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# SHOOTING Illustrated

July 2019

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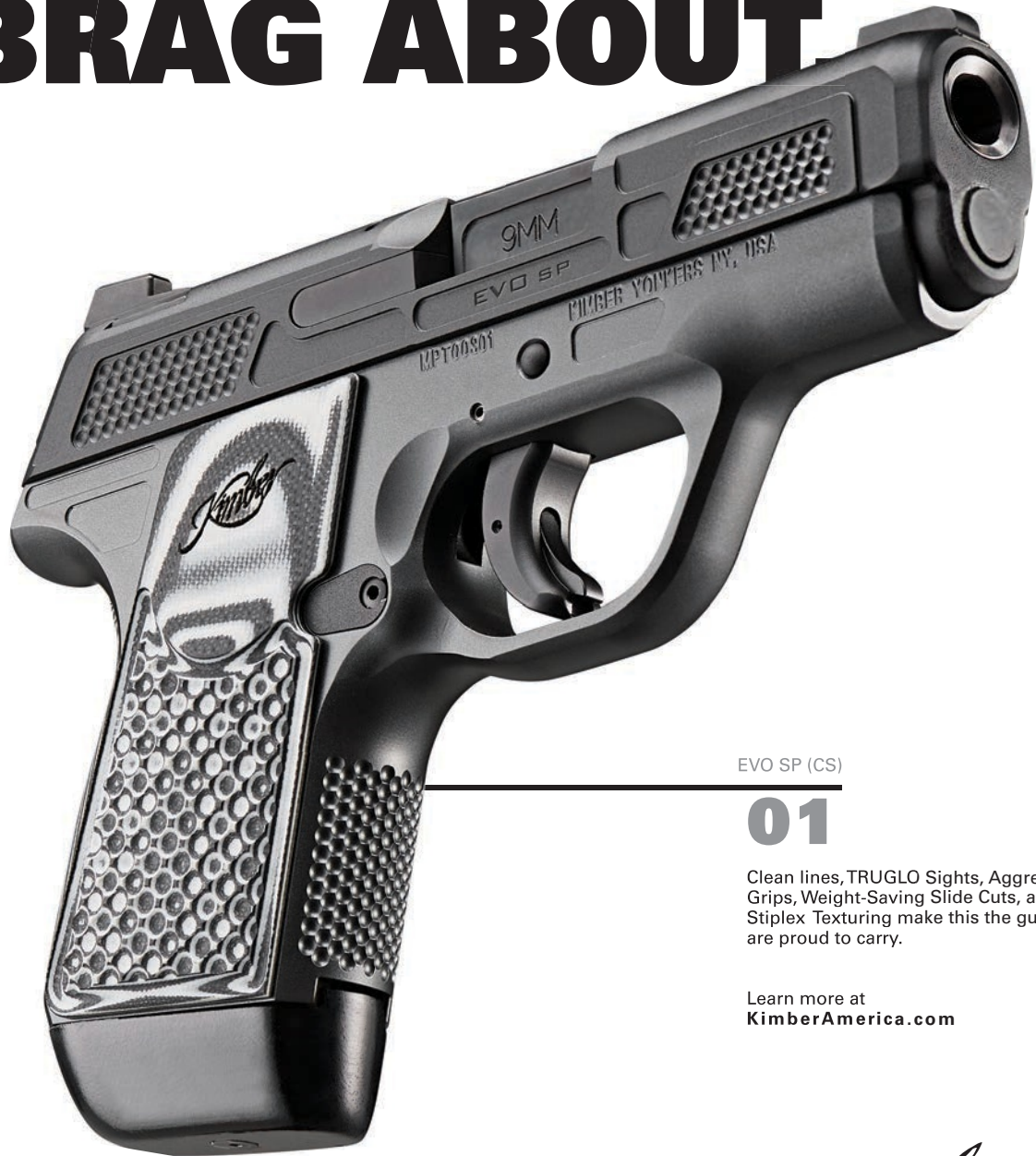
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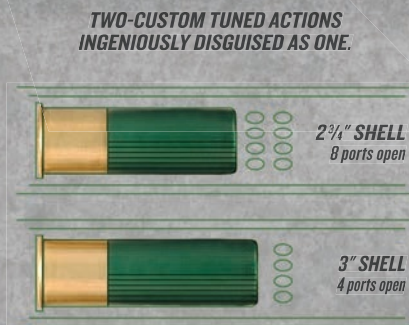
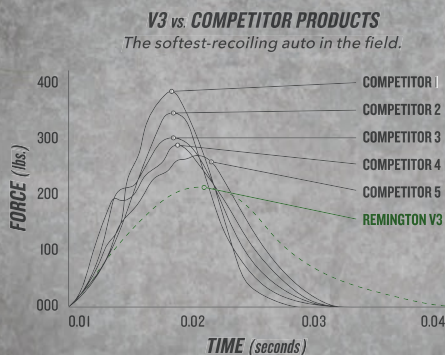


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# SHOOTING Illustrated

Volume 18 • Number 7

July 2019

The new Daniel Defense Delta 5 bolt-action rifle is a departure for the company known for its AR-platform guns. This long-range rifle incorporates a hammer-forged barrel mounted in a unique, ergonomic stock, both of which facilitate accuracy.

Cover photo by Jesse Snyder



## Features

### 18 Working Together to Save the Second Amendment Part III: Victories In the Courts

Passing important pro-gun legislation is never the end of the fight to ensure our rights. Often, the fruits of victory are harvested only after lengthy, expensive and hard-fought court battles.

By Chris W. Cox

### 44 NRA INDY 19: Racing For Firearms Freedom In Indianapolis

The 2019 NRA Annual Meetings & Exhibits put our sacred Second Amendment rights in pole position.

By NRA Staff

### 50 From MSRs to Manual Actions

Daniel Defense introduces the Delta 5, an amalgam of modularity, precision and innovation in a 7.62 NATO- or 6.5 Creedmoor-caliber bolt-action rifle built for long-range accuracy.

By Evan Brune

### 58 Color Me Impressed

You can more affordably gain the beautiful and protective finishes possible with today's high-tech coatings if you do it yourself. First, do your homework by reading this primer, then proceed carefully.

By Bryce M. Towsley

### 66 2019 New Optics Guide

It's crystal clear that optics companies are continuing to offer telescopic, red-dot and digital scopes that enhance our shooting capabilities while being increasingly more practical and generally affordable.

A Shooting Illustrated Staff Report

## Handbook

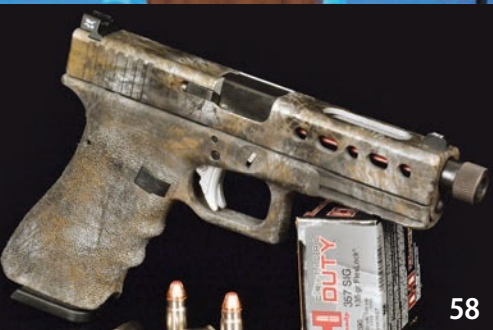
### 74 Skill and Confidence

The two go together like ham and eggs, but this pairing may just save your bacon.

By Steve Tarani

## Official Journal of the National Rifle Association of America

The NRA, the foremost guardian of the traditional American right to "keep and bear arms," believes every law-abiding citizen is entitled to the ownership and legal use of firearms, and that every reputable gun owner should be an NRA member.





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# On The Horizon

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O.Z-9

**Christensen**  
Arms MPR

**Drop-In**  
Trigger Guide

Look for these articles and more in next month's issue of *SI*





# THE BITE IS WORSE THAN THE BARK

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# At ShootingIllustrated.com

OLEG VOLIK



## Range Review: Guncrafter Industries Hellcat X2

Guncrafter Industries is known particularly for its unique .50 GI offerings and finely finished custom guns. However, in the Hellcat X2, form took a backseat to function, as the design and construction of this new pistol focused primarily on producing a gun that ran reliably and provided exceptional performance. The Guncrafter team realized their goal effectively, as we found out during our range experience.

FRANK MELLONI



## 5 .22 LR Loads to Look for in 2019

For years, .22 LR vanished from store shelves, leading to rationing and absurdly high prices. However, in the last several years, demand dropped and supply caught up, leading to a leveling in the marketplace. With this return to equilibrium, manufacturers are now offering new .22 LR loads to consumers that fit a range of needs, whether it's precision shooting, plinking or varmint hunting. Here's a look at the latest.

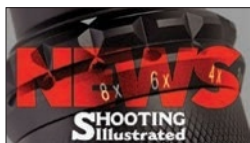


## I Carry: Kimber EVO SP in a BlackPoint Tactical Holster

*Shooting Illustrated's* "I Carry" series is back with a fresh, new format for its third season! Join Managing Editor Jay Grazio and Associate Editor, Digital Evan Brune as they explore the latest guns and gear designed for concealed carry and personal defense. Each episode pairs a compact, concealed-carry pistol with a solid holster and touches on a range of EDC gear, from knives to belts to flashlights and more.

## News

U.S. Border Patrol Chooses Glock Handguns



GSM Outdoors Buys Birchwood Casey

## Guns



Ruger Wrangler  
.22 LR Revolver

## Gear



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Some of the photographs in this magazine illustrate specific shooting stances or positions in which it was occasionally necessary to position the camera in front of the muzzle for instructional purposes. At no time was a loaded, functioning firearm used in these photographs; special, deactivated guns or solid plastic gun simulators were employed. In some cases the image was taken using a remotely triggered camera.

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## Influential Indeed

Tamara Keel's May "Handguns" column on the Kel-Tec P-32 and its importance in handgun development was spot on. I have confidently and discreetly carried my little P-32 for 20 years now. It has ridden in my front pocket in all kinds of places and all kinds of situations, and I've never been made with it. It even saved my bacon when targeted by two thugs many years ago. Because I had it handy, I didn't act like the terrified victim they were expecting, so they left for better choices. Didn't even have to display it. I have bigger and badder handguns, but none that I enjoy carrying as much as my little buddy.

**Jack Burton**

*via Shooting Illustrated.com*

The May "Handguns" column was a fine article and a litany of the pocket pistols I've owned over the decades. Beretta .22 and .25, Freedom Arms .22 Mag., a Smith & Wesson Airweight .38, a Bond Arms .45 ACP derringer and the Kel-Tec P-32 and P-3AT. (Now I get it. Sounds like P-three-eighty.) After I was better heeled and Seecamps became readily available, I did buy a .32, which I carry the most because, in spite of being 2 ounces heavier, its diminutive size conceals better in my hip pocket holster and the jeans I like to wear. And, in my opinion, it's beautiful to behold—the Tiffany of pocket pistols. In the meantime, I've sold all the others, but I am not letting go of my P-3AT. Kudos to Kel-Tec.

