

BURRIS ROUND-UP:
RED DOTS & SCOPES

HORNADY & RUGER
CELEBRATE 75 YEARS

PROOFHOUSE: SIG SAUER
CROSS IN .300 MAGNUM

gunsandammo.com

GUNS & AMMO

APRIL 2024

EXCLUSIVE!

MODEL 1854

A NOD TO THE FIRST SUCCESSFUL
LEVER-ACTION REPEATER,
SMITH & WESSON HONORS
ITS ORIGIN STORY
WITH A .44 MAGNUM!

P. 26

XS SIGHTS
GHOST RING
APERTURE



FIRST SHOTS

YEAR OF THE .45

SPRINGFIELD ARMORY UPDATES
THE LEGENDARY TACTICAL
RESPONSE PISTOL LINE.

P. 36



P. 25

KURTENBACH

The .45 ACP is
making a comeback.



P. 62

EMARY

Testing my vintage
Marlin Model 1881.



P. 21

TARR

The 10mm, too, is
making a comeback.



FACTORY-DIRECT SUPPRESSORS

OVER 40 MODELS TO CHOOSE FROM



CALL NOW FOR EXCLUSIVE OFFER*

ONLY \$189 DOWN*

4 EASY PAYMENTS  262-200-0003

SHIPPED TO YOUR DOOR 

NO FEES | FREE SHIPPING | PAY WHILE YOU WAIT | LIFETIME WARRANTY

MORE INFO



* OFFER CODE "GUNS10" 10% SITE-WIDE VALID UNTIL 08/01/24

* BASED ON AVERAGE PRICE AT 25% DOWN PAYMENT MSRP



1 DESIGN | 2 SIZES
FITS 275+
OF THE MOST POPULAR
FIREARMS

NEAR INFINITE
RETENTION
ADJUSTMENTS

THE EPITOME OF
VERSATILITY, INNOVATION,
AND PERFORMANCE.

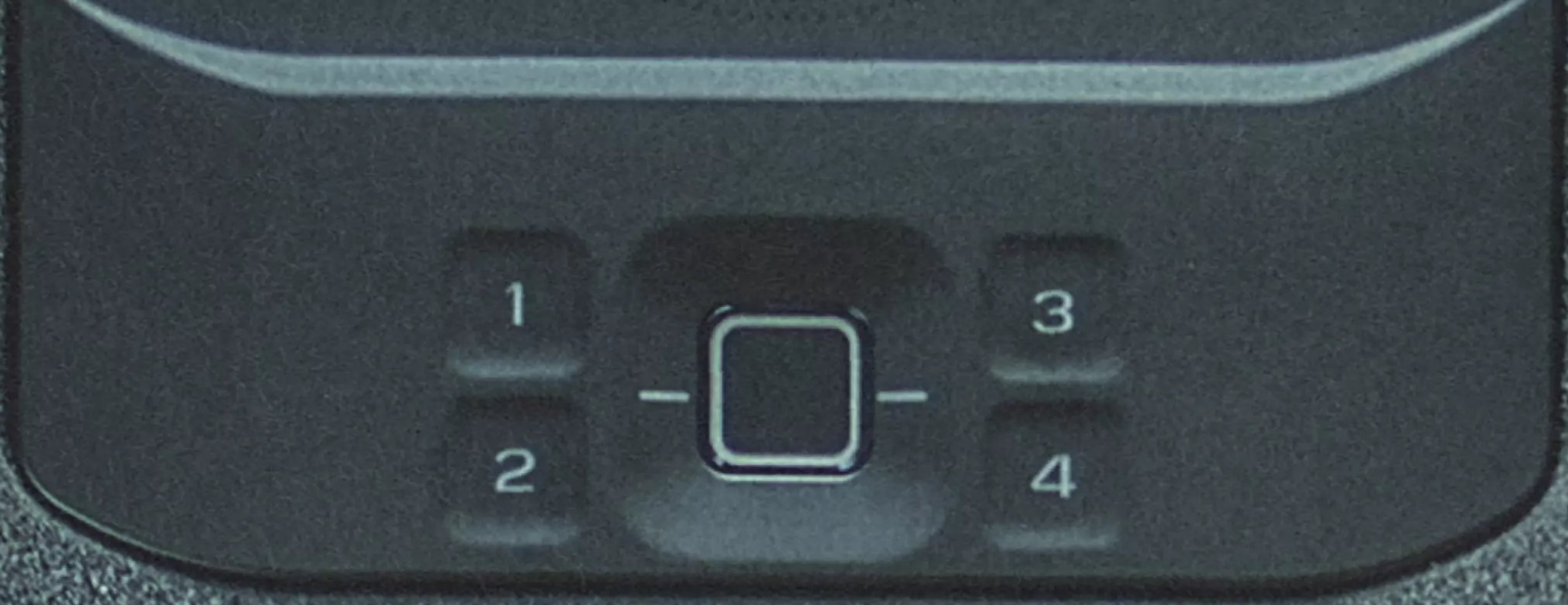
MULTIFLEX
IWB-OWB [INSIDE / OUTSIDE
THE WAISTBAND] HOLSTER



N8TACTICAL
BY **CROSSBREED HOLSTERS**

N8.CROSSBREEDHOLSTERS.COM





CARRY WHAT DEFINES YOU



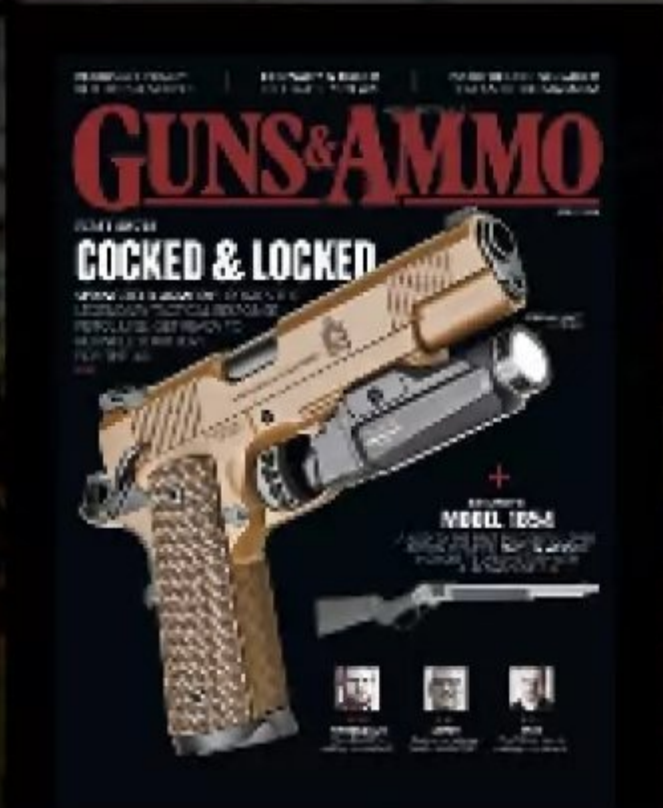
P365 **AXG LEGION**

Like all pistols in the LEGION family, the new P365-AXG LEGION embodies what its owners stand for and expect. Quality, innovation and performance. Featuring our first ever all-metal AXG grip module for the P365 and fitted with custom LEGION G10 grip panels, paired with an optics-ready slide that features SIG SAUER'S patent-pending integrated expansion chamber for recoil reduction, and an extended magwell for faster reloads. The P365-AXG LEGION has XRAY3 Day/Night sights and is finished in the signature LEGION Gray Cerakote Elite finish.

THE NEW P365-AXG LEGION. CARRY WHAT DEFINES YOU.

SIG SAUER®

CONTENTS



The subscriber cover features Springfield Armory's TRP in Coyote Brown equipped with a Streamlight TLR-9. **p. 36**



BY ANTONIO ACITELLI

SMITH & WESSON
LOOKED TO THE
COMPANY'S LONG
HISTORY FOR
INSPIRATION,
AND PRODUCED
A LEVER ACTION
WORTHY OF
THEIR LEGACY.

26

A LEVER-ACTION
LOVE LETTER

COVER PHOTOS: MICHAEL ANSCHUETZ; ABOVE PHOTO: ANTONIO ACITELLI

36

COCKED & LOCKED
Springfield Armory updates
the TRP line.
BY JAMES TARR

46

**CONNECTING WITH
TARGETS**
Burris bridges the visual gap
with optical technology.
BY ALFREDO RICO

54

FELLOWSHIP IN FIREPOWER
Teamwork between Hornady
and Ruger produced several
great cartridges.
BY CRAIG BODDINGTON

62

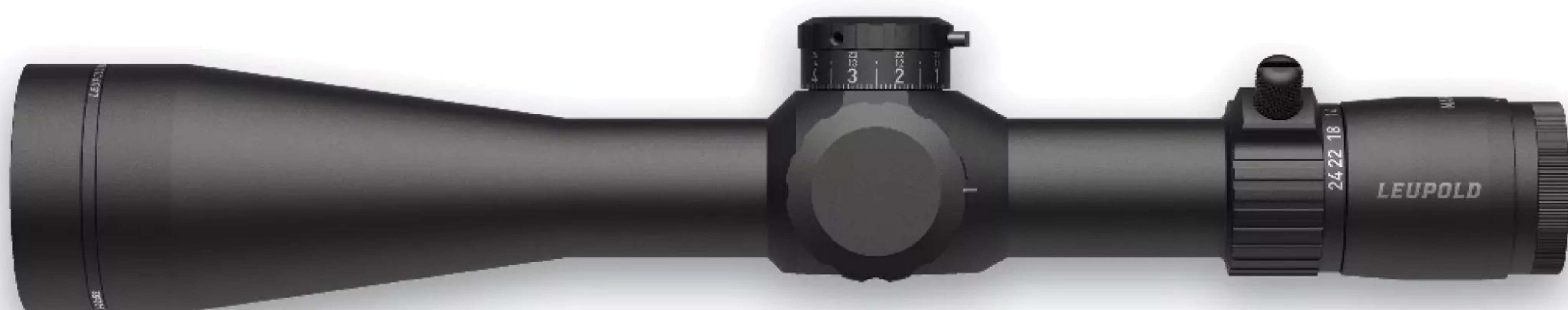
THE 1881 MARLIN
John Marlin's first lever-action
breathed life into the race
for larger and more powerful
cartridges in U.S. firearms.
BY DAVE EMARY

Reader Blowback.....	10
Editorial by Eric R. Poole	13
Gun Room by Garry James.....	15
Handgunning by James Tarr.....	21

Gun Notes by Joe Kurtenbach	25
Proofhouse SIG Sauer Cross Magnum .300 Win. Mag. .	72
Connect by Antonio Acitelli	79
Spent Cases by Keith Wood.....	80



LEUPOLD



MARK 4HD

THE FIRST STEP TOWARDS LONG RANGE DOMINANCE



BE RELENTLESS



EDITORIAL

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Eric R. Poole

EXECUTIVE EDITOR
Joe Kurtenbach

ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Antonio Acitelli

ART DIRECTOR
Michael Ulrich

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Michael Anschuetz

SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGER
James Clark

SENIOR EDITOR
Garry James

FIELD EDITOR
Keith Wood

HANDGUN EDITOR
James Tarr

RIFLES & OPTICS EDITOR
Tom Beckstrand

TECHNOLOGY EDITOR
Richard Nance

PRODUCTION COORDINATOR
Beth Farnam

CONTRIBUTORS

Scott Avery, Craig Boddington,
Donna Boddington, A. F. Branco, Justin Dyal,
Dave Emary, Mark Fingar, Brad Fitzpatrick,
Robert W. Hunnicutt, Kyle Lamb, Lukas Lamb,
Alfredo Rico, Phil Schreier, Jim Supica

ENDEMIC AD SALES

VP, ENDEMIC SALES

Michael Savino mike.savino@outdoorsg.com

NATIONAL ENDEMIC SALES
Jim McConville (440) 791-7017

WESTERN REGION
Hutch Looney hutch@hlooney.com

EASTERN REGION
Pat Bentzel (717) 695-8095

MIDWESTERN REGION
Mark Thiffault (720) 630-9863

NATIONAL AD SALES

ACCOUNT DIRECTOR DETROIT OFFICE
Kevin Donley (248) 798-4458

NATIONAL ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE
CHICAGO OFFICE
Carl Benson (312) 955-0496

DIRECT RESPONSE
ADVERTISING/NON-ENDEMIC
Anthony Smyth (914) 409-4202

SUBSCRIPTIONS INQUIRIES: Should you wish to change your address, order new subscriptions, or report a problem with your current subscription, you can do so by writing Guns & Ammo, P.O. Box 37539, Boone, IA 50037-0539, or e-mail us at amocustserv@cdsfulfillment.com, or call TOLL FREE 1-800-800-2666, Outside U.S. call 515-237-3699.

SUBSCRIPTION RATE for one year is \$24.94 (U.S., APO, FPO, and U.S. possessions). Canada add \$13 (U.S. funds) per year, includes sales tax and GST. Foreign add \$15 (U.S. funds) per year.

By subscribing to Guns & Ammo, you agree to our Terms of Service (<https://www.outdoorsg.com/about/terms-of-service/>) and acknowledge our Privacy Policy (<https://www.outdoorsg.com/about/privacy/>).

Occasionally, our subscriber list is made available to reputable firms offering goods and services that we believe would be of interest to our readers. If you prefer to be excluded, please send your current address label and a note requesting to be excluded from these promotions to: Outdoor Sportsman Group - P.O. Box 126640 Harrisburg PA 17112 - Attn: Privacy Coordinator or email your label information and note to privacy@outdoorsg.com.

BE AWARE THAT GUNS & AMMO ONLY ACCEPTS SUBSCRIPTION REQUESTS FROM AUTHORIZED AGENTS! WE MAY NOT HONOR REQUESTS FROM UNAUTHORIZED AGENTS, AND YOU THEREFORE MAY LOSE YOUR MONEY IF YOU BUY FROM AN UNAUTHORIZED AGENT. If you are offered a subscription to Guns & Ammo, please call 1-800-800-2666 to determine if the agent is authorized. For more information on subscription scams, please visit www.ftc.gov.

THE ALL-NEW NULA ULTRALIGHT BOLT-ACTION RIFLE

Wilson Combat has spared no expense in the development of the new generation New Ultralight Arms line of bolt action rifles.

Wilson Combat has taken the Melvin Forbes legendary rifle design and integrated several improvements by leveraging modern manufacturing methods and our 45 years experience producing industry leading quality firearms.

The modern NULA rifle takes Melvin's time tested design to the next level of accurate and dependable bolt action rifles.

MODEL 20



TIMNEY ELITE
HUNTER TRIGGER



4.94 LBS
TOTAL WEIGHT *



SUB 1"
MOA



CARBON
FIBER STOCK

MODEL 20 SPECS

BARREL LENGTH

16.25" 20" 22"

AVAILABLE CALIBER

.243 Winchester	✓	✓
6.5 Creedmoor	✓	✓
7mm-08 Remington	✓	✓
.308 Winchester	✓	✓
.358 Winchester	✓	✓

* 4 lb. 15 oz to 5 lb. 4oz
(depending on caliber and
barrel length)



Scan QR Code or Visit
WILSONCOMBAT.COM
to Learn More.

LIFE DEPENDS ON LIGHT™

WALK SOFTLY AND CARRY A WHOLE LOTTA LIGHT.



CARRY CONFIDENCE. Our weapon lights have been specifically developed for, tested with and carried by law enforcement officers across the country. Built to perform under the most extreme conditions, the Nightstick TCM-10 delivers 650 lumens of pure confidence, providing you with the visual information you need to make split-second decisions.

Visit us at the NRA Annual Meeting - Booth 7456

NIGHTSTICK®

NIGHTSTICK.COM

OUTDOOR SPORTSMAN GROUP® INTEGRATED MEDIA

CORPORATE

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER,
PUBLISHING & BRANDED MEDIA
Mike Carney

EXECUTIVE VP,
GROUP PUBLISHER & OPERATIONS
Derek Sevcik

VP, CONSUMER MARKETING
Peter Watt

VP, MANUFACTURING
Deb Daniels

SENIOR DIRECTOR, PRODUCTION
Connie Mendoza

DIRECTOR, PUBLISHING TECHNOLOGY
Kyle Morgan

SENIOR CREATIVE DIRECTOR
Tim Neher

DIRECTOR, DIGITAL EDITORIAL
Darren Choate

DIRECTOR, SOCIAL MEDIA
James Clark

For questions regarding digital editions,
please contact digitalsupport@outdoorsg.com.

Survive Just About Anything for Under \$20

On any outdoor adventure, Mother Nature's job is to present you with challenges. The **Stauer Survival Box** is a near-guarantee you'll be up to the challenge. The stainless steel multitool offers wire cutters, knife, bottle opener, file, a set of screwdrivers, a pair of pliers and much more. The powerful flashlight has three different settings, and the tactical loop watch is a reliable, water-resistant timepiece that clips to your hip. Opening the Survival Box gives you instant access to nine different tools for **JUST \$19.50**.

Regularly sold for \$99, we're offering this collection of survival essentials to you for **A FIFTH OF THE NORMAL PRICE!** Why? Because we've had an incredible year and we feel like giving back to our valued customers. But we can only extend this offer while supplies last. Of our initial run, **more than half have already sold.**

Survival Box Specifications:

- Multitool: 3 1/4" x 1" folded
- Flashlight: 3 1/2" x 1", 260 lumens, takes AA batteries (not included), three LED light modes: strong, medium and caution flashing
- Watch: 2 3/4" x 1", battery type SR626SW (included)

Stauer®
Impossible Price
Entire Box For
LESS THAN
\$20



**Box includes
flashlight, watch
and multitool with
wire cutters, knife,
bottle opener, file,
screwdrivers, pliers
and more!**

**Survival Box ~~\$99~~ \$19.50* + S+P
Save \$79.50**

***You must use Insider Offer Code:
SVB251-01 to get this price.**

*California residents please call regarding
Proposition 65 regulations before purchasing
this product.*

1-800-333-2045

**Your Insider Offer Code:
SVB251-01**

Stauer, 14101 Southcross Drive W., Ste 155,
Dept. SVB251-01, Burnsville, MN 55337 www.stauer.com

Stauer® | AFFORD THE EXTRAORDINARY®

MEDIA
outdoorsg.com

TELEVISION
outdoorchannel.com
thesportsmanchannel.com
worldfishingnetwork.com

FISHING
bassfan.com
floridasportsman.com
flyfisherman.com
gameandfishmag.com
in-fisherman.com

HUNTING
bowhunter.com
bowhuntingmag.com
gundogmag.com
petersenshunting.com
northamericanwhitetail.com
wildfowlmag.com

SHOOTING
gunsandammo.com
handguns.com
rifleshooter.com
shootingtimes.com
firearmsnews.com

CONTRIBUTIONS: Manuscripts, photographs and artwork must be submitted to the editorial department with a SASE. The Publisher assumes no responsibility for loss or damage to unsolicited material. Please send to: Guns & Ammo, 2 News Plaza, Peoria, IL 61614, Attn: Editor

FOR REPRINTS: For Reprints/Eprints or Licensing/Permissions, please contact: Wright's Media — TOLL FREE 1 (877) 652-5295.

The Publisher and authors make no representations or warranties regarding the accuracy, completeness, and timeliness of the information contained in this publication. Any reliance or use of the information is solely at your own risk, and the authors and Publisher disclaim any and all liability relating thereto. Any prices given in this issue were suggested prices at the press time and are subject to change.

Some advertisements in this magazine may concern products that are not legally for sale to California residents or residents in other jurisdictions.

GUNS&AMMO® is a registered trademark of Outdoor Sportsman Group® in the United States.

Copyright 2024 by Outdoor Sportsman Group®

All Rights Reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced without written permission.

Guns & Ammo (ISSN# 0017-5684) April 2024, Volume 68, Number 2. Published monthly by Outdoor Sportsman Group, 1040 6th Ave., 17th Floor, New York, NY 10018. Periodical postage paid at New York, NY, and at additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address change (Form 3579) to Guns & Ammo, P.O. Box 37539, Boone, IA 50037-0539. Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to: 500 R. 46 East, Clifton, NJ 07011. Canada Post Publications Mail Agreement No. 41405030.



Printed in the U.S.A.



INTRODUCING THE RM1C FROM

ROST MARTIN

THE NEWEST AMERICAN-MADE FIREARMS MANUFACTURER



THE NEXT GENERATION OF FREEDOM

AVAILABLE NOW

rostmartin.com

Made in Dallas, TX

WRITE US! "Letters," Guns & Ammo, 2 News Plaza, 3rd Floor, Peoria, IL 61614, or email us at gaeditor@outdoorsg.com. Please include your city and state of residence. Letters may be edited for brevity and clarity.

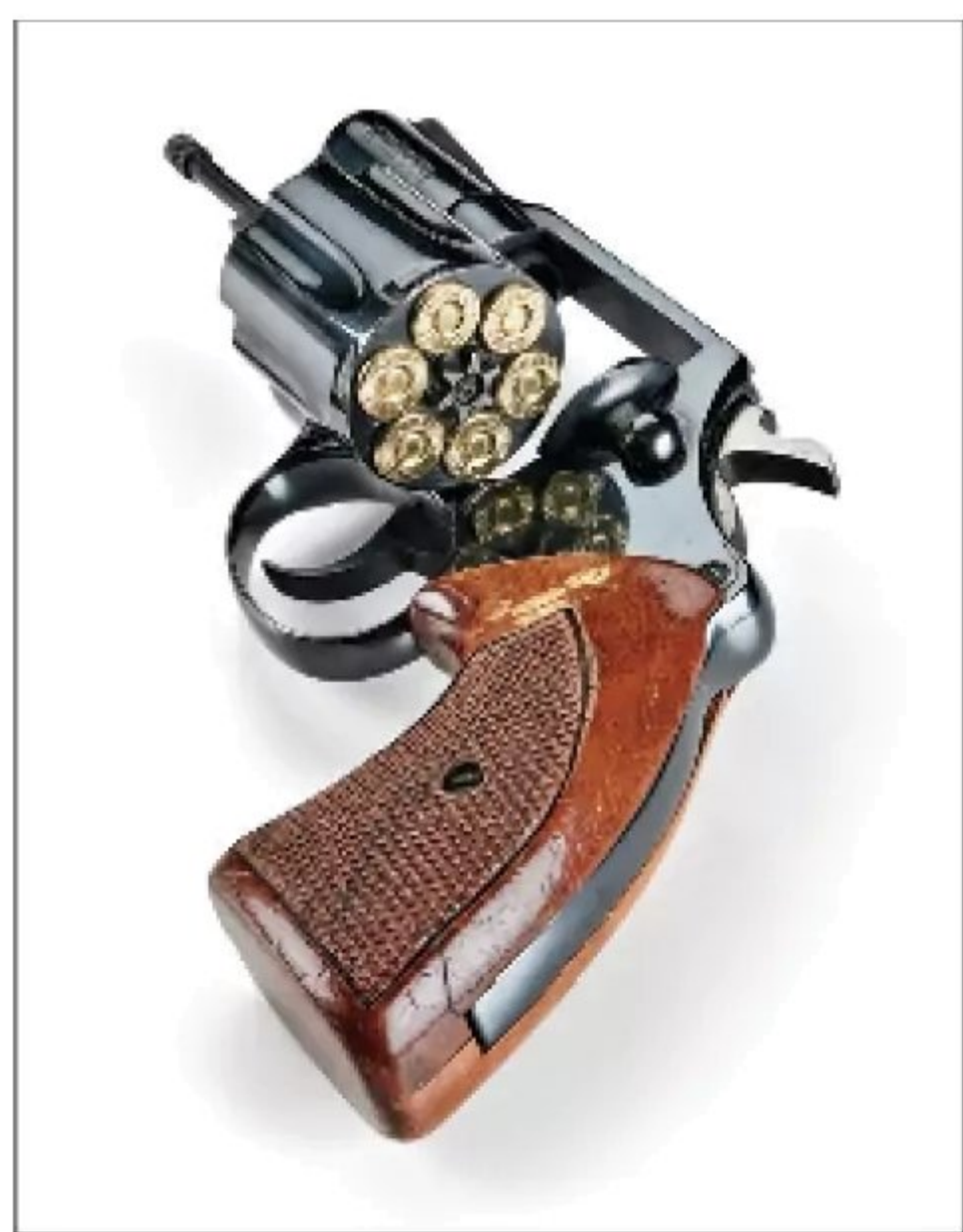


PHOTO: MICHAEL ANSCHUETZ

SIX SHOTS, NOT FIVE

Guys, I love Guns & Ammo magazine. I've been reading it since the late 1950s. Nevertheless, in the February 2024 edition, on page 27, James Tarr wrote in the "Handgunning" column that the Colt Detective Special fires "five rounds." That would be true if he were describing Smith & Wesson's J-frame revolvers, but the Detective Special's cylinder has six chambers. Count 'em! Otherwise, Mr. Tarr, it was a good article.
Bob Freeman
Beaufort, South Carolina

Of course, you are correct. The Colt Detective Special is — and always has been — a six-shot revolver. Thanks to every reader who wrote a letter or email to bring this mistake to our attention.

— E. Poole

DECYPHERING HAND SIZES

I've been reading firearm magazines for more years than I care to admit. My biggest complaint has been the attempt to define "small, medium and large hands." Small hands to Wilt Chamberlain are different

than small hands to Mickey Rooney. However, I read Richard Nance's article where he said that he has "large hands" and wears "XL gloves." That made perfect sense to me. For the first time, I know what the author meant when he described his "large hands." Other writers should follow Nance's lead.
Bill & Paula Fallon
Email

2011 CLONES

I would like to see an article that takes all the current offerings of 2011-clone pistols and rates their features, price and quality. I would suggest a comparison of Commander-length pistols, and not the full competition models. Using at least three of G&A's staff to put them through the paces would be preferred. Brands should include Stacatto, Bul Armory, Springfield Armory, Oracle Arms, Rocks Island Armory, Live Free Armory, and Girsan. These are all manufacturers and not custom shops. My interest lies in pistols that can be used at the range and for carry. Since the STI patent ran out, there have been several manufacturers making these double-stack pistols.
Ed Horkey
Email

CONTINUED ...

The "9mm versus .45" discussion I've seen lately reminds me of advice that gunwriter Bill Jordan gave about 45 years ago: "Use the largest, most powerful pistol that you can shoot with good accuracy. One

well-placed .22 LR beats the daylight out of six misses from a .44 Mag.!" In my case, I have a Ruger Redhawk in .41 Special that I haven't fired for some 35 years, and I am thinking about retiring my Springfield Armory 1911 EMP in 9mm to carry a Browning 1911-22. It hurts for me to practice with the 9mm due to arthritis, and 77 years of wear and tear.

Richard Winkler
Pinedale, Wyoming

WELL DRESSED

Editor, I've included a picture of me wearing the original "Pennsylvania Tuxedo." The coat is a rare hooded Woolrich purchased in 1966. The shirt, circa 1940s, belonged to my grandfather. The pants, which are still like new, are also from the 1940s. However, the rifle is an 1895 Winchester in .30-'06 made in 1923. So, it is 100 years old. The original owner was a great uncle of mine. I put a slip on the sling attached to the rifle because a man of my vintage finds it heavy to carry. Still, it was a real treat hunting with all of this nostalgia.

