

45-DAY POCKET CARRY
SAFARILAND 25 HOLSTER

FN REFLEX XL 9MM
GREAT SAO TRIGGER!

CA-LEGAL: S&W M&P9
M2.0 COMPACT 9MM

gunsandammo.com

GUNS & AMMO

JULY 2025

FIRST LOOK

PRIMETIME

CANIK MTE MC9 PRIME 9MM
IS A SUPER-FLAT SHOOTER!

- COMPENSATED BARREL & SLIDE
- RMSc-CUT, OPTIC READY
- MINIMAL MUZZLE RISE
- NIGHT FISION SIGHTS
- FLAT-FACE TRIGGER
- & MORE TEXTURE

P. 46



BURRIS
FASTFIRE C

+

CHRISTENSEN ARMS RIDGELINE IN 7MM PRC



CARBON FIBER COMPOSITE STOCK &
CARBON FIBER-WRAPPED BARREL

P. 54



P. 35

BECKSTRAND

Burris XTR PS 5.5-30x56mm
@ Cameo's UHRC Match



P. 70

EMARY

Final Faceoff:
Best WWII Sniper Rifle?



P. 31

NANCE

Nightstick TSM-13G
Light + Green Laser!

NEW
HS923
SUPPRESSOR



**TWO MISSIONS.
ONE CAN.**

SHADOWSYSTEMSCORP.COM

SHADOW
S Y S T E M S

PERFECTION MEETS TRUST

Everyday carry revolutionized by the AIMPOINT® COA™ – an all-new rugged red dot optic designed for slimline and standard pistol frames. Personal protection has a new standard of perfection in simplicity and trust.



● Performance from Trust®



014338

CONTENTS

The subscriber cover features a Christensen Arms Ridgeline FFT in 7mm PRC with a Leupold VX-6HD Gen 2 scope in 3-18x50mm.
p. 54



BY TOM BECKSTRAND

54

THE CHRISTENSEN ARMS RIDGELINE FFT UTILIZES CARBON FIBER TO REDUCE WEIGHT AND IMPROVE ACCURACY.

LIGHTER & STRONGER

COVER PHOTOS: MICHAEL ANSCHUETZ AND MARK FINGAR; ABOVE PHOTO: MARK FINGAR

46

PRIMETIME

The Canik Mete MC9 Prime is a U.S.-made black-tie carry gun for every occasion.

BY JAMES TARR

62

BIGGER & BETTER

The FN Reflex XL MRD blends capacity and concealability with a best-in-class internal hammer-fired trigger.

BY BRAD FITZPATRICK

70

HUNTERS OF GUNMEN

Part V: Which World War II bolt-action sniper rifle was the best?

BY DAVE EMARY

Reader Blowback.....	8	Rifles & Glass by Tom Beckstrand.....	35
Editorial by Eric R. Poole.....	13	Bullet Board by Dave Emary.....	39
Gun Room by Garry James.....	15	Quiet Time Banish 30-V2.....	42
Handgunning by James Tarr.....	21	Proofhouse S&W M&P9 M2.0 Compact CA Compliant...	78
The Carry Rig Safariland Model 25.....	24	Connect by Antonio Acitelli.....	87
Gun Tech by Richard Nance.....	31	Spent Cases by Keith Wood.....	88



BANISH

6.4" OR 8.17" LONG
1.5" DIAMETER
9.5 OR 12.4 OUNCES

INDUSTRY STANDARD HUB MOUNT
5/8x24 DT MOUNT INCLUDED

The BANISH 30-V2 is a highly versatile .30-caliber suppressor capable of handling anything from .17 HMR up to .300 WBY. It comes with an industry-standard HUB for simplified mounting across a wide range of firearms.

MULTI-CAL SUPPRESSOR
100% TITANIUM
LENGTH CONFIGURABLE

BANISH 30-V2 SPECS

LENGTH	6.4" OR 8.17"
DIAMETER	1.5"
CALIBER	7.62MM/.308
FINISH	Cerakote
LIFETIME WARRANTY	Yes



Black



Tan

GET YOURS TODAY
CALL 866.471.6871 OR
VISIT BANISHSUPPRESSORS.COM



Throw Yourself a Bone

Full tang stainless steel blade with natural bone handle —now **ONLY \$79!**

If you're on the hunt for a knife that combines impeccable craftsmanship with a sense of wonder, the **\$79 Huntsman Blade** is the trophy you're looking for.

The blade is full tang, meaning it doesn't stop at the handle but extends to the length of the grip for the ultimate in strength. The blade is made from 420 surgical steel, famed for its sharpness and its resistance to corrosion.

The handle is made from genuine natural bone, and features decorative wood spacers and a hand-carved motif of two overlapping feathers—a reminder for you to respect and connect with the natural world.

This fusion of substance and style can garner a high price tag out in the marketplace. In fact, we found full tang, stainless steel blades with bone handles in excess of \$2,000. Well, that won't cut it around here. We have mastered the hunt for the best deal, and in turn pass the spoils on to our customers.

But we don't stop there. While supplies last, we'll include a pair of \$99 8x21 power compact binoculars *and* a genuine leather sheath **FREE** when you purchase the **Huntsman Blade**.

Your satisfaction is 100% guaranteed. Feel the knife in your hands, wear it on your hip, inspect the impeccable craftsmanship. If you don't feel like we cut you a fair deal, send it back within 30 days for a complete refund of the item price.

Limited Reserves. A deal like this won't last long. We have only 1120 **Huntsman Blades** for this ad only. Don't let this beauty slip through your fingers. Call today!

Huntsman Blade ~~\$249~~*

Offer Code Price Only \$79 + S&P

Save \$170

1-800-333-2045

Your Insider Offer Code: HBK276-01

You must use the insider offer code to get our special price.

Stauer® 14091 Southcross Drive W., Dept. HBK276-01
Burnsville, Minnesota 55337 www.stauer.com

*Discount is only for customers who use the offer code versus the listed original Stauer.com price.

California residents please call 1-800-333-2045 regarding Proposition 65 regulations before purchasing this product.

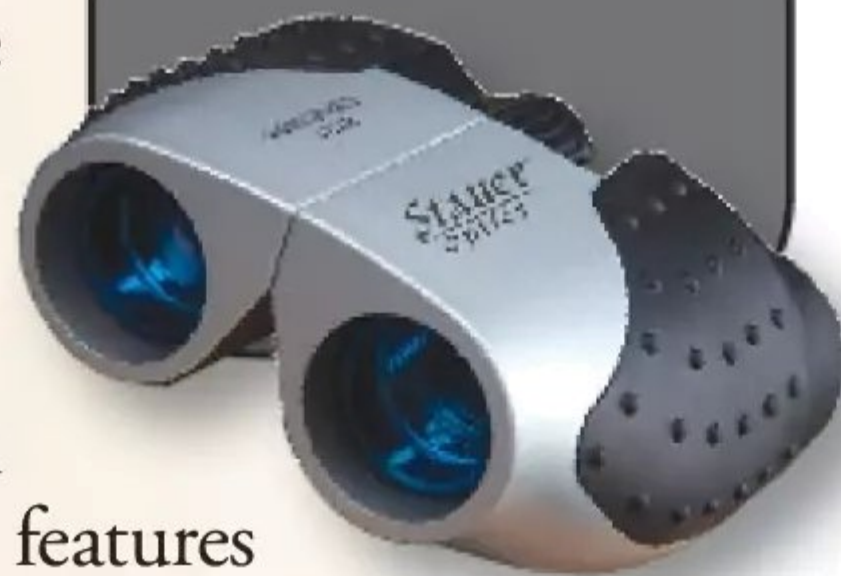
- 12" overall length; 6 1/2" stainless steel full tang blade • Genuine bone handle with brass hand guard & bolsters • Includes genuine leather sheath

Stauer... *Afford the Extraordinary.*®



**EXCLUSIVE
FREE**

Stauer® 8x21
Compact
Binoculars
-a \$99 value-
with purchase of
Huntsman Blade



GUNS&AMMO

gunsandammo.com

An Outdoor Sportsman Group® publication

VP, SHOOTING GROUP PUBLISHER
Chris Agnes

EDITORIAL

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Eric R. Poole

MANAGING EDITOR
Jack Oller

DIGITAL EDITOR
Antonio Acitelli

COPY EDITOR
Lisa Beuning

ART DIRECTOR
Michael Ulrich

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Michael Anschuetz

SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGER
Keith Marlor

SENIOR EDITOR
Garry James

FIELD EDITOR
Keith Wood

HANDGUN EDITOR
James Tarr

RIFLES & OPTICS EDITOR
Tom Beckstrand

TECHNOLOGY EDITOR
Richard Nance

CONTRIBUTORS

Craig Boddington, Donna Boddington,
A. F. Branco, Dave Emary, D. Faubion, Mark Fingar,
Brad Fitzpatrick, Robert W. Hunnicutt,
Alfredo Rico, Phil Schreier, Yamil Sued

ENDEMIC AD SALES

SVP, 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

NATIONAL AD SALES

SENIOR DIRECTOR, NON-ENDEMIC SALES
Kevin Donley kevin.donley@outdoorsg.com

NATIONAL ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE
Carl Benson carl.benson@outdoorsg.com

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.



Rating of A+



GRIFFIN ARMAMENT[®]
ENGINEERED SILENCE[®]



FULL AMBI MK2

PROPRIETARY AMBIDEXTROUS CONTROLS
CUSTOM FORGED 7075 LOWER RECEIVER
SUPPRESSOR OPTIMIZED GAS SYSTEM
MIL-SPEC FIRE CONTROL POCKET
PERPETUAL LIFETIME WARRANTY

USE CODE **"GUNS10"** FOR 10% OFF SITE-WIDE
VALID UNTIL 04/01/26

SILENCERS TO YOUR DOOR
BUY ONLINE - SHIP TO YOUR DOOR



GRIFFIN ARMAMENT[®]
ENGINEERED SILENCE[®]



"Great Swiss quality
high tactical style"

— Gene H.

The **LOWEST** Price
You Will Ever Pay for
a Swiss Watch



Made in
Switzerland



Tactical Meets Practical

Switzerland is synonymous with expensive, big-name luxury watches like Rolex®, Piaget® and Patek Philippe® that sell for thousands, but the Stauer Swiss Tactical Watch delivers Swiss precision for a fraction of the cost. Inspired by military timepieces like the American A-11, it combines rugged performance, simplicity, and legendary craftsmanship — built for action, not display cases.

Precision Takes Time

Swiss excellence demands patience. Each Stauer Swiss Tactical takes nearly nine months to complete, and this is a limited edition of 4,900. Crafted by master watchmakers, some of whom have worked with the other prestigious brands, this is your chance to own a rare, precision-engineered tactical watch without the inflated luxury price tag.

Why Pay for a Name?

Big brands charge more for status. Stauer delivers the same quality and precision with high-contrast markers for instant readability, a shock-resistant case to withstand hard knocks and Swiss-made movement for impeccable timing.

Limited Offer – Act Now

Don't miss this rare combination of Swiss craftsmanship and unbeatable value. Only 4,900 available — once they're gone, they're gone.

Why pay more when you can own precision, heritage, and adventure for less? Order now — time is running out.

Watch Specifications:

- Made in Switzerland with precision Swiss Ronda 515 movement.
- Stainless steel caseback.
- Brown leather band.
- 44 mm diameter case.
- Date window at 3 o'clock.
- Water-resistant to 3 ATM.
- Fits wrists up to 8 1/4".

Stauer Swiss Tactical Watch

~~\$399~~ \$59* + S & P Save \$340

*Special price only for customers using the offer code.

1-800-333-2045

Your Insider Offer Code: SST186-01

Stauer® 14091 Southcross Dr.
W., Dept. SST186-01
Burnsville, MN 55337
www.stauer.com

OUTDOOR SPORTSMAN GROUP® INTEGRATED MEDIA

CORPORATE

PRESIDENT & CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Mike Carney

EVP, OPERATIONS

Derek Sevcik

SVP, REVENUE

Pat Hogan

VP, CONSUMER MARKETING

Peter Watt

SENIOR DIRECTOR,
MANUFACTURING & TECHNOLOGY

Kyle Morgan

SENIOR DIRECTOR, PRODUCTION

Connie Mendoza

DIRECTOR, DIGITAL EDITORIAL

Darren Choate

DIRECTOR, SOCIAL MEDIA

James Clark

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

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
rifleshootermag.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 2025 by Outdoor Sportsman Group®

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

Guns & Ammo (ISSN# 0017-5684) July 2025, Volume 69, Number 7. 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. Frequency is subject to change without notice.

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.



BANTAMWEIGHT SIZE



HEAVYWEIGHT PUNCH

The smallest in the battle-tested SAR9 family, the 21.7 oz Subcompact features a 3.3" hammer-forged barrel. When paired with our 15-round extended magazine, the Subcompact feels like a fullsize in a concealable package. Optic-ready, it's easy to carry all-day, every day.

↘
SARUSA.COM



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.



WINCHESTER MODEL 677, .22 LR, 100%: \$3,500

SCOPED MODEL 67?

I have a Winchester Model 67 in .22 caliber. It's more than 60 years old and shoots great! I would like to put a scope on it, but I'm afraid that ejected cases might damage the optic. Do you have any suggestions? Of course, I would need to seek the services of a gunsmith to machine scope grooves.

Jake Spencer

Ridgeway, Virginia

If an optic were mounted to the Winchester Model 67, any ejected .22 rimfire brass cases that contact the underside of a scope should not hurt it. Manufactured from 1934 to 1960, many variations were produced. In fact, the Model 677 is a rare variant that was offered from 1937 to 1938 with either a Winchester-branded 2.75X Lyman scope having a vertical post or a 5X Lyman scope with crosshairs. Only 1,400 were produced, and neither Model 677 had irons. The integral scope bases were mounted on the barrel, and the scopes were provided in a box to be mounted by the rifle's buyer. Perhaps your gunsmith could drill-and-tap a scope mount solution that emulates the Model 677's configuration. In November 1942, Winchester ceased production of all scoped models to divert optical glass in support of the war effort.

— E. Poole

ENGINEER ON AMMO

Dave Emary's column "Data Confusion" (March 2025) cleared up many reload-

ing questions, but I would appreciate a comment on something I've been doing. To avoid checking case volumes with water, I've developed a shortcut. The specific weight of cartridge brass is about eight times that of water and propellant. Therefore, the volume of 8 grains of case metal equals the approximate volume of 1 grain of water, and of propellant. So, as an example of what I've been doing, I weighed batches of Remington and Winchester .30-'06 cases, all de-primed, cleaned and trimmed. The average weight difference between them was almost 10 grains exactly, Winchester's being lighter. Given this, and assuming the weight difference relates only to internal case volume, I concluded that Winchester cases hold about 1.25 more grains (e.g., 10/8) of propellant than Remington's. I adjusted my loads accordingly. I'm a lifelong engineer, but is my rationale taking me out to left field on this?

Allan Reifel

Email

You are correct in what you are assuming on a macro scale. It is a good way to quickly quantify difference and keep yourself out of trouble. It probably won't give you absolute values, though, because there is likely some differences in the brass alloys between manufacturers and associated differences in density.

— D. Emary

STRAIGHT DATA

I cannot thank Guns & Ammo enough. One, for a great magazine. Two, for Dave Emary's "Data Confusion" column (March 2025) on the variances in reloading. I've only been reloading for a couple of years, but I have been shooting long range for many more. My go-to rifles are in 6.5 Creedmoor and .308 Winchester. Unfortunately, many spec books do not give us the newer loads, especially for newer bullets. Great job, Dave! I hope to see more.

E. W. Weldon

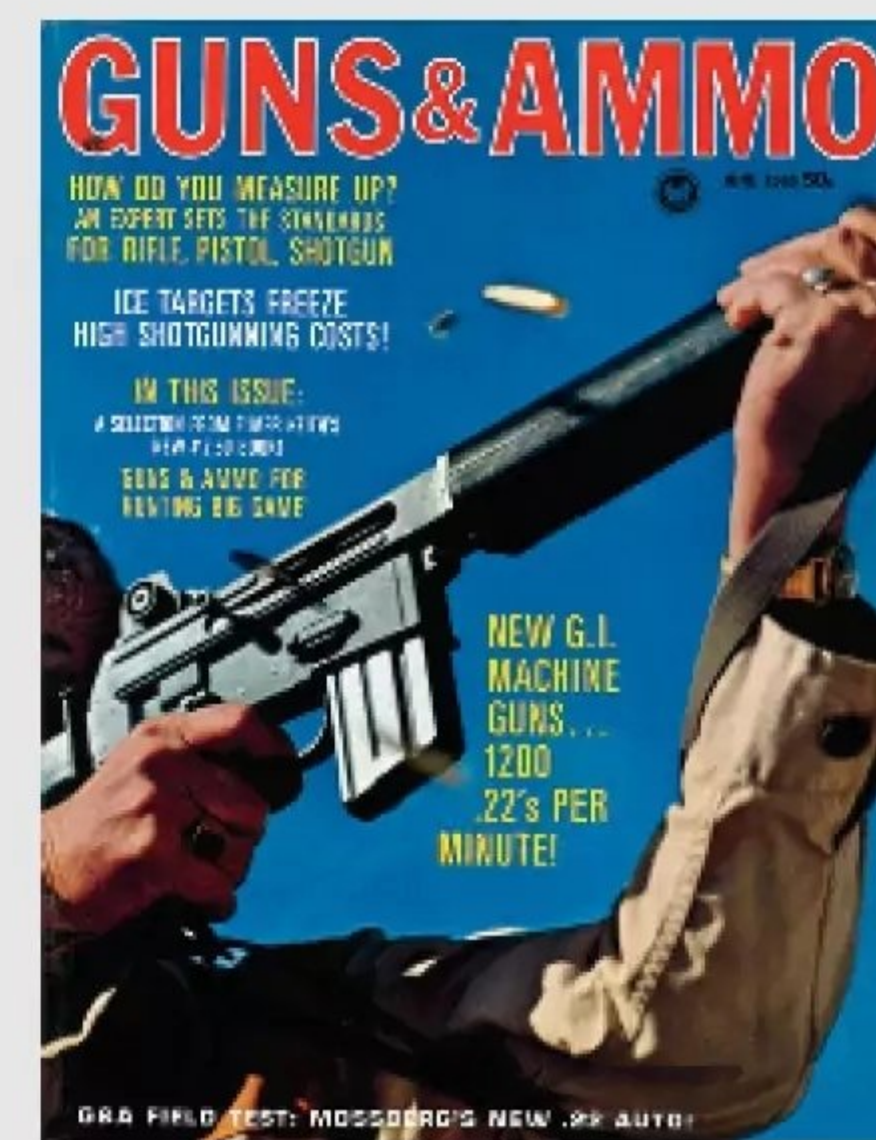
Duncannon, Pennsylvania

LED EMITTERS

Red dots, red dots, red dots! That's all I hear about! There are better solutions for aging eyes: Green dots! As we age, green is easier to see than red, which is why I buy Holosun's green-dot optics. I have mounted these on pistols, ARs, PPCs and

JUNE '65

Col. Burton Miller, U.S. Air Force, wrote a three-part series introducing the ArmaLite AR-18, alleging its improved performance when compared to the AR-15, which was manufactured by Colt. The articles also examined the ballistics of the .223 Rem. versus the .308 Win. against helmets, ammo cans, and napalm-filled 5-gallon "Jerry" cans.



shotguns. I use front and rear green fiber-optic sights on as many pistols where I don't have the ability to mount an optic. So, as Guns & Ammo reviews easy-to-rack slides, tip-up barrels, and small calibers for those who are aging, please do us a favor and suggest green-dot optics and green fiber optics. It would be great to read an article where the next Wunder Gun has a green-dot sight on it.

Norman Kunkel

Email

BEAR GUNS

I scratched an itch. Several months ago, a reader asked for advice about a handgun to carry in bear country. He had a Model 19 Smith & Wesson in .357 Magnum and was advised to buy a good 10mm pistol. Sure, the 10mm is more powerful, and the pistol holds more



RECOIL NOT INCLUDED

RM1C-COMP. Integral compensator for faster, more accurate shots. Optics-ready, flat-face trigger, extra-short reset, ambidextrous controls, match-grade barrel. 15+1 and 17+1. **Swap bounce for bullseyes.**

than six rounds, but I will be carrying a Model 19 into the land of bears soon. Why? I've put more rounds through K-frames than any other handgun! I have no interest in shooting a bear unless it has an interest in me for an *hors d'oeuvre*. I've had one close encounter with a grizzly sow and cubs while elbow-deep working on my old pickup. That experience convinced me that I could never be outgunned in bear country. I'd definitely prefer a 10mm to my .357 if I had as much trigger time, but I don't. So, the Model 19 comes to my hand quickly and naturally if need be. I stoke it with a stout load of H110 and Elmer Keith's 158-grain hard-cast bullets. It's not ideal, but either the bear

or I can retreat if there is an encounter between us.

Peter Gruning
Email

Bear defense is a lot of the reason the 10mm is again so popular, I think. Maybe zombies, too.

— J. Tarr

WOOD WAS RIGHT!

Hurrah for Keith Wood's "Revolver Revival" column in the May 2025 issue! When Smith & Wesson brought out its AirLite Ti Centennial 20-plus years ago, gunwriters seemed to agree that they found an ideal use for the .32 H&R Magnum round. Mine weighs just 13½ ounces when loaded with Hornady Critical Defense — less with frangibles. It holds six rounds instead of the

usual five, too. Further, writers agreed that the .32 H&R bullet leaves the 1 5/8-inch barrel fast enough for the hollowpoint to expand. The light revolver is controllable with this ammo, something that my heavier J-frame in .38 Special really isn't. For 23 years, this has been my daily carry. It rides invisibly in my front jeans pocket in a felt holster. A police detective once asked why I didn't carry; I told him I was. I've been hoping that S&W would bring back the same revolver in .327 Federal, but this version in .32 H&R rocks. I'm glad it's back.

John Taylor
Vail, Arizona

SIMPSON LTD.

I was just wondering if Simpson Ltd., Firearms for

Collectors, is a trustworthy source for antique and collectible firearms? Thanks for the great magazine. I especially enjoy Garry James' "Gun Room" column and the handgun reviews.

Grayson Atkinson
Preston, Idaho

Located in Galesburg, Illinois, this is the local gun store for Shooting Times' Editor-in-Chief Joel Hutchcroft. I am also aware of business between Simpson Ltd. and several respected gunwriters, including Reid Coffield and Terry Wieland. This business was most recently used by Guns & Ammo Ballistic Editor Dave Emary to source a couple of rifles that appeared in the "World War II Sniper Rifle Series." Considering



C&G HOLSTERS

TRINITY HOLSTER SYSTEM

The ultimate on-the-hip solution for those who demand versatility, performance, and durability, this GEN6 holster offers unmatched precision, a flawless firearm fit, and multi-attachment compatibility. With universal optic compatibility, ergonomic design, and reinforced durability, it ensures all-day comfort and reliability in any condition.

FOR ALL THAT YOU HOLD CLOSE

our editorial staff's positive experience in purchasing vintage firearms from Simpson Ltd., I have no concern in recommending Simpson Ltd., a family-owned business since 1962. Visit simpsonltd.com to view the current inventory of antique and modern firearms.

— E. Poole

PEEPS FOR LEVERS

In reference to the February 2025 "Bullet Board" column by Dave Emary titled "The Repeater," he mentioned the useful modification of peep sights on lever guns. While he named a few excellent options, he did not mention Skinner Sights (skimmersights.com). Skinner makes high-quality peep sights of many styles, and for a variety of firearms.

They also offer appropriate front sights if replacement is necessary, and outstanding customer service. In my opinion, its products and service can't be beat.

Ron Weddle, M.D.
Bardstown, Kentucky

MORE SNIPING

I really enjoyed the detailed comparisons of the Mauser 98K Zf.39, Enfield No. 4 (T), Mosin Nagant 91/30 and the Springfield Model 1903A4. How about adding the Japanese Arisaka and Italian Carcano to complete the list of bolt-action sniper rifles used in that conflict?

Ren Leitner
Longmont, Colorado

The Japanese bolt-action Type 97 sniper rifle in 6.5x50mm Arisaka was

manufactured by Nagoya and Kokura Arsenal. It was adopted in 1937 and used to the end of World War II, despite the development of the 7.7mm-chambered Type 99 sniper rifle. Some 24,000 were made between 1938 and 1943. The bolts were longer and turned down to avoid hitting the scope when opening the action. The scope was a fixed 2.5X optic that was zeroed at the factory and not adjustable. These rifles have sold between \$4,500 and \$7,000 with scope, but they rarely come available for sale. According to "Italian Small Arms" (2014) by Ralph Riccio, "One reference indicates that in May 1942 there were 119 Model 1891 rifles with scopes in the army's inventory." There are

pictures in the archives of soldiers using Carcano rifles, some with scopes in high or offset mounts. Unfortunately, Guns & Ammo was unable to procure samples of these during the development of the World War II Sniper Rifle Series.

— E. Poole

FUTURE ARTICLES

How about some articles and experiments such as shooting a bulletproof vest with various pistol rounds? Or shooting car doors and windshields? Perhaps you could simulate Sheetrock wallboard and shoot it to see what rounds are "safe" for home defense use? I would welcome a series, one category each month.

Matt Tyree
Mansfield, Georgia 



FIGHT.
DON'T FUMBLE.
R3D 2.0 NIGHT SIGHTS



SCAN THE QR CODE
TO LEARN MORE.



NEW

800-338-3220 | HORNADY.COM



338 ARC

THE *Big* LITTLE CARTRIDGE THAT PACKS A PUNCH!

Hornady BLACK®
175 gr. HP

SUBSONIC™
307 gr. SUB-X®



Plinking



Hunting



Personal
Defense

PURPOSEFULLY DESIGNED FOR HARD-HITTING
SUBSONIC PERFORMANCE IN AN AR-15 OR MICRO BOLT ACTION.

Increased Terminal Performance • Optimized for Reliable Cycling • Engineered for Consistent Pressure



I was reminded that I miss, too.



ERIC R. POOLE

 @GUNSANDAMMOMAG

OPENING DAY

THIS CAREER has afforded many opportunities for me to turkey hunt. In 2023, I realized that I had taken all but an Eastern and Osceola with a Mossberg, including 12-gauge variants of the Model 500, 930 and 940. So, in 2024, I went back to the list and successfully harvested an Eastern in Illinois with the then-new 20-gauge over/under Silver Reserve Eventide Turkey. With that, I resolved to claim each subspecies using an affordable Mossberg.