**Mad Mac**

*via Shooting Illustrated.com*

### Chamber Danger?

**I would like to respond to the May 2019**

"Skills Check" column concerning carrying with an empty chamber. Even discounting the legal jeopardy of an accidental discharge, there is the risk of injury to oneself, others or property. Even experienced police officers have had accidental discharges. The question that I believe needs to be asked when deciding whether to chamber a round for EDC is this: Is it more likely that I will have an accidental discharge in the daily handling of my weapon, or (in the highly unlikely event I ever draw my weapon in defense) that the fraction of a second difference it takes to chamber a round will mean life or death? By the way, I dry fire Drill #1 from the column several times a week, but I think Drill #2 is unnecessary if I simply drop what I'm holding.

**Dan Ward**

*Tucson, AZ*

**The purpose of that Skills Check installment was to get folks who carry in Condition 3 to practice, and to point out there may be times when you don't have two hands available to load your chamber. Dropping what you are holding isn't an option if that happens to be a baby, or if you're pushing a family member away or behind you. Other situations will most likely occur to you, too.**

To my mind, the answer to your (and many others') concern regarding the potential for a negligent discharge is training. At Gunsite, our training begins with Rule 1: All Guns Are Always Loaded. Always.

**—Ed Head**

### Weight Watchers

**Steve Adelmann's May "Rifles" column about using lightweight components in an AR build hit home. I just finished building a lightweight, 16-inch, pencil-barrel upper, which brought my AR down to 5 pounds, 10 ounces, and it didn't cost more than heavier components would have. Choosing lightweight components made a noticeable difference, and it shoots like a champ.**

**R. Neville**

*via Shooting Illustrated.com*

### Correspondence is welcomed and encouraged

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In Tuscaloosa, Ala., a 43-year-old man returned to his girlfriend's home early in the morning. The man had left after police were summoned to the residence on a domestic dispute call. The man came back several hours later under the pretense of collecting his property. A second fight took place between him and his girlfriend, who was seated in a car with her children. Apparently the man threatened to kill the woman during the fight. Meanwhile, a teenage boy inside the residence heard the fight and retrieved a handgun from the home. The youth went outside, where he found the man threatening to kill the woman as he assaulted her. The youth confronted the man, who continued to attack the woman. The youth then defended the woman by firing several shots that struck the man, who died from his injuries. Although police were investigating the case, they did not intend to file any charges against the youth, according to media reports. ([al.com](http://al.com), Birmingham, Ala., 5/1/19)

Shortly before midnight in April, a man was riding a rental scooter to a local store and driving through a parking lot in Tulsa, Okla. While exiting the parking lot, the man got into an argument with a woman and a teenaged boy seated in a parked car nearby. The man left the area and returned, throwing down his scooter and brandishing a knife. Acting quickly, the youth grabbed a concealed-carry gun in the vehicle and shot the other man in self-defense. The man died from his injuries. ([tulsaworld.com](http://tulsaworld.com), Tulsa, Okla., 4/30/19)

While driving at 3 a.m. around the Chicago Loop, a Volkswagen rear-ended a BMW. The BMW owner exited his vehicle to look at the damage on the back of his car and returned to the driver's side to retrieve his cell phone. While his back was turned, the man didn't see the other driver, armed with a gun, approach and push him into the BMW in an attempted carjacking. The carjacker demanded the keys, and a struggle ensued. The BMW driver retrieved his concealed firearm from the car's interior and shot the would-be carjacker in the head. The wounded man was taken to a local hospital where he was pronounced dead. Police were investigating. Investigators said they located both guns at the scene and could not find any known connection between either driver. ([chicagotribune.com](http://chicagotribune.com), Chicago, Ill. 4/26/19)

In Lumberton, N.C., two men entered a home early in the evening. The two located the tenant of the residence inside the home's garage, which was in the back yard. The pair confronted the man with the intent to rob him, but were unprepared when the tenant drew his own gun and shot one of the suspects in the leg. Both men fled the area. When police arrived on scene, they found the injured home-invader, a 26-year-old local

man, lying in the backyard with a potentially life-threatening injury. He was transported to a local hospital where he was listed in stable condition. Police were able to later identify and arrest the second attacker, who was charged with assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill and felony conspiracy. A \$100,000 bond was set. Police were continuing their investigation. ([wmbfnews.com](http://wmbfnews.com), Myrtle Beach, S.C., 5/8/19)

At a gas station in Mount Clemons, Mich., a clerk and several customers were inside the store when a masked gunman came into the building. The thief demanded money from the clerk and the customers. In response, the clerk pulled out a firearm and shot the suspect near the front door. The injured man was taken to an area hospital. A police investigation was underway with a forthcoming arrest warrant expected for the alleged gunman. Police said it was unlikely that charges would be filed against the store clerk, who was thought to be acting to defend himself and his customers. ([macombdaily.com](http://macombdaily.com), Clinton Township, Mich., 4/24/19)

A home intruder met his end after breaking and entering into the wrong home in California. Just before 7 a.m., a burglar entered a Lancaster, Calif., home. Video surveillance showed the intruder tried to break into another home prior to this attempt. The man came in through a downstairs rear window and walked to an upstairs bedroom inside a family's home. Fearing for the safety of his children, the homeowner armed himself and fired off a shot, which struck the intruder in the upper torso, killing him. According to police, the family was unharmed during the incident. An investigation was ongoing. ([abc7.com](http://abc7.com), Glendale, Calif., 5/13/19) ☞



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By Wayne LaPierre  
Executive Vice President

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I know you're proud of that. I also know you're proud to carry the NRA torch for freedom every single day, and I know you never back down from the fight to protect our constitutional liberty.

Together, we represent 100 million law-abiding gun owners from every walk of life. We come from every race, gender, profession and political persuasion ... all united in the vision of our Founding Fathers who sacrificed so much to gain our American freedoms.

Today, the environment has become more hostile than ever, as opponents launch rogue strategies, engage in unlawful behavior, and spew vile rhetoric to attack the very freedoms that define America's greatness.

Now, as I reported earlier this year, our opponents seek not only to challenge our opinions, but also to inhibit our very right to express them. They have taken extreme measures to interfere with our ability to engage in free speech, to peacefully assemble, and to speak out for the positions we hold dear.

New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo hates the NRA and hates our Second Amendment freedom. And he isn't shy about it.

He weaponized the New York State banking regulator—the most powerful agency of its kind in the country—to punish and silence your NRA. The governor directed regulators to send letters to all CEOs of banks and insurance companies in the state, to pressure them to cease doing business with the NRA.

Think about that. Gov. Cuomo singled out a category of people who should not receive financial services—even checking accounts—simply because he disagrees with our opinion. He doesn't like your political viewpoint and wants you denied financial services.

He wants the NRA blacklisted! If Gov. Cuomo got his way pornographers, marijuana dealers, and radical "charities" would be allowed to have bank accounts, collect donations, and obtain insurance in New York—but not the NRA. But you and I know that restricting free speech is not what we do in this country, so your NRA is fighting back.

It is a fight, literally, for our political life.

America must never become a world in which citizens are vilified and punished simply for expressing our beliefs. Never!

So we took the governor to federal court under the First Amendment of the U.S.

Constitution. We told him that his actions reflect pure viewpoint-based discrimination, and he is violating our constitutional rights.

I am pleased to report we are prevailing in this critically important case. Governor Cuomo tried to have our lawsuit dismissed. He lost. The court held the NRA deserves its day in court. Then, the governor tried to prevent the NRA from deposing former chief banking regulator Maria Vullo, a focal point of the governor's effort. He lost again.

Many opinion leaders, legal scholars, and community stakeholders agree with the NRA. It is clear that Gov. Cuomo went too far in his crusade against the NRA and its members. Even the American Civil Liberties Union agrees and has joined the NRA in this fight.

However, that doesn't matter to Gov. Cuomo. He and his supporters will stop at nothing to advance a personal political agenda, even if it is contrary to the most fundamental principles of our country.

In fact, the governor's chosen candidate for Attorney General vowed to attack the NRA—as a pillar of her campaign platform—before being elected into office.

Did you get that?

Before spending even one day in office, she declared that we—you and me—and all the law-abiding men and women of the NRA—are a "terrorist organization." She vowed to conduct a taxpayer-funded fishing expedition to investigate us in the state where the NRA was founded 148 years ago.

A contrived political investigation is not the action of a public servant. This is a rank political vendetta.

That is why we must keep fighting to defend our constitutional rights in what is, perhaps, the most important First Amendment case in U.S. history.

And that is why we must ... and we will ... continue to speak out and defend the freedoms for which the NRA stands.

My four decades of helping lead our fight for freedom has taught me one thing above all else—with your support and help I know that, together, we can and will win this critical fight to save our NRA. We will speak out and loudly and boldly as ever. We will stand as united and strongly as ever, and we will fight as hard and unflinchingly as ever.

We will never give up and never surrender one single inch of our Second Amendment freedom!

*Wayne LaPierre*



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***Witness P Match Pro***  
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The **P Match Pro**, ideal for production class, comes additionally with SA/DA trigger and an integral accessory rail.



**Carolyn D. Meadows**  
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**Christopher W. Cox**  
Executive Director,  
Institute For Legislative  
Action



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# The Good Fight For Our Freedoms Now And For Future Generations

It is with great pleasure that I address you, my fellow patriots and members of the NRA, in my first monthly column as president of the NRA Board of Directors.

It's an honor to serve as NRA president and also to work alongside Wayne LaPierre, executive vice president, and Chris Cox, executive director of NRA-ILA. I'm also looking forward to fighting the good fight with John Frazer, secretary; Craig Spray, treasurer; and Joseph DeBergalis, Jr., executive director of General Operations. I also want to welcome our new Board officers, First Vice President Charles L. Cotton, and Willes K. Lee as second vice president. We are very fortunate to have them leading the NRA.

Last year when I served the NRA as interim president, I wrote about the great honor of being able to address NRA members in this column. Growing up, I came from a family active in hunting and competitive shooting. Our country has changed in many ways since those times. The freedoms we all grew up with in this great nation, as given to us by God and enumerated by our Founding Fathers, are being threatened like never before. Not only are guns being vilified, but so are law-abiding gun owners who face attacks on every side. The fundamental rights of all Americans—you and I, even those who will follow us—are at stake.

We have a right to bear arms. We have a right to defend ourselves. We have a right to hunt as a sport or to put food on the table. We have a right to free speech. We have a right to buy our firearms or conduct any other lawful business without financial discrimination. We have a right to exist with those whose opinions are different from our own. We have a right to provide protection to the students in our schools. We have a right to elect those who will support our cause in the halls of government. Our government is by the people and for the people. The NRA shares these beliefs. I share them and so do over 5 million NRA members.

