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# GunDigest

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THE MAGAZINE

PRESENTS

CONCEALED CARRY 2020  
VOLUME 37 • ISSUE 03

## CONCEALED CARRY

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COVER IMAGE:  
YAMIL SUED

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**STILL MAKING  
HISTORY.**

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Everything about carrying a concealed gun is a compromise. From a straight-up “protect my tail from any threat” perspective, I’d personally go with a slug gun every time ... but comfortably concealing one of those thunder sticks at the beach would be nothing short of a nightmare.

On the other hand, there’s not much that’s easier to conceal than a little micro poly .22 LR pistol. But the threat-stopping power of an itty-bitty .22 LR falls a good bit short of a 300-grain 12-gauge slug. So, we compromise, staking our preferred claim somewhere in the middle.

In all honesty, you—and only you—get to decide exactly where those two lines intersect. Hell, my daily carry is a Ruger LCR in .327 Federal Mag. I have my reasons, but I also realize how very uncommon it is to carry a CCW wheelgun, especially in such an obscure chambering. But, do you know what? I can run that gun like Jerry Miculek (well, *almost* like Jerry). My point here is that proficiency is more important than platform (but you already knew that).

While this special “Concealed Carry” issue is all about the gear and lifestyle of the armed citizen, it’s also about getting you to think outside the CCW box that many marketers have tried to build around you. There’s a reason the Sig P365 and Springfield Hellcat became instantly coveted. Nevertheless, you have other options out there.

For example, Max Prasac makes a solid case for carrying a .44 Rem. Mag. as his concealed companion. Granted, Prasac is big-iron addict, but he nonetheless proves that it can be done with relative ease.

And, speaking of on-hip oddities, Patrick

Sweeney discusses the merits of tucking a Browning HiPower between the fabric layers. It’s definitely old school, but it’s also exceptionally classy and functional.

What would a 2020 CCW issue be without reviews and opinions on all the new stuff? The “Modern Gunnery” department gives you options for staying well-hung with today’s top holsters. Richard Mann wonders why you’ve never considered the .38 Super as a CCW option; he also walks you through the art of dry-firing your carry gun. If you’re not “clicking” at home, then you darned well need to start.

And, as our cover story indicates, we take a deep look at Mossberg’s second polymer pistol in as many years. I’m not going to tell you it’s an incredibly stunning gun—but it sure ain’t ugly. And, most importantly, I recently picked one up at this year’s SHOT Show’s Range Day and put my first five shots on a 6-inch steel at 25 yards. That double-stack 13-rounder has taken up residence plum square at the intersection of Form Street and Function Avenue.

Oh—I almost forgot: Flip to page 56 and give it a read. This article is an excerpt from *Gun Digest’s* new book, *Concealed Carry Class: The ABCs of Self-Defense Tools & Tactics*, by Tom Givens. Am I the only person who drives past home if the vehicle on my tailgate has been in my tracks for two consecutive turns?

One can never be too sure ... which, I suppose, is exactly why you and I carry in the first place. **GDTM**

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# THE 'OTHER' .357

The .357 Sig's purpose: .357 Rem. Magnum ballistics ... from a semi-auto.

**HISTORICAL NOTES**

The .357 Sig cartridge is based on the .40 S&W case; it's simply necked down, with a short neck and a sharp shoulder. The design's purpose was to achieve .357 Magnum revolver ballistics from typical semi-automatic pistols. This cartridge design offers several advantages.

First, its compact nature allows use of a smaller (shorter) grip frame in pistols so chambered. For shooters with smaller hands, this is significant: Many find guns chambered for the .45 Automatic and 10mm cartridges entirely too big for proper handling and accurate shooting.

Second, compared to its parent cartridge, the .357 Sig can effectively launch lighter bullets at greater velocity to achieve similar muzzle energy with less recoil. All these considerations figured into the development of the cartridge.

**GENERAL COMMENTS**

The .357 Sig is loaded to a comparatively high pressure level—the same as top factory .357 Magnum loads and 14 percent higher than the .40 S&W or 9mm Luger. The combination of high pressure, reasonable case capacity and no barrel venting (as seen in .357 Magnum revolvers) allows this petite cartridge to generate significant ballistics that are fully the equal of the .40 S&W in terms of muzzle energy. However, in the typical short pistol

barrels used, there's a price to pay for this level of performance: Muzzle blast is significant.

Compared to the .40 S&W, the .357

Sig has one chief advantage: a slight reduction in recoil. Time will tell if that will prove sufficient reason to popularize this cartridge. **GDTM**

**.357 SIG LOADING DATA AND FACTORY BALLISTICS**

| BULLET (GRAINS/TYPE) | POWDER | GRAINS | VELOCITY | ENERGY | SOURCE                       |
|----------------------|--------|--------|----------|--------|------------------------------|
| 88JHP                | AA5    | 11.1   | 1,616    | 510    | ACCURATE/1.13 IN. OAL        |
| 95 FMJ               | AA5    | 11     | 1,572    | 520    | ACCURATE/1.135 IN. OAL       |
| 115 XTP              | AA9    | 13.5   | 1,434    | 525    | ACCURATE/1.14 IN. OAL        |
| 124 XTP              | AA9    | 13     | 1,387    | 530    | ACCURATE/1.14 IN. OAL        |
| 147 XTP              | VVN350 | 6.9    | 1,170    | 445    | VIHTA VUORI/1.135 IN. OAL    |
| 95 FMJ               | AA5    | 11     | 1,572    | 520    | ACCURATE/1.135 IN. OAL       |
| 125 JHP              | FL     | FL     | 1,350    | 505    | SPEER & FEDERAL FACTORY LOAD |





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## CCI Shot Loads vs. Ported Barrels

I was reading Frank Melloni's article on the Taurus Raging Bull .44 Magnum. My question comes from the last segment of his article, "The Takeaway." In it, Mr. Melloni mentions the two CCI Shot loads available in .44-caliber for pest/small-game hunting. I have a Taurus M-445 Tracker chambered in .45 ACP that I bought for the express purpose of carrying while fishing and shooting snakes in Alabama.

The 445 is ported like the Raging Bull. A CCI rep warned me about *not* shooting CCI shotshells in ported pistols. He explained there was a danger of pellets coming out of the ports. I've used the CCI shotshells in .22, .22 Mag and .38/357 and handloaded the Speer capsules with three #1 buckshot in the .38 capsules for defensive loads. I shoot the .45 shotshells from an S&W 45 ACP

revolver or a 1911.

I thank you again for a very informative magazine and a talented staff of interesting authors.

George Ingols, via e-mail

*Thank you for following my work and reaching out ... and you are, indeed, correct: Although I expressed interest in trying these out, after actually picking up a box of each, I learned that they are not compatible with the Raging Hunter because of the pointed barrel—as you've pointed out. Although unlikely, it's possible for a pellet to exit through one of the ports rather than the muzzle. Thank you very much for your feedback and the opportunity to get more information out on this incompatibility. Shoot straight and be safe.*

Frank Melloni



## The Diversified Plinker

This is for Luke Hartle: The article on .22 ammo was one of the most informative I've ever read in *Gun Digest*. Today, I purchased more than 3,000 rounds of .22 LR. I started shooting .22 when I was 5 years old and, by the time I was 14, I qualified as pro marksman by the NRA at Camp Grenville, South Carolina. I've shot almost every known brand of rifle in .22, and I'm currently shooting a beautiful Weatherby Mark XII my wife gave me for my last birthday. Gem-Tec makes a fabulous subsonic round I use to control varmints on my property. The information in that article should be a must-read by all shooters. Keep up the great work!

P.S. Has anyone ever told you that you look like Aaron Rogers?

Jeffrey P. Yates Sr., via e-mail

*Jeffrey, never before have I been both praised so highly and insulted so deeply in one breath! First, I'm pleased you recognize the timeless magic that is the .22 LR. It never ages; in fact, it never stops evolving—in both guns and ammo offerings. Now, for the "white elephant" in the room: I try hard to refrain from bringing politics into this publication but, as a Minnesotan, there are those of us who believe we could use a big, ol' wall on the eastern*

## How Much Suppressor Shoulder?

This is a question about suppressors for Patrick Sweeney: I've purchased a .30-caliber suppressor (a Surefire Genesis 762) but am still waiting for the tax stamp. I would like to have several of my rifles threaded to 5/8x24 for my direct-thread suppressor.

What's the minimum barrel diameter to thread 5/8x24 and have enough shoulder to index the suppressor? That is, how much shoulder is required? I've asked several major manufacturers about this,

and the response always includes the minimum diameter required for cutting the 5/8-inch thread but doesn't include the shoulder. The folks at the gun shops don't have the answer either. I enjoy your articles. Keep writing!

Donald Livingston, Marietta, GA

*Donald, I'm not sure I'd be happy with a barrel O.D. behind the threaded portion smaller than .675 to .680 inch. More would be better. This does*

*depend on how much chamfer the threaded portion of the suppressor or mount has, because that chamfer decreases the shoulder abutment area of the barrel. This is a conflict between the desire for an ultra-light barrel/rifle and getting a good suppressor mount. You might have to sacrifice a bit on barrel weight reduction in order to get sound reduction.*

Patrick Sweeney





border we share with Wisconsin and its beloved Packers. Everyone in Wisconsin loves the Packers ... just ask them. However, I'm going to assume you were referring to the rugged handsomeness that both Aaron Rogers and I share—which means I'll let your comment slide ... this time.

Luke Hartle, Editor

## Ordinance Gel at Home

Great article; thank you. But it didn't mention where to buy the materials. My Internet search revealed food-grade gelatin and premade blocks of the right stuff. Those premade were very expensive. Can you provide a source? I want to make a few blocks and see what my guns will do. Thanks!

Chris Valvo

Chris, on page 14 of the August 2019 issue, the caption for the bottom image lists CustomCollagen.com as the source Richard Mann uses for his at-home "baking" needs. Once you have all the materials, reread the "What You'll Need and How to Make It" section. Richard does a very good job of describing his "recipe."

Gun Digest staff



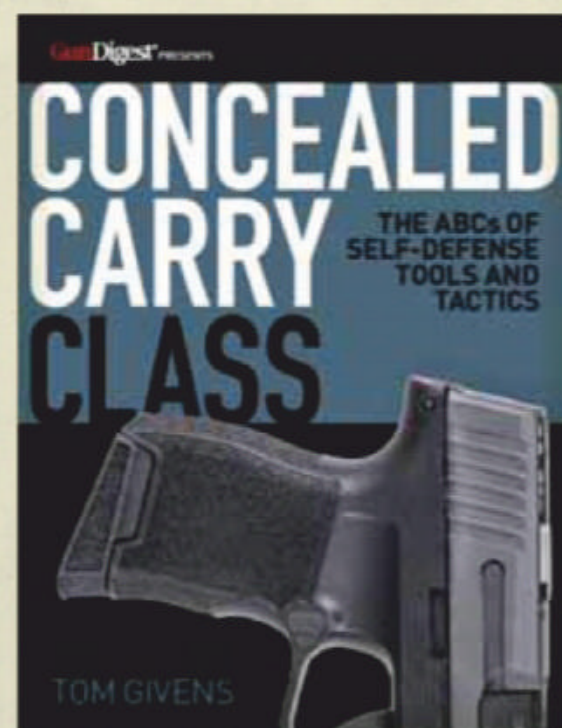
## That's a Bit Steep!

I just got my January 2020 issue of *Gun Digest*, and I saw the article about the Labrador ("Hardware Talk" column, pages 14–15). As a pistol reloader, I've been in the market for a chronograph but haven't purchased one yet. I read and reread the article, looking for an MSRP or any kind of price for this radar unit, and I had to go to the website to find out why. It lists for more than \$500 ... without any accessories! No wonder *Gun Digest* didn't include the price! That's way too rich for my blood; I think I'll look at the little, old Caldwell that's priced at under \$100.

Scott Schoenfelder, via e-mail

Scott: The omission of price was an oversight, so you have our apologies on that. However, even though Labrador doesn't give its goods away, the \$500 price tag is actually a very good value. Had you continued your Google search of "chronographs," you wouldn't have scrolled down much further to see units that climb above \$1,000. But, to your point: Caldwell makes an exceptional entry-level chrono that's also one hell of a value. Start there; it'll serve you well.

Gun Digest staff



## CONCEALED CARRY CLASS: THE ABCs OF SELF-DEFENSE TOOLS & TACTICS

BY TOM GIVENS

THE PERFECT BOOK FOR ANYONE NEW TO CONCEALED CARRY!

Just got your CCW permit? Thinking about getting one? This is the book for you!

Tom Givens' *Concealed Carry Class: The ABCs of Self-Defense Tools & Tactics* is a comprehensive guide that will help you recognize, avoid and survive violent confrontations. It's ideal for beginners or anyone looking to freshen up their understanding of concealed carry.

The book covers everything from situational awareness skills (these can be honed to help keep you and your loved ones out of potentially dangerous scenarios), the mental discipline it takes to carry a concealed weapon every day, how to evaluate and select concealed-carry hardware (including handguns and calibers, holsters and clothing) to training drills you can use to become proficient with a handgun—and remain proficient through regular practice.

Tom Givens has called on decades of his firearms and law enforcement experience to put together this practical collection of tips and tactics anyone can use for the safe, responsible and legal carrying of a concealed weapon. He's been involved in armed confrontations, both as a police officer and as a private citizen, and has seen firsthand how decent people—with proper training—can fight back and overcome criminal attacks.

MSRP: \$24.99



# BAD-ASS AND BONE-CRUSHING

## Behind the Brass at Buffalo Bore Ammunition

**M**y grandfather would've liked Tim Sundles, partly because of his strong back, but mostly because of his character.

Tim is serious about his word: If he tells you there's a dinosaur on Main Street, you'd best get your gun—your *really big* gun—and get ready for a gunfight. Tim is “politically incorrect” and a little rough around the edges. He's also a gentleman who expects the same from those he meets. I'd advise against knocking off his hat, insulting his lady or spilling your martini on his flannel shirt.

Tim grew up on the wild side of Idaho and Oregon. His stepfather taught him to handload when he was only 12 years old. That same year, Tim shot his first deer and had a run-in with a game warden, who cited him for not properly cutting his tag. Unfrazzled by his encounter with a moron opossum cop (you've got to be a moron to

write a ticket to a 12-year-old boy for not properly cutting the tag for the first deer he ever killed), Tim became a committed hunter and conservationist. He also became embroiled in a long-running feud with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service because of its illegal dumping of wolves. So committed was Tim to the cause that he did jail time for a misdemeanor offense.

### BUFFALO BORE'S START-UP

Tim started the Buffalo Bore ammunition company in 1997. His first commercial loads were for the .475 and .500 Linebaugh—serious big-bore cartridges by any measure.

I first became acquainted with Tim



Hard-cast loads for little guns, such as this .380 Auto, turn them into deep-penetrating man-stoppers.



in 2002, when I was looking to try his Heavy .35 Remington loads. “Heavy” is a good name for this stuff: Out of a Marlin lever gun, this load will push a 220-grain Speer bullet to just the other side of 2,200 fps, making it a load suitable for anything in North America ... at least at any distance anyone has business shooting at stuff with a lever gun.

Since then, Tim has vastly expanded

his line, and Buffalo Bore has evolved from a small, boutique-like ammo company into a full-fledged ammunition manufacturing powerhouse. I turn to Buffalo Bore anytime I need to really knock the snot out of something. In fact, I used the Buffalo Bore 430-grain .45-70 Magnum load on my first African buffalo hunt and ended up stopping the charging bull at about 20 feet. I used the same load on my second buffalo hunt and have also since taken several whitetail deer and a javelina with the company’s .327 Federal Magnum Hard Cast load.

## TRUST THE MAN, TRUST HIS AMMO

It’s easy to trust ammunition from a man who uses what he makes in the wilderness backcountry—where you have to be serious about every shot taken. Tim saddles up and rides into parts unknown after griz, elk, sheep and other critters. He uses the same ammo he offers for sale, and he knows you can trust it—because *he’s* seen it work.

If there’s such thing as a modern-day mountain man, it just might be Tim Sundles. He could be, as described by Bear Claw Chris Lapp in the 1972 movie, *Jeremiah Johnson*, “... blood kin to the grizzer that bit Jim Bridger’s ass!”

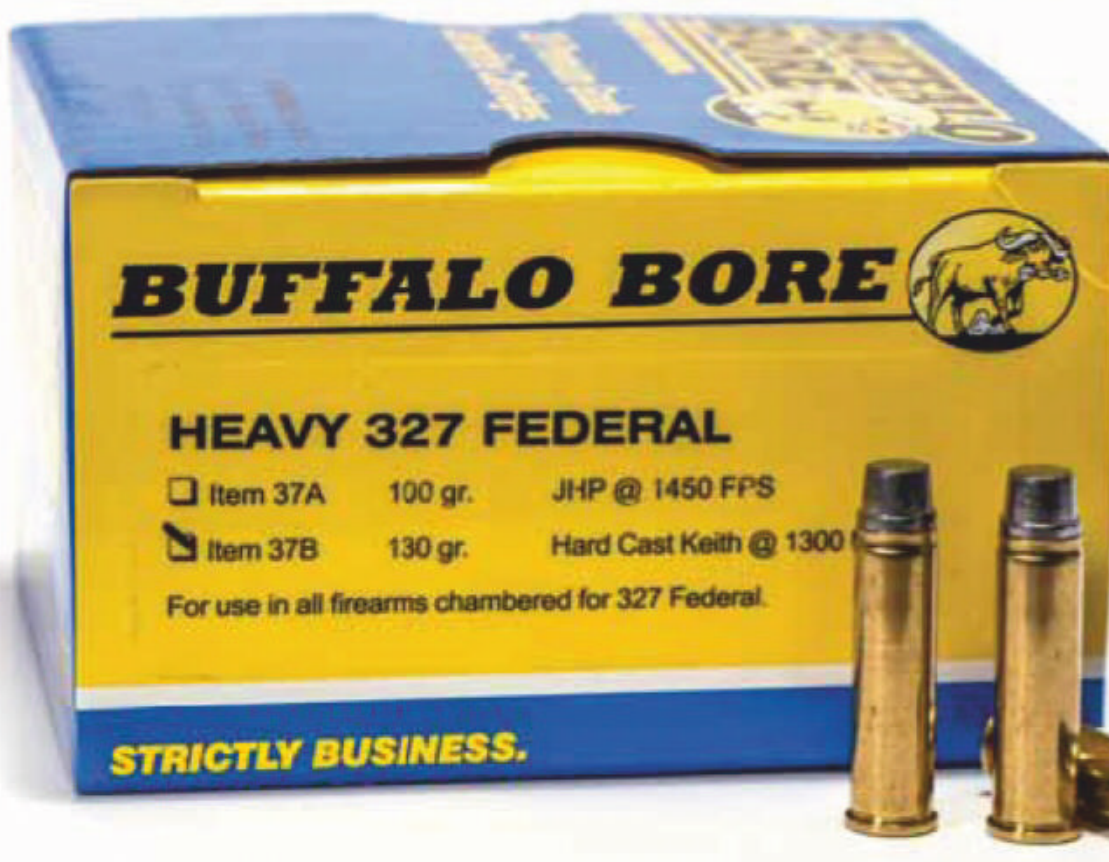
Tim is also a big believer in flat-nosed,



At common-sense lever-action rifle ranges, this Heavy .35 Remington load from Buffalo Bore is suitable for anything in North America.