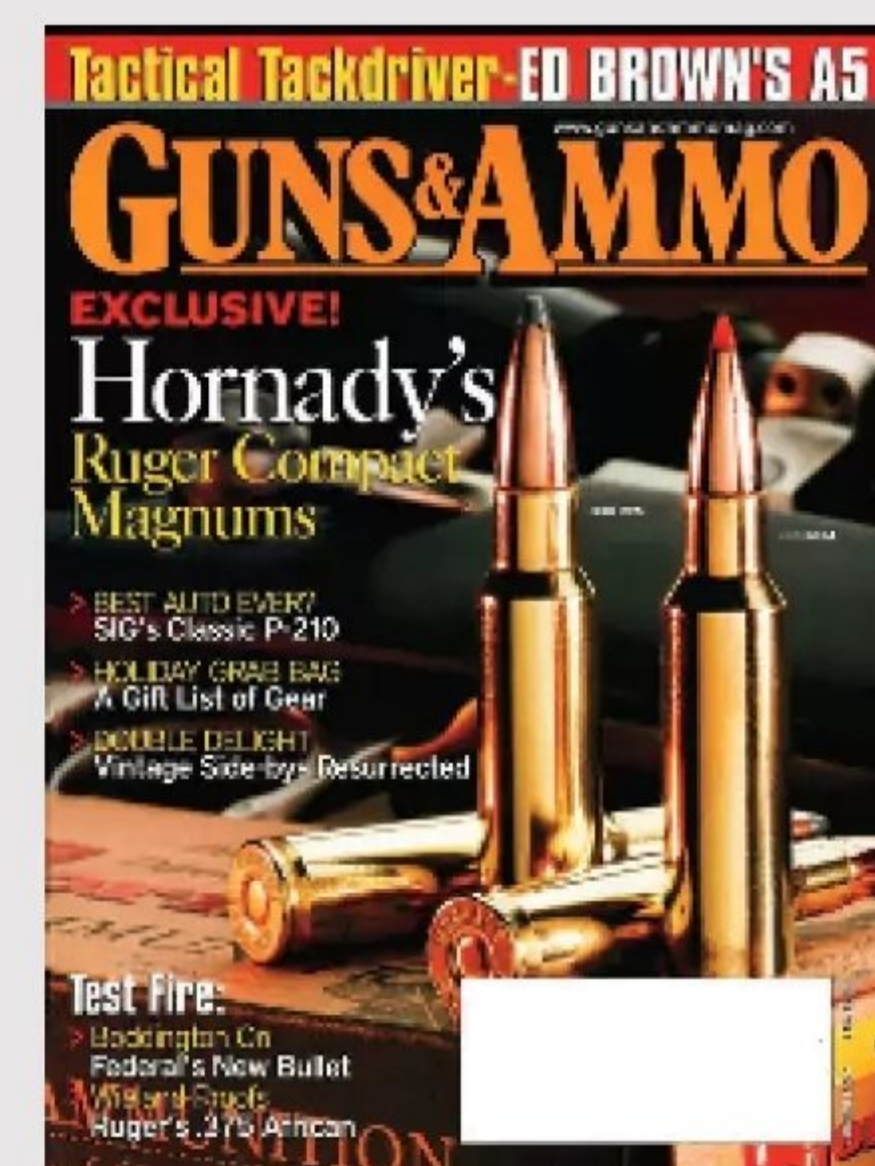
Brian W. Smith
Mt. Holly Springs,
Pennsylvania

KUDOS, CHARTER ARMS

I bought a Charter Arms Pathfinder in .22 from a pawn shop. After the purchase, I realized that a screw was missing on the rear sight. I called Charter Arms and ordered a replacement, but it was too small. After careful inspection, I found

DECEMBER '07

Author Craig Boddington introduced the Hornady .300 and .338 Ruger Compact Magnum (RCM) cartridges, even before production rifles were available. Designed around a .375 Ruger case, the RCMs use .308- and .338-inch bullets, respectively. These cartridges feature a shortened case to fit .308-length actions and were optimized for shorter barrels.



that the hole was stripped out! I called Charter Arms for help and asked to speak with the company president, Nick Ecker. He suggested that I ship the pistol to them for repair. I received a return call from Mr. Ecker, and he said the pistol had several issues beyond the screw situation. I was surprised that he made sure the job was taken care of professionally. Not only was the screw on the sight fixed, but I also received a new set of grips. The pistol was returned to me in 100-percent condition. Charter Arms did not charge me one penny for the work. I would like Guns & Ammo's readers to know how professional this experience was. They exceeded my expectations and I am forever grateful.

Don Collins
Pulaski, Tennessee



INNOVATION HAS A BOLD NEW LOOK.



Tisas®

NIGHT STALKER SERIES

With two all-new signature models to choose from, the Night Stalker series boasts thoughtful design, rugged styling and a long list of impressive yet standard features designed to elevate your shooting experience.



PX9

Available in 9mm



1911

Available in 9mm,
.45 ACP and 10mm

Tisas

TISASUSA.COM

THE EASIEST WAY TO GET A SILENCER



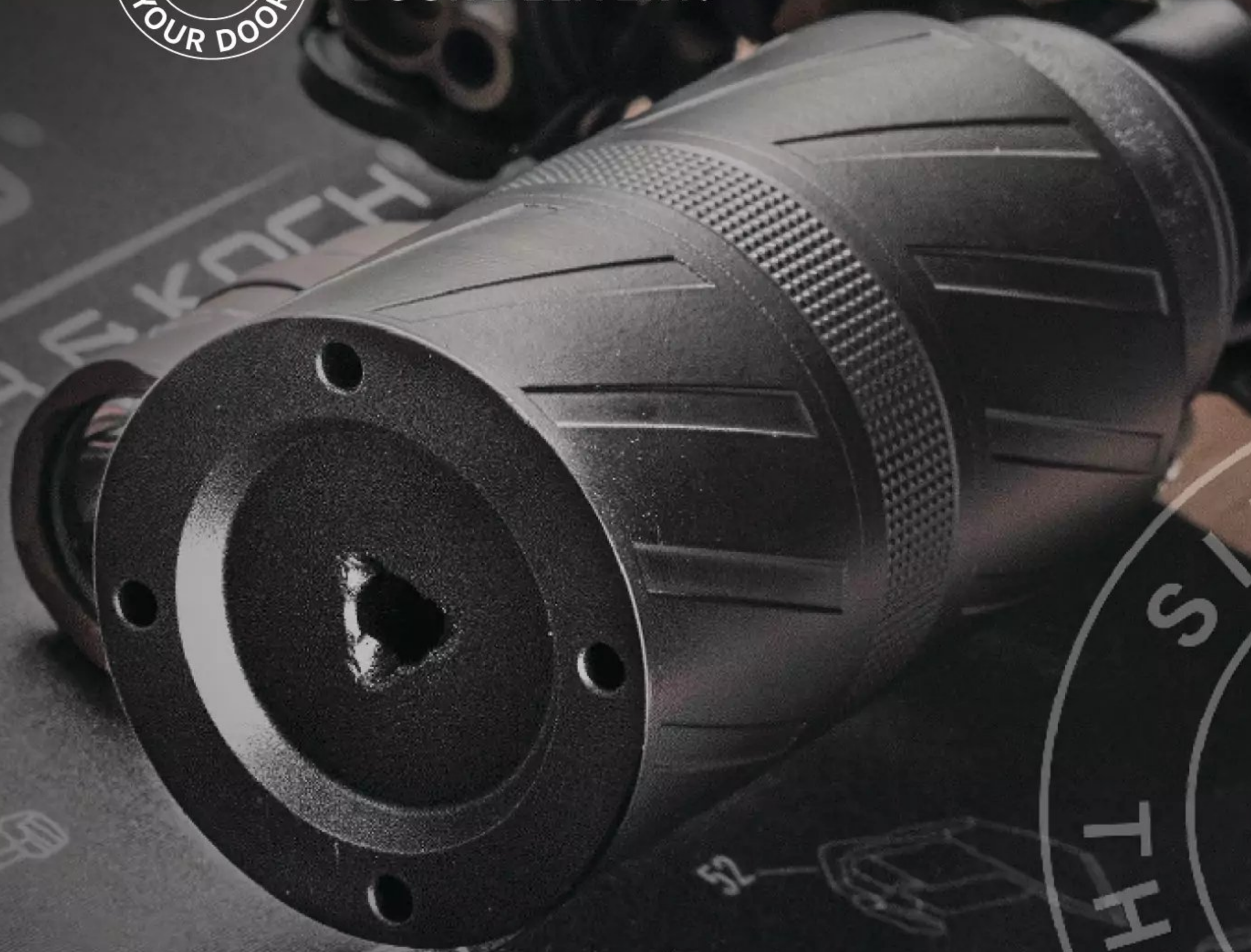
FIND THE RIGHT
SILENCER FOR YOU.



LET US HANDLE
THE PAPERWORK.



ENJOY FRONT
DOOR DELIVERY.



BUY NOW



Many people are intimidated by the process of buying a suppressor, but you don't have to be. We've simplified the entire process, providing you with the easiest path to suppressor ownership.

**CALL 866.471.6871 OR VISIT
SILENCERCENTRAL.COM TO GET STARTED!**

Innovating arms and ammunition for responsible citizens since 1949.



ERIC R. POOLE

 @GUNSANDAMMOMAG

A DIAMOND PAIR

HORNADY AND RUGER merit individual recognition for 75 years of business, but the brands' parallel paths to success have occasionally intertwined.

From Grand Island, Nebraska, Hornady is a privately owned ammunition manufacturer founded by Joyce Hornady. Hornady started the company with one machine in his garage. A .30-caliber, 150-grain Spire Point (SP) would become the first bullet to bear the Hornady name. "Spire Point" is the brand name for Hornady's pointed spitzer bullet, where the tip is left unjacketed for predictable expansion at modest ranges for hunters. In the early 1960s, Hornady changed its signature Spire Point bullet from the traditional tangent-ogive to the more aerodynamic secant-ogive shape still in use today. That bullet evolved into the InterLock SP, which is produced for the American Whitetail line. The Spire Point was an advancement, recognized for its reduced drag coefficient versus flat-tipped bullets of the era. I could argue that the secant-ogive Spire Point foreshadowed Hornady's Extremely Low Drag (ELD) Match and ELD-X "eXpanding" bullet developments announced in 2015.

Sturm, Ruger & Co., America's largest firearm manufacturer, is based in Southport, Connecticut. It operates production facilities in Prescott, Arizona; Newport, New Hampshire; and Mayodan, North Carolina. Founded by Alexander Sturm and William B. Ruger, Sr., it has been publicly traded for 55 years (NYSE: RGR). Sturm passed away in 1951, which prompted Ruger to change the brand's Phoenix-rising trademark from red to black on its guns. The Standard Model, a rimfire semiautomatic pistol, was Ruger's first product, one that has since evolved through the Mark II, Mark III, and Mark IV series. Ruger's catalog of successful firearms has introduced millions to shooting and hunting.

Hornady's and Ruger's product developments and industry contributions have touched every shooting discipline.

Though started by entrepreneurial engineers, their continued rise can be traced through exceptional leadership. Joyce Hornady was tragically killed in a plane crash in 1981, leaving his son Steve to assume the role of president. Steve's son, Jason Hornady, who rejoined the business in 2006, is vice president. While being a publicly traded company, Bill Ruger retired as CEO in 2000 and passed away in 2002. He was succeeded by William B. Ruger, Jr., and then Steve Sanetti, Mike Fifer, and Chris Killoy. In common, these men came from within each company and implemented a modern philosophy of lean manufacturing, simultaneous marketing, and contemporary products.

The relationship between Hornady and Ruger precedes the 2003 introduction of the .480 Ruger, which marked the first of six co-developed cartridges released through 2008. The companies have become global leaders, advocating for the National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF), National Rifle Association (NRA), and several other gun-rights organizations.

Both are voting members of the Sporting Arms & Ammunition Manufacturing Institute (SAAMI), which approves new cartridge designs, sets manufacturing protocols, and influences trends. Undoubtedly, Hornady and Ruger share an unfailing record of supporting sportsmen.

The commemorative invitation to Hornady's and Ruger's 75th anniversary celebration featured an image of five successful hunters on a ranch near Cody, Wyoming. Guns & Ammo writer Les Bowman took the circa-1955 photograph of Bill Ruger and Joyce Hornady, who were flanked by Norm Williams, Warren Page, and Claude Wiley. Page, an NSSF founder, was an editor for Field & Stream, while Williams and Wiley were friends of Ruger and Page. This image symbolizes our industry's legacy and camaraderie, but also the yearning for a good story. I'd love nothing more than to hear those men tell the tales about that Wyoming elk camp. 



Above, left to right: Norm Williams, Bill Ruger, Warren Page, Joyce Hornady, and Claude Wiley, elk hunters who posed with their trophies at a ranch in Cody, Wyoming.



STILL MAKING HISTORY.



OUR HISTORY, YOUR LEGACY

Colt's CBX Precision Rifle offers precision, ergonomics, and customization for competitive shooters. The CBX's carbon steel, button-ported barrel, and flat-bottom receiver are optimized for ballistic performance and backed with a sub-MOA accuracy guarantee. Its modular chassis rifle system featuring a user-adjustable length-of-pull and cheek weld allows a custom shooter fit. Enhanced with a 15-inch extended forend with an ARCA rail and M-LOK® slots, angled pistol grip, built-in thumb shelf, QD cups, and an ambidextrous magazine release, the CBX provides an exceptional shooting experience.



CBX PRECISION®

308 WIN CBX Precision (CBX-HV24CGA-308)

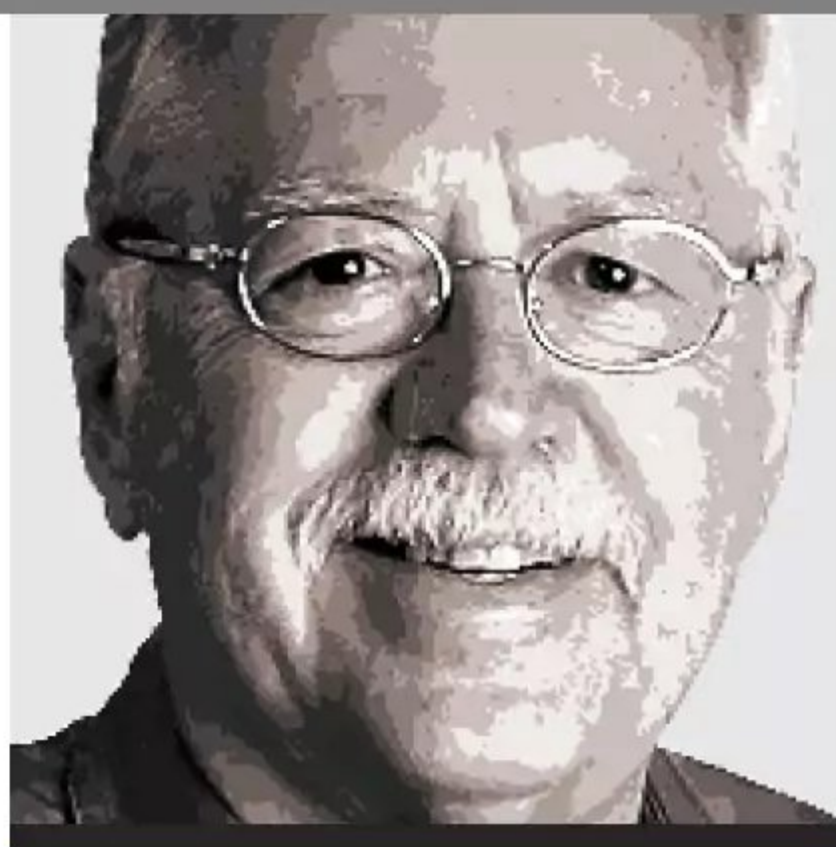
6.5 Creedmoor CBX Precision (CBX-HV26CGA-65C)

COLT.COM



“I’ve seen these before. They were inexpensive single-barrel shotguns that could be folded up for ease of transport.”

IDENTIFICATION & VALUES



GARRY JAMES
GARRY.JAMES@OUTDOORSG.COM



GERMANIA TARGET PISTOL

Q: I’ve seen the “Gun Room” column in Guns & Ammo, and I’m interested in seeing if you can help find additional information on my German pistol. The bore is 4mm and chamber is 4.5mm.

K. S.
Email

A: Your pistol is one in a line of similar arms marked by Germania, which was the trade name of a Zella-Mehlis, the German firm founded by Julius G. Anschutz in 1856. Yours was likely manufactured in the 1930s. Germania offered longarms, as well. As might be expected, quality was excellent. As I have not seen pistols similar

to yours offered for sale recently, I am reluctant to guess at a value.

WINCHESTER M1895 NRA MUSKET

Q: Enclosed are pictures of a Winchester NRA Musket that a friend owns. It was his granddad’s, and is in .30-’06. It is marked “.30 US MOD 1906” on the

barrel. I believe it to be in 95 percent condition. It is stamped “N.R.A.” on the receiver. The fore-stock has been cut back, but the gun has all the parts to convert it back to a musket. The rear sight was changed to a Lyman peep, and the rear swivel is missing.

A. G.
Liverpool, Pennsylvania

A: Unfortunately, your Model 1895 Winchester NRA Musket appears to have seen better days. Being that it was sporterized is offset somewhat by the original woodwork. The addition of the Lyman peep and removal of the

original ladder-style rear sight are not in its favor. The Winchester NRA Musket was made in 1903 (.30-’03) and 1906 (.30-’06) models. Though you do have some parts to enable it to be partially returned to its original state, the fact that the receiver was drilled and tapped for the peep sight nullifies the benefit. I really don’t think I’d value it at more than \$950 to \$1,200.

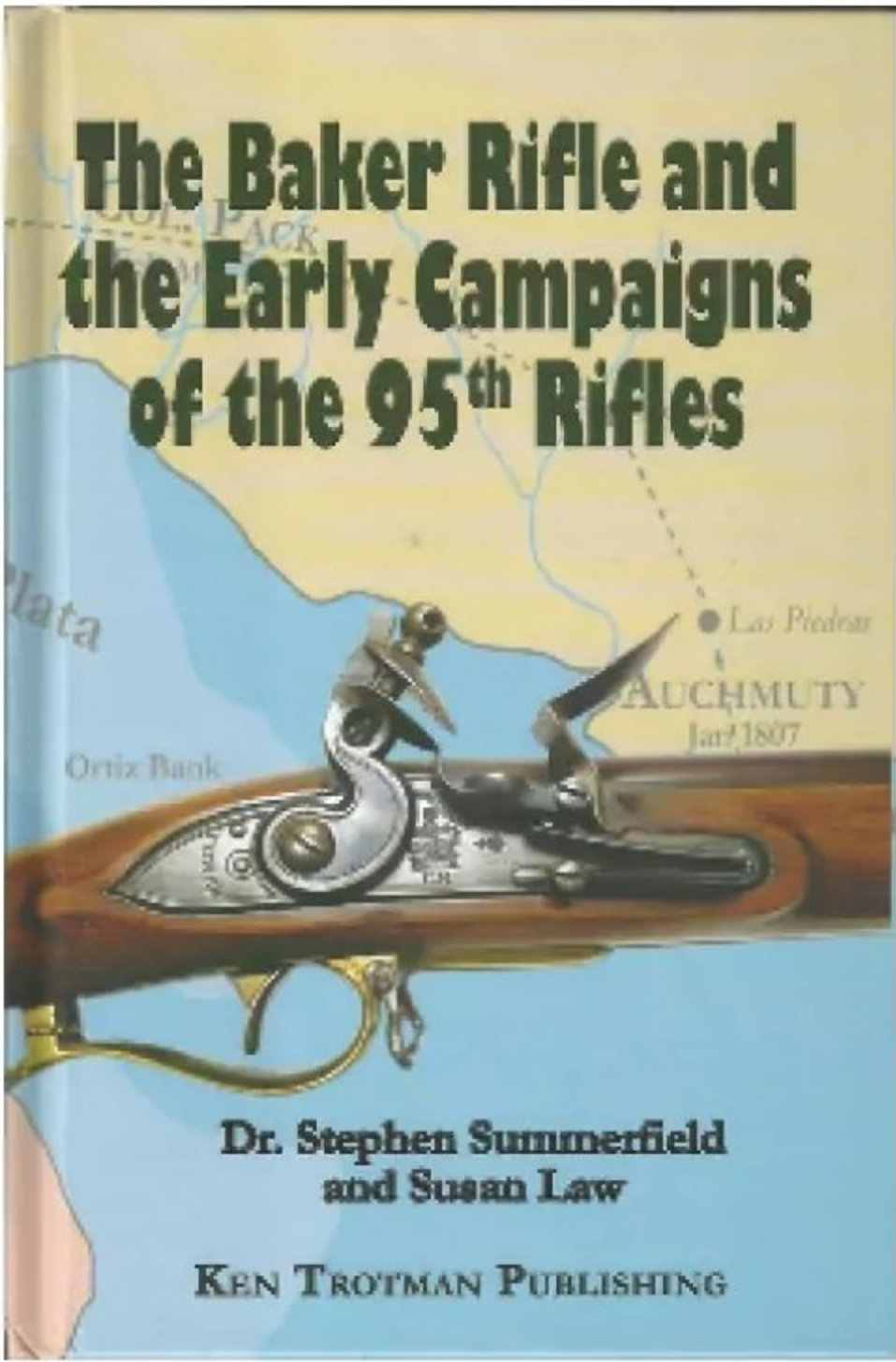
GOVERNMENT MODEL 1911A1 LEGALITY

Q: Upon discharge from the U.S. Navy in 1966, I bought a Remington 1911A1 .45 from a U.S.

AUCTION BLOCK

A superb Helfricht factory-engraved Colt Model 1878 “Frontier” double-action revolver realized an astounding \$123,000, including premiums, at an October 25, 2023, Morphy Auctions sale. Considered by many to be the finest example of an embellished Model 1878 extant, this blued 5½-inch-barreled example was originally sold in 1892. It is completely covered in intricate scroll engraving and has considerable period and modern collector provenance. The gun’s finish is 95 percent, and the checkered walnut grips are also in pristine condition. The piece is accompanied by a Colt factory letter that attests to its originality. For more information about this and future sales, visit Morphy Auctions at morphyauctions.com.





RECOMMENDED READS

The Baker Rifle and the Early Campaigns of the 95th Rifles, by Dr. Stephen Summerfield and Susan Law; Ken Trotman Publishing, Godmanchester, England, 2019; 312 pages, enquiries@kentrotman.com

For those interested in early military rifles, British Napoleonic-era history, and the formative history of the elite 95th Rifles, one can do no better than obtaining a copy of “The Baker Rifle and the Early Campaigns of the 95th Rifles.” In recent years, the Baker rifle and the 95th have become more generally known because of the exciting “Sharpe’s” novels of Bernard Cornwell (also recommended), along with the popular “Sharpe” British TV drama. Authors Summerfield and Law have done a superb job in describing the development of the Baker rifles, as well as including sections on its use, appearance and accessories. Valuable charts detail the features of various models, and sections on volunteer use of the arms are of particular value. As well, chapters include biographies of those instrumental in the formation of the 95th Rifles, and how the unit’s rifles were managed and employed in combat. These sections are highly informative. Numerous black-and-white illustrations abet the written material.

\$33.65



Army veteran. It is stamped “UNITED STATES PROPERTY”. My question is, is the gun legal? Any guess on its worth for insurance purposes?
A. J. D.
Mesquite, Nevada

A: I receive this question fairly regularly. No, your gun is not illegal. Despite its markings, when it entered the civilian market, it ceased to be government property. Assuming your 1911A1 is a Remington Rand, and is in 80- to 90-percent condition, value, according to the “Forty-Fourth Edition Blue Book of Gun Values” (bluebookofgunvalues.com), it is between \$1,200 and \$1,650. Some 1,086,624 Remington Rand 1911A1s were made between 1943 and 1945.

THE LUGER & THE BEARCAT
Q: I need some assistance in evaluating two old handguns: A 9mm Luger with an original leather holster, and a Sturm, Ruger & Co. Bearcat single-action revolver with a period leather holster.
N. S.
Email

A: Your Luger is a “byf”, the code for Mauser. Being a “41”, it is one of the more common P.08s of the World War II period. Its condition appears to be excellent; as such, I’d value the piece between \$3,000 and \$3,500. Yours has the proper “fxo”-marked magazine with plastic base, which adds to the gun’s appeal. Your Old Model Ruger Bearcat appears to be an early example manufactured between 1958 and 1963, typical with plain epoxy rosewood resin grips. Condition appears to be pristine. The “Forty-Fourth Edition Blue Book of Gun Values” gives its worth at \$650 to \$850. Unfortunately, the Bearcat holster adds little value.

WORLD WAR I HEIRLOOM 1911
Q: My grandfather was an American soldier in World War I. He passed this pistol to my father. Since Dad recently passed away, we wonder what this gun may be worth to the estate. Any information you can provide would be most appreciated. The gun appears to be in excellent condition.

It was only recently fired on the range, resulting in good accuracy, but significant trigger pressure was required.
J. C. M.
Email

A: According to the photos you sent, it appears you have an excellent condition — at least 95 percent — Colt 1911 .45 auto pistol. Its serial number (357XXX) places the gun’s date of manufacture in 1915. If the pistol is as good as it looks, according to the “Forty-Fourth Edition Blue Book of Gun Values,” it is worth \$4,750. I see it also has an original holster. The leather, though not in great shape, would still bring \$50 to \$75.

BELGIAN FOLDING SHOTGUN
Q: My father served four years in Europe during World War II. Near the end of the war, he was in Belgium and purchased a single-barrel shotgun from a gunsmith in Liege. I know little about the gun except that it is 32 gauge and weighs a couple of pounds. I recall shooting it 60 years ago, and it kicked!



HENRY[®]

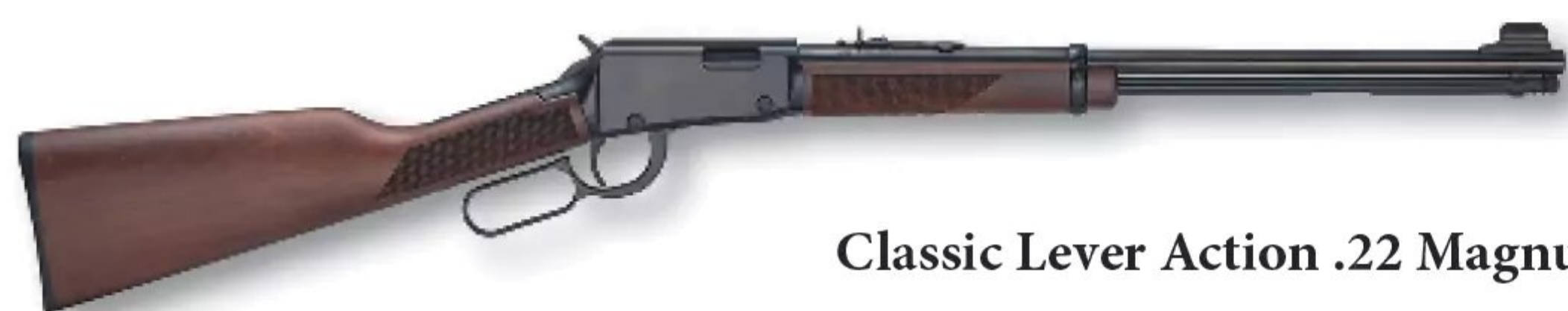
Made In America,
Or Not Made At All



For vermin and pests, a flat-shooting, high-velocity cartridge is a must. So are fast follow-up shots, the ability to mount optics, and using a trim platform that won't weigh you down while on patrol. A lever or pump action rifle from Henry Repeating Arms chambered in .22 Magnum or .17 HMR is the perfect choice for keeping land and property pest-free.

MANY OPTIONS TO CHOOSE FROM FOR **VARMINT & PEST CONTROL**

EVERY HENRY IS **MADE IN AMERICA** AND BACKED BY A **LIFETIME WARRANTY**



Classic Lever Action .22 Magnum



Varmint Express .17 HMR



Lever Action .22 Magnum Express



Pump Action Octagon .22 Magnum



Golden Boy
.22 Magnum | .17 HMR



Golden Boy Deluxe Engraved
.22 Magnum | .17 HMR



Lever Action Octagon Frontier
.22 Magnum | .17 HMR



Frontier Model Long Barrel 24"
.22 Magnum



Frontier Model Threaded Barrel
.22 Magnum



Silver Eagle
.22 Magnum | .17 HMR



Small Game Carbine .22 Magnum



Golden Boy Silver
.22 Magnum | .17 HMR



Small Game Rifle .22 Magnum



Mare's Leg .22 Magnum

Henry Repeating Arms offers over 200 different models of rifles, shotguns, and revolvers in a wide variety of calibers and finishes.

**VISIT HENRYUSA.COM OR SCAN THE QR
TO ORDER A FREE CATALOG & DECALS**



My father passed away 20 years ago. Off and on, I've tried to identify the manufacturer. So far, I've been unsuccessful. What I can read on the left side of receiver is "F.D.C. 14", which is stamped. Is this the manufacturer? There's also a "21" stamped on the bottom of the receiver. Among other marks is an "ELG" with crown on the barrel, proofed in Liege and marked in script. Date of proof is 1944, "ELG" in script. Can you help me identify this little jewel please? Is it worth anything? The gunsmith engraved my father's name on the top of the barrel.