Recently, I had the opportunity to meet many NRA members at the 148th Annual NRA Annual Meetings & Exhibits in Indianapolis, Ind., attended by over 81,000 people. For the second straight year, we had both President Donald Trump and Vice President Mike Pence speak at the NRA-ILA Leadership Forum.

President Trump vowed he will protect the firearm freedoms of law-abiding Americans and oppose efforts to restrict the Second Amendment. Vice President Pence also reaffirmed this administration's commitment to stand strong against attempts to undermine our rights. It's important for every NRA member to continue standing with them as we head toward Election Day 2020.

We are proud of our country, proud of the NRA and proud of all the generations of patriots who have stood up to fight for freedom. It's time to stand up again. All of us. Use your voice, your wallet, and enlist your family, friends, and neighbors to stand with the NRA as it defends freedom in the corridors of power and on Election Day.

**IT'S ORDINARY PEOPLE LIKE YOU AND ME WHO ARE CALLED UPON TO MAKE A STAND. TOGETHER, WE BECOME EXTRAORDINARY. THAT'S WHAT MAKES A DIFFERENCE. THAT'S WHAT WINS THE FIGHT. THAT'S WHAT WE'RE ALL ABOUT AS AMERICANS.**

We can and will win this together. We've seen it happen throughout our history when those who act mighty and try to impose their far-fetched oppressive ideas on the American people are met with defeat and failure. Tyrants don't succeed no matter how hard they bluster or shout into a microphone. It's ordinary people like you and me who are called upon to make a stand. Together, we become extraordinary. That's what makes a difference. That's what wins the fight. That's what we're all about as Americans.

I look forward to helping our Association chart its course for the future. As NRA president, I can tell you that the board stands behind our leadership as we represent members concerned about the future of this great nation. Let's come together to fight for our rights and the other freedoms at stake. Let's show them what we are made of at the NRA.

*Carolyn D. Meadows*





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By Chris W. Cox  
NRA-ILA  
Executive Director

## YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE NOT ENOUGH.

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# President Trump "Unsigns" The Arms Trade Treaty

**A**t the 148th Annual Meetings of NRA members, I had the distinct honor of hosting President Donald Trump at NRA-ILA's Leadership Forum. During his address to the nearly 15,000 NRA members in attendance and the many more who were watching on television, the President took the historic step of "unsigning" the United Nations Arms Trade Treaty (ATT).

Officially joined by the United States in 2013 by former Secretary of State John Kerry, the ATT represented the boldest step yet taken by international gun-ban advocates. By announcing that he will officially withdraw the United States from the treaty, President Trump made clear he would not abdicate control over the rights of law-abiding gun owners to foreign bureaucrats. He then signed—in front of all in attendance—a formal letter to the U.S. Senate requesting that it halt the ratification process and return the treaty to the Oval Office, where he would properly "dispose" of it.

The NRA has long drawn attention to the danger this treaty posed to law-abiding American gun owners. Our complaints have focused on the treaty's framework for an international gun registry, its ability to be amended without the consensus of all parties, and its proponents' repeated refusals to clarify that it has no effect on the possession of small arms by civilians in the United States.

The treaty urged recordkeeping of end users, directing importing countries to provide information to an exporting country regarding arms transfers—which included "end use or end user documentation" for a "minimum of 10 years." Each country is to "take measures, pursuant to its national laws, to regulate brokering taking place under its jurisdiction for conventional arms." Data kept on the end users of imported firearms is a de-facto registry of law-abiding firearms owners. And, participating countries could have been required to share this information—effectively laying the groundwork for international gun registration.

While the potential creation of an international gun registry should have been reason enough for its rejection by the United States, the most dangerous aspect of the treaty was its ease of being amended. While many treaties require full consensus of the parties for an amendment, the ATT only required that the parties make "every effort to achieve consensus on each amendment." But, rather than requiring consensus, the treaty required only three-quarters of the parties to amend the

treaty—making effectively limitless the future danger of the treaty to American gun owners.

Changes to the treaty that are contrary to our rights already have been adopted. At a treaty conference last year, proponents of the treaty "welcome[d]" several living documents into the ATT. One of these documents was the International Small Arms Control Standards (ISACS).

Purporting to set the standards for "National Regulation of Civilian Access to Small Arms and Light Weapons," a portion of ISACS creates a means to almost entirely limit civilian access to small arms. It reads like a gun-control advocate's wish list with everything from gun bans to "may-issue" gun licensing.

While incorporation of the ISACS into the ATT was alarming, it also was not entirely unpredictable. As with every anti-firearm United Nations initiative, our concerns are never limited to what is in it now, but with what it will become and how it will be used by a future U.S. administration—especially one seeking international justification for a gun-control agenda.

Perhaps the easiest way to understand the future danger the ATT posed to U.S. gun owners is the complete refusal by treaty proponents to limit its application to civilian arms. The NRA and other opponents of the treaty repeatedly asked for a carve-out in the treaty, yet those requests were flatly denied. If the treaty's proponents had no intention of limiting American gun ownership, why resist such a limitation to the text of the treaty?

Instead, the treaty included language in its preamble that treaty parties be "mindful of the legitimate trade and lawful ownership, and use of certain conventional arms for recreational, cultural, historical, and sporting activities, where such trade, ownership and use are permitted or protected by law." A careful read will show that the use of arms for individual and collective defense is notably missing from this statement. And, this aspirational statement creates no real limitation on any action undertaken pursuant to the treaty.

Please join me in thanking President Trump for protecting our firearms freedom by withdrawing the United States from this terrible treaty and ensuring that the rights of law-abiding American gun owners aren't surrendered to the anti-gun whims of foreign bureaucrats.

*Chris W. Cox*





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By Chris W. Cox  
NRA-ILA  
Executive Director

# Working Together To Save The Second Amendment Part III: **VICTORIES IN THE COURTS**

**O**ver the last two months, I've written about NRA's extremely successful efforts to defend and advance our rights protected under the Second Amendment through aggressive legislative campaigns; both at the federal and state level.

Legislative victories, however, are by no means permanent solutions to ensure that the rights of law-abiding gun owners will be protected from those dedicated to eliminating our freedoms. Almost without fail, the moment pro-Second Amendment reforms are enacted, the most virulent anti-gun legislators race to file bills to overturn the new laws. At the same time, as if carefully coordinated, left-wing ideologues dedicated to eradicating guns in America sprint to the courtrooms of activist judges to file suits against any law deemed beneficial to law-abiding gun owners.

Don't get me wrong; legislative victories are vitally important. But with one bad election cycle, rare though they may be, such victories can be short-lived, and a pro-gun reform can be watered down or repealed if a legislature is turned anti-gun. Furthermore, one anti-gun judge could ignore—as many

have—legislative intent and court precedent in order to neuter laws intended to protect our rights.

One could say that legislation is often written in sand, but judicial rulings frequently are carved in stone. That is why this third installment of my discussion of NRA successes will focus on the one area where victories could ensure the Second Amendment is protected for generations.

I'm speaking, of course, about the courts.

Today, we are at a point in time when the rights of law-abiding gun owners are on more solid legal ground—especially when it comes to the federal judiciary—than probably anyone alive today can remember.

That hasn't happened by accident, and it didn't happen overnight.

Anyone reading this is undoubtedly aware of the significant rulings by the Supreme Court in the landmark cases of *District of Columbia v. Heller* and *McDonald v. City of Chicago*. The Supreme Court found in *Heller* that the Second Amendment—as you and I already understood—protects an individual right and struck down D.C.'s ban on the possession of handguns and

other functional firearms in the home for self-defense. Because that ruling only applied to the federal government, it took the ruling in *McDonald* to ensure that the individual rights' protections were “incorporated” to apply against state and local infringements.

In its early years, the Supreme Court determined that the provisions of the Bill of Rights (i.e., the first 10 amendments to the U.S. Constitution) only apply directly to protect individual rights against violations by the federal government and its agents. Even after the Fourteenth Amendment was adopted in 1868—and despite its primary framer espousing that it should be interpreted to extend the protections of the first eight Amendments of the Bill of Rights—it took until the 1920s for the Supreme Court to truly begin determining that states, like the federal government, were prohibited from imposing restrictions on our rights.

As I said, we didn't get to the *Heller* and *McDonald* era overnight. While the Supreme Court worked piecemeal—and over decades—to incorporate other rights, it ignored the Second Amendment.





With *Heller*'s recognition of a protected individual right and *McDonald*'s incorporation, these two cases have laid the foundation for challenging countless laws that clearly infringe on the rights enshrined in the Second Amendment. Needless to say, I'm immensely proud that our great organization was a leader in helping to see these cases to fruition.

The path to winning these cases didn't start when they were filed; it began nearly a decade before *Heller* was decided, when NRA helped to elect President George W. Bush. If Al Gore was in the White House instead of Bush after the 2000 elections, I can guarantee you he would have put an anti-gun majority on the Supreme Court. Without Chief Justice John Roberts and Associate Justice Samuel Alito, the *Heller* and *McDonald* cases either never would have been heard or the result would have been dramatically different.

While these are clearly landmark cases, they are by no means our only successes.

The NRA regularly has to turn to the courts to defend laws it has helped to enact. In my last column, I mentioned the success the NRA has had in promoting firearm-preemption statutes at the state level, which ensure local governments do not pass laws that impose greater restrictions on law-abiding gun owners than those that apply statewide. Anti-gun politicians in local governments, however, regularly ignore state preemption laws.

In numerous states, the NRA successfully has challenged local laws and ordinances that violate state law. In 2008, a court struck down *Proposition H* in San Francisco—a local ordinance that prohibited virtually all city residents from possessing handguns. The ordinance also prohibited all city residents (without exception) from selling, distributing, transferring, and manufacturing all firearms and ammunition. Although California's preemption statute is not as clear as we would prefer, our legal challenge was still successful.

Across the country in Pennsylvania, the preemption statute is not only clearer than California's, but has been affirmed in a number of legal challenges over the years. Nonetheless, the NRA had to sue the city of Philadelphia in 2008 to prevent its anti-gun police commissioner from enforcing restrictions that clearly violated the preemption statute. We succeeded in getting an immediate restraining order against enforcement.

As you likely are aware from recent reporting on Pittsburgh, that city is ignoring Pennsylvania's preemption statute today—and the NRA is assisting city residents with their lawsuit challenging a ban on publicly carrying loaded magazines that accept more than 10 rounds of ammunition.