I attempted to complete the World Turkey Slam in 2025, which consists of the Eastern, Gould's, Merriam's, Ocellated, Osceola and Rio. Most hunters manage the continental U.S. birds first — earning the "Grand Slam" — before venturing southwest for a Gould's (Royal Slam), and the Ocellated, which are found in the Yucatán, Mexico, and Central America. I stumbled into this quest differently, saving Florida's Osceola for last.

March 15, 2025, was opening day for Osceola. I crawled into the back of a ground blind with Ted Jaycox of Tall Tine Outfitters (talltine.com) and Derrick Nawrocki, president and publisher of "Grand View Outdoors." Concealed by darkness, Jaycox placed a couple of decoys at 20 and 30 yards on a path between chest-high brush and scrub. I turned on the optic and positioned myself so that I could sneak the shotgun into my shoulder if a gobbler revealed himself.

A couple miles away, friends and colleagues Linda Powell of Mossberg and Drew Warden of "Game & Fish" doubled from their blind. I only doubled once, with Nawrocki on Gould's in Sonora, Mexico. Paired in a blind, we were strangers who became friends after patiently waiting for a second gobbler to cross a field and join the first in attacking a lifelike decoy. Three, two, one, *boom!*

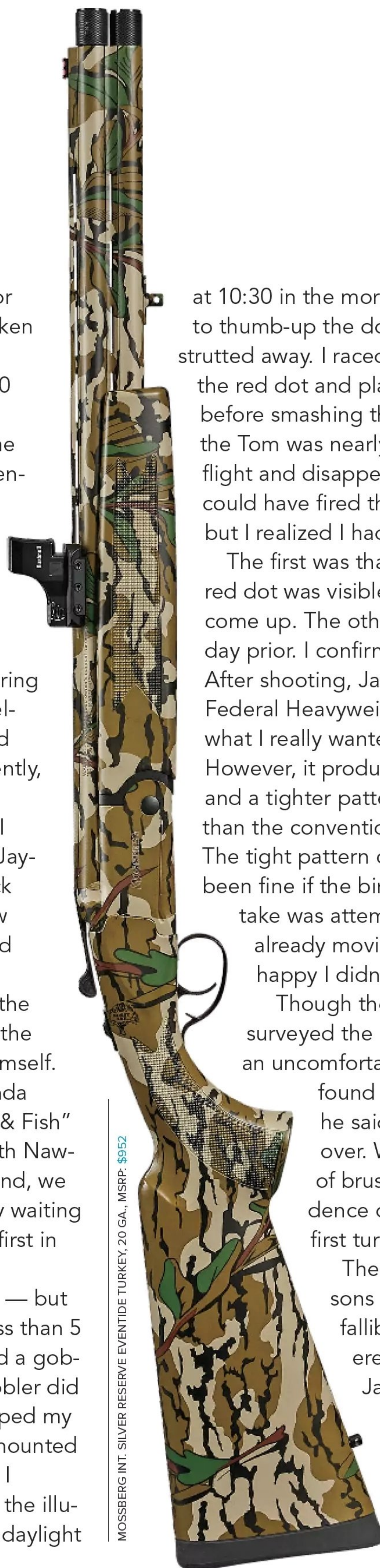
In Florida, hours later, a hen sounded the alarm — but we couldn't see her to the side of our blind. At less than 5 yards, her yelps held our attention as we expected a gobbler to walk into our ambush. Minutes later, a gobbler did step out, but he was 25 yards away. Nawrocki tapped my knee, confirming he was a shooter, and I quietly mounted the gun. With the Tom in the window of my sight, I searched for the red dot; it wasn't there. I had set the illumination when it was dark, and it was too dim for daylight

at 10:30 in the morning. I moved my support hand to thumb-up the dot's brightness as the gobbler strutted away. I raced to see the faintest amount of the red dot and placed it at the bottom of the neck before smashing the trigger. When the shot broke, the Tom was nearly 40 yards out. It launched into flight and disappeared into the brush. Perhaps I could have fired the top barrel to bring it down, but I realized I had already made several mistakes.

The first was that I had not checked that the red dot was visible in daylight once the sun had come up. The other mistakes were made the day prior. I confirmed zero using a different load. After shooting, Jaycox came up with two shells of Federal Heavyweight TSS in 20 gauge, which is what I really wanted to take my first Osceola with. However, it produced a slight point of impact shift and a tighter pattern at 1,100 feet per second (fps) than the conventional turkey load I zeroed with. The tight pattern of 1½-ounce 9 shot would have been fine if the bird was static, but my next mistake was attempting to shoot a bird that was already moving away from us, anxiously. I'm happy I didn't pull the trigger a second time.

Though the payload missed the bird, we surveyed the ground after several minutes of an uncomfortable silence in the blind. Jaycox found a feather. "You know the rules," he said empathetically. My hunt was over. We searched hundreds of yards of brush for hours and didn't find evidence of a wounded bird. He was the first turkey I've shot at and missed.

The experience reminded me of lessons I already knew, but also that I am fallible. As successful hunters gathered for a group photo, Powell and Jaycox informed me a spot was open on Opening Day 2026. I booked it, still hoping for another chance at completing the World Slam. I can always learn from my mistakes. 



MOSSBERG INT. SILVER RESERVE EVENTIDE TURKEY, 20 GA., MSRP: \$952

NOW SHIPPING



THE MOST ICONIC FIREARM OF THE MODERN ERA



MAC 5



MAC 5K

ROLLER DELAYED BLOWBACK PISTOL IN 9MM.
BASED ON ORIGINAL HK® SPECS
DEAD RINGERS FOR THE ORIGINALS
PRICE POINT ANY SHOOTER CAN AFFORD.



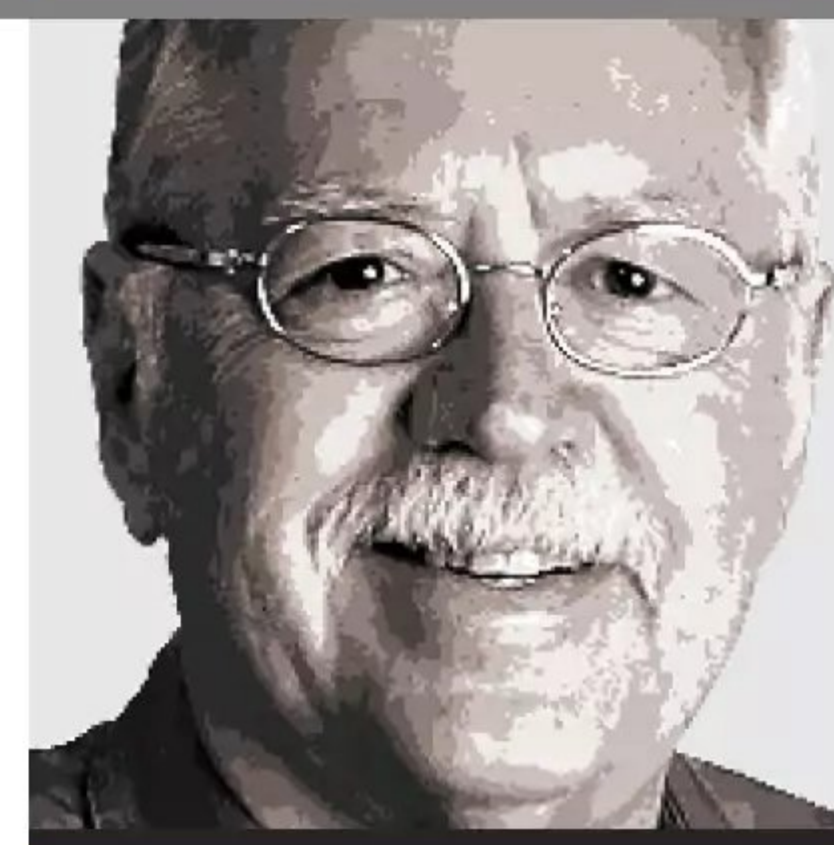
MILITARY
ARMAMENT
CORPORATION

MAC FIREARMS

WWW.MILARMAMENTCORP.COM

“Unfortunately, I am dubious. I would be interested to see what the Colt archivist has to say about the matter.”

IDENTIFICATION & VALUES



GARRY JAMES

GARRY.JAMES@
OUTDOORS.G.COM

COLT SINGLE ACTION ARMY, .41 COLT

JOHN WESLEY HARDIN COLT SAA

Q: I am a professor of criminal law, criminology and criminalistics at a university in Brno, Czech Republic. I am the lucky owner of a Single Action Army (SAA) Peacemaker revolver, .41 caliber, built by Colt in 1886. The serial number is 118XXX. The handgun is definitely an original. Currently, the Colt Archive Services in Bloomfield, Connecticut, is preparing “The Colt Archive Letter” for my revolver, an official check of its originality. What’s more interesting are the initials “WH” are engraved on one side of the handle, and two notches on the other. Both the initials and the notches are done in the same way (obviously by knife), and certainly a long time ago. It occurred to me that it could theoretically be a weapon owned by J. W. Hardin after his release from prison in 1894. I know that gunslingers made such notches, but typically did not leave their initials on the guns. However, I found out that Wes Hardin had several SAA Peacemaker revolvers after his release from prison, but they were not well documented. In the “Noteworthy People Who Owned 1st Generation Colt SAA Revolvers List,” I found that Hardin owned at least five Colt SAA Peacemaker revolvers manufactured between 1882 and 1888. In the J. M. Davis Museum

of Arms (thegunmuseum.com), there is an SAA Colt revolver in caliber .38-40 donated by J. W. Hardin to Mr. William Tilghman — a frontier peace officer — who then sold it to Merle A. Gill, a ballistics specialist who analyzed the Bonnie and Clyde weapons and cartridges. I am including the photo and description of that Colt in the attachment. That SAA Colt looks just like mine. It seems that Hardin probably had more Peacemaker revolvers, and some-

times he donated or sold some, similar to what he did with the poker cards that he shot and signed. That is probably why so many Colt Peacemaker revolvers are registered to Hardin, even though they are not mentioned in the official records of his last weapons in 1894 to '95. I have been told that it was not uncommon for famous gunfighters such as Bat Masterson to buy pistols and then sell or give them away as souvenirs. Do you think Hardin could have done this, too? I do not need information on my SAA for any official reason; I would only be privately

pleased to feel that I owned something that could have passed through the hands of one of the most famous of Texas gunslingers. Would you please recommend the next steps I could take, beyond the low-probability possibility?

J. F.

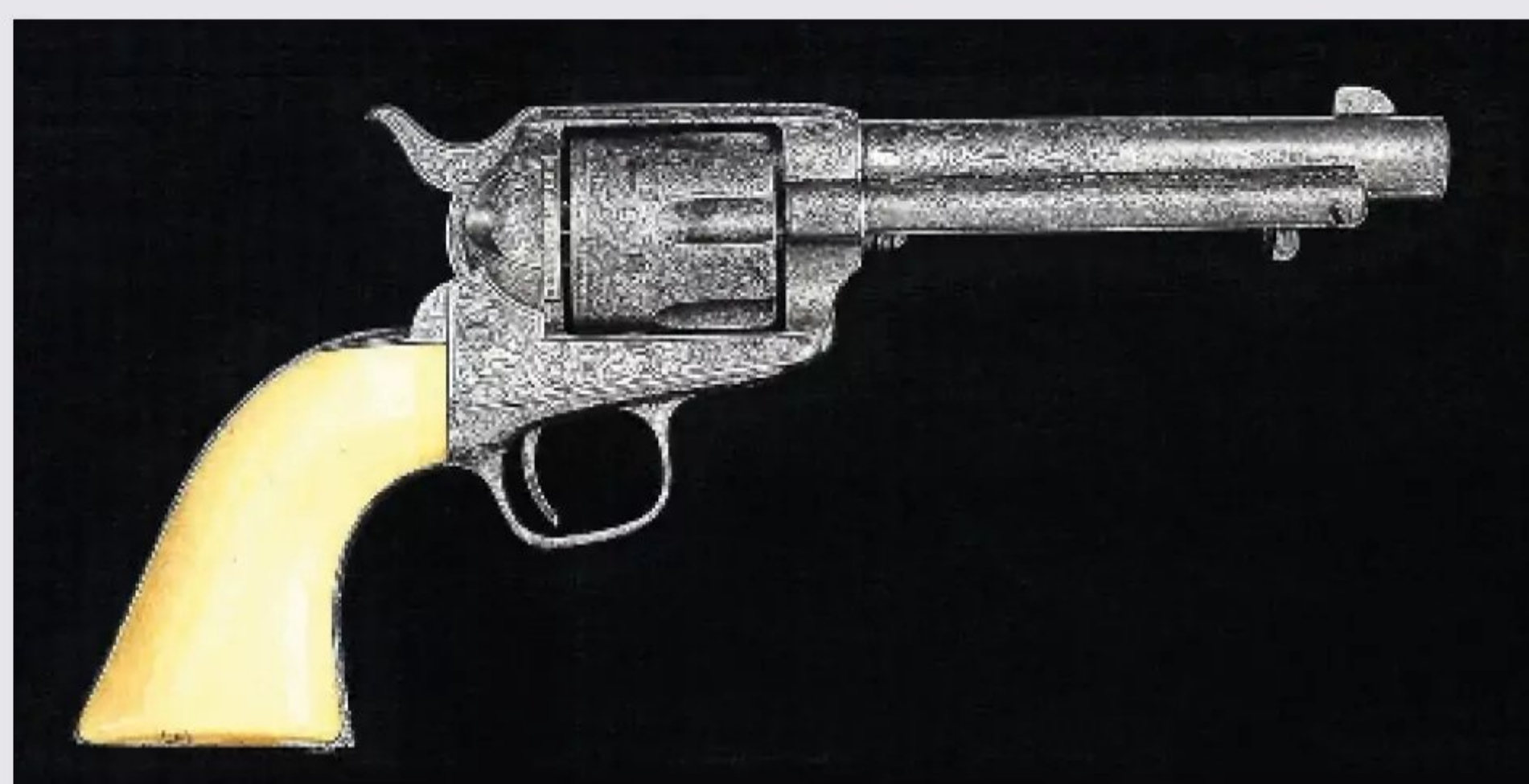
Brno, Czech Republic

A: As you have already ascertained, your Colt SAA was manufactured in 1886. Of course, the information you receive from Colt Archives will be critical to your quest, but unless it notes the revolver was actually sold to Hardin things

AUCTION BLOCK

CENTENNIAL COLT

A recently discovered Colt Single Action Army revolver, which was part of the Colt factory display wheel at the 1876 Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, realized an impressive \$27,060, including premiums, at a September 10, 2024, Morphy Auctions sale. The nickel-plated .45-caliber revolver is one of 18 Colt SAAs featured in the center of the display. The desirable revolver features full factory engraving and ivory grips. Originally sporting a 7½-inch barrel in 1884, it was returned to Colt in the same year to have the barrel shortened. The revolver shows no original finish, and light pitting is scattered across the gun’s exterior. Its bore is dark also with some pitting. For information about this and future sales, visit Morphy Auctions at morphyauctions.com.



become difficult. Provenance on pieces such as this can be iffy. Unless you have some substantial material, such as a letter in Hardin's own handwriting that describes the gun's ownership by serial number, or an irrefutably unbroken chain of custodianship, the clouds set in. At this point, all of your evidence is strictly circumstantial. I am a stickler for solid provenance, and the initials "WH" on the grips, to my mind, are well outside the mark to provide even a modicum of association with the gunfighter. Research indicates that Hardin commonly used his first name/initial in correspondence and on documents, so I would question it not being present on the grips. Grip notches usually mean little. Unfortunately, I am dubious. I would be interested to see what the Colt archivist has to say about the matter. Please let me know what you find out and I'll share it with my readers.

.38 SPL. BRIT VICTORY MODEL

Q: I recently acquired a Smith & Wesson Victory revolver in .38 S&W in nice condition. It was made for the Lend-Lease program



SMITH & WESSON MODEL K200 BRITISH SERVICE, .38 S&W, 60%: \$340

for the British, and has been reamed so that a .38 Special round will fit. However, I can't find any information on when it was manufactured. Is there any way to determine how it was used? Also, is the collector value as good as a Victory model with .38 Special markings on the barrel made for U.S. use?

J. H.

Email

A: The British .38 S&W/200 grain Model K200, which is the same as the .38 Hand Ejector 1905 4th Model "Victory" revolver sold to Britain starting around 1940, with production continuing into 1945. A total of 568,204 units were produced with a 4-, 5- or 6-inch barrel. These revolvers were sturdy and reliable. Unfortunately, the fact that your revolver has been rechambered detracts from its collector value. I'd

value it in the \$275 to \$350 range.

COMMERCIAL 1911 COLT

Q: I am reaching out to clarify exactly what I have, and to determine its value. My research shows it to be an early model Colt 1911 manufactured in 1912, according to the three-digit serial number of C3XX. I would guess that the grip is not original based on how well it looks; I don't know how much that would affect its value. I have never had the gun inspected by an expert or disassembled it. Will you please tell me what you think the value is of this gun, and the best way to market it if I decided to sell it?

C. H.

Email

A: As you have already determined, you have a 1911 Colt auto pistol manufactured in 1913. The "C" prefix indicates it is a "commercial" model rather than military issue. The low serial number and early date of manufacture are definitely positives, but unfortunately these are significantly offset by the fact the pistol has been completely refinished. As you suspected, the original grips have been replaced with later panels. Normally, this would be a desirable and valuable

piece, but the heavy rework drastically affects its market price. I would value it in the \$2,500 to \$3,000 range. Even though it has been reworked, it still has some collector interest because of its early date. I would suggest finding a reputable auction house to handle the sale. One may be found online.

GOLCHER PERCUSSION RIFLE

Q: I have this old rifle, and the photos don't do it justice. It belonged to my great-great-grandfather, John M. Alexander, a Civil War veteran. He was a farmer and corporal in the Third Regiment Pennsylvania Heavy Artillery, serving from Gettysburg until the end of the war. I also have the bullet (round ball) mold, powder flask, a portrait of him in uniform, and documentation of the engagements he participated in. The rifle is functional, and the bore is clean, but we've never considered firing it. I believe it was manufactured in Pennsylvania. It was likely not a service weapon, but rather a hunting arm. My search turned up that it is a Jas Golcher, Philadelphia, plains rifle. I haven't found any value information. I have no desire to sell it, but I'm curious about its value.

W. M. A.

Littleton, North Carolina

A: You've done your homework well! As you surmise, the rifle is a hunting arm, likely manufactured between 1850 and 1860. It's a full-stock design without much embellishment; a good working firearm.

HOLLYWOOD HARDWARE

"BAT MASTERSON" SNUBBY COLT SAA

Back in the 1950s and '60s, during the heyday of TV Westerns, one of the most popular shows on the small screen was "Bat Masterson," starring Gene Barry in the title role of the legendary lawman (and later New York journalist). Along with his trademark gold-head cane and derby hat, Barry's "Bat" carried a variety of firearms including this 3½-inch-barrel .45 Colt SAA with celluloid



grips. The revolver was built in 1901, 20 years prior to the real-life Bat Masterson's death. (Courtesy of the National Firearms Museum, Fairfax, Virginia, and Cinema Weaponry, Glendale, California.)

WINCHESTER



The American Legend™



WINCHESTER USA

FULL METAL JACKET
*provides positive functioning
and no expansion*

CONSISTENT ACCURACY
is ideal for shooters of all skill levels

READY FOR ANYTHING



MATCH GRADE PRIMERS
Built to exacting specifications for trusted reliability



LOT CONTROLLED
*Ballistics data for each lot published online
at Winchester.com/usareadyinfo*

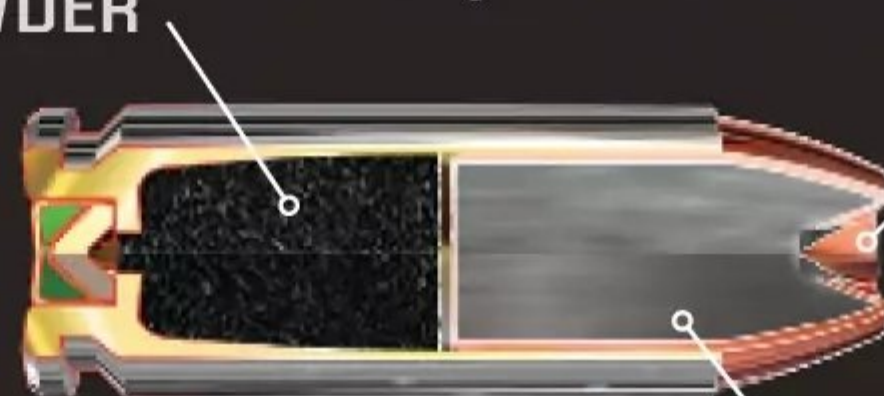
HEX-VENT™ RIGID INSERT
*Shields hollow point from obstruction while
channeling material
flow for positive
bullet expansion*



DEFENDER. STOP THE THREAT

LOW FLASH POWDER
*allows easier target
acquisition for
follow-up shots
in low light settings*

HOLLOW POINT
*expands up to 1.5X the original diameter
resulting in maximum stopping power*



PROPRIETARY BONDING PROCESS
*welds jacket to lead resulting in improved
penetration and retained weight*



WHERE CAN I BUY WINCHESTER AMMUNITION?
Visit Winchester.com to find a dealer near you!



James Golcher, originally from Birmingham, England, operated his Eagle Rifle Works in Philadelphia from around 1840 to 1870. The firm produced many finished arms and also supplied parts to other makers. I'm inclined to think your great-great-grandfather's rifle is one of the latter, but without actually examining it I can't be positive. Your photos, though a bit dark, seem to indicate the gun is in decent condition. Assuming the bore is good, the stock sound, and the metal parts are not too ravaged by time, I'd value it in the \$850 to \$1,250 range.

BELGIAN CIVIL WAR PERCUSSION MUSKET

Q: I have an old rifle that my grandfather gave me when I was about seven years old. I'm now 80, so I've had it quite a while. I would like some information on it. According to one article, it is possibly a French Delvigne musket. Another article indicates that it is a Minié Rifle of some type. I would like to know what it really is. It's

probably not worth much, as I used it playing soldier with my little brother, so it hasn't been taken care of well. My grandfather found it in the attic of a farmhouse he bought in West Texas around 1920. It worked then, but he later removed the hammer spring to repair another gun. I've enclosed pictures of the gun and its markings. I assume it was imported by Tanner & Co., possibly for use in the Civil War.

D. M.
Email

A: You have a Belgian copy of a French Model 1848 Tige rifle. The term "Tige" refers to a pointed pillar set attached to the breech plug inside the barrel on which proprietary bullets were mechanically forced into the rifling by blows from the gun's stout ramrod. Tanner & Cie was a Liege, Belgium, maker operated by Ernst Tanner. Some guns manufactured by Tanner have been identified as Civil War imports. Although this rifle looks like a Tige, it is likely not and was manufactured

without the expanding device, so it could be used with Minié-style bullets. Your grandad's gift appears to be complete — with the exception of a replaced hammer screw — and could probably be judiciously cleaned up to present a respectable appearance. Finding a replacement hammer spring might be challenging, though a perusal of the internet might turn one up. An added plus is the gun's original bayonet. In its present state, I'd value the rifle between \$500 and \$750. The bayonet is worth an additional \$85 to \$100.

EARLY WINCHESTER MODEL 94 RIFLE

Q: I have a Winchester Model 1894, which I believe was made in 1907. It belonged to my grandfather who passed in 1929. My father, born in 1907, gave it to me before he passed. I used to shoot it in the late 1950s and early 1960s. I shot a few coyotes with it, as I often carried it in my pickup truck on the farm. I know the bluing isn't too good, but I've been told it may be worth quite a bit because it's a takedown model. I enjoy your column very much as I learn a lot about other old guns. I've attached a few pictures, including the serial number.

H. B.
Canyon, Texas

A: According to the serial number on your Model 1894 takedown rifle with octagon barrel, it was actually made in 1905. That year, 26,916 Model '94s were produced. The condition of the rifle appears to be quite

decent — it shows use but not in the least bit abused. You didn't mention caliber, though the most common chamberings for that year are .30-30 and .32 Special. Assuming it's chambered in one of those, its value would be in the \$3,000 to \$3,250 range. If it's set up for another round, you could add another \$1,500 or so to that value.

MODEL 1884 TRAPDOOR STOCK MARKING

Q: Garry, I have an 1884 trapdoor with this large "7" marking on the stock. Can you provide any additional information?

G.
Email

A: The substantial "7" marking on your Model 1884 Springfield's stock is not a U.S. federal marking. It's likely a state militia number, though identifying which state it came from would be hard to determine unless there were additional non-regulation stock stampings. That's about the best I can do other than to add that between 1886 and 1891, approximately 232,500 Model 1884 Rifles, Carbines and Cadet Rifles were manufactured by Springfield Armory. 



SPRINGFIELD ARMORY MODEL 1884 TRAPDOOR



WALK SOFTLY WITHOUT THE BIG STICK

INTRODUCING UPPERCUT

Defense isn't defined by size. And whatever you carry should be up to the task. CCI® Uppercut™ finally puts effective rimfire defense in your reach with full expansion and critical penetration. Always ready when you need it, and now available in 22 LR and 22 WMR.

NEW



THE LEADER IN RIMFIRE AMMUNITION®

LEARN MORE AT
cci-ammunition.com



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.

LEARN MORE



More musings from the bunker.

JAMES TARR

PART DEUX

EVERY SO OFTEN I stumble across someone on social media ranting against keeping a gun in your vehicle. "A truck is not a holster!" is the usual mantra. These same people, generally, love appendix carry. One of these puts your gun inside a lockable, alarmed, steel-and-glass container that is designed to resist entry. The other points a gun at your family jewels and violates one of the basic gun safety rules. I'm not sayin', I'm just sayin'.

...

I have seen several notable figures in the firearms world badmouth ballistic gel tests. One of them said, "I've never been attacked by Jell-O." On its face, the statement seems woefully ignorant or criminally stupid, but these men are neither. You must understand what they're doing. They are drawing attention to the subject and getting us engaged and thinking.

The FBI Ammunition Testing Protocol is the best apples-to-apples comparison test of defensive handgun ammunition. It involves shooting bullets through various barriers into calibrated ballistic gel blocks, including automotive safety glass, steel and layered clothing materials. It is the standard test protocol for the world, not just America. Handgun and many rifle bullets perform better due to engineering that resulted from these tests, and the value of the protocol has been proven on the street. "They," as the kids say, "made you look."

...