J. G.
Illinois

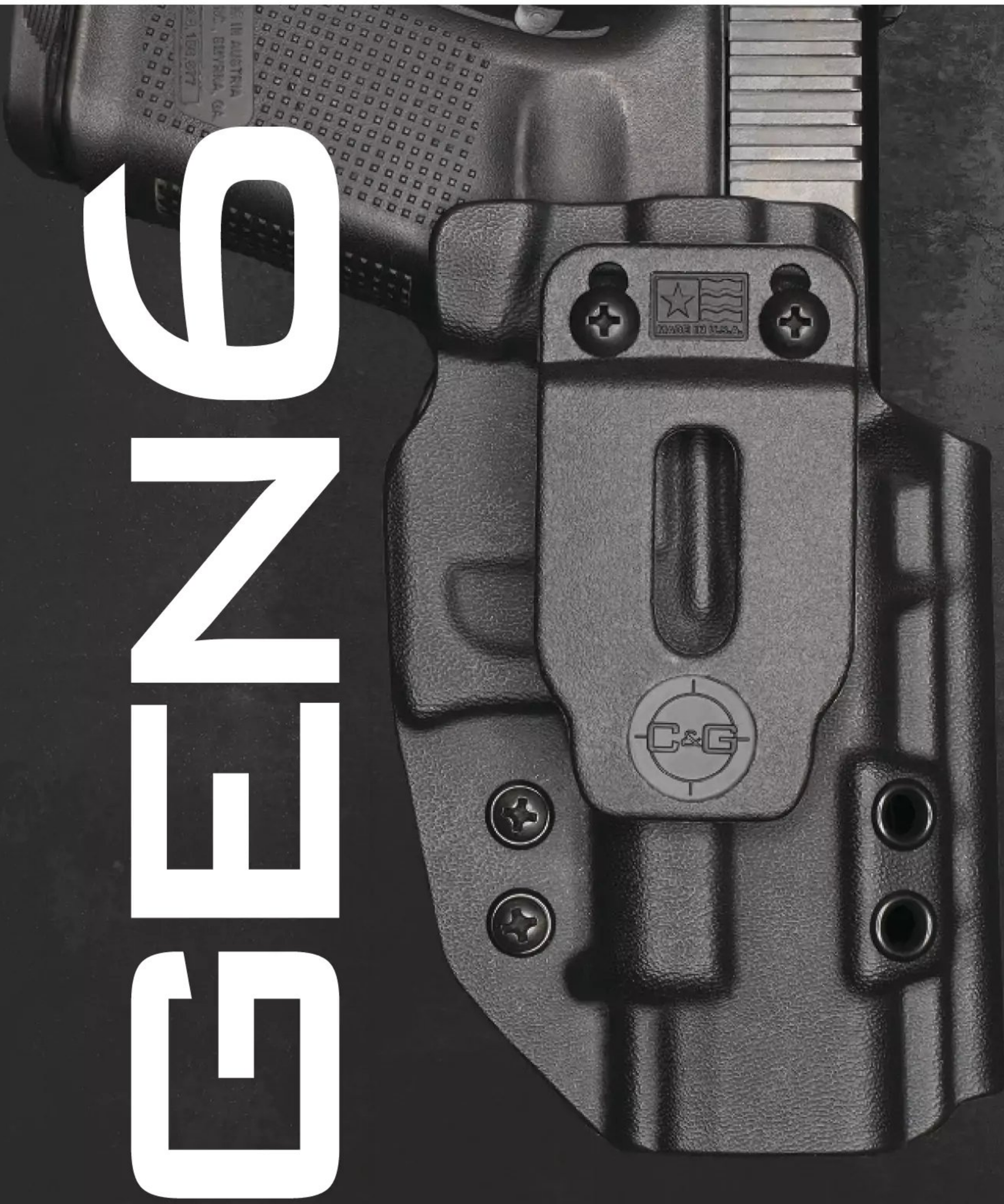


A: I've seen these before. They were inexpensive single-barrel shotguns that could be folded up for ease of transport. Some, like yours, had skeletonized buttstocks to save on weight. I've found a couple in a 1930s German catalog. Their make was listed as "Hindu" and were offered in 20, 24, 28, 32 and 36

gauges, as well as 9mm. I believe these first appeared around the beginning of the 20th century, and perhaps a bit sooner. The period catalog prices one that is very similar to yours for \$10.10. For comparison, in the same catalog, a field grade Browning Auto 5 sold for \$52. I hope this helps you out.

**WARNANT DA
REVOLVER**

Q: A friend found this revolver in his father's workshop after the latter's passing. Knowing I have an amateur collection of reference material, he asked my help in identifying it. There is no indication of make, model or caliber. It is a top-break, double-



C&G HOLSTERS

PROFESSIONAL KYDEX HOLSTERS

The all new GEN6 Kydex Holster. The first fully engineered holster from top to bottom, inside and out for precision, consistency & reliability.

**UNCOMPROMISING
QUALITY**



**UNWAVERING
ATTENTION TO
DETAIL**



Find your holster at CandGHolsters.com

action-only (DAO), and the cylinder freewheels in a clockwise direction. When open, it has simultaneous ejectors. The hexagon barrel is 5 $\frac{5}{8}$ -inches long, and caliber seems to be in the .40 range. As close as I can come to identifying it, it seems to be a Warnant. The profile is the same as a Belgian Warnant, but it lacks the side-latch release. Jean Warnant entrusted his design to one Mr. de Mouncie to obtain a British patent. De Mouncie made some small changes, put the patent in his own name and had six prototypes made by Scott in Britain. One of the improvements the factory suggested was a latch assembly, which was already patented in Belgium. Am I close?

Could this be just a one-off guild gun? Or something an apprentice could have made? What do you think would be a fair value?

K. S.
Coopersville, Michigan

A: Prior to entering into the auto pistol business, beginning in 1870 and contributing to around the beginning of the 20th century, the Belgian Warnant Brothers, Jean and Louis, designed and sold a number of top-break revolvers that closely resemble yours. They were produced in calibers ranging from 12mm to 7.6mm. As you note, most have the Webley-Pryce-style side latch arrangement, but I have seen some with top latches, as well. Your pictures, as you note, don't



UNKNOWN WARRANT-TYPE, TOP-BREAK, DOUBLE-ACTION REVOLVER

reveal any substantial information about the gun's origin other than the Liege proofmark, which indicates it was made in Belgium. As Belgian gunmakers were not above copying and modifying the designs of others, I would suspect you have some sort of Warnant knock-off dating from between 1875 and 1880. Caliber is likely 9mm, but

the bore should be slugged to determine exactly what it is. Assuming this is a Warnant lookalike, I'd value it between \$350 and \$500, as long as it is completely functional and has not been refinished. These are interesting-looking guns with intriguing histories, but for some reason, they have never been popular on the American market. **G&A**

STREAMLIGHT

TLR-6® HL

| 300 LUMENS

| RED OR GREEN LASER AVAILABLE

| RECHARGEABLE BATTERIES WITH PORTABLE CHARGING CASE



STREAMLIGHT

© 2024 STREAMLIGHT, INC. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

STREAMLIGHT.COM/TLR-6HL

Celebrating 75 Years of Rugged, Reliable Firearms®



In 2024, Ruger proudly celebrates 75 years of manufacturing rugged, reliable firearms. To commemorate this occasion, Ruger is proud to announce four 75th Anniversary Models, a Mark IV™ pistol, two different 10/22® rifles and an LCP® MAX, each representative of Ruger's storied past and bright future. These commemorative models are inspired by iconic Ruger products, and represent each of our three major manufacturing facilities.



LEARN
MORE



The acquisition, ownership, possession and use of firearms are heavily regulated. Some models may not be legally available in your state or locale. Whatever your purpose for lawfully acquiring a firearm – know the law, get trained and shoot safely.



The 10mm revival continues.



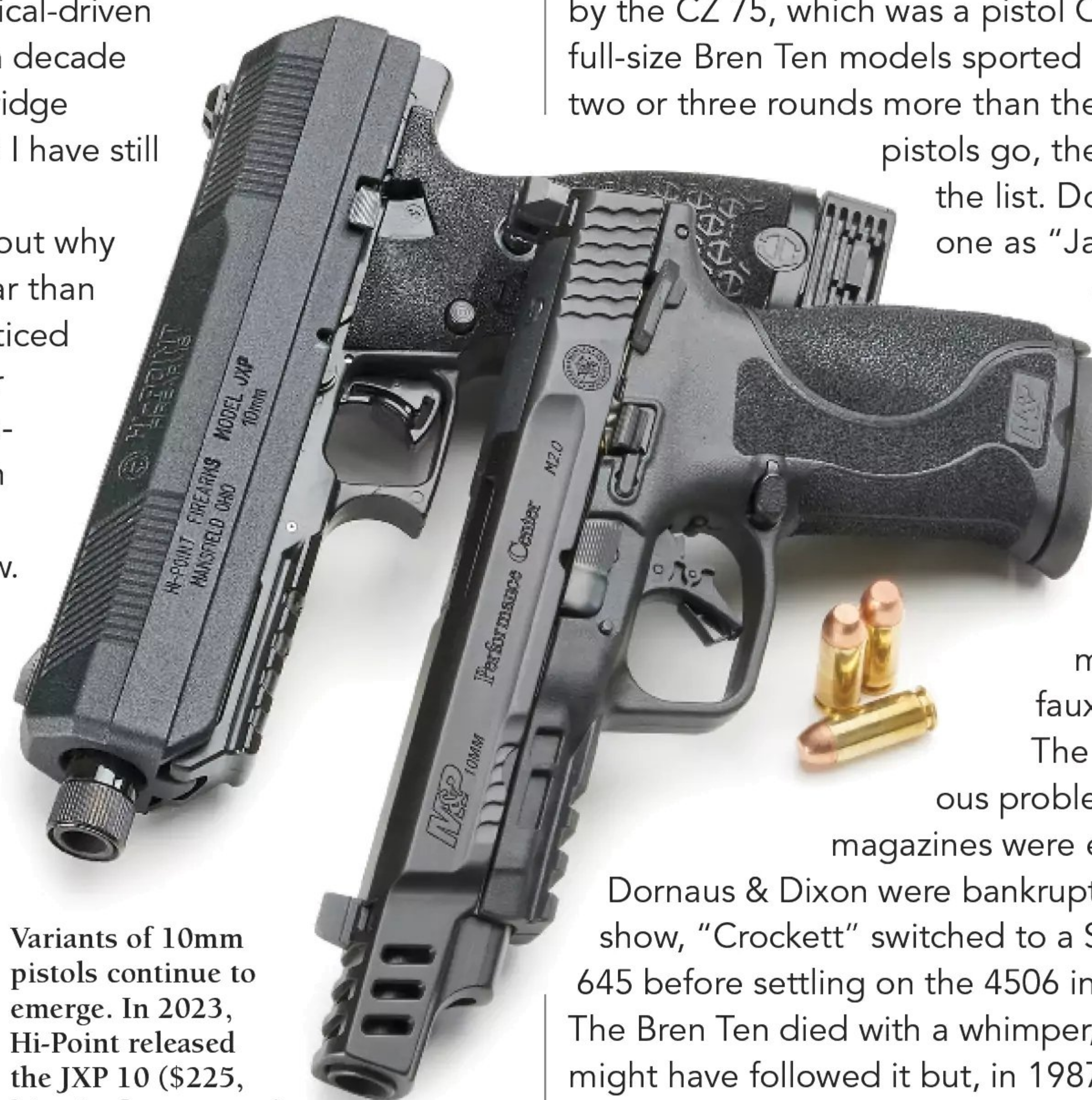
JAMES TARR

THE PERFECT TEN

I HAVE BEEN READING GUN MAGAZINES and shooting since I was a teenager. I am in the industry, and I live and breathe this stuff. Still, things can still happen that leave me completely bewildered, including unexpected events that no one, seemingly, sees coming — and I'm not even referring to political-driven sales and slumps! About a decade ago, the 10mm Auto cartridge began its resurgence, and I have still yet to fully understand it.

I haven't quite figured out why the 10mm is more popular than ever. I think it first got noticed as a good choice for bear defense, fueled by ammunition developments such as the Federal 180-grain Trophy Bonded Bear Claw. Some 10 years ago, backcountry hunters became open-minded to higher capacity 10mm handguns versus waning interest in packing a hard-recoiling wheelgun in .44 Magnum, .454 Casull, .480 Ruger or .500 S&W Magnum. I don't know how many people actually venture into areas where there are bears, but how many of us fastrope out of helicopters and do CQB? Still, there are many who want the latest pistol employed by U.S. Special Forces.

If you were into guns during the 1980s, the 10mm needs no introduction. For everyone else, allow me to start at the beginning: Just as John Browning designed the .45 ACP in 1904 for his full-size pistols, the 10mm Auto was developed from the early '70s .40 G&A wildcat for the Bren Ten. Both the 10mm cartridge and the Bren Ten were introduced in 1983, but the Bren Ten was plagued with problems.



Variants of 10mm pistols continue to emerge. In 2023, Hi-Point released the JXP 10 (\$225, hi-pointfirearm.com), and S&W's Performance Center revealed the M&P M2.0 (\$749, smith-wesson.com).

Dornaus & Dixon designed the pistol around the cartridge with input from Norma and Lt. Col. Jeff Cooper, one of the most influential people in the handgun world and a former Guns & Ammo handgun editor. The Bren Ten was a double-action (DA)/single-action (SA) pistol influenced by the CZ 75, which was a pistol Cooper approved of. The full-size Bren Ten models sported 10-round magazines, two or three rounds more than the .45 M1911. As iconic

pistols go, the Bren Ten is at the top of the list. Don Johnson even carried one as "James 'Sonny' Crockett"

during the first two seasons of "Miami Vice."

That gun featured a hardchromed slide to look better on camera, and every male over the age of 14 in America wanted one as much as they did his black faux-Ferrari Daytona.

The manufacturer had serious problems delivering the pistols; magazines were even scarcer. By 1986,

Dornaus & Dixon were bankrupt. In Season 3 of the show, "Crockett" switched to a Smith & Wesson Model 645 before settling on the 4506 in subsequent seasons. The Bren Ten died with a whimper, and the 10mm cartridge might have followed it but, in 1987, Colt introduced the Delta Elite in 10mm while S&W came out with the Model 610 revolver. S&W also launched a series of semiautos (i.e., 1006, 1076, etc.) starting in 1990, and Glock revealed the G20 in 1991. For 20 years, the 10mm limped along, at times forgotten, until its recent resurgence.

Pistols in 10mm were never going to be popular, in part due to the cartridge. It was designed to be the "ultimate" self-defense cartridge for semiauto pistols, providing the best balance of power and magazine capacity. It was, perhaps, too much of a good thing — and darn near a .41 Magnum in power and recoil! Original Norma loads featured a 200-grain bullet at 1,200 feet per second, as well as a 180-grainer at 1,300 fps. Those were more stout than most modern 10mm loads.

The 10mm Auto is roughly the same length as the .45

ACP, 1.26 inches versus the .45 ACP's 1.275 max overall length (OAL). This means the 10mm only fits large pistols. The parent case of the 10mm was the .30 Remington.

It used a large pistol primer, and was stuffed with a .40-inch bullet.

In the early '80s, hol-

lowpoints

were few and

not guaranteed

to expand. Hence, most folks preferred bigger bullets.

Elmer Keith said, "A big bullet lets in a lot of air, and lets out a lot of blood." The .40-caliber 10mm was considered the bare minimum bullet diameter for a "fighting" pistol cartridge. However, it provided more magazine capacity than the gold standard of semiauto cartridges, the venerable .45 ACP.

The 10mm enjoys a near-mythical status. Most '80s handgunners sought a Delta Elite. However, Norma's initial 10mm offerings were somewhere between brutal and stout in a M1911. The early Delta Elites suffered a reputation for frame cracks and breakages. That didn't stop people from buying them, though. Though the FBI initially bought S&W's Model 1076, the order was canceled. The first 10mm pistol that had a reputation for being capable of handling the recoil of the 10mm was the Glock 20.

I wasn't immune to the lure of the 10mm. I owned an Olympic Arms AR-15 top-end chambered in 10mm, a straight blowback design fed by modified "Grease Gun" magazines. I handloaded stupidly hot ammo for it: 180-grainers at 1,600 fps. Later, in the early 2000s, my USPSA Limited Division pistol was a hard-chromed custom wide-body 1911 chambered in 10mm. (I carried it daily.)

In part, the 10mm faded away due to the development of the .40 S&W by Smith & Wesson and Winchester in 1990 — and the FBI. The 10mm passed the FBI's Ammunition Testing Protocol, but it was said to be too much to handle for some agents, both physically and in terms of felt recoil. The FBI explored a downloaded version of the 10mm, the "10mm Lite," but the cartridge was still the length of a .45 ACP. The ballistics of the 10mm Lite were then duplicated in

The Colt Delta Elite made a comeback in 2013 (\$1,199, colt.com). FN launched its first 10mm, the 510 Tactical (\$1,139, fnamerica.com), in 2023.



a shorter cartridge, which became the .40 S&W. The .40 S&W was hugely popular, almost killing the 10mm for nearly 20 years. Of course, there were outliers. Ted Nugent was famous for carrying a Glock 20 loaded with CorBon 135-grainers at 1,500 fps, and

hunting big game around the world with it. Heckler & Koch even built some MP5s chambered in 10mm for the FBI — the MP10 — which were highly coveted and rare.

For whatever reason, a new generation of shooters discovered the 10mm. The Glock 20 was still around, and Colt relaunched the Delta Elite in 2013. Other manufac-

turers took note of the public's interest in the 10mm and started producing new designs.

SIG Sauer announced the 10mm P220 in 2014. Springfield Armory released its XDM 10mm in 2019. Today, almost every 1911 manufacturer offers a model chambered in 10mm. SIG Sauer even announced the P320 in this caliber in 2022, the P320-XTen. CMMG, and a few other companies, make Black Rifles chambered in 10mm, and this cartridge really shines out of longer barrels. EAA, Ed Brown, FN, Hi-Point, Rock Island Armory, Ruger, Smith & Wesson, all have models chambered in 10mm — and the list goes on. While I was writing this article, Taurus introduced its TH10, a DA/SA polymer-framed 10mm.

It's not just guns — just about every ammunition man-

ufacturer offers several 10mm loads. Hornady even offers a non-leaded Mono-Flex Handgun Hunter load. While not nearly as popular as other calibers, the 10mm is no longer a niche, hard-to-find caliber.

More options are always better, and the 10mm performs — especially with modern bullets. Now if we could just get somebody to bring back the Bren Ten, all would be right with the gun world. **GA**



G&A handgunners Jeff Cooper, Jan Libourel and Wiley Clapp, wrote the first articles featuring the 10mm Auto and Colt Delta Elite.

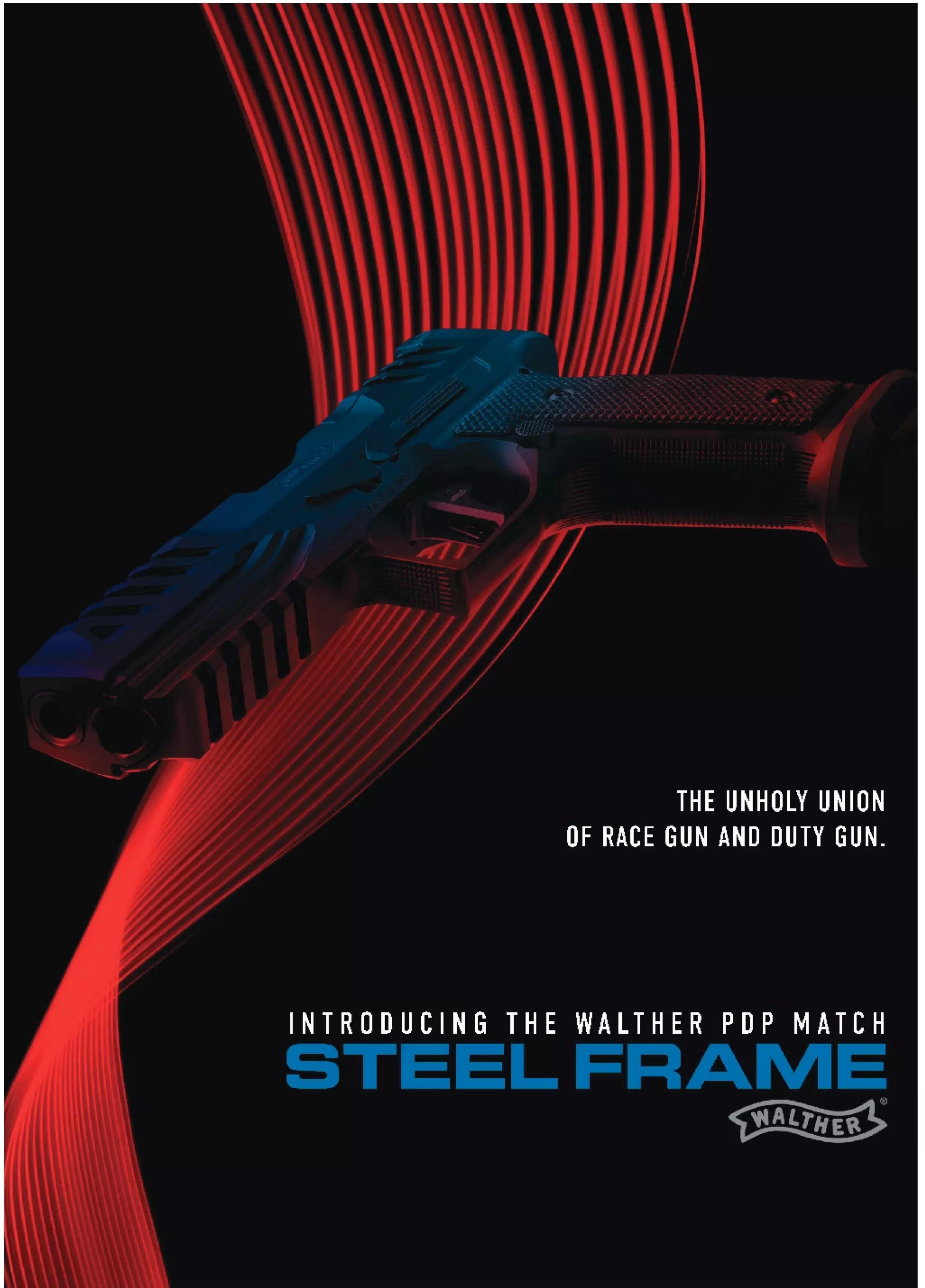


BOLT ACTION RIFLE SYSTEM

S O L U S



[AEROPRECISIONUSA.COM/SOLUS](https://aeroprecisionusa.com/solus)



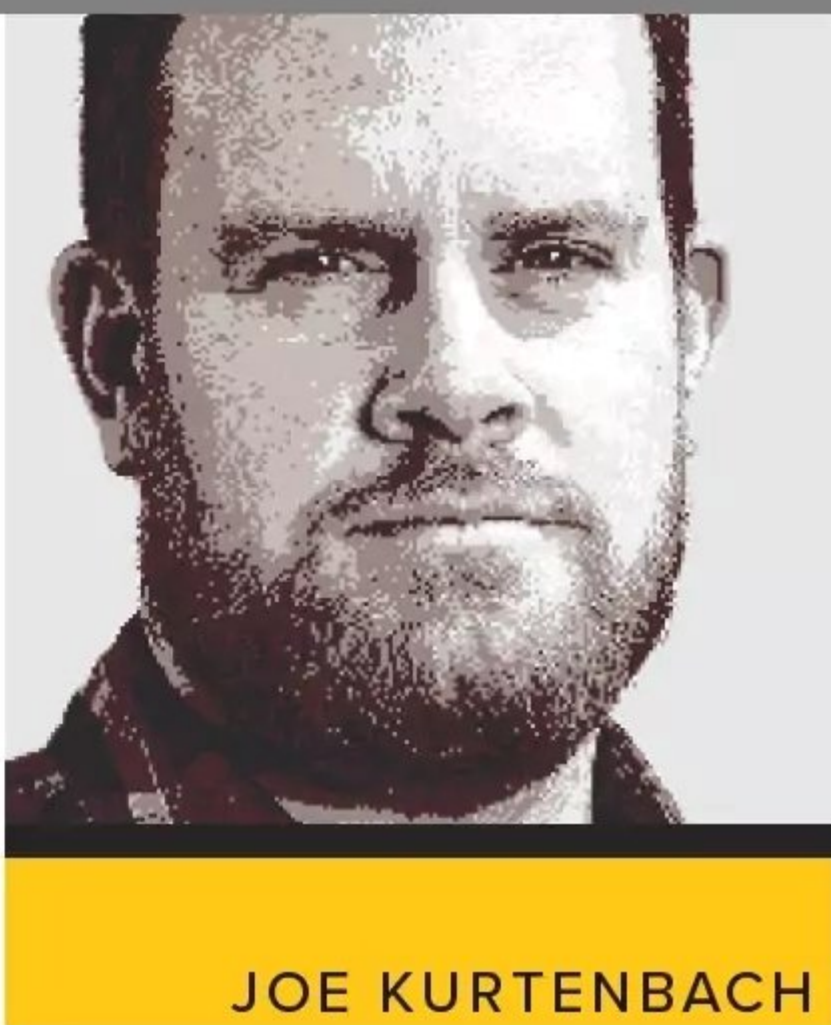
THE UNHOLY UNION
OF RACE GUN AND DUTY GUN.

INTRODUCING THE WALTHER PDP MATCH
STEEL FRAME



1904
& 2024

Despite modern fascinations with small, fast, and lightweight, it's shaping up to be the year of the .45.



THE INHERITANCE of the Philippine Revolution from the Spanish Empire, along with armed unrest in neighboring archipelagoes, were unintended consequences of the U.S. victory following the Spanish-American War (1896-1898). To local populations, the U.S. military presence was simply another in a long line of foreign occupation forces. Among the conflicts, the Moro Rebellion (1899-1913) was notable for its influence on American service sidearms.

The U.S. attempted to treat with the Moros directly, as well as its religious leaders in the Ottoman Empire. A shooting war proved inevitable though, and reports quickly emerged that the U.S. Army's Colt M1892 revolver often failed to stop Moro warriors at close range. Chambered for the .38 Long Colt blackpowder cartridge, the revolver's 150-grain 9mm bullet traveled at 700 feet-per-second (fps) and proved woefully insufficient.

Military trials dubbed the "Thompson-LaGarde Tests" (1904), sought the best handgun caliber for service use. The results, along with input from the U.S. Cavalry (which already favored a heavier round), paved the way for John Browning's .45 Automatic Colt Pistol (ACP) cartridge. Designed in 1904, the .45 ACP pushed a 230-grain 11.5mm bullet at 830 fps. Paired with Browning's semiautomatic, detachable-magazine-fed Model 1911 pistol, the .45 and "Old Slabsides" set the standard for military sidearms from 1911 to 1985, and beyond in specialized roles.

After 120 years, the cartridge is exhibiting resurgent popularity alongside Browning's definitive fighting iron. The custom market for 1911-style pistols has never been more robust, and makers report the tide of demand for 9mm 1911s has ebbed. Forty-five-caliber builds lead the way once again. Larger manufacturers are adjusting course, as well. (Be sure to read James Tarr's review of Springfield Armory's TRP 1911s, .45s all, on page 36.)

Echoes of the Moro Rebellion remain as pistols manufactured in both the Philippines and the former Ottoman Empire rise in the esteem of American handgunners. The MAC JSOC 1911 (\$750, milarmamentcorp.com), made

by Tisas in Turkey and distributed by SDS Imports, may be the finest 1911 available for less than \$1,200. My full review can be read at gunsandammo.com.

There are also efforts to enhance ammunition. In the traditions of Elmer Keith and Jeff Cooper, Dave Lauck (dlsports.com) designed an interesting .45-caliber, 200-grain bullet. The slightly narrowed round nose facilitates feeding in semiautos, but there is room for a wadcutter-like

full-diameter shoulder. The coated lead solid was designed to punch a large clean hole and it eschews trendy expansion mechanics. I've got a case for testing, along with a variety of 1911s. Look to these pages for my report. 



The U.S. Army .45-caliber pistol was developed to provide charge-stopping power and counter the threat of hand-to-hand fighting with Moro warriors. (Department of the Army, Poster 21-48, "Knocking Out The Moros," 1953.)