Last month I mentioned that after Hurricane Katrina devastated New Orleans, local authorities suspended the Second Amendment and actually seized firearms from law-abiding residents. While we worked through the legislature to pass a law to ensure that never happened again, the NRA also had to file suit to ensure seized firearms were returned to their lawful owners. It took three years, but New Orleans eventually capitulated to settle the suit.

Honestly, I don't have enough space to talk about all of our past legal victories, and I want to be sure to discuss the future.

As I wrote earlier, the future appears to be bright for the Second Amendment when it comes to the courts—at least at the federal level. Having been instrumental in helping to elect President Donald Trump in 2016, that effort is bearing substantial fruit. Two more Supreme Court Justices who support an originalist view of the

Second Amendment—Justices Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh—have been confirmed. President Trump also is working at an unprecedented pace to appoint judges to lower levels of the federal judiciary. The Senate has already confirmed over 100 of his judicial nominees.

We are currently working on cases all over the country to challenge restrictions on right-to-carry, bans on the most popular rifles in the country, and limitations on magazine capacity that prohibit law-abiding gun owners from having the most effective means of defending themselves. In addition, there are two NRA-supported cases that have been appealed to the Supreme Court with the potential to add to the precedents set in *Heller* and *McDonald*.

The court already has agreed to hear *New York State Rifle & Pistol Association v. The City of New York*. This case challenges the constitutionality of one of the most absurd gun laws in the country, where lawful owners of handguns who reside in New York City are not just severely limited to where they may legally transport their firearms within the city limits, but are virtually prohibited from transporting them outside the city.

## TO ENSURE THIS TREND CONTINUES, GUN OWNERS MUST WORK TOGETHER TO ENSURE THAT PRESIDENT TRUMP AND A PRO-GUN SENATE CAN CONTINUE TO NOMINATE AND CONFIRM JUDGES WHO RESPECT THE SECOND AMENDMENT.

As I write this, we are awaiting the court's decision on whether it will take up an appeal in the case of *Rogers v. Grewal*. This case challenges unconstitutional requirements for obtaining a permit to carry a handgun in New Jersey. It would be generous to call the current system "may-issue," as the overly restrictive and time-consuming process requires applicants show "justifiable need" or "good reason" in order to be approved. Permits are rarely approved, and most people simply give up when faced with the monolith of New Jersey's anti-gun bureaucracy.

These two cases had to be appealed to the Supreme Court because many in the federal judiciary are still hostile to our right to keep and bear arms. In spite of the precedents set in *Heller* and *McDonald*, some activist judges feel they have the authority to ignore previous rulings to promote their anti-Second Amendment views.

Fortunately, as more rulings are handed down that comport with *Heller* and *McDonald*—and as President Trump continues to appoint more judges that embrace these rulings—anti-gun judicial decisions should begin to fade or at least become the outliers they should be.

To ensure this trend continues, gun owners must work together to ensure that President Trump and a pro-gun Senate can continue to nominate and confirm judges who respect the Second Amendment. American voters will once again be faced with sharply contrasting views for the future of our right to keep and bear arms in the 2020 election. Together, we can once again make a difference for the future of our firearms freedom. ☺

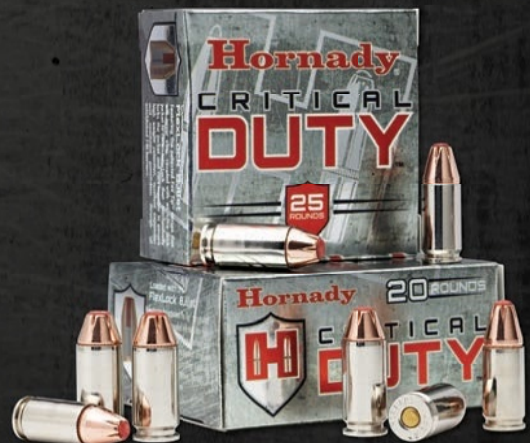


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By Todd Grable  
Executive Director of  
Membership

# It Pays to be a Member

**Y**ou and I are truly privileged to live in the greatest country in the world. Not only are we blessed with freedoms enjoyed nowhere else, but also with opportunities to seek out extraordinary outdoor adventures that most people only dream about.

America is still filled with great herds of game, vast outdoor vistas, and stunning landscapes. We enjoy unparalleled space for shooting and hunting experiences that flourish just as they did when our pioneers made the hard trek across this great land.

And there's one special place where everything we love about America – history, tradition, and the great outdoors – come together under our proud NRA banner.

I'm talking about the **NRA Whittington Center** near beautiful Raton, New Mexico – 33,000 pristine acres at the foot of

capabilities to the next level.

And the NRA Whittington Center isn't just for adults. Our Adventure Camp is perhaps America's best outdoor youth camp for boys and girls aged 13 to 17. Offered in two consecutive two-week sessions in June and July, and under the watchful eye of experienced counselors and volunteers, our campers learn firearm safety, shooting fundamentals and marksmanship, and much, much more.

While you're there, take in some of the great historical opportunities NRA Whittington Center has to offer, including the Frank Brownell Museum of the Southwest – the largest firearms museum in the region, complete with a full research library. Or place your hands in the 150-year-old wheel ruts left from the days when brave Americans made the trip west in covered wagons on the Santa Fe Trail.

NRA Whittington Center is truly the ultimate playground for Americans like you and me who appreciate the vast outdoors and the spirit of freedom that makes America a unique place in the world. And with a wide array of lodges, cabins, tent sites, and RV pads and hookups, the NRA Whittington Center is your "home away from home," no matter how you prefer to travel.

Want more information? Visit [NRAWC.org](http://NRAWC.org) today to learn more about the NRA Whittington Center and its extraordinary possibilities for your next family vacation, camping trip, or big hunt!

**TODAY, I'D LIKE TO ENCOURAGE YOU TO PUT THE NRA WHITTINGTON CENTER ON YOUR "BUCKET LIST" OF PLACES TO VISIT IN YOUR LIFETIME, AND TO SHARE WITH YOUR FAMILY.**

the Rocky Mountains under clear-blue, high-elevation skies. It's a shooter's and hunter's dream, and a nationwide destination for Americans from all walks of life to participate in outdoor recreation.

Today, I'd like to encourage you to put the NRA Whittington Center on your "bucket list" of places to visit in your lifetime, and to share with your family.

NRA Whittington Center is a shooter's paradise, with 18 ranges including trap, skeet, and pistol ranges, to rifle ranges that stretch out to more than 1,000 yards!

And if you're a hunter, there's no better destination for guided and unguided hunts. With success rates close to 100 percent, NRA Whittington Center is the perfect place to go on the hunt of a lifetime and finally get the trophy deer or elk you've been dreaming about for years.

The Whittington Center is also home to Whittington-U, where you can learn to take breathtaking shots at 1,000 yards or more, learn self-defense pistol skills from combat veterans and former police officers, or simply take your target-shooting



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# Gunnie Games

The Tactical Games is a relative newcomer in competitive shooting, but its blend of physical demand and test of marksmanship skill under stress has created an all-new, adrenaline-filled extreme sport.

**T**imothy Burke spent 24 years in the U.S. Army, more than 21 with the Special Forces. After leaving the military he became a Federal Police Officer, running a counter-terrorism team in Los Angeles, CA. "In 2011, I jumped into the private sector and became a businessman rather than a knuckle dragger," said Burke.

"Over the years I was exposed to some of the coolest training and events," he said. "So, I simply set out

to re-create some of these training events and wrap my combat experience into it as much as possible. In short, I created an event that I would absolutely love to do myself. If it satisfies my adrenaline-loving personality, I know it will capture the attention and passion of other tactical athletes."

In 2017, Burke founded and incorporated The Tactical Games (TTG), where he currently serves as CEO. Official matches began last

year, with 17 participants in the first event to work out the bugs. News spread fast and this year demand is so high that 70 of the 100 slots were filled two months before June's competition. Six matches, at various locations nationwide, are being held this year. The term "stage" has been replaced by "battle," where participants deliver up to 80 rounds from their rifle and handgun, after physical stress.

There are occasions, however, when only one firearm is used. "For example, one of our staple battles is 'The Horrigan,' named after Bob Horrigan," Burke explained. "It is a 50-meter sled drag

and pistol shoot on steel at 25 yards. Athletes make five trips up the field in total, three with the sled, and two without the sled but sprinting. A total of 50 pistol rounds are fired during the Horrigan, but no rifle is used or carried."

Competitors know the timer always ticks in battles, but they never know if they'll be facing rope climbs, shots from stationary—but elevated—helicopters, unconventional positions or obstacle courses. Gun safety is the other constant, never compromised and strictly enforced by range officers.

"I was getting bored with endurance events and needed something new and exciting, and TTG is it," Army veteran and Georgia CrossFit gym owner Jason Sobczak explained. "The physical tasks that are required are functional. The farmer's carry is a good one, pick up stuff and move it somewhere else, it doesn't get any more functional than that."

It also appeals to enthusiasts with a more-traditional background in the shooting sports. Tes Salb, who trained through the Olympic Development Program, was a two-time First Team All-American in Air Pistol and placed 10th in the 2000 U.S. Olympic Trials, shoots in the women's division. TTG events, "...allow athletes to be tested in strength, speed, power, balance, stamina, accuracy and endurance in both short and long battles in unknown environments," she summarized. "Podium positions here are not taken by the best athlete or the best shooter, but by the athlete with the best combination of both."

## Quick Shots

The Indiana State Police has adopted the SIG Sauer P365 as its backup duty firearm for the agency's full complement of troopers. The Indiana State Police is a statewide law enforcement agency of more than 1,250 officers across 14 districts.

The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources has selected a custom-designed FN America FN 15 Patrol Carbine equipped with selected upgrades for duty use. The agency has ordered 265 of the carbines. Also in SC, the Department of Public Safety

has selected this same rifle for issue to its Highway Patrol, State Transport and Protective Services officers. An initial quantity of 300 carbines has already been delivered to the agency, with orders for an additional 300 units through 2020.



# CHUCK PERFECTION

Chuck Norris was named the new Glock spokesman in April, and in honor of the occasion, here are 10 of our favorite facts about the legendary tough guy. According to the mainstream media's main source of information—the internet—Norris:

- 10 Knows Victoria's secret.
- 9 Counted to infinity, twice.
- 8 Speaks braille.
- 7 Can make onions cry.
- 6 Starred in "Alien and Predator vs. Chuck Norris," a 13-second film.
- 5 Drove his mom home an hour after he was born.



GLOCK

- 4 Doesn't have April 1 on his calendar, because no one fools Chuck Norris.
- 3 Died once, but the Grim Reaper doesn't have the courage to tell him.
- 2 Is who the boogeyman checks for under his bed at night.
- 1 Doesn't carry a Glock for protection; Glock carries a Chuck Norris for protection.