Buffalo Bore offers a full line of lead-free Buffalo Barnes ammunition for handguns and rifles.



You can expect this Buffalo Bore .327 Federal hard-cast load to penetrate—just like all the other hard-cast handgun loads from Buffalo Bore. It’ll drive to 3 feet or more in ordnance gelatin.





These three Buffalo Bore hard-cast bullets were recovered from an African buffalo. Although they show a little damage, all three penetrated in excess of 3 feet.

Buffalo Bore's Tim Sundles inspects a recent run of the company's ammunition.



hard-cast bullets, because he's used those projectiles on game. He's not a Jell-O junkie who bases his assertions on hypothetical pontification or on how well a bullet busts the hell out of a block of ordnance gelatin. Outside of his personal experience, he has lots of customers making the case for his ammunition; for example, the Montana Highway patrolman who was fishing the Clark Fork River when a big black bear decided an off-duty cop was more appetizing than a trout. When the bear rushed, the officer shot him in the shoulder with a Smith & Wesson Model .65. The 180-grain hard-cast bullet broke its shoulder, shattered its hip on exit and ... might still be going.

However, not all of Buffalo Bore's success stories involve four legged critters:

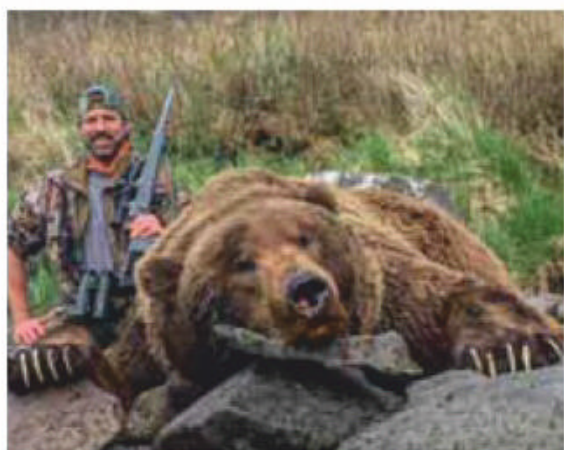
A Marine clearing buildings in Iraq ran his rifle dry. During an ensuing hand-to-hand, life-or-death fight, the butt of the insurgent's rifle knocked the Marine to the ground. On his back—and trying to keep from being beaten into a blood puddle—the Marine drew a compact .380 from his cargo pocket and fired one shot. The Buffalo Bore 100-grain hard-cast bullet struck his attacker just above the hip, angled through his torso, pierced his scapula and stopped under the skin, incapacitating him immediately.

#### EVER-EXPANDING AMMO OFFERINGS

Today, Buffalo Bore has vastly expanded its catalog. No longer does it only make ammunition for big-bore stoppers. Although that's still a big part of what Buffalo Bore offers, there's currently a host of other interesting loads for very popular and even old-school cartridges.

The company offers sniper-quality .223 Remington ammunition, full-power-plus jacketed .30 Carbine loads that include a jacketed hollow-point, .32 S&W Long, .32 H&R Magnum

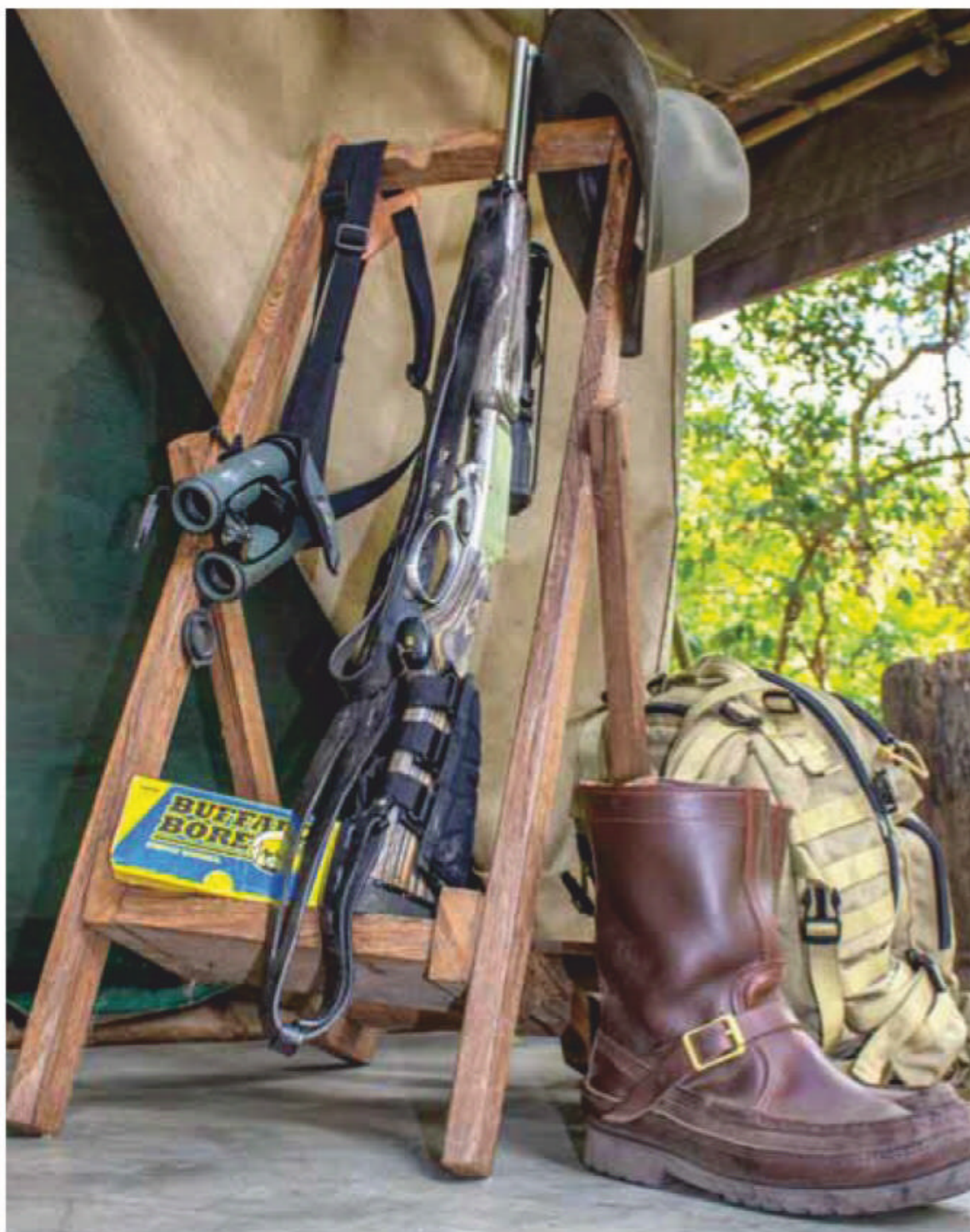




Tim Sundles and a grizzly taken with his Buffalo Bore ammunition.

and .327 Federal Magnum hard-cast loads, “heavy loads,” .30-30, .308, .348 Winchester and even ammunition for the .38-55, .375 and 9X23 Winchester. There’s even a Buffalo Bore load for the .45 Raptor, which is a .45-caliber rimless cartridge developed for the AR-10 that will launch a 250-grain bullet at 2,500 fps. Buffalo Bore now even offers a lead-free line of ammunition loaded with bullets from Barnes and Lehigh Defense.

The most recent additions to the Buffalo Bore line of ammunition include a selection of dangerous-game loads for cartridges such as .375 Ruger, .416 Remington Magnum, .500 Smith & Wesson, 10mm Auto, .454 Casull, .44 Magnum, .460 Smith & Wesson, .45-70 Government and even .45



If you’re looking for deep-penetrating, bone-crushing, hard-cast loads for a handgun, Buffalo Bore is your one-stop shop.

Colt+P. As a matter of fact, last summer, I watched a hunter take a massive African buffalo with a single shot using the .45-70 load at about 25 yards.

You might not need to crumple a Cape buffalo or fight it out with a big bear (as did the Alaskan guide who used a 9mm pistol loaded with the Buffalo Bore 9mm Outdoorsman load to stop a 900-pound grizzly). However, if you want ammunition that’s as serious and bad-ass as anything you’ll ever need—or the man who builds it—now you know where to get it. Just don’t call Tim Sundles (or me) if the recoil is a bit too much for your delicate, little hands.

Hey—man-up: This is *serious stuff*!

**GDTM**



**01 Smith & Wesson  
M&P9 Shield EZ**

Smith & Wesson struck a nerve in its first go-around with the Shield EZ, given that the company recently followed up with a “big brother” version. The M&P9 Shield EZ has the same easy-to-manipulate features as the original .380 ACP, but it’s chambered for the more powerful 9mm cartridge. Much of the M&P9 Shield EZ’s magic is thanks to S&W breaking from market logic. Opting for an internal hammer, as opposed to the dominant striker-fired, the company was able to incorporate lighter springs into the gun. Additionally, the 3.675-inch-barreled pistol features aggressive fore and aft cocking serrations, a flared section of the slide at the very rear for a better grip and a magazine with slide-assist loading.

**MSRP: \$479****02 Naroh Arms N1  
Micro-Compact  
9mm Pistol**

The first rule of concealed carry is to *always* carry. That won’t happen if your handgun is too large and unwieldy. Naroh Arms eliminates this with the introduction of its first firearm, the N1 Micro-Compact 9mm pistol. Living up to its name, this 7+1-capacity, DAO, hammer-fired comes in at a svelte 16 ounces unloaded and 6.1 inches long. Outfitted with an eye-catching aluminum trigger, the N1 does have a long pull (after all, it’s hammer-fired), but it’s extremely manageable because of its relatively light break—a scant 6 pounds. To boot, this 3.1-inch-barreled pistol definitely won’t break the bank.

**MSRP: \$359****03 Tactical  
Target Systems’  
Self-Defense  
Armed-Threat**

You need to practice like you fight—not a simple task when you’re talking about self-defense. But Tactical Target Systems gets you a step closer with its Armed-Threat targets. Giving you a realistic view of facing down an armed assailant, these true-to-size targets add a much-needed element of reality to your training. In addition, this new design has the organs superimposed over the body, giving you instant feedback as to whether or not you scored a neutralizing hit. Utilized by law enforcement, the 19x25-inch targets take your personal-defense training to the next level.

**MSRP: \$29.95 (box of 25)****04 Smith’s  
Trailblazer**

A handgun is the primary piece of equipment you need for concealed carry, but it’s not the only one. Among the other gear generally advisable to keep on your person is a good knife, which Smith’s provides in its Trailblazer. This 3.5-inch-bladed folder is built for rugged use—and it won’t break your bank account. Its custom handle with overmolded grip keeps the Trailblazer in hand, even in wet and sloppy conditions, and its stainless steel blade can be honed to a razor’s edge. Additionally, ambidextrous thumb studs make deployment lightning fast and one handed. The liner-locking knife stays easily at hand, thanks to a reversible clip. It also comes with a lanyard hole.

**MSRP: \$24.99**

# CARRY WITH CONFIDENCE

**01»****02»****03»**



### 05 Glock 44

No matter where you stand on the Glock spectrum (lover or hater), you'll have to agree the prolific pistol maker has certainly gone a different route with its latest addition. The Glock 44 is the company's first foray into rimfire pistols and is made with economical training in mind. The .22 LR handgun is styled after the Glock 19, mimicking the same operation and feel of the ubiquitous pistol. Now, devotees of the iconic 9mm have the perfect tool for working on muscle memory and skills. You needn't be a G19 fan to justify a purchase; by all rights, the G44 should prove an exceptional option for those just cutting their teeth on shooting sports.

**MSRP: \$430**

### 06 Sig Sauer Military Surplus M17

"Military surplus"... there are few sweeter words in the English language—especially when they're applied to Sig Sauer's renowned M17 pistol. Yes, you heard that correctly. Civilians will get a shot at owning early iterations of the fairly new military sidearm, along with a few extras. Primarily, the 9mm comes with a second guide rod assembly with a lighter spring, so the M17 will cycle standard velocity ammunition. Additionally, these guns are sold with one 17-round magazine and two 21-round extended-capacity magazines. All the M17s are Coyote Tan and come with the slide milled to accept many red-dot optics.

**MSRP: N/A**

### 07 CrossBreed Pac Mat Holster

If you carry off body, you'll need to ensure your handgun is not only accessible, but secure as well. CrossBreed streamlines both tasks considerably with its elegantly simple Pac Mat Holster, tailored for briefcases, messenger bags, backpacks and bug-out bags. Combining a CrossBreed modular holster and a sturdy Kydex flat-panel lined with hook-and-loop fasteners, the system keeps your defensive gun at the ready. Measuring 9x8 inches, the Pac Mat fits snugly into most bags and won't allow your pistol to roam around dangerously. Most importantly, it protects the trigger, eliminating the concern of a negligent discharge. This holster keeps a spare magazine at hand, to boot.

**MSRP: \$44.95**

07»

04»



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06»





# CARRY WITH CONFIDENCE

## 08 FN 509 Compact MRD

FN has played coy in expanding its popular line of polymer striker-fired pistols, but the wait for a carry-tailored 509 has been well worth it. The 509 Compact MRD is long on features, as well as performance. The 3.7-inch-barreled 9mm pistol boasts the MRD line's low-profile optics-mounting system, which is compatible with most miniature red-dots presently on the market. As is the case with other 509 MRD models, the compact also features blackout iron sights, co-witnessed. The pistol has a flat-face trigger, interchangeable backstrap, ambidextrous controls and an accessory rail. It ships with a 12-round flush-fit magazine, 15-round extended-grip magazine and zipper case.

**MSRP: \$799**



«08

## 09 Ruger Security 9 Pro

For many, an external safety is a deal-breaker when it comes to a self-defense pistol. This makes Ruger's release of the Pro variation of its relatively new Security 9 logical, if not inevitable. Available in both a 10+1, 3.4-inch-barreled compact and 15+1, 4-inch-barreled mid-sized frame, the new additions—without thumb safeties—have you covered for concealed carry and home defense. Like the original Security 9, the Pro version of the 9mm breaks considerably from the market, offering shooters a double-action, internal hammer-fired system. The pistol is built on a machined, anodized aluminum chassis and features an alloyed steel slide and barrel. Additionally, the Security 9 Pro has steel tritium sights, enhancing the pistol's usefulness in low-light situations.

**MSRP: \$549**

09»



## 10 Sabre Stun Gun Safety Tool

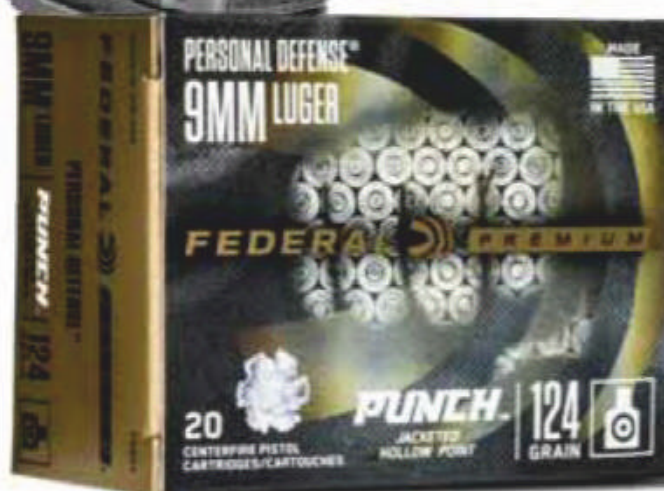
Not every assault calls for a lethal-force response. Even so, you don't want to get caught unarmed. This is where the Sabre 3-in-1 Stun Gun Safety Tool comes into play. This key fob—a less-than-lethal option—is easily kept at hand without raising suspicions and thwarts attackers with a 1.154 uC charge. Increasing its usefulness, the tiny device also has a 70-lumen LED light to identify threats and a 115dB alarm to signal for help. Operating off rechargeable batteries and designed not to discharge until you need it, this stun gun is the perfect addition to your concealed-carry kit.

**MSRP: \$29.99**



10»

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### 11 Federal Premium Punch Ammunition

For self-defense, it not only matters what you carry, but also what you load up. Federal Premium Punch ammunition arms you with a knockout blow. Drawing upon decades of defensive ammunition design, the company has come up with a line that delivers exceptional terminal ballistics. Boasting a soft-lead core wrapped in a skived jacket, this ammo offers consistent and devastating expansion and excellent penetration. Federal has also enhanced the ammo, using easy-to-see nickel-plated brass (great for press checks) and sealing the primer to ensure ignition every time. It's available in the most popular defensive calibers: .380 ACP, .38 Special, 9mm, .40 S&W and .45 Auto. Punch ammo is certain to make an impact on concealed carry.

**MSRP: \$15-\$20 box of 20**

### 12 Meprolight FT Single-Dot Sight

Based on an optical illumination patent, the Mepro FT Single-Dot Sight is an extremely small, low-profile optical pistol sight. Similar to reflex sights, the sight provides the shooter with front and back aiming points in the form of illuminated dots for horizontal and vertical centering. This adds up to an incredibly intuitive and fast target-acquisition system. Outfitted with fiber-optic tritium inserts, the FT Single-Dot also enhances your defensive pistol in low-light conditions—without the need for batteries. Working with nearly any pistol's fore and aft dovetails, the sights are incredibly simple to install, and their overall small size ensures you never run into a snag on the draw.

**MSRP: \$130**

### 13 SCCY DVG-1

The complaint most have with SCCY Firearms' pistols is the trigger. Not any longer. This company, best-known for its DAO hammer-fired guns, has completely switched gears in 2020, introducing the striker-fired DVG-1. You heard that right—*striker-fired*. With that comes a pistol that trips at a very terse 5.5 pounds but remains as concealable as ever. The 15-ounce 9mm is 1 inch wide, 5 inches high and has a 3-inch barrel. SCCY is offering an iron-sight model, as well as one outfitted with a Crimson Trace CTS-1500 red-dot optic.

**MSRP: \$289 (iron sights); \$389 (with CTS-1500)**

### 14 Walker's Silencer Bluetooth Rechargeable Earbuds

If you plan to carry concealed, you'd better plan on putting in plenty of range time. With that, you should also prepare to take care of your hearing. Walker's has long protected shooters' auditory systems, but never with quite the versatility and ease found in Silencer Earbuds. The NRR 26-rated protection devices not only cancel out the reports of your firearms, they also allow you to converse without yelling your head off. This is thanks to an ingenious system that picks up normal levels of noise but deletes high-decibel sounds the micro-second they're detected. These earbuds are Bluetooth enabled, so you can fine-tune what you take in and leave out via your smart device.

**MSRP: \$299.99**





# THE SUPER SLEEPER

Although you'll be hard pressed to find one under the glass at your local firearms emporium, 1911s chambered for the .38 Super are still available.