RANGE BRIEFS



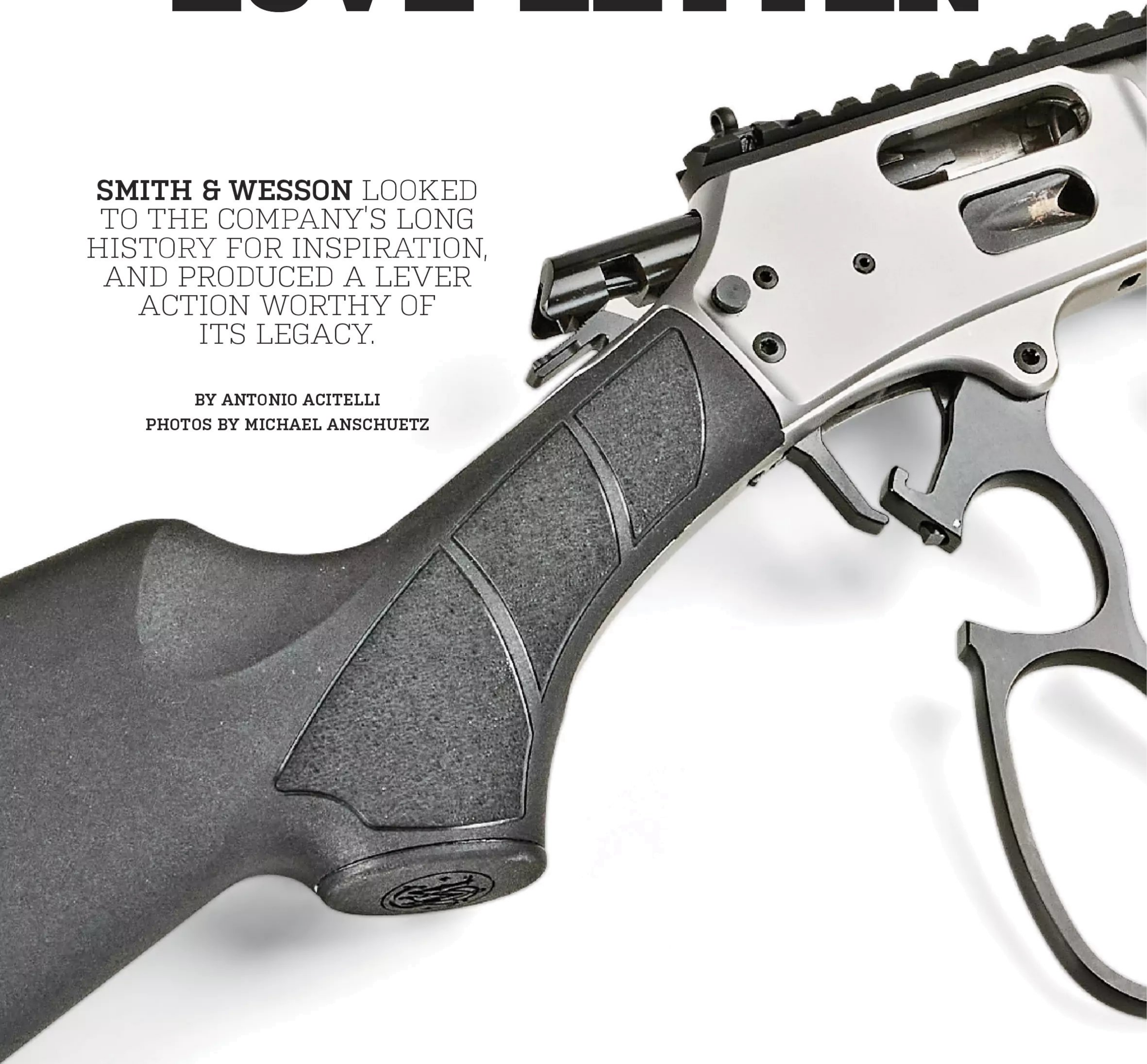
A .300 Win. Mag. that actually groups! The SAKO 90 Quest is a lightweight hunter with an adjustable carbon-fiber composite stock and adjustable trigger. In .300 Win. Mag., it has a 24-inch barrel, four-round capacity, and weighs 6 pounds, 8 ounces. Results for five, five-shot groups at 100 yards are as follows. For more, see gunsandammo.com and visit berettagalleryusa.com. \$3,999 —J. Kurtenbach

.300 WIN. MAG.	VELOCITY (FPS)	BEST GROUP (IN.)	AVG. GROUP (IN.)
SAKO Powerhead Blade 170-gr. Tipped Expanding Copper	2,790	.73	.87
Federal Premium 180-gr. Nosler Accubond	2,928	.96	1.17

A LEVER-ACTION LOVE LETTER

SMITH & WESSON LOOKED TO THE COMPANY'S LONG HISTORY FOR INSPIRATION, AND PRODUCED A LEVER ACTION WORTHY OF ITS LEGACY.

BY ANTONIO ACITELLI
PHOTOS BY MICHAEL ANSCHUETZ





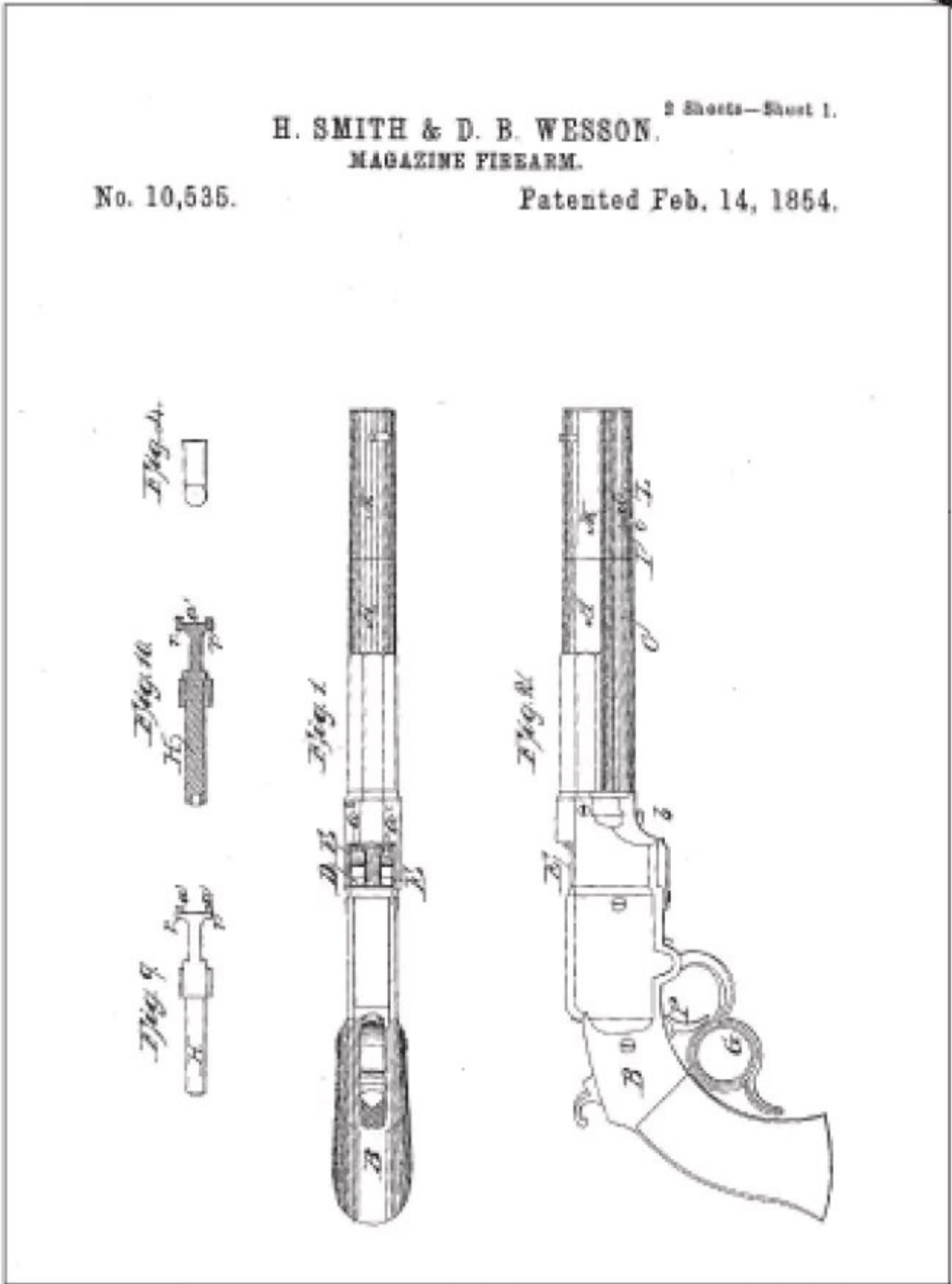
FIREARM DEVELOPMENT rarely has a single “Aha!” moment that defines an entire operating system. Successful designs tend to be built upon the shoulders of the less-than-successful designs before them. When researching these topics, it can be easy to fall into a never-ending spiral of context. Luckily, Smith & Wesson provided a clear point in time to anchor our context with its new lever action, the Model 1854 in .44 Magnum.

The naming of S&W’s lever gun may cause a bit of confusion. For many, the earliest “mainstream” lever action that comes to mind is the 1860 Henry, which served as the basis for the world-renowned 1866 Winchester. In this case, Smith & Wesson’s engineers gained inspiration for the 1854 project from patent number 10,535, which was submitted on Valentine’s Day 1854 by Horace Smith and Daniel B. Wesson. It was for the “Repeating Magazine Firearm,” later referred to as the “Volcanic.”

The Volcanic pistols and rifles were the commercial result of Smith & Wesson’s collaborative work on yet another

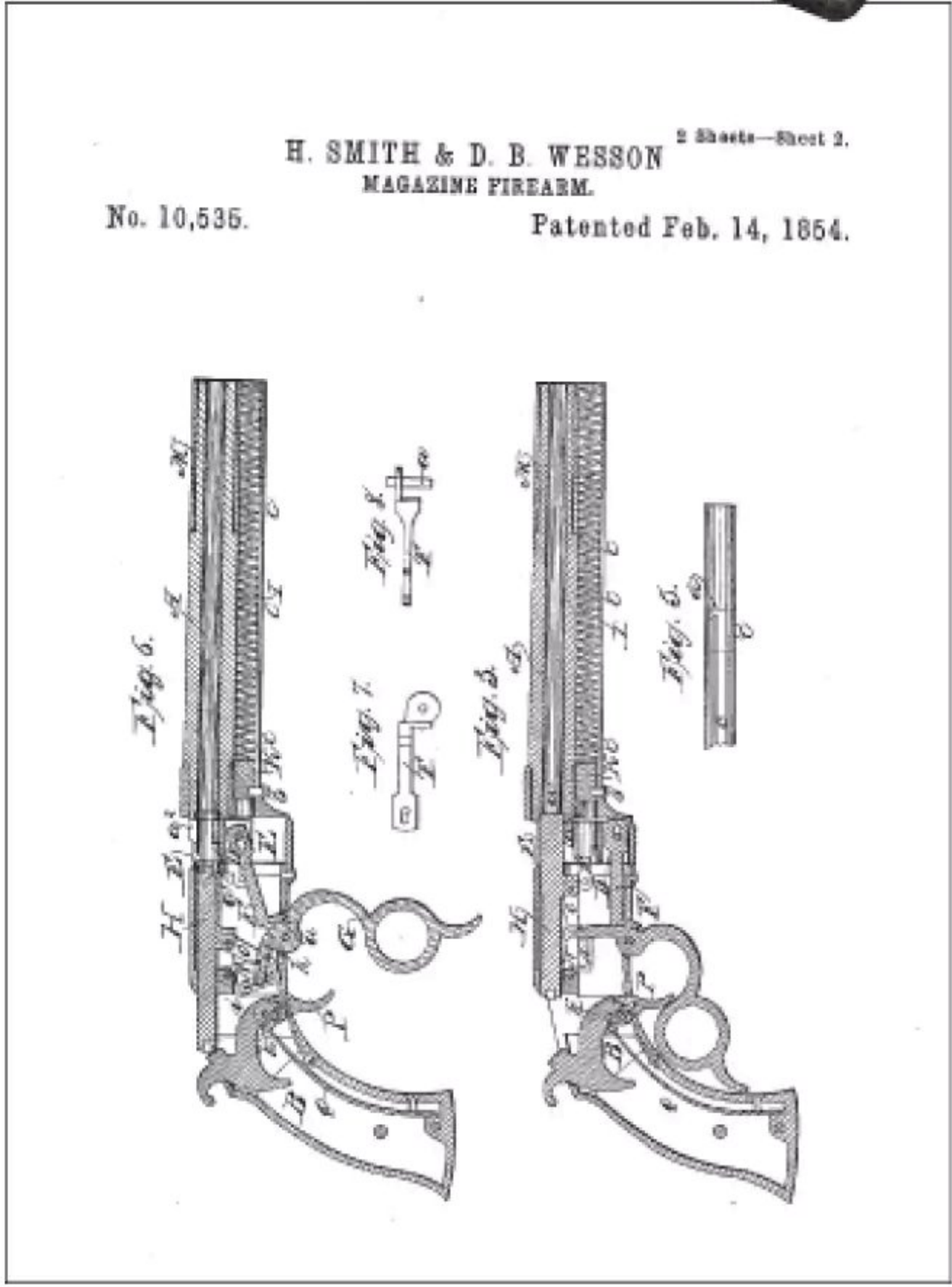
lever action, the Jennings rifle. The Jennings, while a revolutionary design sporting the now-standard tube magazine, was struggling with several development troubles. Gaining inspiration firearm designs he saw during his trip to the 1851 World’s Fair in London, Smith contributed the most to its redesign. He added a rotating pellet primer magazine, which fed primers into the firing chamber to ignite the unique ammunition used by the Jennings. The rifle — and later, the Volcanic repeating pistol — utilized caseless “Rocket Ball” ammo where the powder rested inside a hollow cavity at the rear of an elongated bullet. While novel, the round was woefully underpowered, even for the time, and commercial sales suffered. Even still, 1,100 “Smith-Jennings” were produced under a new patent.

The lifeblood of the Jennings went right into the new Volcanic Repeating Arms company, which, while short-lived, produced the aforementioned repeating pistol, as well as the Volcanic rifle. The rifle, a more refined and reliable version of the Jennings, was still weighed down by its ammunition. Poor sales forced Volcanic Arms into insolvency in 1856. Smith and Wesson departed the com-



The Volcanic did not have a formal name at the time of its patent.

SMITH & WESSON MODEL 1854	
TYPE	Lever action
CARTRIDGE	.44 Remington Magnum
CAPACITY	9+1 rds.
BARREL	19.25 in.; 1:20-in. twist, threaded
OVERALL LENGTH	36 in.
WEIGHT	6 lbs., 13 oz.
STOCK	Synthetic, black, textured
LENGTH OF PULL	13.4 in.
FINISH	Stainless steel
SIGHTS	Gold Bead (front); XS Sights ghost ring aperture, adjustable (rear)
TRIGGER	3 lbs., 4 oz. (tested)
SAFETY	Crossbolt
MSRP	\$1,279
MANUFACTURER	Smith & Wesson, 800-331-0852, smith-wesson.com



pany to form the famous brand that still operates today. The patent for the Volcanic, however, was sold to Oliver Winchester.

Volcanic Arms was not wholly dissolved. Instead, it was reorganized into the New Haven Arms Company. Benjamin Tyler Henry was hired as plant superintendent for the company, where he began to experiment with rimfire ammunition and adapted the Volcanic design to use it, which brings this story back to the Henry rifle, a 16-shot rimfire levergun patented in 1860. In 1886, New Haven Arms was reorganized again, this time into Winchester Repeating Arms Company. Now that loop is closed, and we've established the history behind the Model 1854, let's look at Smith & Wesson's effort to honor its roots.

A MODERN LEVER ACTION

At a glance, the Model 1854 shares a profile with the Marlin SBL and Trapper models. Indeed, Smith & Wesson notes that the optic rail atop the rifle accepts mounts compatible with the Model 1894-hole pattern. However, the action more closely resembles that of a Marlin 336. The barrel and frame are made from 410 stainless steel, while the stock and forend are black synthetic. Of note, three M-Lok slots are at the forend, with one on each side and bottom. The muzzle is threaded 1¹/₁₆-24, which is capped with a thread protector. A nine-round-capacity magazine tube was also given a removable cap for quick unloading.

Smith & Wesson wanted to preserve the silhouette of the classic lever action. Modern features and attachment

ASCEND TO A WHOLE NEW LEVEL



ASCENDANT
SERIES



RADIAN RAPTOR®
CHARGING HANDLE

INCLUDES A HIGH-PERFORMANCE
VORTEX® SCOPE WITH RRA MOUNT

EQUIPPED WITH A TRIGGERTECH DIAMOND
SINGLE-STAGE ADJUSTABLE TRIGGER

ADJUSTABLE MAGPUL®
PRS® LITE BUTTSTOCK

A FEATURE-RICH **NEW** BREED OF RRA AR RIFLES.

CALIBER	BARREL		WEIGHT	LENGTH
	AR1563.A (5.56)	18" FLUTED STAINLESS STEEL, 1:8 TWIST	9.4 LBS	38.125" RETRACTED
	450B1563.A (.450)	16" STAINLESS STEEL, 1:24 TWIST	9.1 LBS	36.5" RETRACTED
	350L1563.A (.350)	16" STAINLESS STEEL, 1:16 TWIST	9.1 LBS	36.125" RETRACTED

PERFORMANCE COUNTS
ROCKRIVERARMS.COM





Only 1,854 examples of the Smith & Wesson Model 1854 Limited Edition will be made. Chambered in .44 Magnum, the barrel and receiver are forged stainless steel that is finished in a polished, black PVD. The stock and forend are a high-grade walnut with a satin finish. **\$3,499**



A length of rail supports the addition of a reflex sights or scope. The receiver's topstrap shares the hole pattern of the Marlin 1894, so aftermarket mounts are cross-compatible with the 1854.

points are present, but are not pronounced. While the rifle can be accessorized to nearly the same level as an AR-15, it also gets by just fine without any additional bells or whistles. From a distance, most at the gun counter wouldn't be able to tell that the 1854 has the capacity to be "tactical" at all. In fact, launching alongside the polymer version is a limited-edition walnut stock model, but its production is restricted to just 1,854 units.

The grip panels are textured in a light sandpaper-like pattern. Those who have operated Smith & Wesson's M&P 2.0 pistol or Response Carbine will find it familiar, though the pattern is not identical. A large loop lever is used to work the action, however, its size is closer to that



Three recessed M-lok slots are integrated into the polymer forend, which don't interfere with the handling of the rifle. Smith & Wesson successfully blended a traditional profile with modern treatments, expanding its utility between hunting and defense.



The stainless-steel barrel is threaded 1 $\frac{1}{16}$ -24 and capped. Underneath, the magazine can be easily unloaded.

of a Marlin medium loop rather than John Wayne's. The trigger is flat-faced, producing a clean break at just more than 3 pounds. I was surprised how much I enjoyed the flat trigger on a lever, but its consistent, crisp pull won me over.

Some lever-action enthusiasts may question the decision to launch the 1854 in .44 Magnum, and not .357 or .45-70. While I'm confident that these chamberings will be introduced eventually, I asked a similar question when I first got my hands on the rifle. It became clear, though, when I considered the benefits of the .44 chambering for hunters going after deer and hog, and those hunting in straight wall-restricted states.

The .44 Magnum provides three main benefits: High foot-pounds of energy on target, a large entry hole, and moderate recoil. Additionally, the .44 Mag. will mostly stay



NIGHTHAWK[®] CUSTOM

ONE GUN,
ONE GUNSMITH



Shown with options/
upgrades

Agent 2
Commander

Fully machined
and hand fit by
a single gunsmith



The World's Finest
Custom Pistols

877-268-4867
www.nighthawkcustom.com



Textured grip panels offer modern touchpoints to the polymer stock and forend. Though reminiscent of the texture on Smith & Wesson's M2.0 pistol models, it is less aggressive but still provides positive control.



The flat trigger is a contemporary design that worked well with the 1854. The trigger sent a cocked hammer forward after 3 pounds, on average, during G&A's testing.



A gold-bead front sight is paired with an adjustable ghost ring rear from XS Sights. Both sights are removable.



The hammer can be racked back or thumb cocked manually. An optional hammer extension is included with the rifle to ease its use when a scope is mounted.



The tubular magazine is loaded through a familiar side gate. With one in the chamber, the 1854 has a capacity of 10 rounds for the .44 Magnum.

close to or above 1,000 ft.-lbs. out to around 100 yards, whereas .357 tends to drop below that at 50 yards. The .45-70 has high energy, but the recoil from even moderate loads is more significant than a .44. While it certainly gets the job done, the .45-70 may be overkill, in terms of energy and expense, for the average whitetail or hog.

The perfect way to test the viability of the Model 1854 in this regard was to take it on a hunt. In December 2023, I joined some of Smith & Wesson's staff, alongside some fellow gunwriters, in northern Tennessee for a hog hunt.

IN THE FIELD

The weather was, for the most part, cold and rainy. While not comfortable, it was a great test for how well the 1854 would fare in rougher conditions. The rifle resisted the elements admirably. It functioned smoothly through some heavy showers that visited my exposed hunting stand (and it didn't rust). After the first day, we concluded that the hogs weren't near the stands, and getting rained on in a box was not very productive. We decided to continue stalking hogs for the rest of the hunt. At just under 7 pounds, the rifle never burdened me while hiking, especially considering that I had opted to not use a sling.

a backup at the ready. With one round chambered in the rifle, I had some 16 rounds of .44 Magnum on-hand, which (if accurately placed) can dispatch most (if not all) potential worries you could find while out on the trail.

My decision was justified when, while helping track a wounded pig, a 300-pound hog busted out of a bush to my right. While I'm told that the charge only lasted around 5 seconds, it felt much longer than that in the moment! While I was able to draw my sidearm in time, the hog had jumped from a bush that was between myself and my fellow hunters. As I did not want to flag anyone with my revolver, I opted to jump out of the way as it blitzed past me. With the line of fire clear, another of our party placed four shots into the sow in quick succession; it went down. While I did not fire my 629 in that scenario, I was sure to note the condition of my holster for the rest of that day.

A half hour from sundown on the final day of the hunt, our guides discovered a drove of hogs gathered near an old barn. Crouching along a nearby fence, I managed to get within 20 yards of the group. Spotting a large razorback, I aimed and fired off a single shot from the 1854. The action was flawless, and within a second I had another round in the chamber for a follow-up, which wasn't needed. The

M1A™

LOADED MODEL





A lowered hammer doesn't contact the firing pin, and a crossbolt safety, which is right-hand biased, reveals red when ready to fire.



The traditional tang design marries the polymer stock to the receiver. Despite appearances, modern screws keep it together.



The accuracy and power of the Model 1854 in .44 Magnum was proven afield. A 340-pound hog was dropped where it stood.

340-pound sow was down right where she stood. My one shot landed just ahead of the shoulder blade.

AT THE RANGE

During testing at my home range, all types of ammunition fed reliably; no issues were encountered. The best performing rounds were Hornady's 225-grain LeverEvolution with FTX bullet, and some more traditional Winchester 240-grain jacketed soft points (JSP). Shot groups stayed around 2 inches at 50 yards for all ammo types. Again, the Tennessee weather was determined not to let me have a sunny day — and I was not under cover — but the Model 1854 was once again reliable in wet conditions. I had to wear gloves, thanks to the cold, but the large lever loop gave ample room for me to work the action and

trigger. Recoil was soft, and even after firing 70 rounds back-to-back, my shoulder felt just fine. The textured grip panels did the job and helped keep the rifle firmly in my hands' control.

While testing the 1854, I kept feeling as though the gun was begging for a suppressor. The already-manageable recoil could be softened further with a brake, but noise reduction is always appreciated. With the barrel threaded 1 1/16-24, it would be easy to mount either a direct-thread or one with an adapter. Lights and other attachments would also fit well on the forend and lend credit to the 1854 as a home-defense gun in restrictive states.

My main piece of feedback for Smith & Wesson would be a request for an adjustable comb, or perhaps inserts for the polymer stock. Even with the lowest possible scope rings mounted, I still had to stretch my neck to get a proper view through the Vortex scope I was using. Luckily, this is the kind of feedback that S&W can implement quickly; I've seen plenty of polymer and plastic molding machines at its new Tennessee headquarters. With these, polymer stocks can be designed, produced and tested in-house,

greatly streamlining the concept-to-production process.

PERFORMANCE

AMMO	VEL. (FPS)	ES	SD	BEST GROUP (IN.)	AVG. GROUP (IN.)
Hornady LeverEvolution 225-gr. FTX	1,521	71	16	.93	1.73
Winchester USA 240-gr. JSP	1,601	117	25	1.35	2.23
Fiocchi Defense Dynamics 240-gr. JSP	1,289	65	31	1.64	1.95
Winchester Big Bore 240-gr. SJHP	1,534	73	19	1.82	2.15

Notes: Accuracy is the result of four, five-shot groups at 50 yards. Velocity is the average of 10 shots through a ProChrono DLX chronograph placed 3 yards from the muzzle.

A LEVERGUN'S DNA

I found myself thoroughly impressed with Smith & Wesson's Model 1854. It offers many quality-of-life features mated to a classic design

that does not feel tactical or over the top. The smooth action and trigger made shooting it a breeze. Lever actions are still hot sellers, and the \$1,279 MSRP price will likely place this gun closer to \$1,000 when it hits a store's gun racks. And additional chamberings are sure to come.

While not a reproduction of the Volcanic, Smith & Wesson has penned a perfect love letter to the brand's 170-year history with its Model 1854. I plan on keeping this one, and I look forward to enjoying the next deer season. **G&A**

Howa™

NEW HERA H7 SERIES

JAPANESE PRECISION MEETS GERMAN ENGINEERING

CARBON FIBER
7.2 LBS

HEAVY
9.15 LBS

STANDARD
7.7 LBS

FEATURES

- Std 22" / Hvy Steel 24" / Carbon Fiber 24"
- Available in 6.5 Creedmoor & .308 WIN
- Available in OD, Tan or Black
- H7 Chassis - M-Lok Mount Points
- 3 LOP Adjustment Inserts
- Removable Butt Panel
- Fiberglass-Reinforced Polymer
- Aluminum V-Lock Bedding
- Aluminum Forestock
- Polymer Cheek Piece Support
- AICS-Compatible 5 Round Magazine
- Integrated QD Cup Sling Mounts
- STD Barrel MSRP \$749
- Heavy Barrel MSRP \$819
- Carbon Fiber Barrel MSRP \$1,219

HA COMPLETE HUNT PROTECT
HERA INDUSTRIES

**LIFETIME
WARRANTY**

**SUB-MOA
GUARANTEE**

H.A.C.T.
2-STAGE TRIGGER

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT: LEGACYSPORTS.COM

CATALOG OUT NOW - REQUEST YOUR FREE COPY TODAY: 1.800.553.4229



LegacySportsIntl



LegacySportsInternational



LegacySportsIntl





COCKED & LOCKED

SPRINGFIELD ARMORY
UPDATES THE TRP LINE.

BY JAMES TARR | PHOTOS BY MICHAEL ANSCHUETZ





CURRENTLY, the Tactical Response Pistol (TRP) is Springfield Armory’s most elite line of production 1911s. The TRP sprung from the Professional Model the Custom Shop built up for the FBI’s elite Hostage Rescue Team (HRT) during the late 1990s. The TRP offers every custom feature you’d want or need in a fighting 1911. While there are all sorts of alterations you can add to the basic 1911, think of the TRP as a well-thought-out optimization of the 1911 for defensive use.

There are six versions of the TRP for 2024, some previously offered and others brand new. The TRP is only offered in .45 ACP, but you have your choice of three 5-inch versions: The Classic without a rail or the TRP 5-inch with a rail in black or coyote brown; and three 4¼-inch versions; the “Classic” with a steel frame, no rail; and a standard frame; or two versions with an aluminum frame and Springfield Armory’s Carry Contour frame where the back corner is cut off to make the pistol more concealable. All new TRPs feature a Cerakote finish, either black or coyote brown. The traditionalist in me loves a 1911 with a blued finish, but bluing only resists rust slightly better than bare metal. Cerakote does a much better job resisting corrosion, and the black guns have a very attractive and businesslike satin finish. I selected the TRP 5-inch model (with rail) for testing.

A HISTORY LESSON

Many of Guns & Ammo’s readers are familiar with the 1911, but every year new people become first-time gun owners, so let me lay a bit of history on them.

A product of John Moses Browning — perhaps the most successful and prolific gun designer in history — the Model 1911 was designed along with the .45 ACP.

Inspired by the Custom Shop-produced Springfield Armory 1911 Professional model once carried by the FBI HRT, the TRP was developed in the mid-2000s with similar specifications, including an optional frame rail featured on the Operator series.

SPRINGFIELD ARMORY TRP	
TYPE	Recoil operated, semiautomatic
CARTRIDGE	.45 ACP
CAPACITY	8+1 rds.
BARREL LENGTH	5 in., forged stainless steel
OVERALL LENGTH	8.6 in.
HEIGHT	5.5 in.
WIDTH	1.3 in.
WEIGHT	2 lbs., 10.4 oz. (tested)
SLIDE	Forged carbon steel
FRAME	Forged carbon steel, rail
FINISH	Coyote Brown Cerakote (tested); nitride (steel)
GRIPS	VZ Grips Hydra G10
SAFETY	Grip safety, thumb safety, loaded-chamber notch
SIGHTS	Springfield Armory Tactical Rack night sights
TRIGGER	5 lbs. (tested)
MSRP	\$1,999
MANUFACTURER	Springfield Armory, 800-680-6866, springfield-armory.com



Adopted by the U.S. Army in 1911, it remained a U.S. military service pistol (the M1911, later the M1911A1) until 1985, when it was eventually replaced by the M9. (Some U.S. Marines hung onto the platform until the last guns left the armory in 2023.)

