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NRA™ Official Journal of the National Rifle Association of America

Doug Hamlin, Executive Vice President and Chief Executive Officer

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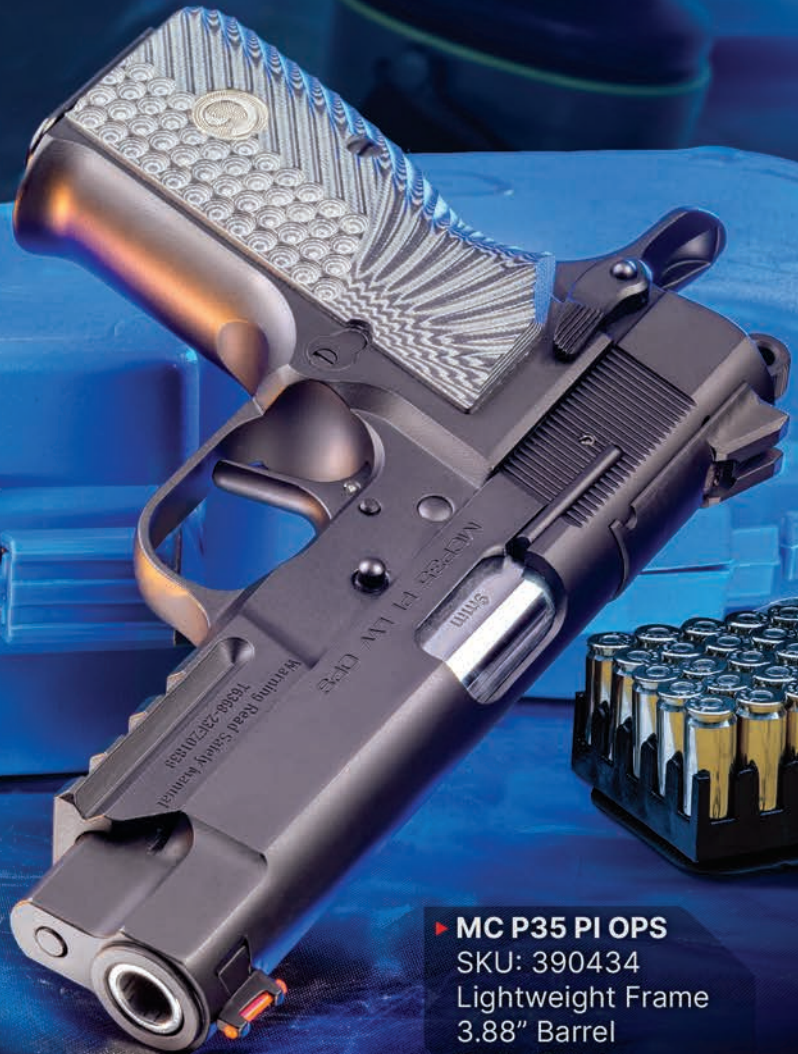
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Get Off My Lawn

Bryce Towsley hit the nail on the head with his September column. We ain't gonna make it, and I couldn't agree more. I have been a firearm enthusiast most of my life, and an armed professional my entire adult life. I've had the honor of serving in the SWAT and Special Forces communities, and since 2011, I've been a firearms instructor. But now, I'm irrelevant because I don't fit the mold. Thanks to social media, if you are not a muscle head in a skin-tight T-shirt, with tattoos up and down your arms and neck, wearing Oakleys, a baseball cap and battle belt,



no one wants to listen to you. The industry has become oversaturated with these peacocks who are all about show instead of substance, split times instead of tactics, and gear instead of practicality. I admit, I'm old school, which is a badge of honor I wear proudly. And I'm proud to have had the instructors and mentors I did, who passed on to me wisdom, not vanity.

Jeff P.
via e-mail

Deafening Defense

I read with great interest Sheriff Jim Wilson's September column, "Simple Scatter Guns." I keep a Remington 870 shotgun with an 18.5-inch barrel stuffed with 20-gauge Remington Express 20-pellet shells in my house for protection. My concern, however, is sound. My wife and I both have hearing loss and wear hearing aids as a result, and I'd imagine for people with healthy hearing, the noise of any firearm being discharged inside a room within a house could be unbearable. Given that every caliber has a different report, would it make sense to use a firearm other than a shotgun (I also have a 9 mm handgun) for home defense to mitigate against the noise factor? What would be your choice when considering the sound issue?

Stephen A. Sroka
Lititz, PA

First of all, let's talk priorities. When dealing with a home invasion, or any criminal attack, our focus should be on surviving the encounter with as few injuries as possible, preferably none. Selection of a defensive firearm should be made based upon our ability to use it effectively, regardless of how much noise it makes. Second, there is an involuntary physical function called fight-or-flight effect where our body, confronted with a serious threat, begins to protect itself. One of these involuntary acts of protection is a tightening of the ear drums. I have personally experienced this, and nearby gunshots sounded quite some distance away. It doesn't necessarily protect one's hearing, but it can mitigate the immediate shock of the firearm report. Finally, you might consider installing suppressors on your home-defense guns. They don't silence the firearm, but they do reduce the noise quite a bit—often to hearing-safe

levels. In that same issue, this publication ran a guide to the new models introduced this year, and that's but a sampling of the suppressors available for all types of firearms.

—**Sheriff Jim Wilson**

No. 4 Galore

I have a few comments about Jeff Johnston's September "Shotguns" column on using No. 4 buckshot for home defense. It was well thought out and I enjoyed reading it. One thing I don't agree with, however, is that No. 4 buck is hard to find. I can buy it off the shelf at any good sporting goods store. It's much more available than No. 1 buckshot, even though No. 1 might be a better choice for defense. Johnston gave us a clue that he might write on that subject in the future, and I hope he does. He also stated that No. 4 buck is relatively unproven. The military used it with duckbill spreaders and could clear a hootch with one shot stuck through a window. I don't think the military would use it if it wasn't effective. He further stated that it is problematic when shooting through cover, and I agree, which is why my defensive shotgun is loaded alternately with No. 4 buck and either 00 buck or slugs in a candy-cane pattern, with No. 4 being first up. If a second shot was needed because the criminal attacker took cover, a slug or 00 buck would be up next.

Pat Murphy
via e-mail

I just read the Jeff Johnston's article about No. 4 buckshot for self-defense. I've been using No. 4 buck as a predator load for years, and have taken coyotes at 70 yards (using a predator choke) with Hornady ammo. With that being said, I also use these rounds for personal defense. I just prefer No. 4 buckshot over 00 buck as I've seen what happens at 70 yards with No. 4, and I've seen people miss deer at the same range with 00 buck. I also understand that all shotguns and shotgun chokes are different. Thanks for a great article.

Tim B.
via e-mail

Correspondence is welcomed and encouraged

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In Houston, Texas, on Aug. 22 around 11 p.m., a homeowner was awakened by a knock on the door. Through his home camera, he saw two men wearing bulletproof vests and badges, claiming to be there to serve a warrant. However, they were also wearing ski masks and the homeowner did not see any other police officers or police vehicles, so he became suspicious and did not open the door. The pretenders then began shooting through his door, so he returned fire and struck both assailants, killing them. Fortunately, their gunfire did not injure him, his wife or his child, and no charges were indicated in the case. (khou.com, Houston, Texas, 8/23/25)

Near midnight on Aug. 3, an intruder entered a home in Rockingham County, Va., and stabbed a 62-year-old woman to death. Her husband got into an altercation with the man and also sustained multiple injuries in the scuffle, which began inside but continued outside. Once outside, the homeowner was able to get a firearm out of his vehicle and shoot the assailant once, killing him and thus ending the attack. The assailant was a Maryland man with no criminal record who'd rented a campsite and then taken a tour in nearby caverns before buying a sleeping bag and large knife from a Walmart. He had apparently broken back into the cavern's gift shop by ramming his car through it sometime after visiting the Walmart, though nothing was stolen. He then abandoned the vehicle, which was found by authorities and linked to the cavern break-in. They began to search for him but did not locate him, even using a drone. No other incidents were called in between the cavern break-in and the home invasion. "I've been in law enforcement for 31 years and I have never seen anything like this in my entire career," the local sheriff said during a press conference. The murdered woman was a longtime teacher in the area and the mother of country music artist Spencer Hatcher, but police said the attack appeared to be completely random. The armed citizen recovered from his injuries and no charges are expected in the case. (wtvr.com, Richmond, Va., 8/11/25)

On the evening of Sept. 6 in Dania Beach, Fla., a man was allegedly robbed at gunpoint in the parking lot of a gas station. The suspected robber then entered the station and robbed the clerk as well. When he returned outside, he reportedly began to run at the man he'd previously robbed, and this time, the victim shot him and then attempted to hold him at gunpoint. As he did so, a third man allegedly attempted to run over the armed citizen, so he jumped out of the way and shot at the driver. Responding police had both suspects transported to the hospital for treatment, where the driver died of his wounds. Police briefly detained the armed

citizen, and the investigation was ongoing. (Broward County Sheriff's Office, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., 9/8/25)

Early on the morning of Sept. 10, officers in Austin, Texas, discovered a vehicle that had been reported stolen in a closed park area. The officers split up to patrol the area while one officer waited for a tow truck to remove the vehicle. As the car was being loaded, a man and a woman approached and claimed it was theirs. They began to return to a wooded area as the officer approached them, so he identified himself and ordered them to stop and show their hands. The woman began to comply but the man reportedly drew a firearm and shot the woman in the head and the officer in the abdomen. The officer returned fire, but the suspect was able to flee. He was spotted a few hours later near a school, and the school's security officer attempted to detain him, but the man continued to run. Officers soon located him again, but the suspect then allegedly broke into a private residence by kicking open the front door. An armed citizen in the home fired two shots at the suspect, striking him once in the arm and once in the leg, whereupon officers were finally able to detain him. He was in the hospital in stable condition at the time of reporting and faced numerous charges. The officer was treated for his injuries; the woman was pronounced braindead at the hospital. (City of Austin Police Department, Austin, Texas, 9/12/2025)

An elderly man was at home in Cherokee Village, Ark., on Sept. 10 when an intruder broke through his sliding-glass door. The homeowner had been expecting his wife to return from church and initially thought she'd made the noise but heard a man speaking, so he retrieved a firearm and backed himself into the corner of his bedroom. The intruder began approaching the homeowner anyway and disregarded orders to stop, so the armed citizen shot and killed him. The investigation was still ongoing, but the intruder was identified as a man who'd been released from a detention center earlier the same day. (src-news.com, Sharp County, Mo., 9/11/25) 



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By Doug Hamlin
NRA Executive
Vice President & CEO

The NRA Is A Force For Good

Violent crime is too often tolerated by political leaders in our urban areas. Part of the reason for this is that anti-gun politicians, and many of the members of the media who support them, have decided that the individual horrors of these crimes are not worth mentioning until a crime story or statistic becomes particularly useful to them politically. At this point, they will passionately step in front of cameras and blame the Second Amendment, this nation's law-abiding armed citizens and the NRA for the violence.

These politicians become puffed up with righteous indignation as they recite gun-control talking points. No personal accountability enters their rhetoric—not their support for cashless bail nor for reduced sentences for violent criminals nor their defund-the-police policies. They will not even admit that the gun-control laws they support disempower good citizens and turn them into easy victims for the criminals who ignore the law.

If it occurs to these politicians that there is blood on their hands, it is not voiced in their public proclamations. All that matters to them is what is politically useful—and a disarmed citizenry is an end that justifies their horrific means.

But then along came President Donald Trump (R), a politician who is willing to upend the disgusting lie that lawfully armed citizens are responsible for violent crime, and suddenly these anti-gun zealots have little to say.

The U.S. Constitution gives Congress the power to legislatively control the District of Columbia. And, with the Home Rule Act of 1973, Congress gave the president the power to temporarily control the District's police department during an emergency. So, with violent crime out of control in D.C., President Trump signed an executive order to tackle the problem.

Trump's initiative gave us an important correction to bad policy, both because of the lives it has saved and is saving in D.C. and because of the lives similar policy changes could save in Chicago, St. Louis, Los Angeles and more.

D.C. has long treated good, law-abiding citizens as if they were the cause of the crime problem. So much so that when D.C. would not even let an armed security guard, Dick Anthony Heller, carry a gun for self-defense as he went home after guarding a federal building with a gun, the U.S. Supreme Court intervened in *D.C. v. Heller* (2008) and ruled that the right to bear arms is obviously an individual right. Then, two years later, the Supreme Court extended this ruling to the rest of the nation in *McDonald v. Chicago*.

Nevertheless, even after these rulings, both D.C. and Chicago—and many other big cities—have continued to make it as difficult

as possible for citizens to carry guns for self-defense.

The Trump administration, however, is upending this treatment of law-abiding citizens. This is freaking out the anti-gun Left, as their false narratives are crumbling.

This is because the Trump administration is not going after legally owned guns in D.C. They are focusing entirely on criminals who are legally prohibited from owning guns.

During an Oval Office press event, the president explained that "people have to be able to protect themselves" as he empowered Attorney General Pam Bondi and others to go after actual criminals, especially those prohibited from possessing firearms.

This honest approach blew up the false narrative that our freedom is to blame, as the District's atrociously high crime rates plummeted.

Before the Trump administration stepped in, notes President Trump's executive order, "the District of Columbia [had] a higher violent crime, murder, and robbery rate than all 50 states." But after just the first week of the Trump administration's efforts, the D.C. police union reported that robberies dropped 46%, carjackings plunged 83%, car thefts fell 21%, violent crime declined 22% and murders fell to zero. The example is crystal clear.

Despite this, many anti-gun politicians and media members continued to claim there was no problem to solve in D.C. One wonders if they would have the gall to repeat this false claim in a room filled with the victims of violent criminals.

The facts are hard to talk away, though; as a result, even some entrenched anti-gun ideologues began to admit that focusing on actual criminals works. For example, about three weeks after the federal takeover, D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser (D) said, "We know that we have had fewer gun crimes, fewer homicides and we have experienced an extreme reduction in carjackings."

That is an understatement, but it is a beginning. Hopefully, this mayor, and many others, will now stop blaming law-abiding armed citizens for crime rates and instead will empower the various parts of their justice systems to catch and prosecute actual criminals.

Your NRA, being the force of good it is, has always supported law and order—and we stand opposed to scapegoating the constitutional rights of law-abiding citizens. Indeed, the more people who join this association, the more sway we have together to push for good policies that save lives and empower good citizens, such as what the Trump administration is accomplishing in D.C.



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kurz *adj. Deutsch. 1a. A comparatively short length.*
1b. Kompakt.



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Answering Your Most-Asked Question

Thank you, members and donors, for your hundreds of emails and for visiting nrapresident.com. While there were various themes in your emails, many asked essentially the same question: “How do we know the past will not repeat itself?”

As this is a crucial question for rebuilding accountability, transparency and trust, I want to address it here.

First, I want to emphasize that the staff involved in the wrongdoing are no longer with us. Additionally, the Board of Directors members who were involved are either no longer on the Board or have been removed from their committee roles. The Board’s Ethics Committee is now reviewing their past actions for potential next steps.

Most importantly for the long term, NRA has implemented a comprehensive set of new policies and procedures, accompanied by mandatory training. Compliance is now deeply embedded in the DNA of every officer, director and staff member. Additionally, NRA’s whistleblower hotlines are now managed by a third party to ensure anonymous and confidential reporting without fear of retribution. For access, call 888-NRA-3603 or visit nraintegrityline.org.

Compliance oversight is now handled by the Board’s Chief Compliance Officer, who reports directly to the Board of Directors’ Audit Committee. Additionally, the Board’s Audit Committee is now elected by the general Board rather than appointed by the Board leadership, which was previously controlled by the old NRA leadership.

All officers, Board members and staff must attend in-person and online compliance training. This also consists of training on New York non-profit law that requires all Board members to follow a Duty of Care, Loyalty and Obedience and a fiduciary duty to the association. Here’s what that means in plain language.

The **Duty of Care** requires that a director perform his or her duties with the care that an ordinarily prudent person would exercise in a similar position under comparable circumstances. A director must be diligent and informed and should exercise honest and unbiased business judgment. The “business-judgment rule” generally states that decisions must be made in good faith, without a conflict of interest, based on reasonably gathered information and with a rational belief that the decision is in the best interest of the association.

The **Duty of Loyalty** requires that a director act in good faith and in the best interests of the corporation, ensuring that personal interests do not take precedence over those of the corporation. Duty of loyalty mainly relates to conflicts of interest, corporate opportunities and confidentiality issues.

The **Duty of Obedience** requires that a director act in accordance with the organization’s goals and ensure the mission is carried out. Diverting corporate resources away from the NRA’s mission—regardless of how noble the purpose—may constitute a breach of the duty of obedience.

All Board members and staff must complete a Conflict of Interest and Related Party Transaction questionnaire. The purpose of the questionnaire is to disclose information for assessing potential conflicts of interest and related party transactions.

During the 2024 Fall Board meeting, the NRA Board voted on a pledge to members called a “Statement of Corporate Ethics.” Here is a very high-level summary of the four-page pledge.