## A defensive CCW cartridge you've never considered: the .38 Super.

**T**he story of the .38 Super starts in 1900, when Colt introduced the John Browning-designed M1900 .38 Automatic pistol. Interestingly, this was two years prior to the introduction of the 9mm Luger. The 9mm Luger was almost immediately adopted by the German military, but the .38 Automatic (ACP) was rejected by the U.S. military, which ultimately adopted the .45 ACP and the Colt Government Model in 1911.

Now, ironically, our troops are carrying 9mm pistols.

In 1929, Colt tried again with an improved version of the .38 ACP. This modernized cartridge had a

new name—.38 Super—and the only improvement amounted to nothing more than the cartridge being loaded to a higher pressure: 36,500 psi, as compared to 26,500 psi. This resulted in a velocity increase of about 200 fps.

### THE KING OF COMPETITION

Some mistakenly assume the .38 Super is based on the 9mm Luger. It isn't; the .38 Super case is semi-rimmed, smaller in diameter and longer than that of the 9mm Luger.

The Super was only marginally successful until about 35 years ago, when it became a favorite of practical pistol competitors. In IPSC competitions, there's a power factor that must be met.

It's calculated by multiplying a cartridge's bullet weight by its muzzle velocity. Then, the product is divided by 1,000.

At the time, 175 was the lower limit for "major class" (currently, the IPSC major power factor is 165). Competing with a "major" pistol was a huge advantage, because hits were worth an additional point. By using a barrel with a supported chamber in a 1911 pistol, competitors found they could make major with the Super. And, a 1911 in .38 Super held more ammo than one in .45 ACP.

For a time, the Super was the king of competition.

### THE SUPER FOR DEFENSE

But what about the .38 Super as a defensive handgun cartridge? Texas Ranger Frank Hammer carried one, and my good friend and former Texas sheriff, Jim Wilson, is fond of the





The .38 Super is a fantastic cartridge for the defensive handgun—especially if you’re looking for a handgun with more power than a 9mm and a higher capacity than a .45 Auto.

The Buffalo Bore 115-grain JHP load for the .38 Super is one of the best defensive loads available. With a muzzle velocity of 1,400-plus fps, it will out-penetrate just about any comparable 9mm Luger load.

On the left is the .380 Auto designed by John Browning; in the middle is the 9mm Luger; and on the right is the John Browning-designed—and Colt’s improved—.38 Super.

cartridge as well. For an auto-pistol cartridge, the velocity is high, and the recoil is noticeably less than you’ll feel from a .40 S&W or a .45 ACP. From an external ballistics standpoint, the Super might not be the equivalent of a big-block V8 but is, for sure, a super-charged small block.

However, ammunition options in .38 Super are not limitless and, on top of that, .38 Super ammo can sometimes be hard to find. I had a limited supply of .38 Super ammunition on hand from Wilson Combat and Buffalo Bore and fed it all through a Les Baer 1911 Commanche. I started with five, five-shot groups with each load from a sandbag rest at 15 yards. Two of the loads performed very well, and the other two delivered about average accuracy from a 4.25-inch gun at the tested distance. Even so, overall, the Commanche averaged 1.5 inches for 20 five-shot groups at 15 yards.

### **.38 SUPER TERMINAL PERFORMANCE**

Of course, this is well within any reasonable expectation for precision from a defensive handgun. The more important question is, *What kind of terminal performance can be expected from a .38 Super?*

To find out, I tested three of the four loads I had on hand—one was an FMJ load—in 10 percent ordnance

gelatin. On average, the major difference I found when comparing the .38 Super to 9mm Luger was a substantial increase in penetration. Looking at all the 9mm Luger loads I’ve tested over the years, the average penetration depth in 10 percent ordnance gelatin was about 14 inches. The average penetration depth for the three .38 Super loads tested was 2.5 inches—17 percent—deeper. (For what it’s worth, there are only about six quality defensive loads available for the .38 Super, so I tested half of them.)

This increase in penetration is due to two factors.

The first is the increase in velocity, which is about 200 fps when compared to 9mm Luger loads with the same bullet weight. The second is the reduction in recovered-bullet diameter. Due to the higher velocity, bullets fired from the .38 Super tend to deform, with a smaller frontal diameter, which averages about 1.4 times the original bullet diameter.

However, this slight reduction doesn’t negatively impact .38 Super terminal performance, because the higher impact velocity, combined with the dynamic expansion of the bullet, creates a larger wound cavity with the potential for more-serious wounding. This is another way of saying the .38 Super makes a bigger

“splash” than the 9mm.

### **GRAND INVENTION**

When it comes to the .38 Super, I think there are several things to consider. The first is that, on average, it will out-penetrate the three most common defensive handgun cartridges (the 9mm, .40 S&W and .45 Auto) commonly chambered in semi-automatic pistols. The recoil of the .38 Super is more manageable than that of a .40 S&W or .45 Auto, and it has a higher velocity than the 9mm Luger. It also allows for a substantial increase in capacity when compared to a .40 S&W or .45 Auto. From the standpoint of the defensive handgunner, all these things are important ... and this should make you wonder why the Super .38 is not more popular.

Colt, Rock Island, EAA and Llama all offer pistols chambered in .38 Super, as do many custom 1911 builders (such as Les Baer).

Regardless of its performance or popularity as a defensive handgun cartridge, we have to acknowledge that it’s yet another grand invention of John Moses Browning, who also gave us the .45 Auto, .380 Auto, 1911 and the M2 machine gun. Even after 100 years, those three cartridges and two firearms are still being trusted all over the world. **GDTM**



# GETTING HUNG UP

We live in the ‘golden days’ of the holster, so hang your heater in a 24-karat winner.

Nostalgia is a terrible liar. It might be nice to tell yourself that when hot dogs and Moon Pies only cost a nickel, you were living in the golden days.

You weren't. An off-the-rack rifle likely took a bigger bite out of your paycheck. Unless you were law enforcement, forget about packing. And, for certain generations, you got polio at the local swimming pool. Not exactly the stuff dreams are made of.

This particularly pertains to holsters. Most back-in-the-day hangers were monstrosities by today's lean-and-mean standards. Generally, they came in two styles: unwieldy and uncomfortable. It was a factor of the times. Before the 1990s, concealed carry wasn't a phenomenon.

Today there's an absolute sea of holster options; they're engineered to the hilt to conform to your every nook and cranny while making your handgun a veritable ghost. What's more, they're not only designed to match your frame, they also excel for your particular lifestyle.

On-the-go urban professional? There's a rig that'll disappear beneath your two-piece Brook's Brothers suit. Callused-hand rancher? There's a rawhide-tough outside-the-waistband (OWB) option that'll stick your pistol to you like a brand. Soccer mom, suburban store owner, truck driver, college co-ed? No matter your profile, there's an efficient, convenient—and, above all—comfortable holster out there for you. **GDTM**



## 01 Versacarry Compound

Kydex and leather—this partnership has served many an armed citizen well, although this style has become a bit stale. Laying down the gauntlet to the traditional retention shell-paddle arrangement, Versacarry has reimagined not only the hybrid holster's look, but also its function. Combining the rigidity and wear-resistance of Kydex with the comfort and classic good looks of leather, the Compound series offers the best of both worlds. Ingeniously, the holster accomplishes this feat by sandwiching the plastic between two layers of water buffalo hide, giving the softer material a superstructure—a “backbone,” if you will. The results are a stiff holster with excellent draw characteristics that reduces wear on a gun's finish and is soft against the body. Furthermore, the rig is light (6.4 ounces), comes with a steel belt clip system for easy removal and boasts a retention-adjustment screw.

**MSRP: \$74.99**

## 02 Galco QuickTuk

Best known for its leather rigs—some of them downright breathtaking—Galco has taken a different tack with its latest holster. The QuickTuk Cloud IWB is primarily composed of synthetic material; however, there's a good reason for the company's marked break from convention; in a word—comfort. Configured like a traditional hybrid holster, the QuickTuk Cloud IWB features a cloth lining on the rear of the nylon backing plate. This allows the tuckable holster to breathe and wick moisture. That's the major advantage with Galco breaking from traditional leather, which is a godsend in holsters designed to ride against the body. Reasonably priced, the QuickTuk Cloud IWB is also versatile, configured for strong-hand hip placement or cross draw.

**MSRP: \$55**





### 03 Alien Gear Shapeshifter System

“Modularity” is one of those catchwords bantered around the gun world that seem to have more sizzle than steak. At this point, it generally elicits a resounding “meh” from the masses ... except in systems that truly live up to the versatility the word implies. The Shapeshifter is one of these systems. To say Alien Gear knocked it out of the park with this protean system is an understatement akin to comparing the moon landing to a stroll down the street. With the proper expansion pack, the Shapeshifter is literally any holster you want it to be—IWB, OWB, ankle, shoulder; you name it (OK, not belly band, but give Alien Gear some time). On top of modifying the style of carry, it’s also adjustable and comfortable in whatever position you end up choosing. Alien Gear is the “master” of Kydex, plastic and neoprene.

**MSRP: \$99.88 (core carry pack)**

### 04 DeSantis Heat T.B.

Retention. For most armed citizens, it’s an afterthought ... if that. It’s undercover, so nobody’s going to know you’re armed. So, why worry about a gun grab? It’s a logical argument, but it underestimates the bad guys. That’s a formula for disaster. When it comes to keeping possession of your pistol at all times, DeSantis gives you peace of mind with its newly minted Level 2 retention holster—the Heat T.B. (“T.B.” stands for “thumb break”). In this case, it’s a button-clasp that opens easily in the process of your normal draw but holds tight if someone attempts to dislodge your gun via the butt. Impressively, the system does little to hinder the overall comfort of the Heat T.B., perhaps even improving it by putting a little more saddle leather between you and your gun. And, as DeSantis is known for, it’s rock solid and an easy draw, facilitated by a steel spring clip and reinforced mouth.

**MSRP: \$55.99**

### 05 Savoy Leather

Despite the rash of new designs and materials that have flooded the holster market, some things endure. For instance, leather remains a top material choice, and pancake holsters still get the job done. This doesn’t mean that if manufacturers work along these lines they can’t put a new twist on things. Savoy Leather does just that with several custom options that let you put your own twist on how you carry. While Savoy Leather’s designs range from tooled biblical verses to linesmen at work, one of our favorites is the Warthog. Styled after the nose of the Fairchild A-10 Thunderbolt low-altitude, close-support aircraft, it isn’t just unique, it’s downright intimidating. If you have a BBQ gun, few things would razz it up more. Even with its daunting good looks, it’s not purely a “show pony.” Handcrafted from fine, thick American leather and sculpted to your particular make and model, it molds comfortably to your hip. In addition, its mouth won’t collapse upon drawing, and it’ll hold your handgun tight. And, you can have it made to exactly *your* specifications, from belt width to exactly how you want it dyed.

**MSRP: \$200**



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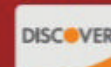
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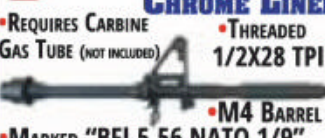
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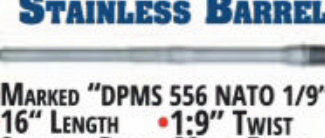
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# THE MOSSBERG MC2c

Reliability ...  
and then some.







I carry concealed everywhere, and that's why I'm always testing every new compact and sub-compact pistol that's been released. I look for comfort, ergonomics, reliability and accuracy.

Early in 2019, Mossberg shocked us all with its first pistol (well, its first pistol in 100 years): the Mossberg MC-1sc, a sub-compact, 9mm, single-stack pistol. The MC-1sc gave us a series of features that made the pistol a desirable choice for both concealed carry and EDC.

Now, a year after the introduction of the MC-1sc, Mossberg has introduced a slightly bigger sibling to the MC-1sc: the MC2c, the new entry from Mossberg for its pistol series.

COMPARING THE SIBLINGS

The new MC2c is a compact-sized pistol with almost identical features and ergonomics as the MC-1sc. They both share a black glass-reinforced polymer frame; a stainless steel slide in either DLC finish or a matte stainless steel finish for a two-tone look; a 416 stainless steel

DLC-finished barrel with a 1:10 right-hand twist; and almost identical esthetic features as the MC-1sc. In addition, the MC2c uses the same comfortable, flat-faced polymer trigger. Mossberg will be offering two models with external cross-bolt external safeties, two models without it and one model with Tru-Glo night sights.

Mossberg also continued to use the Sig Sauer-pattern dovetail front and rear sights used on the MC-1sc. The basic pistols ships with a 3-dot white-dot. Both the front and rear sights are adjustable for drift.

A common feature on both the MC-1sc and the MC2c is the takedown process. This is one of the most innovative takedown processes I've seen in any striker-fired pistol. To take down either pistol, you must first remove the backplate on the slide and the striker, thereby rendering the pistol inoperable. This completely removes the necessity of having to press the trigger to release the slide and the possibility of any accidental discharge in the takedown process.



One detail I really like on both the MC-1sc and the MC2c is the cocking serrations. Not only are they grippy, they're also very esthetically pleasing—at least to me. (Although I don't use the front cocking serrations, I love the look of them; they just look good!)

And that's where the similarities end.

THE YOUNGER, SLIGHTLY LARGER SIBLING

The new MC2c has slightly larger dimensions than its older brother: a 7.10-inch length, 4.90-inch height and 1.10-inch width. It weighs in at only 21 ounces unloaded and 29 ounces loaded. With a 4-inch barrel length, the MC2c offers a 6.40-inch sight radius. Unlike its older, smaller sibling, the MC2c has an accessory rail that fits most lights, lasers or accessories.

MOSSBERG MC2c ACCURACY RESULTS

| AMMUNITION TYPE                                 | BEST GROUP (inches) |
|-------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| HORNADY CRITICAL DEFENSE 115-GRAIN FTX          | .95                 |
| FEDERAL HYDRA-SHOK 135-GRAIN                    | .96                 |
| FEDERAL TRAIN & PROTECT 1150-GRAIN VERSATILE HP | 1.25                |
| FEDERAL SYNTech DEFENSE 138-GRAIN SJHP          | 1.50                |
| FEDERAL SYNTech TRAINING MATCH 147-GRAIN TSJ    | 1.60                |





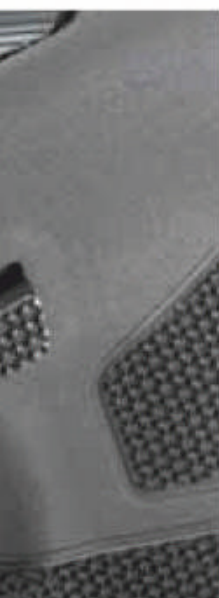


Even though it's compact and slim, the Mossberg MC2c offers reliability and accuracy with either a 13- or 15-round capacity.

Another MC2c difference is capacity. Unlike the smaller, single-stack MC-1sc, the new MC2c features a metal double-stack magazine with a capacity of either 13-round flush or 15-round extended magazines. It's interesting to note that the grip on the MC2c isn't that much thicker than the grip on the MC-1sc.

When I first picked up the MC2c, I was pleasantly surprised with its ergonomics and feel. The grips were nice

and thin; in fact, I couldn't believe that a 13-round flush magazine could fit in this compact and comfortable grip. The trigger pull breaks at a crisp 5.5 pounds, but it really doesn't feel that heavy.



03



## MOSSBERG MC2c SPECIFICATIONS

**CALIBER:** 9mm

**ACTION:** Semi-automatic

**FRAME:** Compact

**CAPACITY:** 13-round (flush)/15-round (extended)

**SAFETY:** Integrated trigger blade safety; cross-bolt manual safety (optional)

**FRAME:** Glass-reinforced polymer, matte black

**SLIDE:** 416 stainless steel, DLC finish or matte stainless finish (two-tone)

**BARREL:** 416 stainless steel, DLC

**LENGTH:** 7.10 in.

**HEIGHT:** 4.90 in.

**WIDTH:** 1.10 in.

**WEIGHT:** 21 oz. (unloaded); 29 oz. (loaded)

**BARREL LENGTH:** 4 in.

**BARREL RIFLING:** button-rifled six-groove

**TWIST RATE:** 1:10 RH twist

**SIGHT RADIUS:** 6.40 in.

**FRONT SIGHT:** White dot, drift adjustable; dovetail sight

**REAR SIGHT:** Dual white dot, drift adjustable; dovetail sight

**TRIGGER:** Flat-profile trigger

**TRIGGER PULL:** Approx. 5.5 lb.

**TRIGGER TRAVEL:** .5 in.

01. The rear sight is also adjustable for windage and fits the Sig Sauer slide. The author decided to black out the white dots to fit his shooting style.

02. The flat-faced polymer trigger yields a crisp, 5.5-pound trigger pull.

03. An accessory rail allows the installation of lights, lasers or any other accessory that fits the rail.



The cocking serrations on the MC2c are as functional as they are esthetically pleasing. And the slim grip of this pistol makes it very comfortable for concealed carry in most holsters tested with it.



## SHOOTING THE MC2c AT GUNSITE ACADEMY

Now, enough about the pistol; let's do some shooting.

I spent two days with the MC2c at Gunsite under the great guidance from the Gunsite staff, especially Charlie McNeese and Ed Head. There's nothing better than having two great instructors guiding you through some heavy training.

Over the course of two days, we ran the basic Gunsite drills, as well as a couple of shoot houses. We used both Hornady Critical Defense and CCI Blazer Brass ammunition.

The MC2c pistol ran for two days without a single malfunction, and I

didn't clean it once. I'm fairly sure I ran more than 300 rounds over the course of those two days. It's quite impressive that in spite of constant shooting in cold, drizzly weather, I didn't experience a malfunction. It's very telling and speaks volumes about this new pistol.

One funny incident: Halfway through the first day, most of the participants in the group had used a black Sharpie to black out the white dots on the rear sight; I did too. Even though most of the shooting community really appreciates the 3-dot sight system, I've grown to prefer black rear sights. (I think Mossberg should include a black Sharpie in every box for those of us who prefer black sights!)

After the Gunsite class, I took the MC2c to my local indoor range (C2 Tactical in Scottsdale, Arizona) for a quiet accuracy test. I used the new Ransom Steady Rest—an aluminum rest that allows the shooter to have a steady platform for more-repeatable and -accurate shooting.

I tested ammo that ranged from premium defensive ammunition all the way to practice ammunition: Hornady Critical Defense 115-grain FTX, Federal Hydra-Shok 135-grain, Federal Train & Protect 115-grain Versatile HP, Federal Syntech Defense 138-grain SJHP and Federal Syntech Training Match 147-grain TSJ.

I did all my testing at a distance of 10 yards, because the MC2c is a CCW/EDC pistol, and most armed encounters won't happen farther than 10 yards (most happen within 3 yards).

I fired five, five-round groups with each type of ammunition, and my results were as expected: The premium ammunition performed great, with groups under 1 inch with the Federal Hydra-Shok, giving me an average group of .96 inch. The Hornady Critical Defense gave me an average group of .95 inch.

The practice ammunition performed very well too. The Federal Train & Protect gave me an average group of 1.25 inches; the Federal Syntech Defense gave me an average group of 1.5 inches; and the Federal Syntech Training Match



**“I wouldn’t hesitate to carry this pistol as my EDC, because I already know it will run in any weather condition and will be both accurate and reliable if I ever need it to protect myself or my family.”**

gave me an average group of 1.6 inches.