I was an active U.S. Practical Shooting Association (USPSA,

uspsa.org) competitor for nearly 30 years, and I earned my way to a Grand Master class rating in the Production Division. I've recently lost most of my interest in the sport due to equipment rule changes. The sport that started as a way of refining one's defensive pistol skills has made it so that I can't be competitive in any division with modern guns suitable for concealed carry; that was the whole point of Production Division! As much as I dislike the problems associated with

the subjective applications of "failure to do right" penalties in International Defensive Pistol Association (IDPA, idpa.com), at least that sport has its act together regarding approved firearms.

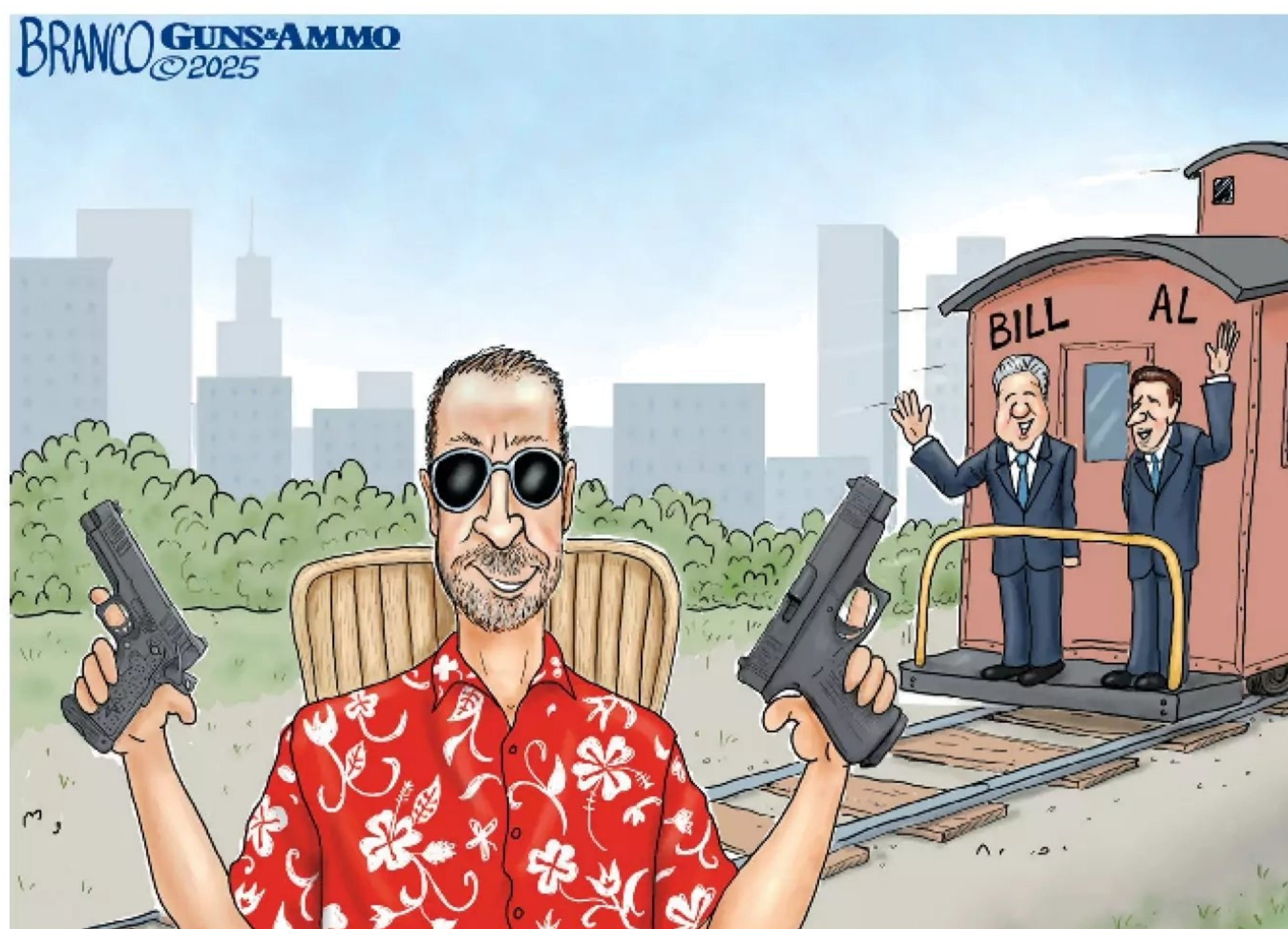
...

America loves action movies. When Hollywood wouldn't make modern war movies because Iraq and Afghanistan

were "Bush's Wars," we got aliens and zombies. Now, Hollywood's agenda has every other action movie starring a 120-pound "girlboss" lead beating up 250-pound dudes. It shouldn't surprise you that the same people who don't understand biology don't understand physics. Contact sports have weight classes for a reason. At least gun handling in movies and TV shows has gotten better, thanks to trainers such as Harry Humphries and Taran Butler (taran-tacticalinnovations.com).

...

Everyone is going to have crazy stories if they live long enough. Most of my unbelievable-but-true stories involve the death of a family member, but then there was also the



time I was somewhere downriver in one of the depressed cities on the south side of Detroit. Working as a private investigator in an area featuring mostly vacant lots, I was the only vehicle around. I was once delayed as the crossbar of a railroad crossing came down, so I got out and stretched as the train rolled past, northbound into the city. The train was maybe 10 yards from my front bumper. Being a passenger train, it wasn't long and it wasn't moving fast. As the caboose went by, I saw two guys standing at the rear, leaning on the railing and looking out over the city. Then they looked at me. The train was going slow enough — and they were close enough — that we could have had a short conversation. It was just the three of us; nobody else was around. I stared back and kept staring. The one thing I had not expected that day was to lock eyes with then-President Bill Clinton and Vice President Al Gore, especially while carrying a cocked-and-locked 10mm 2011 on my hip. Just to make sure I wasn't crazy, I turned on the news later and learned that yes, my eyes had not deceived me. They were in town on a campaign tour. Just try to figure out the odds of being in that exact place, at that exact time, when the president and vice president rolled by.

...

I've given up YouTube as the source of any meaningful firearm content besides how-to gunsmithing videos and peeks at obscure historical firearms. Between the increasingly tight content restrictions placed on guntubers by the platform — which hates them — and their general lack of technical knowledge — with a few exceptions, of course — all we see are influencers running around and shooting fast because it looks cool, sometimes "Live Action Role-Playing," or "LARPing," in costumes, something I can't watch with a straight face. Sometimes they say nothing informative at all or just repeat the bullet points of a manufacturer's press release.

...

I have noted with interest that the term "modern sporting rifle," or "MSR," a descriptor coined by the National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF, nssf.org) circa 2011 as an attempt to re-label the AR-style firearm versus "assault weapon" in the mainstream, has seemingly fallen out of use. In part, I think this occurred because the goal was achieved. The AR-15 remains the most popular rifle design in America, and it is commonly used for hunting as well. At a minimum, an estimated 20 million AR-pattern firearms are in circulation. I think the modern political climate deserves credit, also.

...

The statisticians are swinging further left, pushing for outright

bans of guns and ammo and agitating for confiscation. They argue against free speech, engaging in lawfare, etcetera. As a result, more conservatives are openly talking about the original intent of the Second Amendment, which was not sporting at all and has nothing to do with hunting or defense against criminals. The Bill of Rights was written

as a restraining order against a known bully — the government — and bullies never stop if you just ask nicely. There must be a believable threat of force behind your words. The Second Amendment was written to protect our access to weapons of war and our continued ability to acquire them. At the time the Bill of Rights was written in 1789 and ratified in 1791, any American could own any

weapon, to include cannons and warships. No government paperwork was involved.

...

I was surprised to discover that Glock actually believes its claim of "perfection." Not long ago, I purchased a factory refurbished Gen5 G17 with AmeriGlo day/night sights. I installed a 3½-pound connector and stippled the grip. I have been carrying it since and even posted photos on social media because I thought it turned out great. The next time I ran into my contact at Glock, he frowned. "I see you boogered your gun up," he said. I'm not kidding.

Dear Glock, if your design was perfection, there wouldn't be a Generation 5. Second, it wouldn't have competition. Instead, you have consistently refused to listen to the American consumer market, and you only modify the design if not doing so could risk securing a military or law enforcement contract. The only reason Gen5 pistols feature certain improvements that we've asked for is because the FBI demanded them. As a result, many companies have introduced Glock-pattern parts and pistols, the latest being collaboration between Ruger and Magpul, the RXM. In many ways, these are better than what today's Glock models represent. As I recall, this is what happened with Colt and the Model 1911.

...

We've all run into people who have impacted our lives. Art Viani is one of those people for me. On the topic of handgun "stopping power," Viani spent eight years working for Miami-Dade Fire Rescue. His experiences caused him to start up Ghost Inc. (ghostinc.com). It initially sold improved connectors for Glock pistols. He saw a handgun shooting victim nearly every shift. He told me, "The only 'one-shot stops' I ever saw were suicides and executions. People are hydraulic machines. [They leak] out." He figured improved trigger pulls were the best way to shoot faster and more accurately. I wholeheartedly agree. 



SUREFIRE.

XC3

THE SUREFIRE XC3

» DUTY & CONCEALMENT

Lightweight and compact, yet robust and rugged enough for duty use as well as for concealed carry applications

» INTUITIVE SWITCHING

Tactile, ambidextrous switching allows for intuitive activation in both momentary- and constant-on modes

» HIGH OUTPUT

550 lumens / 7,200 candela of tactical output powered by a single 123A battery, utilizing a Hybrid beam pattern, perfect for handgun applications

We've taken 45 years of SureFire innovation and proven reliability and distilled it into the new standard in duty-grade compact handgun weaponlights. The XC3 delivers unmatched performance, durability, and switching in a form factor that fits numerous holsters already commercially available. Consider it the little brother of our X300.



THE CARRY RIG

Easy access for casual clothing concealment.

The Safariland Model 25 pocket holster features a thermoformed liner covered in thin suede material, rough side out. Available for numerous subcompact and micro pistols, these holsters are not optic compatible. \$46

SAFARILAND MODEL 25

AS THE TEMPERATURE CLIMBS, those of us who carry a concealed firearm tend to adjust our clothing to blend in with the public. Gone are the jackets and cover garments that more easily conceal our pistols and revolvers, replaced by shorts and a t-shirt. For some, there must also be a compromise in the make and model of gun to accommodate the style of carry that fits our needs and capabilities. The Safariland Model 25 gives us a reason not to overlook the inside-the-pocket holster.

Safariland is the undeniable leader of the duty-holster market. What some haven't realized is that it has been developing off-duty and concealment options for the rest of us, applying popular features and materials to offer distinctive products.

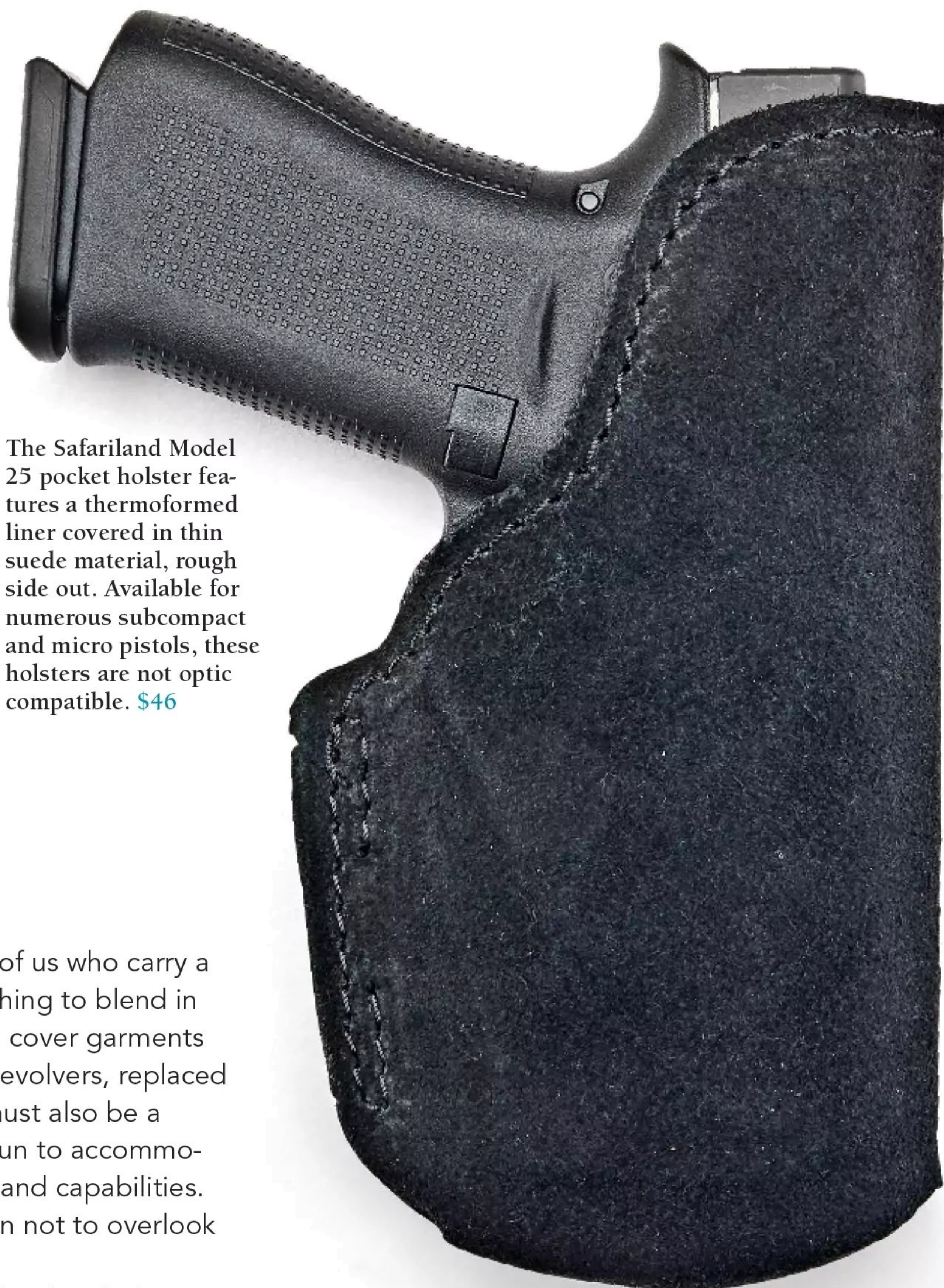
The Model 25 isn't the most affordable pocket holster on the market, but the staff of Guns & Ammo has evaluated enough holsters to know that most pocket holsters can't be trusted to separate from the pistol during the draw. If you've ever drawn a holster from your pocket and presented it downrange with the gun, you already know the time that's lost trying to separate the two and re-engage. Such experiences are the primary reason some will never consider inside-the-pocket carry. Safariland designed the Model 25 to address this concern and other complaints of pocket carry.

The Model 25 is a thermoformed composite holster covered in thin suede leather. It features reinforcement stitching that surrounds the mouth and secures the seam where the folds come together. The two layers are equally thin, and the sewing needle penetrated both the suede

and the thermoformed composite materials when stitching them together. Besides the stitching, there is likely a thin adhesive that bonds the two materials, but it is so well executed that there are no bubbles or bumps or movement anywhere.

The "I can't believe it's not leather" suede material features a rough side out that is naturally grippy when inside the pocket. Yet, with a holstered pistol inside, it slides easily into the pocket. When drawn, the suede is snagged within the pocket liner ensuring that the pistol cleanly separates from it. Remove the empty Model 25 from the pocket before re-holstering.

The polymer composite liner is a rigid shell that is thermoformed — i.e., heated, folded, vacuum shaped and cooled — to specific pistols lacking optics and lights. (A pistol with an optic and light might snag or be too large for pocket carry anyways.) The Model 25 can be ordered for select models from Colt, Glock, Kahr, KelTec, Ruger, SIG



HELLCAT[®] PRO

COMP



Sauer, Smith & Wesson, Springfield Armory and Taurus. The fitment is exact, and a confidence-inspiring *click* is slightly audible and tactile, like other Safariland holsters. There is no tension adjustment, but the *click* indicates that the pistol is fully inserted and secure. When drawn from the pocket, it only slightly resists to prevent removing the pistol and holster together.

The polymer composite liner is unique because it prevents the holster from collapsing in the pocket. Some might be tempted to insert a pistol into the Model 25 while it is in the pocket, but this is never recommended for safety reasons. The hard shell and suede material presents a smooth surface that prevents printing against the pocket. Most onlookers never mind the large contents of a person's front pockets due to the size of smartphones and wallets that people often carry. On that note, I recommend balancing the weight of the opposite front pocket with an upside-down spare magazine the length of the pocket's depth for quick access and a reload.



Branded markings denote the model and country of assembly on the back. The open bottom features three-quarters of an inch of an unsupported suede flap, which accommodates extended barrels.

The muzzle end of the holster is open, allowing for slightly extended barrels. The suede material extends beyond the liner about three-quarters of an inch, helping to break up the profile of the protruding muzzle.

45-DAY CARRY

A Model 25 was ordered for the Glock 43/43X and worn every day for 45 days. The experience was effortless and demonstrated an unusual level of concealed carry convenience for quick trips and warm days of casual dress. A quality belt (or serious drawstring and a knot) when wearing shorts or pants is all that is needed to support the

weight of a pistol in your pocket.

Drawing and firing the pistol from the Model 25 at the range was an average of a half-second to 1-second slower than carrying the same pistol concealed on the hip. Typically, I can draw and successfully engage the A-zone of a silhouette target from 7 yards in 1.25 to 1.45 seconds with a hip holster. Using the Model 25, successful draws ranged



WARNE



SKYLINE
PRECISION SHOOTING SYSTEM



LEARN MORE

The Warne **SKYLINE LITE BIPOD** is rugged and adaptable to suit any shooting endeavor. It is engineered to be an extremely stable, yet lightweight platform, packed with essential features to complement rapid-fire and precision-shooting alike. It allows for an impressive 4.6 inches of height adjustment and 44° of smooth cant range that is easily adjusted without coming off target.

warnescopemounts.com



 **MADE IN USA**



The **LTT HK P30 LEM** refines HK's legendary design with precision enhancements for superior control and reliability. An optimized trigger, enhanced sights, and tuned internals ensure seamless handling and confidence. More than a firearm—it's a statement of mastery and trust.

LANGDON TACTICAL TECHNOLOGY IS PRECISION BUILT CONFIDENCE



||||||| **LANGDONTACTICAL.COM**

A LEGEND REBORN

MANUFACTURED BY MKE



AP5-SD



9mm

AP53



5.56

AP51



.308



**CENTURY
ARMS**

CENTURYARMS.COM

FOLLOW @CENTURY ARMS :   

SAFARILAND MODEL 25	
MATERIALS	Suede (covering), thermoformed polymer composite (shell)
CARRY TYPE	Inside the pocket
RETENTION TYPE	Level 1, friction fit
ADJUSTABILITY	No
MSRP	\$46
HANDGUN FIT	Select models; Glock 43X (tested)
ACCESSORY RAIL ACCOMMODATIONS	No
POSITIONS TO CARRY	Pocket only
AVERAGE TIME TO ATTACH	1 second
COMFORT RATING	5/5
CONCEALMENT CLOTHING	Shorts/pants with large front pockets
AVERAGE DRAW-TO-FIRE TIME	1.83 seconds
MANUFACTURER	Safariland LLC, 800-347-1200, safariland.com

Draw-to-fire time is the average of five clean draws producing an A-zone hit on a stationary target positioned at 21 feet.

from 1.53 to 2.41 seconds on a PACT timer. There is a time penalty for pocket carry, but the Model 25 never came out with the gun.

I can't always wear a full-size carry rig during everyday life, but I can carry the Model 25. Rarely have I trusted my skills to depend solely on the contents of a pocket holster for self-defense. With this one, I can. Though I would like to draw faster, I can practice. Practice with any pocket holster is important because you want to be sure that a full-firing grip is established before pulling the handgun,

otherwise you'll be trying to adjust or correct your grip while presenting it to the target and trying to find a sight picture. Not only does the Model 25 support a full firing grip, it also completely covers the triggerguard and shields the slide and rear sight. I couldn't expect more from a pocket dump. **GA**

— E. Poole



STREAMLIGHT

TLR-6 HL[®]

300 LUMENS

RED OR GREEN LASER AVAILABLE

RECHARGEABLE BATTERIES WITH PORTABLE CHARGING CASE

STREAMLIGHT[®]

©2025 STREAMLIGHT, INC. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

STREAMLIGHT.COM/TLR-6HL

WaltherArms.com

Precision, Performance, Perfection.



PDP
PRO-X PMM

Designed collaboratively between
Parker Mountain Machine & Walther

WALTHER®

Nightstick TSM-13G



RICHARD NANCE

PERFECT COMPANIONS

IN A SELF-DEFENSE SITUATION, you must identify a threat before taking appropriate action. In a low-light or completely dark environment, that means having a white light readily accessible. A handheld flashlight is a viable option, but if the situation requires the use of a handgun, holding a flashlight may require shooting one-handed or with a compromised grip. Lacking a firm two-hand firing grip, accuracy and recoil control may suffer. That's where a pistol-mounted light and laser-aiming device such as the Nightstick TSM-13G is handy.

Designed to support the popular SIG Sauer P365 and P365 XL and P365 SAS variants, the TSM-13G offers the benefits of a bright, white, 150-lumen LED light and Class IIIa 532nm green laser. The unit produces a sharp, focused beam of white light rated to 114 yards, which makes it well-suited for concealed carry and home-defense applications.

To mount the TSM-13G, start with an unloaded pistol. Remove the three screws on the right side of the unit and pull the housing apart. Then, place both halves over the P365 accessory rail. Secure it to the pistol's triggerguard by tightening the three screws. The subcompact TSM-13G is 2½-inches long, less than an inch wide, 1½-inches deep, and weighs just 1.3 ounces.

Ambidextrous, low-profile switches enable the unit to be operated from either side. To activate the unit's constant-on mode, or to turn the unit off, press either switch for less than half a second and release. For momentary activation, press either switch and hold the opposite down for a half second or longer, then release to deactivate the unit. The TSM-13G can be used in three ways: White light only, white light and green laser, and green laser only. While holding down one switch, press and release the opposite switch to toggle between modes.

If you're going to use a pistol-mounted light, you might consider one with a laser. The white light helps

The Nightstick TSM-13G is a subcompact, clamshell-type white light and laser unit for the SIG Sauer P365, P365 XL, or P365 SAS pistol. A rechargeable lithium-ion battery provides a 45-minute run time, and a Mag-Mate USB magnetically couples the TSM-13G and its charger for convenient charging without the need to remove it from the pistol. The TSM-13G is secured to the dust-cover and to the front of the triggerguard. It is impact- and chemical-resistant, and has an IPX4 water-resistant rating. Ambidextrous, low-profile switches allow for momentary- or constant-on use in one of three modes: White light only, white light and green laser, or green laser only. **\$100**

illuminate a threat; the laser helps with aiming. While lasers are not as popular as red-dot sights on pistol, they can accomplish the same result — especially from unusual shooting positions — providing a visible dot on the same visual plane as the target. With a laser, as with a red-dot sight, there are no sights to align. Overlay the dot on the target and, if appropriate, press the trigger. A laser can be a better tool than a red dot when shooting from behind cover or from a compromised shooting position because, unlike a red dot or iron sights, a laser projects an aiming point. You don't have to have your head behind the pistol to aim. The brighter the environment, the more difficult it can be to see a laser — especially a red laser. Since green is closer to the middle of the color spectrum, it's easier for us to see, which explains why a green laser is visible in the same bright sunlight that tends to wash out a red laser.

Nightstick recommends zeroing the TSM-13G at a distance between 5 and 20 yards. To establish a coarse zero, ensure the unit is secured to an unloaded SIG Sauer P365 and align it with the top of the pistol's front-sight post. To adjust the laser, use the supplied Allen screwdriver to turn the windage or elevation adjustment.

The windage adjustment is on the left side of the unit and the elevation adjustment is on the bottom. After establishing a rough zero, fine tune



A tap of the button on either side of the TSM-13G quickly activates the unit, which is secured to the dustcover and triggerguard.



Installation is quick and easy. The necessary tools for assembly are included, and there is no need to remove the unit once it's attached due to USB magnetic charging.



A 150-lumen white light and green laser sight can identify as it aims.



The internal battery is rechargeable, but there is no need to remove or replace it. When charged, it lasts about 45 minutes when left in constant-on mode.

it with live fire at the distance you want the laser and bullet to intersect. Whatever distance you choose to zero the green laser, ensure you test the laser on targets that are positioned closer and farther to understand whether there's a shift in point of aim (POA) and point of impact (POI) at various distances.

The Nightstick MagMate system allows the user to charge the TSM-13G without removing it from the pistol. A two-foot USB cord attaches magnetically to the charging port at the bottom of the unit. There's even a combination triggerlock that can be used to secure the pistol while charging.

The TSM-13G is impact- and chemical-resistant. It has an IPX4 water-resistance rating and is serialized for easy identification should it become lost or stolen. Links on the Nightstick website are available to direct you to holster manufacturers, including Alien Gear, Four Brothers and others who offer IWB and OWB options designed to accommodate the TSM-13G and P365, -XL, or -SAS.

The TSM-G light/laser series is also available for several other handguns: Single-stack Glocks (TSM-11G), double-stack Glocks (TSG-12G), Glock 43X and 48 MOS (TSM-14G), Smith & Wesson Shield and Shield Plus (TSM-15G), and the Springfield Armory Hellcat (TSG-16G). [CA](#)

TIMELESS

TRISTARARMS.COM



The pinnacle of craftsmanship, performance and versatility—the Cypher and Trinity II family of Over/Unders all feature durable solid frame and steel mono-block barrel construction, top tang safety/barrel selector and fiber optic sight. Each is available in gauges 12, 16, 20, 28 and .410. 5-Year Warranty.

TRINITY II & TRINITY II LT | DETAILED & DEPENDABLE

- Extractors
- Turkish Walnut Stock and Forearm
- Beretta®/Benelli® Mobil Style Chokes (SK, IC, M, IM, F)

CYPHER & CYPHER X | MODERN & LIGHT WEIGHT

- Auto Ejectors
- Deluxe Oil-Finished Turkish Walnut
- Extended/Color Coded Chokes (SK, IC, M, IM, F)

TriStar

1816 Linn Street, North Kansas City, MO 64116 • 816.421.1400



AFFORDABLE DOESN'T MEAN CHEAP.