“It is the policy of the National Rifle Association of America to conduct the Association’s business in an honest and forthright manner. To this end, Association employees strive for excellence in their work and for a consistent standard of integrity in their business dealings.”

Consistent with this objective is the Association’s requirement that all employees comply with applicable bylaws and policies of the association, and all relevant laws and regulations in conducting the association’s business. No violation of the spirit or intent of these bylaws, policies, laws and regulations will be tolerated.”

Of course, any safeguards are only as effective as the gatekeepers who enforce them. Moving forward, the NRA has three principled business leaders as Board officers. The officers have appointed strong chairmen and excellent members to all the governance committees. Almost half of the Board of Directors has been replaced over the past few years by the will of the members.

In my previous columns, I endeavored to address three things you have been asking for: an explanation of what really happened, an apology on behalf of the Board and details about what we are doing to prevent any malfeasance from ever occurring again.

To prevent history from repeating itself, we must never forget the past. You can reach me by email at president@nradirector.com or visit my website, nrapresident.com, for additional information or any questions.

Since April, the officers, Board members and NRA leadership have been working hard to rebuild the trust and the NRA we all once knew. Now I believe that we need to focus on the future. The hard work is paying off and we have some very exciting announcements coming in future columns. In the meantime, please stay vigilant.

Bill

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By John Commerford
Executive Director,
NRA-ILA

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Everytown Now Offers “Training” On The Tools They Don’t Want You To Have

With President Trump in the White House and more gun-friendly appointees at the U.S. Department of Justice and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, gun owners can enjoy a sense of relief. But relief should not lead to complacency. Firearm prohibitionists have not ceded the field and are actively seeking new opportunities to advance their agenda.

A recently launched initiative by Everytown, billionaire Michael Bloomberg’s sprawling anti-gun vanity project, is a case in point. Even as they advocate for bans and prior restraints on firearm ownership, Everytown is expanding into the area of firearms training, an arena the NRA has dominated since 1871. To say there is a divergence in emphasis, however, would be an understatement.

The NRA’s firearm-training courses are accessible and practical, not political. They are designed to equip students with the basic knowledge, skills, and abilities to effectively and safely exercise their right to keep and bear arms. Education and training are foundational to the culture that sustains a vibrant Second Amendment. NRA is second to none when it comes to this vital function, boasting a nationwide network of over 125,000 certified instructors who offer state-of-the-art education in every aspect of firearms handling and use, as well as in the mindset and habits of avoiding victimization.

Yet the NRA also believes decisions about amounts and types of training should be left to individual gun owners; one size definitely does not fit all. By way of analogy, most would agree that exercise is essential to good health and that a fit, healthy population benefits the nation at large. But the idea that the government should therefore enforce a mandatory exercise regime does not follow. There are too many variables to individual circumstances and objectives for that to be practical or beneficial.

Meanwhile, America is a land divided when it comes to the right to keep and bear arms. Supreme Court precedent on the Second Amendment has never been more favorable, and gun owners are no longer being targeted by the federal bureaucracy. But anti-gun states are becoming ever more restrictive. They have launched an all-out campaign of denial, resistance and defiance to the Second Amendment, assisted and encouraged by Everytown and its ilk.

The most anti-gun jurisdictions in America are scarcely better for gun owners, and some

are arguably even worse than many foreign jurisdictions with no constitutional right to arms and no broad tradition of private firearm ownership. It is, frankly, a national disgrace.

Or, in Everytown’s way of thinking, a good start.

This is why seeking firearms training from Everytown is like asking PETA to teach you how to grill a steak.

Everytown believes every person who wants to own a firearm, whatever the individual’s background or circumstances, should have to go through a government-mandated training program at their own expense. And they believe “essential knowledge” for gun owners begins with a harangue on the liabilities of gun ownership.

Indeed, Everytown has supported laws to force firearms dealers to post warnings about the supposed dangers and legal pitfalls of owning a gun and for criminal penalties for gun owners who don’t store their firearms unloaded and in a disabled state.

Currently, Everytown’s “Train Smart” network consists of a whopping eight different instructors in six different states. Half of them claim military experience. Others proudly tout various “inclusivity” bona fides that have no obvious relationship to expertise with firearms. Three are in Colorado, a state that has recently gone all-in on sweeping gun control. There is also one each from the anti-gun bastions of Hawaii and New York. Only three are from gun-friendly states: Maine, Missouri and Texas.

Amusingly, Everytown’s training “Leadership Council” has more members than its actual training staff, an apt illustration of the organization’s top-down nature.

Yet while it is easy to make fun of the inherent contradictions of anti-gun activists presuming to teach people about guns, politicizing learning is no laughing matter. Zealots have long understood the power of using “education” to advance extremist agendas. You don’t have to look far to find a law school that portrays the Constitution as obsolete or a college that portrays U.S. history as a hellscape of exploitation and inequality.

It seems Everytown’s courses are currently available only online, with no live-fire component.

While we would normally consider that antithetical to legitimate firearms training, in this case, it’s probably the safest bet for all concerned.

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SECOND AMENDMENT LITIGATION UPDATE:

Your NRA Battles For Gun Owners In The Courts

When it comes to firearm-related litigation, Second Amendment supporters may temper their optimism with a dash of cynicism. This is understandable, but pro-gun advocacy in the courts has never been on firmer footing.

In 2008, the U.S. Supreme Court issued its landmark ruling in *District of Columbia v. Heller*, which affirmed that the Second Amendment protects an individual right to keep and bear arms. This was followed in 2010 by the Court's *McDonald v. Chicago* decision, which required state and local governments, like federal authorities, to abide by the Second Amendment.

Gun-rights supporters understood these rulings called into question the constitutionality of large swaths of gun control. Yet the cases were widely minimized by the same federal judiciary that had clung to the delusion the Second Amendment did not protect individual rights.

In the years that followed *McDonald*, lower courts generally upheld existing gun laws. Ignoring Justices Antonin Scalia and Samuel Alito's reasoning and methodology, many courts adopted a two-step "interest-balancing" test that purported to weigh the government's interest in a contested law against the burden it imposed on Second Amendment rights. The test invited judges to play public-policy advocate rather than to faithfully apply the U.S. Constitution.

Undeterred, NRA continued to litigate on behalf of gun owners and the Second Amendment, battling New York City and then New York State to the Supreme Court in 2020 and 2022. In the latter case, the NRA-backed *New York State Rifle & Pistol Association v. Bruen*, the Court struck down New York's discretionary licensing scheme for firearm carry and made clear the right to "bear arms" applies outside the home.

Just as importantly, Justice Clarence Thomas' opinion revived Second Amendment jurisprudence by rejecting the faulty framework the lower courts had been using to justify

By John Commerford
Executive Director, NRA-ILA



unconstitutional gun-control measures. Referencing the Supreme Court's Second Amendment precedents, Thomas explained:

"When the Second Amendment's plain text covers an individual's conduct, the Constitution presumptively protects that conduct. The government must then justify its regulation by demonstrating that it is consistent with the Nation's historical tradition of firearm regulation. Only then may a court conclude that the individual's conduct falls outside the Second Amendment's 'unqualified command.'"

This reset the table for gun-rights supporters to challenge infringements, including measures the lower courts had erroneously upheld. NRA has wasted no time doing so.

Critical to a meaningful right to keep and bear arms is access to guns suitable for self-defense. In *Heller*, the Supreme Court held that the Second Amendment protects arms "in common use" for "lawful purposes like self-defense." Despite this, several jurisdictions ban commonly owned semi-automatic firearms, including America's most popular rifle, the AR-15, and restrict the capacity of firearm magazines.

Last November, the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Illinois struck down the Prairie State's ban on commonly owned semi-automatic firearms and standard-capacity magazines in the NRA-supported case, *Barnett v. Raoul*. The decision has been stayed pending the ongoing appeal at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit. In an encouraging development, the U.S. Department of Justice in June filed a brief in support of NRA's position, asking the appeals court to affirm the district court's ruling.

On August 15, attorneys in the NRA-backed suit *Duncan v. Bonta* filed a petition for *certiorari* asking the Supreme Court to hear the case. This litigation challenges California's 2016 ban on the possession of standard-capacity firearm magazines. The petition is the most recent development in almost a decade of litigation with California that has included two adverse *en banc* decisions at the notorious U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

Back east, NRA is supporting the case *Association of New Jersey Rifle & Pistol Clubs v. Attorney Gen.* New Jersey. The

litigation challenges the Garden State's ban on so-called "assault firearms" and standard-capacity magazines. The case was before a three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, but in late August was taken up for a hearing before the full circuit scheduled for October.

Further, on August 21, NRA and NRA Massachusetts state affiliate, Gun Owners' Action League, filed a suit, titled *Hanlon v. Campbell*, challenging the Bay State's expansive ban on so-called "assault-style" firearms.

Another vital Second Amendment issue is correctly affirming who constitutes "the people" whose right to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed.

In 2018, Florida lawmakers hastily enacted legislation prohibiting those aged 18 to 20 years from purchasing firearms. Understanding that these young adults—who can vote, serve on juries and join the armed forces—are an integral part of our national community and thus afforded constitutional rights applicable to "the people," NRA filed suit challenging the age prohibition.

In the case, now titled *NRA v. Glass*, the age restriction was upheld by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit in March. On May 15, NRA filed a petition asking the Supreme Court to hear the case. Underscoring the soundness of NRA's claim, the state of Florida responded to NRA's petition on August 20 by encouraging the Court to take the case and to invalidate the law.

As important as the *Bruen* ruling has been, the last few "may-issue" permitting holdouts prior to that decision have vigorously resisted compliance. States including California, Maryland, New Jersey and New York have enacted *Bruen*-defiance legislation seeking to frustrate the right to carry. NRA has responded with *Bruen*-enforcement litigation.

New York enacted the misnamed "Concealed Carry Improvement Act," which imposed onerous restrictions on the issuance of carry licenses and created a wide array of locations where license holders are prohibited from carrying. The law even included a "good moral character" requirement in a thinly veiled attempt to reenact the type of discretionary licensing the Supreme Court rejected. The

NRA-supported case *New York State Rifle & Pistol Association v. James* takes aim at New York's new restrictions and is currently before the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of New York.

NRA is supporting similar challenges to *Bruen*-defiance legislation in New Jersey and Maryland. In the Maryland case, *Kipke v. Moore*, the U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland found that several of the state's permit-holder location restrictions violated the Second Amendment. At present, the case is on appeal before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, where the plaintiffs are seeking to invalidate further aspects of Maryland's prohibitive carry scheme.

HELLER DECLARED THAT THE SECOND AMENDMENT WAS NOT EXTINCT. BUT IT HAS TAKEN YEARS OF DEDICATED ADVOCACY TO BREATHE LIFE BACK INTO THE INDIVIDUAL RIGHT TO KEEP AND BEAR ARMS.

None of the aforementioned gun-control measures should survive a forthright application of *Bruen*'s historical framework. Other anti-gun policies are just as transparently unconstitutional.

On August 25, NRA filed the suit *Dunn v. Glass* in the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Florida challenging the state's three-day handgun waiting period. As the complaint pointed out, "there is no historical tradition of firearms being regulated in this manner."

This followed an NRA suit, titled *Ortega v. Grisham*, challenging New Mexico's seven-day firearm waiting period, filed in the U.S. District Court for the District of New Mexico on May 15, 2024. On August 19, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit ruled the measure unconstitutional, stating that such policies "do not fit into any historically grounded exceptions to the right to keep and bear arms."

In California, three-time gold-medal-winning U.S. Olympic trap and skeet shooter Kim Rhode, NRA and the California Rifle & Pistol Association teamed up in *Rhode v. Bonta* to free Golden Staters from the state's ammunition background-check regime. On July 24, a panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit struck down the scheme. As of press time, the California Attorney General has petitioned the Ninth Circuit for an *en banc* review; the unconstitutional law remains in effect pending the court's decision.

On July 4, President Donald Trump signed the One Big Beautiful Bill Act into law. The legislation eliminated the National Firearms Act (NFA) excise tax on suppressors, short-barreled rifles, short-barreled shotguns and NFA-defined "any other weapons." Congress enacted the NFA using its enumerated power to tax. As part of the NFA scheme, Congress also instituted a registration requirement on the impacted items, to ensure payment of the tax.

On August 1, NRA and other leading gun-rights groups filed *Brown v. ATF* in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri challenging the NFA registration scheme as it pertains to the items that are no longer taxed. The case makes clear that NFA-covered firearms are protected by the Second Amendment and therefore should not be subject to the NFA's onerous requirements, but it's not necessary for the court to resolve this question to issue a favorable decision. The NFA was an exercise of Congress' taxing power. No tax to collect, no NFA. Simple. (For further background on this litigation, see my column in the October issue.)

These are only some highlights of how NRA is fighting to protect gun owners and the Second Amendment in the courts. For a more comprehensive picture of NRA's litigation efforts, visit nra.org/litigation and make sure to sign up for NRA-ILA's Grassroots Alert emails.

Heller declared that the Second Amendment was not extinct. But it has taken years of dedicated advocacy to breathe life back into the individual right to keep and bear arms. Now is the time for optimism and to partner with your NRA as we press the fight for our rights in the courts. 🔄

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The Spring's The Thing

They are simple mechanisms, but the springs inside your various devices perform myriad tasks.



Springs are in magazines, optics, modern sporting rifles and more. Despite improvements and (usually) flawless performance, they've sprung more urban myths than grassy-knoll conspiracy theories. We asked industry experts which ones we should ignore and what we should know.

The approach, storing energy mechanically for later release, was employed by early man. Hunting bows are a good example, but in 1763 Richard Tredwell patented something new—the coil spring for cushioning bumpy buggies for Britain's burgeoning bourgeoisie. In 1804,

Obadiah Elliott received a British patent for the leaf spring, also aimed at royal road trips—where the money was at the time.

Both basic designs are employed today in firearms. They're far from traditional, however, and routinely defy firing-line myths. Magazine springs are a good example.

"Leaving a magazine loaded for an extended period (numerous years) might cause a small amount of creep—permanent deformation—but this is usually minimal and not a major factor in spring failure," David Edelman, vice president of Mission First Tactical stated. "Repeatedly compressing and releasing a spring, like when loading and unloading a magazine, causes fatigue and eventual weakening. Modern magazines are typically made with high-quality materials and designed with a margin of safety to handle long-term compression," he added.

Tapping the turret to ensure springs moved when sighting in is another one. "Today's scopes are designed to be dialed, so this is less of an issue," according to Jon LaCorte, Tract Optics co-founder. "Older scopes were 'set it and forget it,' so the material and tolerances were not as critical as they are today."

Tract also uses a single-leaf spring in its scopes. "I think a lot of the info you see about multiple springs or a Posi Lock-type erector system is marketing," he said.

Buffer-spring length in an AR is determined by whether the firearm is pistol-, carbine- or rifle-length. Whether it's made from carbon steel, chrome silicone or even captive depends on the manufacturer.

Another option is gaining traction. "Our flat wire spring uses a greater number of coils and a more efficient spring geometry than mil-spec springs," according to David Li, from Strike Industries' Marketing department. "Mil-spec springs will certainly work as needed with whatever buffer weight you choose, but it's not an ideal solution. [They] can also fatigue or corrode over time."

The springs upon which gun owners rely may be high-tech compared to the past, but the energy-storage principle is the same, whether they are smoothing out shooting, giving optics repeatability or feeding ammo.

Shooting Off

"I ultimately just wanted him to put the knife down and back away until law enforcement got there."

USMC veteran Derrick Perry said during an interview on "Good Morning America" in late July after he held an attacker—who had injured 11 people at a Traverse City, MI, Walmart—at gunpoint until law enforcement arrived.

Quick Shots

The Montana Highway Patrol (MHP) has selected the Smith & Wesson M&P15 SBR platform and the Gemtech Abyss models as its patrol rifle and suppressor of choice, respectively. Officers from that agency are already issued M&P9 M2.0s as their primary duty pistol.

EoTech has acquired VK Integrated Systems (VKIS), a Tennessee-based developer of advanced weapon electronics and battlefield networking solutions. VKIS' list of cutting-edge products includes a Weapon Orientation Module that rides inside the backstrap of select guns.

Thompson/Center Arms announced on Aug. 4 it has acquired the Green Mountain Rifle Barrel Company. The firm will operate as an independent entity to serve the firearm industry with precision-made barrels and will celebrate 50 years of being family-operated and made in the US.

Voodoo Gun Works, manufacturer of precision rifles and firearms, has relocated its headquarters and all manufacturing to Prague, OK. The company opened in 2017 in St. George, UT, where it operated until the decision was made to move to Oklahoma earlier this year.

On the Air for NRA's Birthday



On Nov. 17 the Yavapai Amateur Radio Club (YARC) of Prescott, AZ, will operate a special event station in celebration of the NRA's 154th birthday. The amateur radio station will be on the air from Gunsite's 3,000-acre campus in Paulden, AZ, using special-event call sign K7NRA—an FCC-licensed amateur radio station.