The Model 1911 is a single-action-only (SAO), semiautomatic pistol. If the hammer isn’t cocked, the pistol won’t fire.

FIT & FINISH

The original “Government Model” had a 5-inch barrel, and that’s what you’ll find on G&A’s TRP test gun. Inside is a hammer-forged, stainless-steel barrel, fitted and given a nitride finish. Speaking of forged, both the frame and slide of the TRP are forged and then machined. The difference between a “budget” 1911 and a custom gun is usually evident in the slide-to-frame-to-barrel fit. You want it tight so that the gun is accurate, but not so tight that the gun chokes when it gets dirty.

G&A’s TRP displayed a perfect slide-to-frame-to-barrel fit. There was zero play between the parts, and yet the slide was buttery smooth when I worked it by hand. The barrel fit was everything you would expect: It dropped down when cycling the slide with a subtle *click*, and with the slide forward, a firm push down on the barrel hood didn’t move the barrel at all. One peek inside the pistol showed me the feed ramp on the frame had been perfectly blended with the chamber mouth, as well. Both were nicely polished.

INTEGRIX

CHALLENGING WHAT'S STANDARD.



READY FOR WHEN & WHERE IT COUNTS.

LR / ELR

MID POWER

LPVD



4.5-27X56 FFP
MI MRAD RETICLE / iX645FMI



3-18X44 FFP
A2 MOA RETICLE / iX603FA2



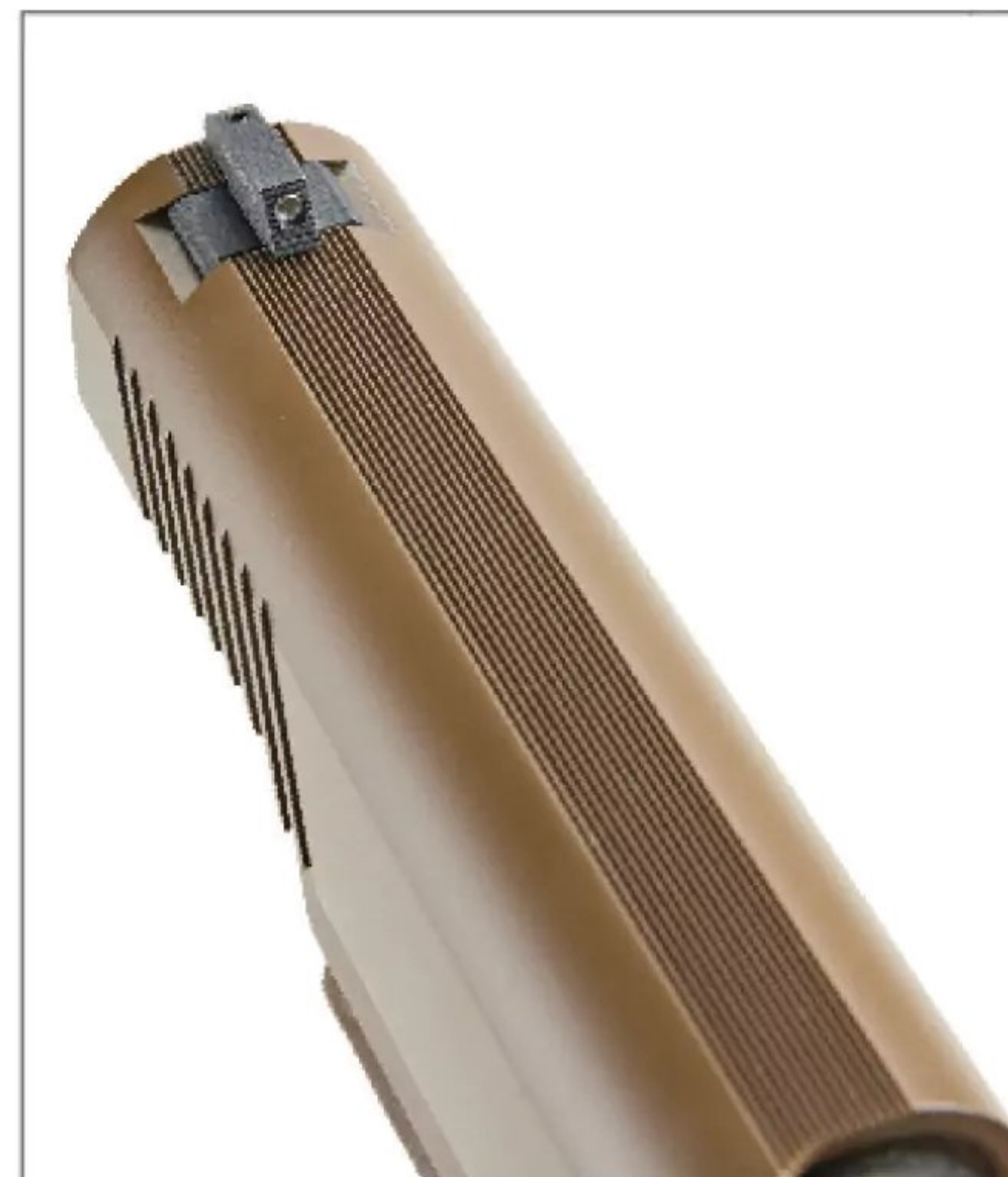
1-8X28 FFP
A1 MOA RETICLE / iX801FA1



LEAPERS

HEADQUARTERED IN LIVONIA, MICHIGAN
PROVIDING OPTICS & SHOOTING SPORTS ACCESSORIES SINCE 1992.
734-542-1500 | WWW.LEAPERS.COM | [f](#) [t](#) [i](#)

IXOPTICS.COM



From the thumb safety, to the slide, trigger, hammer and rear sight, contact surfaces for each control are serrated.

TRADITIONAL & MODERN

The TRP slide features the standard rounded top, but you'll see serrations running on top from the rear sight to the front. Ostensibly, this is done to cut glare, but, maybe more importantly, it looks very cool. It's a sure sign of a gun that's several steps above basic.

The slide has angled, flat-bottomed serrations on the sides, front and back. Flat-bottomed serrations have proven themselves to be more aggressive than the original cuts, and angled forward as they present a classic vibe. On the left side is "TRP" engraved in a small font; on the right is "SPRINGFIELD ARMORY" with the crossed-cannons logo.

The sights on the TRP 5-inch are old-school tactical. They are dovetailed, serrated steel units with tritium inserts for use in no and low light. The rear sight is Springfield Armory's Tactical Rack, which offers a flat front face to cycle the slide one-handed. Simply hook the front of the rear sight on a hard surface. Both the front and rear sights have added security with set screws that bind against the top of the slide. This almost eliminates any chance of the sights drifting left or right in the dovetails.

The front of the frame has a three-slot rail for mounting lights; it's nicely blended with the slide at the front. Inside, the TRP has a full-length steel recoil spring and guiderod. This adds a bit of weight (in addition to the rail), all of which helps



A three-slot accessory rail stiffens the dustcover of the TRP frame while offering a mounting option for a pistol light. The added weight of this feature helps to reduce muzzle flip resulting from the powerful .45 ACP.

to tame muzzle rise. With an unloaded magazine, the TRP weighed 42.4 ounces.

At the rear of the TRP is an extended bilateral thumb safety with positive *clicks* up and down. If you're going to carry a pistol for self-defense, carry it in such a way that you can draw and fire it with one hand.

With its hammer down, an M1911 is just an expensive paperweight. This means 1911s should be carried Condition One with the hammer cocked and the thumb safety engaged. If you don't want to do that, I suggest carrying a different type of pistol. Between the 1911s grip safety and thumb safety, I could argue that a cocked-and-locked 1911 is mechanically safer than the average striker-fired pistol.



THE **DO-IT-ALL** MICRO RED DOT

SEE THE **NEW**

DEFENDER-ST™

MICRO RED DOT



HANDGUNS. SHOTGUNS. OFFSET ON A CARBINE.
FLAT-RANGE SHOOTING TO DUTY USE.



The Model 1911 was designed to be carried “cocked and locked,” with the thumb safety up, preventing the cocked hammer from falling. The TRP sports a Novak-cut, rackable rear sight.



The “TRP” marking is modest in size, some might say “understated.” Black controls, including the polymer trigger, magazine release, slide lock lever and thumb safety offer tasteful contrast.

The skeletonized hammer is nestled nicely inside the beavertail grip safety. Unless it’s depressed, the grip safety physically blocks the trigger and prevents the gun from firing. This model has the hump at the bottom to better ensure positive disengagement.

LET’S TALK ABOUT THE TRIGGER.

Inside the triggerguard, you’ll see a long trigger with a serrated face, Springfield’s Gen 2 Speed Trigger. The trigger shoe is polymer, which is a little disappointing. As a long-time fan of the 1911, I grew up with aluminum trigger shoes on my gunsmith-tuned 1911s. Functionally, I don’t think it makes a difference, but the heart wants what the heart wants. A note on that: Back 30-and-more years ago, the only way to get a 1911 close to the TRP was to hand over a GI 1911 and a grand in cash to a gunsmith. Then, we had to wait three months to a year.

The 1911 is fascinating. This design is more than a century old and yet it is still one of the most popular pistol designs in America. We could fill this entire issue with arguments as to exactly why the 1911 has remained so successful in an era of polymer wonder pistols, but I think most of its continued success is due to its trigger system. The 1911 can have a great trigger pull. It is short and crisp, and can safely be made very light.

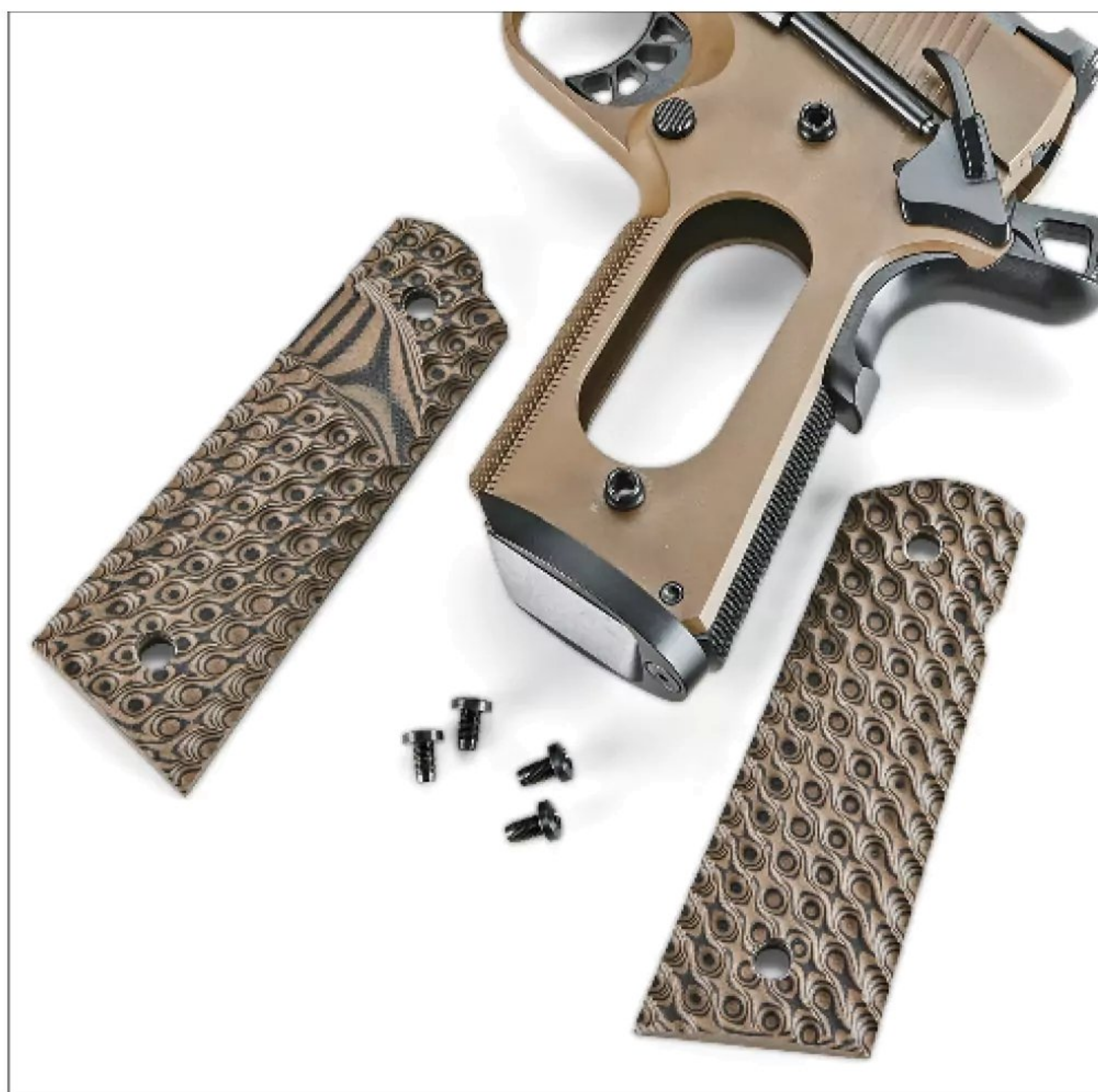
The trigger pull on my sample was 5 pounds, even.

There was a short takeup and darn near zero overtravel. The total trigger travel to fire — including takeup — measured a tenth of an inch according to my calipers. And that’s why the 1911 has the trigger pull against which all other defensive pistols are judged. (As it should be.) For a 1911, Guns & Ammo’s sample TRP simply had an average trigger pull. Still, it’s better than 95-plus percent of all striker-fired guns on the market. The secret to good handgun shooting is not letting the trigger pull disturb your sight picture. The shorter, lighter, and crisper your trigger is, the easier it becomes to make that happen. I know from personal experience that after 500 to 1,000 rounds, the trigger pull on a 1911 lightens up, as much as a quarter- to a half-pound as the parts wear in. Still — and this is my only complaint with the TRP — I would have preferred a

4-pound (or lighter) trigger on a 1911 with this price tag. As Col. Jeff Cooper liked to say, “Three pounds, crisp, is the word.”

GET A GRIP

Both the frontstrap and the mainspring housing have aggressive 20 LPI checkering. This will lock your hand in place; if you do enough shooting, it’ll put calluses on your fingers. Back in the day, the only way to get checkering on a 1911 was to pay a gunsmith to do it by hand, which wasn’t cheap because it was very time-consuming. Today, checkering is done by machines. As they say, “The savings



VZ Grips’ 1911 VZ Hydras were selected by Springfield Armory for the updated TRP models. Available in several covers, these G10 panels feature VZ Grips’ most aggressive texture.

INTRODUCING THE EXPEDITION EXCLUSIVELY FROM TAURUS® HUNT.

Launching in .308 Winchester
and coming soon in 6.5 Creedmoor
and 8.6 Blackout configurations.



EXPEDITION

Timeless DLC-coated bolt-action design featuring a fluted bolt, interchangeable bolt knob, 60-degree bolt throw and adjustable trigger.

Feeds from common detachable box magazines.

A planed off area on both sides of the stock allows for near perfect seating in a hunting tripod saddle.

M-Lok and Spartan Precision adapter integrated into fore-end of stock.

Factory threaded, DLC-coated, hammer forged barrel is suppressor ready out of the box.



TaurusUSA.com





The .45 ACP demands a firm hold to control recoil, so the TRP features aggressive texturing including machine checkering and VZ Grips. The flat-bottom grips are a match to the mag well.



The forged, precision-machined slide displayed a tight fit with both the frame and barrel. The stainless barrel is hammer-forged and nitride-coated, offering a professional appearance.

are passed on to you.” The grips are Hydras from VZ Grips, machined from G10 and given an aggressive texture.

The only real downside — perceived or real, depending on your attitude — with the 1911 as a carry gun is its lack of capacity, at least when compared to modern 9mms. Eight-plus-one rounds of .45 should be enough to solve most problems, but there will always be exceptions. Supplied with this pistol are three eight-round Mec-Gar magazines. They have non-tilting, polymer followers and numbered index holes on the sides.

Reloading a 1911 is always easier if it’s got a beveled magazine well, and an external bolt-on magazine well makes reloads faster. At the base of the TRP frame is a steel mag well. It does not protrude further than the grips on the side of the basepad, so it doesn’t really compromise concealability. Reloads are smooth and fast.

There is handwork that goes into each TRP. Hand blending of the back of the slide and frame, for example, the

PERFORMANCE

LOAD	VEL. (FPS)	ES	SD	BEST GROUP (IN.)	AVG. GROUP (IN.)
Winchester WIN 1911 230-gr. FMJ	845	24	11	1.4	1.7
Hornady American Gunner 185-gr. XTP	956	33	12	1.7	2
SIG Sauer Elite 185-gr. JHP	979	30	17	1.8	2.2
Federal Syntech Defense 205-gr. SJHP	964	39	20	2.2	3

Notes: Accuracy is the average of four, five-shot groups at 25 yards from a sandbag rest. Velocity is the averages of 10 shots measured using an Oehler Model 35P chronograph set 12 feet in front of the muzzle.



Three single-stack Mec-Gar magazines are included with the TRP. Each feature an eight-round capacity.

removal of sharp edges, and hand finishing. The first 1911 I owned was a Colt I bought in 1992 or so, and the lower corner of the slide was so sharp I couldn’t walk away from a USPSA match without a bloody thumb. However, every corner of the TRP is radiused. The only sharp edges on this pistol are where you want them: Front sight, checkering, and so on.

At the range, the TRP was boringly reliable, and it was likely capable of more accuracy than I could wring from it off a rest. Still, the numbers were impressive. With the right ammo, out of a Ransom Rest, this pistol can produce ragged, one-hole groups. The rail and full-length guiderod add weight, but, like me, you may find that weight is welcome when you start touching off .45 ACPs.

IT’S STILL RELEVANT.

The TRP is a bigger and heavier pistol than most people want to carry. You need a good holster and a quality belt, especially if you carry it with a light attached. I carried a custom Springfield Armory .45 in a Kramer horsehide Vertical Scabbard every day for a decade, and I made Master Class in USPSA’s Limited Division with it. I am fully aware I’m an outlier — a weirdo — carrying big guns and dressing around them. Still, the heritage of this gun was built as a quality sidearm for one of the nation’s premier SWAT teams. So, whether you’re going to carry it, use it to shoot competition, punch paper at the range, or slap a light on it and use it for home defense, the TRP can handle it. **GA**

MOSSBERG | 590[®] RETROGRADE

**SOME
THINGS
NEVER GO
OUT OF
STYLE.**

SCAN CODE FOR
MORE INFO ►



#52150
590[®] Retrograde
12GA, 9-Shot

SAFETY TIP

Store firearms securely, inaccessible
to children and unauthorized users.

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

TIMELESS, TIME-TESTED SHOTGUNS.

With a nod to Mossberg's first security pumps, Retrograde shotguns combine
the timeless look of walnut furniture with Mossberg's time-tested pump-action
features. Retrograde models are available in multiple finishes, in 6, 7, and 9-Shot
capacities, and in Security and Field/Hunting configurations.

**Mossberg – Makers of dependable, hardworking firearms for more
than a century.**

**LEARN MORE AT
MOSSBERG.COM**

MOSSBERG[®]
SINCE 1919



CONNECTING WITH TARGETS

BURRIS BRIDGES THE VISUAL GAP WITH OPTICAL TECHNOLOGY.

BY ALFREDO RICO

AS I LASERED THE TARGET at 800 yards using the Burris Eliminator 6, I felt the same exuberance I remember after powering up my first smartphone. That phone had a built-in camera, GPS mapping and an internet browser. The Eliminator 6 is like that. It combines multiple tools in one device, including a rangefinder, ballistic calculator, weather station and level. No longer do we need to take our eyes off the scope if an animal meanders off into

the distance. It's all right here. With the press of a button, the data and aiming point are instantly updated. Electronic components have shrunk, making these tech-ready marriages like the mounting of a traditional scope. Featuring Bluetooth connectivity and my handload data uploaded through the BurrisConnect app, the Eliminator 6 takes the guesswork out of the equation, leaving me with a precise, ethical shot.





ELIMINATOR 6

The Eliminator 6 is an advanced scope. It shouldn't intimidate those who have already decided to invest in their long-range shooting capability. Burris launched its first laser-rangefinding scope in 2006, and the Eliminator arrived in 2010. Burris has been at this for a while. The system technology inside starts with the BurrisConnect app, which you download to your phone. The scope communicates with the app by Bluetooth, sharing ballistic information programmed into the app or sourced from ballistic libraries of factory ammunition. It works like a DOPE card. The uploaded data remains in the scope's memory and does not need the app open to run in the field or at a range. Besides the 2,000-plus-yard laser rangefinder, the Eliminator 6 factors local temperature, density altitude, inclination angle, humidity, and pressure data to develop a ballistic solution. Burris Eliminators have long been known for advancing rangefinding technology within scopes, but the Eliminator 6 takes this to the apex.

The Eliminator 6 looks something like a traditional rifle-scope, too. It has a traditional-looking magnification ring, but inside is a position sensor that allows the computer to compensate for magnification. The traditional-looking



The left parallax dial supports the tactile rangefinding button and illumination controls. Elevation and wind turrets are capped and remain mechanical.



The ocular housing contains the HUD and adjustable diopter. Eye relief was measured at 3.4 inches. Ahead of the assembly is the knurled magnification ring.

diopter is also adjustable, and there is a side-focus adjustment marked "25" yards to infinity.

The engine within the Eliminator 6 uses multiple systems to calculate bullet velocity at a ranged distance, as well as bullet energy. This scope is like a bridge to a ballistics table and a weather station, providing information on a heads-up display (HUD). With the press of a button, the Eliminator 6 serves up the range, wind hold and aiming point without having you take your eye away from the scope. If the target moves, simply range it again to update the aiming point and HUD. This scope also updates the elevation and wind holds when you zoom in or out of magnification.

Burris engineers reduced the size of the Eliminator's electronics, which is why it looks like any quality



Ballistic and environmental data can be sent to the Veracity PH scope through Bluetooth with the BurrisConnect app.



Turning the elevation turret adjusts compensated yardage in the HUD. The turret marks can also be used to adjust for DOPE.

long-range scope having a 34mm tube, a set of adjustment turrets or an illumination and parallax dial. The Eliminator 6 is available as a 4-20x52mm scope with a second focal plane (SFP) MOA-based reticle. There are 177 holdover aiming points underneath the X-axis of the reticle, solving compensation to one-sixth MOA. In a worst-case scenario, the turrets are mechanical and can be used to dial elevation and wind holds. The Eliminator 6 combines several tools into one. **\$2,499**

VERACITY PH 4-20x50mm

Burris' Veracity PH 4-20x50mm is another innovation that incorporates a unique elevation turret system called "PĒK," or "Programmable Elevation Knob." It, too, uses a ballistics table factoring inclination angle. Like the Eliminator 6,

ballistic data and environmental data can be supplied to the scope through the BurrisConnect app.

The PĒK turret is linked to the ballistic table. When turned, it shows the distance through the HUD. This works when the shooter ranges game with a handheld rangefinder and then adjusts the turret until the HUD displays the same distance you've ranged. There is no need to convert distance to minutes, mils, or reference a DOPE card.

The turret is mechanical, too; if the battery dies, you can manually dial an MOA value using the turret. The HUD also displays wind-holds, a bubble level, battery status, and determines if the inclination angle is on or off. Wind speed and direction are set in the app, and the wind-hold value changes according to distance dialed.

The turrets on the Veracity PH offer 70 MOA of elevation and 37 MOA of windage adjustments. The scope measures 15 inches long and weighs 26½ ounces.

A friend who has an allergy to ballistic calculators (and is new to rifle shooting) used the Veracity PH scope to shoot his first pronghorn. He raved about how easy it was to dial the range for his shot. **\$1,199**

SIGNATURE LRF 2000

If you want to hit a far target, it helps to know the distance.



**FOR THOSE
WHO
DARE.**



www.falcoholsters.com



With 7X magnification, the Signature LRF 2000 is used to identify and range targets. It is a useful companion to Veracity PH scopes.



The laser is activated by a black button featuring a "RANGE" icon. It is eye safe and can measure targets to 2,400 yards.



The textured, rubber-overmold armor features comfortable finger grooves that support intuitive one-hand operation.

Handheld laser rangefinders (LRF) are generally affordable and well-made. There's no reason a shooter shouldn't have one. In 2023, Burris launched the Signature LRF 2000, which quickly ranges from 5 to 2,400 yards using sport, hunting or auto-range modes. It will also scan a field of view with instant ranging. The unit features 7X magnification and high definition (HD) glass, which is what distinguishes this model from most other long-distance rangefinders. The unit weighs 6 ounces and measures 4¾ inches long by 3¼ inches tall by 1½ inches wide. During Guns & Ammo's evaluation, the Signature LRF 2000 was light and easy to palm single-handed.

The housing is protected against bumps and rough treatment by a dark-green rubber overmold shell. On top are three finger grooves that offer a natural, no-slip grip. The eyepiece has its own rubber ring to protect the ocular lens, and a diopter adjustment is useful to achieve a clear view. The

7X magnification is powerful, which was critical in order to transpose the reticle over the image. Supporting the Signature LRF 2000 on a bagged rest helped to increase stability when trying to precisely aim at a distant target. Atop the housing, the index finger easily finds the ranging button. The mode button is the Burris-mountain logo on the left side of the housing. The rangefinder uses a single CR2 battery, which can be found at hardware stores, but you should keep a spare for times when you can't easily find a CR2. Besides the battery, the Signature LRF 2000 includes a lanyard that can be threaded through a slot at the rear housing. If you're using the rangefinder in the field where you might need to quickly mount a rifle, the lanyard is especially useful.

Pressing the ranging button once produces the range to a target. To track a moving target, you have to hold down the ranging button. Besides continuous measurement, the



The FastFire 4 includes a Picatinny rail adapter and closed-emitter shroud to protect the LED.



Without the shroud, the open-emitter configuration weighs just 1.6 ounces.

Signature LRF 2000 also displays angular degrees, horizontal distance, and the line-of-sight to the target. Line-of-sight distance is critical to know when shooting at an angle. Despite the advertised 2,400 yards, that figure was only achievable against a reflective target — such as the large NRA bullseye used for high-power shooting — from a stable position. Non-reflective targets such as big-game, including elk and moose, can be ranged to about 1,600 yards; 1,100 yards for deer- and sheep-size animals. **\$360**

FASTFIRE 4

The FastFire 4 is a versatile reflex sight, a leap in technological advancement since the first FastFire micro red-dot appeared in 2007. With an aluminum housing,

the FastFire 4 features a glass lens — not plastic. What makes this new red dot so useful for any firearm are the four reticles. It can be used for wingshooting, competition, personal defense, security, or plinking. Especially notable is that it can be converted from a lightweight open emitter to a completely enclosed sight. The 1-inch-wide lens and thin lens frame means the FastFire 4 has a wide view of the target area with little distortion near the edge.

Four reticle options include a 3 MOA red dot, 11 MOA red dot, a red dot with 100-MOA circle, and a 3 MOA red dot with a circle and hold-off wings. Switching between the reticles was simple; the right-side button on the housing is dedicated to toggling one reticle to the next. The left-side strictly controls brightness, but an auto-brightness



XS AR Upper & Lower Receiver Armorer's Block

A great tool to assemble, modify or maintain almost every AR pattern modern sporting rifle available.

Designed to allow gunsmiths or do-it-yourself enthusiasts to hold an AR-15/M4, AR-10, SR-25 or DMPS GII receiver in a bench-mounted vise.



Made in the USA from durable 6061 T6 aluminum.



The XS Armorer's Block comes with pins to lock in the receiver and fitment screw for the AR 15 lower.



To allow bracing into the mag well of AR10 lowers, XS offers a 3D printed adaptor plate for purchase.

The Armorer's Block works with a DPMS patterned 308, DPMS GII, Armalite Rifle, and standard AR 15/10 pattern rifles. (Will not work for ARs in .300 Win Mag or 12 ga.)



xssights.com | 888-744-4880 | tech@xssights.com

Shop Tools



The Signature HD spotting scope includes an ARCA-style base, M-Lok mounts on both sides, and interchangeable eyepieces.

setting is included. Pressing both buttons powers the reticle on or off with a long press.