# AR-Tooth Necklace

Today's political correctness may condemn firearm-related clothing to the closet, but that doesn't mean we should surrender to a gun-bling-free existence. Restrictions enforced by the thought police may have convinced some it's inappropriate to communicate a belief in self-defense and the right to keep and bear arms, but you can still fly under the radar.

Stealthy Trigger Necklaces designed by

Violent Little Machine Shop are a prime example. A simple toss inside your shirt maximizes safety in unsecure environments, and with practice wearers can make the move effortlessly.

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trigger pulls make this easier, while those with a heavy or rough trigger pull can make shooting well rather difficult. Learning to manage the DA trigger is best done with dry-fire practice. After unloading the revolver, physically and visually verifying it is unloaded and pointing in a safe direction, concentrate on looking at the front sight and carefully stroking the trigger. I use the word stroking because you don't want to quickly snatch at the trigger, as that's sure to pull your sights off target. Back in the day, as they say, we used to practice our DA-trigger stroke by balancing a dime on the front sight as we pulled through the trigger

stroke. You might want to include this in your dry practice, as snatching at the trigger will surely cause the dime to fall and stroking smoothly will leave it in place. Why should you bother to perfect your double-action-trigger work? It's been my experience that folks who can correctly and smoothly manipulate a double-action trigger not only shoot well, but are able to handle just about any kind of trigger.

Recently, I had the opportunity to evaluate Colt's new King Cobra .357 Mag. revolver and thought I'd give Dot Torture a try, shooting the entire drill double-action. The Colt has a very good double-action trigger, and I figured it would facilitate a clean Dot Torture score. Now Dot Torture isn't for the faint of heart. Seemingly easy because it's only fired at 3 yards, it is deceptively difficult. There are no time limits and the distance is short, but you have to fire a perfect shot every single time for 50 rounds. The temptation to rush is enormous and the slightest break in concentration results in a missed shot, hence the name, Dot Torture. The drill starts with single shots, moves on to pairs and shots on two targets, requires drawing from a holster and even includes reloading.

Dot Torture is a really good training drill and I recommend it to you. To "pass" a perfect score—50 points total, no misses—is required. You can download Dot Torture targets at [personaldefensetraining.com](http://personaldefensetraining.com). And, yes, I passed the drill with the King Cobra. 

## DADT (Double-Action Dot Torture)

If you find Dot Torture to be too easy, try it with a double-action revolver.

As far as I can tell, double-action revolvers remain popular sellers despite the slowdown in gun sales, and small, short-barreled revolvers suitable for concealed carry are the most popular of all. As you may know, referring to a revolver as double-action (DA) means it can be cocked via the trigger and fired. Certain revolvers only function in double-action—they don't have an exposed hammer—while others may be fired by first cocking the hammer, then pressing the trigger. The later method is referred to as single-action. Mastering the DA trigger takes a bit of practice.

The idea is to pull the trigger until the gun fires without disturbing the sight picture and throwing the shot off the intended point-of-aim. Revolvers with relatively light DA



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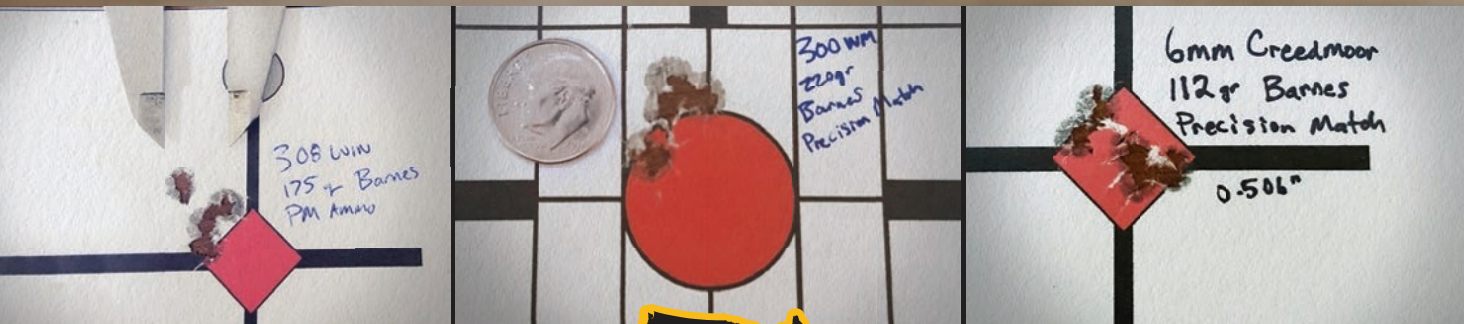


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Images below are from real shooters. Outdoor conditions. Not staged in a lab. All shot from 300 yards.





# Camping Gear

If you're heading out into the great outdoors this summer, here's some gear that helps take the "rough" out of "roughing it."

Constructed from 18-gauge steel, the compact, battery-powered **GunVault MicroVault XL Biometric MVB 1000** can be tucked within your luggage, your sleeping bag or secured to a fixed object with an included cable, making it ideal for your campsite, RV or home. Access is gained via a fingerprint scanner or with a key. The biometric reader can store up to 20 fingerprints, while precise fittings and a high-strength lock safeguard against prying open with hand tools.

MSRP: \$229.99  
gunvault.com

The 4 pounds of Coletherm insulation found in the **Coleman Lassen 20 Degree Sleeping Bag** keeps campers comfortable and warm in temperatures ranging from 20 to 40 degrees, without adding excessive weight. Generously sized at 33x75 inches, it sports an anti-snag zipper and a lightweight, polyester outer shell paired with a cotton flannel interior liner for added comfort. Best of all, it is machine washable and tips the scales at a svelte 7 pounds.

MSRP: \$49.99  
basspro.com

Measuring 14 inches long and weighing slightly more than 1.5 pounds, the **CRKT Chogan T-Hawk** is a versatile piece of gear for either utilitarian tasks or self-defense. Non-slip texturing enhances the glass-reinforced nylon handle, and the SK5 carbon-steel blade is powder-coated for corrosion resistance. The included Boltaron sheath features a buckle strap and is MOLLE-compatible, so getting it to your campsite to chop wood is easy.

MSRP: \$185  
crkt.com

With features like a portable design, lockable lid with a carry handle and a pair of high-pressure 20,000 BTU burners, the **Camp Chef Summit Two-burner Camping Stove** will easily satisfy your outdoor-cooking needs. A matchless ignition system adds an element of safety and convenience, while adjustable feet make leveling quick and painless. A three-sided wind-screen and an adapter for a 1-pound propane cylinder are also included.

MSRP: \$159.99  
campchef.com

All of this gear can easily fit into the **Slumberjack Daybreak 2-Person Tent**. With a packed weight of a mere 6 pounds, it is simple and quick to assemble and offers 30.5 square feet of floor area. Steel stakes and reflective guy lines are included, while a full-coverage rain fly ensures occupants remain dry and comfortable. The addition of trekking poles (not included) easily converts the vestibule into a shading awning.

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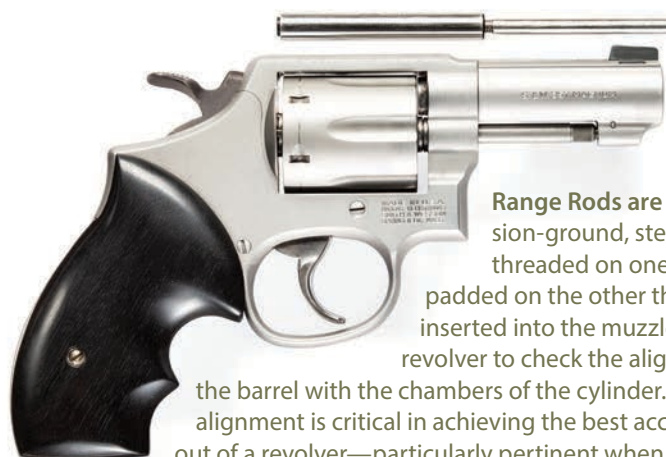


# Timing Isn't Everything

**In a box of miscellaneous parts a widow of a friend of mine gave me recently was a set of range rods. He used these to check the timing and alignment of revolvers that he worked on. I never learned how he did that as it wasn't important at the time. Any information you could share on how to use range rods would be greatly appreciated.**

**James Flynn**

*Tyler, TX*



**Range Rods are precision-ground, steel inserts threaded on one end and padded on the other that are inserted into the muzzle of a revolver to check the alignment of**

the barrel with the chambers of the cylinder. This alignment is critical in achieving the best accuracy out of a revolver—particularly pertinent when shooting lead bullets. If one or more of the chambers in a revolver

cylinder are out of alignment with the forcing cone of the barrel, bullets of any type will obturate differently, resulting in dissimilar impacts on the target. With lead bullets, this misalignment can cause “spitting,” which equates to particles of lead being ejected to the side of the gun at the barrel-cylinder gap. This could be dangerous to the shooter and any bystanders. The damage to the bullet as it transitions from the cylinder into the barrel often leaves excessive lead deposits in the barrel, which degrades accuracy and makes cleaning more difficult.

The first step before using a range rod is to check the timing of the revolver. If the timing is off, there is little a range rod will tell you that isn't already obvious. Keep in mind that timing and barrel/cylinder alignment aren't the same thing. The revolver can test well for timing and still not have optimum barrel/cylinder alignment, which is why range rods are of value when maximizing a revolver's potential.

Checking the timing of revolvers is a fairly simple and straightforward process:

First, unload the revolver and secure the ammunition elsewhere. Next, slowly pull the hammer back, watching the bolt release the cylinder and allowing it to turn, indexing the next chamber with the barrel. Before the hammer reaches the full-cock position, the bolt should reset and engage the notch in the cylinder, locking it in position. This should be done slowly and carefully for each chamber in the cylinder.

For revolvers having double-action capability, the same process should be repeated using the trigger to cock the hammer. The cylinder

should be released, indexed and locked in place prior to the hammer falling on each chamber.

Should the bolt not lock the cylinder in place once the cylinder stops turning, there are more problems with the revolver that go beyond the scope of my answer to your original question. The place to look if that were the case would be the engaging surfaces of the hand with the ratchet portion of the cylinder.

Assuming the timing of the revolver is satisfactory, the barrel/cylinder alignment can be checked with the range rod corresponding to the caliber of the revolver.

Prepare the range rod for insertion into the muzzle of the revolver by attaching a length of cleaning rod to the threaded end long enough for the padded end to contact the recoil shield. Since the range rod is designed to ride the lands of the barrel closely, a little light lubricant will help the process.