YARC will conduct operations on the following amateur frequencies from 0800 MST to 1700 MST: 7.250, 14.040, 14.250 and 21.335 MHz. A unique certificate (acknowledgement of communications) will be available to those stations contacted during the event. All amateur stations, especially those operated by NRA members and Gunsite alumni, are urged to participate. Info can be found at YARC's website (w7yrc.org).

SAAMI Issues Suppressor Standards



The Sporting Arms and Ammunition Manufacturers' Institute (SAAMI) has issued the first "Voluntary Industry Performance Standards Criteria for Firearm Sound Suppressors for the Use of Commercial Manufacturers." The document took eight years of detailed and technical work to complete.

It contains thread and socket drawings, recommendations on how to communicate intended cartridge, minimum barrel length, maximum firing cadence and maximum rounds before required cooling, procedures and equipment required for suppressor sound measurement, measuring suppressor-to-bore alignment, testing for abusive mishandling, over-pressure testing and stress testing.

Pistol Standard Hotel

Learn how to shoot fast without sacrificing precision.

For us "drill practice" is isolating an individual part of a skill and focusing intently on improving or mastering said skill. The goal with good drill practice is ultimately to maximize overall improvement while minimizing overall effort. Success equals consistency over time.

This close-range pistol drill in particular emphasizes speed, precision and shot cadence used in a high-pressure scenario. We all know how critically important it is to stop a threat immediately—and how hard that can be with pistol calibers. This drill gives the shooter the chance to practice at two different speeds: one for the torso and one for the head.

Shooters are required to engage an 8-inch scoring zone in the torso and a 4-inch zone in the head at 5 yards using a failure-to-stop sequence—two rounds to the torso, followed by one precision shot to the head. It reinforces the draw mechanics, helps push for fast, but controlled, follow-up shots and teaches how to throttle speed for a precise headshot under stress. Practicing this transition is critical in real-world defensive scenarios. It takes discipline, recoil control and sharp visual focus. Training under a strict time limit will help the shooter better cope with stress to make quicker, better decisions when it matters most.

Here's the drill:

Start from the holster.

- On the signal, draw and fire two rounds to the torso and one to the head within 3.5 seconds.
- Carefully reholster (don't rush) and repeat for a total of five repetitions.

This drill emphasizes consistency: Pay close attention to several key metrics. Compare them across all five of the repetitions. Look for a variation of a quarter-second in overall time to



signal consistency. As far as score, anything greater than 120 points (out of 150 possible) for all five repetitions signifies competency of three core skills: the drawstroke, follow-through and precision under stress. Points are based on the TCT Mk4 target, but a B8 or similar can also be used. There is a three-point penalty for every second over par, so make sure to factor that in, too.

If you are having a hard time making the par time, perform the drill from the ready position. If you only have an NRA B8 target, then fire all three rounds for score, but reduce the par time to 3.5 seconds.

Here are a few pro tips to keep in mind: Focus your attention on the precision required for the headshot. It's not just about speed; it's about visual discipline. Manage recoil with purpose, so you can stay fast while delivering a tight, controlled final shot. Mastering this balance is what turns speed into skill. Good luck, and as always, have fun. 🌀

To see this drill in action, scan the QR code below with your smartphone or tablet for a video demonstrating every aspect of Pistol Standard Hotel.

SCAN HERE



Hunker Down

The following products can help you survive a short-term disaster when sheltering in place.

Boasting 215 square inches of cooking space and packed with two 20,000 BTU burners, the **Camp Chef Everest 2X Cooking Stove** will easily satisfy your cooking needs until power is restored. A matchless ignition system adds an element of safety and convenience, while a three-sided windscreen provides protection from the elements when in use. Once finished, the lockable lid makes for convenient storage.

MSRP: \$389.99; campchef.com

The **Katadyn Pocket Water Filter** is lightweight and compact, yet still removes 99.9 percent of harmful bacteria, protozoa and other disease-causing agents while purifying up to 50,000 liters of water with its .02-micron filter. Its ceramic interior allows it to be cleaned several times, unlike other similar disposable offerings. Simple and easy to use, it requires no electrical power or batteries. Hoses and maintenance tools are included. It is also backed by a 20-year warranty.

MSRP: \$429.95; katadyngroup.com

The versatile **Nightstick Dual-Light Tactical Flashlight** features a switch that allows you to toggle between three modes: a momentary or constant-on flashlight, a flood-light or a combination of both. On its highest setting, it casts a blinding 1,100-lumen beam to a distance of 235 meters for more than 2 hours, while in flood mode it produces a 350-lumen, downward-facing beam for 5 hours, and when even greater versatility is needed it casts an 850-lumen beam in dual-light mode.

MSRP: \$205.95; nightstick.com

The **ReadyWise 120-Serving Freeze-Dried Fruit Bucket** is brimming with a variety of durable sustenance. It is shipped in a handy, easy-to-store container and includes 120 servings of long-term-storable meals, all in their own convenient, eat-in pouch. As a means of maximizing its 20-year shelf life and avoiding waste, every Mylar pouch contains eight servings, so you can make the bucket last. Tasty selections include: four pouches of bananas, two pouches of peaches, four pouches of strawberries and five pouches of apples.

MSRP: \$169.99; brownells.com

The **Coleman Solar Battery Trickle Charger** utilizes solar technology that allows the included panel to operate in daylight—even in cloudy conditions—to keep vital 12-volt batteries charged. A weatherproof design consisting of ABS plastic and shatterproof, tempered glass construction provides lasting durability, while quick-connect fasteners promote ease of use. Included are a quick-connect plug, a 12-volt DC plug, 8 feet of wire, battery clamps and mounting hardware.

MSRP: \$54.99; cabelas.com



Dovetail Dilemma

My first trip to the range with my new Smith & Wesson Model 640 went from eager anticipation to sheer disappointment. The first five shots downrange at 10 yards went into an acceptable cluster on the right edge of the target. I shot another five shots at the same target shooting with my support hand pulling the trigger and my strong hand steadying the gun in a good two-hand grip to make sure that I was not inadvertently jerking the trigger. I shot another five-shot group on top of the first group. Then, it dawned on me to look at the sights on the gun to see if they were centered. To my surprise and embarrassment, I then recognized that the front sight was not centered on the barrel. In fact, part of the sight base was not fully in the dovetail cut for the sight.



I tried tapping the sight with a small brass hammer to move it to center but it would not budge.

How would you suggest I go about getting the sights properly seated to get my shots closer to the center of the target?

T.B.

Augusta, GA

My first recommendation is to send the gun back to the manufacturer to get the sights centered as well as to have the gun test fired for point-of-aim, point-of-impact. It goes without saying that sometimes a manufacturer—all manufacturers—let something out the door that, for a variety of reasons, is not 100-percent perfect. Nevertheless, how the manufacturer handles those mistakes is what represents the quality and integrity of the company overall. I am sure that contacting its customer-service department will result in an apology and a call tag for shipping the gun back to the factory to correct the deficiency.

If you decide to correct the problem yourself, you will need a padded-jaw vice to securely hold the barrel so it will not turn when applying pressure to the front sight to get it properly positioned.

Before trying to move the sight, inspect the dovetail and the sight base closely to make sure the sight base is aligned with the dovetail. Look for any burrs or irregularities where the sight and the dovetail are joined. These occur when the sight base and the dovetail are not accurately sized for one another, and they are force-fit by mechanical sight pushers at the factory. If these conditions are observed, I again recommend a return trip to the factory for your revolver.

If there is no observable damage on the sight or the dovetail, there are two possibilities that depend on what side of the dovetail the sight was started into originally. For example, the sight might have been pushed too far through the dovetail, leaving the forward edge exposed on the opposite side of the insertion point. Or the sight may have been started into the dovetail and not pushed far enough to get it centered. If you have a sight pusher available, that method of adjustment would be the best option for moving the sight to center of the dovetail.

If a sight pusher is not available, a suitable hammer and punch are the next best option. The punch should be made of a material softer

than the sight or the barrel's steel so as not to damage either when moving the sight. A bronze or brass punch with a flat end the width of the dovetail should work for you.

You will need a bigger hammer to move the sight rather than the small brass one previously used, especially if the sight is tight in the dovetail. I'd recommend a 1- or a 1.5-pound dead-blow hammer to generate the necessary force to move the sight, but absent the bounce of a standard hammer.

If the sight is resistant to moving back to the center of the dovetail by applying pressure to the sight base (it is not a good idea to apply pressure to the sight blade itself because the blade may break off and leave the base in its original location), position the punch against the sight base in the dovetail and drive the sight out the side from which it is protruding.

Inspect the sight and the dovetail for burrs and/or irregularities in the flat engaging surfaces. If rough spots are encountered, fix them by dressing them lightly back to their original shape with the help of a Swiss needle file of the correct contour. The rule here, when using files on sights and dovetails, is to do the work on the least-expensive part. That should be obvious.

Once any irregularities are cleaned up, the sight should start into the dovetail by hand with the bearing surfaces in alignment. Prior to starting the sight into the dovetail, lightly lubricate the bearing surfaces so as to ease the push with the hammer and finish with the punch.

In the rare event that the sight is still resistant to moving into and across the dovetail, a few passes of the bottom of the sight base across an abrasive to remove a slight amount of material will allow the sight to move properly in place and still be sufficiently tight to maintain its position over time.

This is an exercise of patience—not force. Taking your time and using the proper tools will yield the results you are looking for. The time, effort (and a tad of patience) will have you back in the center of the target with the sights in the proper location.

Correspondence is welcomed and encouraged

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Sound Science

Suppressors reduce the noise of shooting a rifle, but there are other, more important, factors to consider.



Sound suppressors, or “silencers” in regulatory speak, are excellent tools for helping to preserve hearing while simultaneously limiting area noise when using firearms. Throughout the past 15 years, suppressors have become such popular accessories that they often figure into our suppressor-ready firearm tests. However, not everyone is pleased with the scope of that coverage.

Periodically, we receive complaints about the absence of sound-pressure level (SPL) ratings in our reviews. While we understand the desire for that information, there’s a reason why we shy away from publishing suppressor manufacturers’ SPL data: Outside of the full context of how those numbers were obtained, they raise more questions than they answer.

The chief problem is that not all equipment types and techniques used for testing firearm sounds are suitable for the task. If inaccurate, the resulting numbers can be worse than no data at all. Unlike muzzle-velocity (MV) measurements, where a difference of 15 to 20 fps is not very impactful, minor sound-pressure changes have exponential effects on what we hear. For example, a 10 decibel (dB) increase will result in sound that seems twice as loud to our ears, but which has a tenfold increase in intensity. Don’t ask me to explain that—logarithms make my head hurt.

I view manufacturer-published SPL measurements through the same skeptical lens as MV measurements printed on ammunition boxes. In the latter case, we can at least do our own velocity testing via chronograph or long-range drop-truing. Accurately determining peak firearm-sound levels is an entirely different story. Expensive, precision equipment is needed, test conditions must be tightly controlled and strict methodologies adhered to.

Back when I developed and tested weapon systems for Uncle Sam, sound suppressors were finally starting to transition away from clunky

designs that didn’t seem far removed from Hiram Maxim’s 1909 “Silent Firearm” patent. Competition to make more efficient suppressors with better attachment systems was stiff, but companies tested their products differently. As a result, in-house SPL ratings were only useful when compared against other products from the same company.

We knew of just two sound meters that were suitable for testing small arms’ sound levels. Neither was in production, and extant, functional models were difficult to find. Altogether, these challenges steered us toward independent labs for unbiased help. That was almost two decades ago and as near as I can tell, things haven’t changed much.

I recently checked in with Bobby Reed of CMR Consulting to see what the suppressor-testing landscape looks like today. He and his son/company owner, Chris, have established CMR as a well-regarded, independent test facility for firearms, ammunition and ancillary equipment. Reed started the business 23 years ago, after retiring from a successful career as an Army SOF Operator and weapon-systems developer. He confirmed that finding adequate sound meters is still a challenge.

CMR Consulting is fortunate to have one of the older models that has the required impulse sound range and a fast enough rise time to keep up with firearm noise. Reed told me that most sound meters cannot do that and as a result, published suppressor SPL data often fails to capture true peak levels. That’s important because the assumption is that, by default, provided figures refer to peak SPL.

Reed pointed to two sound meters that are advertised as suitable for testing small-arms noise levels. Unfortunately, the first one, Brüel and Kjaer’s Model 2209, is out of production. Used models occasionally come up for sale, but he’s found that they consistently fail calibration. The other is Larson Davis’ Model 821IH-QPR, which is fairly new and has specifications that indicate it’s up to the task. If there are other options, they’re neither conspicuous nor plentiful at the moment.

Having the correct equipment is only half the battle. How sound-level testing is conducted is just as important. Microphone orientation and placement, ground-surface type, calibration processes, weighting-scale selection, atmospheric conditions, nearby obstacles, ammunition consistency and a bunch of other factors matter when accurate

results are needed. In the U.S., two documents have traditionally been the main sources for guidance on this topic: MIL-STD 1474E and ANSI S1.4.

The military standard details noise limits and test methodologies for equipment and sound exposures that are common to military operations. It also provides guidance for hearing protection and cautions against unprotected exposure to steady sound levels at or above 85 dB and impulse noises at or above 140 dB. The ANSI document dives deeply into the specifications for sound-level meters that are used for different test scenarios. Versions of each document are available online, and if you can get through them both in one sitting—without your eyes rolling back in their sockets—the Editor-in-Chief would love to discuss them with you over a pitcher of iced chai.

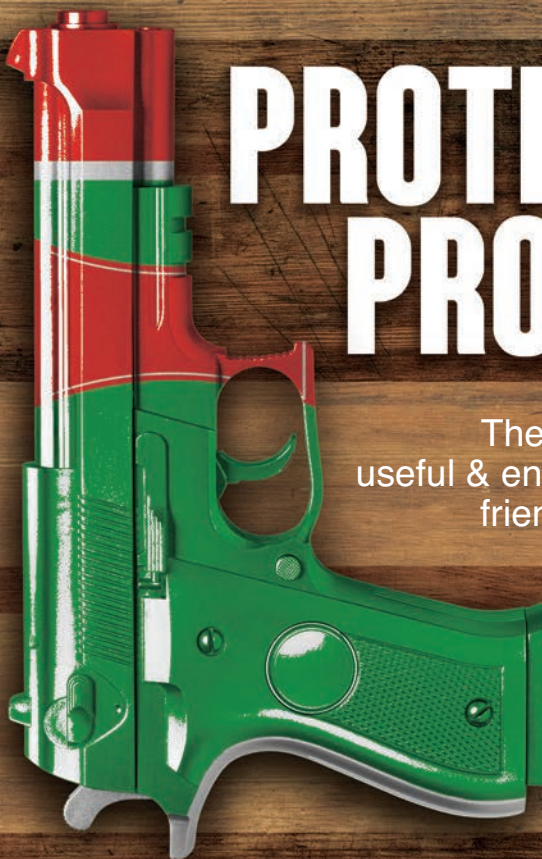
A quick perusal of various manufacturers' specifications will show that in

the increasingly rare instances where numbers are provided, details on test methods, equipment used and whether testing was conducted in-house are left to speculation. But to be honest, most of us won't notice much of a difference, if any, between two suppressors of like bore size and similar dimensions when used on the same rifle. Moreover, when considering a sound suppressor, design factors like attachment method, weight, length, caliber flexibility, modularity, ease of maintenance and cost are typically of greater concern than published SPLs of unknown origin.

Just as I was finishing this column, SAAMI published a new set of guidelines (Z299.6-2025) titled "Voluntary Industry Performance Standards Criteria for Firearm Sound Suppressors for the Use of Commercial Manufacturers." Covered topics include standardized thread dimensions, test-cartridge specifications,

barrel lengths used for sound testing and the integrity of suppressor designs. Other sections outline test procedures and equipment to help suppressor manufacturers adopt a uniform methodology. The verdict is out on whether or not this new reference will open the aperture to more sound-meter options, but we can hope.

It's reasonable to expect that a modern sound suppressor, made by a competent manufacturer, will dampen a firearm's report to a degree that helps preserve our hearing. At the same time, we must accept that suppressed rifles are still far from silent, especially when supersonic ammunition is used. While a difference of a couple decibels is significant in a laboratory setting, it isn't a key driver in suppressor choice outside of professions where the penalty for firing a noisy rifle is to be on the receiving end of other noisy rifles. 🦻



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Gearing Up For Training

Having all the right equipment when you attend a shooting school will allow you to focus on education and performance.

Most people's introduction to any sort of formal initiation to handgun shooting, especially of the personal-defense-oriented variety, happens in an afternoon or maybe the course of a Saturday on an indoor range. Things are taken slowly, there's a heavy emphasis on the classroom element, round counts are held down to the 50- to 100-round threshold and it doesn't generally involve drawing from the holster or much work under the pressure of a shot timer. And this is good. Getting initial exposure to a potentially lethal tool like a handgun should be calm and low-pressure. Ideally, you want folks to get accustomed to its use in an environment with a minimum of artificial pressure and distractions.