Every law-abiding citizen regardless of their budget, has the right to own a reliable firearm for personal protection.

THE ALL-NEW
GX2TM

HINGED
TRIGGER
SAFETY

STAINLESS
STEEL CHASSIS

9MM,
13-ROUND
CAPACITY

PICATINNY
RAIL

TaurusUSA.com

RELY ON  TAURUS

940® PRO TACTICAL SPX

**THE 940...
JUST GOT
SPX-IER.**

SCAN CODE FOR
MORE INFO ▶



940® Pro Tactical SPX
Optic-Ready, 12GA
#85178
in OD Green Cerakote®
#85179
Holosun® Micro Dot Combo

Cerakote is a registered trademark of NIC Industries, Inc.
Holosun is a registered trademark of Holosun Technologies, Inc.
M-LOK is a registered trademark of Magpul Industries Corp.

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 or jurisdictions.

940 PRO TACTICAL SPX: RE-ENGINEERED WITH PURPOSE.

From its new tactical forend/heatshield combination to its fully adjustable stock and patent-pending optic-ready receiver with removeable winged ghost ring sights, the new 940 Pro Tactical SPX has been re-engineered with purpose. Multiple QD/M-LOK® attachment slots make customization a breeze, while a clean-running gas vent system and oversized loading port helps ensure smooth semiauto operation. Available in five new models— including models with premium Cerakote® protective coatings and Holosun® Micro Dot Combo.

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

**LEARN MORE AT
MOSSBERG.COM**

MOSSBERG®
SINCE 1919

Burris XTR PS 5.5-30x56mm

TOM BECKSTRAND

SMART SHOOTING

I LOVED THE MOVIE "ROBOCOP" when I was a kid. I thought it was cool to take a human being and augment him with advanced technology, turning him into a super cop. Technology is everywhere, and a lot of it I can do without. However, advancements in rifles and optics are always exciting.

The concept of a variable-powered scope has changed little in the past 30 years. Sure, manufacturing and engineering have advanced — significantly. Those improvements are the reasons why there's been such a huge change in scope performance. However, to cut a scope in half from 1995 and compare it to one that's been cut in 2025, the basic layouts are similar.

Today's riflescope frontier is electro-optics. The name of the game is to put as many useful tools into the optic as possible. We are living in the "Robocop" era of riflescopes. ["Robocop" (1987) was actually set in the year 2028.] Certain scopes have been at this for a few years, but the price of admission has been high.

Burris has been working on tech concepts through the Eliminator and Veracity PH lines, and it hit a sweet spot with the XTR PS. To me, it offers an ideal blend of optical performance and useful electronics at a more accessible price: \$2,400 (3.3-18x50mm) to \$2,640 (5.5-30x56mm). These are configured for the competitive rifle shooter and serious long-range steel plinker.

Optically, the XTR PS is identical to the U.S.-made XTR III, which is also close to Burris' flagship XTR Pro. While the Pro will have a performance edge, the XTR PS retains an excellent field of view, combined with good optical performance. An easy-to-find field of view —

sometimes referred to as an "eye box" — helps make the XTR PS well-suited for long-range gun games.

The real magic happens in the electronics package built into the scope. There is a Head-Up Display (HUD) that sits at the top of the field of view when looking through the scope. It is user-configurable and can be customized in more ways that I can detail in this column. The basic premise is the scope displays all the relevant information needed to make a shot to about 1,600 yards with a 6.5 Creedmoor. (This scope works with any cartridge; the 6.5 Creedmoor is just an example.)

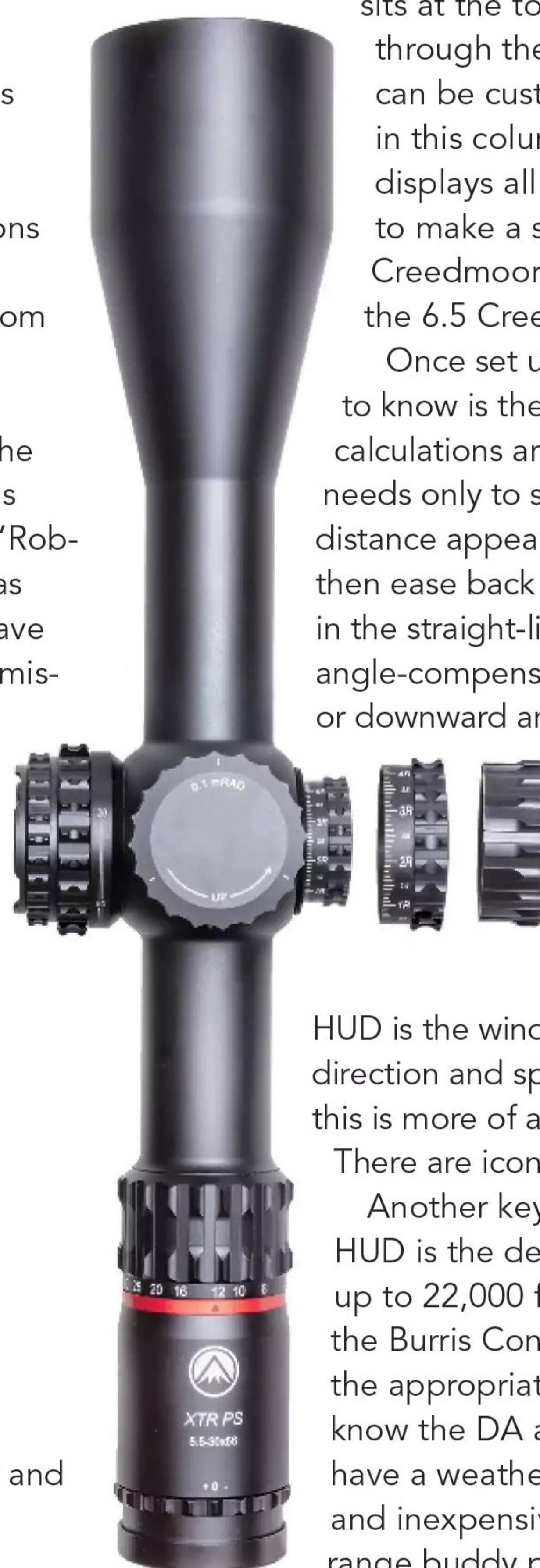
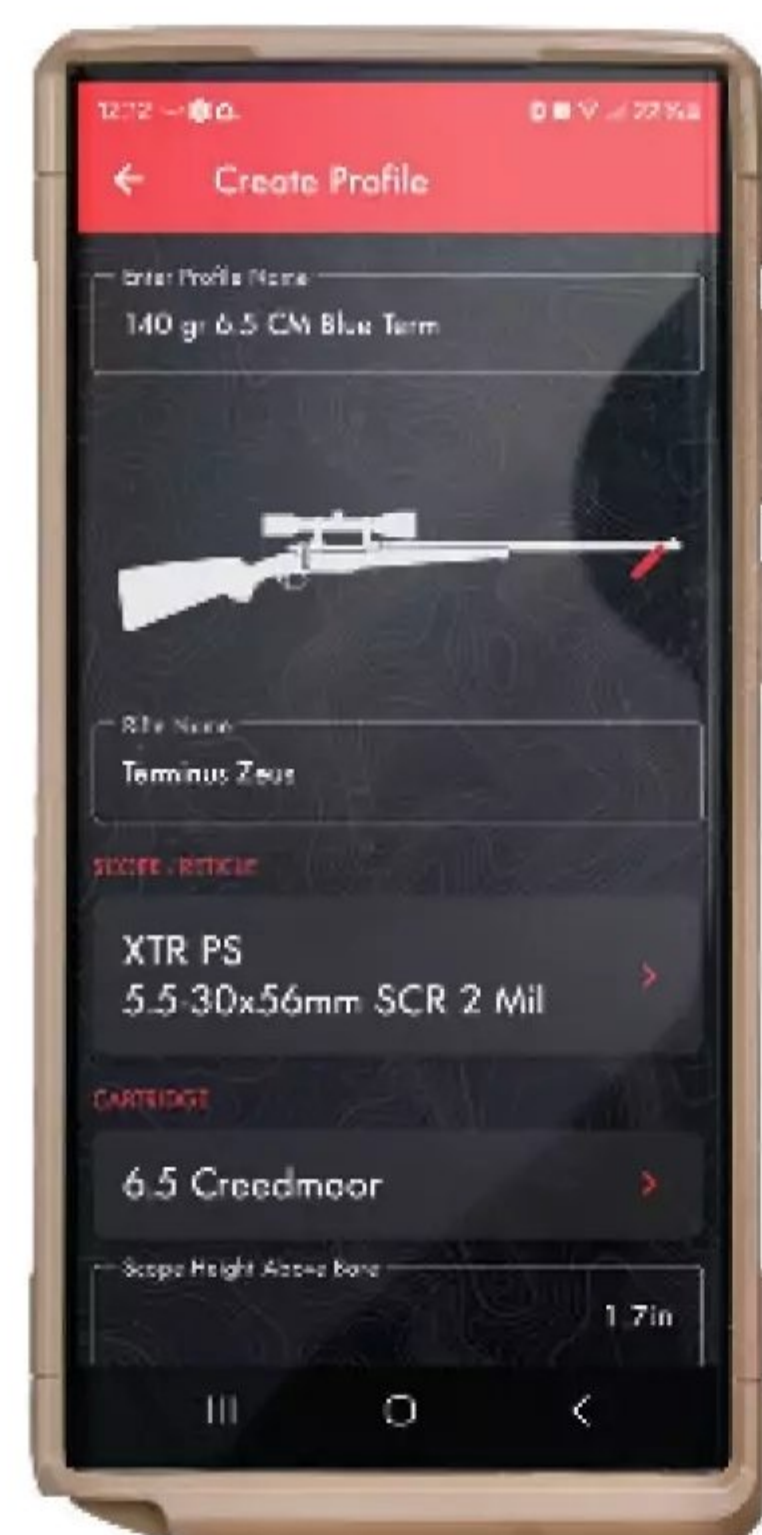
Once set up, the only thing the shooter needs to know is the distance to the target. All ballistic calculations are done in the scope, and the shooter needs only to spin the turret until the desired distance appears in the largest section of the HUD, then ease back on the trigger. The scope can read in the straight-line distance to the target, or an angle-compensated distance based on the upward or downward angle of the rifle; just make sure the angle compensation isn't turned on in both the scope and whatever rangefinder measured the distance, or else it'll make for an afternoon of aggravation. Other relevant information displayed in the

HUD is the wind hold at the target distance. The wind direction and speed are set up prior to shooting, so this is more of a reference than an exact calculation.

There are icons for battery life and yards or meters.

Another key piece of information displayed in the HUD is the density altitude (DA). The shooter loads up to 22,000 feet of DA data into the scope from the Burris Connect app, and he or she can choose the appropriate DA as the day passes. In order to know the DA at any given time, it is necessary to have a weather meter, but those are ubiquitous and inexpensive. If the shooter doesn't have one, a range buddy probably does.

Spend any time at a precision rifle match and it's hard to miss the levels and timers attached to the sides of rifles and scopes. Burris built both of these essential pieces of equipment into the XTR PS and incorporated them into





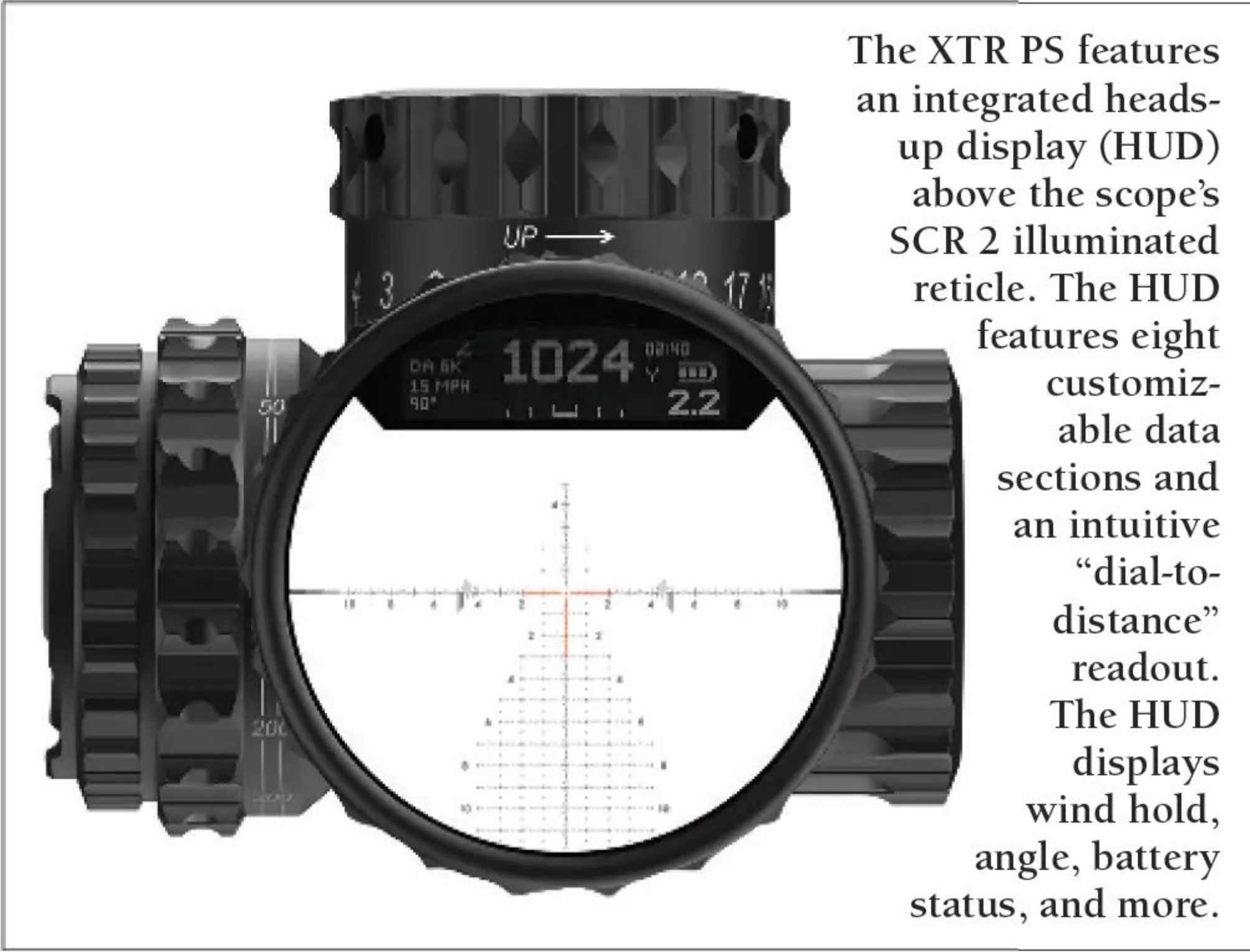
The elevation turret is exposed to quickly adjust for target distance. The windage turret is capped for protection. Both feature .1 MRAD (mil) adjustments per click, laser engraved with directional arrows.



Removing the battery cap permits access to the CR123 lithium power source. The cap cleverly integrates menu functions and illumination intensity adjustments.

the HUD, which was brilliant. The level can be programmed for sensitivity, and there are three icons from which to choose. The timer is a simple number in the top-right corner that can be programmed in the app. When the buzzer sounds to start the stage, push a button to the side of the scope and the timer starts counting down. No more wondering how much time remains to engage all the targets; it's just a quick glance up and right to know how much time remains.

While the scope is ideal for match shooting and ringing steel, the Burris Connect application — available for most smartphones — is what makes this system so intuitive. This app is similar to most ballistic apps in that the process starts by building a gun profile. The shooter can choose from a long list of factory loads or pick specific bullets if ammunition is handloaded. This sets the ballistic coefficient (BC) from the manufacturer for the calculator, but there is a truing process to refine the BC, and it's my favorite truing method for any calculator. The shooter



The XTR PS features an integrated heads-up display (HUD) above the scope's SCR 2 illuminated reticle. The HUD features eight customizable data sections and an intuitive "dial-to-distance" readout. The HUD displays wind hold, angle, battery status, and more.

can manually change the BC to whatever he or she likes, or to whatever the data indicates from the rifle. The Burris truing option then allows the shooter to enter exactly where the bullet hits at as many different distances as he wants to use. This creates a custom drag curve for the rifle and bullet combination. It is as accurate as any BC-based calculator can be made to function.

Once the profile is built, the touch of a button uploads it into the scope for use. Three buttons on the scope's side focus knob allow the shooter to navigate around the menu inside the HUD once the profile loads. The touch of one button is all that's required to start the stage timer; a second press will pause it. Double-click to reset the timer.

I flew out to Colorado's Cameo Shooting Complex (cameosec.org) to shoot the Ultimate Hunter Rifle Competition

(ultimate-hunter.com). It's a one-day match that balances the importance of speed and accuracy at realistic hunting distances. I met my scope at the range the day prior to the match and got it zeroed and trued in 10 rounds. That's far less preparation than I'd recommend before taking new items into a competition, but it was a great test to see how intuitive the XTR PS is. First prize was \$7,000, so a lot of talent showed up to shoot. I turned in a mid-pack finish, acceptable given my lack of preparation.

What stood out to me during and after the match was how user-friendly and effective the XTR PS was for competition use. My dope was dead-on

all day, and the level and timer in the HUD was used every stage. Likewise, there's something refreshingly simple about spinning the turret until the target distance appears in the HUD; no calculations or conversions were necessary.

The XTR PS is a great tool for competition and steel-ringing use that shows us just how promising the world of electro-optics has become.

BURRIS XTR PS 5.5-30X56MM	
MAGNIFICATION	5.5X-30X
OBJECTIVE	56mm
TUBE DIAMETER	34mm
ELEVATION ADJUSTMENT	.1 mil per click
WINDAGE ADJUSTMENT	.1 mil per click
RETICLE	SCR 2, illuminated
PARALLAX	20 yards to infinity
LENGTH	15.4 in.
WEIGHT	2 lbs., 5.5 oz.
EYE RELIEF	3.2 in.-3.7 in.
MSRP	\$2,640
MANUFACTURER	Burris, 888-440-0244, burrisoptics.com



HOT TAKES FROM THE WORLD OF FIREARMS

Today's firearms industry is innovative, exciting, and fast-paced. If you're a serious shooter, get the high-powered coverage you deserve from *Guns & Gear* hosts Ryan Gresham and Kevin Jarnagin. They'll bring you the latest firearms news, review the hottest new guns, ammo, optics, and accessories, go in-depth with product experts, and much more.

GUNS & GEAR
WEDNESDAYS 6P ET

SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Outdoor
CHANNEL

30 YEARS
OF ADVENTURE

WATCH GUNS & GEAR

MOTV
MYOUTDOORTV.COM



RANGE-DAY RUGGED.

REAL-WORLD

TOUGH.



DEFENDER-XL™
MICRO RED DOT



DEFENDER-ST™
MICRO RED DOT



DEFENDER-CCW™
MICRO RED DOT



SCAN TO
GET YOURS

DEFENDER
MICRO RED DOTS

Complete answers to avoid confusion.



DAVE EMARY

TO CRIMP OR NOT TO CRIMP?

ALTHOUGH MUCH HAS BEEN WRITTEN about reloading and reloading techniques, crimping is often overlooked. When and why should a cartridge be crimped? What kind of crimp is best, and how much pressure should be applied? Crimping plays a role in the performance, safety and reliability of ammunition. There are different reasons for crimping based on the type of ammunition and the platform it is fired from. There are several types of crimps that can be used.

AUTO PISTOL CARTRIDGES

Automatic pistol cartridges are mostly straight-walled with small-to-modest case capacity and use fairly fast-burning propellants. The pressure and velocity produced are quite sensitive to the seating depth of the bullet. Many pistols that fire such rounds have a steep, abrupt feed ramp leading to the chamber. The design factors make these cartridges more susceptible to the bullet pushing back into the case during feeding. Crimping the inside of the case mouth into the bullet jacket significantly reduces the chances of the bullet setting back.

The crimp also increases the bullet pull force, which aids consistent propellant ignition and improves performance uniformity.

Pistol cartridges should not be excessively crimped. Nearly all of these cartridges headspace off the case mouth, and crimping too much can prevent proper headspacing. To put your mind at ease, it takes what will appear as a lot of crimp to do this.

As a side note, auto pistol bullets don't usually have cannelures. The inside of the case mouth is simply crimped into the jacket. There are several factory loads that are exceptions. Hornady's .357 SIG loads, for example, use cannelured bullets to achieve a higher crimp to prevent bullet push back. The .357 SIG has a short neck and is susceptible to the bullet pushing back into the case on the feed ramp. All of Hornady's Critical Duty and Critical Defense loads use cannelured bullets to achieve a more positive crimp, and to reduce the possibility of the bullet moving.

REVOLVER PISTOL CARTRIDGES

Revolver cartridges generally have significantly more case capacity than auto pistol cartridges. They use a cannelured bullet and larger charge of relatively slow propellants. Magnum revolver pistol cartridges generate a lot to ridiculous amounts of recoil. Due to the heavy recoil, unfired bullets in the cylinder often progressively pull out of the case under recoil due to inertia. It can get to the point where the bullet pulls out enough to contact the frame and lock up the cylinder. Crimping these rounds prevents

the bullet from pulling out and can significantly improve performance uniformity by slowing down the initial movement of the projectile and allowing the slow propellants to get well lit before the bullet starts to leave the case.



Left to right: A roll crimp compared to an excessive roll crimp with bulged neck, and a taper crimp with a shallow crimp angle at the case mouth.

NECKED RIFLE CARTRIDGES

Rifle cartridges that have been necked down to form a shoulder and a neck are the dominant design in most rifle cartridges. These cartridges are generally fed from a magazine in a bolt action or semiautomatic rifle. As in the

pistol cartridges, you typically want the bullet to stay put during feeding and in recoil, although rifles are generally less affected by the bullet moving a little. Most factory-loaded hunting ammunition has a cannelured bullet and is crimped in order to improve the reliability of the ammunition. Most hunting bullets for reloading have a cannelure to allow the reloader to easily crimp the case mouth into the cannelure. Exceptions to this are match ammunition loaded with an uncannelured bullet, long-range hunting bullets and varmint loads. These bullet types are often not cannelured because the distortion of the jacket compromises accuracy. In rifle ammunition, crimping into an uncannelured bullet distorts the jacket and usually sacrifices accuracy. For this reason, I don't recommend crimping match-accurate rifle loads.

STRAIGHT-WALL RIFLE CASES

Straight-wall or nearly straight-wall rifle cartridges — other than a few surviving blackpowder-era cartridges — tend to be large-caliber cartridges for bigger game. Due to the



REPTILIA®

**INNOVATION
THROUGH
EVOLUTION**



large diameter bullet and straight-wall case, these cartridges offer low resistance to the bullet starting to move from the case. This can cause problems achieving acceptable performance uniformity. A heavy crimp increases the force necessary to get the bullet to move beyond the case. This allows the powder time to get lit well before the bullet starts moving significantly and increasing the effective case capacity that can tend to try and put the fire out, resulting in erratic ignition and performance. The heavy crimp also prevents the bullets of the rounds in the magazine from moving out of the case during recoil.

TYPES OF CRIMPS: ROLL CRIMP

There are three basic types of crimps: Roll crimp, taper crimp and collet crimp. Each has different applications and vary in how difficult they are to produce correctly. The roll crimp forces the top of the cartridge case mouth into a cannelure or the bullet jacket. It prevents bullet setback and can increase bullet pull, but not a lot. It is predominantly used in reloading dies because forming the shoulder to produce a roll crimp is easily made from a drill bit. I'm not a big fan of this crimp type as it puts a lot of force axially into the cartridge case; distorting the case is pretty easy to do. If the cases aren't trimmed to uniform lengths, this crimp can be unforgiving, leading to distorted cases. It is also the least effective crimp for increasing bullet pull force as not much case is forced into the cannelure. Factory ammunition does not use this type of crimp because it is inflexible and would result in more scrap. The roll crimp is probably most effective when used on lead bullets as the case mouth is easily forced into the lead.

TAPER CRIMP

The taper crimp uses a shallower shoulder angle than the roll crimp. It moves a longer length of the cartridge case neck into the bullet/cannelure and puts less axial force into the cartridge case, making it a better option for auto pistol cartridges. Higher levels

of crimp can be achieved. It also gently pushes the inside edge of the case mouth into the jacket of pistol bullets to effectively prevent bullet pushback on the feed ramp. A taper crimp is more flexible in accommodating variations in case length. The taper crimp is probably the most-used crimp for factory ammunition.

COLLET CRIMP

The collet crimp produces the highest level of crimp force, bullet pull force and forces the most case mouth material into the cannelure of a bullet. The collet crimp works by way of a sleeve that's split into multiple segments that fits over the neck of the loaded round. At the top of the sleeve is a small, flat ring, nearly the diameter of the neck of the loaded cartridge. The sleeve is pushed into a tapered die and forces this small ring into the case mouth at a right angle. The ring forces the case mouth into the cannelure without putting any axial force into the case. Depending on the adjustment of the die, the cannelure can be completely filled with the case mouth. This results in a high bullet-pull force without any risk of distorting the case. This type of crimp is useful with heavy-recoiling cartridges or automatic firearms. It almost eliminates the possibility of the bullet moving in the case. For the handloader or person wanting a heavier crimp on factory ammunition, Lee offers a selection of caliber-specific collet crimp dies.

CONSIDERATIONS FOR CRIMPING

Ask yourself, *Are you shooting a round in a platform where there is a risk of the bullet either pushing back into the case or pulling out due to heavy recoil?* If you're shooting an auto pistol, you should taper crimp the loads. If you're shooting a hard-recoiling magnum pistol cartridges, you need to crimp. When shooting a large caliber rifle cartridge — especially in a straight-wall case — you need to crimp to eliminate bullet movement and improve ignition repeatability and performance uniformity. Any rounds loaded into a tubular magazine should be crimped to eliminate the bullets

being pushed back into the case, too. If you are shooting cast-lead bullets, a roll crimp provides little chance of the bullet moving.

Roll crimps are common reloading die work, but care must be taken not to over-crimp and deform the case neck or shoulder. A taper crimp is more flexible and easier to use, resulting in higher bullet pull force. Care should be taken when using a taper crimp to not over-crimp and excessively deform the bullet jacket. A properly crimped auto pistol round will show a light ring around the bullet jacket if the bullet is pulled. A useful tip when crimping with a taper crimp with non-cannelured bullets is to avoid chamfering the inside of the case mouth. Lightly use a chamfer tool on the inside of the case mouth to barely eliminate any burrs; that's it. This will allow a sharp edge on the inside of the case mouth to dig into the jacket slightly and do a much better job of preventing the bullet pushing into the case.