It should be noted that the barrel and cylinder should be totally clean prior to inserting the range rod to prevent a false impression due to fouling.

To check the barrel/cylinder alignment, carefully push the range rod through the barrel to the recoil shield. No additional resistance should be felt as the range rod transitions through the barrel and cylinder. If resistance is felt, mark the location of the range rod for further investigation as to what is restricting the movement.

Once all chambers of the cylinder are checked in a like manner, providing no resistance is encountered, the timing and barrel/cylinder alignment of the revolver is verified as good.

If the range rod does not make a smooth transition from the barrel to the cylinder, it usually means a trip to a competent revolver smith—especially if the timing tests are good.

Range rods are a valuable tool when diagnosing a variety of problems (that aren't readily obvious) one might experience with a revolver. It is essential for the chambers of the cylinder and the forcing cone of the barrel to be in alignment for optimum performance with a revolver.

## Correspondence is welcomed and encouraged

Write to: Shooting Illustrated | NRA | 11250 Waples Mill Road, Fairfax, VA 22030-9400 | e-mail: [shootingillustrated@nrahq.org](mailto:shootingillustrated@nrahq.org)



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**SAFETY TIP:** Store firearms securely, inaccessible to children and unauthorized users.



## The Ole Switcharoo

When it comes to DIY rifle modification, a few simple guidelines can help you avoid any unwanted outcomes.

Rifle-modification options used to be limited to accepting your rifle as-is, paying a gunsmith to work their magic or carefully tinkering with a gun that could hardly be considered modular. Thankfully, we have come far enough out of those dark ages that many upgrades are within reach if you have the right tools, a little time and a willingness to follow instructions.

Unfortunately—and in spite of the many how-to sources for firearm mods—DIY-ers still get into trouble from time to time. Improperly attached muzzle devices—especially those which double as suppressor mounts—are more common than they should be and may lead to a damaged firearm, sound suppressor and shooter. A few simple guidelines can help you avoid these outcomes.

Before any tools come near your rifle, consult the manufacturer's specifications and owner's manual, and then closely examine the muzzle device that is currently

in place. Ensure that it is not blind pinned and welded over, or seam welded to the barrel. Either method may be used to permanently affix a muzzle device to comply with various state and federal laws, such as the National Firearms Act (NFA) of 1934.

If your actual barrel length is less than 16 inches or your state mandates permanent muzzle-device attachment, removing it on your own can result in a lifetime forfeiture of your Second Amendment rights. Even if it can be legally removed, attempting to do the job yourself is likely to leave you with ruined barrel threads. Let a gunsmith do that work and if you are dealing with a potential NFA-compliance issue, find a Class II SOT licensee (manufacturer of NFA firearms) who can advise you of options and perform any necessary work legally. A good pin-and-weld job can be hard to spot, so get an experienced eye to check it over if you are not sure what you are looking at.

After successfully jumping through that hoop, identify the correct wrench size needed. Some manufacturers offer tools that are designed for their devices, but most common flash hiders and brakes have wrench flats. The two most-common sizes are  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch and  $\frac{7}{8}$  inch, which can be found on many armorer wrenches. If a thread-locking compound has been used, a few seconds of heat-gun application will help loosen that bond. A very talented custom barrel maker on whom I lean for both general advice and premium barrels uses a combination of Kroil [oil] and heat to loosen devices that come into his shop. He also reserves the use of his muzzle-device wrenches for that purpose only, which makes good sense. If your wrench has been used for car repairs, as a pry-bar or to pound in the odd tent stake, any resulting marring of the jaws will be transferred to your muzzle device. I pad the jaws of my wrenches with a pair of fingers cut off of a latex glove as cosmetic insurance.

Prior to applying torque to a muzzle, the barrel should be secured in a suitably padded vise. Whether you are working on an MSR, bolt gun, lever-action or single-shot rifle, simply clamping the receiver in a padded vise or receiver block can twist or warp the receiver, shear a barrel's index pin or damage a receiver's index-pin slot.

Continued on page 98



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## Playing It Close to the Vest

### What is the state of the venerable pocket pistol in 2019?

In my ideal world, there wouldn't be any problems encountered by anyone trying to carry around a normal-size service pistol on their daily rounds. The reality of things is much different, however.

Clothing styles, dress codes and the dreaded "soft NPE" ("Soft Non-Permissive Environment") can make this impractical for many people. The latter is current internet-gun-forum jargon for a place where it's not illegal to carry a gun, but there would be social repercussions to having one's armed status discovered. From getting asked to leave a restaurant to possibly losing a job, these consequences are best avoided.

Due to these difficulties, the pocket pistol remains one of the most-popular handguns for CCW purposes. While bigger guns can be dressed around with enough effort, foresight and wardrobe alterations, it's an awful lot of effort to do so, and it's no surprise many will avoid that effort by dropping a tiny .380 ACP-chambered pistol in a DeSantis Nemesis holster into their pocket instead.

Before I go further, I should probably take a moment to define my terms. After all, "pocket pistol" has covered a lot of turf over the years. Smith & Wesson's No. 2 Army was a "pocket pistol" in the days of 19th-century gentleman's frock coats, and it's got a 5- or 6-inch barrel. Similarly, Colt's Model 1903 Pocket Hammer (as opposed to the Pocket Hammerless) was a gun about the size of a Colt Commander, so, obviously, Herculean pockets were still common in the early 20th century.

When I'm talking about "pocket pistols," I'm referring to what were called "vest pocket" guns. While a J-frame or Glock G43 may find a home in a coat pocket or a sufficiently large pants pocket, true pocket guns tend to be much smaller. A "vest pocket" handgun would be one that is small and light enough to cause minimal printing in even fairly close-fitting attire.

The very smallest of these would be the tiny single-action revolvers, like those from North American Arms, and various small-caliber derringers and single shots.

While it's probably not the most-popular opinion to hold, I think these guns, and their larger centerfire derringer brethren, are best relegated to use as range toys or for shooting side matches in Cowboy Action Shooting. These days there are many better options for pocket carry that are lighter, smaller, hold much more ammo, have better sights and don't require manual thumb-cocking between shots. Nostalgia shouldn't have a place in selecting a defensive tool.

Then there are the classic pocket guns, the .25 Autos. Once among the most-common forms of pocket pistol, these have been almost driven to extinction. Beretta still offers the Model 21A Bobcat, and specialists Precision Small Arms will sell you an exquisitely finished example of the little Baby Browning, but the arrival of the Kel-Tec P32 and P-3AT around the turn of the millennium pretty much put paid to this category of pistol. Also, while it pains me to admit it since I toted a little .25 ACP Beretta Jetfire for years, the .25 ACP is maybe the cartridge that most

Continued on page 96



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# Store That Shotty

There are plenty of ways to make sure your shotgun is safely stowed, yet close at hand.

After many years of youthful machismo (and being broke), I think I can finally admit that the old shotty-in-the-corner-of-the-bedroom trick is probably not ideal. For one, my dog could knock over my beloved Mossberg with one swish of his beaver-like tail, and two, anyone, including my friends' kids, could get their mitts on it in the time it takes to yell "Scram." While I insist on keeping a shotgun ready to spring into action in the deepest of night, I've come to realize that the 99 percent of the time (or 100 percent to date) I'm not using it for self-defense, it should be stored safe from dust and unauthorized access.

Of course, with enough creativity and handiness anyone can build the perfect hidden-yet-accessible shotgun rack for the bedroom, but plenty of us don't have such skills. What follows are three general types of bedside-shotgun-storage solutions: The first list contains common items that you may already have, the next contains custom ideas that you can build or have built by a carpenter and the third contains commercially available products. Pick one based on your needs and budget, or come up with one of your own.



## 1. Common-Item Solutions

With a little resourcefulness you can likely use something you already have to store your shotgun in a safe but handy style near your bed.

The following list is not meant to

Most of us have at least one hard-sided case kicking around. Lock it, and your shotty is secure.

be exhaustive, but rather to spur your creativity.

Trigger Lock: The old shotgun-in-the-corner routine may work for

you if the gun is made safe from curious hands by a trigger lock that you can strip off in seconds. Many types are available—including some combo-style devices that fit around the entire receiver—but even cheap cable-style locks will do.

Bed drawers: As an Amazon search reveals, many commercially made bed frames contain built-in drawers, and many are not expensive. Use the drawer to house your shotgun. You can even line it with egg crate foam from a gun case if you want to get fancy. If the drawer isn't long enough, consider strategically drilling a large hole in the far side of the drawer to allow the shotgun's barrel to slide through it so it'll fit. Then consider attaching a simple lock on the drawer if you're worried about unauthorized access. A bedside drawer is fast, discreet and keeps the dust bunnies at bay.

Hide in plain sight with the Tactical Walls sliding mirror.

Gun case: A low-cost option is a hard-sided gun case under your bed if that's all you have. Attach a cable to its handle and then to the bed frame to keep the whole case from getting stolen, then simply keep a combo lock on the case to keep unwanted hands from your shotty. You'll have to pull the case from under the bed to access the gun, but the maneuver shouldn't take more than a few seconds.

Tool hangers: Any run to Home Depot's vast garage organization section will reveal myriad hooks and hangers that can be used to hang a shotgun on a nearby wall or from your bed. (A company called Wheeler makes its Lockdown Bedside Defender for \$29; its ends slide under the mattress to support your shotgun as it rests on padded hooks.) If you combine this hanger method with some creative concealment and a trigger lock, it'll also be discreet and safe—not just fast.

## 2. Custom Builds

With enough creativity and handiness—or money to a professional carpenter—the sky's the limit on what you can make to hold your shotgun in a safe-yet-ready-for-action fashion. Here are a few of the interesting custom builds I've seen.

Picture Frame: The common build is a rectangle picture frame hung over the bed that lifts up to reveal your loaded shotgun. Any decent carpenter can build one to your exact specs. If he's good he'll line it with felt and install a hidden latch so only you can open it.