For handgun toters who want to pursue more advanced training, however, this usually involves seeking out a class with more time spent on the range and a higher round count. Options can vary widely, from weekend classes taught by traveling instructors to formal curricula taught by shooting academies at fixed-base gun schools, but whichever option is chosen, the experience will be very different from the typical afternoon spent at the local indoor range.

For starters, peak outdoor-training season in most of the country runs from late March through perhaps early November. In other words, most of the time it's going to be hot. It's hard to learn when you're hanging on your chinstrap from heat exhaustion, not to mention how uncool it would be to disrupt the class for everyone else by becoming an actual heat casualty.

Bring water, lots of water. In fact, bring more water than you think you'll need, just in case. You can always share the excess with someone who didn't read this column.

Wear sunscreen. This is especially important in a two-day or longer class when you could really impact your effective learning on training day two or three by inadvertently cooking yourself on day one. You probably know that a brimmed cap is a safety accessory for shooting by keeping spent brass from winding up behind your safety glasses, but if it's a hot and sunny outdoor class environment, consider a hat with a wide brim all around (called a boonie hat) for the portable shade.

At either end of the training season, weather may be cooler and there's the chance of rain year 'round. Because most people have booked these classes ahead of time, an instructor is going to try and maximize training time, even if it's raining. While the "If it ain't raining, you ain't training" line is silly in a civilian environment (people don't learn well and are less safe when they're uncomfortable and distracted by the rain), instructors generally won't stop class for a little drizzle. Check the forecast and bring rain gear or a coat or

jacket as appropriate for the temps and precipitation. Important safety tip: Before class, go ahead and cut all the drawstrings out of the garment. I've done this even on expensive gear, because a drawstring winding up in

the trigger guard of a pistol during the holstering process is a potential tragedy waiting to happen.

If you haven't invested in active—also known as electronic—hearing protection, before your first big class would be an excellent time to do so. You don't have to drop a bundle on high-dollar Safariland Liberators, although they're undeniably comfy and very effective. I used a pair of inexpensive Howard Leight Impact Sports for the better part of a decade; they still work and stay in my range bag to use as a backup or loaner.

Here's a tip for using active ear pro in a training environment: Since the mics on the earmuffs are forward-facing and you're going to be spending a huge chunk of your shooting time on the line with the instructor behind you, wear them backward with the mics pointing to your rear. It makes a huge difference in being able to understand range commands.

In a lot of these sorts of classes, you will be on your own for ammunition management, by which I mean having enough ammo in loaded magazines to do the next



Continued on page 59

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Master Key

Let's broach the subject of breaching.



In every Special Forces unit, there's a guy whose job is to break into doors, windows and walls to clear the way for the rest of the team to enter or exit. While this "breacher" is an expert in demolition and the use of shaped-charge explosives, he also generally carries a shotgun, which is sometimes referred to as "the master key" for obvious reasons.

Yes, thanks to the shotgun's brute power and the width of its payload as it exits the muzzle, our police and Soldiers have discovered that, with training, it can be a useful tool for blowing a door off its hinges or a deadbolt out of the doorframe to gain entry where a crowbar might not do.

Although writing about such breaching tactics in this, a home-defense-shotgun column, may be a stretch, the NRA steadfastly believes that when it comes to firearms, ignorance is danger and knowledge is safety. Such theoretical, "what-if" scenarios would be rare indeed. I can imagine only a few extremely rare occasions where I might need to breach a door in order to either gain access to a room, to exit a room I may be locked in or to potentially rescue someone who is trapped. In no way is the NRA suggesting any home defender use a shotgun to breach a door—unless, of course, it is the only option available to save a life. We strongly recommend seeking professional, hands-on training before attempting what we are about to describe. Rest assured, however, if any of the breaching experts we consulted said that it was just too difficult, too dangerous or that the technique wasn't largely effective against standard, residential-grade doors, we wouldn't cover it ... but alas, most seem to think the technique is just another tool in their kit.

Eddie Penney is the CEO of Contingent Group, author of the great book, "Unafraid," and a retired SEAL Team Six guy with seven deployments under his belt. He's breached

more than his share of doors, and inasmuch, advises the average, untrained, home defender that strong and repeated "mule kicks" to the door may be the best bet. He's referring to the kicking style where you face opposite of the door, bend over and kick out and backward.

But, he says that if a mule kick doesn't work, a well-placed shot or shots from a shotgun will often open a door right up. He says the best way to open a locked door with a shotgun is not by shooting for the hinges, but for the bolt of the locking mechanism, where the bolt enters the door frame.

"Go for the locking side," said Penney. Then, he advises to jam the shotgun's muzzle into the door jamb, where the door meets the frame, just above where you think the deadbolt should be. Angle the barrel down 45 degrees and toward the door at 45 degrees so the shot will strike the bolt where it enters the door frame. Angling the gun down and away will also minimize the chance of debris—spall—going into the room. Then use your shoulder nearest the door to shield your head as you look away. With the shotgun held firmly in place, pull the trigger.

"Take a shot then try to push or kick the door open," said Penney. If it still won't open, your first shot probably made it easier to see where to better aim your next shot, so try it again. Plenty of times the bolt will be blown right out of the door, or the doorframe will be destroyed, allowing the door to freely swing open.

While it sounds complicated, a practiced door breacher can assess a door and place one well-aimed shot in the optimal spot on the door, breaching it in seconds. Initially the technique also sounded rather dangerous to me, but it is routinely taught to our military and law enforcement units without mishap, save for minor, superficial nicks to exposed skin.

As for the type of shotshell that's best for breaching, Penney says the smaller the better, especially in places where you wish to mitigate collateral damage. "We shot powdered 'breaching' rounds so that essentially nothing from the shell would go very far into the room. "But if we didn't have that, we'd use birdshot."

Sure, buckshot or even a slug can be used to breach a door, but any time big pellets are used in a home environment, the shooter should be aware that doing so increases the risk of inflicting collateral damage on anything—or anyone—who may be on the other side of the door.

You know that shark's-mouth-looking muzzle apparatus some tactical shotguns wear these days? It's actually called a breaching device. While it could also serve as a "DNA-sample collector," its teeth are in fact designed to dig into a doorjamb to increase the gun's stability as the breacher looks away and pulls the trigger.

I don't anticipate ever having to breach a door with my shotgun. But, frankly, I feel slightly more prepared—and certainly more informed—now by just knowing the basics. We hope you feel the same. 🌀

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No Need to Bust the Bank

Taurus' new GX2 pistol protects your wallet on the street and at the gun store.

Taurus has always been a value-for-money fire-arm firm. The latest handgun in its line is the GX2, a compact daily-carry pistol packed with features, but not stuffed with price. Here are the basics you need to know:

The GX2 is a compact pistol, which means despite the best efforts of Taurus, there must be some compromises. As in, it has a shorter-than-duty-length barrel, and the flush-fit magazines are not "half a box of ammo" in capacity. It is an amalgamation of the desirable features of the Taurus GX4 and its G2C.

Starting from the top, the GX2 slide (alloy steel, finished in a matte black) has fixed sights on top. The front sight is a white dot in the post, while the rear is a notch, resting in a transverse dovetail. The sight mountings are industry-standard, so should you ever want to spring for more exotic sights you will not find options lacking. It has cocking serrations on the front and rear sides, with a stout extractor on the right side, at the rear of the ejection port. Inside the slide, the stainless-steel barrel locks in place in the ejection port and has an integral feed ramp. Unlike 1911s, the GX2 barrel does not have a link, but cams up and down by means of a cam-ramp milled into the barrel foot. The barrel is one-tenth of an inch shorter than 3.5 inches, which is long enough to give you much of the velocity a 9 mm cartridge can produce, but short enough that daily carry won't become onerous. That's daily carry with a proper holster, of course.

By Patrick Sweeney

Photos by Eric Dean

The slide locked to the rear after the last round was fired, every time. Shots hit to point-of-aim, and the textured panels on the frame made it easy to keep a firm grip on the GX2 despite recoil.

The frame is a polymer shell with the firing system and barrel-cam block assembled inside. Controls are exactly where you'd expect them to be. On the left side you'll find a thumb safety at the rear, a slide stop in the middle and the takedown lever in front, directly above the trigger. Forward of all that, on the dustcover, is an accessory rail where you could mount a light or laser should you so choose. The GX2 is not at all an ambidextrous pistol, but Taurus has added one feature to it that you might not expect from an entry-level pistol: a reversible magazine release. Yes, you can swap it from one side to the other if you're left-handed or simply

want to set it up that way. The frame and grip area extensively incorporate non-slip panels with textures varying according to the need. The frontstrap, for example, is given a heavier, coarser texture than the side panels, since your fingers have more leverage there and you thus gain more advantage. Plus, the finer texture on the sides means the GX2 won't be grinding your holster, clothes, belt or—most importantly—hand while you carry and/or shoot it.

There are also textured panels on the frame, above and forward of the trigger, as index locations for your trigger finger when it is outside the trigger guard. The frontstrap has a small finger groove or hook, just the one, as an added non-slip traction point. The sides of the frame have a raised ridge (not very big, but big enough) that ends at the rear of the magazine release. So, you have little worry that your GX2, riding in a holster, will have the magazine popped loose should pressure accidentally be placed upon the mag button. The backstrap has a decided hump, or curve to it, to both let your hand get higher on the frame (in fact, encouraging it) and to fill the palm of your hand when you grasp the GX2. Its backstrap is not replaceable, a compromise to keep the cost down. As I've mentioned many times before, we went for more than a century without replaceable backstraps on pistols, and they clearly were working just fine for most shooters all of that time. If, however the lack of a replaceable backstrap on the GX2 means that it just doesn't fit your hand, well, Taurus makes many other quality pistols.

I have large hands, but the GX2 frame is long enough (just) to let me get all fingers on the frame, although the last one is pressing hard on the baseplate of the magazine. So, it is definitely a compact pistol.

The steel magazines that come with the pistol are made by stamping sheet steel, then folding and welding them into a tube. They hold 13 rounds, and the baseplate is removable for cleaning. The GX2 comes with a pair of its standard, flush-fit 13-round magazines. However, if you feel the need for more magazines—or more rounds—then 15-round models for the GX4 Carry will work and are readily available. The 15-rounders have a larger basepad to create the room for two more rounds. If you have large hands, the extra baseplate might be just the thing

TAURUS | GX2



SPECIFICATIONS

Manufacturer: Taurus USA; (800) 327-3776, taurususa.com	Trigger Pull Weight: 7 pounds, 2 ounces
Action Type: Striker-fired semi-automatic	Length: 6.2 inches
Caliber: 9 mm	Width: 1.18 inches
Capacity: 13+1 rounds	Height: 4.9 inches
Frame: Polymer	Weight: 19 ounces
Slide: Blackened steel	Accessories: Two 13-round magazines, lock, manual
Barrel Length: 3.4 inches	MSRP: \$332.99
Sights: White-dot front, notch rear	

SHOOTING RESULTS

Load	Velocity	Group Size		
		Smallest	Largest	Average
American Eagle Syntech 115-grain TSJ	1,050	2.9	3.4	3.3
Remington Golden Saber 124-grain +P BJHP	1,083	3.0	3.4	3.2
Hornady Critical Duty 135-grain FlexLock	923	2.7	3.2	3.0
SIG Sauer Match Elite V-Crown 147-grain JHP	830	2.7	3.3	3.1

Velocity measured in fps 15 feet from the muzzle for 10 consecutive shots with a LabRadar chronograph. Temperature: 80 degrees Fahrenheit. Accuracy measured in inches for five consecutive, five-shot groups at 25 yards from a sandbag rest.

for a good grip, even if you aren't interested in more ammunition (although who isn't interested in more ammo?).

The trigger of the GX2 is the expected blade with a safety tab in it, inside of the trigger guard. However, the trigger sports a flat face, and it is designed to be at 90 degrees to the bore axis at the moment of release. That reduces the chances of your trigger pull being off-axis and consequently influencing point-of-impact on the shot. Now, the GX2 being an entry-level pistol, you might expect the trigger pull to be a bit on the heavy side, and you'd be right. The test sample required a couple of ounces greater than 7 pounds to release the striker. Yet, it was an interesting 7 pounds. There was no grit, creep or travel in the trigger. The process was simple: Take up the slack, and then once the trigger stopped moving, add pressure. When it got to just beyond 7 pounds, the striker went *click*. That was it, and it was highly reminiscent of a slew of Great War 1911s I once had a chance to test. They, too, had 7-pound triggers, with no creep or grit, travel or problems. Just apply the pressure and *bang*.

Also of interest, the thumb safety is quite small, and thus unlikely to be rubbed off when holstered. It is perfectly positioned to be pressed off when needed. I had no problems pushing it off when handling the GX2, but I found that I could not use my firing-hand thumb to push it back to safe, which is actually a good thing. That means it is almost certainly not going to bounce or be pushed back to safe in the midst of shooting it. Once you are done shooting, you need to use your off-hand thumb to push the lever back to safe, which is also the way I prefer my 1911s safeties to be adjusted: moderately stiff to go to fire and almost two-handed to go back to safe. This is what you want in a defensive pistol with a manual safety.

One last detail that Taurus took to make the GX2 as affordable as possible: it is not cut for mounting a red-dot optic. Dots are all the rage, but not every shooter wants one, or wants the extra workload of learning to use one. For the budget-conscious, the GX2 fits the bill, as adding a sight—particularly a quality optic—would add nearly 50 percent more to the price of the gun.

Disassembly of the GX2 is simple: Remove the magazine, unload the chamber (by racking the slide) and triple-check to ensure



The sights consist of a dot-enhanced front post teamed with a flat-black, serrated, notched rear in a dovetail. This is becoming the default sight arrangement for many carry guns • Controls are located close together and look a little “busy,” but that can be overcome with practice and familiarization • Eschewed by many veteran shooters, the manual thumb safety has appeal to new shooters lacking confidence in their gun-handling skills. Still it's easy to ignore if you choose not to use it • Although bargain-priced, the GX2 comes with two capacious magazines • Deeply sculpted, the back-strap gets your hand “into” the gun for added control • Fine, molded stippling on all the gripping areas offers good purchase • Seen from above, the Taurus is quite slender for a pistol with a manual thumb safety. Also note the beveled muzzle-end of the slide, which eases reholstering

there is no ammo in the gun. Lock the slide rearward. Rotate the takedown lever. Ease the slide forward and when it stops, dry fire the GX2. You can now pull the slide assembly off the frame. The recoil-spring assembly is a self-contained unit, and once it is out, you can pivot the barrel out of the slide. That's it. Frame internals do not need to be removed to clean; you can aerosol hose them, apply a few drops of lube and then reassemble.

In testing, the GX2 proved to be fully reliable. There were no failures to feed, fire or eject. The slide locked to the rear after the last round was fired, every time. Shots hit to point-of-aim, and the textured panels on the frame made it easy to keep a firm grip on the GX2 despite recoil. (Not that 9 mm has that much, but still, it stayed in place.) Once the trigger function became clear, it was not too difficult to shoot decent groups with the GX2. While some might complain that a 7-pound trigger is too heavy for a pistol, it is useful to remember that back in the "good old days" when revolvers were the typical daily carry handgun, a double-action trigger pull of less than 12 pounds was considered quite good. That the GX2 trigger pull does not have creep, grit or various "hitches" in its movement, making the pull weight less of an issue. Some might consider it a good thing, as it makes the pistol more resistant to inadvertent discharges under stress.

When it got to just beyond 7 pounds, the striker went click. That was it, and it was highly reminiscent of a slew of Great War 1911s I once had a chance to test.

If flat black is your thing, then the GX2 has that covered. If you want color, but aren't looking for the cost of a custom coating, then the GX2 can be had in one of six other frame colors (cyan, dark purple, light purple, olive green, tan and grey) and either black or stainless on the slide. Fair warning: the choice of a stainless slide on the GX2 is going to cost you a whopping \$15 extra, list price. I must admit a certain attraction to the stainless slide and Grey combo. For those living in less-free states, there are 10-round-magazine models, and just recently the GX2 was approved for California's grotesque infringement on our rights known as its approved handgun roster. California approval is a big investment. It required that Taurus send three sample pistols for destructive testing, and a check to cover the cost of that testing. Taurus did so, and now the remaining good folks there have the option of owning a GX2.

With a list price of slightly more than \$300, it is likely that you will see the GX2 in your local gun shop with a price tag somewhat less than \$300. Taurus once again produces a product that is a bargain without being cheap. This is a solid little pistol that works 100 percent of the time. That means your savings (compared with a more expensive pistol) can wisely go toward a good concealment holster, more practice ammo or maybe even another training class. 🌀



There's nothing subtle or restrained about the front and rear cocking serrations. They are big relative to the small pistol, reducing fumbling under stress • Despite the pistol's compact dimensions, Taurus managed to incorporate a three-slot accessory rail for attaching lights and/or lasers • Toolless takedown for routine maintenance is easily accomplished with the GX2 • Taurus' elegant and distinctive bullseye logo is showing up on progressively better pistols—no mean feat while keeping the price point low.