For some reason, perspective buyers of defense handguns expect a little heavier shooting than just a couple of days of Gunsite training and some slow-paced accuracy testing. I remember the days when consumers would buy a defensive pistol, run a couple of hundred rounds through it, clean it and immediately start using the pistol as their main defensive pistol. But with the advent of social media, minor defects in some pistols get blown out of proportion.

As a result, some consumers believe that any pistol should have at least 1,000-plus rounds fired through it without a single malfunction before they consider

the pistol “worthy” of becoming their carry pistol. I don’t understand this way of thinking, but it’s a new fact of life.

#### **RELIABILITY TESTING**

I decided to add a little bit of fast shooting to test the MC2c for the final step—reliability testing. I loaded two 13-round magazines and did two back-to-back mag dumps just as fast as I could press that trigger. I also did one slide lock reload as fast as I could do it.

I had some leftover CCI Blazer brass ... so, why not, right? Well, it didn’t disappoint, and, again, not a single malfunction. In all reality, after the Gunsite class, I honestly didn’t ex-

pect any malfunctions, but I decided to perform the test anyway.

I’m not surprised with my conclusions about the Mossberg MC2c—I like it. It’s big enough to fit my hand comfortably and narrow enough to comfortably fit in any IWB or OWB holster. Sights are easy to find and offer a great sight picture.

Reliability is just what I expected ... and then some. Personally, I wouldn’t hesitate to carry this pistol as my EDC, because I already know it will run in pretty much any weather condition and will be both accurate and reliable if I ever need it to protect myself and/or my family. **GDTM**

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# THE ART OF THE DRY FIRE

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There are many dummy rounds you can use. Some even offer a laser beam to help you diagnose your skill and then improve.



A laser bore insert that emits a flash or beam when the gun is fired can be a great dry-practice tool.

**D**ry practice involves working with a firearm that's unloaded. Admittedly, messing with unloaded guns has limited appeal; it's like playing with a motorcycle with an empty gas tank.

However, the goal with dry practice is to become more familiar with the gun and develop a relationship with its trigger, sights, controls, operation and presentation. Dry practice can cover several aspects of gun handling; it's not just about pulling the trigger.

Even if you consider yourself an average shooter, I'd urge you to become devoted to dry practice. I've been shooting most of my life, and hardly a day goes by that I don't dry practice in some manner.

Presented here are several dry practice drills, along with dos and don'ts. The number-one most important aspect of dry practice is to always work with a *for-damned-sure* unloaded gun, no matter what type of dry practice you're

conducting. I'd also recommend you conduct dry practice in a location where there's no live ammunition. Remember: always, *always*, point your handgun in a safe direction!

## DRY PRACTICE TRIGGER-PULLING

Pulling triggers or "dry-firing" is the most common form of dry practice—and rightly so. As the late, great Jeff Cooper said, "The purpose of shooting is hitting." And hitting comes about by you being able to maintain a proper sight picture while pressing the trigger. In fact, if you could boil the secret to shooting down to two concepts, it's *sight alignment* and *trigger control*.

The trigger press—with the proper sight alignment—should be a part of your presentation dry practice, but it can also be done independently. The worse the trigger in your firearm, the more of this you'll need to do. Building a relationship with a bad trigger is like doing the same with an ornery co-worker: It takes time and patience.





Laser inserts can be a great dry-practice tool because they can give you an indication of how well you're maintaining sight alignment as you pull the trigger.

Dummy rounds are too affordable for you *not* to use them. They're valuable firearms training tools.



As with any other form of practice, start slowly in order to develop a relationship with your trigger. Use a small aiming point so you can notice any wobble or jerk as the trigger's pressed. If you can connect a laser to your handgun, these wobbles or jerks are much easier to see. Some folks even rest a dime or penny on the barrel of the gun and attempt to press the trigger without allowing the coin to hit the floor.

With handguns, you can even use a pencil. Insert the pencil in the barrel with the sharpened end toward the target. Tape a piece of paper on the wall with a small aiming point and aim at that point with the muzzle about an inch from the wall. When you press the trigger, the firing pin will hit the eraser and force the

pencil out of the barrel. The sharpened end will hit the paper and create a mark. You can do this over and over and even shoot a group.

**Do** use snap caps. They're a great accessory for dry practice; they save wear on your gun; and they add a visual indication that the gun is unloaded.

**Don't** focus on the target. Your attention should always be on the front sight or reticle.

#### DRY PRACTICE FIREARMS PRESENTATION

Firearms presentation is generally thought to apply only to handguns. Presenting a handgun or getting it out of the holster and orientating it toward the target is a skill that needs to be practiced. But so, too, is bringing a rifle to your shoulder so that it's pointed at the target.

Firearms presentation, whether with a handgun, rifle or shotgun, is one of the least practiced—but most important—aspects of dry fire.

When practicing presentation, it's best (at least, initially) to do it in steps. As you perform each step of the process, take careful pains to make sure you're executing the action to perfection. For example, if you're practicing your draw from concealment, make sure you're wearing a concealing garment that you must clear. By the same token, if you're working on shouldering a hunting rifle or shotgun, it might be a good idea to be wearing your hunting jacket.

**Do** practice from the initial movement all the way through the trigger press and follow-through.



They make dummy rounds for a reason. Use them!



**Don't** rush the process. Start slow—crawl, walk, run.

#### DRY PRACTICE FOLLOW-THROUGH AND HOLSTERING

Firearms instructors commonly tell me one of the skills that's most lacking in their students is the follow-through and holstering. Not only do shooters tend to ignore proper form when doing this, it's also an area in which they tend to become very unsafe.

Celebrations or actions of disgust occur frequently on the range and in the field. The elation of a hit or dissatisfaction of a miss can override our safety valve, and guns end up being pointed in directions they're not supposed to. Establishing proper follow-through and holstering habits with dry practice will not only make you safer, it will also make you a better shooter.

There are several aspects to consider here:

When the trigger breaks, focus on

maintaining your sight picture. Then, you can focus on putting away the gun. However, with a long gun, this is the time when you might need to cycle the action—run the bolt, work the pump or rack the lever. This should be done before the long gun leaves your shoulder. The final step is to holster the handgun or lower the long gun to a proper “ready” position.

**Do** conduct the proper follow-through every time you conduct a dry practice trigger press.

**Don't** ever be in a hurry to holster a handgun.

#### DRY PRACTICE RELOADING

Competition shooters have been dry practicing the reload for many years. And, they often use a shot timer to gauge their proficiency. This is fine but, of course, not all of us are competition shooters. However, that doesn't mean we shouldn't be practicing reloading our firearms.

Regardless of the weapon system you're operating, there are several generally accepted methods for reloading it. It might be as simple as replacing a magazine or as complicated as topping off a bolt-action or lever-action rifle.

Whatever the process, it can be easily dry practiced. After a dry practice trigger press, conduct the reload and pay particular attention to doing each step correctly. For example, if you're replacing the magazine in your handgun, don't drop the magazine that's in the gun to the ground until your hand has found the replacement magazine on your belt. Sure, you can run a shot timer to see how fast you can conduct a reload, but what's more important here is that you learn to conduct the reload *correctly*. As they say: Bad practice equals bad performance.

**Do** concentrate on keeping the muzzle orientated in a safe direction and the target in your peripheral vision as you conduct a reload.

**Don't** ever, *ever* use live ammunition for dry reloading practice. After all, dummy rounds are too affordable to ignore.

#### DRY PRACTICE IMMEDIATE ACTION: STOPPAGES

Guns jam. All repeating firearms jam. Glocks jam, revolvers jam, lever-actions jam and yes, even the celebrated Mauser-style bolt-action rifle will jam.

What you can do with dry practice is simulate various types of stoppages and then work the proper techniques to clear





Those who carry a concealed handgun should spend time dry practicing their draw so they're adept at clearing the cover garment out of the way.

It's important to practice the reload with a handgun or long gun. This can easily be done during dry practice—just make sure you use dummy rounds.



The "pencil drill," which can be conducted with any defensive handgun (with revolvers, it'll have to be done in single-action mode), is a great form of dry practice.



them. Being fluent with these techniques could potentially save your life in a gunfight with a bad guy or a bad critter such as an African buffalo. It might also mean the difference in being able to get that trophy elk, sheep or whatever you might be after.

There are a couple of ways to practice immediate action. You can set up the stoppage yourself and then attempt to clear it. In fact, until you become at least moderately proficient with the process, this is the preferred method. Alternatively, you can let a buddy set up the stoppage while you're not looking. This requires you to diagnose the situation and respond accordingly.

One thing to remember when performing immediate action or working with a stoppage, particularly with a firearm that feeds from a detachable magazine, is that sometimes the best—fastest—answer is to just conduct a reload.

**Do** use dummy rounds when practicing immediate action, and make sure you've practiced it multiple times before you ever try to do it *in a hurry* with live ammunition.

**Don't** point your firearm in an unsafe direction when clearing a stoppage. Just because it seems to not be working doesn't make it inert.

## FREQUENCY

How often should you conduct dry practice? Well, that depends on how serious you are about shooting and how often you get to shoot live ammo. I generally do a little dry practice every day. However, as a gun writer, I live around guns; there's always one (or more) within reach for me to work with. That's not the case with most folks, who have jobs at which they can't just get their pistol out and go waving it around at lunch time.

The good thing about dry practice is that the sessions don't have to be long. In fact, frequency is more important than duration. If you can carve out five to 10 minutes every day or a least a few evenings a week to do a little dry practice—always away from the distraction of work or family—you'll see a significant improvement in your shooting very soon. **GDTM**





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# CONSIDERING 'CROTCH' CARRY

Is appendix carry of your CCW for you? Have you even considered it?

When the topic of appendix carry comes up, some of the oft-used responses are along the lines of, "Appendix doesn't work for me"; "AIWB isn't comfortable for me"; or (my personal favorite): "I don't want to shoot my @\$% off."

These complaints are almost always rooted in a poor understanding of how to make appendix carry work, assuming that a shorter pistol slide is better or allowing an opinion to be formed while using a \$25 eBay holster that "works for them."

Once you've understood the elements of a good appendix holster and how it should fit onto your body, nearly every concern critics make is almost always addressed with proper equipment selection. If your holster, gun or gun belt isn't well-suited for appendix, you're going to have a bad time.

Is appendix carry for everyone? No, but you should be able to follow the tips in this article to have the best chance at success.

## HOLSTERING A LOADED GUN IS DANGEROUS

The most likely time to have a negligent discharge is when holstering your pistol.

That isn't limited to AIWB: Holstering a pistol is *universally* dangerous if you're careless. Appendix just has higher stakes than other positions. A properly functioning gun in a good holster, along with quality training, will mitigate risk.

"Shooting your @\$% off" should be the least of your concerns if you botch holstering your gun. A far more valuable bit of anatomy than your reproductive organ is also at risk: your femoral artery. Because I don't like the idea of dying, I came up with some easy-to-remember rules ("N.U.T.S.") for holstering a loaded gun when carrying appendix:

- Never rush to reholster your firearm.
- Uncover your holster completely.
- Thrust your hips forward.
- Slowly insert your pistol into the holster.

## APPENDIX CARRY BENEFITS

If the whole "if you mess up, you'll die" thing didn't put you off, which it shouldn't, there are some solid payoffs to AIWB. As long as you remember my N.U.T.S. acronym and use quality gear, you probably won't mess up and die.

**Faster and Easier Draw.** Some

people will note that appendix is faster because the gun is closer to where your hands spend most of their time—in front of the body. That isn't entirely true. Yes, our hands spend most of their time in front of the body, but the drawstroke







when placing your gun in the AIWB position is a more natural motion. Your arms *want* to bend in to the centerline of your body; they *don't* want to be moved around to your back. Removing the need to reach behind your body's centerline means you're no longer at a mechanical disadvantage.

You're also able to draw your gun in a ton of odd body positions, such as seated (think car, restaurant or place of worship), on your back and pretty much every other position you might find yourself in ... as long as you don't find yourself pinned face first against something, thereby blocking access to the holster.

**You Have More Control.** Where carrying on your strong-side hip leaves you at a disadvantage when trying to maintain control of your gun, with appendix,

you just push the pistol down into the holster with whatever hand you have free. While it's a less-ideal method of controlling the pistol, the option to close the gap between you and your attacker and block access to the pistol by sandwiching it between your body and the attacker is another way you can maintain control of your gun.

**Concealing Large Guns Is More Comfortable.** The most surprising benefit to appendix carry is that when you use a properly set-up holster, appendix carry is generally more comfortable than traditional IWB carry, even when you're seated. Think of how traditional IWB either places the pistol over your hip bone or presses the slide and muzzle into your gluteal medius (hip muscles) and gluteal maximus (butt cheek) muscles.

When you have a holster that incorporates

a way to tilt the gun into your stomach and also rotates the grip toward your body, you're able to pull off what some might view as impossible—true concealment of large pistols in the same everyday clothing you would wear normally. In fact, there are many who carry (including me) and are able to conceal a Glock 34 or 5-inch 1911-sized pistol on a daily basis without printing.

#### APPENDIX-CARRY MYTHS

I'm only going to touch on the two most prevalent myths. Addressing every myth about AIWB would not only take a lifetime, but this magazine would deforest a small country!

**'Big' People Can't Carry Appendix.** "I *can't* carry appendix. My gut gets in the way." Hogwash! There isn't any magic to being able to conceal a pistol AIWB as a bigger guy, but a larger wedge (we'll





With appendix carry, the belt is as critical as the holster for safe (and comfortable) concealment.



talk about later) is needed to prevent the pistol from tipping out of the pants. Carrying a longer gun—as counterintuitive as it sounds—is also rather helpful in making appendix work for bigger guys due to more holster and gun being below the belt line.

**You Can't Draw With One Hand.** Again, this is hogwash. Just like traditional IWB, you still need to clear your cover garment. With strong-side carry, this means you rip the cover garment up and use your thumb and palm heel to keep it clear while you acquire your grip and draw. With appendix, the process is very similar: Rip the cover garment with your free hand and then stuff it behind the gun and draw.

### CHOOSING A HOLSTER

Your holster will either make or break your appendix-carry experience. While different body types will dictate what best suits you, there are some general features you should look for.

**Thermoplastics Rule; Leather Drools.** The only material I will accept for an appendix holster is Kydex or Boltaron. There are some other derivatives out there, such as Holstex or injection-molded holsters, but anything that can be molded into a ridged shell gets a thumbs-up. Leather isn't a material that I find acceptable for an appendix holster

for one simple reason: Leather degrades over time and becomes soft. Stories of negligent discharges when holstering aren't hard to find and are almost always linked to a leather or leather-backed hybrid holster past its service life.

#### A Means to Rotate the Pistol.

There are tons of ways to rotate the pistol in toward your body. The purpose is to prevent the butt of the gun from printing and help a flat object follow the contour of your body a bit more closely. These are called "claws," "camming bars" or "wings." They all rotate the pistol toward your body.

The concealment wing's function is simple: to rotate the gun and holster into the torso to prevent printing. It does this by being attached to the holster shell and using pressure from the belt to tuck the gun in neatly. Some good concealment wings to add to a holster include Raven Concealment wings, the ModWing, Dark Star Gear's Dark Wing or PHLster's TuckStrut. The Keepers Concealment accomplishes rotation differently; it uses an angle on the forward face of the holster.

**Wedges.** The purpose of a wedge is to push the muzzle out and the top of the pistol toward your torso for better concealment and comfort. An additional benefit is that depending on your gun selection, the wedge could keep

the muzzle clear of anything vital if you mess up while holstering. Most people will benefit from one.

- **Built-in Wedges.** Tenicor holsters, with their body contour wedge, are the most comfortable integrated wedges I've tried. When choosing a holster with a built-in wedge, keep in mind where on your belt line that holster will go. In addition, know that you might need to make some adjustments by adding some foam to the back for more height.

- **Semi-Permanent Add-On Wedges.** Some holsters (such as my daily-carry Bawidamann Gotham and the Raven Concealment Eidolon) use a rubber wedge that screws onto the back of the holster. A semi-permanent solution that attaches to the holster shell with hardware is an entirely acceptable option if one of the holsters with a built-in wedge doesn't excite you.

- **Add-On Foam Wedges.** Other holsters, such as the AIWB holsters from





## CLIP OPTIONS FOR AIWB

### BEST

- Discrete Carry Concepts overhooks
- Raven Concealment Metal overhooks
- Hard belt loop (i.e., Keepers Concealment)
- Dark Star Gear's large metal clip

### BETTER

- Soft loops (closed and snap type)
- Raven Concealment Plastic overhooks
- Discrete Carry Concepts Monoblock clip

### LESS IDEAL

- Large plastic clip (FOMI)
- Utiliclip
- Large metal clip

### UNACCEPTABLE

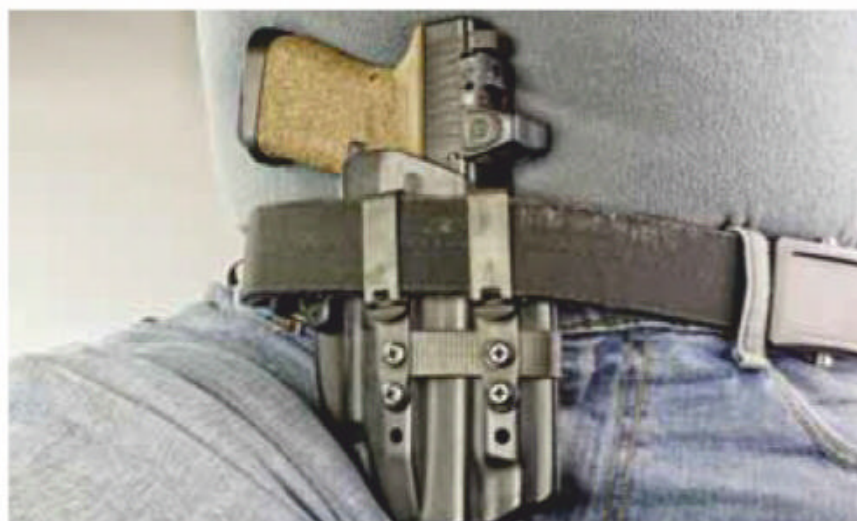
- Clipdraw
- Techna Clip
- Large plastic clip (Non-FOMI)

ANR Design, don't have a good option for a wedge. There are ways around not having a purpose-built wedge—such as using some closed-cell foam, a technique made popular by Spencer Keepers. And some industrial hook-and-loop closures make it a snap to attach a pre-made wedge (for instance, the Keepers Concealment foam wedge or Dark Star Gear's Flat Pad or Muzzle Pad).

### HOLSTERS TO AVOID

No matter what that talking head on YouTube is telling you, a hybrid holster is a terrible option for concealing a pistol in any carry position. What makes holsters such as the Alien Gear line or CrossBreed's leather-backed holsters so comfortable is that the backer softens over time and conforms to your body. While that's great for comfort, it's bad for safety.

When that backer becomes pliable enough, there's the chance it will fold over while you're reholstering and make



Carrying your rig slightly off center will allow use of the bathroom without moving the gun. Carry height is also a very important factor in comfortable appendix carry.