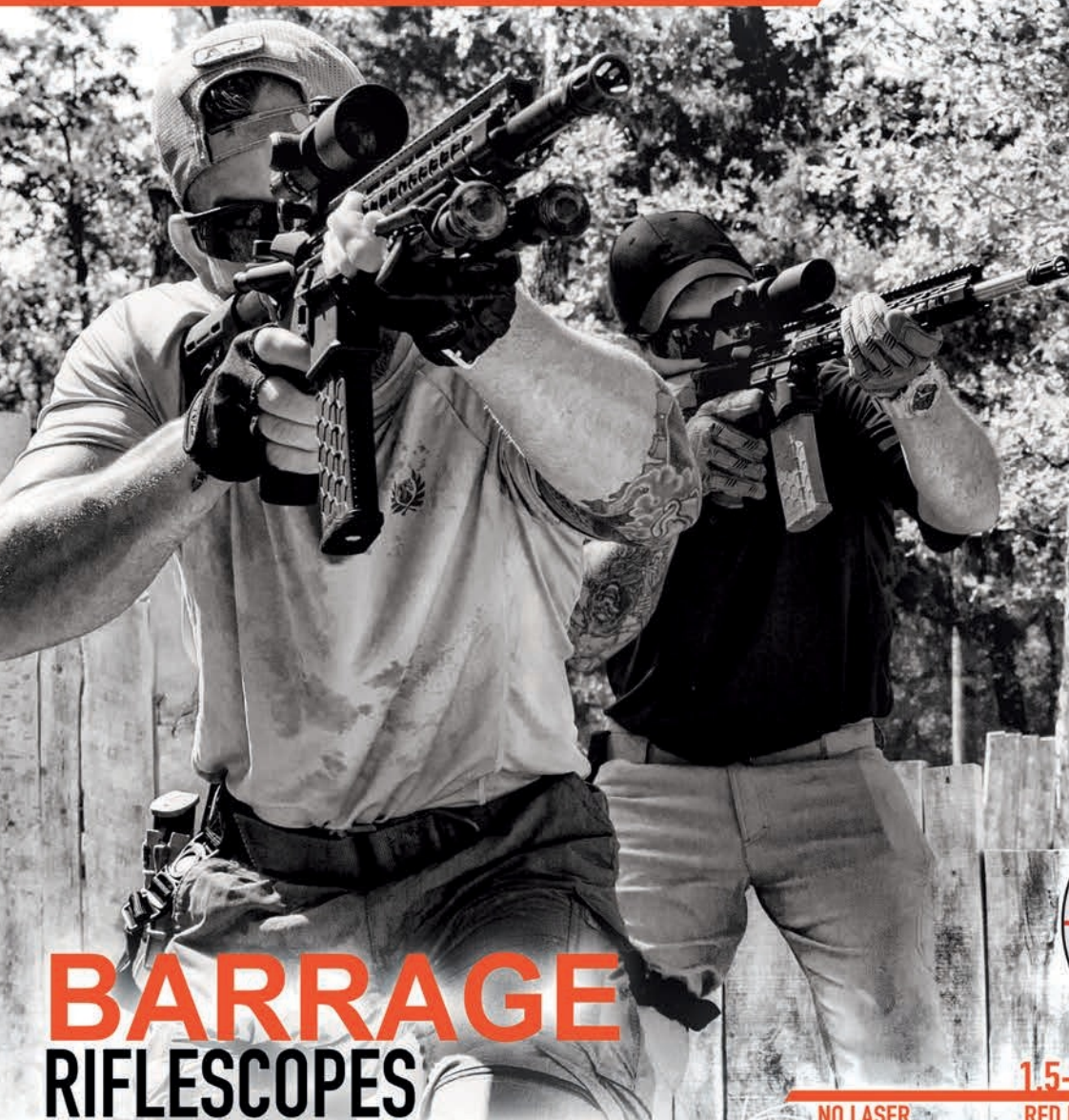
Coffee Table: I've seen these made with full-length drawers on the end or a top that hinges up like an old school desk to reveal a shotgun underneath.

False Wall/Sliding Wall Panel: Between the studs in your bedroom is enough room for a shotgun. Have a carpenter make such a recessed cubby, then conceal it with a full-length mirror, a bookshelf or a poster.

Bedside/Closet Bench: My carpenter made a bench for my closet, and I modified it by hinging the top that opens to reveal my Mossberg. It's quick to access, and no one suspects it is there.







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### 3. Commercial Products

Yet another internet search reveals scores of commercially made vaults, locks and gun boxes—some vertical, most horizontal styles—that are meant for the bedroom. They offer advantages of speed and security, but their downside is that they can be expensive. If you have the cash, they work beautifully.

Hornady Rapid Safe Shotgun Wall Lock: It mounts to the wall (or bedframe) while its locking mechanism clamps around the shotgun's action so it can't be removed or fired without one of



Hornady's offering gives quick access.

several included remote-access options. One wave over the safe with the bracelet, sticker or fob causes the lock to spring open, allowing you to grab the shotgun and begin barking fire quicker than a whip of a black cat's tail. It costs around \$250.

Fast Box Model 47: There are many units like the Fast Box 47, and nearly all of them will work. This particular one is a 47-pound sturdy metal vault box with a quick four-key code lock that has a key override. It bolts to the floor under your bed and keeps your shotgun handy. MSRP is \$299.

Barska Quick Access Biometric Rifle Safe: This 54-inch tall, two-gun vertical safe (it's more like a lockable cabinet) is meant to be placed on a wall, but it would be perfect for a nearby closet. Find it on Amazon for around \$1,000.

Gun Casket Fast Opening Shotgun Safe: This 11-pound, 50-inch long product is small and light enough, it could even be mounted vertically on the back of a door, yet its biometric lock makes accessing your shotty a snap. It's available for less than \$300.

These are just a few ideas for storing your shotgun. There are many more, and we would like to hear how you secure yours.



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# The .450 SMC

Sometimes the modification of cartridges can lead to evolutionary improvements.



In the late 1980s, gunwriter Dean Grennell took .451 Detonics Mag. brass and trimmed it to the same overall length as the .45 ACP cartridge case, thus creating the .45 Super. Grennell wrote an article for the February 1988 issue of *Gun World Magazine*, discussing his new version of the .45 ACP, which was capable of pushing a 185-grain bullet to 1,300 fps. In the August 1988 issue of *Gun World Magazine*, a second article about the .45 Super—written by Tom Ferguson—appeared. Ferguson was interested in Grennell's concept cartridge, but he wanted to take things a step further. He took a handful of .451 Detonics Mag. brass and a 1911 pistol to Ace Hindman of Ace Custom 45s. Hindman came up with the idea of heavier springs in the 1911 to make it more suited to the higher-pressure cartridge.

In 1994, Fernando Coelho—owner of Triton Cartridge—reached out to Gary Hindman, Ace's son, who was still converting 1911s and even some Smith & Wesson Model 4506 pistols to accommodate the .45 Super. The problem with the cartridge was a lack of suitable brass. Coelho had recently started Triton Cartridge and felt that with his background in load development, coupled with actual in-house pressure testing, he would be able to come up with reliable, factory-loaded, .45 Super ammunition. A deal was struck and Coelho reached out to Starline Brass to get the ball rolling. The folks at Starline worked with Coelho to establish correct internal case-wall dimensions, web-area thickness and overall hardness of the cartridge case.

But, just like the .300 BLK found fame because of its name, the .45 Super—as a commercial cartridge—was doomed because of what it was called. You see, when Ace Hindman passed away, his son trademarked “.45 Super.” When Triton made factory-loaded .45 Super ammo, Gary Hindman would get a royalty, which was something a bit unusual in the ammunition business. Because of this, no major firearm or ammunition manufacturer would offer .45 Super guns or ammunition. There was also the concern that a shooter might load and fire .45 Super ammo in a vintage .45 ACP revolver or an old 1911 and get an unpleasant surprise.

All this led to the birth of the .450 SMC. Coelho was fed up with the inherent issues of the .45 ACP/.45 Super cartridge case and the damage being done to the potential growth of the .45 Super. One of the case problems was primer flow; you could experiment with different brands of primers and powder, but most of the time primers would flow back around the tip of the firing pin. The solution: switch to a small-primer

pocket and utilize a small-rifle primer. Coelho reached out to Starline again, asking the company to make .45 Super brass with a small-primer pocket. That solved the primer-flow problem and Triton Cartridge soon began offering factory-loaded .450 SMC ammunition. It was loaded to a maximum average pressure (MAP) of 32,000 psi, which is slightly higher than .45 Super pressures, but still less than the 37,500 psi pressure of the 10 mm. The new name—.450 SMC—solved the trademark problem, and Triton had two loads: a 165-grain bullet at 1,450 fps and a 230-grain bullet at 1,150 fps.

When Triton went out of business in 2003, it looked like the .450 SMC was doomed. But, another new ammunition company stepped up to offer one of the most potent and practical magnum-category, .45-caliber, defensive-handgun cartridges ever created. Mike McNett of DoubleTap Ammunition recognized the usefulness of the .450 SMC and his Cedar City, UT-based company now offers six .450 SMC loads.

Comparatively speaking, the hottest factory 185-grain .45 ACP load you can buy will generate only about 1,140 fps, and the fastest 230-grain offering only about 1,000 fps. Essentially, what you get with the .450 SMC are 10 mm velocities with a .45-caliber instead of a .40-caliber bullet.

Of course, since no one is manufacturing .450 SMC handguns, what you're probably wondering is what you have to do to shoot .450 SMC in your .45 ACP. Well, a .450 SMC cartridge can be fired in any .45 ACP handgun. However—and this is a big however—it should only be fired in full-size .45 ACP handguns that have a +P rating. (A 20- to 22-pound recoil spring in your favorite 5-inch 1911, or a 21- to 23-pound spring in a Glock.)

When compared to the .45 ACP, the upside of the .450 SMC should be obvious. The increase in velocity will increase the volume of the wound cavity of any expanding or flat-point bullet, and with non-expanding bullets you'll see more penetration. But, as with everything in life, there's always a trade-off. With more power out the front comes more recoil out the back. Newton taught us this with his third law more than 300 years ago. A 230-grain load fired from the .450 SMC cartridge out of a 5-inch 1911 will generate about 78 percent more recoil than a 230-grain load fired from a .45 ACP. ↻



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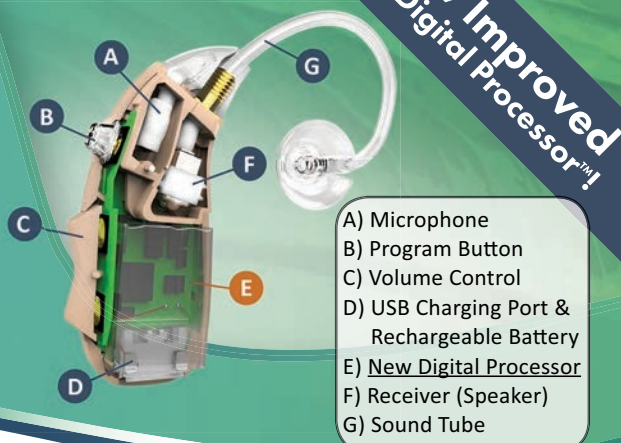


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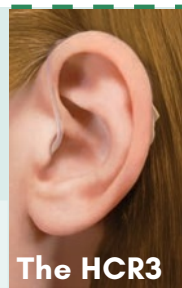
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## No Shots Fired

The easiest way to win a gunfight is to avoid having one entirely.