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2025 *Holiday* **Gift Guide**

Looking for the perfect holiday gift for the gun lovers in your life? We've got you covered with 50 products running the gamut of practical, fun, cool and amazing, and at prices from \$3 to \$500 so you can take care of everyone from your spouse to that neighbor who hasn't returned your hedge trimmer. Enjoy, and we hope this helps all people of the gun have a delightful holiday season.

A Shooting Illustrated Staff Report



Gifts Up to \$30

1 | Winchester

Rainy Days And Mondays Will Never Get You Down

Hanging around the range with nothing else to do but frown? The push-button latch opens this umbrella in an instant, while 62 inches of polyester panel will help keep you dry, all while showing off the iconic Winchester horse-and-rider logo.

\$30; winchestergear.com

2 | Smith & Wesson

S&W USA Flag License Plate

Looking to add some flair to your vehicle's curb appeal? All you need to do is attach this Smith & Wesson USA flag license plate to the front of your little red Corvette, then drive down to the local burger shop and listen to some rock 'n' roll to have the most American holiday possible.

\$16.99; smith-wesson.com

3 | Ruger

Silver Stag Bottle Opener

The stainless-steel construction on the business end of this handsome device makes it easy to open your favorite beverages, while the antler-tine handle and Ruger medallion insert mean you'll look good while doing so.

\$29.95; shopruger.com

4 | Browning

Western Bi-Fold

Have your means of payment ready while showing off your love for finely crafted firearms and the outdoors with this composite-leather wallet featuring the iconic Buckmark logo, four card pockets and an ID window.

\$24.99; browning.com

5 | Kimber America

Tumbler 20 oz.

Triple-insulated and built of stainless steel, Kimber's tumbler is designed to fit in any cupholder. It'll keep cold beverages icy cold for 24 hours and hot drinks steamy for 6 hours. A 30-ounce version is available, too.

\$29.99; kimberamerica.com

6 | KelTec

.22 Ammo Dispenser

A convenient way to keep track of rimfire ammo at the range or in the field, this dispenser is an upgrade from flimsy ammo boxes and clips on your belt or backpack.

\$12; keltecweapons.com

7 | BPI Outdoors

Bergara Scope Cover

The long-range enthusiast on your holiday list thinks of many variables in their pursuit of precision, but protecting the optic on top of their rifle might not be one of them. Safeguard your valuable riflescope while paying homage to the precision rifle to which it is attached.

\$15.99; bpioutdoors.com

8 | Ballistol

Cleaning Picks

Improve your cleaning skills with this simple but effective pair of tools. Hard-plastic construction safeguards your firearms from scratches, while allowing you access to those pesky, hard-to-reach places.

\$8; ballistol.com

9 | CM Products

Chip Clip

Containing a pair of spring-loaded jaws and a magnetic back, the Chip Clip provides a convenient means to keep track of important items. Now it's even easier to store a hard copy of your firearm inventory, as well as this year's Christmas list.

\$3; cmproducts.com

10 | Best Cigar Prices

Boutique Luxuries 10 Cigar Sampler

By using the URL shown here until January 1, not only will you get 10 premium cigars from the likes of Gurkha, Drew Estate, Rocky Patel, Oliva, Camacho and others, you'll also get a free cutter, free shipping and a \$20 voucher for a future purchase.

\$29.99; bestcigarprices.com/BP560



Gifts \$32 to \$44.99

1 | Full Forge Gear

CAT-2 Double Pistol Case

Handgun aficionado on your list? The CAT-2 offers a wraparound zipper and a lay-flat design that allows for easy access to two padded pistol compartments. It also has a front pocket with MOLLE webbing for stowing your essential accessories and attachments.

\$37.95; fullforgegear.com

2 | Safariland

Not a Petting Zoo Vintage Tee

While the brand of your holster, hearing protection or other EDC item may suggest a fun trip to look at cute animals, those in the know understand that Safariland signals a discerning firearm owner. Help educate others with this premium, tag-free T-shirt.

\$32.99; safariland.com

3 | Caliber Gourmet

Revolver Pillow

Guns are said to be comforting, not comfortable, but here's one that's both. The Ruger revolver offers a unique accent to the couch or bed of any gun enthusiast and also ups their pillow-fight game.

\$34.50; campco.com

4 | Sneaky Pete Holsters

Black Patriot Series Phone Case

Made to fit a variety of Android and Apple smartphones, this case has a belt clip and a flap to protect your phone. There is also a pocket to store cash, credit cards or other documents.

\$34.95; sneakypeteholsters.com

5 | Burris

Scope Tube Level

Mounting riflescopes can be challenging, but one way to make it easier is to have a convenient way to make sure the optic is installed level to its host firearm. The rifle shooter on your list will appreciate this simple, but eminently useful, tool for mounting scopes of any make.

\$40.99; burrisoptics.com

6 | Federal

Waterbox Speaker

Take your tunes with you on your next adventure while showing off your love for premium ammunition. This 5-watt, rechargeable, Bluetooth speaker is waterproof, so it will keep pumping out the jams even if the skies have opened up.

\$40; federalpremium.com

7 | CZ-USA

CZ P-10 Shop Sign

Help the CZ aficionado on your list proclaim their love for the brand with this tin shop sign emblazoned with the company's striker-fired, polymer-frame pistol schematic. There are even pre-punched holes to make it easier to hang over your workbench.

\$34.99; czusagear.com

8 | Wayne's Dog

Rifle Shotgun Field Shield Leather Archery Half Chest Protector Guard

Fabricated from padded suede leather and 16-ounce waxed canvas with heavy-duty stitching, this recoil shield takes the sting out of firing powerful long guns. It's fully adjustable to fit a wide range of wearers and is available for right- or left-handed shooters.

\$54; waynesdog.shop

9 | Gun Goddess

Second Amendment Neckties

Whether you're working at the office or traipsing about town, this woven-silk necktie measures 61 inches long, 3.5 inches wide and is available in five colors. A choice of an AR-15 or a pistol pattern allows you to slyly and stylishly show your support for the rights protected by the Second Amendment.

\$40; gungoddess.com

10 | GRITR

Electronic Earmuffs

Protect your hearing while enhancing your awareness at the range with these affordable, sound-modulating muffs that come complete with a belt clip, batteries and a storage case.

\$44.99, gritrgear.com



Gifts \$45 to \$83

1 | XS Sights

Hawaiian Shirt

Made from 100-percent recycled polyester, this bold, colorful, gun-festooned shirt will help show off your love of firearms and superior sight systems while stylishly standing out in any crowd.

\$50; xssights.com

2 | Arrowhead Tactical

Carrier Training Shorts Mk. II

Designed for the active concealed-carry enthusiast on your list, these shorts offer a slot where a retention belt (sold separately) can be inserted to carry a holstered pistol inside-the-waistband without telltale belt loops and exposed holster clips.

\$67.99; arrowheadtacticalapparel.com

3 | NRA

Membership

Give your friends and family the gift of freedom you already enjoy. Membership comes with copious benefits, including a membership card, a choice of monthly magazine (we suggest *Shooting Illustrated*, of course) and the knowledge you're helping to protect our Second Amendment rights.

\$45; nra.org

4 | Magpul

Breach Glove 2.0

These range-ready gloves are made from rugged materials like Nomex and goatskin leather and feature reinforced knuckles. Built to protect your hands from wear and tear, they are also compatible with touch screens.

\$74.95; magpul.com

5 | Wilson Combat

Presentation Box

Combining elegant walnut construction with a lockable Plexiglas lid that contains the Wilson Combat logo, this presentation case for a 1911 is for those who realize finely crafted handguns are works of art, worthy of being displayed.

\$82.95; wilsoncombat.com

6 | UTG Pro

Super Slim M-Lok Forend for Ruger PC Carbine

Enhance your Ruger PC Carbine with this 100-percent American-made, 6061-T6 aluminum drop-in fore-end that features eight M-Lok slots, chamfered edges, dehorned corners and a Docter-footprint optic mount.

\$59.97; leapers.com

7 | Mec-Gar USA

2011 9 mm 18-Round Magazine

Compatible with Springfield Armory Prodigy, 2011- and 2311-pattern pistols, this magazine features a bright-green, high-impact polymer follower combined with a heat-treated, carbon-steel body that includes an anti-friction coating. Best of all, it holds one extra round of 9 mm than similar flush-fit offerings.

\$59; mec-gar.com

8 | Dead Air Silencers

Ripstop Softshell Vest

Stay warm and comfortable with this durable, lightweight garment that keeps out wind and also conceals your EDC pistol. The black vest is machine-washable, features a stand-up collar, fleece interior and two zippered pockets, and is offered in sizes small through 4XL.

\$74.99; deadairsilencers.com

9 | Heckler & Koch

Retro Lunch Box

Resurrect those memories of your youth when you could only aspire to Heckler & Koch products. The flat-black lunch box is a vintage design enhanced with the company's logo. Also included is a matching, insulated, 12-ounce tumbler to keep your desired beverage either hot or cold.

\$59.99; hk-usa.com

10 | Walther Arms

MultiTasker Twist

Tackle any task with this convenient and cleverly designed multitool that is slender enough to keep on your person. It magnetically holds included slotted-, hex- and Torx-head bits, and also has a punch, radial carbon scraper and heavy-duty dental pick. Moreover, the tool's threads are compatible with Otis accessories.

\$59.95; waltherarms.com



Gifts \$89 to \$129.99

1 | Liberty Home Concealment

Mini American Flag Gun Concealment Case

More than an elegant piece of decor, this multi-purpose piece of art boasts a hidden compartment to stash multiple handguns, magazines and accessories anywhere in your home. A magnetic lock grants quick access—remaining hidden in plain sight—while simultaneously displaying your patriotism. \$109.99; libertyhomeconcealment.com

2 | LA Police Gear

Low Vis Plate Carrier

Intended as a lightweight option for protective gear, this vest is constructed from 500D nylon, can hold 10x12-inch Level IIIA or Level IV plates and has a MOLLE-compatible area with a loop backing for additional items. \$130; lapolicegear.com

3 | SDS Imports

MAC MK II Knife

Military Armament Corporation has recreated this Vietnam War-era knife design using state-of-the-art modern materials and manufacturing processes. The familiar spear-point, dual-edge design is made of satin-finished 440C stainless steel hardened to 58-60 HRC. The handle is Cerakoted aluminum and a military-style leather sheath is included. \$99.99; milarmamentcorp.com

4 | Rinehart

Game Room Hunt Series Dartboard

Made from the same self-sealing material as Rinehart's 3-D targets, this deer-shaped dartboard comes with three darts and two scoring zones; one normal ringed bullseye and a zone in the whitetail's vitals. \$129.99; rinehart3d.com

5 | Falco Holsters

Large Bum Bag for Concealed Gun Carry

Designed specifically for concealed carry, this fanny pack can be used with either the right or left hand. There are also pockets to carry other gear, and optional quiet zipper pulls. \$109.95; falcoholsters.com

6 | Stauer

40-inch Northward Walking Stick

Both handsome and functional, the Northward Walking Stick will allow you to get your steps in—stylishly. And, you needn't worry about going off-course as there is a compass embedded in the sculpted, cast-brass head. The shaft is comprised of eucalyptus wood and terminates in a rubber tip. \$129; stauer.com

7 | Fix It Sticks

Red Dot Optics Expansion Pack

Available as an add-on to your existing Fix-it-Sticks kit, this pack includes low-torque adjustment wrenches and specialty tools for the unique needs of running a red-dot optic on your handgun. \$100; fixitsticks.com

8 | Henry Repeating Arms

Checkerboard Box

This handy box is great for storing cleaning and maintenance gear for your guns, or whatever else you'd like. It doubles as a checkerboard and bears the Henry logo. The American-made box is built of pine and includes wooden checkers and a cloth bag. \$95.95; henryusa.com

9 | Stone Glacier

SG First Aid Kit

Want to give a gift you hope the recipient never has to use? This solid first-aid kit can be added to a backpack, vehicle trunk, bug-out bag or briefcase and contains essentials like a tourniquet, gauze and a wound-closure kit in addition to topical ointments and some standard medications. \$90; stoneglacier.com

10 | FN America

FN Ugly Sweater

Nothing says "Christmas Party" like a traditional, ugly sweater, and this one ups the ante with an acutely ugly design, but featuring bullets and a beautiful rendition of FN's SCAR, along with heartfelt wishes for a Merry Christmas. \$89.99; fnestore.com



Gifts \$130 and Up

1 | Camp Chef

Sherpa Camp Table & Organizer

Add more prep space to your next outdoor journey. This handy table is easy to set up and includes four soft storage containers to make sure your grilling and eating gear goes with you, wherever the road takes you.

\$219.99; campchef.com

2 | Springfield Armory

Custom Leather Duffel/Overnight Bag

Your favorite firearm enthusiast will eagerly look forward to overnight trips and short jaunts when they get to show off this premium-leather duffel bag. Top-grain leather construction, complete with an antiqued-brass logo, brass zippers and brass hardware give a touch of elegance to your vacations, business travel and training trips.

\$499.99; store.springfield-armory.com

3 | Mossberg

LED Sign

Perfect for a man cave or she shed, this 24-inch, bright-LED Mossberg logo sign includes a dimmer switch and rubber feet should you choose to mount it on a table stand, though it can also easily be hung on a wall.

\$149.99; mossberg.com

4 | Peacekeeper Whiskey

The Peacekeeper American Bourbon Whiskey

This well-balanced bourbon arrives in an erector-launcher missile truck complete with rugged wheels, an olive-drab paint job and a nose-cone-shaped topper. Though we think the missile should be pointier, the whiskey itself has nice notes of honeyed oak, vanilla and warm spice.

\$164; worldwhiskey.com

5 | CRKT

Provoke X Morphing Axe

Not every gift has to be practical—some are just really cool. Who wouldn't want an axe that fits in your pocket and deploys with the flick of your wrist? Sure, it's not going to work as well at chopping trees, but a lumberjack axe doesn't fold and stow in your cargo shorts.

\$350; crkt.com

6 | Hornady

Neon Clock

Light up a room with the red and white neon from this attractive timepiece. Boasting a retro chrome design, it's great for the gun room, workshop, garage or wherever you want to show off one of America's most iconic ammunition labels.

\$169.99; hornady.com

7 | Nighthawk Custom

Decanter Set

Add some panache to your wet bar. A stunning 24-percent lead-crystal decanter with a generous 25-ounce capacity is perfect for showcasing your favorite spirits. Four non-lead crystal rocks glasses are included—each are also laser engraved with the Nighthawk Custom logo—combining elegance with exclusivity.

\$399.99; nighthawkcustom.com

8 | Leupold

Tracer Eyewear

Protect your eyes with Leupold style. These ballistic-rated glasses come with interchangeable lenses for indoor and outdoor protection, have a lightweight, impact-resistant frame and come with their own case, bag and lens-cleaning cloth.

\$179.99; leupold.com

9 | Rocky Boots

Mountain Combat Waterproof Military Boot

No one thinks about footwear until it's too late, when your cheap, big-box no-name shoes have soaked through and walking is miserable. A pair of rugged, waterproof boots can turn a less-than-spectacular day outdoors into something much more comfortable.

\$162; rockyboots.com

10 | Nightstick

TCM-5B-GL

Upping the capabilities of the mini-9 class of EDC pistols, the compact TCM-5B-GL fits on limited accessory rail space yet generates 650 lumens of white light and incorporates a green laser for pinpoint accuracy. The CR123 lithium battery is included.

\$299.99; nightstick.com



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The Perfect SHOT

Here's how to practice to achieve on-demand performance.

By Steve Tarani

A seasoned shooter knows from personal experience that achieving on-demand, repeatable performance is paramount and that such consistency is the holy grail of shooting well. What are the underlying principles of developing the coveted skill of making the gun behave predictably, resulting in consistent, timely and effective round placement on demand?

The answer is to develop what performance shooters call "the perfect shot," and recommend that it be the way you shoot every time you send a round down-range. What is this perfect shot? Before delving into the details, it's important to first consider the context in which it is applied.

A common mistake among shooters is the mental approach to multiple rounds. Whether it's repetitive rounds on the same target or multiple rounds applied to more than one target in transition such as a plate rack, the thought process should not be "I'm going to deliver five rounds." Rather, the thought process should be "I'm going to deliver one precise, well-placed round, followed by another precise, well-placed round—five times." Herein is the practical application of the perfect shot. The overarching idea is to think of delivering one perfect shot at a time regardless of the number of rounds, where they are placed, technicality of the target or accuracy and/or time requirements.

That hypothetical perfect shot is a byproduct of a shooting process codified by multi-world champion competitive shooter Rob Leatham, which is to "bring stability to alignment and break the shot without disrupting that alignment." Meticulously and flawlessly following this process executed from start to finish is what produces the perfect shot. It's certainly a simple enough concept to understand, indeed. However, developing the skill to do it repeatedly on demand is nowhere near as simple, as it raises salient questions such as when does this cycle of action begin? When does it end? What are the specific checkpoints along the way that must be met? The answers to these important questions are found in a series of subprocesses underpinning the overarching shooting process such as a mental process, a mechanical process and a visual process, to name a few.