Regardless of where you choose to conceal your handgun, reholstering is the action that causes most accidental discharges. Be diligent in your movements, and remember that there's never a need to hurry while returning your handgun to its holster.



## APPENDIX HOLSTER CHECKLIST

- Covers the trigger guard and slide
- Has a built-in wedge or the ability to add one
- Offers a belt attachment option in the “better” or “best” category
- Provides adjustable ride height
- Has a means of rotating the pistol inward
- There are no sharp edges along the bottom of the gun

## SUGGESTED HOLSTER MAKERS

- Bawidamann
- Tenicor
- Keepers Concealment
- Harry's Holsters
- PHLster
- Henry Holsters
- ANR Design
- Dark Star Gear
- LAS Concealment
- Raven Concealment

## SUGGESTED BELT MAKERS

- Mene Gene Leather
- Aegis Gear
- Blue Alpha Gear
- Bravo Concealment
- Beltman
- Hanks Belts
- Versacarry



its way into the trigger guard. Sure, you can get one that has a “combat cut,” but I’d recommend just skipping hybrid holster designs altogether.

While there are exceptions to the no-leather “rule,” there just isn’t a good reason to choose leather over a more-modern material such as Kydex. As with the hybrid holster design, leather will soften over time and conform to your gun and body—which, again, is great for comfort. Nevertheless, as was the case with the hybrid holster, that comfort

comes at the cost of safety.

### YOUR BELT MATTERS

Selecting a good gun belt is just as important as selecting a quality holster. That bargain belt you bought at a Sears store liquidation sale or the trendy gun belt you found on Amazon for \$39.99 is going to be less than optimal.

My first stop will always be Mene Gene Leather for any leather goods. Gene’s craftsmanship is outstanding, and the Victory Aegis line of belts will allow you to get the belt placed in just the right spot. Want something that uses more-modern materials? Magpul’s Tejas El Original is a proven belt that combines a sweatproof flexible polymer layer and a more-traditional bull’s hide outer layer.

There are a few out there that will do the job, but the gold standard has been the Ares Gear Aegis Enhanced. After using a dozen or so different synthetic belts, I don’t see a point in suggesting you get anything other than the Ares Gear. If it’s not for you, take a look at the Blue Alpha Gear line or even the obvious Aegis Enhanced knockoff: Bravo Concealment’s Cinturon belt.

### HOLSTER PLACEMENTS AND ADJUSTMENTS

A poorly placed and/or adjusted holster is going to give you a less-than-ideal carry experience, even if you have the perfect gun-belt-holster combination.

Holster placement is pretty straight-

forward, but so many seem to get it wrong. Rather than place the muzzle or weapon light in the inguinal crease (you may know it as the “thigh brow”), some self-proclaimed experts compensate for a poorly designed/adjusted holster by moving the pistol more to the centerline of the body. Not only does that make concealment harder, it also makes AIWB less comfortable.

You should place the holster just ahead of the hip bone so that the light bezel on your pistol light or the muzzle sits in that inguinal crease. Proper holster placement allows you to use the bathroom without moving the gun or sit in a chair without crushing something important. It also maintains the highest level of concealment.

Ride height is also key to a good appendix-carry experience. Remember: The more gun below the belt line, the easier it is to conceal the pistol. My general guideline is to set the ride height to place the pistol as deeply as possible while still allowing enough space for my fingers to pass easily between the belt and grip. Too deep, and you have to jam

Stick with Kydex for your AIWB holster. Leather will become soft over time ... which is a bad trait for an appendix rig.





Are you considering appendix carry but refuse to give up your rail-mounted light and reflex sight? Not a problem!

your fingers between the belt and grip. Too high, and you might experience holster tip-out or poor concealment.

#### IS APPENDIX CARRY WORTH TRYING?

If you haven't given appendix carry a try, you really should. Not only is it the easiest way to conceal a pistol worth fighting with, it's also comfortable, fast, easy to put on and safe ... as long as you remember to think "N.U.T.S." when holstering. **GDTM**

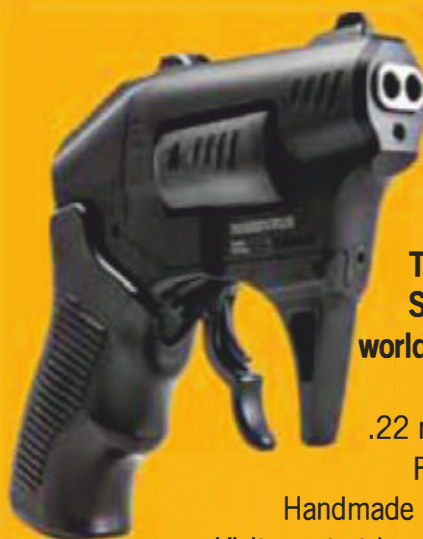
**"If you haven't given appendix carry a try, you really should."**



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There was a time when blued steel and walnut ruled the planet; when “plastic” meant crappy things made in Japan; and when the FBI actually trusted its agents to carry personally owned firearms.

#### A TALE OF ‘DISAPPOINTMENT’

I was at work one day at The Gun Room in the very early 1980s, a storefront gun shop on Telegraph Road just a major league ball throw from the Detroit border. A woman walked in, looked around and marched up to the counter.

“I went next door, and no one was there. I heard a man’s voice in the back room.”

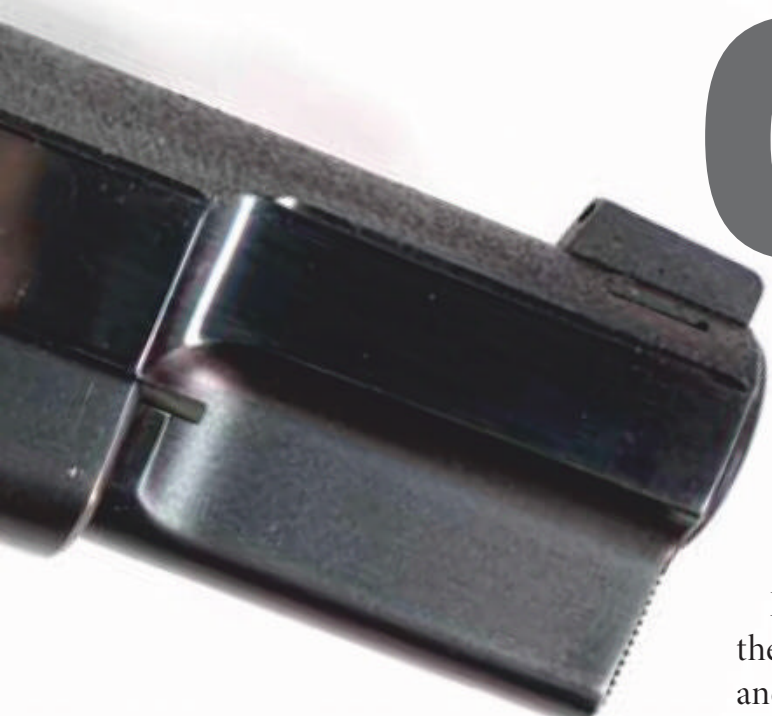
Next door was a florist’s shop, run by women, most or all of whom had experienced messy separations from their ex-spouses. This was not good.

Mike, another Gun Room employee,



# CARRYING A CONCEALED CLASSIC

The world is not yet all  
polymer.



got on the phone to call the police department, and Dave (another shop employee) and one of our customers—an FBI agent—headed out the front to see what was up. I went to the back door, grabbed the nearest shop gun on the way and cracked open the back door to take a peek. All I could see was that the back door of the florist shop was open.

What I did have time to grab was a Colt Detective Special—not exactly comforting, but I figured I'd have the drop if things went badly, and I could always yank the door shut, regroup with a shotgun and re-join the “festivities” if things went past six rounds.

I saw movement, and just as I was about to push the door open some more, I realized I was looking at a brown delivery uniform. The women had gotten a delivery and had forgotten to put up the counter sign that read, “In back; back in a minute.”

Dave and the FBI agent had gone in the front door, and when the women and UPS guy came out from the back, the look they gave Dave and the agent was priceless. This was Detroit, remember, back when it was wilder than the Wild, Wild West. Our neighbor was apparently a little put out—not at armed men, but that the armed men who had come to “rescue” her hadn't at least brought shotguns!

What the FBI agent did have was a Browning Hi Power (this was before

the FBI Hostage Rescue Teams had adopted it).

## THE BROWNING HI POWER

The FBI Hostage Rescue Team Hi Powers were built by Wayne Novak, with Wayne's sights, stippling, reliability work (not that the Hi Power needed much, even back then) and some judicious polishing where it made things run better.

Wayne still makes Hi Powers to this spec, if you want one; and if you do, the one to have built is the MKIII—not the



When the author was testing the Hi Power, he brought a box full of magazines he'd load for the range trip. They included early 13-round, a fistful of 20-round and even a few orphan 10-shot magazines. Hey, they all work, and they're all good for practice—even the 10-shot mags.





You can tell the MKIII from the others: The bottom of the frame is grooved to denote the MKIII model.

Novak's installs night sights, because half the time, it's dark outside.

5 Shot Leather's LFA-1 holster the author had made for his Novak HRT Hi Power.

earlier ones. (Wayne offers a package for the MKIIIs he has on hand.)

The MKIII differs from earlier P35s in a few ways. The main one is that the frame is no longer made from a forging. Forged steel can be strong, but when you have to machine away over 90 percent of the steel from a forged lump, you can't get too enthusiastic about high-strength alloys. The tool wear becomes prohibitive. In fact, when FN decided to make .40 S&W models, it had to go with castings, which could be made of much stronger alloys.

You can tell an MKIII from earlier models by looking at the base of the frame, where the magazine well opening is. MKIII pistols have a series of scribed lines in the direction of the muzzle to indicate their provenance.

Now, this only matters if you plan on putting a lot of ammo through your BHP. Yep, this pistol has been around so long that it has a slew of monikers—BHP, P35, Hi Power—and that's before

we get to the really old ones, such as the World War II models (the Inglis, for example).

Wayne built mine on an MKIII, and in the course of testing it and writing about it for various articles, I ended up putting 23,000 rounds through it (well, that was the count some years ago. I stopped counting. Now, it could be a few thousand higher).

In all that time, I only experienced

| AMMUNITION TYPE        | BULLET WEIGHT (grains) | VELOCITY (fps) | ES | SD   | ACCURACY AVG. (inches) |
|------------------------|------------------------|----------------|----|------|------------------------|
| AMERICAN EAGLE SYNTECH | 115                    | 1,159          | 39 | 16.1 | 2.5                    |
| BLACK HILLS JHP        | 124                    | 1,199          | 37 | 17.7 | 2.7                    |
| WINCHESTER DEFEND      | 147                    | 971            | 31 | 13.9 | 2.3                    |
| BROWNING FP-FMJ        | 147                    | 1,009          | 21 | 9.0  | 2.5                    |

Notes: Velocities are averages of 10 shots measured on a Labrador chronograph set to read 15 feet from the muzzle. Accuracy is the average of four five-shot groups at 25 yards.



The way to solve most of the hammer bite problem is to carefully relieve the back of the hammer strut so it can't reach you to bite you.



## BROWNING HI POWER SPECIFICATIONS

**TYPE:** Locked-action, self-loading pistol

**CALIBER:** 9x19

**CAPACITY:** 13+1 rounds

**BARREL:** 4.6 in.

**LENGTH:** 7.75 in.

**WEIGHT:** 35 oz.

**TRIGGER:** 5 lb.

**FINISH:** Blued steel or stainless

**MSRP:** Price varies

**MAKER:** Browning/FN

**NOVAK CUSTOM:** \$2,995 package, complete with pistol

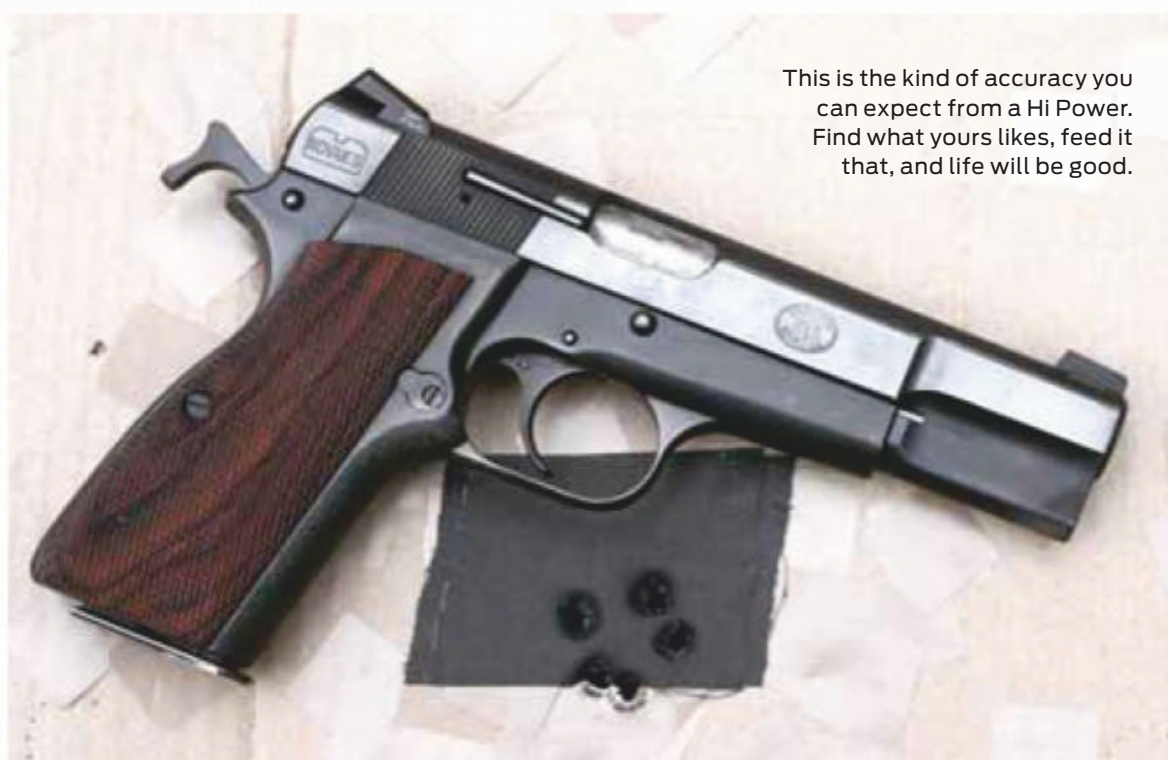
### TAKEAWAYS

So, what did I learn in a year of shooting a BHP?

First, it still bites if you aren't careful. Wayne trims the back of the hammer to almost eliminate the bite, but if your hand is big or fleshy or your grip is really high and tight (like mine), you might get nipped.

two malfunctions. One was cartridge-caused: I was putting 400 rounds per shooting session through it, and a lot of those consisted of lead bullet reloads. (The math is grim and, had I known, I might not have said "yes" to the project. Four hundred rounds a range trip, once a week, means 57.5 weeks of nonstop shooting. Yes, I spent *a year* shooting that pistol!) One reloaded round had a big glob of bullet lube on the side of the case, and that meant it would not fully chamber.

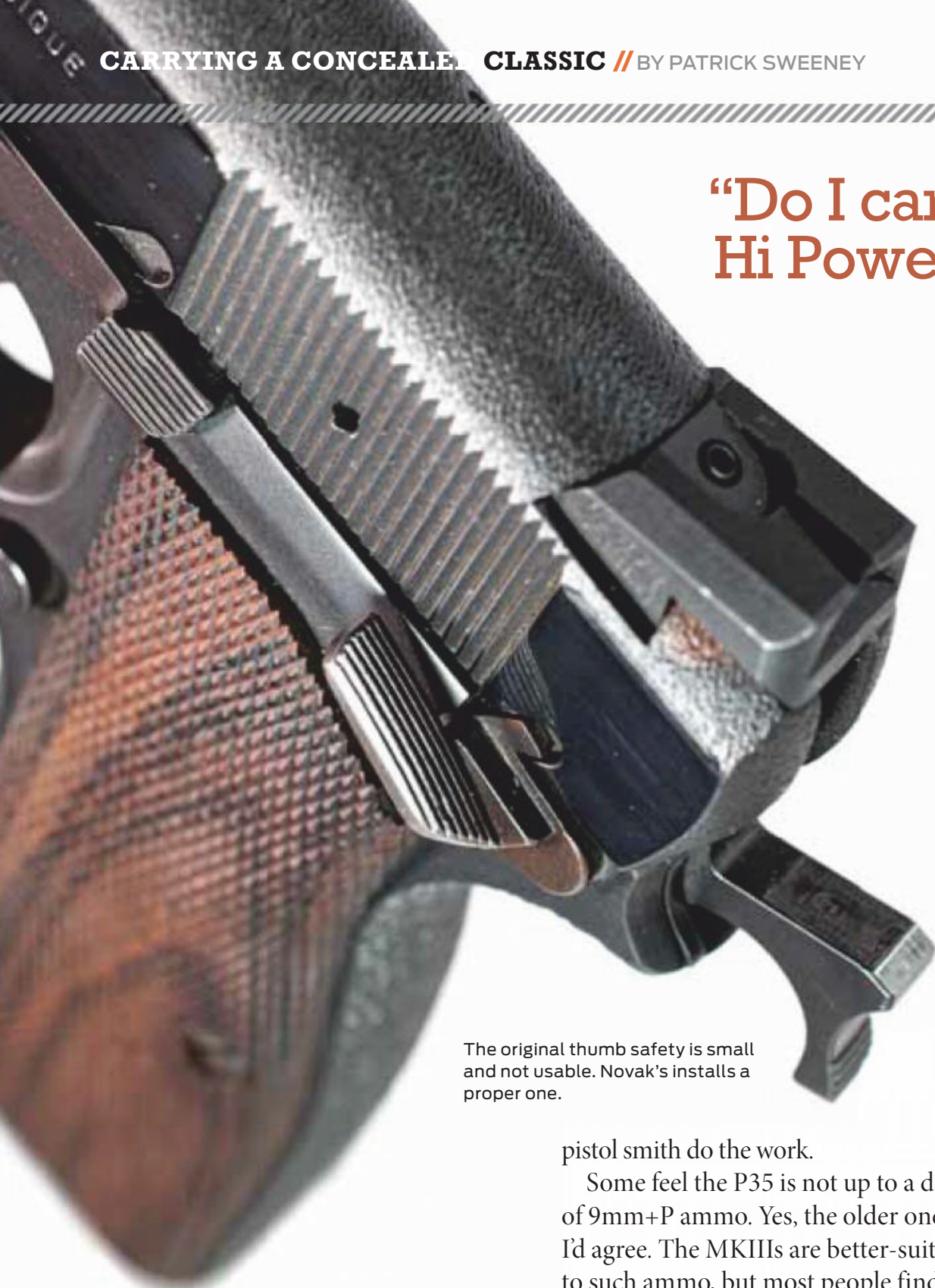
The other was magazine-related: A bunch of the magazines were 20-round mags. One of those was high mileage, and the spring in it finally decided to give up. A new spring, and it was back to new.



This is the kind of accuracy you can expect from a Hi Power. Find what yours likes, feed it that, and life will be good.