For the ultimate security against bullet movement, use a cannellured bullet and a Lee Factory Crimp Die, which is a collet crimp die. For automatic platforms, magnum pistol or rifle cartridges, use cannellured bullets. No crimp will provide higher bullet pull forces than the collet crimp.

When using any crimping option, follow these steps for optimal results:

Start with an empty case in your press and run the ram all the way up. Adjust the seating die down until it just touches the case. Back the seating die off slightly, then seat a bullet in the case to the correct load length. Back off the seating stem a half turn, then turn down the seating die slightly and run the loaded round back into the die. Continue turning the die down until you achieve the crimp you want. Run the round back into the die and turn down the seating stem until it touches the bullet.

Check the load length and start loading. Frequently inspect the loaded and crimped rounds to make sure the crimp is what you want, the case is not deformed, and the load length is accurate. 

SACRED STONE OF THE SOUTHWEST IS ON THE BRINK OF EXTINCTION



Centuries ago, Persians, Tibetans and Mayans considered turquoise a gemstone of the heavens, believing the striking blue stones were sacred pieces of sky. Today, the rarest and most valuable turquoise is found in the American Southwest—but the future of the blue beauty is unclear.

On a recent trip to Tucson, we spoke with fourth generation turquoise traders who explained that less than five percent of turquoise mined worldwide can be set into jewelry and only about twenty mines in the Southwest supply gem-quality turquoise. Once a

thriving industry, many Southwest mines have run dry and are now closed.

We found a limited supply of turquoise from Arizona and purchased it for our **Sedona Turquoise Collection**. Inspired by the work of those ancient craftsmen and designed to showcase the exceptional blue stone, each stabilized vibrant cabochon features a unique, one-of-a-kind matrix surrounded in Bali metalwork.

Your satisfaction is 100% guaranteed. If you aren't completely happy with your purchase, send it back within 30 days for a complete refund of the item price. Call today!

Jewelry Specifications:

• **Arizona turquoise** • **Silver-finished settings**

Sedona Turquoise Collection

A. Pendant (26 cts)	\$299*	\$99 +s&p Save \$200
B. 18" Bali Naga woven sterling silver chain		\$149 +s&p
C. 1 1/2" Earrings (10 ctw)	\$299*	\$99 +s&p Save \$200
Complete Set**	\$747*	\$249 +s&p Save \$498

**Complete set includes pendant, chain and earrings.

Call now and mention the offer code to receive your collection.

1-800-333-2045

Offer Code STC969-09

You must use the offer code to get our special price.

*Special price only for customers using the offer code versus the price on Stauer.com without your offer code.



26 carats
of genuine
Arizona turquoise
ONLY \$99

Stauer...
Afford the Extraordinary.®



Rating of A+

Stauer®

14091 Southcross Drive W.
Dept. STC969-09, Burnsville,
Minnesota 55337 www.stauer.com

Banish 30-V2



BANISH 30-V2	
CALIBER	.30 (7.62mm)
CARTRIDGE RANGE	.17 HMR – .300 Wby. Mag.
THREAD/MOUNT	5/8x24 (HUB)
LENGTH	6.4 in. or 8.17 in.
DIAMETER	1.5 in.
WEIGHT	9.5 oz. (6.4 in.) or 12.4 oz. (8.17 in.)
MATERIALS	Titanium
FINISH	DLC (endcaps), Cerakote, black (tube)
ACCESSORIES	T45 wrench, takedown tool (optional)
MSRP	\$999
MANUFACTURER	Banish Suppressors, 877-904-5292, banishsuppressors.com

SECOND GEN OF SILENCE

BANISH OFFERS 15 different suppressors in its lineup, hushing everything from small rimfires to handguns to robust rifles. The original Banish 30 has been the brand’s most popular model with nearly 100,000 units sold. A Banish 30 has been a part of our range kit for a couple years, being used with everything from .17 HMR to .300 Winchester Magnum. It is the go-to option for testing many rifles.

The original Banish 30 was limited to use with 5/8x24 threads, or 1/2x28 with a step-down adapter. Until now, there is usually a need to remove muzzle devices and sometimes use thread adapters to mount the Banish 30. The upgraded Banish 30-V2 was announced in April 2025.

When Guns & Ammo received the Banish 30-V2, we were pleased to see it had a Hybrid Universal Base (HUB) interface instead of the previous proprietary mount. HUB has seemingly become the industry standard, where the rear of a suppressor’s tube is threaded to accept male 1.374x28 interface adapters. With HUB threads, users have the flexibility to attach a

Banish 30-V2 to a variety of muzzlebrakes and flash hiders made by other manufacturers. Simply use an adapter. Nearly all suppressor manufacturers have gotten onboard with using HUB, so the list of adapters continues to grow. It’s a great upgrade, so kudos to Banish.

Other changes to the Banish 30 were size and weight. Compared to the original, the V2 is about 2 ounces lighter and roughly 1 inch shorter. Stats like that are important, especially if it’s being using for hunting or competition.

Banish also increased the number of baffles, from eight to eleven. This yielded an overall sound reduction of a

published 34.5 decibels (dB) on a rifle in .308 Winchester. It’s slightly quieter than the previous model, and in a smaller package. Like the original, the V2 is rated for cartridges ranging from .17 HMR to .300 Weatherby Magnum, as well as limited full-auto firing. In other words, it’s built to be punished.

All Banish 30-V2 components are CNC-manufactured from lightweight titanium. The tube has a threaded junction, providing the ability to configure its length between 8.17 and 6.4



Each baffle has three tabs with corresponding notches in an asymmetric pattern to ensure proper alignment during reassembly.

Howa™

NEW

22 ARC

VARMINT / TARGET PRECISION MINI ACTIONS



- Available in 22" Std, 20" Steel Light Varmint & 20" Carbon Fiber
- Threaded Barrel / Suppressor Ready
- Machined Receiver & Forged Bolt
- Large Integral Front Barrel Lug
- Tool-Less Firing Pin Removal
- Mini Actions Also Available in .223, 7.62x39, 6.5 Grendel, 350 Legend, 6mmARC
- M-16 Style Extractor
- 5 rd Detachable Mag
- 3 Position Safety
- 12% Shorter Bolt Throw Than Std. Short Actions

SHIPPING NOW!

- 22 ARC outperforms all 22 caliber cartridges in its class
- 22 ARC rivals 22-250 performance from a mini action
- 22 ARC dual-purpose match and varmint applications
- 22 ARC designed to take advantage of today's long ogive, high-BC bullets



FOR MORE INFORMATION
ABOUT HOWA'S 22ARC MA



LIFETIME
WARRANTY



FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT: LEGACYSPORTS.COM
CATALOG OUT NOW - REQUEST YOUR FREE COPY TODAY: 1.800.553.4229



LegacySportsIntl



LegacySportsInternational



LegacySportsInt

LEGACY
SPORTS
INTERNATIONAL®



LEARN MORE AT
HORNADY.COM



The length of the Banish 30-V2 can be shortened from 8.17 inches to 6.4 inches by removing the forward section and reinstalling the end cap.



Banish direct-thread HUB mounts are 1.375x24 threaded with a 1-inch hexagonal pattern, which are useful for tightening with appropriate sockets or wrenches.

inches. The longer maintube has an internal shelf to position the rear-most baffle 2.2 inches from the end, creating a reinforced blast chamber and room for HUB-mounted muzzlebrakes and flash hid-ers.

The baffles lock together. Lukas VanLaecken, Banish engineer, said, "Each baffle includes three tabs with dissimilar geometry to guarantee that the baffle stack is reassembled in proper alignment." The muzzle-end baffle in each section is shorter. Lukas added, "The shorter baffles utilize available space to add more baffles, providing additional sound performance."

The Banish 30-V2 ships with a titanium 5/8x24 direct-thread HUB plate and end cap, both DLC-coated to prevent galling during routine maintenance. The end cap features a patterned recess for easy removal using the optional disassembly tool and wrench. O-rings are channeled into the threads of the cap and forward section to



An optional Banish Takedown Tool can be used to disassemble the suppressor. The T-45 L-shaped Torx wrench makes end-cap removal and installation easy.

keep the components in place until they need removal.

AT THE RANGE

I threaded the Banish 30-V2 onto a Tikka T3 in 6.5 Creed-moor, and found the length balance was comfortable. Shooting 140-grain Berger handloads travelling at 2,650 feet-per-second (fps), the 30-V2 performed just like its predecessor. Banish suggests that it is a half-decibel quieter. I noticed a slight reduction, but both mitigate sound and recoil. The Banish 30-V2 could easily be used on a .223-caliber rifle, then changed to .308 with satisfaction.

With so many suppressor choices, it's smart to identify a solution that effectively suppresses multiple calibers. The 30-V2 checks many boxes. If you could only have one suppressor, the versatile Banish 30-V2 should be at the top of the list. **GA**

— M. Finger

Grab Your Piece of America's Silver Legacy

99.9% Pure Silver Bars



Fill Your Vault with American Buffalo Silver Bars!



Actual size is 30.6 x 50.4 mm



Not only are these hefty bars one full troy ounce of pure, 99.9% precious silver, they're also beautiful, featuring crisp images taken from one of the most iconic American coins ever struck by the U.S. Mint—the Buffalo Nickel—with designs that evoke the strength of the American Spirit and the Wild Frontier. Minted here in the U.S.A. from shimmering American silver by the Highland Mint, one of America's most respected private bullion manufacturers, these one ounce 99.9% fine silver bars are a great alternative to other bullion options. They're U.S.A.-made, they're pure silver and they're gorgeous!

Buffalo Nickels, Among the Most Iconic Coins in History

These spectacular Silver Bars feature the same designs created by famous sculptor James Earle Fraser found on the Buffalo Nickel, minted from 1913 until 1938. The front displays a composite portrait of three Native American Chiefs, while the back displays a buffalo modeled after "Black

Diamond", a buffalo born in New York's Central Park Zoo of stock donated by Barnum and Bailey.

An Exceptional Way to Stock Up on Precious Silver

Americans have a long tradition of buying silver coins and bars, putting them away for themselves, and their loved ones. The fact is, you'll enjoy owning these Silver Bars. They're tangible. They feel good in your hand. And they make appreciated, unforgettable gifts to mark birthdays, graduations, or any special occasion.

Buy Now and SAVE!

You can save up to \$7.00 off our regular price when you buy now. There is a limit of 25 Bars per customer, which means with this special offer, you can save up to \$175.

Hurry! Get Your Silver Bars

Call right now to secure your 99.9% fine silver American Buffalo Design One Ounce Silver Bars. You'll be glad you did.

One-Ounce Silver Buffalo Bar

Regular Price ~~\$46.95~~ ea. +s/h

Special Offer \$39.95 ea. +s/h

SAVE \$7 to \$175

Limit 25 Bars per person

BUY MORE SAVE MORE!

FREE Bonus Pack A \$25 Value!

With your order over \$99, you'll receive a Bonus Pack that includes: 1913-1938 Buffalo Nickel, a 1934 \$100,000 Gold Certificate Commemorative Print, a One-Ounce Indian Head Copper Bar, and a genuine Stone Arrowhead.



FREE SHIPPING over \$99!

Limited time only. Product total over \$99 before taxes (if any). Standard domestic shipping only. Not valid on previous purchases.

For fastest service call today toll-free

1-888-201-7144

Offer Code BSB158-01

Please mention this code when you call.

SPECIAL CALL-IN ONLY OFFER

GOVMINT • 1300 Corporate Center Curve, Dept. BSB158-01, Eagan, MN 55121

GOVMINT® is a brand of Asset Marketing Services, LLC (AMS). AMS is a retail distributor of coin and currency issues and is not affiliated with the U.S. government. The collectible coin market is unregulated, highly speculative and involves risk. Prices, facts, figures and populations deemed accurate as of the date of publication but may change significantly over time. All purchases are expressly conditioned upon your acceptance of our Terms and Conditions (www.amsi-corp.com/terms-conditions); to decline, return your purchase pursuant to our 30 day Return Policy (www.amsi-corp.com/product-return-policy). ©2025 Asset Marketing Services, LLC.

PRIME



TIME

BY JAMES TARR
PHOTOS BY MARK FINGAR

THE **CANIK METE MC9 PRIME** IS
A U.S.-MADE BLACK-TIE CARRY GUN
FOR EVERY OCCASION.





The Canik Mete MC9 Prime (\$650) is similar to the MC9LS (\$500), but the Prime adds improved texture, serrations, sights, trigger, mag well and ported barrel.



AT THE 2025 SHOT SHOW, one of the pistols that drew attention was Canik’s Mete MC9 Prime. If you haven’t been keeping up with the market, you’ve missed the success of the Canik Mete MC9. The Prime version possesses just about every upscale upgrade a serious shooter could want. Allow a brief background before describing the details.

Canik Arms is a division of Samsun Yurt Savunma Sanayi (SYS), one of Turkey’s largest defense contractors. Like many gunmakers in the region, it makes CZ 75 clones, but the original TP9 — introduced in the U.S. around 2013 — gained real traction. The TP9 is a duty size, striker-fire 9mm pistol with a polymer frame that is priced affordably.

Canik introduced the Mete MC9, i.e., the “Micro-Compact 9mm,” in 2023. The MC9 uses the same TP9-pattern magazines, but both the slide and frame were slimmed to improve concealability and make it more comfortable to shoot, especially for those with smaller hands. The original Mete MC9 featured a short 3.18-inch barrel, and flush magazines held 12 rounds of 9mm. Subsequent versions included the MC9L (2024), which increased grip length and magazine capacity to 17 rounds, and the MC9LS (2025), which combined the longer grip with a 3.64-inch barrel.

U.S. MADE

The Canik Mete MC9 Prime is fundamentally an MC9LS maximized to its fullest potential in both looks and performance — but let’s stop right there. This pistol is a product

CANIK METE MC9 PRIME	
TYPE	Recoil operated, striker fire, semiautomatic
CARTRIDGE	9mm
CAPACITY	17+1 rds.
BARREL	3.64 in.
LENGTH	6.73 in.
HEIGHT	5.42 in. (mag. inserted)
WIDTH	1.16 in.
WEIGHT	1 lb., 7.5 oz.
SLIDE	Steel
FINISH	Nitride (steel)
GRIP	Polymer, inter. backstraps
SIGHTS	Night Fision day/night sights, tritium/orange (front), U-notch (rear)
TRIGGER PULL	4 lbs., 8 oz. (tested)
SAFETY	Trigger lever, striker drop safety
PRICE	\$649
ACCESSORIES	Two 17-round mags, three backstraps, magazine loader, trigger lock, holster, cleaning rod, lockable hard case
MANUFACTURER	Canik USA, 561-908-7993, canikusa.com

of Canik USA, and is the first and only MC9 manufactured in the United States — specifically West Palm Beach, Florida. It features a ported barrel, aluminum magazine well, improved trigger and trigger pull, upgraded sights and more. It was designed after several years of consumer feedback and recommendations. Two versions are available: The standard model sent to Guns & Ammo for evaluation, and another that includes a factory-installed Canik MeCanik M04 red-dot optic.

If you’ve paid attention to the market, you know this is the same evolutionary arc seen with other pistols. An equivalent example would be SIG Sauer introducing the small P365 in 2018 and evolving it into the larger

P365-XMacro. What you’ll find with the Mete MC9 Prime, though, is that it offers more or better features than most of its competitors, often at a comparable or better price.

THE SLIDE ASSEMBLY

Up top, is a 3.64-inch barrel with four machined flats to reduce weight. The flats do not extend to the muzzle, though. The last .8 inches of barrel is round, and three small oval ports are cut into it at 10:30, 12 and 1:30 positions. The front sight has been moved back a little more than half-an-inch on the slide to make room for the vent holes and ports.

You might notice all the new cuts to the barrel before spotting the porting. Compared to the MC9LS, the Prime



Not simply an aesthetic detail, the barrel features three compensating ports and cutouts in the slide to tame muzzle rise.



Flats are machined on the barrel. Visible through the slot in the top of the slide, "PRIME" is engraved onto the barrel.

has increased slide serrations, and they are more aggressive and cut deeper into the slide. The side of the barrel's chamber sports some decorative cuts designed to mimic the slide serrations. At the front of the slide, small slots on either side reveal the end of the barrel, primarily aesthetic treatments.

Atop the slide, behind the front sight, is a rectangular cutout revealing the top flat of the barrel etched with the word "PRIME." This isn't a functional addition, but it provides another upscale detail to this pistol. Other than the orange dot on the front sight, the only other color you'll see on this black gun is the gold anodized trigger safety lever, and the end result is classy — hence my assertion that this is Canik's "black tie" carry gun.

The Prime is equipped with steel-bodied Night Fision day/night sights. The dovetailed front sight has a tritium insert around which is a bright orange circle. Between the two, the sight is visible in any light. The rear sight is serrated and has tritium inserts to either side of a standard square-shape notch.

The slide is cut for direct mounting of optics that use the Shield RMSc footprint, including Canik's McCanik M01 and M04 red dots. The M04 is an enclosed optic and should be shipping as you read this. If you decide to run irons, the slide cover plate is steel and matches the style of the slide.

Overall, the MC9 Prime measures 6.73-inches long, 5.43-inches tall, 1.16-inches wide, and weighs 23½ ounces with an empty magazine and the external aluminum magwell attached. This seems a good spot to point out that the Prime ships as a package; you get the pistol, two 17-round magazines, three backstraps, the removable aluminum magazine well, a polymer G-Code inside-the-waistband (IWB)/outside-the-waistband (OWB) holster with belt clip and paddle, an adjustment tool, trigger lock, and cleaning rod. All of it fits into foam cutouts inside a nice Pelican-style lockable case.



The slides of the Mete MC9 are cut for direct-mounting optics with an RMSc footprint. G&A tested the Burris FastFire C. [\\$276](#)



The Prime includes Night Fision sights. Direct-mounted optics are low enough to co-witness the sights through the window.



When the striker is cocked, the back end of the stainless-steel striker, with a painted red dot, is visible at the rear of the slide. The trigger on this pistol is excellent. The trigger has a black aluminum body, is wide, and features a flat face. The pivoting safety lever is nearly the width of the trigger and has aggressive diamond texturing to keep a fingertip in place. The lever is gold anodized, and the trigger releases the striker at 90 degrees. The takeup is standard for a striker-fired

gun, a bit long, but the let-off is relatively light and crisp with darn near no overtravel. Total pull weight on G&A's sample was 4½ pounds. Reset on the trigger was exceptional; it's advertised as only being 1.3mm, and our sample seemed close to that. If you can't shoot this gun fast, the problem is you.

Inside the slide, underneath the barrel, you'll find a captive recoil system with two springs to help spread out and absorb the recoil. Most of the components of the trigger system are stainless steel for excellent corrosion resistance.



The Canik Mete MC9 Prime disassembles in the familiar manner as popular striker-fire pistols. Noteworthy are the steel-body magazines, dual-spring guiderod assembly, and barrel treatments.



The Prime is sold as a package. Inside the lockable hard case are the magazines, backstraps, a holster, tools, replacement screws and more.



If the striker is cocked, a red dot is visible through the backplate.



The trigger sports a flat face and anodized safety lever.



The texture of the grip mimics aggressive stippling, and it covers much more of the grip circumference than previous models. The magazine-release button is not bilateral, but it is reversible.

THE LOWER HALF

Interestingly, if you look at the triggerguard, you'll notice it's roughly rectangular with a double undercut. The triggerguards of the original Mete MC9s were closer to square and had no undercut at all. This improved detail was first seen on the Canik Mete SF. Also seen on that gun — and brought to the Prime — is the integral flared magazine well. The polymer frame was nicely flared and beveled to speed and smooth reloading, even before Canik added the removable aluminum magazine well.

The grip texture on the original MC9 wasn't that aggressive, and there was a lot of smooth real estate between the textured sections. This was a big complaint from shooters, so the Prime was aggressively textured anywhere you might touch it. The texture on the sides of the frame goes up all the way to the top with no gaps. The texture on the backstrap and frontstrap looks the same to the eye but is



The Mete MC9 Prime includes an aluminum, low-profile magazine well that speeds a reload with confidence. Standard magazines have a 17-round capacity, and two are included.

actually more aggressive to help lock your hand in place. There are also small textured pads on both sides of the frame above the front of the triggerguard for the thumb of your support hand. The front of the triggerguard was textured as well, for people like me who shoot with the index finger of their support hand wrapped around it.

At the front of the frame is a three-slot accessory rail for mounting lights. The slide release is bilateral, has long extended steel levers, and both levers work to release the slide. The magazine

release is a steel rectangular button, vertically serrated. It's reversible, but it takes a bit of work and probably a pair of needle-nose pliers to pop the spring in and out.

With the Prime, we get three backstraps. The one installed is a bit more arched and has a threaded hole at the base of it. The aluminum magwell slides onto the frame, and then a screw goes up through the magwell into

MODEL 1854™

PERFORMANCE. DURABILITY.

The Model 1854™ is rugged, reliable, and ready.

Take control of your performance in the field with the new Model 1854 from Smith & Wesson®. A triumph from over 170 years of craftsmanship, this lever-action rifle seamlessly melds precision engineering and timeless design. Experience the perfect blend of heritage and innovation - experience Smith & Wesson Smooth™.

Now available in 45-70, 44 Magnum, 357 Magnum, & 45 Colt



Scan for
More Info



Smith & Wesson®

EMPOWERING AMERICANS™

smith-wesson.com

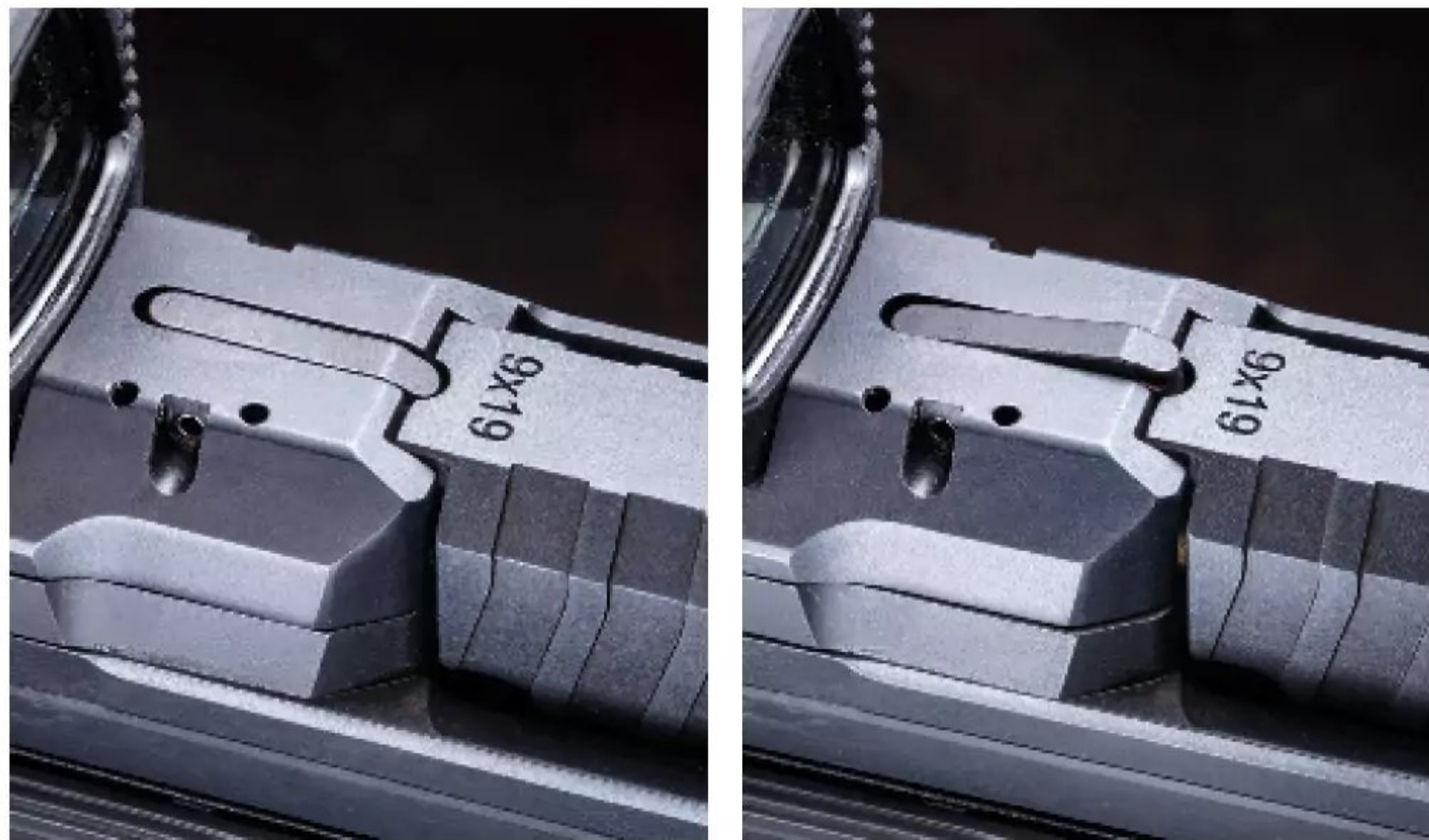
©2025 Smith & Wesson Inc. All Rights Reserved.

the backstrap, securing it in place. A second backstrap is the same length and works the same way with the magwell, but it is not as arched. The third backstrap is meant to be used if you decide you don't want the frame equipped with the aluminum magazine well.

I was had a standard Mete MC9L on hand to shoot alongside the Mete MC9 Prime. The MC9L does seem basic in comparison, and the slide/barrel ends right where the porting begins on the Prime. Both pistols were completely reliable and a lot of fun to shoot. Between the sights and the trigger, I could push the Prime harder and faster, and it didn't care.

IS PORTING PRACTICAL?

The interesting thing about porting and compensators is they work off pressure. Lighter bullets traveling fast and generate more pressure than heavier, slower bullets. Often with ports and comps, you'll find that hot +P ammuni-



The MC9 Prime has a pivoting loaded chamber indicator atop the slide in front of the optic. Interestingly, the cuts to the side of the barrel match the serrations in the slide — another nice detail.

tion generates no more muzzle rise than standard pressure ammo because it better activates the comp. At the range, the ports had little effect when shooting 147-grain subsonic ammo, but I could see and feel the difference once I moved to using 115-grain bullets. When I tested SIM-X DefenseCore hypervelocity ammo — a 45-grain bullet moving at roughly 2,150 feet per second (fps) — the

ports cut muzzle rise in half versus the MC9L.