Preceding any physical body mechanics is the mental process. Regardless of whether applying the shot combatively or in competition, the shooter must first



identify a target. Is that a target? Is it the right target? Is it a shoot or no-shoot target? If it is a shoot target, then what are my options? What is my optimal shooting solution? The shooter must be able to lean on their depth of skill and experience to determine target difficulty (size, distance, movement, penalty, etc.) dictating the optimal shooting solution for that one shot.

Depending on the situation, whether in combat (is it necessary, legal and moral? If so, is there a good enough backstop?) or in competition (what is the designated string of fire? What are the required procedures?), there are questions. After answering all the requisite questions including the time and accuracy requirements, then the mind shifts from that of the problem solver to that of the silent observer. It now switches from deliberation mode to performance mode where the physical and mechanical subprocess begins.

The initial considerations of the mechanical process are firearm access, carry and deployment. Where is the handgun located? Inside the waistband? Outside the waistband? Appendix inside the waistband? Have you trained to the point where you can rapidly deploy your firearm? If so, how long does it take for you to work your way past any clothing, disengage any retention device(s) and acquire a positive master grip in the holster and then present the firearm from the holster with either strong hand only or both hands on the gun? If you have no idea how long it takes to present your firearm to the target at a particular distance and guarantee accurate round placement at that distance with alacrity, then it's important you find that number so you know what you are realistically capable of as a baseline.

Here, you are presented with the first checkbox of the shooting-process checklist: "bring stability to alignment." The presentation process should include a positive strong hand acquisition followed by a flawless draw intercepted and reinforced by your support hand on the way out to the target in as minimal a timeline and in the shortest distance (always a straight line) possible.

An often-underrated aspect of the presentation process, and integral to building stability, is to point the gun really well. You cannot move to the next steps unless you can first point the gun exactly where you want it. Easy as this may sound, like pointing your finger at a light switch, there's a lot more to the story than meets the eye. Pointing the gun is a kinesthetic process leaning not on any type of visual process (other than target focus), but on your proprioceptors to successfully complete the task of bringing the muzzle to alignment with the intended target area.

You can only achieve this with multiple repetitions. It can be done dry, and it is recommended that you support your range practice with dry fire specifically by pointing the gun exactly where you want it as part of your presentation.

How many of us have needed to make small-scale corrections on the way out from the holster to the target to establish alignment? Each course correction is an unwanted input and costs valuable time. The greater the frequency and magnitude of such corrections, the more time it costs you. The more you practice pointing the gun, the fewer and less dramatic corrections will be needed for alignment, resulting in less dead time.



An often-underrated aspect of the presentation process, and integral to building stability, is to point the gun really well. You cannot move to the next steps unless you can first point the gun exactly where you want it.

Pointing the gun well is integral to building stability, requiring a solid grip with the hands, sound structural integrity of the body and taming your arc-of-wobble—all executed in a compressed time frame.

A good grip means that you have a stable enough hand position and consistent (durable) grip pressure to maintain muzzle stabilization throughout the shooting process. Sound structural integrity means that you are using your elbows, shoulders and entire upper torso to fully support and maintain a stable firing platform. Completing the trifecta of a good hold is the ability to refine your arc-of-wobble as dictated by the specific shooting solution.

The trifecta of durable grip, structural integrity and refined arc-of-wobble is what facilitates hold control—one of the foundational skills emphasized in NRA marksmanship programs. Hold control is your ability to maintain a consistent and steady firing position while aiming to ensure muzzle alignment with your intended target.

The more technical the shot, the more you need to refine your hold control consisting of grip, structure and wobble. Refinement is the key to mastering hold control—the cornerstone of building and maintaining stability. It is the deliberate process of fine-tuning each aspect of the mechanical process to achieve optimal consistency and accuracy. Through refinement, inefficiencies are eliminated, and unnecessary input minimized.

Grip is where refinement begins. Refining your grip means finding the optimal strong- and support-hand positions that distribute pressure evenly, minimizing shifts during recoil and developing myelination for consistency under stress. The refinement process transforms your grip into a durable and reliable shooting fundamental.

Equally critical is the refinement of structural integrity. Your shoulders, elbows and torso must work cohesively to provide a stable firing platform. This involves adjusting your stance and posture to maximize balance, foster efficiency and reduce unnecessary muscular strain, ensuring that your muzzle alignment remains consistent between shots. Refining this structural integrity means understanding how your body mechanics influence the firearm's stability and making subtle adjustments to maintain a solid foundation.

As with the other two hold-control components, creating and sustaining an acceptable arc-of-wobble needs continual refinement. This refinement process requires consistent practice and greater demand—resulting in further development—of your fine-motor skills.

Grip, structural integrity and arc-of-wobble do not function in isolation. Refinement is what further integrates them into a cohesive, and ultimately subconscious, system that adapts to the technical demands of the shot. By honing these skills, you can elevate your hold control from a foundational competency to a fine-tuned skill with unwavering confidence. Refinement is not merely a step in the process—it is the process.

After completing the mechanical-process checklist for developing a good hold, then comes fire control, where you must maintain that hold while breaking the shot. Sustaining a good hold control during the break simply means maintaining alignment.

Traditional schools of thought consider the break as the very end of the shooting process and all else that occurs thereafter as “follow-through.” In other words, it is commonly believed that the *boom* signifies the end of the shot. Nothing could be further from the truth, as this is merely the midpoint in the mechanical process of a single shot.

In continuity of the single-shot process, the break then initiates a recoil sequence of muzzle rise, recovery and realignment. Each



Drawing your concealed handgun can be practiced at home with an unloaded pistol to ensure you maintain proficiency.



Practice finding your natural point-of-aim so when you press the pistol out and open your eyes, the sights (or red-dot sight) are on target already. This exercise will shave precious seconds off your presentation when it counts.

A solid grip is a cornerstone of good shooting, helping keep the muzzle steady, the sights on target and the pistol as flat as possible.



Your sights should be on the same plane as your line of sight, without having to move your head or the gun to gain alignment.

of these three also requires refinement. Observe your muzzle rise. Which direction did it go? Straight up? Left? Right? How high did it rise?

Next on the checklist is recovery. Did your sights recover to exactly where they started from? Was your point-of-impact exactly your point-of-aim? Did the muzzle scribe a 6-o'clock to 12-o'clock arc-of-movement? Are you now realigned with your original and intended point-of-aim?

You can't fix something that you can't see. Integral to the refinement process is that you first observe what is occurring and then make the mechanical process adjustments to refine your recoil-control process closer to the optimal and desired behavior. During this process, your trigger control should be commensurate with your realignment. Immediately following the break, you need to reset the trigger without delay. If you can hear the trigger reset after the break you are way too far behind the action/reaction power curve. The sound of the *click* on reset when drowned out by the gun's report confirms a higher performance (efficient) trigger reset timing.

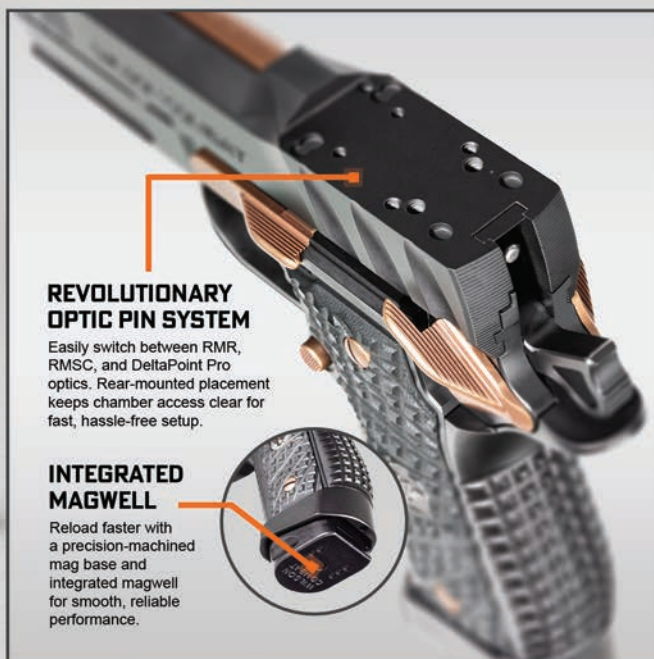
Continued on page 58



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PUSHING BOUNDARIES | SETTING STANDARDS

What are Advanced Training Techniques

By George Harris



NOAH ALKINBURGH

you and everyone around you with the same number of holes with which you were born. Muzzle management and trigger-finger discipline will also play a significant role in successfully hitting your intended target.

It is important to learn the nomenclature of the gun, which will allow communication between the teacher and the student with understanding. The nomenclature of the gun is important in that it names the parts of the gun so there is no confusion resulting from being unfamiliar with the firearm in use.

It is helpful at this point to put some thought regarding ammunition as it relates to the firearm being trained with as to caliber and a cursory overview as to the variety of types available for the gun.

The next essential component of your firearm education are the basics: loading, unloading, cleaning, basic maintenance and storage. After this, basic shooting techniques, both in dry-fire and then live with the addition of ammunition. Even though there are many techniques that can be taught to achieve a similar result, two things to keep in mind will put shots on target. If you can stabilize the barrel's muzzle on the target and pull the trigger without affecting the muzzle's stability, you will hit the target.

If owning a gun and being able to handle it safely and proficiently is your goal, you are at a good place. Regular practice and repetition of your learned skills will keep you proficient until you set new goals for additional skills.

Advanced training builds on already-learned skills and focuses on areas of specificity in the use of firearms. Using concealed carry as an example, holsters and associated gear differ from that used on the range when they get started. Carry location, clothing and type of gun often differ as the objectives change. Learning new ways of drawing and reholstering the pistol are just two other techniques that could be considered advanced compared with your prior foundational training. Taking it a step further, dynamic training—such as shooting while moving, utilizing concealment and cover and shooting from improvised positions—are all skills that can be considered advanced over standard foundational training.

A cap on that could be interactive role-play training where you pit your skills against other students in scenarios where you have to think and act in potential real-world situations. This, of course, occurs while using the appropriate safety equipment and firearms that project marking pellets verifying hits or misses. All of these skills are enhanced by refining the basics originally learned, which equate to hits on target when and where you want them. Advanced training reinforces previously learned skills as well as adding to those skills with new problem-solving techniques that are useful in the right situation. Practicing these added skills usually requires additional repetition, which equates to more ammo fired. The decision is yours as to how far your training needs to go. The fact that you asked for help is a sign that you are on the right track. 

The Problem

You are relatively new to handguns and the concepts of concealed carry. You know the day will come when a gun will be part of your everyday gear, but you are not ready.

You have taken a basic-handgun course and are considering more advanced training to become more confident and competent in your handgun skills. Through your research online and asking questions of some who carry concealed every day, you are confused as to what training courses you should attend. You see many courses offered as Advanced, but fail to see how they are differentiated from standard course offerings other than how much ammunition is expended. How do you know how much training is enough for your current needs? Should you consider taking an Advanced Techniques class even though you do not see the immediate benefit at this time?

The Solution

You must set your own goals as to what your objectives are related to firearms and their use. Your training and education can be guided by answering the questions of exactly what you want to know (the academic/intellectual part), and what do you want to be able to do (the practical actionable part) related to your use and interest in firearms.

Regardless of where you end up in your endeavors, the starting point is pretty much the same. Your basic firearm class should have covered the primary consideration when working with a variety of guns, which is safety. If you remember nothing else, a conscious awareness of where the muzzle is pointed at all times, as well as a conscious awareness of what the index finger of the dominant hand is doing 100 percent of the time, will likely result in keeping

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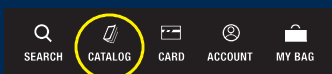
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All The Trimmings

Never fear, handloaders—
Hornady is on the case.



RICHARD MANN

Handloading ammunition is a labor of love—either for the love of shooting or the love of crafting ammo. But, when it comes to handloading, there are several undeniable truths. The first is that it takes time, sometimes lots of time. And, even though you can save money, handloading can also become expensive in and of itself. Finally, there will always be aspects of handloading some folks just do not enjoy. The least enjoyable aspect for me is trimming and prepping cartridge cases, because it takes up a lot of time and because it requires additional tools. Hornady has just introduced a new electronic case trimmer/prep tool, and while it might seem expensive, it'll save time and require less elbow grease.

A basic, manually operated case trimmer will cost between \$100 and \$200. If you're only trimming about 100 cases a year, it's probably all you need. From a time standpoint, with a manual trimmer you can work about 100 cases in half an hour. But after trimming, the case mouth will be flat, so you'll then need to chamfer and deburr the case mouth. If you also do this manually, counting set up and organization it is going to take you about an hour to trim, chamfer and deburr 100 cases. With Hornady's new High Speed 3 in 1 Power Case Trimmer, you can do all of that in about 15 minutes. We all have a different idea of what our time is worth, but either way, that's a tremendous savings.

The Hornady High Speed 3 in 1 Power Case Trimmer is built around a 2,000-rpm motor that runs almost silently. The unit mounts to your loading bench via two screws. You'll need to drill two holes in the top of your bench, and mounting screws are not included with the case trimmer. This trimmer uses a pilot that fits inside the case mouth just like with a traditional manual trimmer, and numerous pilots are included. To hold the rim end of the case, the trimmer

comes with two, interchangeable, multi-size collets that will fit cartridge cases of various calibers.

What sets this trimmer apart from other case trimmers is its ability to chamfer the inside and outside of the neck and deburr the case mouth at the same time it's being trimmed. This is accomplished with two blades that fit inside the cutter body that the pilot also inserts in. One blade has a recess that chamfers the outside of the case mouth, and the other blade has an extension that takes care of the inside of the case mouth. Each blade fits inside a slot and is held in place by its own lock screw on the cutter body.

Adjustments for trim length are controlled by a macro-adjustment hard stop that the cartridge carriage butts up against, and by a micro-adjustment dial underneath the carriage. Once you have the correct trim length adjusted, both adjustments can be locked in place. Then all you need to do is insert a case, lock it in place by twisting the large, knurled handle and then slide the carriage forward and pull it back. After trimming, you just release the collet lock on the case by turning the handle again, insert a new case and repeat. Once you get proficient with the process you can trim, chamfer and deburr a case in 10 seconds or less.

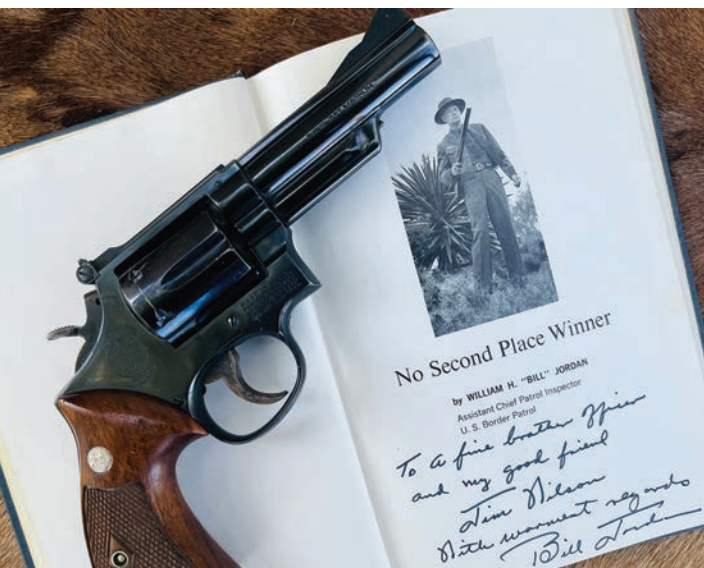
I mounted the 3 in 1 Trimmer to my bench and set it up to work with some 25 Creedmoor cases that needed prepping. It took me a few moments to get the trimmer adjusted for the correct trim length, but right out of the gate, the unit worked perfectly. Next, I swapped the .25-caliber pilot for a .28-caliber pilot to trim some .284 Win. cases. At first, the trimmer was not working the inside of the case mouth, and I had to adjust one of the cutting heads. This was a bit tedious and took a few attempts, but once I had the adjustment correct, everything worked like a charm. If you're super specific about how you like your case mouths chamfered, you may have to tweak the adjustment of the cutting heads a bit like I did.

The trimmer has a removable, clear-plastic shield that covers the cutting head to keep brass shavings from escaping and getting in your eyes, and there's also a small tray you slide in under this shield to catch the trimmings. There is another large tray that attaches under the trimmer to hold trimmed or untrimmed brass. Both let you keep your loading area clean and uncluttered. In addition, the macro adjustment stop has holes for storing—for easy access—the other collet and four case-mouth pilots for the calibers you work with most often. For most handloaders, case prep is done *en masse* and occurs periodically throughout the year as opposed to every time you sit at the bench.

Hornady's new High Speed 3 in 1 Power Case Trimmer retails for \$500. If you're doing a lot of competitive shooting and running through a lot of brass, this tool could save you hours of time and would be a practical investment. Time, as they say, is the only thing in this world we cannot make more of, and maximizing it makes sense. Of course, if you're like me and you hate twisting that handle on a manual trimmer, this cool new tool might be right up your alley. 

