 Miller, sent a 500-grain bullet downrange pushed by 60 grains of blackpowder. The smokeless powder had much different pressure demands and quickly ushered the

development of centerfire priming and beefed-up case heads.

Around 1887, .22 Shorts hit the market loaded with semi-smokeless and smokeless powder. This development brought together all the features of modern rimfire ammunition into a single package—all of which persist today. The brass case had a hollow rim spun full of wet primer. The heeled, outside-lubricated lead bullet matched the diameter of the case. Makers loaded the self-contained little rimfire cartridge with smokeless powder. Many iterations of these features would come and go, but none would take over like the world-famous .22 Long Rifle—by far the most widely produced small arms cartridge the world has ever seen. **GDTM**



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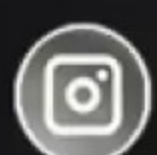
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