# “Do I carry my Novak HRT Hi Power? Not really. I like it too much!”



The original thumb safety is small and not usable. Novak's installs a proper one.

You can adjust; it just takes a bit of practice.

Second, most of the sights are archaic. One glance at period-correct sights in a Hi Power, and you'll happily have them changed to Novaks.

Third, the factory-equipped safety is as small as the sights. The P35 dates from (you guessed it) 1935, and back then, militaries were in the habit of packing pistols with the hammer down on an empty chamber. A thumb safety was almost superfluous to them.

The good news? Better safeties can be had. The Novak HRT model comes with a better safety. Cylinder & Slide makes better safeties—and even ambi safeties—for the Hi Power. It's a bit more involved to install than the 1911 safety, so it would be prudent to have an experienced P38

pistol smith do the work.

Some feel the P35 is not up to a diet of 9mm+P ammo. Yes, the older ones, I'd agree. The MKIIs are better-suited to such ammo, but most people find a +P load to be more work than it's worth, even in other pistols.

## BHP CARE AND FEEDING

Taking care of the BHP is easy. Older guns might have what is called a “hump” or “angled” feed ramp. The BHP has one angle at the start, and then, it pitches over to a different angle on the approach to the chamber. Newer models have a single-angle ramp, and the old ones can be cut to the new (and better) shape.

Recoil springs are easy; Wolff has them, and you'll want the standard 17-pound spring. The BHP is known to be hard on springs, but at \$8 per spring, is it really an onerous cost to replace it every 5,000 rounds? (Realistically, that's at least \$900 in ammo costs ... and your

buddy whines about *spring* prices?!)

The original magazines were listed as 13 rounds per, and the old information had us believing the SAS only loaded 12 rounds for reliability. Mec-Gar makes two modern magazines for the Hi Power that hold either 13 or 15 rounds and fit flush to the frame. Every pistol is different, and your hold, ammo and who-knows-what could change things. So, test and know.

## HOLSTERS

*Really*—you have to *ask*? The beauty of classics such as the Browning Hi Power is that they've been around for so long and produced in such numbers that anyone who makes holsters offers a holster for them.

If you're a fan of classic leather to go with your classic pistol, Galco has all the choices. When I had my HRT pistol built, I contacted John Ralston of 5 Shot Leather to build me a carry rig. I asked for an LFA-1 (a design pioneered by Lou Alessi) and a matching spare mag pouch.

If you're not a fan of leather (those in seriously hot and damp climates might find leather to be suffering), Kydex is the answer. Blade Tech offers a classic OWB (outside the waistband) that will stand up to hard use better than you will. And, if you want a combination of leather for comfort and Kydex for durability, CrossBreed has a number of options for you.

## OLD-SCHOOL GETS THE JOB DONE

Do I carry my Novak HRT Hi Power? Not really. I like it too much! I've written about it and would hate to have it languishing in an evidence locker—with some officer's initials scratched into it—for years until any case against me were settled. But I do have an MKII built to much the same specs; I have no





John Ralston made the author a matching mag pouch for the 5 Shot Leather LFA-1 holster so he would have a spare mag when he was carrying ( ... and doing so in style!).

such attachment to it.

A BHP, along with a spare magazine, gives you 27 to 31 rounds of 9mm problem-solving solutions. Old-school got the job done then; it'll get the job done now.

Oh, and the HRT Hi Powers? As far

as anyone knows (those who do aren't saying much), when they were retired from active service, replaced by 1911s, the Clinton administration had them fed into choppers and smelters ( ... just one of the lesser crimes committed by that tawdry group). **GDTM**



# THE CCW .44 MAGNUM (YES, YOU READ THAT RIGHT.)



For some shooters, it makes sense to snub concealability and capacity for shootability and raw power.

**L**et me say this up front: Concealed-carry guns are personal choices that should be based on what works for the individual—not on popular opinion, gun writer declarations or anonymous voices on Internet sites.

This choice is strictly mine, and mine alone and is one I recommend only for those recoil-insensitive individuals among us. I can only provide you with my reasons (or rationalizations for the cynical among us) for my choice. There; that's my disclaimer.

When *Gun Digest* Editor Luke Hartle contacted me to ask what I carry on a daily basis, I have to say that he was actually expecting something along these lines.

My carry piece and I have a long history together that dates back to college and the first earnings I made as a prizefighter. It's a Smith & Wesson Model 29 Lew Horton (see the sidebar about Lew Horton on page 53). You read that correctly—a Model 29, meaning that it's a .44 Magnum.

For those unfamiliar with the 29, it's a six-shot, double-action, N-frame revolver in blued steel that's arguably one of the most aesthetically pleasing revolvers ever made. The Lew Horton edition featured a 3-inch barrel and a rounded grip frame. This one was likely "hatched" in 1985 and is one of 5,000 produced between 1984 and '85. It's heavy (relatively speaking), but it should be, because it's supporting a rather raucous (relatively speaking) cartridge.

It's also really smooth—Smith & Wesson smooth—despite the much maligned production during the hit-or-miss Bangor Punta days of Smith & Wesson. The action is like velvet; the double-action pull is like passing a hot knife through room-temperature butter; and the single-action pull is light and crisp, with no creep. It breaks at 2.5 pounds.

But why, on Earth, would anyone choose to carry a .44 Magnum *on purpose*? Good question. I'll try my damndest to answer it.

#### THE 'STOPPER'

Early on (for those who remember the days of police officers carrying revolvers), in the hands of law enforcement



This revolver is meant for up-close-and-personal work. The author shot the target on the left at 7 yards in offhand double-action mode and the right-hand target in single-action mode. It's surprisingly easy to shoot, and the trigger pull is outstanding.





officers, the .357 Magnum earned a reputation as a stopper—stoked with 125-grain hollow-points with a full head of steam.

What constitutes “stopping” a perpetrator? In this context, it clearly means incapacitation, thereby eliminating the threat. The .357 was loaded hot; it was fast-stepping and violently expanding. The statistics of the day clearly reflected what was most in use at the time, and the .357 was heavily represented. The .44 Magnum never really made its mark (despite “Dirty Harry” Callahan’s best efforts), because the reality was such that no one really carried a .44 Magnum—or rarely did so—so the .44 Magnum is underrepresented in the statistics of one-shot stops.

My reason for choosing the .44 Mag is because it’s built on the same concept as the .357 (high velocity and violently expanding), but the .44 Mag takes it further by nearly doubling the bullet weight (in standard configuration) and significantly increasing the bullet diameter.

### RECOIL: IT KICKS

Now, let’s talk recoil, because I suspect this will be the biggest criticism the scrutinizers will put forth loudly. Yes, it kicks. It’s a .44 Magnum, loaded with what I like to call “proper” .44 Magnum loads, so the kicking part is to be expected. This is where familiarity rears its head. I have owned this revolver for more than 30 years and have put a *lot* of rounds downrange with it. Also, if you know anything about me, you’ll see that I



01. Another external distinguishing feature is the rounded butt with finger groove grips that are surprisingly comfortable for the author.

02. One feature that sets apart the Lew Horton edition from other production Model 29s is its 3-inch barrel (seen here compared to a 4-inch Model 29).

03. The Lew Horton is built on a Model 29-3 that still had the firing pin attached to the hammer. Today, the firing pin is mounted to the frame.

04. In a world of high-cap double-stacks, six rounds might not seem like a lot in a defensive handgun. However, there are many options out there these days that make for easy carry of your extra revolver rounds.

05. One of the only factory iron sight systems the author’s eyes get along with!





have more than an unhealthy obsession with large-caliber revolvers and, in fact, I hunt large game (sometimes *really* large game) with revolvers at every opportunity. Frankly, in my twisted, little paradigm, the .44 Mag is pretty much an entry-level cartridge. I also have a bit of numbness between my ears that enables me to shoot reasonably heavy-recoiling revolvers with little ill effect (at least that's my wife's explanation).

The factory grips actually work quite well with my hands and, despite my lousy up-close vision, the factory Smith & Wesson white outline rear and red insert front sight combination is more than adequate for my visual shortcomings. However, this piece was meant for up-close-and-personal work; in that capacity, it works exceedingly well. Muzzle blast is noticeably more present due to the short barrel. Again, that's the price to pay for such a configuration.

Accuracy is Smith & Wesson good. As I mentioned previously, the Bangor

Punta ownership days were hit or miss from a quality-of-production standpoint, but this one's clearly one of the good ones. I don't know whether it's the additional attention to detail provided by Lew Horton's involvement or that this particular example was "produced on a Wednesday," but it will shoot a wide array of factory fodder with more-than-acceptable accuracy; and, in the case of some loads, it will deliver exceptional accuracy.

#### **CALIBER SIZE DOES MATTER**

In this day and age of high-capacity plastic wonder pistols, it seems archaic to carry a six-shot revolver. Some newer revolvers even feature eight-shot capacity! With the popularity of some of the "lesser" cartridges (such as the 9mm) comes a level of investment and development in maximizing the potential of these defensive cartridges. Taking nothing away from the effectiveness or usefulness of the large-capacity configurations—or the fact that nearly



#### **WHO IS LEW?**

Lew Horton Distributing Company, a wholesale firearms distributor based in Westborough, Massachusetts, specialized in servicing independent gun retailers in the northeastern United States for more than 40 years. Lew Horton periodically commissioned firearms manufacturers (such as Smith & Wesson) to build exclusive runs of guns in unique configurations—not an uncommon practice with the bigger distributors.

Sadly, Lew Horton Distributing closed its doors in 2019 after 42 years in the business of firearms distribution. Does this mean these distributor exclusives will gain in value in the long run? That remains to be seen, but I'll bet that it does.

**“... there's a level of reliability inherent to the design that no auto-pistol can ever hope to achieve.”**





Here's evidence that this revolver is carried frequently. With the right holster rig, daily carry of a large-frame revolver can be comfortable.



anyone with even minimal grip strength can shoot them (and shoot them well)—they'll never have the terminal effectiveness of a properly loaded .44 Magnum. You can take that to the bank.

With all else being equal, size matters. A large caliber doesn't preclude shot placement, but it will give you a bit of a margin of error and will also produce significantly more damage—again, assuming that all else is equal, such as bullet type/construction and velocity.

Do you want to know what my answer to high capacity is? *Marksmanship*. It's

better to hit with one shot that's well-placed than to spray your target in hopes of a significant hit. There's also a false sense of security that 15 rounds might impart to the shooter. I'm not arguing that having more rounds can be an asset; I'm merely saying that perhaps knowing you have fewer rounds forces you to take more care when obtaining your sight picture and sight alignment.

#### **UNCOMPROMISING RELIABILITY**

That said, there's a level of reliability inherent to the design that no auto-

pistol can ever hope to achieve. Yes, I know there are plenty of great semi-autos out there that are extremely reliable, but the simplicity of the revolver design ensures uncompromising reliability.

However, some designs simply point better than others, and the Model 29 just works for me (this is a scientific measure), and I've had more than three decades to become really intimate with this particular revolver.

A concealed-carry .44 Magnum? Sure. Why not? **GDTM**





## CONCEALED-CARRY TOOLBOX

When choosing a handgun for concealed carry, concealability must be considered (for obvious reasons). I consider a Model 29, even one with such a short barrel, to be on the upper end of “size.” It’s a full-sized revolver, but it conceals well with the right holster.

The holster I chose about a dozen years ago is Simply Rugged’s

Sourdough Pancake holster. It’s constructed of leather (yup—not Kydex), and although it looks a bit ungainly, it holds the revolver high and close to my body. I wear it regularly while dressed in a suit, and it isn’t visible.

The key to comfortable carry isn’t just the holster, but a good-quality belt made to hold the weight of a firearm. Bull Hide belts supplied my

belt, and it never bows under the weight of my Lew Horton 29.

My daily defensive load is by Buffalo Bore Ammunition and features a 270-grain jacketed hollow-point advertised at 1,450 fps. It’s a warm load that runs north of 1,350 fps out of my snubnose 29. It’s accurate to a fault, and I can be pretty certain it will leave a mark if pressed into service.



# AWARENESS GAMES AND SELF- TRAINING

Being situationally aware at all times  
does not make you paranoid.  
It makes you prepared.

**T**he single most important element in your survival is a cultivation of your awareness skills. Many people don't realize their awareness skills are more important than their marksmanship skills. Well, you can't shoot something you don't know is there or don't know it needs to be shot.

Awareness and alertness are not, for most people, innate behavior traits. This is a learned behavior pattern and, like most skills, it is best learned through repetition. Make a conscious effort at first to be more aware and see the details around you. After a few weeks of effort, it will become second nature.

You should have been taught this as a child, but unfortunately, most children now are not taught this or other vital social skills. One thousand years ago, all children were taught at a very early age to be aware, alert and in tune with their surroundings. If they were inattentive, they might get eaten. One hundred years ago, children were taught to be aware and pay attention to their surroundings, or the hay bailer might tear off their arms and legs. In our time, if you fail to pay attention to your surroundings, someone might cut your throat. Each example is simply a different manifestation of the exact same problem.

On the street, you must be aware of

your environment. If you know who is around you and what they are up to, you are in charge. If you do not know who is around you and what they're up to, you are meat. It's that simple.

When you walk into a room, scan around and see who is in it besides you. Don't be surprised by someone you did not see. When walking on the sidewalk, glance into storefront glass and see who is behind you. Get your head up, open your eyes, and look around.

Let's look at a couple of examples. Carjacking is a very common problem right now. In fact, in my city, there are about 1,000 carjackings each year, and roughly half of the victims wind up seriously hurt.



This is a perfect example of how passive attempts to fight crime just make it worse, by the way. By putting steering-wheel locks, kill switches and car alarms on your car, it is now easier to drag you out of it while it is running than to steal it from your driveway as you sleep. Where do most carjackings occur? At intersections, as you wait for the light to change.

When a typical driver pulls up to a red light, he sits and stares at the light, as if it is going to sing and dance. He

then hears a tap on his window and turns to look into the muzzle of a gun—too late to fix it now. To avoid this, all he had to do was scan his surroundings instead of staring at the light. If you see a guy standing on the corner looking at your car the way a hungry man looks at a steak, start thinking. You saw him because you are in Condition Yellow, and you go to Orange and start thinking, “What am I going to do?” “If he steps off that curb toward my car, I will accelerate around the car in

front of me and be gone.” Problem solved.

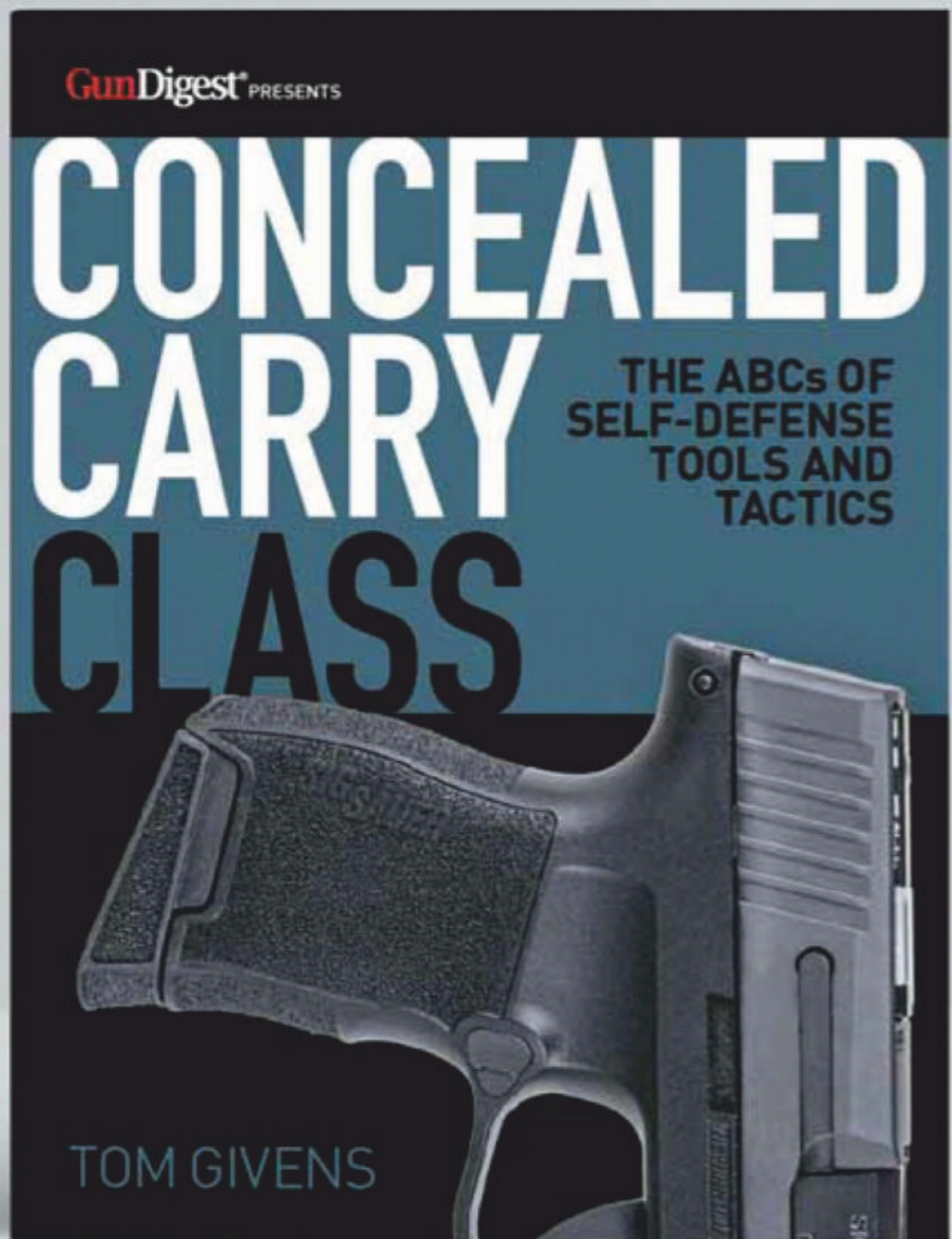
Another crime that really annoys me is the practice of following people to their homes in the suburbs and robbing them in their driveways as they exit their vehicles. This happens two or three times a day in my city. It cannot happen unless the victim is a willing accomplice. You have to go out of your way to have this happen to you.

I say this because not one of these victims lives on a major thoroughfare.

“Awareness and alertness are not, for most people, innate behavior traits. This is a learned behavior pattern, and like most skills, it is best learned through repetition.”

**Editor’s Note:**

*This article is an excerpt from Gun Digest’s new book, Concealed Carry Class: The ABCs of Self-Defense Tools and Tactics, by Tom Givens. For more information about the book or to purchase it, visit [GunDigestStore.com](http://GunDigestStore.com) and search for “concealed carry class.”*





Check your rearview mirrors frequently every time you make a turn when driving home. If you have made three turns inside your neighborhood and the same ragged, old car you've never seen before is right behind you, you might have a problem.