THE TAKEAWAYS

The Mete MC9 Prime still has “MC” in its name for “micro-compact.” However, based on dimensions, I don't consider the Prime to be a micro, or even a subcompact pistol. It's really a compact gun, one that handles and shoots like a full-size gun. It is harder to conceal than the original MC9, but companies are upsizing micro-compacts for a reason. If you shoot your carry gun regularly, you know that small guns are hard to shoot well and are not as fun. Being

Arms of Liberty



Thompson®

Auto Ordnance®

www.auto-ordnance.com



Join us: @auto_ordnance

Made in the
USA



able to get your entire hand comfortably around the grip improves shooter performance. In a carry gun, everything is a compromise; you must decide what's most important.

The Prime gives us everything we need in a carry gun, including a holster. That said, I'm aware of one accessory that some might consider a substantive upgrade: The brass backstrap for the MC9 L, LS and Prime from Taylor Freelance (\$65, taylorfreelance.com). It's available in either natural brass or black, is nicely checkered, works with the aluminum magwell on the Prime and, more importantly, adds 3.1 ounces of weight to the back end of the gun. That

PERFORMANCE

LOAD	VEL. (FPS)	ES	SD	BEST GROUP (IN.)	AVG. GROUP (IN.)
Hornady Subsonic 147-gr. XTP	898	29	13	2.5	3
Hornady Crit. Def. 115-gr. FTX	1,093	34	21	2.5	3.1
Black Hills +P 124 gr. JHP	1,159	24	16	2.8	3.2
SIM-X DefenseCore 45 gr. LFHP	2,149	52	28	3	3.7
Winchester 115 gr. FMJ	1,083	39	28	3.1	4

Notes: Accuracy is the average of four, five-shot groups at 25 yards from a sandbag rest. Velocity is the average of ten shots measured with an Oehler Model 35P 12 feet from the muzzle.

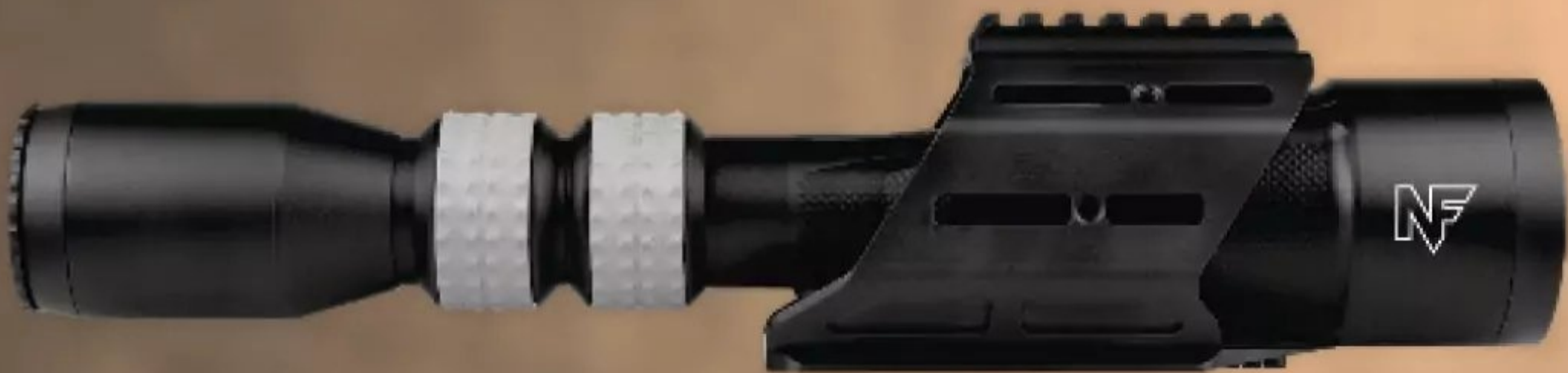
weight really seems to change the handling of these guns — in a good way — completely eliminating the muzzle-heavy feel you get with many polymer-framed guns.

What I love is that Americans taking responsibility for their own protection are no longer relegated to five-shot snubnose revolvers or small autos with dubious reliability and poor trigger pulls. The typical carry gun in 2025 is eminently reliable and sports a double-digit magazine capacity — as a minimum! The Prime is far from “minimum” anything. Carry guns keep getting more capable, and while being easily concealable with the right holster, the made-in-America Canik Mete MC9 Prime offers 17-plus-1 capacity, a grip that won't slip, a magwell, a great trigger pull, excellent sights and classy looks — all for a price that leaves room in your budget for ammo. **G&A**

MISSION CONFIGURABLE.
FIELD READY.

CFS 6-36x50mm F1

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



LEARN MORE



Nightforce is a registered trademark of Nightforce Optics, Inc.
© 2024 Nightforce Optics, Inc. All rights reserved.



NIGHTFORCE
RUGGED. RELIABLE. REPEATABLE.™



LIGHTER & STRONGER

THE CHRISTENSEN ARMS RIDGELINE FFT
UTILIZES CARBON FIBER TO REDUCE
WEIGHT AND IMPROVE ACCURACY.

BY TOM BECKSTRAND | PHOTOS BY MARK FINGAR





LOOKING AT THE Christensen Arms Ridgeline FFT reveals a modern take on a classic rifle. The carbon-fiber barrel and stock showcase the use of modern materials, while the two-lug Remington Model 700-pattern action brings classic charm and time-tested performance. However, there are a number of details throughout the Ridgeline FFT that are only found here, or offered on custom rifles costing thousands more. These are the important features that riflemen should become familiar with to recognize the value of the Ridgeline FFT.

WHAT IS “FFT?”

A big part of Christensen Arms’ Ridgeline FFT story is the “FFT,” which stands for “Flash Forged Technology.” Most carbon-fiber stocks are made by placing carbon fiber around a foam core and using epoxy to mate the two. This type of stock relies on both the carbon and the void-filling foam to provide strength in appropriate areas.

FFT is Christensen Arms’ use of carbon-fiber thread orientation to relieve the load historically placed on a foam core. Using carbon fiber with threads oriented in random directions limits what that carbon fiber can do. It may make manufacturing faster and easier, but it may not be the most efficient use of the material. With FFT, Christensen Arms uses the thread orientation to carry the recoil load along the stock’s length. A simple and dedicated use of select

CHRISTENSEN ARMS RIDGELINE FFT	
TYPE	Bolt action
CARTRIDGE	7mm PRC (tested)
CAPACITY	3+1 rds.
BARREL	22 in., 1:8-in. twist
LENGTH	44.25 in.
WEIGHT	5 lbs., 13 oz. (tested)
STOCK	FFT, carbon fiber
LENGTH OF PULL	13.5 in.
FINISH	Cerakote, Burnt Bronze
TRIGGER	TriggerTech, 2.5 to 5 lbs.
SIGHTS	None
MSRP	\$2,050
MANUFACTURER	Christensen Arms, 888-517-8855, christensenarms.com

sections of carbon fiber in this area and elsewhere meant engineers could use less dense foam because it wasn’t needed to handle recoil.

Another use of FFT is at the pillars that sit between the receiver and the bottom metal. They are about three-quarters of an inch in diameter and are also made from carbon fiber with the thread orientation designed to provide the strength required to handle the load placed on it. Pillars are usually made from aluminum or stainless steel because these materials are dense and robust. Replacing the pillars with carbon fiber kept the

strength, but reduced the stock’s weight by an ounce or two. Carbon-fiber pillars, when done correctly, are also more resistant to thermal expansion than aluminum or steel pillars. Moving from a hot vehicle to sub-freezing conditions yielded no shift in point of impact due to pillar movement. This was never a big problem with aluminum and steel pillars, but it does add some peace of mind.

The result of this new and smart use of carbon fiber

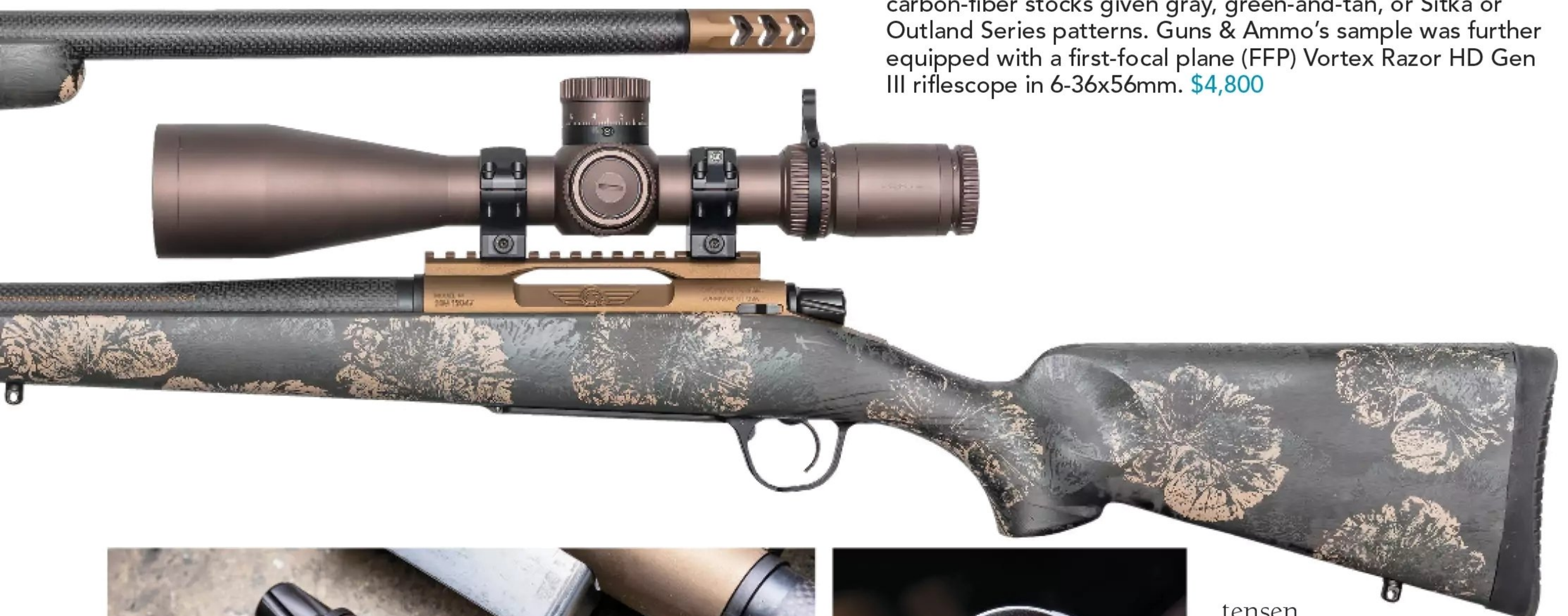
is a stock that weighs 20 ounces, including the recoil pad and two sling-swivel studs. This places it at the lightest end of the carbon-fiber stock weight range.

PINS & SPRINGS

The receiver used in the Ridgeline FFT has the traditional Remington 700 footprint, but it has some meaningful and significant improvements engineered into it. Each receiver features broached race-



The steel recoil lug is secured between the stainless steel action and barrel. This configuration is familiar to Model 700 gunsmiths, simplifying manufacturing while also ensuring performance.



Christensen Arms Ridgeline FFT rifle is available with natural stainless, Cerakote black or Burnt Bronze metalwork set in carbon-fiber stocks given gray, green-and-tan, or Sitka or Outland Series patterns. Guns & Ammo's sample was further equipped with a first-focal plane (FFP) Vortex Razor HD Gen III riflescope in 6-36x56mm. **\$4,800**



The bolt contains a 32-pound firing pin spring that provides lightning-fast lock time and reliable ignition. The bolt head features a claw extractor and dual ejectors to kick out large magnum cases.



tensen
Arms rifles
come with slightly heavier
firing pin springs.

Christensen Arms uses a 32-pound firing pin spring, which greatly reduces lock time and makes these light rifles a little easier to shoot accurately. The downside of a heavier firing pin spring is heavy bolt lift. The internet is awash with commentary on how light the bolt lift is on some of the custom

ways that see final machining post heat-treat. Unlike the Remington 700, the Ridgeline receiver is blueprinted by engineers in Christensen Arms' factory.

The magic happens when we take a close look at the firing pin and firing pin spring. Light-weight rifles are harder to shoot accurately because incidental and slight shooter inputs are enough to move the rifle around when it fires. Most of these occur when pulling the trigger. The smart guys at Christensen Arms realized this and decided to minimize the amount of exposure time to these potential errors. The period from when the sear releases the cocking piece until the firing pin sets off the primer is called "lock time." Reducing lock time reduces the impact of shooter error when pulling the trigger. This is one of the reasons why Chris-

actions currently available, but there is no discussion on why some are lighter than others. In most of the cases, light bolt lift comes from light firing pin spring weights, sometimes as light as 18 pounds. Some feel that as long as the primer fires, the spring is heavy enough.

More than 20 years ago, the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit tested the effects of lighter hammer and firing pin springs in AR-pattern rifles. They found that light spring weights resulted in wider velocity extreme spreads (ES) and bigger standard deviations (SD). If the shooter is only interested in making the rifle go *bang*, perhaps a light spring is acceptable. However, if tight extreme spreads (ES) and single-digit SDs are desired, don't cheat on spring weight.

Spring weight is one way to ensure



The TriggerTech Field trigger has an adjustment range between 2½ and 5 pounds; thumb safety lever included.



FFT technology allows Christensen Arms to use carbon fiber thread orientation to create stock strength. This means less-dense foam is necessary to form it, meaning it is lighter, too.



The forend also benefits from FFT, but the sling swivel studs have backing plates and nuts to ensure they cannot pull through. The studs are useful for slings or bipod attachments.



The hinged floorplate assembly is a time-tested, reliable design. It is also a lighter option than a rifle's bottom metal designed to feed from a detachable box magazine.



The Ridgeline FFT receiver has a Remington 700 footprint, so the trigger and safety share the same installation and operation. When drawn to the rear, it is on safe. Push forward to fire.

enough energy is delivered to the primer to generate reliable and consistent ignition, which yields tight ES and SD numbers, another way is to ensure the firing pin has a straight and clean run once the sear releases it. Christensen Arms matches the diameter of the firing pin to the channel in the bolt body that it rides in, ensuring that the pin can only move longitudinally. This prevents it from rattling down the bolt body until it collides with primer. Restricting the pin's movement to one direction ensures that there



The muzzlebrake is Christensen Arms' own design. It does a good job of reducing recoil without directing the blast back toward the shooter.

is no energy bleed from bouncing off the side of the bolt body upon release. Between the heavier spring weight and attention to detail inside the bolt body, Christensen Arms delivers some of the best ignition of any bolt-action rifle on the market. Checking your ES and SD with the same

SEND IT SMARTER



INTEGRATED



TECHNOLOGY



◀ Watch the
tech go
head to head.



REVIC

revicoptics.com

Free Ballistic Calculator

Smart Scopes | Ballistic Rangefinders | Tripods



The scope rail features a 20 MOA bias, useful for engaging long-range targets with high magnification. It does not come with the rifle, but any Model 700 long-action base will fit the Ridgeline.



Christensen Arms’ stainless steel barrels wrapped with a carbon-fiber weave are easy to recognize versus other designs. These benefit from decades of testing and refinement.



ammunition against your buddy’s “bolt lift is so light” rifle will tell the tale.

SAFETY & PERFORMANCE

Unlike a lot of custom actions, Christensen Arms performs destructive testing on its rifles. This matters when the unthinkable happens and the rifle sees a high-pressure event. Such incidents occur when questionable handloads get fired, or there is a bore obstruction.

Before production, each rifle line is tested with a bore obstruction placed about 4 inches in front of the chamber to mimic a squib load. The rifle is fired remotely inside a containment box. Afterward, they look at blast patterns and how the rifle came apart — if it came apart. The priority is for debris to move away from the shooter. Looking at the receiver, there is a small port just forward of the ejection port. It aligns with a port in the bolt so that, should the firing pin



PERFORMANCE

AMMO	VEL. (FPS)	ES	SD	BEST GROUP (IN.)	AVG. GROUP (IN.)
Hornady 175-gr. ELD-X	2,915	42.6	15.6	.61	.83
Hornady 180-gr. ELD-M	2,852	31.6	13	.74	1.04
Federal 175-gr. ELD-X	2,960	15.4	6.3	.96	1.02

Accuracy is the average of three three-shot groups at 100 yards from a sandbag and bipod rest. Velocity is the average of 10 shots recorded by a Garmin Xero C1 Pro chronograph placed adjacent to the barrel.

pierce a primer or the cartridge case head separate, excess gas and pressure will go out that port. The AR-15 style extractor also provides a large port to allow gas to move out and away from the shooter’s face.

G&A’s Ridgeline FFT maintained Christensen Arm’s sub-minute-of-angle guarantee across all three loads tested. One of the reasons Christensen Arms can make this guarantee is because they make the barrel. They take a raw piece of steel and then cut, drill, ream, button, chamber, turn-down, wrap and lay-up each one. The company holds five patents on the wrapping process because they use different fibers for different tasks. For example, one fiber type runs the length of the barrel, and another type weaves them together. Some fibers exist to move heat away from the steel liner because, when run with the grain, there is no better conductor of heat than carbon fiber.

Thanks to the carbon-fiber artistry on the barrel and stock, the Ridgeline FFT weighs a svelte 5 pounds, 14 ounces. I wouldn’t want to go any lighter on a hunting rifle, even if I planned on dragging it up the side of the mountain. Not only is this rifle light, but it has key features that make it reliable, accurate and easy to shoot. **G&A**

MEET YOUR NEXT CARRY AMMO... XRG DEFENSE

After years of use with European Law Enforcement, XRG Defense ammunition is now available to the American market. This solid copper hollow-point bullet construction results in near 100% weight retention regardless of the barriers encountered. Light-for-caliber bullet weights produce low perceived recoil, high velocity, and reliable expansion from today's compact personal defense handguns. XRG Defense has been tested extensively in modern, compact handguns to ensure reliable feeding and function in the most demanding environments.



Sellier & Bellot 
S I N C E 1 8 2 5

FOR MORE INFORMATION // WWW.SELLIERBELLOT.US

BIGGER & BETTER

THE FN REFLEX XL MRD BLENDS CAPACITY AND CONCEALABILITY WITH A BEST-IN-CLASS INTERNAL HAMMER-FIRED TRIGGER.

BY BRAD FITZPATRICK | PHOTOS BY MARK FINGAR







The cold-hammer forged, stainless steel barrel in the Reflex XL measures 3.8 inches, a half-inch longer than the original Reflex barrel. Though the muzzle is flat and flush to the slide, a subtle crown is recessed.



The extended XL grip added four rounds to the Reflex. The extended basepad adds another three for a total of 18 rounds.

ANY LIST of the world’s greatest gun-makers would be incomplete without mentioning FN. The company was founded in Belgium in 1889 as *Fabrique Nationale d’Armes de Guerre*, translated “National Factory of Weapons of War.” FN is responsible for many fine firearms in the last 130 years, including the the High Power, Five-seveN, SCAR, various rifles and shotguns, not to mention military small arms such as the M2, M249, and M240 series. FN military products have been procured by more than 100 countries.

Producing some of the most popular military arms in history, the company has also offered commercial products for more than a century. FN released the Reflex in Guns & Ammo’s August 2023 issue, a subcompact 9mm pistol that measures an inch wide with a 10- or 15-round capacity. I tested that pistol for G&A and was impressed with its performance, particularly the trigger.

The trend in the carry gun market is to “beef up” subcompact pistols, adding extra barrel length and a longer grip with full-size capacity. FN joined the bigger-is-better club with its upsized version of the Reflex: Reflex XL MRD. The Reflex XL MRD wasn’t the first “big” subcompact 9mm, but that’s no surprise. FN never rushed its pistols to market simply to be the first. When its guns arrive, they are refined and well-proven designs. The Reflex XL MRD is no exception.

The Reflex XL MRD comes with a 3.8-inch cold hammer-forged, stainless-steel barrel with a 1-in-10-inch twist rate and a recessed crown. It’s a half-inch longer than the barrel of the standard Reflex model, but both guns measure just more than an inch wide.

FN REFLEX XL MRD	
TYPE	Recoil operated, internal hammer fire, SAO, semiautomatic
CARTRIDGE	9mm
CAPACITY	10 rds. or 15/18 rds.
BARREL	3.8 in., cold hammer forged, stainless steel, 1:10-in. twist rate
LENGTH	6.75 in.
HEIGHT	5.2 in.
WIDTH	1.08 in.
WEIGHT	1 lb., 3.8 oz.
FINISH	Black or FDE PVD
SIGHTS	Tritium dot (front), black, U-notch (rear); optic ready (MRD), RMsC pattern
TRIGGER	4 lbs., 15 oz. (tested)
MSRP	\$719
MANUFACTURER	FN America, 703-288-3500, fnamerica.com



The grip was also extended on the Reflex XL, allowing it to hold up to 15 rounds in its standard “flush-fit” magazine. The extended mag holds 18 rounds. One of each is provided with the gun, unless you live in a restrictive jurisdiction. FN supplies two magazines for those subject to such regulations.

Fifteen and 18 rounds is a noteworthy increase compared to the standard 11- and 15-round magazines with the original Reflex. The extra capacity adds about an inch to overall height, which measures 5.2 inches with the flush-fit mag. Compare that to 4.27 inches for the Reflex.

The added height of the Reflex XL MRD may make it more challenging to conceal, but the extra grip length offers substantial benefits. Primarily, the Reflex XL offers a magazine capacity that is on par with compact and some full-sized double-stack 9mms while only measuring 1.08-inches wide. Most compact double-stack 9mms measure around 1.3 inches wide. While .22 inch might not seem like a lot of extra width, it’s considerably easier to conceal a 1.1-inch pistol than a 1.3-inch gun, especially when wearing light clothing. Plus, the Reflex XL MRD weighs 20 ounces unloaded, which is just 1.6 ounces more than the unloaded weight of the standard Reflex model.



With the slide removed, the framework is revealed, including the flat and wide hammer located behind the cartridge. The mag positions a round directly behind the chamber for reliability.



The take-up, light pull weight to fire, and short reset are distinctive characteristics of the Reflex's internal, single-action-only, hammer-fired design. The trigger shoe is polymer.



Also available in black, the FDE PVD finish is iconic and consistent with FN products. The slide includes steel sights, front and rear serrations, an external extractor, and optic coverplate.

The other benefit of the extended grip is that shooters — even those with large hands — can obtain a full grip of the gun. A grip that leaves your pinky floating in space is notably harder to control under recoil, and it's much less fun to shoot a short grip during extended ranges sessions. Reflex XL MRD pistols are also equipped with a mild palm swell that helps fill the hand and increases control and shooting comfort. Basically, the FN is a pistol you'll enjoy shooting, which means you'll shoot more often.

The internal hammer-fired, single-action only (SAO) operation also makes the Reflex XL MRD a pleasant shooter. Internal hammer-fired pistols offer a smooth and light triggerpull because the trigger does not need to compress the striker, as is the case with striker-fired guns. Internal hammer-fired guns can use lighter springs, which, in turn, reduces the force required to manually operate the slide. Two things we immediately noticed on receipt of the Reflex XL MRD were the crisp trigger and the reduced force required to operate the slide.

As on the standard Reflex, the Reflex XL MRD features front and rear slide serrations. There are five angled serrations at the rear of the slide, and three wider but shallower serrations up front. Unlike some front slide serrations that are narrow and shallow, the Reflex's forward serrations provide excellent purchase when conducting press checks. The slide won't slip from your grasp.

MRD models are offered with both standard iron sights and an optic-ready slide. The Reflex XL is only available with the MRD slide, which is cut for RMSc and Holosun



Standard sights are an orange-ring tritium night sight at the front, and a plain black notch at the rear. MRD models of the FN Reflex feature a coverplate and machined cut for RMSc-pattern optics.

507K footprints. Miniature red dots have become popular on carry guns, and the MRD slide allows the owner the option to mount a red dot. The pistol does not include an optic, but arrives with a coverplate and night sights.

Both the Reflex and Reflex XL MRD feature the same all-black notch-type rear sight with tritium dot surrounded by an orange ring at the front. Both the front and rear sight are dovetailed into the slide. With the Reflex XL model, the longer slide equates to a longer sight radius, too, measuring 5.05 inches. It is a half-inch longer than the standard Reflex sight radius for improved sight picture.

For every shooter who argues that a carry pistol should always have a manual safety, there is another who will argue just as strongly against manual safeties on carry guns. Rather than choosing sides, FN decided to offer both manual safety (MS) and non-manual safety (NMS) versions of the Reflex XL MRD. Both camps should be satisfied. Regardless which you choose, all Reflex XL MRD pistols also include multiple passive safeties, including a firing pin block, trigger safety, and fire control safety.

All FN Reflex XL pistols come with a magazine release and a slide-stop lever on the left side of the frame. The slide stop is recessed in a molded polymer shelf, and the oval magazine release is reversible. The mag release is checkered and easy to locate, and it drops both the 15- and 18-round metal magazines clear of the pistol when depressed. There's a rotating takedown lever on the left side of the pistol which is, by my estimation, easier to operate than the transverse takedown bar on other polymer-frame pistols.

Microtexturing covers the left and right grip panels. The frontstrap and rearstrap both offer aggressive texturing arranged in horizontal rows for improved control. Three interchangeable backstraps are included with each pistol. The triggerguard undercut allows for a more comfortable grip on the gun and better control under recoil. The beavertail extends more than the beavertail on the Reflex MRD. The Reflex XL's single-notch rail is patterned



after the Slimline rail and accommodates lights that fit the Glock G43X, such as the Streamlight TLR-7 sub and SureFire XSC.

Reflex XL MRD pistols are available with either a black or FDE PVD finish. Both look good and hold up to the rigors of daily carry. The finish on these pistols is excellent, as is the slide-to-frame fit. A polished chamber and ramp also come standard, and the internals

of these pistols are clean and free of machine marks.

The suggested retail price for the Reflex XL MRD was set at \$719, which is higher than the SIG Sauer P365 XL and Springfield Armory Hellcat Pro, both of which start around \$620. The Reflex XL MRD is .7-ounce lighter than the P365 XL and 1 ounce lighter than the Hellcat Pro, but the capacity of the Reflex XL MRD is greater than those pistols.

AT THE RANGE

The Reflex XL MRD accepts popular miniature red dot footprints including the RMSc pattern, so it was easy to



NO STAMPS. NO WAITING. NO NONSENSE.