In the box are a weather shield and rail mount adapter. The weather shield encloses the emitter and protects it from interference. It's attached to the body using the provided screws and wrench. The rail mount, however, expands the compatibility of the FastFire 4 to many firearms. If you've ever been frustrated when having to rezero an optic because it needed to be removed to change the battery, you'll appreciate that this unit's battery is top-loading. **\$456**



Mounting a reflex sight to the M-Lok aids users in finding a target within the scope.

SIGNATURE HD SPOTTING SCOPE

Burris' Signature HD 20-60x85mm spotting scope has been revamped for 2024. Three big differences are its redesigned body, integrated focus ring, and reduced pricing.

The spotting scope features an aluminum-magnesium alloy body that was shaped around HD glass. The coatings on the glass have been improved to repel moisture, dust and chemicals while enhancing color accuracy and visual acuity edge-to-edge. The 30mm eyepiece assembly is interchangeable, but the 20X to 60X range provides ample detail for hunters and shooters. Eyepieces with the SCR MIL and SCR MOA reticles are also available. At the objective, I found that the sunshade was built in and extended by hand. It protects the 85mm objective lens from sun, glare, and rain.

M-Lok attachment points on both sides of the body are new and noteworthy, as is the ARCA baseplate. M-Lok mounts replace the dedicated FastFire red-dot optic mount, which means shooters can readily attach other red-dot options using the M-Lok compatible mount. Since ARCA-style clamps are common on tripod heads popular in precision rifle shooting, having an integrated ARCA-style plate also eliminates the need to stack another adapter plate that could come loose.

In the field, glass clarity of this spotter proved excellent. There was no color fringing and I was able to resolve details in shadowed areas at 800 yards. The fine focus ring operated smoothly and quickly adjusted to sharpen images. Mounting a new FastFire 4 red dot to the spotter's body made locating a target simpler, as was expected. **\$1,699**

SUMMARY

A common theme among new Burris products is functionality. It is apparent that these optics were designed by avid shooters. Some have features we've asked for; the top-loading battery in a reflex sight is one example. Other products introduce clever innovation; the Veracity PH and Eliminator 6 incorporate technology to advance optic solutions, while the FastFire 4 received updates to address the closed emitter trend while making it more versatile for different firearm types. To connect with a target, you first have to see it. Burris makes that possible. **G&A**

ED BROWN PERFORMANCE MAGAZINES

>BETTER PERFORMANCE
>BETTER WARRANTY
>BETTER PRICE

FULL LINE OF SINGLE STACK MAGS FOR GOVERNMENT & COMPACT MODELS
 STAINLESS STEEL • BLACK NITRIDE

EDBROWN.COM

YOU MAKE IT... AVIENT MAKES IT **POSSIBLE**

Advanced material solutions for advanced applications

From grips to recoil pads, and holsters to body armor, Avient's specialized polymer and composite solutions, forward-thinking design expertise, and customer-centric approach help you create products that always hit the mark.



For more idea inspiration, visit
avient.com/outdoor or call
1.844.4AVIENT.





FELLOWSHIP IN FIREPOWER

TEAMWORK BETWEEN **HORNADY** AND **RUGER**
PRODUCED SEVERAL GREAT CARTRIDGES.

BY CRAIG BODDINGTON

THE YEAR 1949 WAS GOOD FOR GUN PEOPLE. It was that year when entrepreneurs and gun guys Joyce W. Hornady and William B. Ruger started the companies that bear their names. Both started small, but look at them now. Hornady Manufacturing and Sturm, Ruger and Co. both celebrate their 75th anniversaries in 2024.

The contributions of both brands are legion. Ruger, in excellent and incredibly varied firearms, and Hornady, in bullets, reloading equipment and ammunition. Some will

recall that an unusual partnership once occurred that produced a series of cartridges launched from 2003 to 2008.

Part of what made these cartridges possible: In the gun industry, whether the manufacturing side or my branch, the media, there are competitors, but bitterness is rare.

We are often close friends, and almost always friendly competitors. However, if you think about it, Hornady's ammunition and Ruger's firearms are natural pairings. Hornady doesn't make firearms, and Ruger doesn't make

ammo, but this collaboration only started 20 years ago. At that time, both companies were mature, approaching middle age, secure in their identities, and aggressively seeking innovation. The Hornady-Ruger team-up produced six Ruger cartridges, all excellent, plus two significant bonuses. They were created in concert, with cartridge development led primarily by Hornady's engineers, and the initial firearms by Ruger's.

.480 RUGER

Introduced in 2003, the .480 Ruger was the first Hornady-Ruger collaboration. Unlike the rest — which are rifle cartridges — the .480 Ruger is a powerful revolver cartridge developed for the double-action Super Redhawk. Although later eclipsed by the .460 and .500 S&W cartridges, at that time the .454 Casull was the most powerful production handgun cartridge. The Super Redhawk was the only six-shot .454, too; the rest had five-shot cylinders, allowing for thicker cylinder walls.

Energy-wise, the .475 Linebaugh wasn't quite as powerful as the .454, but it handled .476-inch bullets up to 400 grains. Ruger wanted a caliber larger than .45, but they wanted to keep the Super Redhawk's six-shot cylinder. So, Hornady went to work. They shortened the .475 Linebaugh case, reducing pressure, but also ensuring that a .475 Linebaugh cartridge couldn't fit in a .480 chamber. The .480 Ruger also has a narrower rim than the Linebaugh, enabling Ruger to maintain the six-shot cylinder.

The relationship between .480 Ruger and .475 Linebaugh is thus the same as the .38 Special/.357 Magnum and .44 Special/.44 Magnum. Although plenty powerful with the advantages of heavy bullets having a large frontal area, .480 Ruger recoil is more sustainable than the Casull, Linebaugh, and big S&W cartridges. It's a stretch to say that the .480 Ruger has been extremely popular, but it seems to be seeing renewed interest. It is chambered in both the Super Redhawk and Super Blackhawk.

.204 RUGER

The .204 Ruger came along just a year later, in 2004.

Around the turn of the millennium, wildcatters and varmint hunters were doing much experimenting with .20-caliber (.204-inch) bullets. The idea was to sort of split the difference between the .17s and the fastest .22s. Although velocity can be extreme, the heavier .20-caliber bullets hold up better in wind and don't create the barrel fouling problem of the fastest .17s.

Numerous parent cases and case designs were experimented with by Hornady and others. Hornady went

back to the almost-forgotten

.222 Remington Magnum.

Initially developed for the military, the .222 Rem.

Mag. is a lengthened .222

Remington, while the .223

Remington/5.56x45mm is a

shortened .222 Rem. Mag.

The longer-than-.223 case

allowed the .204 Ruger to

be among a tiny handful of

commercial cartridges able

to exceed 4,000 feet per

second (fps).

In varmint cartridges, it seems silly to talk about recoil, but that's a big difference between the .204 and the .22-250 Remington, which have similar velocities, depending on bullet weight. When shooting prairie dogs, you can call your shots through the scope with a .204 Ruger. Unless the rifle is fairly heavy, you can't do that with a .22-250.

The .204 Ruger has become a standard varmint

cartridge. It's now chambered by Ruger and several manufacturers. It's in semiautos, bolt-actions, and single-shots, and is preferred by many serious varmint hunters. I did some prairie dog shooting wildcat .20s, but, to be honest, I didn't get it. When the .204 was first introduced, I had a chance to evaluate a stainless-and-synthetic Ruger No. 1 in .204, and I fell in love. It has been my go-to varmint rifle ever since. Despite its high velocity — and nearly 20 years of use — the barrel is still sound; it still produces half-MOA groups and pounds prairie dogs.

.375 RUGER & .416 RUGER

Cartridges are developed in various ways, and for various reasons. Although Ruger had its big M77 Safari Magnum action, the stock-in-trade bolt-action was the standard (.30-'06-length) M77 Mk II, which they wanted to update. As legend has it, Ruger asked Hornady for ideas on a more



The .480 Ruger was chambered in the Super Blackhawk, Super Redhawk, and Super Redhawk Alaskan models.

Hornady's .480 Ruger load features a 325-grain XTP hollowpoint, loaded 20 rounds per box. Muzzle velocity averaged 1,350 feet-per-second, resulting in 1,315 foot-pounds of muzzle energy.



The .300 RCM has been offered with 150-grain SST and 165-grain GMX projectiles. As of 2024, it is only available with a 178-grain ELD-X bullet in Hornady's Precision Hunter line.

powerful chambering. It's not a problem to neck existing belted magnums up or down; that's been done in wildcats, but not in factory form. Although dimensions are familiar, Hornady came up with a new concept for a cartridge case that I found just brilliant. They took the standard .532-inch rim — common to almost all belted magnums since 1912 — and eliminated the belt, bringing the case straight out to 2.580 inches, necking to .375, specifying Cartridge Overall Length (COL) at 3.340 inches. This created manufacturing efficiency: Standard magnum bolt face, standard-length action and magazine box. The intent was to equal the velocity of the .375 H&H. They hadn't banked on the efficiency of the shorter, but relatively fatter case. The .375 Ruger actually exceeds the .375 H&H by 100 fps. No buffalo is likely to see the difference, but, as much as it hurts me to write it, the .375 Ruger is actually a better cartridge than the .375 H&H! Its modern, more efficient case design in a smaller action gives it the win. Will the .375 Ruger ever become as popular? Perhaps not, but for such a powerful cartridge it has done well. It was introduced in the greatly updated Ruger M77 Hawkeye. Although the .375 H&H remains a worldwide favorite, the .375 Ruger is typically chambered by numerous manufacturers that do not offer full-length actions for cartridges such as the .375 H&H. I was with Steve Hornady when he shot the first animal taken with the .375 Ruger, which was a fine Zambezi Valley buffalo, cleanly dropped. That was 2006. We let the cat out of the bag a bit soon, before



Steve Hornady took the first Cape buffalo with the .375 Ruger. The hunt occurred in June 2006, months before the cartridge was released.

Hornady was ready to release the cartridge, which caused some issues. Still, it was almost certainly the most successful large-caliber cartridge introduction ever.

A year later, the .375 Ruger case was necked up to .416. Although the .375 Ruger has been surprisingly popular, the farther we go above .30 caliber, the quicker sales can be expected to drop. The .416 Ruger has not been especially favored, certainly in part because it follows long-established .416s. That said, it's an amazing little powerhouse that fits into a standard-length action. Yet, with its efficient case, it duplicates .416 Rigby and .416 Remington performance. Again, Steve Hornady was probably the first to use it, taking an awesome lion in Zimbabwe's Chewore area.

Like the .375 Ruger, the .416 Ruger appeals to manufacturers who want to deliver that level of power but don't offer an action long enough to house the longer-cased .416s. Last year in Mozambique, my friends Bill Green and

Gordon Marsh both used a .416 Ruger barrel on a Strasser RS 14, taking buffalo and hippo. Naturally, Ruger offers its cartridges, chambering the .375/.416 paternal twins in versions of the M77 Hawkeye, appropriately dubbed Alaskan and African. Respectively, they are in synthetic/stainless and walnut/blue.

In 2018, Jason Hornady and I hunted in Congo, a country where rifles cannot be imported. We were both delighted that the outfitter had a pair of .375 Ruger

Alaskans. It was the perfect setup for the African forest, where it's tough to stay ahead of rust.

.300 RCM & .338 RCM

Again, cartridges are developed for various reasons. At about the same time Hornady was finalizing the .375 Ruger, Ruger came to Hornady with a problem: They were going to chamber M77s to the Winchester Short Magnum (WSM) cartridges — then decided not to. They had a backlog of short bolt-actions and wondered if there was an opportunity.

Simple! Hornady shortened the .375 Ruger case to 2.1 inches. Several manufacturing expenses can be solved with the .532 bolt face/rim diameter. As a bonus, actions designed to feed a .532-inch rim with belted cartridge case tend to feed well with cartridges that maintain the .532-inch diameter. Ruger needed little design work to ensure operation in its existing bolt-action. The result was the .300 Ruger Compact Magnum (RCM) in 2007, followed quickly by the .338 RCM in 2008.

Neither has been especially popular. I attribute this to the “too many, too fast” situation I’ve written about in the past. Between 1998 (.300 WSM) and 2008 (.338 RCM), a bewildering array of WSMs, Remington Ultra Magnums (RUM), Remington Short Action Ultra Magnums (RSAUM), Winchester Super Short Magnums (WSSM) and, finally, RCMs, hit the market. Not all could possibly make it, and many haven’t. At the tail end of this era, the RCMs suffered, which were largely confined to Ruger products. This is unfortunate because the RCMs, with 2.1-inch short-action cases, are efficient little fireplugs. I have done range work and hunted with both, and in Ruger rifles they feed wonderfully, offering “almost .300 Win. Mag.” and “almost .338 Win. Mag.” performance out of short, handy rifles, that lose little velocity in short barrels. When the .338 RCM was new, then-Ruger CEO Mike Fifer and I shared a Ruger in .338 RCM on a variety of game.

The indefatigable Steve Hornady has been extremely loyal to the RCM cartridges, doing most of his recent mountain hunting with a Ruger in .300 RCM. This included a marvelous Kashmir markhor taken in Pakistan. Steve Hornady and I have hunted together off and on for 40 years. He’s a couple years older than me, so I understand the word “fatigue” and can use “indefatigable.” Our industry is lucky to have him and have him in the field. Just recently, he shot a huge Alaskan moose with a Ruger .338 RCM. Steve told me a days before writing this, “What I like about the RCMs is the meaningful velocity with short barrels. With that little Ruger rifle slung, the barrel barely reaches over my shoulder, yet I can shoot as far as I need.”

Performance is essential, but timing is everything. I don’t expect the RCMs to experience the marketing success that other Hornady cartridges have, such as the Creedmoors and PRCs. The Great Short Magnum Race is over, and they crossed the finish line. While they didn’t win, they are sound cartridges worth a second look. It’s essential to mention that the parent case for the popular 6.5 PRC is the .300 RCM necked down to 6.5mm. Both the 7mm and .300 PRC are based on the .375 Ruger case, also.

BONUS BIG BORES

In 75 years, there were just six Hornady-Ruger cartridges. In 2005, however, I was filming the first season of “Tracks Across Africa” with Hornady and Ruger as sponsors. At that time, Hornady’s only large-caliber offerings were



The .338 RCM was first available in a Superformance load featuring a 200-grain SST bullet. Bullet weight has since increased Hornady’s offering to include a 225-grain SST Superformance load.



In Congo, near Brazzaville, Jason Hornady used a Ruger Hawkeye Alaskan camp gun in .375 Ruger to take a fine bongo in 2018. It proved to be a great choice for such a tough forest hunt.

.375 H&H and .458 Win. Mag. That expanded into what became the Dangerous Game line. There was much discussion around the campfire in the Zambezi Valley in those days. Classics including the .416 Rigby, .470, and .500 Nitro Express were first to be offered. What other cartridges needed to be resurrected?

My idea: How about the .450/.400-3-inch? It was the standard tiger cartridge in India. In Africa, it was considered adequate for

elephant, featuring less recoil than the .470 class. The Hornady and Ruger folks in camp didn’t know the cartridge, though. I happened to know that the .450 rim and base diameter maxed out the Ruger No. 1 action. Perfect!

W. J. Jeffery introduced the .450/.400-3-in., aka “.400 Jeffery” Nitro Express (NE) in 1900. A lot of double rifles and British single-shots were so chambered. No ammo had been made since about 1960, and no rifles since the start of World War II. It became a collaborative effort. If Hornady would make the ammo, Ruger would make the rifles, and vice versa. Resurrecting case dimensions and precise bullet diameter caused issues on both sides, though. It turned out that the .450/.400 (i.e., the .450 case necked down to .400 inch) had more variance than most, complicated by two non-interchangeable case lengths, 3- and 3¼ inches. This I knew; diameter variance I knew not. In older guns, these numbers apparently wandered from .409 to .412 inch. I’m pretty sure the engineers hated me.

Hornady settled on a .410-inch bullet. It was safe in

older guns, and that's what all current doubles and modern single-shots are barreled to. In 2006, I shot the first buffalo with a No. 1 so chambered. My wife, Donna, shot the second. It produced awesome performance with little pain. Donna shot her big Botswana tusk with it in 2008, and I've taken elephants with it as well — and a lot of buffaloes. Ruger has done several runs of the No. 1 in .450/.400-3-in., and most modern doubles are now offered in .450/.400 and regulated with Hornady ammo. I consider bringing back the .450/.400 to be one of my better contributions.

I didn't do as well with my second recommendation. My favorite big-bore double-rifle cartridge is the original John Rigby .450-3¼-in. NE. Introduced in 1898, it is also called the ".450 NE" or ".450 Straight" because it has little taper and no shoulder. I like it because it uses common



In addition to a 250-grain copper-alloy CX bullet in the Outfitter line, and a 270-grain Interlock in the Dangerous Game Series, a 300-grain DGX bonded bullet is available for the .375 Ruger and a 400-grainer for the .416 Ruger.

.458-inch bullets, and, with a smaller rim/base diameter than the .470 family — most based on the .500 case — it can be fitted into a slimmer action. Unlike the .450/.400, there was no controversy over bullet diameter; it's been .458 from the start.

The .450-3¼-in. really maxes out the Ruger No. 1. Again, if Hornady made the ammo, Ruger would chamber rifles. I love the .450, and I did most of my elephant hunting with a Rigby .450, but it's a lot of recoil in a No. 1. Most double rifle makers now offer .450. I'm happy with that, but it hasn't been as popular.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

To date, the only cartridge that bears the Hornady name is .17 HMR, designed in 2002, and there are no Ruger cartridges without the collaboration of Hornady's engineers. With some latitude given 40 years of friendship, I asked,

RINGS

| MOUNTS

| BASES

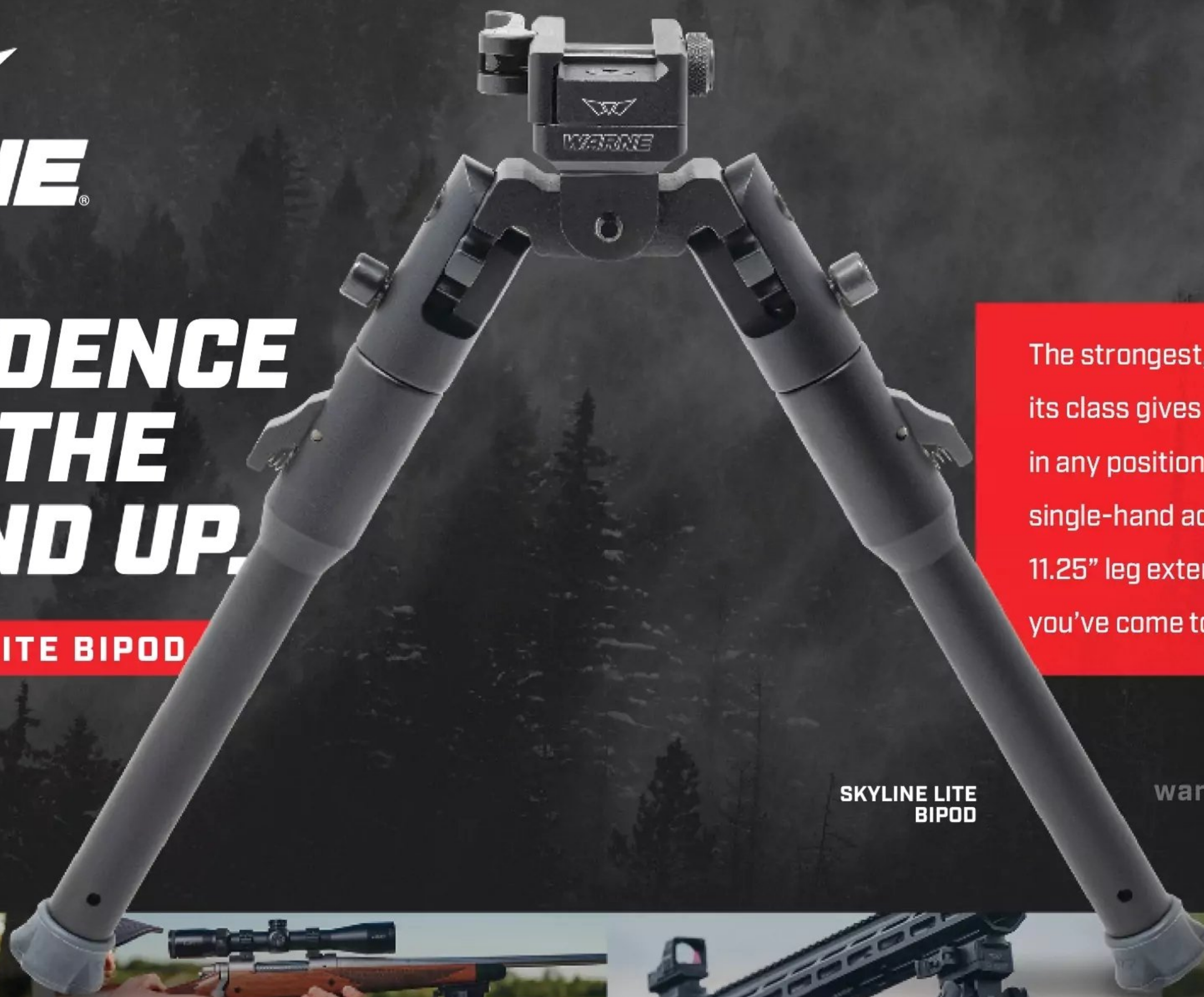
| MAGAZINE EXTENSIONS

| BIPODS



**CONFIDENCE
FROM THE
GROUND UP.**

NEW SKYLINE LITE BIPOD



The strongest, most stable bipod in its class gives you maximum precision in any position. Delivering fast, quiet, single-hand adjustments with ample 11.25" leg extension and the confidence you've come to expect from Warne.

SKYLINE LITE
BIPOD

warnescopemounts.com



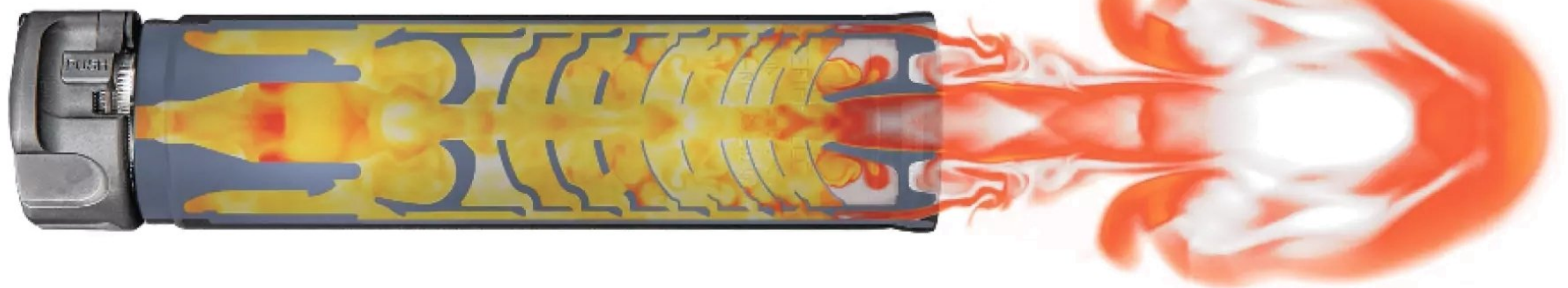


SOCOM RC3

LOW BACK PRESSURE WITHOUT COMPROMISE



SCAN FOR VIDEO



» LOW BACK PRESSURE

60% lower back pressure means less toxic gas, a cleaner firearm, and superior recoil control.

» DURABILITY

Extreme durability with Inconel construction, delivering the combat-proven reliability that established SureFire's suppressor legacy.

» COMPACT DESIGN

Low-profile design minimizes added length and bulk, maintaining firearm maneuverability.

» UNMATCHED FLASH REDUCTION

Unmatched flash reduction from the first round to the last.

» SOCOM FAST-ATTACH®

Backward compatible with SureFire's SOCOM Fast-Attach® muzzle devices for unrivaled accuracy & repeatability.

» SUPPRESSION

Class-leading sound suppression protects hearing and improves ability to communicate.

“Why are these cartridges dubbed “Ruger” and not “Hornady?” The answer: Tradition. Cartridges used to be introduced by firearm manufacturers. You’ll recall those named “Colt,” “Remington,” “Savage,” “S&W,” and “Winchester.” Some also made ammo, but Peters, Union Metallic Cartridges, and Western rarely introduced cartridges. Even today, an ammo brand like Federal has introduced few. The primary rationale? New cartridges are often tied to the firearms they were introduced in.

I opined that it was generous of Hornady to develop cartridges and call them “Ruger” vice “Hornady.” This introduces a practical reality: Federal, Remington, and Winchester may not load a cartridge introduced and named after a rival company, unless it becomes so popular that it is unavoidable. And the reverse: Whether it makes sense or not, there are friendly-yet-competitive companies that will not load or chamber to a Ruger-named cartridge

HORNADY-RUGER CARTRIDGES

CARTRIDGE	INTRODUCED	BULLET DIAMETER (IN.)	HORNADY LOAD*	MUZZLE VELOCITY (FPS)	MUZZLE ENERGY (FT.-LBS.)
.204 Ruger	2004	.204	32-GR. BT	4,225	1,268
.300 RCM	2007	.308	178-GR. ELD-X	2,900	3,324
.338 RCM	2008	.338	225-GR. SST	2,750	3,778
.375 Ruger	2007	.375	300-GR. DGX Bonded	2,660	4,713
.416 Ruger	2008	.416	400-GR. DGX Bonded	2,400	5,115
.450/.400-3 NE	1900, 2006**	.41	400-GR. DGX Bonded	2,050	3,732
.450-3¼ NE	1898, 2007**	.458	480-GR. DGX Bonded	2,150	4,930
.480 Ruger	2003	.476	325-GR. XTP	1,350	1,315

*Sample load; Hornady or other companies may offer additional loads. **Reintroduced by Hornady.

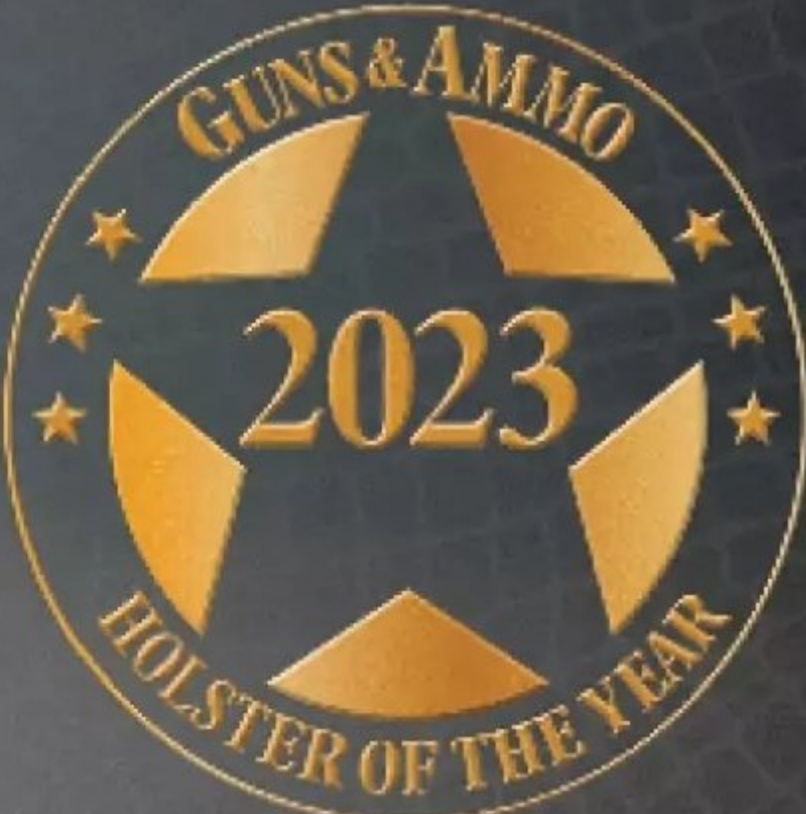
until enough customers clamor for it. Today, new cartridge nomenclature has somewhat shifted away from that tradition. I call these new names “whimsical,” but, from a marketing standpoint, you could call them

“originator neutral”: Creedmoor, Grendel, Legend, Valkyrie, and Western.

This is a trend that makes me happy that I’m not on the marketing side. I’m happier that I’ve been around to work in this industry and see relationships grow, which is not new. Joyce Hornady (1907-1981) and Bill Ruger (1916-2002) didn’t just know each other from convention aisles, they were friends who hunted together. Neither saw the cartridges their companies would develop together, but, in this 75th year of both Hornady and Ruger, I think the founders would be pleased. Despite our current trend in naming cartridges, I’m sure we haven’t seen the last of the great Hornady-Ruger team. 