By definition, they live in residential neighborhoods. I don't care where you have been: bank, grocery store, ATM, theater; when you turn off the main drag into your neighborhood, look in the rearview mirror. It's not there so you can shave on the way to work or put on makeup; it's there specifically to see what kind of car is behind you. If you make a turn into your neighborhood, again, look in the mirror. If you turn onto your street, again, look in the mirror. If you have made three turns inside your neighborhood and the same ragged, old car you've never seen before is right behind you, you might have a problem. It is, however, a relatively small problem at this point. You are still mobile and in control. If, on the other hand, you are too damned lazy to look in your mirror three times, pull into your driveway, open your door and find a guy standing there with a gun in your face, you have a much bigger problem. Fix it the easy way: by being alert. Every fight you avoid, you win.

There are some exercises to help you become more aware. As a car passes you in traffic, look away and quickly describe it to yourself. What was its make, model, color, two or four door, license number? What was the gender, race, age of the driver? Of the passenger? Look back and see how much information you got right. When you walk past someone in the mall, mentally describe them to yourself. Hair color? Glasses or facial hair? Shirt, pants, shoes? Turn around and look. How much did you get right?

Right now, close your eyes. Visualize your own living room. Describe every detail to yourself as you visualize it. Describe the paintings on the wall. What is the title of the book lying on the floor by the couch? What color is the coffee cup left on the table?



What most of us refer to as "vision" is actually a two-part process, which involves sight and observation. "Sight" refers to the actual physical process of having light enter your eyes and make images on your retina, which are then transmitted to your brain. "Observation"

refers to the process of sorting, prioritizing and making sense of these images. This is where the typical person falls short.

Human beings are visually oriented creatures. Our eyes have been elevated off the ground with our upright posture;





they have been moved to the front of our head for stereoscopic vision; we have color vision; and our visual acuity is among the best of all living creatures. For a typical person, roughly 70 to 75 percent of all sensory input is visual. The average person, however, consciously

processes only a tiny fraction of the total visual input the brain receives from the eyes. This is pathetic.

You must learn to raise this level of consciousness through actual specific effort. You need to see the gun when it is still in his pocket—not when he pulls

it out and points it at you. You need to see him standing behind that column in the parking garage—not when he is in your face. Shame on you if you get a speeding ticket. You should have seen the cop long before he could get a radar reading on you.



Most carjackings occur at intersections as drivers stare at the stoplight, waiting for it to change and not paying attention to what is going on around them. It is best to keep your head up, scanning your surroundings, looking for someone who might be acting suspiciously.





Let me give you a recent example of how being alert allows you to avoid problems. My wife and I stopped at a local barbecue joint for a sandwich on a recent Saturday afternoon. We were sitting in a corner booth by the entrance. Anyone who entered the store had to walk past us to approach the counter, giving us a good view and putting us behind anyone who started a problem. In a retail environment, the cash register is the center of likely events. Be away from it and in position to see it. Every time the door opened to admit a patron, my wife and I simply glanced up from our lunch to briefly look them over. This in no way interfered with the conversation or our lunch, but we were simply aware of our surroundings (Condition Yellow).

The third man to come in was a young man of about 20. He was wearing worn denim jeans; clearly outlined in the right rear pocket was a small semi-auto pistol. He had been sitting on it in his car, and the gun's outline was clearly printing through the material of his pants. As he passed us on his way to the register, I quietly asked my wife, "Did you see the gun?" "It looks like a Lorcin .380," she replied (she's very good at this). Go to Condition Orange.

I continued eating, but kept an eye on the young man, assessing him. As the customer in front of him paid for her order, the young man got up on his toes and checked the contents of the till over her shoulder. Condition Red!

It was obvious that he was planning a stickup. I emptied my hands and mentally prepared for possible violence. Before pulling a gun and announcing a stickup, however, he decided to scan the store and take a head count first. As he turned to me, his eyes got very wide, and he ran out of the store, got into his car and sped away—without ever doing anything remotely aggressive.

What did he see that scared him so badly? I looked him right in the eye and smiled. He knew that I knew and that I was prepared to deal with him. This is a perfect example of violence that did not



In a retail environment, such as a fast-food restaurant, the cash register is the center of likely problems involving criminals. Be away from it, in position to see it and behind anyone who might be planning a robbery.

happen because I was alert and aware of my surroundings. Situational awareness is often situational dominance.

The scary part was that no one else in the place, customer or staff, noticed any of this interplay. They did not see the gun, did not notice him checking the till and did not even notice him hustling out of the place. Other than my wife and I, every single person in the store was in Condition White.

The predators are out there. They are looking for the distracted and the preoccupied. If you shuffle around, your head down, looking at your feet, you might as well wear a sign around your neck that says, "Take me. I am a victim." Get your head up, open your eyes, and move them around. Take that damned sign off and get rid of it. It's not up to them whether you're going to be a victim; it's up to *you*. **GDTM**



# HARBOR FREIGHT

QUALITY TOOLS AT RIDICULOUSLY LOW PRICES

1,000+ Stores Nationwide • HarborFreight.com

**U.S. GENERAL**  
BIGGER • STRONGER • MORE STABLE

**SUPER COUPON**

## 26" x 22" SINGLE BANK EXTRA DEEP CABINETS



**\$299<sup>99</sup>**

YOUR CHOICE  
OF 6 COLORS  
**\$279<sup>99</sup>**

**SAVE  
\$1,470**

COMPARE TO  
SNAP-ON  
**\$1,750**

MODEL: KRA4008FPB0

Item 64434, 64432, 64162, 56104, 56105, 56106

- 9800 cu. in. of storage
- 1000 lb. capacity
- Weighs 175 lbs.



36799412

LIMIT 1 - Coupon valid through 4/25/20\*

**SUPER COUPON**

## TACTICAL AMMO/UTILITY BOX

Customer Rating  
★★★★★

**NOW  
\$6<sup>99</sup>**

**\$8<sup>99</sup>**



Tools sold  
separately.

COMPARE TO **\$19<sup>99</sup>** **SAVE 65%**  
FLAMBEAU MODEL: 1409 ITEM 64113



LIMIT 4 - Coupon valid through 4/25/20\*

**PREDATOR**

**SUPER COUPON**

Customer Rating  
★★★★★

## 3500 WATT SUPER QUIET INVERTER GENERATOR

- 11 hour run time

**NOW  
\$699<sup>99</sup>**

**\$799<sup>99</sup>**

COMPARE TO **\$2,019**  
HONDA MODEL: EU3000iS1A

**SAVE \$1,319**  
ITEM 56720/63584 shown



LIMIT 1 - Coupon valid through 4/25/20\*

**SUPER COUPON**

Customer Rating  
★★★★★

## HEAVY DUTY FOLDABLE ALUMINUM SPORTS CHAIRS

- Folding side table

YOUR CHOICE  
OF COLOR  
**\$19<sup>99</sup>**

**\$29<sup>99</sup>**



**NEW**

COMPARE TO **\$39<sup>99</sup>**  
COLEMAN MODEL: 2000020293

BLUE GREEN **SAVE 50%**  
ITEM 56719 ITEM 63066/62314 shown



LIMIT 4 - Coupon valid through 4/25/20\*

**McGRAW**

**SUPER COUPON**

Customer Rating  
★★★★★

## 20 GALLON, 135 PSI OIL-LUBE AIR COMPRESSOR

- Air delivery: 4.0 SCFM @ 90 PSI

**\$199<sup>99</sup>**

**NOW  
\$174<sup>99</sup>**

COMPARE TO **\$249<sup>99</sup>**  
PORTER-CABLE MODEL: 118903799

**SAVE \$75**  
ITEM 56241/64857 shown



LIMIT 1 - Coupon valid through 4/25/20\*

**HARDY**

**SUPER COUPON**

## POWDER-FREE NITRILE GLOVES

PACK OF 100

- 5 mil thickness

**SAVE 59%**

COMPARE TO **\$14<sup>97</sup>**  
VENOM MODEL: VEN4145

**NOW  
\$5<sup>99</sup>**

**\$7<sup>99</sup>**



ITEM 37050, 64417, 61363, 68497, 61360, 61359, 68498, 68496, 64418 shown



LIMIT 4 - Coupon valid through 4/25/20\*

**drillmaster**

**SUPER COUPON**

## 80 PIECE ROTARY TOOL KIT



**SAVE 69%**

Customer Rating  
★★★★★

**NOW  
\$6<sup>99</sup>**

**\$9<sup>99</sup>**

COMPARE TO **\$22<sup>76</sup>**  
PROFESSIONAL WOODWORKER MODEL: 51832

ITEM 63235/63292/97626 shown



LIMIT 4 - Coupon valid through 4/25/20\*

**PREDATOR**

**SUPER COUPON**

## 2 HP GAS POWERED EARTH AUGER WITH 6" BIT

- Drill speeds up to 320 RPM

**\$214<sup>99</sup>**

**SAVE \$259**

**NOW  
\$179<sup>99</sup>**

COMPARE TO **\$439<sup>98</sup>**  
EARTHQUAKE MODEL: E43 AND E46F

ITEM 63022/56257 shown



LIMIT 1 - Coupon valid through 4/25/20\*

**BUNKER HILL**

**SUPER COUPON**

Customer Rating  
★★★★★

## WIRELESS SECURITY ALERT SYSTEM



**NOW  
\$9<sup>99</sup>**

**\$14<sup>99</sup>**

COMPARE TO **\$32<sup>99</sup>**  
FIRST ALERT MODEL: SFA600

**SAVE 69%**  
ITEM 61910/62447/93068 shown



LIMIT 4 - Coupon valid through 4/25/20\*

**SUPER COUPON**

**20-60 x 60mm SPOTTING SCOPE WITH TRIPOD**



Customer Rating  
★★★★★

**NOW  
\$39<sup>99</sup>**

COMPARE TO **\$72<sup>99</sup>**  
CELESTRON MODEL: 14593491

**SAVE 45%**  
ITEM 62774



LIMIT 2 - Coupon valid through 4/25/20\*

# SUPER COUPON

**20% OFF**

ANY SINGLE ITEM\*



36797358

Limit 1 coupon per customer per day. Save 20% on any 1 item purchased. \*Cannot be used with other discount, coupon or any of the following items or brands: Inside Track Club membership, Extended Service Plan, gift card, open box item, 3 day Parking Lot Sale item, compressors, floor jacks, sales, storage cabinets, chests or carts, trailers, welders, Admiral, Ames, Atlas, Bower, Central Machinery, Cobra, CoverPro, Dayton, Diamondback, Earthquake, Fischer, Hercules, Icon, Jupiter, Lynx, Poulan, Predator, Tailgator, Viking, Vulcan, Zurich. Not valid on prior purchases. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 4/25/20.

**CENTRAL MACHINERY**

**SUPER COUPON**

## 10", 12 SPEED BENCHTOP DRILL PRESS

Customer Rating  
★★★★★

**NOW  
\$139<sup>99</sup>**

**SAVE \$61**

COMPARE TO **\$161<sup>97</sup>**  
WEN MODEL: 4212

ITEM 63471/44836/60237 shown



LIMIT 2 - Coupon valid through 4/25/20\*

**CENTECH**

**SUPER COUPON**

## AUTOMATIC BATTERY FLOAT CHARGER

Customer Rating  
★★★★★

**NOW  
\$4<sup>99</sup>**

**\$9<sup>99</sup>**

COMPARE TO **\$30<sup>41</sup>**  
SCHUMACHER ELECTRIC MODEL: SC1

ITEM 69955/64284/42292 shown



LIMIT 4 - Coupon valid through 4/25/20\*

**THUNDERBOLT**

**SUPER COUPON**

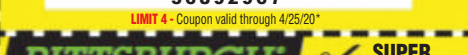
## HEAVY DUTY BATTERIES AA, AAA - 24 PK

- Also available in C-6 PK, D-6 PK, and 9 volt - 4 PK sizes

YOUR CHOICE  
**\$1<sup>99</sup>**

**\$3<sup>99</sup>**

Item 61675 shown



LIMIT 4 - Coupon valid through 4/25/20\*

**PITTSBURGH**

**SUPER COUPON**

## CLICK-TYPE TORQUE WRENCHES

LIFETIME WARRANTY



| DRIVE | ITEM             |
|-------|------------------|
| 1/4"  | 61277/63881/2696 |
| 3/8"  | 61276/63880/807  |
| 1/2"  | 62431/63882/239  |

Item 239 shown

COMPARE TO **\$89<sup>97</sup>**  
HUSKY MODEL: H2DTWA

**SAVE 88%**  
**\$19<sup>99</sup>**



LIMIT 5 - Coupon valid through 4/25/20\*



**UNION** SAFE COMPANY **SUPER COUPON**

**10 GUN ELECTRONIC SECURITY SAFE**  
• CA DOJ compliant

**\$329<sup>99</sup>** **NOW \$279<sup>99</sup>**

Customer Rating ★★★★★

COMPARE TO STACK-ON **\$564<sup>57</sup>** **SAVE \$284**

MODEL: SS-16-MB-E

ITEM 64008/64011 shown Contents not included.

36925481

LIMIT 1 - Coupon valid through 4/25/20\*

**SUPER COUPON**

**7 FT. 4" x 9 FT. 6" ALL PURPOSE/WEATHER RESISTANT TARP**  
Customer Rating ★★★★★

**NOW \$299** **SAVE \$499**

COMPARE TO BLUE HAWK **\$878** **SAVE 65%**

MODEL: BG8X10-Y

ITEM 69115/69121/69129/69137/69249/877 shown

36925846

LIMIT 4 - Coupon valid through 4/25/20\*

**Apache** MODEL 9800 **SUPER COUPON**

**WEATHERPROOF PROTECTIVE RIFLE CASE**  
Customer Rating ★★★★★

• 50-3/8" L  
13-5/8" W  
5-1/8" H

**NOW \$114<sup>99</sup>** **\$149<sup>99</sup>**

COMPARE TO PELICAN **\$269<sup>99</sup>** **SAVE \$155**

MODEL: DOUBLE RIFLE ITEM 64520

Strong, secure, easy-open latches

Super strong reinforced polypropylene construction

Adjustable pressure relief valve equalizes pressure for easy opening

Case contents not included.

Pre-drilled for two padlocks (locks sold separately)