The Smith & Wesson Model 19: Bill Jordan's Masterpiece

His insights into the ideal service revolver would be embraced by many lawmen nationwide.



JIM WILSON

Bill Jordan was my close friend. He was a career Border Patrolman, a Marine combat veteran in World War II and Korea and a great trick/exhibition shooter. We met in the 1970s and renewed our friendship when I began writing for gun magazines. We hunted together, stayed in each other's homes and generally had a good time. Most people tended to have a good time when they were around Jordan.

The other interesting person in this scenario is a fellow named Carl Hellstrom. He was hired by Smith & Wesson during World War II to get the firm's military production up and running, which he did in very short order. The leadership at Smith & Wesson was so impressed with Hellstrom that, shortly after the war, he was asked to come back and head the entire corporate operation. To the best of my knowledge, Hellstrom was not a gun guy. Rather, he was a manufacturer, and a very good one.

In an attempt to update the company's product line, Hellstrom sought out savvy gun folks and asked for input. When considering police revolvers, he naturally turned to Jordan. And, Jordan knew exactly the new gun that he would like to see. He told Hellstrom that the revolver should be a .357 Mag., built on the company's medium-size K-frame, which would make it lighter weight for officer comfort. It should have a heavy 4-inch barrel and adjustable sights for greater accuracy. And, it should also have a shroud under the barrel to protect the ejector rod from damage.

Due to the recent war effort, stronger steel was now available, and Smith & Wesson took advantage of that development. Hellstrom and Jordan visited during the summer of 1954, and the new police revolver was a reality by Nov. 15, 1955. This new revolver was called the Combat Magnum, and the first gun off the line went to Jordan.

Jordan went on T.V. and demonstrated his fast-draw techniques with the Combat Magnum. He called it the "Peace Officer's Dream." Smith & Wesson sold 5,000 of the guns in the first six months, and it quickly became one of the company's best sellers.

In 1957, Smith & Wesson decided to number its guns instead of naming them, and the Combat Magnum became the Model 19. In 1963, it offered a 6-inch version, and a 2.5-inch gun arrived in 1968. The Model 19 went stainless in 1970, being called the Model 66.

When I went to work as a peace officer, in the late 1960s, you just simply weren't with the program if you weren't packing a Model 19 in your Don Hume Trooper holster, another Bill Jordan design. It became the issue revolver for numerous law enforcement agencies, not the least of which was the U.S. Border Patrol and the Texas Rangers. The revolver had a great, smooth action and was quite accurate. Our pistol team used the 6-inch gun in competition, while we carried the 4-inch version on patrol. I killed my first whitetail buck with my Model 19.

The gun pictured with this month's column is one of three Model 19s I own. This one is actually a pre-Model 19, having been shipped in 1956. It is probably a police gun, and I wish I knew its history. Outside of a bit of holster wear, this 69-year-old revolver is still tight and accurate.

In the early days, the practice was to shoot qualifications with .38 Spl. target wadcutters and save the more powerful loads for the street. However, police trainers began to suggest—and rightfully so—that an officer ought to qualify with the same ammunition that he would use on the street in an actual gunfight. And that began to cause problems in the Model 19 (and stainless Model 66). Guns were sustaining damage such as cracked forcing cones with a steady diet of magnum loads, especially the 125-grain magnum load. It turned out that the handguns were best used with standard .38 Spl. +P ammunition.

In my experience, these K-frame are best used with something akin to .38/44 loads from the 1930s: a 158-grain bullet running about 900 to 1,000 fps. Smith & Wesson is currently offering an updated version of the Model 19 and, while I haven't personally tested it, I understand that many of those early problems have been overcome.

Bill Jordan passed away in 1997, but I am sure he took great pride in the revolver that he helped design. There is no way of knowing just how many police officers and legally armed citizens' lives have been saved through the judicious use of their Model 19/66 revolvers. That's a pretty good legacy, and a fine revolver in anybody's book. 



Ruger P85

Leave it to Ruger to improve upon a classic, even its own.



A welcome feature for a duty pistol, the P85 featured an ambidextrous decocking lever/safety, ideal for weak-hand shooting.

The Ruger P85 is a dramatically revised concept of the Colt M1911, the legendary semi-automatic even inventor John Browning thought could be improved upon with the Hi Power. But, Bill Ruger gave his engineering team carte blanche to create the first P-series pistol he envisioned as being even better, the P85—named after the year it was designed.

William B. Ruger's primary motivation in creating the P series was the U.S. Army's quest for a replacement for the M1911A1. He remained frustrated his Mini-14, which reached fruition in 1975, was developed too late for Vietnam. Yet, with his penchant for perfection, Ruger was not about to release a new pistol until he felt it was ready.

That turned out to be the P85, a 9 mm short-recoil pistol featuring music-wire coil springs, an aluminum frame and a 4130 chrome-molybdenum alloy steel slide along with a stainless steel barrel. Featuring an ambidextrous thumb safety/decocking mechanism and a push-button magazine release near the rear of the trigger guard, the entire gun consisted of just 56 parts (about 20 percent fewer than the 1911A1) and weighed 32 ounces. The pistol broke down into five major components: slide, frame, barrel, recoil spring and guide rod. Both its slide and frame were investment cast, a Ruger trademark. The grips featured non-slip horizontal serrations and were molded of General Electric Xenoy high-impact plastic.

A 4.5-inch barrel and white-dot sights (with the rear sight drift-adjustable for windage) pegged this gun as a close-range defensive

firearm. A non-reflective matte-black finish, lanyard ring, oversize trigger guard with recurved bow and a 15-round staggered magazine (a 10-round magazine was introduced in September 1994), made it clear the P85 was primarily intended for the law enforcement and military markets (in its 1988 brochure, Ruger referred to the P85 as, "The Police and Military Semi-automatic"). When finally introduced in 1987, it listed for an enticing \$295—about \$100 below its nearest competitors—which immediately made the P85 a serious contender for civilian use as well.

Although the first 10 pre-production guns were assembled in Connecticut, the next run of P85s, totaling about 220 guns, were the first Rugers manufactured in the company's new Prescott, AZ, factory. Unfortunately, by that time the Army's test trials were over and the Beretta M9 was adopted. Nonetheless, Ruger knew he now had an economical semi-auto pistol that, in his words, "...was the best pistol of its type available."

When reports of in-the-field failures with some early Beretta M9s began trickling in, the Army had second thoughts about its decision and ordered another round of tests. Ruger promptly hired a retired veteran of the Aberdeen testing procedures and had him duplicate the entire process to make sure the new semi-automatic, with its link-activated, tilting barrel design, plus firing-block safety and hammer-decocking mechanisms, could pass the government's rigorous tests. The company then supplied 30 P85s to the Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland.

But, as so many times before, politics got in the way of practicality and the tests were cancelled before any conclusions about replacing the M9 could be reached. The race was over before the P85 could even get out of the starting gate. Buoyed by his satisfaction with the performance of the P85 (which included meeting the military's requirement for a 20,000-round life expectancy), Ruger decided if the Army didn't want his handgun, there were plenty of others who would, as evidenced by a modest first-year production run of approximately 2,100 pistols. That number grew to about 85,300 by 1989.

Two of the first law enforcement agencies to adopt the new handgun were the San Diego Police Department and the Wisconsin State Patrol, setting the stage for other organizations across the country and internationally as well.



A departure from many service pistols of its day, the Ruger P85 featured a captive slide stop, reducing the likelihood of losing the part when field-stripping the gun.

The P85 quickly earned an enviable reputation of being able to digest any 9 mm load—from NATO M882 FMJ cartridges to hollow points—without a hiccup. Plus, it was as rugged as an M1 Abrams tank. There are many substantiated reports of guns being dropped, kicked and even run over, yet still coming up shooting.

It was dropping, however, that exposed a flaw in the P85's armor. The firing-block safety could be rendered ineffective if the firing pin broke in front of the block or if the pistol was dropped on its muzzle, causing the hammer to drop and fire a chambered round. Existing P85s were recalled and the issue was quickly corrected by simply moving the blocking device from the frame to the slide. At the same time, the safety/decocking levers were slightly enlarged to make them easier to engage. The result was the P85 MKII (Ruger still offers this free retrofitting on any P85; retrofitted guns are stamped "MKIIR" near the safety).

The P85 was discontinued in 1990 and replaced two years later by an upgraded P89—in blued or stainless steel versions. That was followed by the P90, which was chambered for .45 ACP and came with a single-stack, seven-round magazine. Next came the P91 in .40 S&W, and a more compact, 4-inch-barreled P93 in 9 mm. A slightly larger 9 mm and .40 S&W version, the P94, was offered in 1994. The P95 ushered in a new world of polymer-frame pistols for the P series, and finally resulted in a contract from the U.S. Army armor command. Ruger then came out with a polymer-frame P97, chambered in .45 ACP and available in either a double-action-only model or a striker-fired version. The P97 was discontinued in 2004, with the P89 continuing on until 2007 and a KP89 stainless version lasting until 2009.

In all its variations there were more than two million P-series Rugers made in just a little more than two decades—not a bad run for what started out as the P85, a handgun that ushered in a new era for one of America's most innovative firearm manufacturers. 🌀

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Powder River Precision Rubicon Icon Custom Build

Light, comfortable and accurate, this custom build excels for Steel Challenge.

Powder River Precision (PRP) has built its reputation largely on its interpretation of the patent-expired 10/22 receiver. Fine machining, close tolerances, premium materials and repositioning of the guide rod atop the receiver rather than along the side (called Top Line technology) has made the receiver an object of lust for anyone doing a custom 10/22 build.

The Rubicon receiver is fabricated from 6061 barstock aluminum. The bolt is made from barstock stainless steel. The gun incorporates a cylindrical firing pin, and PRP takes pride in the fact the extractor is wire-EDM cut instead of merely being stamped. Similarly, the control parts are EDM cut, as well. An aluminum V-block attachment system is incorporated to protect barrel/receiver interface, according to the company. The Icon version of PRP's Rubicon adds a 15-MOA-canted Picatinny rail for long-range accuracy.

Now PRP is offering a custom build created around the company's Rubicon Icon receiver. It has a Briley Raptor 16.5-inch Ultra-lightweight

fluted .22 LR barrel with a threaded muzzle, and a Hogue OverMolded stock in black or Ghillie green. What PRP has done, essentially, is assemble an all-star team of Steel Challenge components.

With a Type 3 hardcoat-anodized aluminum sleeve, the barrel weighs a mere 10 ounces. In addition to light weight and good looks, the fluting offers heat dissipation. Precision of the steel barrel is assured by hand cutting the proprietary chamber and crown. The barrel itself is made from carbon steel and is precision rifled. The muzzle has 1/2x28 tpi threading, which has quickly become an industry standard and allows you to easily attach any number of .22 suppressors on the market.

The Hogue stock is mostly smooth, but features strategically located pebble-grain texturing on the sides of the wrist and the sides (but not the bottom) of the fore-end. As with all Hogue OverMolded stocks, purchase is outstanding, even in wet conditions. There is a sling-swivel stud



SPECIFICATIONS

Manufacturer: Powder River Precision;
(844) 777-4867, powderriverprecision.com

Action Type: Blowback-operated,
semi-automatic

Caliber: .22 LR

Capacity: 10 rounds

Finish: Black hardcoat anodized

Barrel Length: 16.5 inches

Rifling: 6 grooves; 1:16-inch RH twist

Sights: None; 15-MOA Picatinny rail for
mounting optics

Trigger Pull Weight: 2 pounds, 5 ounces

Stock: Hogue OverMolded

Length: 35.13 inches

Weight: 4 pounds, 1 ounce

Accessories: One magazine, chamber flag,
soft case, lock, manual

MSRP: \$1,200



SHOOTING RESULTS

Load	Velocity	Smallest	Group Size Largest	Average
Remington Viper 36-grain Copper-plated Truncated Cone	1,262	2.00	3.83	2.97
Aguila Super Extra 40-grain LRN	1,072	.59	1.29	.88
CCI Green Tag 40-grain LRN	1,015	.53	.78	.69

Velocity measured in fps 10 feet from the muzzle for 10 consecutive shots with an Oehler Model 35P chronograph. Temperature: 64 degrees Fahrenheit. Accuracy measured in inches for five consecutive, five-shot groups at 50 yards from a rest.

ON TARGET

Light and right

OFF TARGET

Doesn't play well with Viper ammunition

Distinguished from prior Rubicon receivers by a 15-MOA-canted Picatinny rail's inclusion, its presence suggests the Rubicon Icon has some long-range-shooting potential • Controls are concentrated around the trigger guard, with the bolt-hold-open lever at the front, just ahead of the crossbolt-safety button. Following the contour of the trigger guard is the magazine-release lever • A thread protector comes installed at the muzzle of the threaded barrel, making the rifle suppressor ready • Quick handling, Briley's



on the underside of the fore-end, about 2 inches before it terminates, and another about 2 inches from the toe of the stock. The butt pad is firm and a little grabby. It may catch your shirt during a fast mount, but once it's in the pocket of your shoulder, the butt pad stays there.

This rifle was built primarily for Steel Challenge (though it's more versatile than that), and it shows. Mount it to your shoulder and swing between targets and some of the laws of physics seem repealed. There is virtually no inertia to overcome getting it moving, but also no momentum to reign in to stop it. Swinging between targets feels effortless. The gun is snug in the hands, almost slip-proof, and the barrel is so ridiculously light, your control of the rifle seems utterly complete. We even shot it one-handed and still rang steel.



Raptor Ultra-Lightweight barrel is also accurate (given the right ammunition) • The wrist as well as the fore-end of Hogue's OverMolded stock feature areas of pebble-grain texturing for remarkable purchase • Only one of the iconic rotary magazines is included, but they are easy to find • Running an index card beneath it demonstrates that the barrel is freefloated.

It's pretty easy to gain an appreciation of the Rubicon receiver. Working the bolt feels smoother. It's better leveraged with the guide rod centered on top. It makes a difference. The trigger was in keeping with everything else on the rifle. It broke at 2 pounds, 5 ounces on my Lyman gauge with no take-up whatsoever, and an overtravel stop is built in, making the trigger ideal.

At the range, the Rubicon Icon did display an ammunition preference—or rather a dislike—as is typical of .22 LR-chambered guns. Each seems to prefer a certain ammo or two, although which one(s) is difficult to predict. The Rubicon let us know, quickly and decisively. It liked Aguila Super Extra and loved CCI Green Tag, but absolutely despised Remington Viper. Not only was the Viper wildly inaccurate from it, but it also failed to feed three times. In fairness, we selected Viper just so we wouldn't be testing three 40-grain lead round-nose loads. The 36-grain, truncated-cone Viper just wasn't the Rubicon's cup of tea. The other two loads were exceptional though, sometimes grouping four shots into a single hole, the first-shot flyer expanding the group size. Still, groups averaged well inside of an inch with the Aguila and the CCI loads.

PRP sent along a small red-dot scope. Though not included with the rifle nor available from PRP, it demonstrated what a light, handy and capable combo the Rubicon Icon and a small electro-optic sight can make, both for competition and plinking fun.

The Rubicon Icon Custom Build can be ordered with your choice of a curved polymer trigger or a black or red flat aluminum trigger, as well as in one of the two aforementioned stock colors. Is it pricey? Yep. However, while it is ideal for Steel Challenge, the standard configuration of the stock, the 15-MOA-canted Picatinny rail and the excellent trigger suggest there is very little for which this rifle wouldn't be good.



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Equally critical is the refinement of structural integrity. Your shoulders, elbows and torso must work cohesively to provide a stable firing platform.

Experienced shooters understand optimal marksmanship lies in achieving repeatable, on-demand performance. The ability to place rounds consistently, effectively and with repeatable precision requires more than just skill; it requires a deliberate process.

At the heart of this lies the concept of the “perfect shot”—a single, flawless execution of mechanics and mindset that should define every round sent downrange. Rather than thinking in terms of firing multiple rounds, the shooter must approach each as an individual act of precision, delivering one perfect shot at a time. This mindset transforms repetition into mastery, emphasizing greater control, stability and refinement—regardless of the circumstances or target complexity.

The perfect shot is achieved by adhering to a structured shooting process that begins with stabilizing the firearm’s alignment and breaking the shot without disrupting it. While the concept may sound straightforward, its execution demands a deep understanding of interconnected mental, mechanical and visual subprocesses.

It starts with identifying and evaluating the target, determining the optimal shooting solution and transitioning from a problem-solving mindset to one of silent, focused execution. The shooter then engages in a mechanical process of firearm access, deployment and presentation, ensuring stability through appropriate grip, structural integrity and a refined arc-of-wobble. Each step contributes to a seamless transition from preparation to action, ensuring consistent alignment resulting in precise placement of rounds.

Mastery of the process does not end with firing the shot. The break initiates a sequence of recoil management, with each subcomponent requiring careful refinement. Through observation, practice and deliberate incremental adjustments, the shooter refines these components to achieve optimal performance. True shooting mastery is not merely about executing the perfect shot, but also about refining every aspect of the shooting process to make perfection repeatable on demand.🌀

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evolution or drill. You will probably be given a rough idea of the expected round count before the class, but nobody ever felt sad for bringing too much. The “worst-case scenario” would be that you must take some home, while the best case is you get to be a hero by helping someone who failed to bring enough.