- OPTIC & LIGHT COMPATIBLE
- ERGONOMIC
- MISSION-ADAPTABLE
- MULTI-POSITIONAL
- DEEP CONCEALMENT
- PASSIVE RETENTION
- THERMOFORMED BOLTARON





SAFARILAND.COM

INCOG





*INCLUDES MAG CADDY

SAVAGE 1911 GOVT

THE FIVE

VIRTUES

OF MASTERY

NITRIDE COATED TITANIUM FIRING PIN

FORGED STAINLESS STEEL FRAME AND SLIDE

AMBIDEXTROUS SLIDE LOCK SAFETY

EJECTION PORT LOWERED & FLARED

VZ G10 GRIPS

1911 GOVT STYLE

 **SAVAGE®**

AMERICAN STRONG



SAVAGEARMS.COM



SINCE THE FIRST ROUNDS of copper-cased fixed ammunition began to appear around the time of the Civil War, there has been a constant push for more powerful cartridges and repeating rifles to fire them. The Sharps rifles chambered some very powerful cartridges for the time, but those were single-shot. The 1860 Henry was the first reliable repeating rifle, but it chambered the rather puny rimfire .44 Henry round. However, what the .44 Henry cartridge lacked in power, the 17-round magazine of the Henry rifle made up for it in volume of fire. The Winchester Model 1866 was little more than an updated Henry rifle with a side loading gate and wood forend. The Winchester Model 1873 used the same basic mechanism and locking design as the Henry and 1866 rifles with a steel receiver (instead of brass), and it was chambered in the bit more powerful centerfire .44-40 Winchester round. The 1873 was eventually chambered in a number of cartridges. Hunters and settlers appreciated the '73, but many wanted a repeater with a more powerful cartridge to deal more effectively with two- and four-legged predators, and for hunting. This demand increased dramatically after the adoption of the .45-70 Government (Gov't) by the U.S. Army in 1873. It was chambered in the Trapdoor Springfield, a single-shot rifle. The .45-70 had several military load-

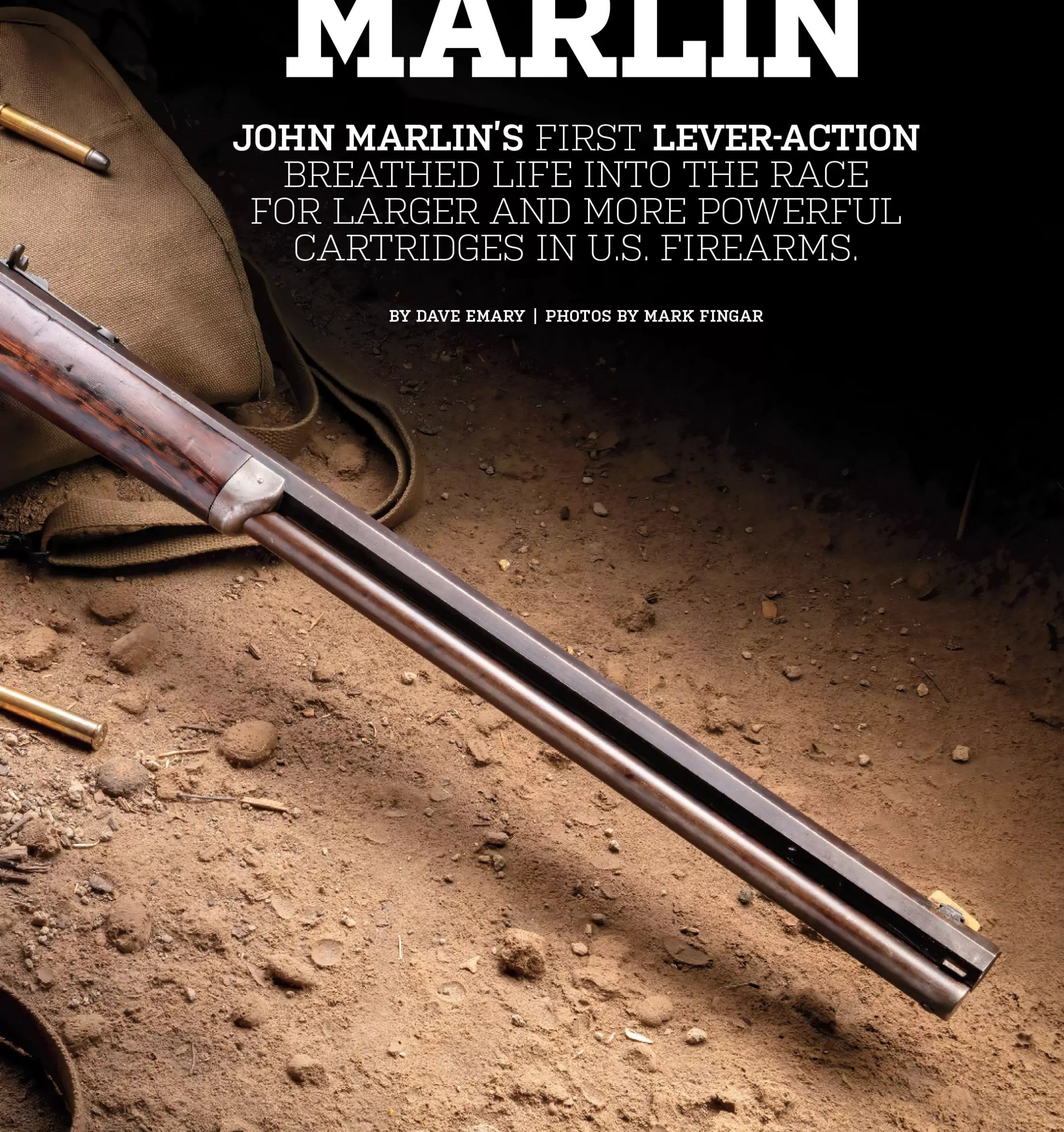
ings, initially a 405-grain bullet at 1,330 feet per second (fps). A reduced 405-grain bullet load for the Trapdoor carbine was added, and in 1884 a 500-grain bullet at 1,180 fps improved long-range rifle fire. The shooting public wanted the power of the .45-70 in a reliable repeater.

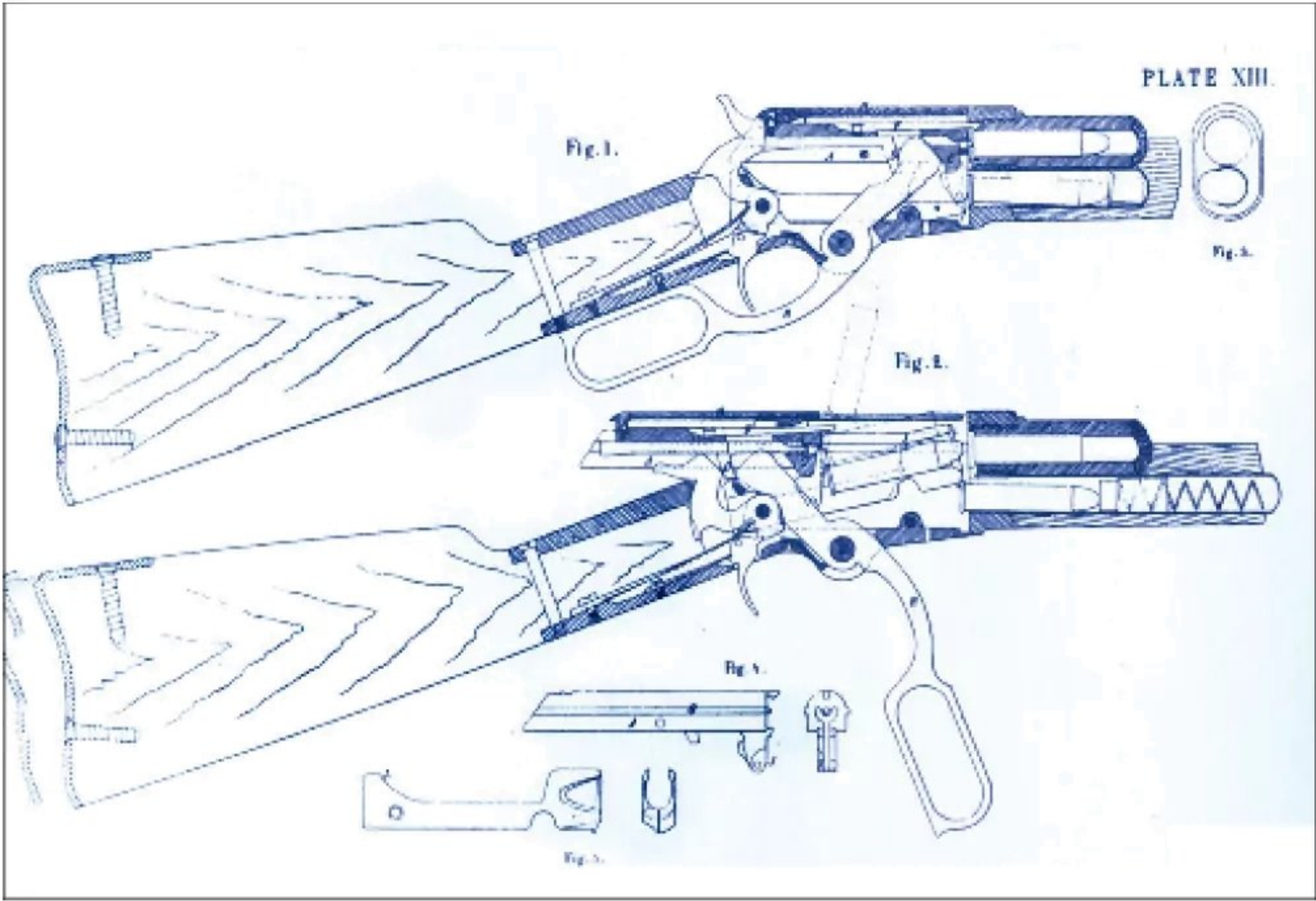
In 1876, Winchester introduced the Winchester Model 1876 lever-action repeater at the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia. The 1876 was simply a larger, stretched version of the 1873 chambered in four interesting cartridges: .40-60 WCF, .45-60 WCF, .45-75 WCF and .50-95 WCF. All offered far more power than the .44-40, but still fell a little short of the .45-70. The most versatile cartridge in the 1876 was the .45-75 WCF, which fired a 350-grain bullet at nominally 1,345 fps. The .50-95 chambering was very powerful for the time, firing a 312-grain bullet at approximately 1,550 fps. However, the .50-95 was a short-range affair as the light bullet gave up velocity rapidly. One drawback of a frontiersman owning an 1876 Winchester was the unique cartridges it used were not always readily available on the frontier. The 1876 was a very successful rifle, but it was large and heavy. It was also limited in the strength of the action and its ability to handle more powerful and longer cartridges by the toggle link locking mechanism. The very long receiver was required to accommodate the toggle link for longer cartridges.

THE 1881 MARLIN

JOHN MARLIN'S FIRST **LEVER-ACTION**
BREATHED LIFE INTO THE RACE
FOR LARGER AND MORE POWERFUL
CARTRIDGES IN U.S. FIREARMS.

BY DAVE EMARY | PHOTOS BY MARK FINGAR





The larger internals of the Marlin Model 1881 allowed it to function with the .47-70 Government cartridge, a feat no other lever-action repeater accomplished at the time.

ALONG CAME THE 1881 MARLIN

John Mahlon Marlin established a name for himself in the firearms business by the early 1870s by making small revolvers and derringers. The Marlin Firearms Company began manufacturing Ballard single-shot rifles in 1875, which further added to Marlin’s reputation for making fine firearms. Marlin was well aware of the desire for a repeating rifle that would handle the .45-70 Gov’t, so he teamed with Andrew Burgess who already had patents for an under-barrel tubular magazine lever-action rifle design. The result of the collaboration produced Marlin’s first rifle, the Model 1881. It was the first lever-action repeating rifle that could handle the full power .45-70 Gov’t cartridge. The 1878 Remington-Keene bolt action, a tube-fed rifle, was the first repeater to chamber the .45-70, but lever-action rifles were much more in demand in the U.S. at this time. The Remington-Keene was not very popular; only some 5,000 were ever produced.

Curiously, the “Model 1881” was not called that by Marlin until 1888. It was initially referred to as the “Marlin Repeating Rifle,” and it was offered as a catalog item until 1891. Approximately 20,500 Model 1881 rifles were produced. The 1881 Marlin was the gun that set off the first horsepower race in the shooting sports industry, which has been ongoing for more than 140 years. It also directly led to the John Browning-designed 1886 Winchester 5 years later, an answer by Winchester to the 1881 Marlin.

The initial 1881 rifle was large and heavy, weighing between 9 and 11 pounds. It was offered with a standard 28-inch barrel chambered in the .40-60 Marlin and .45-70 Gov’t. Six years later, Winchester copied the .40-60 Marlin as the .40-65 WCF, but loaded it with a 260-grain bullet at nominally 1,445 fps. In 1885, a lightweight version of



The Marlin Model 1881 was offered in four cartridges. The .40-60 Marlin is the same cartridges as the .40-65 WCF. The .45-85 Marlin with 285-grain bullet was an express version of the .45-70 Gov’t.

EVOLUTION OF EARLY REPEATING CARTRIDGES

CARTRIDGE	RIFLE	BULLET WEIGHT (GR.)	MUZZLE VELOCITY (FPS)	ENERGY (FT.-LBS.)
.44 Henry	1860 Henry, 1866 Winchester	200	1,125	561
.44-40 WCF	1873 Winchester	200	1,245	688
.45-75 WCF	1876 Winchester	350	1,345	1,404
.50-95 WCF	1876 Winchester	312	1,550	1,663
.45-70-405 Gov’t	1873 Springfield, 1881 Marlin	405	1,330	1,589
.45-70-500 Gov’t	1873 Springfield, 1881 Marlin	500	1,180	1,544
.32-40 Ballard/WCF	1881 Marlin	165	1,385	702
.38-55 Ballard/WCF	1881 Marlin	255	1,285	934
.40-60 Marlin	1881 Marlin	260	1,445	1,204
.45-85 Marlin	1881 Marlin	285	1,600	1,618

the rifle was offered with a lightened receiver and 24-inch barrel, which weighed 8 to 9 pounds, and a small-frame version offered in .32-40 WCF and .38-55 WCF weighing 7¼ to 7½ pounds. The same year the large-frame 1881 added the .45-85 Marlin loading. This was simply an Express loading of the .45-70 case with a light 285-grain bullet loaded to approximately 1,600 fps. It was interchangeable from a chamber standpoint with the .45-70. Table 1 shows the ballistics of all the cartridges chambered in the rifles discussed thus far.

The 1881 used the Burgess patent for its lock-up and action design. It featured a bolt running in raceways cut into the receiver. The bolt featured an integrated dust cover. The lever was attached to the receiver by way of a very large bolt running through the receiver and a hole in the lever. The lever has a large extension on the front of it that makes contact with the bolt body. This extension serves to cycle the bolt, actuate the cartridge carrier/lifter and lock the action when the lever is cycled. The load-path forces generated by firing a cartridge is into the bolt through the long extension on the lever and into the large bolt through the lever and receiver. The surface area for the critical loading points was much greater in the 1881 Marlin than in the 1876 Winchester, and this, along with a shorter receiver, allowed the action to handle the full-power .45-70 cartridge. The rifle gained a reputation as being very accurate and effective as a hunting rifle.

The 1881 was not without some issues. The 1881 is a top-eject and, occasionally, if the action is not briskly cycled, the shooter will get a hot cartridge case in the face. John Marlin solved this with his subsequent side-ejection design on the 1889 Marlin, and all Marlin lever-actions thereafter. The second problem the early 1881 Marlins

NEW

M&P[®] 22 MAGNUM



30-ROUND RUSH

Introducing the New M&P[®] 22 MAGNUM

This handgun is all about bringing more – more capacity, more reliability, more consistency, more excitement. With a staggering 30 rounds in the magazine, you can enjoy more time shooting and less time spent reloading. Using the Tempo[™] barrel system, the front gas port keeps everything working as it should – no moving parts until they're supposed to be moving. With an optics-cut slide, out of the box, you can mount most micro red dots and hit the range. Get more with the new M&P[®] 22 Magnum.



Smith & Wesson[®]

EMPOWERING AMERICANS[™]

©2023 Smith & Wesson Inc. All Rights Reserved



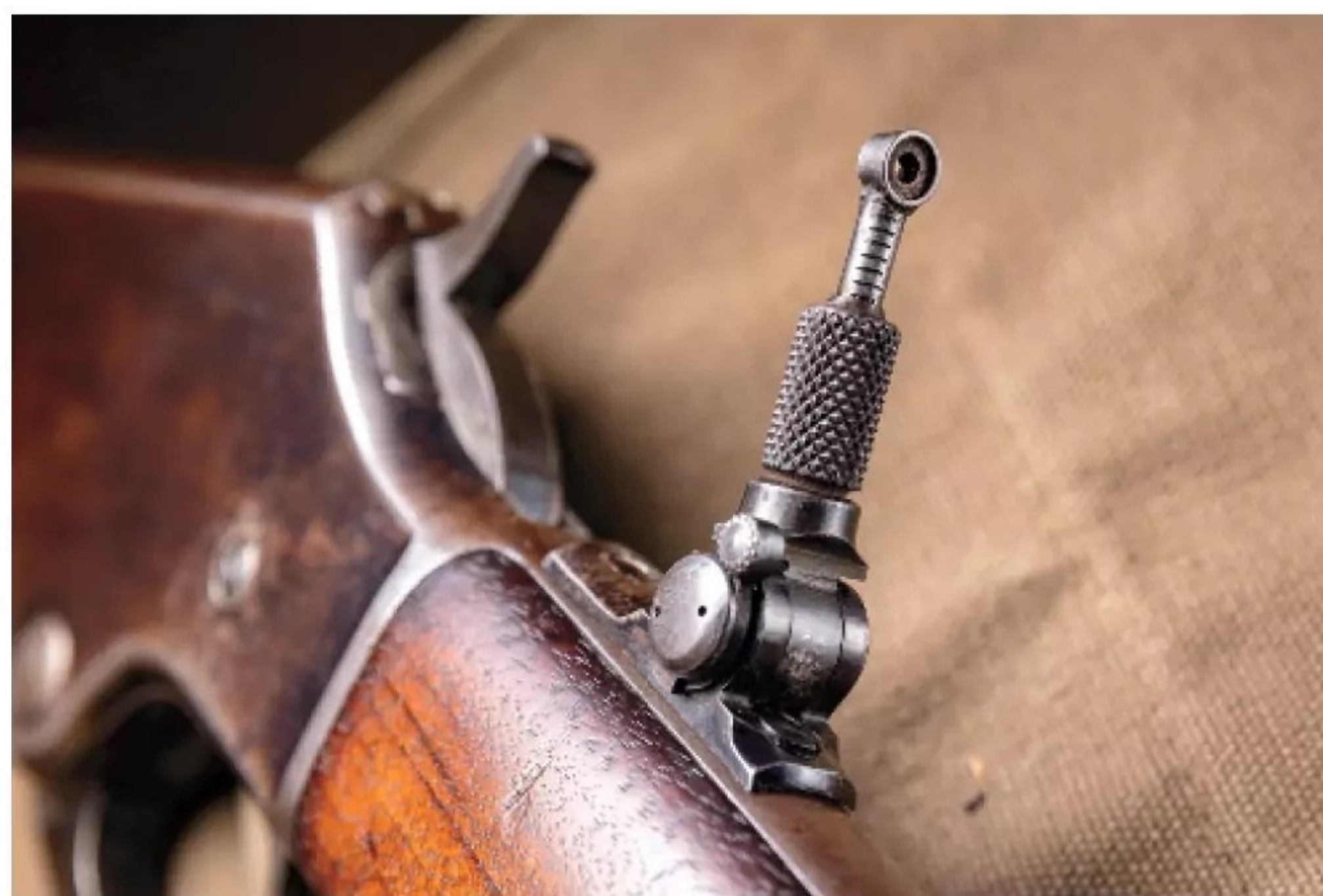
The bolt features an integrated dustcover. One issue with using some tang sights is racking the bolt knocks the sight back.



Lever-actions offered a hammer that could be thumb cocked, decocked, or cocked with the lever. All had a safety half-cock.



Unlike Winchester's design, side-loading the 1881 required sliding the gate forward and holding it before inserting a cartridge.



A classic Lyman No. 2A tang sight was installed on the author's rifle. It features a .800-inch maximum for elevation adjustments.

had was controlling misfeeds from the magazine tube. The problem was solved in 1884 when a split carrier with rounded fingers on the front was used that captured and controlled the cartridge while feeding.

The 1881 Marlin was available with many custom-ordered features: Different barrel lengths from 20 to 34 inches, rifle; crescent or shotgun buttplate; different barrel weights and contours; different-length magazine tubes; set triggers; engraved receiver; checkered stock; straight or pistol grip; and several types of sights. In 1882, the heavy frame rifle with a 28-inch barrel sold for \$32 with the standard trigger. The same gun in 1883 sold for \$37 with set triggers. The lightweight gun with a 28-inch barrel sold for \$25 in 1885. The small-frame rifle with a 28-inch barrel sold for \$24 in 1885. An 1885 gun with all the extras offered by the factory, including engraving, could run upwards of \$85.

I HAVE THIS OLD GUN ...

My 1881 Marlin is a small-frame made in 1887 and chambered in .38-55 with a 24-inch barrel. I put a vintage Lyman No. 2A tang sight on it, and when I purchased the gun it was in quite good shape mechanically but very dirty. It had very little wear, still having some bluing, which has

mostly turned to a dirty plumb patina. The wood has a few scuffs and dings but is in good shape with a very good fit between the wood and metal. The ejector was broken, and the barrel was pretty much a sewer pipe. I sent the gun off to Run-N-Iron Gunsmithing (runniron.com) in Bertrand, Nebraska. Owner Lonnie Meyer made a new ejector and a .380-inch-diameter groove liner for the barrel. The gun is now in "like-new" shooting condition.

I will only shoot blackpowder or blackpowder substitute in this rifle out of respect for the 145-year-old metallurgy. With the barrel liner, I *could* shoot copper-jacketed bullets but I will only use lead bullets. I purchased some cast lead, .381-inch diameter, 255-grain, round nose, flat-point bullets with SPG blackpowder lube from Montana Bullet Works (montanabulletworks.com). I decided to use Schuetzen 2Fg blackpowder and Hodgdon Pyrodex Select blackpowder substitute. I made a 36-inch-long drop tube for loading the powder in the case by using a piece of $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch, 36 inches long, .014-inch wall K&S tubing that I found on Amazon. I wrapped it with masking tape on one end until my large powder-measure funnel was a tight fit. I then wrapped masking tape on a small plastic funnel until it was a snug fit into the other end of the brass tube. It worked great and was much less expensive than buying



Garrison
4.25" MODEL
NOW AVAILABLE *1911*



SPRINGFIELD ARMORY®

SPRINGFIELD-ARMORY.COM

a commercial blackpowder drop-tube fixture. The drop tube is a necessity for two reasons. It'll allow 1½ to 2 grains more powder in the case, and it will improve the ammunition performance uniformity. I weighed each charge.

Using Winchester .38-55 cases, and approximately .100-inch of powder compression when seating the bullet, I was able to get 29.2 grains of Pyrodex Select in the case and 45 grains of Schuetzen 2Fg powder in the case.

I only shoot three-shot groups with blackpowder and then swab the barrel with vinegar. I then run several dry patches to dry the barrel. I have found if I shoot more than three shots, I start getting flyers because of fouling. The gun shoots respectable three-shot groups, and recoil is mild. Table 2 shows my shooting results at 100 yards. According to the 1899 Winchester catalog, the .38-55 loaded a 255-grain bullet at 1,285 fps. The Pyrodex Select load virtually duplicates the factory load and shoots well.



The stock ends in a crescent buttplate. While stable, the top point can stab you if fired when shouldered incorrectly.



Lead bullets and blackpowder are used exclusively to ensure the safety of a vintage firearm such as the Marlin 1881.

MARLIN MODEL 1881 (100 YDS.)

HANDLOAD	VEL. (FPS)	ES	BEST GROUP (IN.)	AVG. GROUP (IN.)
255-gr. Saeco RNFP, 29.2 gr. Pyrodex Select	1,262	108	1.63	2.50
255-gr. Pb RNFP, 45.0 gr. Schuetzen 2Fg	1,165	72	2.88	3.24

TIPS ON SHOOTING BPCR

You can't really overload a blackpowder cartridge unless you start using smaller granulation powder than you should. A rifle cartridge would normally use 2Fg powder, a pistol cartridge 3Fg. 4Fg powder is used in flash pans of flintlocks. Use the correct granulation and you'll stay out of trouble. Modern cases will not hold as much as original cartridges, and you will struggle to get original performance. Blackpowder should be loaded such that when the bullet

ALMOST NO AMMUNITION MANUFACTURER
INSPECTS EVERY SINGLE ROUND, BUT WE DO.
IT TAKES EXTRA TIME AND COST TO
HUNT FOR THE SMALLEST IMPERFECTION,
BUT WE WOULDN'T DO IT
ANY OTHER WAY.

Ammunition

TO LOCATE A DEALER NEAR YOU, PLEASE CALL 800.568.6625

www.black-hills.com

EB FUELED SERIES



Ed Brown **Fueled® M&P®**'s feature our exclusive **CUSTOM ACCURACY RAIL** to perfectly mate the slide and the barrel surfaces for improved lockup and accuracy



edbrown.com



is seated there is about a maximum .100-inch compression of the powder by the seated bullet. More than this is not necessary and may start to fracture powder grains.

I always swore I would never shoot black powder in a cartridge gun. I have changed my mind on that with the acquisition of the 1881 Marlin. I feel it is the only really safe way to produce original ballistics in a rifle this old. Shooting blackpowder necessitates additional cleanup as soon after shooting as possible so corrosion doesn't start. I have experimented with a lot of cleaning techniques, but here is what I do: I soak patches with vinegar and run three or four down the bore. The vinegar really takes the fouling out quickly. I don't use soapy hot water because it is difficult to pour water in the bore and keep crud out of the action. I then use a conventional powder solvent, Hoppe's, brush the bore and let it set for 15 minutes.



Don Swearingen, a friend to the author and competitive pistol shooter, enjoyed assisting in evaluating the Marlin Model 1881.

I then dry the bore and run oiled patches down it until they come out clean. Oil protects the bore from corrosion from both the blackpowder and the acidic vinegar. Cleaning cases is a pain unless you use an ultrasonic cleaner. They are available from Hornady, Lyman and RCBS. I regularly use the small 2.0 liter model from Hornady and it cleans the cases very well with no fuss and little mess. When done, be sure to rinse the cases off, let them dry,

dump the contents of the pan, and rinse it out.

PARTING SHOT

The 1881 Marlin is an interesting firearm from a historical standpoint. Guns in good condition are accurate and safe, and Marlin's design pushed firearms development forward. Shooting these with blackpowder is fun and gives you a lot of appreciation for how good we have it today. **G&A**

TIPPMANN ARMORY

GATLING GUN




MAN CAVE MUST HAVE

Tippmann Armory
2955 South Maplecrest Rd.
Fort Wayne, IN 46803
Call 260-305-3365

A MODERN CLASSIC

TIPPMANNARMORY.COM

SCAN HERE



Do it Right with DR® Power Equipment

NOTHING Stops a DR® Field & Brush Mower

Starting at Just
\$1999⁹⁹

- Up to 2X THE POWER of the competition
- CUT 3" THICK BRUSH & tall field grass with ease
- WIDEST SELECTION of deck sizes and features
- GO-ANYWHERE power steering and hydrostatic drive options

PLUS

Tow-Behind, Commercial, and NEW Electric models

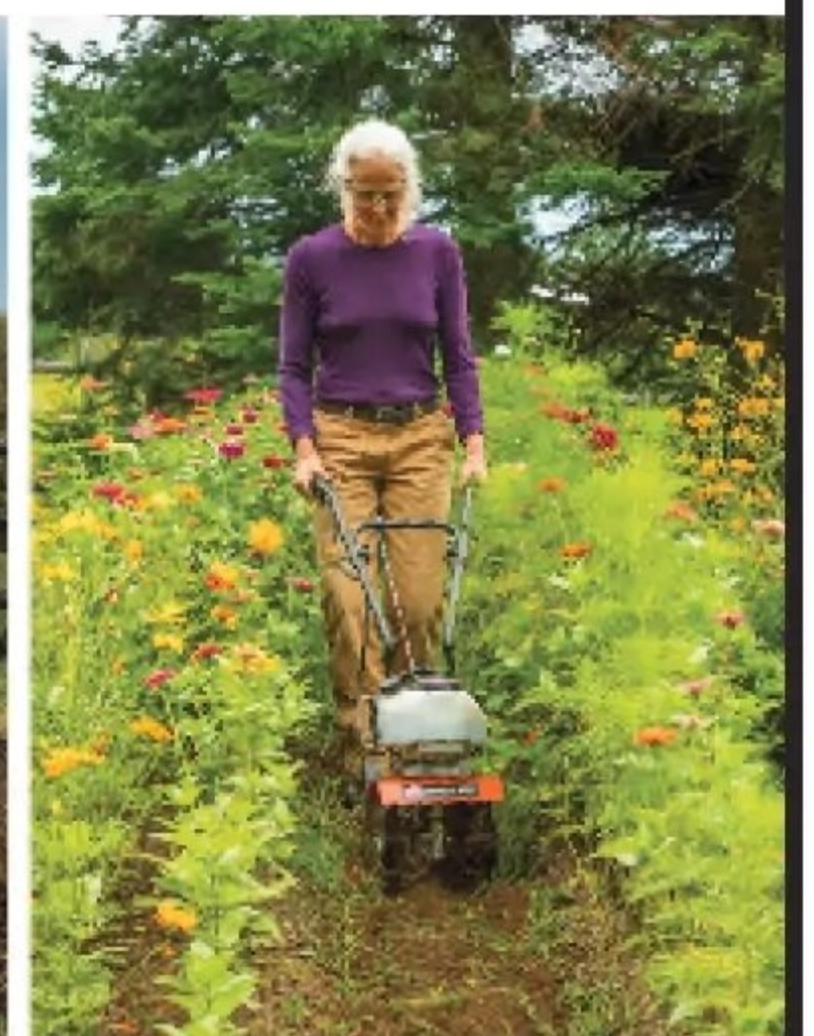
★ **USA**
ENGINEERED AND BUILT

Assembled in the USA
using domestic and foreign parts.