**9MM BRASS PLATED
GATLING GUN
WITH OAK CARRIAGE**

260.305.3365

PICK UP YOURS TODAY AT TIPPMANNORDNANCE.COM



ARO-EVO

THE NEXT EVOLUTION IN RIFLE OPTICS

ARO-EVO is the ARO (Advanced Rifle Optic) EVolved. ARO-EVO features an all-new 26mm housing design that offers a larger sight picture providing the user with more information for improved performance shooting along with our new lower 1/3 co-witness pedestal mount. Additionally, ARO-EVO is available

with our new Special Purpose Reticle (SPR) which is a bullet-drop compensating and ranging reticle which balances the performance of a 2MOA dot with accuracy at intermediate distances. ARO-EVO is available with our Special Purpose Reticle or a 2MOA dot only in Red, Green, and Gold.

Shake Awake™



Solar Failsafe™



SPR (BDC Reticle)



HOLOSUN

HOLOSUN.COM

mount a Burris FastFire C (\$276, burrisoptics.com). The sight's low deck height allowed it to co-witness with the FN's iron sights. I also added a Streamlight TLR-7 Sub for evaluation (\$148, streamlight.com), which mounted directly on the Slimline pattern rail.

With light and optic, the FN measured 6-inches tall and weighed 22.2 ounces.

The original Reflex MRD offered more grip space than most subcompacts, particularly with the 15-round extended magazine in place. The XL version is large enough for anyone having a hand span less than that of a polar bear to securely grip, with no digits left dangling. I don't know that the FN Reflex XL should be billed as an "extra-large" subcompact. Rather, its more like a compact pistol that's slimmer and easier to carry and conceal, which I think is a more fitting category for this pistol.

Am I delving too deeply into semantics and pistol nomenclature? Perhaps, but few of the big subcompacts feel like a compact gun when you shoot them; the Reflex XL does. It offers nearly as much grip surface area and bar-

PERFORMANCE

LOAD	VEL. (FPS)	ES	SD	BEST GROUP (IN.)	AVG. GROUP (IN.)
Federal Punch 124-gr. JHP	1,142	22	9	1.4	1.6
Hornady Critical Defense 115-gr. FTX	1,127	36	12	1.7	1.9
Speer Gold Dot 135-gr. GDHP	1,081	30	12	1.8	1.9
Hornady American Gunner 115-gr. JHP	1,114	52	15	1.9	2.2
Fiocchi Range Dynamics 115-gr. FMJ	1,112	70	19	2.0	2.4

Notes: Accuracy is the average of five five-shot groups at 25 yards from a fixed rest. Velocity is the average of 10 shots measured using Caldwell VelociRadar.

rel length as a Glock G19 with more capacity, yet the FN is a quarter-inch narrower. The palm swells provide a more secure and comfortable grip on the pistol while shooting, and this truly is a pistol you can shoot for extended periods on the range. You can't say that about all

1-inch-wide pistols.

Like the original, the narrow Reflex XL MRD rides close against the shooter's side, but the XL added inch of grip length can make concealment a challenge — particularly if you carry on the strong-side hip. If you're carrying in the appendix position with the flush-fit magazine, concealment isn't difficult so long as you choose proper clothing. I tested the Reflex XL in late February, and when I carried the gun in the appendix position, I could make it completely disappear with a light t-shirt and a loose flannel cover garment.

The Reflex XL is among the most accurate pistols in its class. I consider a carry gun to be accurate when it consistently produces five-shot groups less than 2 inches at 25 yards. Of the 25 test groups — five groups of five — 15 of the groups measured less than 2 inches, and two groups fired with Federal's Punch ammunition were less than 1½ inches. The Reflex XL MRD managed sub-2-inch accuracy on average for three of the loads tested, and performance was consistent.

Thanks to its internal hammer-fired design, the trigger tested at an average of 4.9 pounds for 10 pulls on a Wheeler trigger gauge. That's only slightly heavier than most single-action 1911 triggers, and while the FN trigger certainly has more take-up, it's less than many rival striker-fire guns.

Reliability proved to be perfect, and there were no issues with feeding, extraction or ejection. I also want to point out that the FN's 15- and 18-round magazines truly hold that number of rounds. It requires a feat of strength to load some handgun magazines to full capacity, and some magazines simply will not hold the advertised number of rounds. The FN Reflex XL MRD lives up to its capacity promise. My only quibble is that the trigger sits far forward, and I think the triggerguard could be enlarged to accommodate large or gloved fingers.

I remember reviewing the original Reflex pistol. While I liked it, I felt there was something missing. Turns out that "something" was an extra half inch of barrel length and a longer grip. FN has hit just the right size with the Reflex XL MRD. I suggest that anyone in the market for a new carry gun get this pistol in your hand before making a final decision. As part of the trend toward "upsized" sub-compacts, the new Reflex XL MRD is a winner. There are many great guns in this class, but the accuracy, build quality, just-right size and trigger set the Reflex XL apart from the rest. In this case, bigger is better. **G&A**

HIGH PERFORMANCE FIREARM LUBRICANTS

PROTECT YOUR FIREARMS

Wide operating temperature range
FMO GUN OIL: -5°F to 430°F
SFL GUN GREASE: -50°F to 350°F

Lubricating film remains after being wiped away.

Fortified with extreme pressure and anti-wear additives.

Provides high boundary lubrication film protection.

Includes oxidation inhibitors to prevent gummy.

Anti-corrosion additives protect against rust and corrosion.

CELEBRATING OVER **150** YEARS OF CONTINUOUS OPERATIONS

1.0 oz / 29.5 g 1.3 fl oz / 44 ml

PART NO. L069-088

Lubriplate®
FIREARM LUBRICANTS

Newark, NJ 07105 / Toledo, OH 43605 / 800-733-4755
To Order Visit: www.lubriplate.com/falubes Or Scan QR Code

LOCK AND LOAD YOUR PORTFOLIO WITH A BULLETPROOF INVESTMENT

THE 2025 \$25 GOLD EAGLE IN FLAWLESS MS70



PROTECT YOUR WEALTH WITH A PRECIOUS METALS IRA

You can easily roll over funds from your current IRA - tax deferred and without penalty.

TANGIBLE ASSET

Precious metals are a tangible asset with a value that has no counter-party or credit risk.

OUTPERFORM U.S. INDICES

Precious metals repeatedly outperform the NASDAQ, S&P 500 and the DOW - the three major U.S. Indices.

SAFE HAVEN

Historically, physical precious metals have been a great hedge against inflation and are a proven safe haven from economic uncertainty.

LOWER PORTFOLIO RISK

Having physical ownership of precious metals lowers overall portfolio risk by diversifying assets away from paper.



SILVER DOLLAR 3-COIN SET



Only **\$129**

Ask us how to get the Silver Dollar 3-coin set for **only \$99!**

TEXAS BULLION EXCHANGE

The Lone Star State's Most Trusted Dealer!®

No Credit Card Fees!

CALL TODAY! (855) 344-2646

Promo Code: GUN0725



Discounted shipping to first 100 callers!

Order online at www.TexasBullion.com.

Special discounts on orders over \$10,000!

Protect your wealth for generations to come.

Request your **FREE TBE Wealth Protection Guide!**



Offer valid through 07/31/2025. Prices and availability subject to change due to market consideration. Limit (3) of each item listed at promo price. Some coins enlarged to show detail. Condition/years of Silver Dollar 3-coin Set will vary. Texas Bullion Exchange, Inc. has a 10-15 day shipping policy. There is a 5-day inspection period upon arrival. Any returns after the 5-day period will be subject to a 20% restocking fee.

HUNTERS OF

PART V: WHICH WORLD WAR II BOLT-ACTION SNIPER RIFLE WAS THE BEST?



Zf.39 SCOPE RETICLE

MAUSER
K98K ZF.39
7.92X57MM



NO. 32 SCOPE RETICLE

ENFIELD
NO. 4 MK1(T)
.303 BRITISH

GUNMEN

BY DAVE EMARY
PHOTOS BY MARK FINGAR



PU SCOPE RETICLE

MOSIN-NAGANT
91/30 PU
7.62X54R



M73 SCOPE RETICLE

SPRINGFIELD
ARMORY
M1903A4
.30-'06 SPRINGFIELD

WE EMBARKED ON A JOURNEY to examine and evaluate four World War II bolt-action sniper rifles using issued ammunition or handloads made to period specifications. Much ink has been spilled on the history and details of each configuration, beginning with the March 2025 issue through the June 2025 issue of *Guns & Ammo*. Through our research, we have learned that little material exists that document how these rifles performed in combat using the ammunition that was available to soldiers. A few contemporary memoirs of snipers give some insight into the performance, but they don't precisely describe how accurate or effective these rifles were.

The first consideration that needed to be defined was the role of a sniper during World War II, which was to deliver accurate, long-range fire on high-value targets, distances beyond the range of regular infantry. Sniper employment also involved a single man or team to stop or delay an infantry advance and demoralize the enemy. High-value targets included officers and non-commissioned officers (NCOs), members of crew-served arms such as machine guns, mortars and artillery, and enemy snipers. There are accounts that describe the duels between snipers, and many recorded engagements of a single sniper/team stopping and delaying a company level advance for hours were recorded. These roles were performed from a concealed position and at a range typically spanning 100 to 500 yards.

The British, German and Soviet armies provided snipers training to accomplish these mission requirements. I am not aware of any training manuals or specific schools operated by the U.S. Army or Marines for snipers during the war. My father's experience, Robert Emary, involved being issued a Model 1903A4 rifle and being told to go to the range and shoot. On a tactical level, the same mission requirements existed for U.S. snipers but the craft was often self-taught or learned through survival.

As his primary task, my father was directed to be well ahead of his unit, I Company, 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment (PIR). He was to locate German positions, either by observation or taking fire, and then to engage the enemy's position to guide the rest of the company to fire for effect. Dad said snipers were trained in England — prior to the Holland jump — to fire tracer ammunition at targets and then quickly move. He told me that he was not about to do that because the Germans would immediately know where he was.



Rifles were compared on a remote New Mexico range using a bullseye for zeroing and 100-yard accuracy testing, followed by three-shot groups on silhouette targets from 200 to 500 yards.

PERFORMANCE SUMMARY

It is time to sum up the performance of the K98k Zf.39, Enfield No. 4 Mk 1 (T), 91-30 PU, and M1903A4 sniper rifles described in Parts I through IV. Considering the positive and negative aspects, the effectiveness at distance of each rifle system will be rated based on performance with the ammunition available to snipers at that time.

The tables illustrate the results of the four rifles detailed

in this series. It was not an exhaustive test, and this evaluation was limited in how much period ammunition was available. Rifles, optics and ammunition were tested to a range of 500 yards, a long shot for that time. Nonetheless, the tests provided insight into what the average sniper could achieve with them. Limitations were revealed, and the results cast doubt on certain myths and feats that have been portrayed on the silver screen and on the pages of popular novels.

Several things became apparent when comparing G&A's results. The Springfield Armory M1903A4 was the least accurate rifle when fed period ammunition, but it was nearly the most accurate with modern, high-quality ammunition. This analysis conclusively established that the accuracy potential of period U.S. ammunition was likely not on par with other countries' ammunition. The U.S. sniper using an M1903A4 was a little handicapped due to the poor accuracy of his ammunition. The three other rifles were reasonably accurate with period ammunition. It was also interesting to note that the K98k with Zf.39 scope outperformed the other rifles at 500 yards. This was likely due to the heavy bullet with higher ballistic coefficient (BC) found with our German ammunition. German ammunition performed better in windy conditions, too. Both days of testing in central New Mexico experienced windy conditions.

ADVANTAGES & DISADVANTAGES

There was no perfect rifle, and the period optics left something to be desired. The American-issue Springfield Armory M1903A4 featured a smooth bolt operation, had a reasonable scoped overall weight of 9½ pounds, a clean 4-pound trigger, and a low-mounted scope that supported a comfortable cheekweld with the stock. The M73 scope provided the sniper with precise and repeatable quarter-MOA scope adjustments. It had a fine crosshair, which enhanced precision shooting at 100-yard ranges on bullseye targets, but the reticle proved to be a disadvantage when engaging targets beyond 300 yards.

SUPERIORITY

IN ITS *PRIME*

COMPENSATED SLIDE W/ PORTED BARREL
NIGHT VISION TRITIUM NIGHT SIGHTS
SLIDE LIGHTENING CUTS
FULL GRIP STIPPLING
DIAMOND CUT FLAT FACE TRIGGER
INTEGRALLY FLARED MAGAZINE WELL
2x 17 ROUND MAGAZINES
REVERSIBLE **G-CODE** IWB/OWB HOLSTER

METE
MC9

PRIME

— ○ MECANIK M04 OPTIC COMING SOON



CANIK
SUPERIOR FIREARMS

CANIKUSA.COM

FOLLOW @CANIKUSA :   

There were other issues with the M1903A4, namely mediocre accuracy with period ammunition. The rifle's Mauser-type safety was less useful, as well, and snipers couldn't readily zero the M73 scope turrets. Finally, the low 2.75X fixed magnification in the scope did not provide human target resolution at or beyond 500 yards.

The Soviet-issue Mosin-Nagant 91/30 heavier than the M1903A4, but still re-pounds. The 91/30 was an established platform for the sniper rifle, and the 7.62x54R a predictable round available in the same configuration across Russia's battle rifles and machine guns. The PU scope enhanced the 91/30, improving its accuracy potential at long ranges. The scope turrets were easy to zero, and the elevation turret calibration proved precise with standard-issue light ball ammunition. Adjustments were repeatable. The PU contained a sharply pointed post reticle that was useful with its 3.5X magnification. The PU scope offered snipers good resolution on man targets beyond 500 yards, in fact.

The few negatives for the 91/30 PU are obvious, perhaps. It had a stiff, clunky bolt to cycle and a difficult safety to operate. Underneath was a mushy trigger. The trigger was light, though, but its sensitive second stage took some getting used to. The PU scope hovers atop the action as it was mounted very high, yielding a poor cheekweld; for some, there is no cheekweld at all. This would not have been conducive to accurate shooting on a dynamic battlefield, and snipers often created their own comb riser for precision work.

The British Enfield No. 4 Mk 1 (T) in .303 British was built with clear intent to be a sniper's rifle. The bolt was extremely smooth, and the safety was easy to operate. The rifle provided snipers with a 10-round capacity and an excellent 5-pound trigger. Best of all was the wooden comb secured to the stock that supported a comfortable cheekweld. These features enabled its accuracy potential, which wasn't surprising given that the best shooting rifles were selected for sniper enhancements. Unfortunately, a drawback to the No. 4 Mk 1 (T) was its heavy 11½-pound scoped weight.

The most significant disadvantages to the No. 4 Mk 1 (T) are with its No. 32 scope. The modest 3.5X magnification

of the optic and heavy post reticle made human-target resolution beyond 500 yards difficult. Further, there was crosstalk between the windage and elevation turret with some scopes. Snipers learned to use only the elevation turret to dial the distance to the target and hold off for windage. There was significant backlash in both elevation and windage turrets used on the Mk II versions. To add, the elevation turret was not well calibrated to shooting issued ammunition and adjustments became progressively higher than the turret's scale beyond 300 yards.

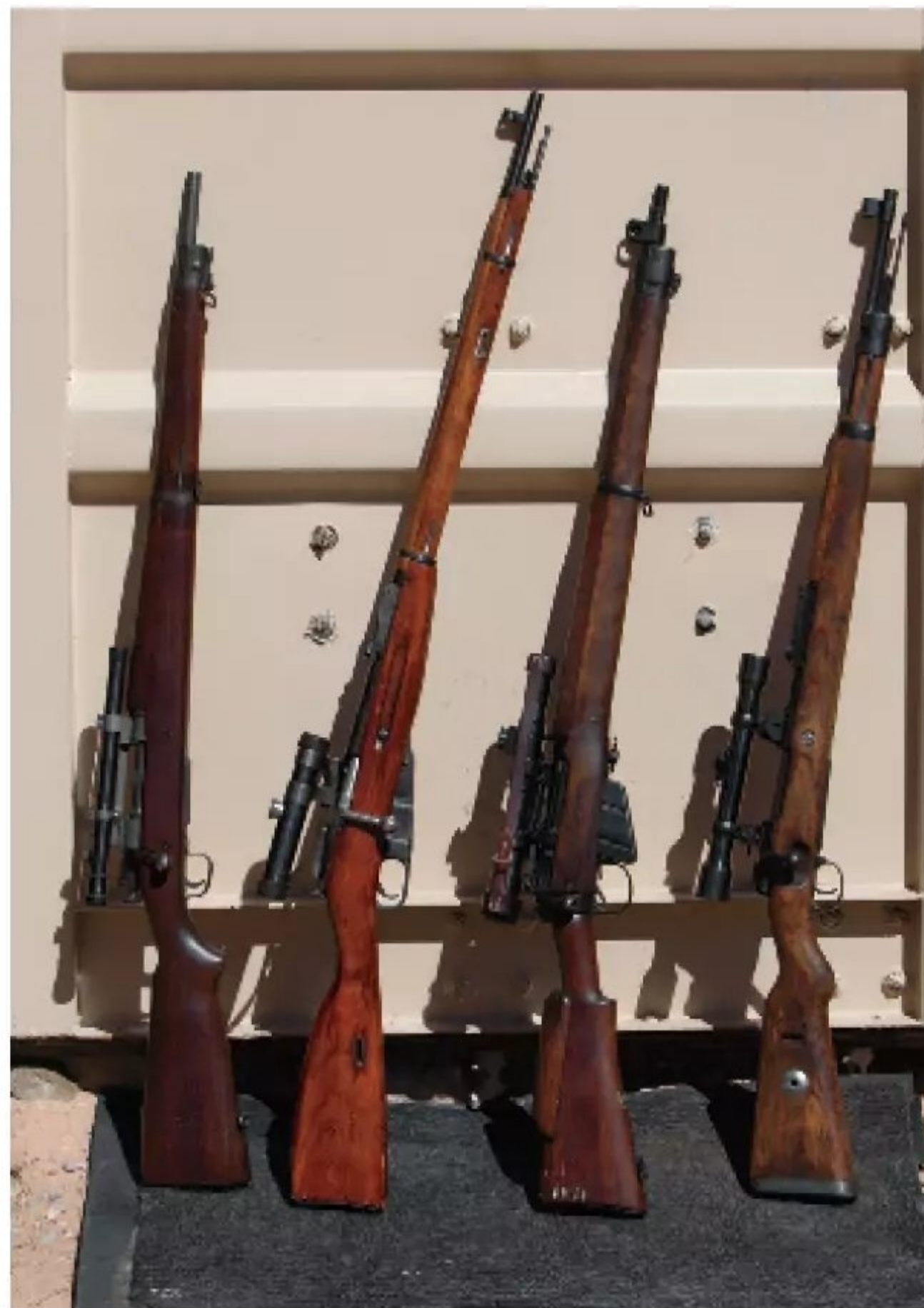
The German Mauser K98k Zf.39 was an accurate rifle, and its fixed 4X scope had the best optics of all World War II sniper scopes. Accuracy and the optic are where the list of advantages end. The K98k maintained the rifle's reputation for a heavy trigger at 6 pounds, 11 ounces; at least it was crisp. The bolt was stiff and clunky, as was the safety. After manipulating the controls, the sniper was met with the hardest felt recoil impulse due in part to the 7.92x57mm cartridge and high-mounted scope that lent the poorest cheekweld.

The Zf.39 scope was difficult to zero precisely, and windage adjustments in the rear ring base were challenging. Adjustments during shooting were not possible, so hold-offs for wind were required. Despite the scope's elevation mechanism was crude. Though it weighed less than the Mk 1 (T), it was still a heavy rifle and did little to manage felt recoil.

RANKING THE RIFLES

4. Mauser K98k Zf.39, 7.92x57mm The Mauser K98k was a good rifle capable of good accuracy. The Zf.39 scope limited the rifle's effectiveness as a sniper rifle. There was no capability for windage adjustment in the scope; the only windage adjustment was a coarse adjustment in the rear ring. The elevation mechanism was coarse, too, and not very repeatable; it was difficult to achieve precise adjustments. The scope is positioned quite high, barely

supporting chin contact for a reference. Shooting the K98k without some recoil protection became uncomfortable quickly. The rifle would have required an experienced and proficient shooter



(Above, left to right): The M1903A4 measured 43 inches; Mosin-Nagant 91/30 PU was 48½ inches; Enfield No. 4 Mk 1(T) was 44½ inches; and Mauser K98k Zf.39 was tested at 43.7 inches in length.

MAUSER K98K ZF.39

AMMUNITION	VEL. (FPS)	ES	SD	RIFLE/AMMUNITION ACCURACY (IN.)					TOTAL AVG. (MOA)
				100 YDS.	200 YDS.	300 YDS.	400 YDS.	500 YDS.	
1939 s.S. Patrone	2,552	17	7	2.63	3.88	3.75	5.13	5.5	
1939 S.m.K.	2,580	48	21	1.88	3.38	7.75	4.88	12.9	
1940 s.S. Patrone*	2,494	32	14	—	2.25	5	8	12	
Handload Nosler 200 BTHP, 4064	2,366	23	10	2.25	—	—	—	—	
Average MOA				2.15	1.51	1.75	1.43	1.93	1.76

Velocity information was measured using Labrador. *The quantity of ammunition was limited.

REMINGTON PRESENTS

THE NEW ERA OF LEVERGUN DOMINANCE

STUD BUCK

VS

CORE-LOKT TIPPED[®]
LEVERGUN



THE DEADLIEST
MUSHROOM IN
THE WOODS[™],
NOW EVEN
DEADLIER.



POLYMER TIP • ULTIMATE LONG-RANGE PERFORMANCE • SUPER-TUNED AERODYNAMICS • BIG-GREEN POLYMER TIP • ULTIMATE
RETENTION • MATCH-GRADE ACCURACY • MASSIVE 2X EXPANSION • HIGH WEIGHT RETENTION • MATCH-GRADE ACCURACY

BUY TODAY REMINGTON.COM

MODEL
2020
RIMFIRE



SPRINGFIELD ARMORY MODEL 1903A4

AMMUNITION	VEL. (FPS)	ES	SD	RIFLE/AMMUNITION ACCURACY (IN.)					TOTAL AVG. (MOA)
				100 YDS.	200 YDS.	300 YDS.	400 YDS.	500 YDS.	
Denver 44 Ball M2*	—	—	—	2.75	7	11	—	—	
LC 44 AP M2	2,807	21	10	2.63	6.13	8	9	12.5	
LC 53 Ball M2*	2,740	32	15	—	5	9.5	8	16	
TW 53 M2 AP	2,725	101	41	1.75	2.88	6.5	6.13	13.5	
Handload 168 AMAX N135	2,678	25	10	1.06	—	—	—	—	
Average MOA				1.73	2.00	1.85	1.84	2.67	2.02

Velocity information was measured using Labradar. *The quantity of ammunition was limited.

ENFIELD NO. 4 MK 1 (T)

AMMUNITION	VEL. (FPS)	ES	SD	RIFLE/AMMUNITION ACCURACY (IN.)					TOTAL AVG. (MOA)
				100 YDS.	200 YDS.	300 YDS.	400 YDS.	500 YDS.	
Radway 42 Mk VII	2,439	29	14	.88	1.63	6.5	4.25	13.5**	
Royal Laboratories 54 Mk VII*	2,473	56	26	1.13	4.63	15.75	9.25		
WRA 43 Mk VII*	2,444	64	28	4.75	16.5				
Handload 174 MK 37.5; 2495	2,188	54	19	1.38					
Average MOA				.96	.75	3.54	1.61	2.58	1.89

Velocity was measured using Labradar. *The quantity of ammunition was limited. *Did not test further due to accuracy. **Elevation was 5.5 inches.

MOSIN-NAGANT 91/30 PU

AMMUNITION	VEL. (FPS)	ES	SD	RIFLE/AMMUNITION ACCURACY (IN.)					TOTAL AVG. (MOA)
				100 YDS.	200 YDS.	300 YDS.	400 YDS.	500 YDS.	
45 Light Ball*	2,621	30	6	—	4	4.75	5.25	10	
71 Bulgarian 147 Steel Core	2,832	55	24	1.38	2.5	2.25	5.6	15.5**	
20 RAS 147 Light Ball	2,830	40	16	1.5	3.75	2.25	5.5	13.5***	
Handload 174 MK 4064	2,817	76	33	3	—	—	—	—	
Average MOA				1.87	1.63	.98	1.3	2.48	1.65

Velocity information was measured using Labradar. *The quantity of ammunition was limited. **Elevation measured 6 inches. ***Elevation measured 4 inches.

to be used effectively in combat. The best way to set up the rifle was to zero the optic for 300 yards and then to never touch it; snipers used hold over/under techniques and hold-offs for wind. The combination of a heavy post reticle and needing to estimate different holds for long engagements limited the rifle’s effective range to about 500 yards.

3. Springfield Armory Model 1903A4, .30-’06 Springfield In my opinion, the M1903A4 with Weaver 330-C scope was the best all-around rifle and optic combination during World War II. It likely has the greatest accuracy potential of the rifles, but the ammunition available to the GI sniper would have limited his effectiveness and maximum range. The M1903A4 was the lightest of the scoped rifles, and it exhibited a smooth bolt and a nice trigger.

The low-mounted Weaver 330-C scope allowed for somewhat of a cheekweld, too, but the scope was the most fragile of the group. If it was handled carefully and protected, it was capable of precise and repeatable adjustments. The Weaver 330-C produced the least amount of backlash and crosstalk and was the most repeatable scope of the four tested. The scope was limited by its low 2.75X magnification, but the fine crosshair helped overcome the limited magnification from 100 to 300 yards. When shooting period ammunition, the M1904A3 was effective to 400 yards — and maybe 500 yards with a known Lot of ammunition, time, and a skilled shooter. I have competed several times with this rifle in CMP’s Vintage Sniper Rifle Match and can confirm that it was capable of nearly 1 MOA accuracy at 600 yards with superior ammunition.

2. Enfield No. 4 Mk 1 (T), .303 British Although the British sniper came in a close third in accuracy to the K98k Zf.39, the overall package of the No. 4 Mk 1 (T) was quite good. The cheekpiece was a big advantage for the British sniper, as was the smooth bolt and 10-round magazine. G&A's two examples showed good accuracy potential with certain loads. The No. 32 scope was a solid design, but it suffered from a bit of backlash in the turrets. This could be overcome if one was careful and tracked the direction they rotated the turrets. The 3.5X scope, with its heavy post reticle, limits the maximum effective range of this rifle. A sniper with a good shooting Lot of ammunition would have been effective to 500 yards, and probably 600 yards at the outside. To a sniper's disadvantage was the rifle's heavy weight, which was noticeable when picking it up and carrying it after handling the other three sniper rifles.