Bring enough magazines. A rough rule of thumb that I learned from the late instructor Todd Louis Green is to bring enough magazines so, if necessary, I can step up to the line for any string of fire with 50 rounds in the gun and in spare mags. A handy accessory here is a “dump pouch.” Drop your empty and partially empty mags in there to avoid confusing them with loaded ones.

Advanced schools mean magazine loading. I know it’s a point of pride among some people to never use a mag loader, even in a 1,000-round course, but I think an Uplula from Maglula is the greatest thing since sliced bread. There’s no real virtue in suffering, especially unnecessarily.

Speaking of virtue and suffering, this is going to be the sort of situation where you find out all the sharp corners and rough spots on your handgun. Shooting gloves are definitely an option if you’re going to be shooting something like a 1911 with sharp checkering. I’ve been in many high-round-count, two- and three-day classes with custom 1911s sporting 20- or 30-lpi checkering and almost always wound up with Band-Aids somewhere on my paws. There’s also the dreaded “Glock knuckle,” which affects the knuckle of your traffic-signaling digit sometime around the morning of day two. Bring tape, Band-Aids and moleskin in your boo-boo kit.

One last overlooked detail: Bring a small notebook and pen. You are going to be drinking from the firehose of knowledge over the course of the weekend, and it would be a shame to forget something because you didn’t write it down.

Now go be safe and train hard. 

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UK Continues Down Anti-Freedom Path

There does not seem to be much hope for those who cherish freedom in the United Kingdom. The British government recently announced it would begin implementing bans on the use of lead ammunition in England, Scotland and Wales next year, with a full ban being finalized in 2029. Restrictions on ammunition, including bans like this, are just a backdoor tactic for civilian disarmament.

This ban on lead ammunition will impact British hunters the most, as our cousins across the pond rarely, if ever, use firearms for one of their most important purposes: self-defense.

In fact, self-defense is so frowned upon in the UK that it has led to draconian restrictions on other tools that could be utilized to thwart a violent criminal attack. Knives in public are so strictly prohibited that possessing almost anything that could be construed as having a blade or sharp edge could lead to an arrest, even when its intended purpose is to be used for tending a garden.

Last July, the UK news outlet *The Guardian* published an article titled, "Man carrying home his gardening tools arrested by armed police in Manchester." The item recounted the story of 35-year-old theater technical manager Samuel Rowe, who was arrested

while trimming hedges with a gardening tool outside his home in Manchester. Rowe had just come back home from a gardening allotment with his tools, along with a basket of vegetables.

To make matters worse, British police seem more interested in protecting the hurt feelings of criminals than stopping them. Following several shoplifting incidents, Rob Davies, owner of Run Ragged vintage shop in Wrexham, Wales, posted a sign explaining why he was forced to put some of his merchandise out of customer reach. Specifically, the sign told shoppers "Due to scumbags shoplifting, please ask for assistance to open cabinets. Thank you."

Evidently, referring to criminals as "scumbags" is suspect in Great Britain. According to an item from *The Daily Mail*, "police told [Davies] to change his sign calling shoplifters 'scumbags' because it may be offensive." Davies refused to alter the language and has since printed further signs.

We can only hope that things will improve for those in England who are still interested in personal freedom, but these stories remind us of how thankful we are that our Founding Fathers rejected being British subjects.

Hunters like the one pictured, particularly those in the UK, continually face efforts by anti-gunners to limit the sport.

AP photo by Kin Cheung

Trump Continues To Support Hunters

Last month, we told you about the “Make America Beautiful Again” commission designed to support hunters, outdoorsmen and outdoor recreationists by prioritizing the expansion of public land access, along with critical wildlife-conservation efforts. This month, we are happy to report Trump’s Department of the Interior (DOI) announced in August a final rule that would create 42 new hunting and sport-fishing opportunities across more than 87,000 acres within the National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) System and the National Fish Hatchery (NFH) System managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). This should more than triple the number of opportunities and quintuple the number of units opened or expanded compared to the previous administration, underscoring President Trump’s promise to the American people to enhance outdoor recreation and conservation initiatives.

“Hunting and fishing are more than just traditional pastimes, as they are also vital to the conservation of our lands and waters, our outdoor recreation economy and our American way of life,” said Secretary of the Interior Doug Burgum. “The Trump administration is committed to promoting good government by reducing regulatory burdens by working with states to make access to these outdoor activities a reality for every American family.”

The USFWS is opening or expanding opportunities for hunting and sport fishing at 16 units within the NWR System and one unit in the NFH System in Alabama, California, Idaho, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Montana, North Carolina, Texas and Washington.

For more details on this, you can go to [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov) and search by docket number FWS-HQ-NWRS-2025-0031-0200, titled “National Wildlife Refuge System: 2025-2026 Station-Specific Hunting and Sport Fishing Regulations.”

Illinois Increases Restrictions On Law-Abiding Gun Owners

In July, Gov. JB Pritzker (D) signed Senate Bill 8 into law. This law imposes new mandatory firearm-storage requirements on law-abiding gun owners.

SB 8 requires individuals to lock up all firearms in their home, vehicle, building or other structure. Under previous law, firearms were required to be stored so as not to be accessible to anyone under the age of 14. Under SB 8, that threshold is raised to 18 and expanded to further include prohibited persons and so-called “at risk” individuals.

This legislation unfairly punishes responsible gun owners by imposing broad and burdensome storage mandates, while doing little to address criminal misuse of firearms. Under SB 8, law-abiding citizens face civil fines of up to \$10,000 simply for how they store their personal property inside their own homes or vehicles. 🌀

Photo courtesy of Mikele Buck

Mikele Buck Is NRA COUNTRY

Mikele Buck is a singer/songwriter born in the hills of West Virginia. His music is a blend of 90s country, Texas red dirt and Appalachian storytelling. He’s also an avid outdoorsman and a veteran. You can find this NRA Country artist on all major social-media platforms, at themikelebuckband.com and on YouTube as [@TheBuckRoad](https://www.youtube.com/@TheBuckRoad).

NRAC: You played drums in rock bands in high school before picking up the guitar. Do you still pick up the boomsticks?

MB: I still play drums a bit, but not enough to be considered a good drummer!

NRAC: Your music is described as a blend of traditional country and “red dirt” artists. How would you describe it?

MB: I just call it country music.

NRAC: How would you describe the experience of recording your first CD in Nashville after returning from the war?

MB: Recording a record is like anything else: The more ya do it, the better you get at it.

NRAC: You are an Iraq War veteran. How did your military service change your perspective on life and music?

MB: It made me grateful that I had an outlet and a goal once I got home. So my transition back was a bit easier than some others because I focused all my energy on it.

NRAC: Irish Road is such a powerful song, especially live. I’ve watched it stop people in their tracks. Why do you think this is?

MB: Yeah, I think it draws emotions from people who hear it. Even if they don’t know exactly what it’s about.

NRAC: Do you think you will ever talk about your full experience in the Iraq War and on Irish Road?

MB: Nah.

NRAC: You had a dream of creating a foundation to introduce other veterans to bowhunting. When did you start bowhunting?

MB: I started shooting a bow at five years old. I was competitive around that age as well. I started chasing bucks with it as soon as it was legal, I think around 14 back then. My dad was a hell of a bowhunter.

NRAC: Beyond music and hunting, what are some of your other interests or hobbies that people might not know about?

MB: I really don’t have any other interests besides hunting and fishing. I love being in the woods and learning to be a better woodsman and exploring new spots.

NRAC: You made an appearance on the NRA Country Sound Stage in Atlanta during NRA’s Annual Meetings. What can you tell people about the NRA show that they may not know if they’ve never been?

MB: The NRA show was an awesome experience; I just wish I could’ve had more time. There’s so much to see and do.

NRAC: Why should Americans be NRA members?

MB: Because our Second Amendment rights are slowly being taken away, and we cannot let that happen.

NRAC: November is NRA’s Wild Game donation month; do you have a favorite or memorable hunt you can share?

MB: All of my hunts are memorable, but I love the annual bow hunt that I take with my Iraq buddies every year.

NRA Country is a lifestyle and a bond between the country music community and hard-working Americans everywhere. It’s powered by pride, freedom, love of country, respect for the military and the responsibilities of protecting the great American life. For more information, visit nracountry.com, follow on Twitter @NRACountry, and NRA_Country on Instagram.

NRA Online Regional Report

To search for events in your area, go to

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Visit the links below to find gun shows, programs, clubs, events and training in your area.



LAW ENFORCEMENT

le.nra.org

Public and private officers interested in becoming law enforcement firearm instructors should attend one of NRA's Law Enforcement Firearms Instructor Development Schools. NRA Police Pistol Combat competition is intended to be used as an extension of an officer's training.



FRIENDS OF NRA

friendsofnra.org

Friends of NRA events celebrate American values with fun, fellowship and fundraising for The NRA Foundation. To learn more about events in your area, visit friendsofnra.org, contact your local field representative or send an email to friends@nrahq.org.



GUN SHOWS

gunshows.nra.org

Dates and locations of gun shows are subject to change. Please contact the show before traveling. Discounted NRA memberships are sold through NRA recruiters. Some shows may offer free admission to people who sign up for new memberships or renewals.

To become an NRA Recruiter, contact NRA Recruiting Programs at recruiter@nrahq.org.



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Questions? Email to refuse@nrahq.org or by calling (800) 861-1166.



AREA SHOOTS

ssusa.org/coming-events

For more information, please contact the NRA Competitive Shooting Division at compchelp@nrahq.org.



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NRA ANNUAL MEETINGS

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For hotel accommodations at the NRA Annual Meetings, visit nraam.org.





Davidson's Donation For Teaching Freedom

Davidson's Inc.—one of the nation's largest firearm distributors—has generously donated 150 Ruger 10/22 rifles in .22 Long Rifle to the NRA Foundation to be used in Friends of NRA events. Each of the rifles has been engraved by Apollo Custom Coating with the NRA Foundation's "Teach Freedom" logo and the NRA seal.

"Not only are Davidson's and GalleryofGuns.com pleased to make this donation to the NRA Foundation, but we are also equally excited about the rejuvenation of the NRA as a whole," said Davidson's CEO, Bryan Tucker. "With its new leadership, its focus on transparency and a new commitment to the promotion of shooting competitions along with

shooting sports participation, we are increasing our contributions to this historic and highly impactful organization. Specifically, we are working with leadership to explore ways we can help to significantly increase the numbers of new and returning members. I urge others to consider stepping up their efforts and contributions toward making the NRA's future highly successful."

In 1998, Davidson's consumer website, galleryofguns.com, was launched, giving consumers a convenient way to buy firearms at great prices from the convenience of their homes. With a vast inventory of firearms and with more than 50 years of firearm industry experience, Davidson's has an excellent reputation for helping both sellers and buyers.

Davidson's gracious contribution of these rifles will be utilized at our top Friends of NRA events nationwide. Their strong industry support for our program not only recognizes the hard work of our leading volunteers but also will help raise significant funds toward our mission.

"We are so grateful for these beautiful custom rifles that our banquet attendees will surely treasure for generations," said James "JP" Carter, Executive Director, NRA Office of Advancement. "We are excited to

feature them at our best-attended events, and happy and grateful for Davidson's partnership in advancing and preserving the shooting sports and protecting our Second Amendment freedoms."

The NRA Foundation is America's leading charitable organization and a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization that raises tax-deductible contributions in support of a wide range of firearm-related activities. Proceeds ensure the availability of quality firearm training, educational opportunities, places to shoot and more across the nation. The heart of The NRA Foundation's mission is preserving the core of our American values and traditions in our steadfast effort to Teach Freedom. 



Photos by NRA

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(Name of Board member), NRA Office of the Secretary, 11250 Waples Mill Road, Fairfax, VA 22030; or nrabod@nrahq.org; or (703) 267-1021. Please include your name, contact information and NRA membership ID number, as only communications from NRA members will be forwarded.

Legacies

Mentoring and molding our loved ones can begin at any age.

I became a grandfather on a Sunday and spent the day repairing bullet holes in the roof. Long story, and not enough space to explain here.

Ian came late in my life, and he lives on the other side of the country, so I question how much of an influence I will have on his life. I have already bought him a rifle and a fishing rod of course, which is a start. If I am not able to teach him how to use these, his mom and dad will.

He comes from tough stock; both of his parents have carried a gun while serving their country. I like to think he will grow up knowing the gun culture.

The future is never certain and is always fluid. Social change is never stagnant and we can't be sure what is to happen. Still, the gun world has been very good to me, both as a career and a passion. My hope is that I will be able to show him a little bit about what makes it so special. My further hope is that he always lives in a country that allows those options.

When each of my own children were born, I wrote and published an editorial about what I hoped for them in life. In reading them now, decades later, I can see that while I got a few predictions wrong, far more of them were right. Some of what was right was covered by me teaching them both about guns, shooting, handloading, hunting and competition. Thankfully it stuck, and they both remain a part of the gun world today.

I also taught them about life—primarily by example—and I hope I got most of it right. I think I did, and I am proud of them and the adults they have become. The biggest wish anyone can have is that the people they influence in life grow into good, well-directed and happy adults. In my world it includes shooting, as it can bring joy as well as morality.

In writing about my grandson, I wish all that for him as well, of course. Not so much that he goes to war like his dad, but that he lives in a world where that's not needed. Guns may become dominant in his life as they have been

in mine, or maybe he will take a different road (one that pays better if he inherited any brains from Grandma). Still, I hope he becomes a shooter, embraces the gun world and that I live long enough to teach him about the subtleties of the lifestyle. He may not travel that path, however the most important thing is he is free to choose and that he is instilled with the wisdom to make those decisions.

I hope to teach him about honesty, courage, morality and to do what is right, even when that is the tougher choice. I hope that he may find happiness in this screwy world, and in doing so, his moral compass is always pointed north. I firmly believe that the two are connected. The only truly happy people I have ever known are clear headed about right and wrong, justice and morality. These things are black and white with happy folks and fade to shades of gray with the discontented.

My grandson has entered a world that is a mess right now, and will grow up in a location that might well be the epicenter of that chaos. It's not going to be easy, but then anything worth doing never is, because easy rarely contains value.

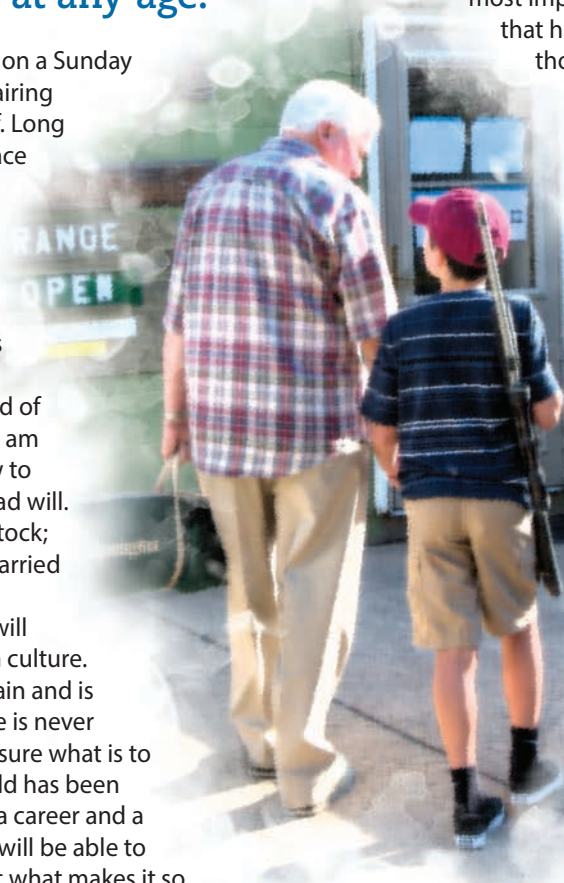
The harsh truth, though, is unless something changes, I am going to be a distant part of his life, and all these hopes for our personal interactions are probably moot. With thousands of

miles separating us, I will, at best, see him a few times a year. That pains me greatly, but it goes to what I am talking about in terms of the world. I am old and quite deeply entrenched in a dark-blue state. This place was much different when I came into the world but, like the frog in the cooking pot, it slowly morphed far to the other side while life kept me too occupied to make the changes I should have. Now, it's probably too late. I have few regrets in life, but staying here is one of them.

With fools running this place, opportunities for anyone starting out have dwindled. That is why both of my kids and now my grandchild live so far away. My kids moved to find opportunity and it was the right thing to do. I stayed, and will now feel the pain of that choice in knowing my grandson will grow up mostly without knowing me.

Still, those things I want to teach him, he will learn by proxy. I taught them to my daughter, and she proved a good student. I expect her to be a good teacher as well and bring my hopes to life.

I suppose that legacy is the best any of us can hope for. 



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#50218 - 590RM™ Standoff
12GA, 10-Round Detachable Magazine
18.5" Standoff Barrel w/Integrated Heat Shield

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.



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.