Great Gardens Start with DR® Rototillers

- BUST SOD and churn through even the most compacted ground
- PREPARE SEEDBEDS or till garden waste back into your soil
- FULL PRODUCT LINE includes walk-behinds, tow-behinds, and cultivators



◀ **Scan to Shop**
or
Request a Catalog

GoDRpower.com

Toll-Free at 800-790-5917

FREE SHIPPING

(orders over \$100)



MAGNUM MULTITASKER

SIG SAUER'S CROSS MAGNUM may indicate just how much the shooting and hunting community is changing. The first Cross rifle was introduced in 2020 with low weight and high accuracy as two of its design criteria. It was developed to be a rifle that could be good for anything. Lightweight hunting rifles with folding adjustable stocks and long multi-purpose forends capable of accepting night vision devices are trending. The Cross Magnum adheres to these principles, but was made for the .300 Winchester Magnum chambering.

The Cross Magnum uses a unique one-piece aluminum receiver, the heart of the rifle. Instead of bolting a receiver to a stock or chassis, SIG Sauer created a receiver that also functions as a chassis. The buttstock assembly and forend attach directly to the receiver, so there is no need for a traditional stock and action screws. Action screws can work loose at the most inopportune times, so their removal eliminates a common source of rifle accuracy troubles. Likewise, the magazine feeds directly into the receiver without relying on bottom metal and internal pillars to correctly organize the relationship between the magazine and rifle. Thanks to this slimming down, the Cross is a rifle with fewer fasteners and fewer components that can fail.

The unique receiver houses a three-lug bolt that

locks into a steel barrel extension, which is threaded onto the barrel. Cross bolt lugs are unlike any other. They are long, giving them prodigious contact with the rest of the bolt head. They are heavily radiused to make it extremely difficult for cracks to form. The back of the bolt lugs that sit against the lug abutments in the barrel extension are angled to further reduce the likelihood of cracks forming, and to increase the bearing surface against the lug abutments. The result is strength.

Once the bolt slides home, the steel components contain all the pressure. This thoughtful arrangement allows SIG Sauer to make the rest of the rifle out of aluminum to minimize weight. While some might be tempted to look at the aluminum receiver body and think the Cross Magnum is fragile, nothing could be further from the truth. The Cross was originally designed around the .277 SIG Fury and its 80,000 pounds per square inch (psi) maximum chamber pressure. Prior to the .277 SIG Fury, 65,000 psi was the maximum allowable chamber pressure. This doesn't mean that Cross Magnum owners should begin loading rounds that exceed the .300 Winchester Magnum's 64,000 psi maximum safe chamber pressure, it's just that the rifle is one of the strongest bolt-action designs on the market.

The three-lug bolt head was scaled up for magnum cartridges such as the .300 WM. Three lugs translate to a quick, 60-degree bolt lift, which also ensures the bolt handle clears a scope. The extractor claw is strong and secure, while the plunger-type ejector kicks cases away from the action.



A reverse L-shaped slot serves as a track for the bolt release assembly, which guides the bolt as the action is opened. Angled like a dog's leg, despite the oversized knob, your knuckles won't scrape the scope's ocular housing as the bolt handle is lifted and cycled.



SIG SAUER CROSS MAGNUM

TYPE	Bolt action
CARTRIDGE	.300 Win. Mag.
CAPACITY	6 rds.
BARREL	24 in.; 1:9-in. twist
OVERALL LENGTH	45.1 in. (extended); 36 in. (folded)
WEIGHT	8 lbs., 14 oz.
STOCK	Aluminum, folding, adj.
GRIP	SIG Sauer
LENGTH OF PULL	11.75 in. (collapsed); 14 in. (extended)
FINISH	Anodized, coyote (alum.)
SIGHTS	None
SAFETY	Two-position selector
MSRP	\$2,499
MANUFACTURER	SIG Sauer, 603-610-3000, sigsauer.com

HELLCAT[®] PRO

SPRINGFIELD ARMORY[®]



THE PERFECT BALANCE



SCAN QR CODE
FOR MORE INFORMATION

SPRINGFIELD-ARMORY.COM

74 G&A | APRIL 2024 | SIG SAUER CROSS MAGNUM .300 WM



Mounted to the receiver tenon, the handguard is secured by six screws, two on each side and two on the bottom. The optic rail bridges the gap between the handguard and the receiver.



The large AICS-pattern magazines were designed to provide extra length to accommodate cartridges measuring 3.85 inches in overall length.

SIG Sauer did two desirable things to the Cross Magnum to make it unique among factory offerings chambered in .300 Winchester Magnum. The first was to build it around a magazine capable of housing cartridges with a 3.85-inch length. This leaves about .25 inch of space in front of the bullet's nose when the cartridges are loaded in the magazine. Devotees of the .300 Win. Mag. have an unprecedented amount of space to seat long

bullets in the case. Moving the bullet up and out of the case gets it out of the powder column, a problem for the longer, heavy-for-caliber projectiles because those projectiles can be bent or pushed off the axis when the powder ignites.

Moving the bullet out of the powder column also frees up space for more powder, giving the Cross Magnum access to performance not possible from other rifles. The additional case



The Cross Magnum's aluminum handguard has M-Lok slots for accessories and an integral ARCA rail along the bottom for easy mounting and repositioning of bipods and tripods.



The skeletonized stock has adjustable comb, length of pull, and buttpad height. The stock can also be folded to the right for transport, reducing the gun's length to 36 inches.



volume allows what would have been a maximum powder charge to burn at a lower chamber pressure because the same powder charge in a larger container creates less pressure. While it might be tempting to think that lower chamber pressure equates to lower velocity, this is not true. Gas volume is what creates velocity. The additional case volume that results from seating bullets long in the case gives those who handload for the Cross Magnum access to untapped potential and untapped velocity. Of course, Guns & Ammo encourages everyone to stay below the maximum powder charges in published reloading manuals.

PERFORMANCE

LOAD	VEL. (FPS)	ES	SD	BEST GROUP (IN.)	AVG. GROUP. (IN.)
SIG Sauer Match 190-gr. OTM	2,803	36	13.4	.44	.61
Federal GMM 190-gr. BTHP	2,974	31	13	.78	.92
Federal Hybrid Hunter 185 gr.	2,892	21	8.2	.9	.98

Notes: Accuracy is the average of five, five-shot groups at 100 yards. Velocity is the average of five shots measured by LabRadar placed adjacent to the muzzle.

The second subtle change SIG Sauer made was to tighten the barrel twist rate from the traditional 1-in-10 inches found in other .300 Win. Mags to 1-in-9-inches in the Cross Magnum. This change, when combined with the magazine selection, allows for the 190- to 230-grain projectiles to shine when used in the Cross Magnum. Faster twist rates are necessary to stabilize heavier bullets, especially at the relatively mild .300 Winchester Magnum velocities. One temptation about twist rates is to always think that faster is better, so it's not uncommon to hear the

call for 1-in-8-inch twist for .30-caliber magnums. The 1-in-9-inch twist is plenty for anything up to 230 grains, though. Faster twist rates than necessary usually bring some trouble with them. Bullet revolutions per minute can increase to the point that jacket integrity

becomes compromised, especially when the barrel is hot, which happens fast with a long-action magnum. Faster twist rates also generate more torque on the rifle, making it harder to achieve maximum precision. Magnum rifles have to be held more firmly when fired because of the torque they generate, so keeping torque to a minimum is always a good idea.

OWN a Genuine 1921 Morgan Silver Dollar

Over 100 Years Old...

Regularly \$87.00...
Now Only \$29.95

Now you can own a 1921 Morgan silver dollar from the last year these 90% silver classics were minted for circulation for just \$29.95 (Reg. \$87.00) – **SAVE 65%**! With over ¾ of an ounce of 90% silver, genuine Morgan dollars like these are a vanishing legacy of America’s past. Order today and get **FREE** shipping to your home!

You’ll also receive a handpicked trial selection of fascinating coins from our No-Obligation Coins-on-Approval Service, from which you may purchase any or none of the coins – return balance within 15 days – with option to cancel at any time.

www.LittletonCoin.com/Specials

Due to fluctuations in the coin market, prices and limits are subject to change.

FREE!
Morgan Silver Dollars booklet!

©2024 LCC, Inc.

Special Offer for New Customers Only

☒ **YES** Please send me the following:

QTY	DESCRIPTION	TOTAL
1	1921 Morgan Dollar (Limit 1)	\$29.95
1	Collector's Guide to Morgan Dollars	FREE!
	Shipping	FREE!
	Sales Tax	FREE!
ORDER WITHIN 30 DAYS		TOTAL \$29.95

☐ Check payable to Littleton Coin Company
☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard
☐ American Express ☐ Discover

Card No. _____ Exp. Date ____/____/____
_____|_____|_____|_____|_____|_____|_____|_____|_____|_____|

Name _____

Address _____ Apt# _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-Mail _____

Offer Code: 32K412 Littleton Coin Company
1309 Mt. Eustis Rd. Littleton NH 03561-3737



A single T15 screw allows the two-stage trigger to be adjusted for pull weight between 2½ and approximately 4 pounds.



The two-position safety selector on the left side is the standard size. Behind the receiver is a button that releases the stock to fold.



The Cross Magnum includes a radial muzzle-brake with ports that reduce felt recoil and prevent rotating torque from the .300 WM.

The Cross Magnum weighs 9 pounds. A lot of the weight comes from the medium-contour, 24-inch stainless-steel barrel. It would be possible to lose between 8 and 16 ounces by installing a carbon-fiber barrel, should weight be a significant priority. The handguard is 18 inches long and has M-Lok slots cut into its length around the circumference. The bottom of the handguard has an integrated ARCA rail that allows for quick attachment and repositioning of a bipod or tripod. The long handguard also gives the shooter plenty of options for supporting the forend off any field rests that might be available.

The buttstock assembly folds on the Cross Magnum, making it possible to shrink the long-barreled magnum to a petite 36 inches in length for transport. Anyone putting this rifle in



The Cross PRS grip is almost vertical, and can be upgraded with an optional weighted grip. Note the extended safety selector.



When cocked, the stainless-steel striker protrudes from the rear of the bolt. Above it is the push-button to remove the bolt.

the trunk of a car or flying with it will appreciate the ability to use a compact rifle case. The buttstock retains all of the adjustability for which Cross rifles are known. Move a throw lever and the spring-loaded cheekpiece lifts to the shooter’s cheek. A thumb-screw loosens the adjustment bar to quickly set length of pull. That same bar has some additional holes drilled in it to prevent movement when the rifle recoils. One buttstock adjustment feature that is particularly endearing is the push-button release for buttpad height. This allows the shooter to raise the buttpad 1½ inches higher. Moving the buttpad into this position is vital when shooting in the prone because it increases the amount of contact between the buttpad and the shooter’s shoulder. Spending a day shooting a magnum rifle requires attention to small details such as this to make the experience as enjoyable as possible. SIG Sauer got all of these details right.

The Cross Magnum is a rifle with some unique attributes that offers untapped performance from the .300 Winchester Magnum. It is a highly adjustable and well-mannered rifle that makes it possible to spend days at a time hunting or ringing steel. **G&A**

BE A GUNSMITH AND YOUR OWN BOSS!

Study at Home with Video Instruction!

CONTROL YOUR TIME AND INCOME!



Make Money Doing What You Love, Part-Time, Full-Time or in Retirement.



*"Your program changed my life for the better. **Hands down, the best I have seen.** The instructors are true Masters of their trade. I started CJ's Custom Shop in Lemon Grove, CA. Thank you again for your dedication and perseverance."*

James N. Woods, Gunsmith, CJ's Custom Shop

*"Words can't express how thankful I am that you put the time and effort into making these courses on video! This is such a wealth of knowledge that I can refer to long into the future when I get those tough jobs, and get in a bind and need help! **The fact that I have an AGI Instructor with me anytime I need him is worth more to me than you will ever know! What an incredible treasure!** Thank you so much!"*

James E. Legg

For more student reviews go to:

AgiReviews.com

Study from home and become an AGI Certified Gunsmith. Work from your house or open a small shop. This is a trade anyone with average skills can learn. *BE YOUR OWN BOSS!*

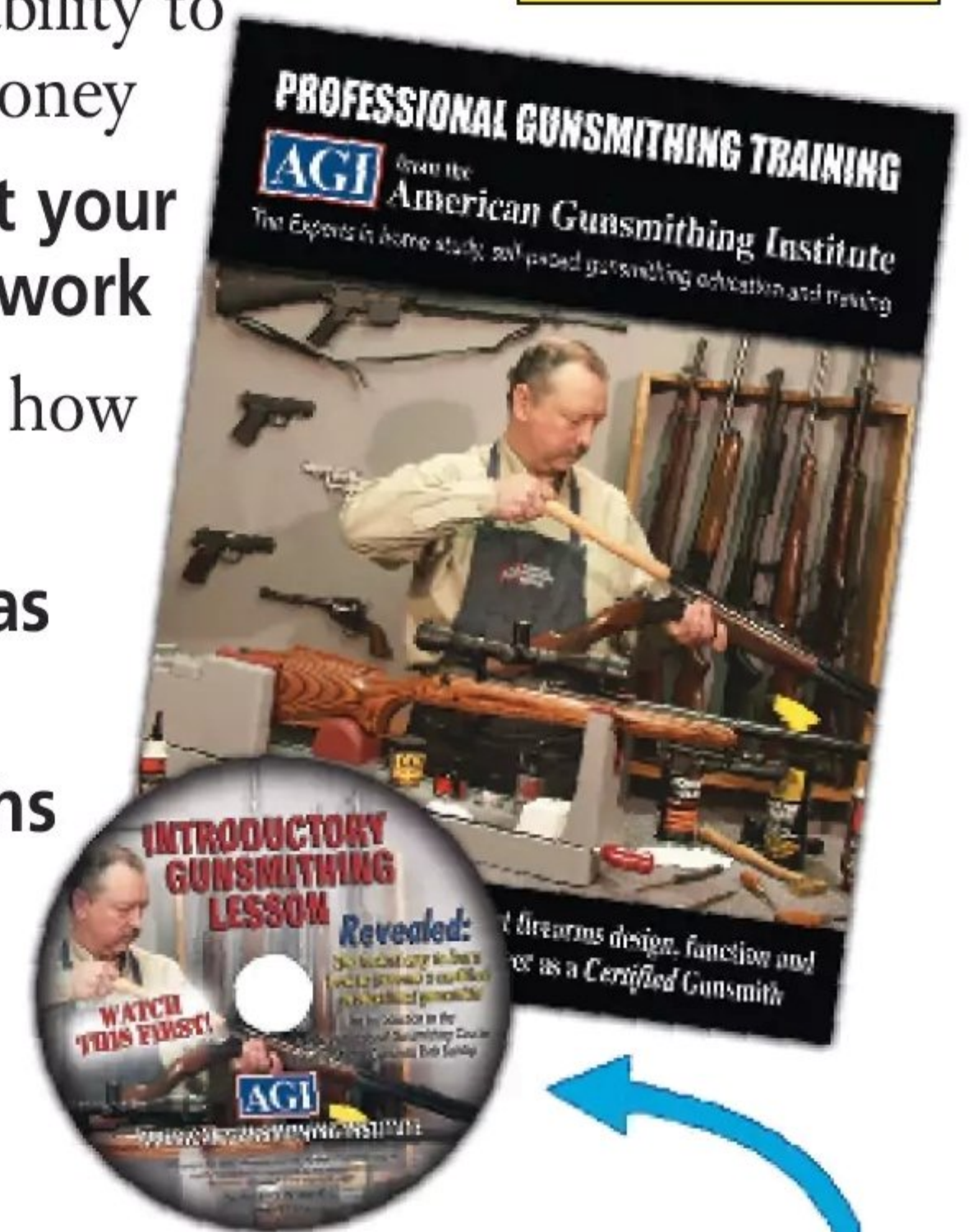
Through the American Gunsmithing Institute's study-at-home Virtual Campus™ Master Gunsmiths teach you gunsmithing step-by-step using video instruction with cutaway firearms to take you deep inside the guns. You will understand complete Design, Function, and Repair for all pistols and revolvers, shotguns, centerfire and rimfire rifles.

Through the Advanced Level Master Gunsmithing Training Course you will acquire all the knowledge and training you need to become an AGI Certified Gunsmith. We also provide all the tools and materials necessary to get started. This really is a turn-key opportunity to begin gunsmithing and start your own business.

- **Comprehensive how to instruction on video**
- **Complete training in Design, Function, and Repair Gunsmithing**
- **Step-by-step customizing of firearms**
- **Complete Machine Shop and Welding Courses -** this knowledge will expand your ability to make repairs and bring in more money
- **A step-by-step kit on how to get your FFL with all the necessary paperwork**
- **Business Success Training -** learn how to run a gunsmithing business
- **Get started making money in as little as 90 days**
- **Support from Master Gunsmiths by phone and email**

**Offer Code:
GA24**

**Mention offer code GA24
when ordering please**



FREE Information Package with Introductory Lessons

Get Six Free Introductory Video Gunsmithing Lessons and a Special Report "How to get started in Professional Gunsmithing." Go to www.AmericanGunsmithingInstitute.com

Go to **www.AmericanGunsmithingInstitute.com** or call **1-800-797-0867**

The American Gunsmithing Institute's approval to operate as a private postsecondary institution in the state of California is based on provisions of the California Private Postsecondary Education Act (CPPEA) of 2009 (California Education Code, Title 3, Division 10, Part 59, Chapter 8), which was effective January 1, 2010. The Bureau can be reached at 2535 Capitol Oaks Drive, Suite 400, Sacramento, CA 95833, www.bppe.ca.gov, toll-free telephone number (888) 370-7589 or by fax (916) 263-1897. Professional Gunsmithing Courses not available to Oklahoma residents at this time.



The earth is *flat*,
The moon landing was *fake*,
[and]
European optics are *superior*.



REVIC
A GUNWERKS COMPANY

ACURA BLR10b
Binocular Laser Rangefinder

[BINOCULAR + RANGEFINDER + BALLISTICS]

With advanced wind and complete ballistics the new Revic Rangefinding binoculars were built to do one thing, simplify your shot and turn *seconds* into *success*.



Pair your Revic Optic with the free Revic Ops app to transfer ballistic profiles and over-the-air updates. Download the app free.



Everyone has a favorite cartridge.



A QUESTION OF CALIBER

RECENTLY, an article was published on gunsandammo.com by G&A's Brad Fitzpatrick, titled "10 Underrated Hunting Cartridges." No article in recent years has generated as much feedback as this one. Readers were quick to point out some rounds were overlooked, too, including the .35 Remington and 7x57mm Mauser. It's obvious that you all have favorite cartridges and love to see them recognized.

Ammo generates a good amount of discussion, both on- and offline. The introduction of new rounds has been met with praise and criticism. Many wonder if the ammo we already have is good enough, or how performance can be improved further. Handgun Editor James Tarr's "9mm versus .45" column in the December 2023 issue spurred many to send us thoughts on the matter.

On the subject of caliber wars, fellow Outdoor Sportsman Group (OSG) publication RifleShooter routinely prints a "Cartridge Clash" column where two similar rounds are pitted against one another. RifleShooter Editor-in-Chief Scott Rupp compared the development history of the 7x57

and 7mm-'08 Remington in one such column, posted to rifleshootermag.com. It's worth a read.

Standard ammo isn't the only subject you like to read about. Wildcat cartridges may not be available to the majority of shooters, but the devel-

others exist for the sheer fun of it. Ackley's humorously-named wildcat, the "Eargesplitten Loudenboomer," is one example. It was based on a .378 Weatherby Magnum case loaded with a .22 bullet. This cartridge experiences a surge of online popularity every few years, perhaps for its impractical velocity. The round was developed for — and in collaboration with — former G&A Technical Editor Robert Hutton during the early 1960s. It was part of the duo's quest to push a round beyond 5,000 feet per second (fps).

In the August 1964 issue, they succeeded, achieving a speed of 6,585 fps using a 15-grain .22-284 in a government lab.

More information on P. O. Ackley's legacy can be found on gunsandammo.com. Let us know what cartridges you'd like to read about. Email gaeditor@outdoorsg.com. 



The latest hunting cartridges are impressive for flat trajectories and terminal performance, but don't overlook the proven classics. Use your camera app to scan the code and see our "Top 10 Classic Cartridge" list.



opment history makes for interesting discussions. P. O. Ackley, a founding contributor to G&A, was a father of modern wildcatting. Ackley produced dozens of new rounds throughout his career. While some designs, including the .280 Ackley Improved (AI), have been offered commercially,

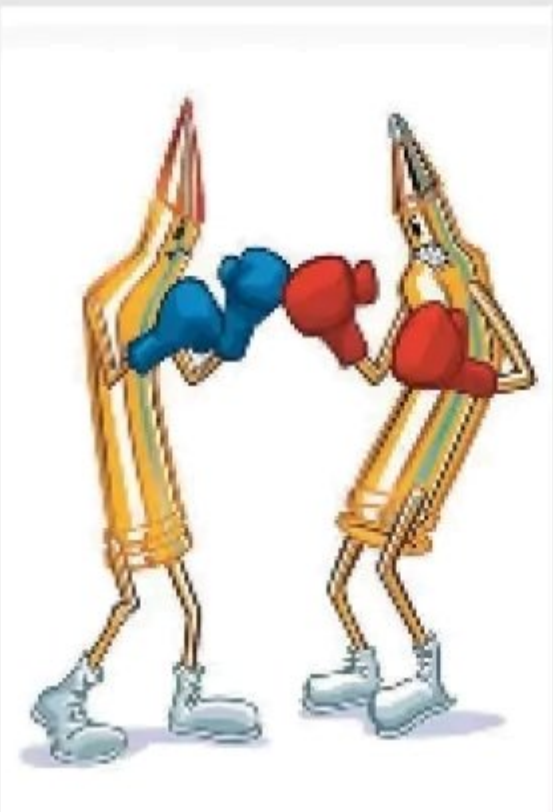


A BODDINGTON FAVORITE: .30-'06 SPRINGFIELD
Thoughts on the 20th century's most popular hunting round. "Don't sleep on the 'Dirty-Ought-Six.'"



CARTRIDGE CLASH

Scott Rupp, the editor-in-chief of Handguns and RifleShooter magazines, compared the 7x57 and 7mm-'08 Rem. in a cartridge brawl.



TOP COMMENTS

In response to the January 2023 "Connect" column, "Best Sellers":
"I enjoyed reading the 'Best Sellers' article. The next gun I buy shall have a threaded barrel. Using silencers are easy on my ears, and the neighbors like it too. Of course, some guns [including] shotguns are in a different category." — Brian J.

In response to the February 2023 "Connect" column, "You Asked for It!":
"Yes, we'd like to see more articles on restoring firearms. I, specifically, would like to see more articles about restoring hunting rifles." — John M.



SOUND OFF

Respond to articles, find community and join the conversation in the Guns & Ammo forums and by engaging with us on social media:

 [Guns & Ammo Magazine](#)

 [@gunsandammomag](#)

 [@GunsAndAmmoMag](#)

 gaeditor@outdoorsg.com



KEITH WOOD

LaPierre parts ways with the NRA.

CHANGE OVERDUE

WAYNE LAPIERRE IS OUT at the National Rifle Association (NRA), taking a reported \$500,000 per year in severance as part of his employment contract. As a guy who once believed that Wayne hung the moon, I say “Good riddance.” While his departure was a step in the right direction, serious problems remain. I am not optimistic that those who still control the organization have its members’ best interests at heart. The NRA is on life support and, if the patient is to be saved, fundamental changes are needed to its organizational structure, governance and leadership.

LEADERSHIP

The Board of Directors should seek out and hire a qualified CEO with a background in successfully turning companies around. We don’t need another “cult of personality,” rather the NRA needs a proven leader with unimpeachable integrity who is willing to do whatever is necessary. Handing out pink slips to those on the executive floor would be a good start.

TRANSPARENCY

A top-to-bottom audit should be performed by a credible third-party with the results posted online. Shining a light on all of the past wrongs is the only way that members’ faith can be restored. Those who are exposed as being responsible for the financial shenanigans that have brought the NRA to its knees should be held criminally responsible. Going forward, the NRA should create detailed quarterly reports and make them available to the membership, just as publicly traded companies due for their shareholders.

RELOCATION

Being chartered in New York might have made sense in 1871, but that idea has long outlived its usefulness. Just as firearm manufacturers have relocated their facilities to gun-friendly states, the NRA should move both its head-

quarters and legal charter to a more appropriate location. Assuming that it hasn’t been encumbered with debt, selling the headquarters building in Fairfax, Virginia, could inject much-needed capital into the organization’s budget. Given today’s remote working environment, the new headquarters could be a fraction of the current facility’s size.



BOARD REFORM

One of the fundamental flaws in the NRA’s structure is its 76-member Board of Directors. The size of the Board ensures that its members’ power is too diluted to be effective. This fact became apparent during the two coup attempts brought against LaPierre in 1997 and 2019. The size and dysfunction of the Board helped Wayne maintain his position of

power despite damning evidence of incompetence. Apple, the world’s largest corporation, has just nine members on its Board. General Motors has 13. Either number would do. If I somehow found myself on NRA’s Board, my first act would be to vote myself and my colleagues out of a job.

It has been reported that numerous members of the NRA Board enjoyed lucrative consulting agreements with the organization, creating clear conflicts of interest. Other members double-dipped more discreetly through agreements with NRA vendors including Ackerman-McQueen. Board members and their families should not have financial interests in the organization outside of reasonably modest stipends, the details of which should be made public.

These steps would go a long way in rebuilding trust. I’ve been critical of NRA’s leadership in the past, but only because I want the organization to thrive. As a longtime member and former employee, I’m rooting for the NRA. We need the NRA now more than ever. If meaningful reforms such as these are enacted, I firmly believe that members and dollars would pour back into the NRA’s war chest, helping make it stronger than ever. 



RECORDS **SHATTER** VARMINTS **SHUDDER.**

Innovation, precision and excitement! Elevate your varmint shooting experience, shatter records, and make your mark like never before with Hornady® V-Match™ ammunition.

- New ELD-VT™ bullet with patented Heat Shield® tip
- Highly concentric AMP® bullet jacket
- High velocity retention and rapid expansion
- Ultra-flat trajectories and unparalleled accuracy



Learn more at
hornady.com/v-match

AVAILABLE IN

- 22 ARC
- 6MM ARC
- 6MM Creedmoor
- 6.5 Grendel
- 6.5 Creedmoor



NEW KDS9c

UNMATCHED

NEW FEATURES*



1913 ACCESSORY RAIL



AMBIDEXTROUS SAFETY



18+1 ROUND CAPACITY

*HOLOSUN OPTIC AND SUREFIRE LIGHT NOT INCLUDED



KIMBERAMERICA.COM

Kimber[®]

WHAT ALL GUNS SHOULD BE[™]