Pick and pull foam insert for impact-absorbing protection

36949320

LIMIT 1 - Coupon valid through 4/25/20\*

**SUPER COUPON**

**200 LUMEN LED SUPER BRIGHT FLIP LIGHT**  
• Wireless, tool-free and easy installation

Customer Rating ★★★★★

**NOW \$199** **SAVE \$399**

COMPARE TO PREMIER **\$499** **SAVE 60%**

MODEL: SW-SWITCH-12/24

ITEM 64189/64723/63922 shown

36954513

LIMIT 5 - Coupon valid through 4/25/20\*

**CENTRAL MACHINERY** **SUPER COUPON**

**20 TON SHOP PRESS**  
Customer Rating ★★★★★

**NOW \$149<sup>99</sup>** **SAVE \$189<sup>99</sup>**

• Extreme heavy duty steel construction

COMPARE TO STRONGWAY **\$379<sup>99</sup>** **SAVE \$230**

MODEL: 46260

ITEM 32879/60603 shown

36954719

LIMIT 1 - Coupon valid through 4/25/20\*

**SUPER COUPON**

**MAGNESIUM FIRE STARTER**  
Customer Rating ★★★★★

**NOW \$149** **SAVE \$249**

COMPARE TO COGHLAN'S **\$99** **SAVE 85%**

MODEL: 7870

ITEM 69457/63733/66560 shown

36956030

LIMIT 5 - Coupon valid through 4/25/20\*

**BADLAND ZXR** **SUPER COUPON**

**12,000 LB. TRUCK/SUV WINCH**  
• Weighs 83.65 lbs.  
• 21" L x 10-1/8" H

**SAVE \$421** **NOW \$299<sup>99</sup>**

COMPARE TO WARN **\$720<sup>99</sup>** **SAVE \$399<sup>99</sup>**

MODEL: 96820

ITEM 64045/64046/63770 shown

36960339

LIMIT 1 - Coupon valid through 4/25/20\*

**HaulMaster** **SUPER COUPON**

Customer Rating ★★★★★

**TRI-FOLD ALUMINUM LOADING RAMP**  
• 1500 lb. capacity

**NOW \$74<sup>99</sup>** **SAVE \$66**

COMPARE TO REESE TOWPOWER **\$141<sup>08</sup>**

MODEL: 74554700

ITEM 69595/60334/90018 shown

36960797

LIMIT 2 - Coupon valid through 4/25/20\*

**HaulMaster** **SUPER COUPON**

**30" x 18" HARDWOOD DOLLY**  
• 1000 lb. capacity

Customer Rating ★★★★★

**NOW \$119<sup>99</sup>** **SAVE \$15<sup>99</sup>**

COMPARE TO MILWAUKEE **\$19<sup>97</sup>** **SAVE 39%**

MODEL: 33700

ITEM 38970/92486/39757/60496/62398/61897 shown

36966370

LIMIT 4 - Coupon valid through 4/25/20\*

**SUPER COUPON**

Customer Rating ★★★★★

**NOISE CANCELING ELECTRONIC EAR MUFFS**

**NOW \$119<sup>99</sup>** **SAVE \$14<sup>99</sup>**

COMPARE TO RADIAN'S **\$26<sup>27</sup>** **SAVE 54%**

MODEL: 430/EHP

ITEM 92851

36967414

LIMIT 4 - Coupon valid through 4/25/20\*

**Quantum** **SUPER COUPON**

**588 LUMEN TACTICAL FLASHLIGHT**  
Customer Rating ★★★★★

**NOW \$99** **SAVE \$83**

COMPARE TO STREAMLIGHT **\$59<sup>99</sup>** **SAVE \$14<sup>99</sup>**

MODEL: PROTAC 1L

ITEM 64799/63934 shown

36987963

LIMIT 4 - Coupon valid through 4/25/20\*

**HaulMaster** **SUPER COUPON**

**18" WORKING PLATFORM STEP STOOL**  
Customer Rating ★★★★★

• 350 lb. capacity

**NOW \$199** **SAVE \$399**

COMPARE TO NEOCRAFT **\$399** **SAVE 50%**

MODEL: 60635

ITEM 62515/66911 shown

36990229

LIMIT 4 - Coupon valid through 4/25/20\*

**HaulMaster** **SUPER COUPON**

**4 PIECE, 1" x 15 FT. RATCHETING TIE DOWNS**  
• 400 lb. working load

Customer Rating ★★★★★

**NOW \$6<sup>99</sup>** **SAVE \$12<sup>39</sup>**

COMPARE TO KEEPER **\$22<sup>80</sup>** **SAVE 69%**

MODEL: 5505

ITEM 90984/63056/63057/63150/56668/63094 shown

36992335

LIMIT 4 - Coupon valid through 4/25/20\*

**PREDATOR** **SUPER COUPON**

Customer Rating ★★★★★

**13 HP (420 CC) OHV HORIZONTAL SHAFT GAS ENGINE**  
• Includes electric start

**NOW \$329<sup>99</sup>** **SAVE \$360**

COMPARE TO HONDA **\$689<sup>99</sup>** **SAVE \$369<sup>99</sup>**

MODEL: GX390UT2QAA2

ITEM 60349/60340 shown

ITEM 69736 CALIFORNIA ONLY

36996370

LIMIT 1 - Coupon valid through 4/25/20\*

**CENTRAL PNEUMATIC** **SUPER COUPON**

**20 OZ. GRAVITY FEED AIR SPRAY GUN**  
Customer Rating ★★★★★

• 1.4mm tip included

**NOW \$99** **SAVE \$80**

COMPARE TO HUSKY **\$49<sup>98</sup>** **SAVE \$15<sup>99</sup>**

MODEL: H4840GHVSG

ITEM 67181/62300/47016 shown

37012121

LIMIT 5 - Coupon valid through 4/25/20\*

**VOYAGER** **SUPER COUPON**

**12" TOOL BAG WITH 21 POCKETS**  
Customer Rating ★★★★★

**NOW \$499** **SAVE \$899**

COMPARE TO AWP **\$199<sup>8</sup>** **SAVE 75%**

MODEL: 3L-2216

ITEM 38168/62163/62349/61467 shown

37029726

LIMIT 4 - Coupon valid through 4/25/20\*

**PITTSBURGH #1 SELLING JACKS IN AMERICA** **SUPER COUPON**

**RAPID PUMP® 1.5 TON LIGHTWEIGHT ALUMINUM FLOOR JACK**  
• Weighs 33 lbs.

Customer Rating ★★★★★

**NOW \$59<sup>99</sup>** **SAVE \$91**

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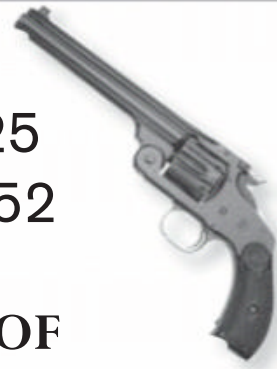
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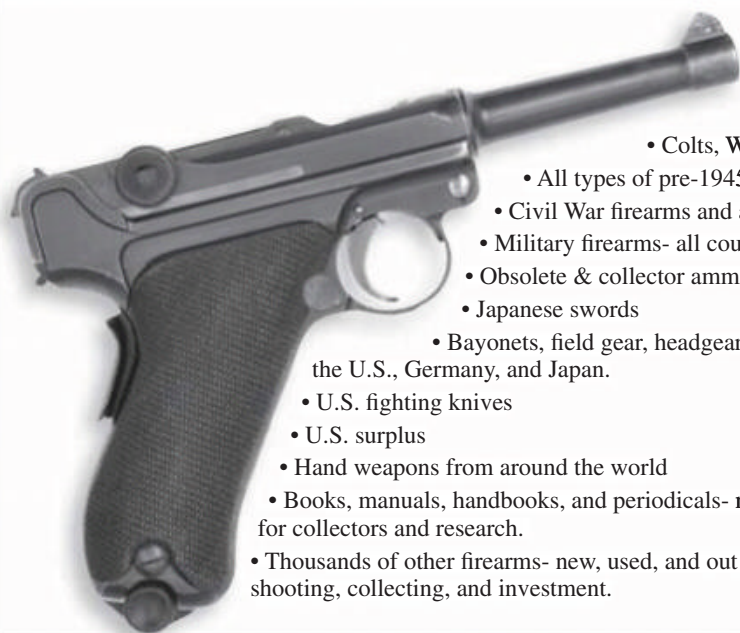
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**2-A Browning .22 LR "Nomad" Model Auto Pistol 6 3/4"** barrel with mint bore, 96% original bright blue, "FN Belgian" made in 1968, very good Browning logo checkered black plastic grips, missing rear sight assembly and magazine but still works fine (C&R) .....\$275

**3-A Bryco / Jennings .22 LR Model J-22 Auto Pistol 2.5"** barrel with mint bore, 98% original matte nickel finish, minty serrated black plastic grips, appears to work very well and looks near new .....\$85

**4-A Colt .22 LR "Police Positive Target" First Issue Model "G" Revolver 6"** barrel with very good bright but peppery pitted bore, factory adjustable front and rear target sights, 97% original bright blue and fire blue on hammer and trigger, very good "escutcheon C" checkered hard rubber logo grips with a small chipout on right panel at locating pin, made in 1911 (2nd year production) with cylinder slightly out of time (C&R) .....\$655

**5-A Colt .38 Colt Commercial Model 1895 Army Double Action Revolver 6"** barrel with good strong but pitted bore and 1895 last patent date, 98% of a good quality refinish blue with most markings clear and legible, fixed sights, matching assembly numbers on crane, frame cutout for crane, cylinder release and correct hard rubber checkered grips with "Colt/rampant horse" logo at top and no chipping or cracking, made in 1901, still works fine and has good lockup (C&R) .....\$545

**6-A Colt .22 LR Government Gold Cup National Match Auto Pistol 5"** recoiling chamber early style barrel with mint bore, upper is a complete 1950's style conversion unit on a .45 ACP National Match lower, fixed sights, adjustable trigger, flat serrated mainspring housing, mint checkered Walnut standard grips wit gold medallions, Colt marked 22 magazine, excellent function, 70 series frame .....\$925

**7-A Colt .22 LR "Official Police" Custom Target Revolver 6"** barrel with mint bore, 98%+ original blue, added "micro" fully adjustable target rear sight and "micro" 1/8" tall blade front sight pinned to original 1/2 moon front sight, excellent "Merston" target thumbrest hard rubber grips, super tight lockup, excellent timing, made in 1948 (C&R) .....\$575

**8-A Colt .38 Special National Match Mid-Range Target Auto Pistol 5"** barrel with mint bore and marked "Colt .38 Spec N.M." over "MK III" with 2 stars on each side, 99% original blue with serrated front and backstraps, "Eliason" marked fully adjustable target rear sight, mint full checkered Walnut grips with gold medallions, correct ".38 Spec" marked Colt magazine, near new overall, collector quality, made in 1969 (C&R) .....\$1595

**9-A Colt .38 Special "Officers Model" Target Revolver 7 1/2"** barrel with very good bright bore, 90%+ original blue with thinning and graying on barrel, factory adjustable front and rear target sights, very good service style checkered Walnut grips with silver Colt medallions, nice tight lockup but off a little in timing (common on these early guns) but perfectly shootable as is, made in 1927 (C&R) .....\$385

**10-A Colt .38 Special "Officers Model Match" Target Revolver 6"** barrel with mint bore, 98% original bright blue, fully adjustable rear target sight and ramp blade front, wide spur target hammer, excellent checkered Walnut target grips with silver Colt medallions (medallion on left panel shows holster wear) one of the last good ones made around, 1969, 5th issue officers model (C&R) .....\$745

**11-A Colt .38 Special "Officers Model Match" 5th Issue Target Revolver 6"** barrel with mint bore, 97% original blue with a little thinning on cylinder and bottom of barrel, fully adjustable "acro" target rear and ramp blade target front, wide spur target hammer, excellent checkered Walnut target grips with silver Colt medallions, excellent smooth function, made in 1961 the last of the really good officers models (C&R) ..\$795

**12-A Colt .357 Magnum Single Action Army 2nd Generation Revolver 4 3/4"** barrel with mint bore, fixed sights, 98%+ original bright blue and case color, mint black eagle checkered hard rubber grips, excellent function, showing little actual use, made in 1972 near the end of 2nd generation production (C&R) .....\$1675

**13-A Colt 9mm Para All American 2000 Auto Pistol 4 1/2"** barrel with mint bore, 98%+ original blue on steel upper and 100% matte black on polymer frame, (3) white dot combat sights, made in 1992 after a very short manufacturing run, near new in original blue plastic case with (2) factory 15 round magazines, magazine loader and cable lock, no paper .....\$665

**14-A Colt 9mm Para "All American 2000" Auto Pistol 4 1/2"** barrel with mint bore, 97% original blue, fixed sights with (3) white dots missing the "white" in front and rear sights, minty checkered black plastic grips with silver Colt medallions, 15 shot Colt magazine, excellent function, made in 1992, double action only with roller mounted trigger and rotary locking barrel, made from 1991-1993 .....\$495

**15-A Colt .45 Auto Government Model Series 80 Stainless Auto Pistol 5"** barrel with mint bore, all stainless construction show minor scratching in slide, fixed sights plus crimson trace red laser sight mounted in right side checkered composition grip that works fine, stainless Colt magazine, serrated arched mainspring housing, standard hammer and trigger, excellent function .....\$725

**16-A Colt .45 Colt "New Service" Double Action Revolver 7 1/2"** barrel with mint bore, 98% original bright and "fire" blue with most loss on thinning front and backstrap, fixed sights, minty Colt logo checkered black hard rubber grips, lanyard at butt, excellent function, all matching with grips factory scratch numbered to gun, collector quality, made in 1907 early model 1st variation, hard to find one better (C&R) .....\$2195

**17-A Enfield 38/200 (.38 S&W) No. 2 MK I\* Double Action Top-Break Revolver 5"** flat sided barrel with mint bore, 98%+ of an arsenal rebuild parkerized finish, all matching numbers, fixed sights, dated 1939 but "3" is obscured by finish rebuild, excellent serrated hard rubber grips, lanyard at butt, excellent function and not import marked (C&R) .....\$295

**18-A F.I.E. .22 LR "Texas Ranger" Single Action Revolver 6 1/2"** barrel with mint bore, fixed sights, 98% original blue, smooth Walnut grips, someone has removed the hammer block safety lever but gun still functions fine (just observe the precaution of hammer down on an empty chamber), about new in original box with paper .....\$95

**19-A Harrington & Richardson .22 LR "Sportsman" Double Action Top Break Target Revolver 6"** ovoid barrel with mint bore, 98%+ original bright blue, adjustable front and rear target sight, 95% case color on firing pin equipped hammer, mint dark checkered Walnut on factory oversize target grips on "rice" frame, perfect function both single and double action, collector quality (C&R) .....\$465

**20-A Harrington & Richardson .22 LR "Sportsman" Double Action Top Break Target Revolver 6"** ovoid barrel with mint bore, 98%+ original bright blue, factory target adjustable front and rear sights, mint dark Walnut checkered oversize target grips on "rice" frame, shows little or no actual use, collector quality, all matching (C&R) .....\$485

**21-A Harrington & Richardson .22 LR "Sportsman Double Action" Top Break Target Revolver 6"** ovoid barrel with mint bore, adjustable front and fully adjustable target rear sights, 99 1/2% original bright blue, minty oversize checkered Walnut target one piece grips, hammer mounted firing pin, excellent function both single and double action, collector quality, 8th variation made around 1945 (C&R) .....\$525

**22-A Harrington & Richardson .22 LR "Sportsman Double Action" Top Break Target Revolver 6"** ovoid barrel with mint bore, 98%+ original bright blue, adjustable front and rear target sights, 99% case color on hammer, minty checkered Walnut oversize target grips on "rice" frame, all matching and shows little actual use (C&R) .....\$465

**23-A Harrington & Richardson .22 LR Model 622 Revolver 2 1/2"** barrel with fair bore, parkerized frame, factory sights, steel cylinder and barrel with gray patina, oxidation on hammer and steel surfaces .....\$115

**24-A Harrington & Richardson .22 LR "Sportsman" Model 999 Target Top-Break Double Action Late Production Revolver 6"** vent rib ovoid barrel with mint bore, 99% blue on barrel and cylinder, 99% factory case colored frame marked "H&R Inc Gardner, Mass. U.S.A.", fully adjustable front and rear target style sights, mint (2) piece diamond center Walnut checkered grips with gold H&R medallions, perfect function, appears unfired, made in 1975 .....\$695

**25-A Harrington & Richardson .22 LR ".22 Special" 9 Shot Top Break Double Action Revolver 6"** ribbed barrel with mint bore, 97% original blue, fixed sights, free wheeling cylinder, auto ejection, minty 2 piece checkered Walnut "saw handle" high hold extension style grips, works fine double and single action, a nice 2nd variation special made around 1930 (C&R) .....\$265

**26-A Harrington & Richardson /New England Firearms .22 LR Model R92 Double Action Swing Out Cylinder Revolver 6"** heavy barrel with mint bore, fixed sights, 99% original bright blue, mint smooth Walnut round butt grips with N.E.F. gold medallions, looks and functions as new overall .....\$235

**27-A Harrington & Richardson .22 Winchester Magnum Model "R22 Ultra Mag" Double Action Swing Out Cylinder Revolver 6"** heavy ribbed barrel with mint bore, fully adjustable rear sight, 6 shot cylinder, 98% original bright blue, transfer bar in frame, very good+ smooth wood grips with gold N.E.F. medallions and some finish loss on wood, excellent function, made in 1992 .....\$245

**28-A Harrington & Richardson .32 S&W Long Model 732 Swing Out Cylinder Revolver 2 1/2"** heavy barrel with mint bore, fixed sights, 6 shot cylinder, 99% original blue, mint H&R logo black plastic grips, excellent function, 1973 manufactured .....\$195

**29-A High Standard .22 LR Model "GD" Target Auto Pistol 6 3/4"** barrel with mint bore, lever release on barrel, 98%+ original bright blue, "Davis" fully adjustable target rear sight, hammerless design, made in 1949, slide hold open, very good optional deluxe factory Walnut target grips, cut checkering and thumbrest, excellent two tone magazine, excellent function, a low production post war target pistol made in New Haven, Connecticut (C&R) .....\$795

**30-A High Standard .22 LR Model H-D Military Auto Pistol 6 3/4"** heavy barrel with mint bore, 98%+ original bright blue, factory target sights, minty full checkered Walnut grips, (2) tone magazine is a bit stiff coming out but is correct for pistol, excellent function, made in 1946 and comes in its original black box with yellow end labels, box is very good, collector quality (C&R) .....\$595

**31-A High Standard .22 LR Supermatic Citation Auto Pistol 7 1/4"** fluted barrel with mint bore, partridge front sight, black blade slide mounted adjustable rear sight, barrel is drilled and tapped for weights, 98% blue with light scratches, pistol frame grip partially worn to pewter from handling, excellent checkered Walnut factory gold medallion grips, trigger retains bold case hardened colors, pistol includes original factory box numbered to gun, two barrel weights with screws and single factory magazine with steel buttplate, weight screws possibly altered, pistol originally came with 5 1/2" bull barrel -"not included", made in 1961 (C&R) .....\$435

CONTINUED ➔



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**CONTINUED** ➔



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**77-A Winchester .308 Winchester Model 100 Auto Carbine** 19" barrel with mint bore, 98%+ original blue, factory original sights, front sight with hood, two piece scope base rails, very nice carbine style dark Walnut pistol grip stock (not checkered), factory original sling swivels, factory 4 round magazine, stock has been professionally modified by removing 1" from buttstock giving a L.O.P. of 12 1/4", professionally fitted factory original plastic checkered buttplate, has slip on recoil pad adding 1" giving L.O.P. of 13 1/4", excellent function, collector quality, manufactured in 1966, this is ideal for the younger shooter or smaller stature shooter, shows little actual use (C&R) .....\$635

**81-A Winchester 38/40 Model 1892 Lever Rifle 24"** octagon barrel with excellent bright bore, 80% original bright blue, bead front and sporting open rear sights, full magazine, crescent steel buttplate on very good straight grip stock, wood shows an added light finish but no sanding, steel capped forend, excellent smooth function, made in 1905 and comes with a Cody museum letter verifying configuration (C&R) ..... \$1475

**92-A Remington .22 S, L, & LR Model 512 Sportmaster Tube Feed Bolt Rifle 25"** with mint bore, 98%+ factory original blue, front factory raised sight with adjustable open rear field sights, trigger and bolt are care color hardened, retaining beautiful color, Walnut pistol grip stock with sling swivels and factory original plastic buttplate, collector quality .....\$265

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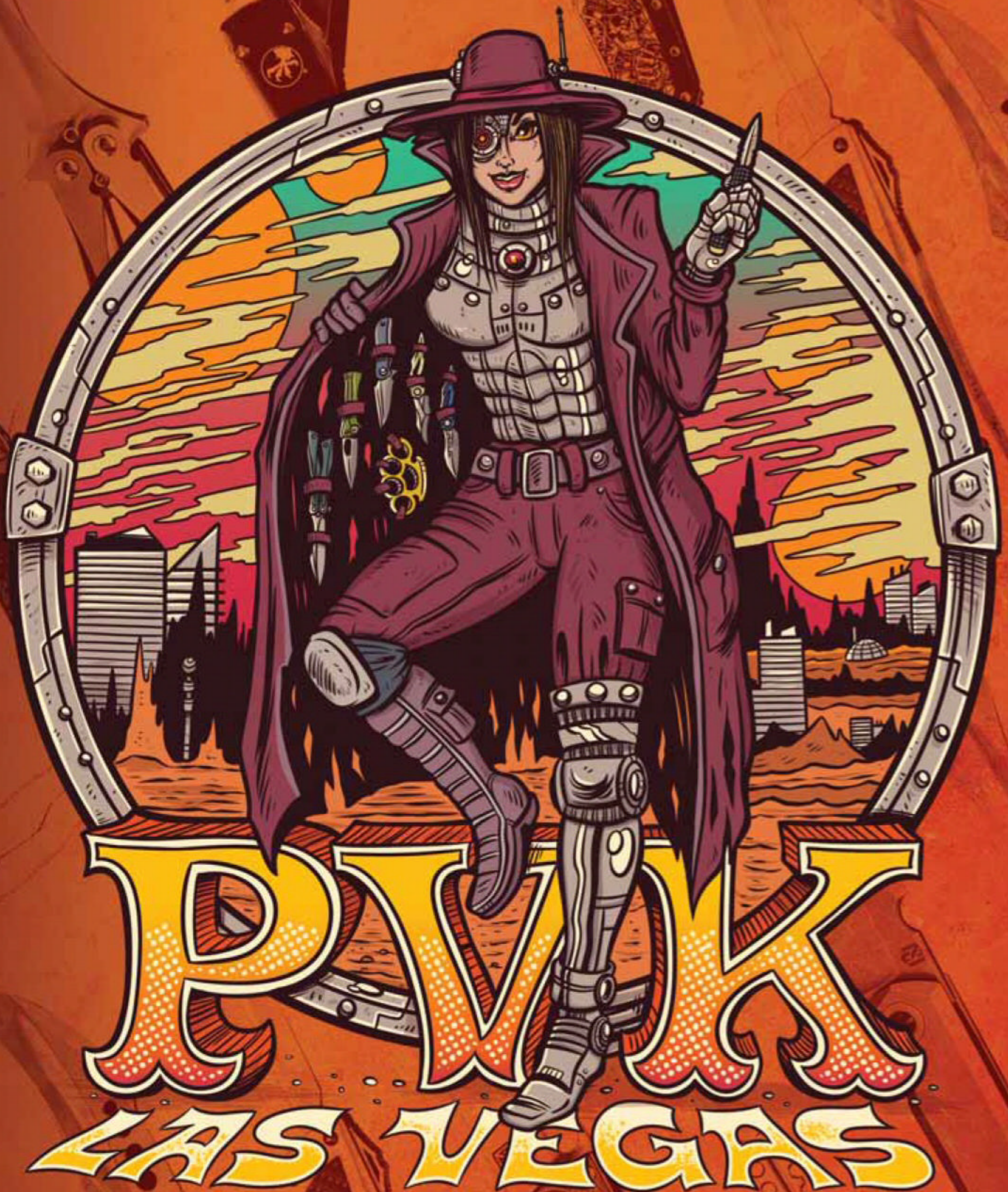
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