1. Mosin-Nagant 91/30 PU, 7.62x54R The Mosin-Nagant 91/30 PU exhibited the highest level of accuracy among World War II sniper rifles with period ammunition. That is not to say that there were not specific Lots of ammunition encountered that didn't shoot well because there were. However, the 91/30 PU benefited from the most useable scope with small amounts of backlash and crosstalk. The elevation turret scale matched well to Soviet-issue light ball ammunition. The high scope mount required an uncomfortable shooting position with essentially a "chin weld." Due to the small and sharp post reticle, and decent sight resolution that coupled with accurate fire downrange, a skilled sniper with a Lot of quality ammunition could have been effective to 600 or 700



Dave and Robert Emary pose with the M1903A4 during the CMP Vintage Sniper Rifle Match at Camp Perry in 2011.

yards with this rifle. I have competed several times with the 91/30 in CMP's Vintage Sniper Rifle Match. If one is careful with the turrets and keeps backlash in mind, accurate fire is achievable to 600 yards.

PARTING SHOT

This evaluation gave us a fresh appreciation for World War II snipers, and for the advancements in sniping since. More importantly, shooting these artifacts provided us with a tangible connection to an important moment in world history. 

WILSON COMBAT

SHOOT FLAT & FAST

COMPED BARREL OPTION

Upgrade your **EDC X9** or **SFX9** with the Wilson Combat Double Stack Comp Barrel, precision machined from 416R stainless steel.

This premium upgrade cuts felt recoil and muzzle rise by up to 30%, giving you faster follow-up shots and better control with every pull of the trigger.

SUBCOMPACT
20% RECOIL REDUCTION

COMPACT
30% RECOIL REDUCTION

EDC X9 2.0 3.25" COMP

SFX9 4" COMP

Available in compact and subcompact lengths, the comped barrel adds minimal weight while delivering a noticeable boost in accuracy and handling. Choose a full top-end upgrade through our Custom Shop or build it into your next carry or range pistol.

 SCAN QR TO LEARN MORE

BUILD YOURS AT WILSONCOMBAT.COM

Smith & Wesson M&P9 M2.0 Compact CA Compliant

SMITH & WESSON
M&P9 M2.0 COMPACT
CA COMPLIANT

TYPE	Recoil operated, striker fire, semiautomatic
CARTRIDGE	9mm
CAPACITY	10+1 rds.
BARREL	4 in., stainless steel, 1:10-in. twist
LENGTH	7 in.
WIDTH	1.5 in.
HEIGHT	5 in.
WEIGHT	1 lb., 10 oz. (tested)
GRIP	Polymer, M2.0 Compact, black
FINISH	Armornite (stainless steel)
TRIGGER	5 lbs. (tested)
SIGHTS	White dot post (front); notch, two white dot (rear)
SAFETY	Thumb lever, trigger lever
MSRP	\$749 (tested)
MANUFACTURER	Smith & Wesson, 800-331-0852, smith-wesson.com



MR. SMITH GOES TO CALIFORNIA

SMITH & WESSON'S first foray into the striker-fire, polymer pistol segment was in 2005 with the M&P. The pistol was a hit with law enforcement and the civilian market clamoring for a U.S.-made pistol alternative to Glock. Smith & Wesson released the updated M&P M2.0 in the March 2017 issue of *Guns & Ammo*. It took another eight years before Californians saw the M&P M2.0 in their gun shops.

CALIFORNIA COMPLIANT

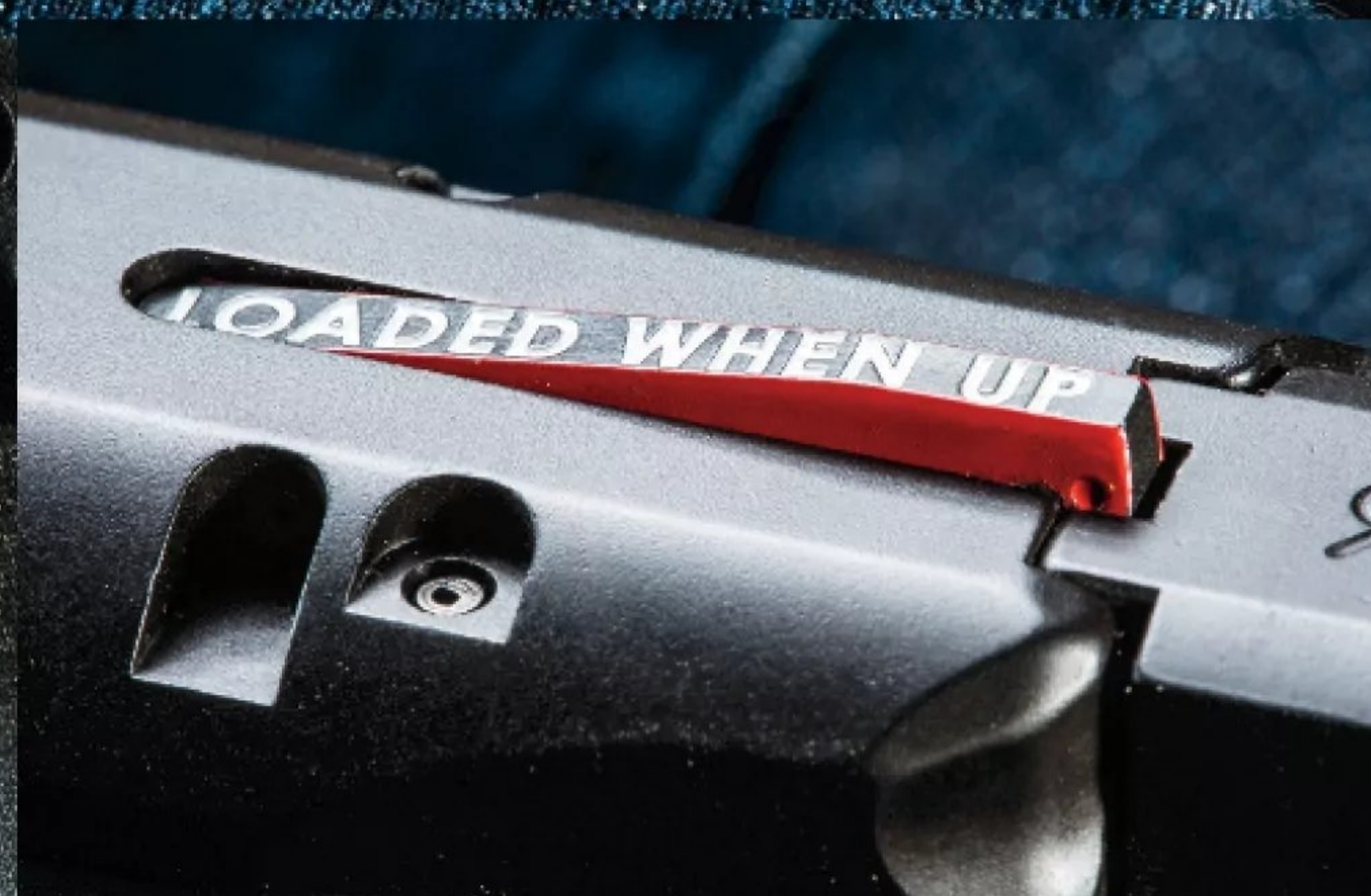
The M&P M2.0 Full-Size and Compact models are not Smith & Wesson's first striker-fire, polymer-frame pistols available to California. The M&P Shield entered its market in 2012 before California required pistols to microstamp firearm details onto the cartridge via the firing pin. Once the microstamping amendment was added to the Unsafe Handgun Act (UHA), no semiautomatic handgun could be approved for sale in the state unless it had this feature. No firearms manufacturer adopted the dubious technology, which left Californians with handgun options from 2012 or earlier. The 2023 amendment was temporarily suspended until 2027, opening the door for new handguns.

Although one ridiculous hurdle was moved out of the way, three obstacles remain. Semiautomatic handguns must be tested by certified labs to ensure they fire without malfunctioning and do not discharge when dropped. They must also feature a loaded chamber indicator and a magazine disconnect.

Since the M&P M2.0 Full Size and Compact didn't include those features as standard, design changes were made to comply with the UHA.



The 10-round magazine is the same length as comparable models, but the mag body was trimmed and fitted with a large basepad, preventing it from being converted to a larger capacity.



The loaded chamber indicator with permanent markings are required in California to comply with state law.

NO LIMITS JUST RESULTS™



► RIDGELINE FFT



WHEN OTHERS QUIT,
KEEP GOING
LEARN MORE AT
CHRISTENSENARMS.COM





When depressed, the safety blade is flush to the face of the trigger.

CONTROLS

The pistol is left- and right-hand friendly. The thumb safety lever and slide-stop are on each side of the M&P. The serrated takedown lever is left-side only, and rotates down. Fieldstripping the M&P is a little funky, but most can accomplish the task. With the mags removed and no round in the chamber, lock the slide back. Then, remove the frame tool located on the bottom of the grip. Use it to lower the sear release lever found inside the magazine well when looking through the ejection port. The sear-release lever is yellow to distinguish it from other parts. The design eliminates the need to press the trigger before removing the slide, as necessary on certain pistols such as Glock's.

FRAME

The M2.0 grip texture is tacky when squeezed, and the grip will accommodate many hand sizes. The grip texture is like a soft 220-grit sandpaper that covers three-quarters of the surface. Traction doesn't feel irritatingly abrasive against the skin, though. Combined with the rounded and tapered contours, the 18-degree angled grip filled our hands nicely. To tailor the fit, the pistol includes four interchangeable palm swell inserts.

Other welcomed features include an embedded chassis to reduce flex and torque, a rail for mounting lights and lasers and an undercut triggerguard, which raises the hand closer to the bore for better recoil management.

The low capacity, 10-round magazines are an interesting hybrid of metal and plastic. They are composed of an upper and lower body. Three-quarters of the body is metal while the lower body is a 1-inch-tall plastic base. The lower body serves as the baseplate and 10-round limiter. It is removable for cleaning, and the design prevents converting the magazine to a greater capacity.

DRY RUN

While some may scoff at a manual safety on a striker-fired



The thumb safety lever and slide release are bilateral controls.



The slide is easily removed from the frame and disassembled for maintenance.



Serrated, white-dot steel sights are standard.

pistol, it is generally well regarded among Californians. With a proper grip, the thumb naturally contacts the lever on the draw stroke. The lever gives way with little effort as it is pressed during the draw. If you are not accustomed to having a thumb safety, the location and mechanical operation of the lever are akin to that on a Model 1911. The ambidextrous safety lever is covered by some hol-

sters and may affect fitment, so checking this is important before carrying this pistol. A benefit to the bilateral thumb safety lever is that the opposite side allows the user to intuitively confirm the safety lever's status when holstered.

Curious about the trigger, a Lyman A-Zoom StrikerCap (\$11, lymanproducts.com) was used to dryfire the pistol. Pressing the trigger, the takeup was long, but the wall of resistance gave way predictably with each shot. The reset was short and speedy.

Reloads were smooth, thanks in part to the polished finish to the magazine body. The frame tool juts .3 inch from the bottom of the grip, making it a large landmark when guide the magazine into the well.

Minor quibbles about the pistol are that it is not optic

DO MORE

WITH YOUR DR® TRIMMER MOWER

Every DR® Trimmer Mower gives you **MORE**

POWER – trim and mow tall grass and weeds with up to 5X more power than handheld trimmers.

VERSATILITY – mow everywhere a bladed mower can't with the toughest trimmer cord available.

FEATURES – including an all-steel frame, adjustable handlebar, and available self-propulsion.

CHOICE – Walk-, Tow-Behind, and Electric models available.

PRO XLT

USA ENGINEERED AND BUILT SINCE 1985

Assembled in the USA using domestic and foreign parts.

Conquer MORE of Your Seasonal Chores with DR®

DR® Field & Brush Mowers are Built to Last, Engineered to Perform

- Up to 2X the power of the competition to mow thick overgrown fields and saplings up to 3" thick
- Commercial, Electric, Walk- and Tow-Behind models available

Haul up to 800 lbs. with a DR® Powerwagon

- Self-propelled hauler
- Powers up hills with ease
- Powered dumping
- Converts to a flatbed

Make Your Driveway Like New with a DR® Power Grader

- Fill in potholes and smooth out washboards
- Loosen and redistribute existing material
- Tow with your ATV, UTV, or tractor



Scan the code to shop **DRPower.com** today
or request a free catalog!

Toll-free: 800-790-5917 | FREE SHIPPING options available





The frame tool is a great backstop when reloading. It's flush to the mag's basepad.



One of the four palm-swell grip inserts accommodates most hand sizes.



A Blackhawk Stache IWB holster was used to test the M&P M2.0 A concealment claw presses the grip towards the body. \$45

ready, and the white dot sights are basic. They are steel though, unlike standard Glock sights. Still, there exists an extensive aftermarket that supports Smith & Wesson pistols with other sights. Blacking out the two rear dots is a simple no-cost way to change the sighting experience.

AT THE RANGE

Once brass started flying, the M&P M2.0 Compact demonstrated its worth as an everyday pistol for those living in California. The ergonomics remain fantastic from the moment the hand grasps the pistol grip, to the low felt

SnapSafe®
A Hornady® Company

Under Bed Safe offers over the top security!

Discover this space-saving way to keep firearms, jewelry, documents, and other valuables safe and secure. Smooth sliding drawer has programmable digital lock with key backup and is made of heavy-duty 14 gauge steel.

1-877-214-4470
snapsafe.com



Many full-size SUVs will accommodate the XXL Under Bed Safe and the Large Under Bed Safe fits most smaller SUVs.



The M&P9 M2.0 Compact is a proven design for iron-sight shooters.

recoil of the first fired shot. The grip felt well-planted in the hand. The M2.0 grip texture continues to provide confident control without slippage. Even when shooting one-handed, the pistol does not shift. It's not too abrasive, but just gritty enough. Smith & Wesson found that "just right" "Goldilocks" fit. With the preferred backstrap installed, the M&P9 M2.0 Compact gets on target naturally and quickly. Follow-up shots are fast, but with only 10 rounds you're quickly faced with needing to reload. Each timed blast at the target expended an average of six rounds, a Bill Drill.

PERFORMANCE

LOAD	VEL. (FPS)	ES	SD	BEST GROUP (IN.)	AVG. GROUP (IN.)
Federal PD Punch 124-gr. JHP	1,002	22	7	1.2	3.04
Fiocchi Range Dyn. 124-gr. FMJ	1,107	48	14	2.1	3.2
Hornady Am. Gun. 115-gr. XTP	1,101	58	16	3	3.65
Sellier & Bellot 115-gr. FMJ	1,166	26	6	2.5	4.23
Marshall Munit. 124-gr. FMJ	1,165	10	3	3.2	4.52

Notes: Accuracy is the average of five five-shot groups fired at 25 yards from a sand-bag benchrest. Velocity is the average of 10 shots recorded by a Garmin Xero C1 Pro chronograph placed adjacent to the muzzle.

Still, the polished magazines, the excellent grip design — including the 18-degree grip angle — and frame tool help to guide magazines like a funnel until they're secured by the ambidextrous magazine release button.

When pressing the trigger slowly for accurate shooting, some triggers get progressively heavier just before the sear is released. When the sear does let go, the release in tension makes the trigger feel like it's crashing. That's not so with the M&P9 M2.0 Compact. Its trigger is smooth throughout the travel. It fired clean and without drama.

Californians can expect the same level of performance from the compliant M&P9 M2.0 as users of standard capacity models. While the Golden State's laws are unfair and unreasonable, the compliant M&P9 M2.0 will serve well until the day full rights are restored to its law-abiding citizens. **G&A**

10MM 115 Gr. HoneyBadger™

23" penetration in ballistic gelatin

Terminal performance equal to or superior to a .44 Magnum 240 Gr. JHP

Potentially 2.5x the number of rounds available in the weapon



Velocity 1600 FPS
Energy 654 FT LBS



Ammunition

**TO LOCATE A DEALER
NEAR YOU, CALL 800.568.6625
WWW.BLACK-HILLS.COM**





ED BROWN KOBRA CARRY

25TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION

*Celebrating 25 years of the Kobra Carry
the most popular custom 1911 of all time*



LIMITED EDITION - ONE YEAR ONLY
ED BROWN BOBTAIL®
ED BROWN SNAKESKIN
"25TH ANNIVERSARY" FRAME ENGRAVING
EB LOGO ON GRIPS
FLAT WIRE RECOIL SYSTEM



edbrown.com



Let's have a chat.



ANTONIO ACITELLI

CONVERSATION STARTERS

WHILE THE HIGHLIGHTS are what make it to this page of Guns & Ammo magazine, the majority of time I've spent hunting and shooting hasn't involved pulling a trigger. Instead, busywork and downtime consumes the lion's share of work hours in the field; loading ammunition, range work, setting up shooting lanes, sitting in a blind, catching up on editing and resting in camp. The same could be said for G&A's staff. Some of the conversations had during downtime have resulted in articles, if not in print, online at gunsandammo.com. Usually, though, conversations simply serve to enhance an article.

Oftentimes we simply wonder what the readership would think of our situations. No surprise, Craig Boddington has more hunting stories than I have lived experiences! So, whenever I get the opportunity to ask him about his career I take it. One recent conversation dealt with the myriad cartridges and rifles he has seen in



[HTTPS://WWW.GUNSANDAMMO.COM/DEERCAMPGUNS](https://www.gunsandammo.com/deercampguns)

DEER CAMP FAVORITES
Boddington has seen many rifles in camp. These are the ones that made him smile.



deer camp. At the end, I asked if he'd like to put those thoughts to paper. He was happy to oblige. That conversation gave us a popular piece on the rifles found at various deer camps that made him smile. Some through sentiment, others through novelty. A few demanded his appreciation due to their effectiveness.

From an editor's perspective, a great benefit to such conversational articles is that they're usually ever-green. "Just One Gun" by Kyle Lamb was originally published in the February 2023 issue. It sparked many

conversations with readers through letters and emails. When it was published online and on social media, even more readers wrote in to share opinions on their "one gun."

Similarly, James Tarr's analysis of evolutionary changes to carry guns through the decades drew a lot of feedback following its publication in February 2024, and again on the web.

If there's a debate that arises every time you and your friends go to the range or head out to camp, let us know about it! Email us at gaeditor@outdoorsg.com to start a new conversation.

TOP COMMENTS

In response to "Connect" column's "Quick Response," May 2025:

Thank you for offering up the opportunity to give G&A some feedback on the use of QR codes. Personally, I find them OK to use, but my preference is for QR codes that take me to a video — a demo of a given product for example — rather than to additional articles. If I want to read more, I'll turn the page within the magazine, pick up a manual, or book. — John H., Email

Please allow readers to use regular links to extra content or surveys in Guns & Ammo instead of just QR codes. Thanks for a great magazine. And don't forget to use old fashioned commo along with the latest forms of communication. The old folks would appreciate it. — Chip M., Email

Message received! We collected loads of feedback from readers on the use and inclusion of QR codes. Many readers asking for a typed link. To test this, we've included a direct link beneath the main article image in this column in addition to the usual QR code. Feel free to let us know if you like this change. Email us at gaeditor@outdoorsg.com.

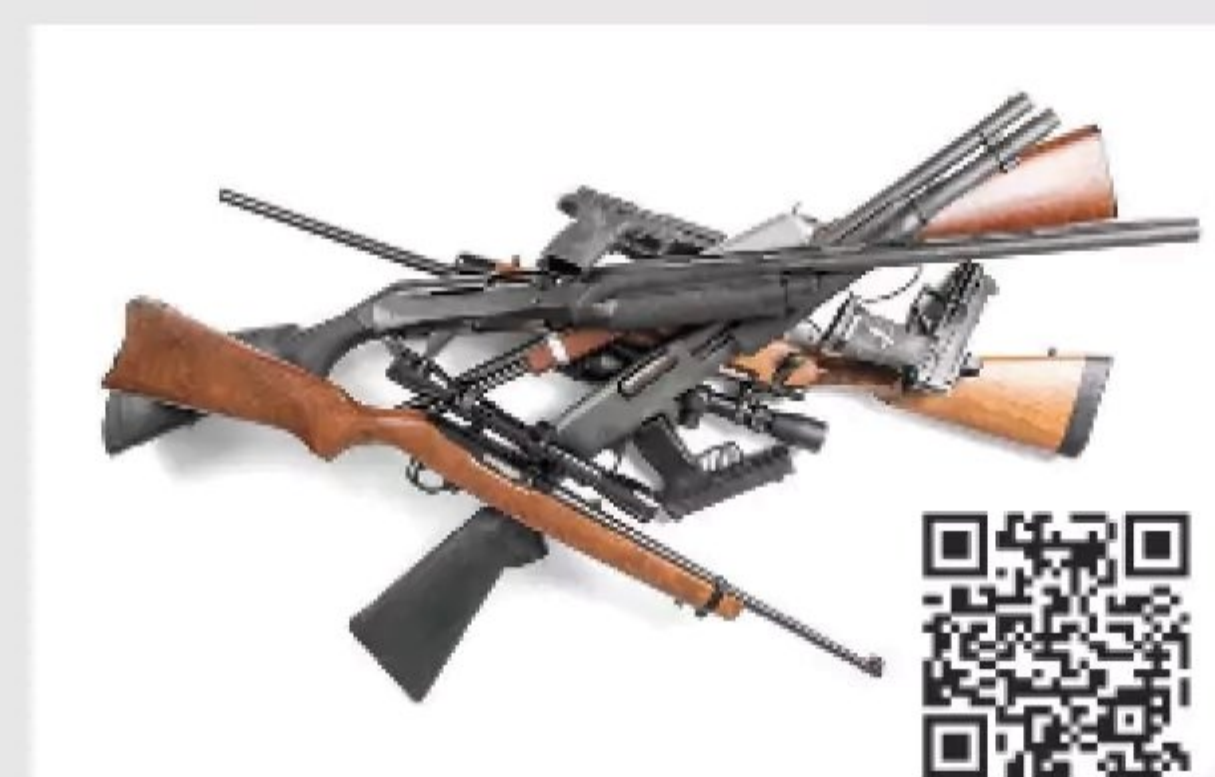
CHANGES TO EVERYDAY CARRY

From the days of the .38-caliber Colt Detective Special to the striker-fired P365 9mm, James Tarr considered changes to carry guns between the decades.



JUST ONE GUN...

SGM Kyle Lamb answered a hypothetical question: "What gun would you choose if you could only keep one?"



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

Senate Bill 3 targets semiautos that accept detachable mags.

COLORADO BLUES

NOT LONG AGO, Colorado was a great state for gun ownership. Its wide-open spaces and beautiful weather made it a hub for competitive and recreational shooting. For hunters, it was a paradise. Then “Colorful Colorado” turned blue.

With its population growth fed by an influx of West Coast voters, Colorado effectively became a reliably Democratic state in 2008. The last remaining statewide elected Republican, Senator Cory Gardner, lost his seat in 2020.

When it came to gun control, the Colorado pendulum swung fast. The state enacted a 15-round magazine ban in 2013. A “Red Flag” law passed in 2019. In 2024, the governor signed a slew of bills that expanded gun-free zones, established mandatory storage requirements, increased red tape for gun dealers and even imposed an excise tax on guns and ammunition. If it seemed like it couldn’t get any worse, 2025 proved that it could.

In April, Gov. Jared Polis, a Democrat (D), signed legislation that will ban the manufacture and severely restrict the possession of many semiautomatic firearms. The bill’s author, Sen. Tom Sullivan, D, became a gun control activist after his son was murdered by a mass shooter in an Aurora, Colorado, movie theater in 2012. Initially, the bill was to be an outright ban, but amendments were made after Polis threatened to veto the measure. Even then, three Senate Democrats voted with Republicans in an effort to defeat the bill.

The bill that was signed will require a permit to purchase or possess a centerfire semiautomatic rifle or pistol with a detachable magazine. Recoil-operated handguns are exempt, as are specified rifles including M1 Carbines, M1As

and Mini-14s. (I guess guns with wooden stocks are less scary.) This requirement goes into effect August 1, 2026.

Obtaining a permit will require completion of a firearm safety course developed by the Colorado Department of Parks and Wildlife. Two in-person courses will be required: A four-hour basic course and a 12-hour extended course. Students must score 90 percent or better on a test at the conclusion of the course. There will be a fee associated

with each, which has yet to be determined.

Before even completing the course, individuals will be required to obtain a Firearms Safety Course Eligibility Card, issued by the county sheriff. There will be a nonrefundable fee for that application, as well. Sheriffs will have the authority to deny issuing the card, and appealing the decision will require a lawsuit, which, of course, will put an

additional financial burden on the citizen.

This law conjures up easy comparisons to voting barriers enacted during the Jim Crow era. Sure, you can exercise your rights, but only if you pay these fees, pass this test and jump through these hoops.

Colorado’s new law will have its greatest impact on the state’s most-vulnerable citizens: Regular, hard-working individuals who can’t afford to take time off work to wade through bureaucratic red tape and complete training courses. It will burden retirees on a fixed income who may not have the funds to pay for all of the various fees that are built into the law. It is not a leap of reason to say that this law will limit the self-defense options of those who are most likely to find themselves as victims of a violent crime. Once again, we place our hopes in the courts. Fighting this law — and others like it — will take time and money, but those are resources worth spending to defend our rights. **G&A**





PRODIGY™

N E W C O M P A C T M O D E L S



1911DS

AVAILABLE WITH A 3.5" OR 4.25" DLC BULL BARREL, BUILT AROUND A 15-ROUND DOUBLE-STACK MAGAZINE.

Kimber®

2K II
TARGET



ALUMINUM GRIP MODULE

TOOLLESS GUIDE ROD

GT MATCH GRADE TRIGGER

EXTERNAL EXTRACTOR

3-4LB PULL

STAN CHEN CUSTOMS® MAGWELL

9MM & 45ACP

DURANGO, CO.
STAN CHEN
CUSTOMS

Height: 5.74"

Weight: 40.9oz | 9mm & 40.1oz | 45ACP (Empty Magazine)

Length: 8.56"

Recoil spring: 10lbs | 9mm & 16lbs | 45ACP

**DESIGNED TO COMPETE
ENGINEERED TO WIN!**

KIMBERAMERICA.COM