A few years ago, I was coming out of a New Mexico restaurant after having lunch. As I stepped from the sidewalk into the parking lot, I saw a scruffy-looking guy, definitely out of place, with his hands in his coat pockets, headed straight for me. As he closed, he asked me the time.

Spotting this guy, I had immediately gone from Condition Yellow to Condition Orange, feeling that he was a potential threat. He didn't look like the kind of guy who would really care what time it was and, as you might expect, there were clocks on the wall just inside the restaurant.

I put my left hand up, palm out, in a gesture that said "Stop." My right hand brushed my coat back just enough so I could get my hand on my pistol. My body was slightly bladed away from him so he could not see what my right hand was doing. I said, "Go away." And he did.

Now, quite honestly, this guy was probably just a panhandler who was looking for a handout. They will often ask some innocuous question in order to open a conversation that leads to a request for money. But, thieves and robbers use the same tactics.

Thinking back, I wonder just how many times the presence of a gun, seen or not, has stopped what could have been a criminal attack. I suspect it happens every day across this country.

Some years ago, officers in my department arrested several armed robbers in the middle of their latest robbery. One of the crooks was cooperative and gave a confession. He was so cooperative, in fact, that he agreed to ride around with some of us and critique the "rob-ability" of the various convenience stores in our town.

One place looked really good to me and I asked the robber why they never hit that place. He told me that they had cased it, but marked it off their list when they saw the night clerk. He said the night clerk looked like a cowboy—that is, the kind of guy who would keep a gun handy. They were right. I knew the clerk and he kept a .45 Colt New Service close at hand.

One authority, who has made a study of violent crime, believes that hundreds of thousands of serious, deadly crimes are stopped by armed citizens each year. He further estimates that in at least 98 percent of

these cases, a shot is never fired. The crooks see a gun or suspect the presence of a gun and can't get away from there fast enough. For various reasons, many of these cases are never reported to law enforcement.


Those of us who carry defensive handguns might do well to keep this in mind. When you think that a violent confrontation is headed your way and there is still time before the fireworks start, it might be a good idea to present an appearance that says, "I have a gun. Go away." There is really nothing to be lost by this. If they continue and the situation merits it, you can still deploy the firearm.

When you see someone, from a distance, approaching with a knife or club, you might very well draw to the low-ready position and, again, give the command, "Go away." Being in Condition Red, at this time, you are ready to back up your command with whatever force is necessary.

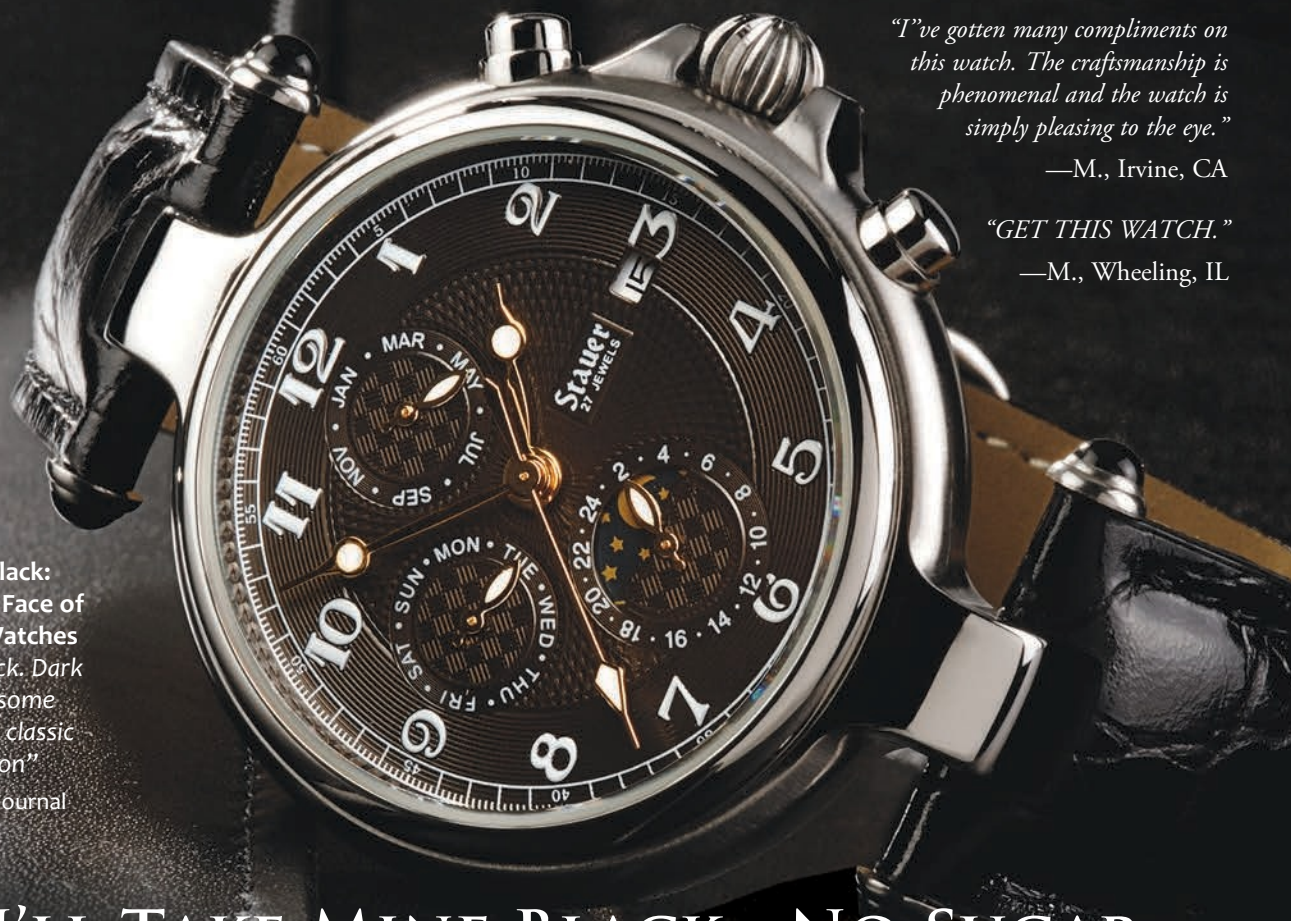
The one pitfall in these types of situations is to be one of those who doesn't report the incident to law enforcement. You holster up and go on about your business while the bad guys contact law enforcement and tell a tale that clearly makes you the aggressor. While the truth might finally come out, you are more than likely going to be the one who is kissing the gravel and wearing new bracelets before it is over. If the bad guy saw your gun, or if you think he might have, report it immediately.

In my encounter with the urban outdoorsman in the restaurant parking lot, I knew he hadn't seen my gun and I was purposely positioned so that no one else could see it. Had there been any doubt about that in my mind, I would have been on the cell phone dialing 9-1-1.

Finally, while producing our gun to stop a problem before it gets out of hand, we want to make sure that we are not violating any brandishing laws. The only way to make sure of this is to carefully study the laws in your state and then to discuss it further with an attorney or law enforcement. As with other aspects of personal defense, gun-shop advisers and social-media superstars are usually not a reliable source of legal advice.

If you can stop a violent attack before it starts, good for you. You just saved yourself a lot of headaches and maybe some heart-aches. Report the incident immediately if there's any reason it might be necessary. It's the smart thing to do. 





*"I've gotten many compliments on this watch. The craftsmanship is phenomenal and the watch is simply pleasing to the eye."*

—M., Irvine, CA

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**Back in Black:**  
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and handsome  
remains a classic  
for a reason"

— Men's Journal

## I'LL TAKE MINE BLACK...NO SUGAR

In the early 1930s watch manufacturers took a clue from Henry Ford's favorite quote concerning his automobiles, "You can have any color as long as it is black." Black dialed watches became the rage especially with pilots and race drivers. Of course, since the black dial went well with a black tuxedo, the adventurer's black dial watch easily moved from the airplane hangar to dancing at the nightclub. Now, Stauer brings back the "Noire", a design based on an elegant timepiece built in 1936. Black dialed, complex automatics from the 1930s have recently hit new heights at auction. One was sold for in excess of \$600,000. We thought that you might like to have an affordable version that will be much more accurate than the original.

**Basic black with a twist.** Not only are the dial, hands and face vintage, but we used a 27-jeweled automatic movement. This is the kind of engineering desired by fine watch collectors worldwide. But since we design this classic movement on state of the art computer-controlled Swiss built machines, the accuracy is excellent. Three interior dials display day, month and date. We have priced the luxurious Stauer *Noire* at a price to keep you in the black... only 3 payments of \$33. So slip into the back of your black limousine, savor some rich tasting black coffee and look at your wrist knowing that you have some great times on your hands.



*27 jewels and hand-assembled parts drive this classic masterpiece.*

**An offer that will make you dig out your old tux.** The movement of the Stauer *Noire* wrist watch carries an extended two year warranty. But first enjoy this handsome timepiece risk-free for 30 days for the extraordinary price of only 3 payments of \$33. If you are not thrilled with the quality and rare design, simply send it back for a full refund of the item price. But once you strap on the *Noire* you'll want to stay in the black.

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# NRA INDY 19

## RACING FOR FIREARMS FREEDOM IN INDIANAPOLIS

**THE 2019 NRA ANNUAL MEETINGS & EXHIBITS PUT OUR SACRED  
SECOND AMENDMENT RIGHTS IN POLE POSITION.**

By NRA Staff





In racing circles, the “pole position” is the most favorable position at the starting line of a race, and that’s where the 81,283 attending NRA members found themselves as the 148<sup>th</sup> NRA Annual Meetings & Exhibits in Indianapolis, Ind., raced from thrilling start to heartwarming finish. With 15 acres of guns and gear on display in the Exhibit Hall, a surprise visit from President Donald Trump and Vice President Mike Pence, dozens of expert-led seminars and a day just to celebrate the next generation of Second Amendment supporters, this year’s Annual Meetings are sure to go down in the record books.

The sold-out NRA-ILA Leadership Forum, always a can’t-miss member favorite, was headlined for the third consecutive year by a sitting president, Donald Trump—and for the second consecutive year together with Vice President Pence. (In fact, prior to 2017, the last American president to grace the Annual Meetings was Ronald Reagan in 1983.) It was a stirring testament to President Trump’s dedication to preserving the Second Amendment.

Another important highlight was found at the NRA booth at the heart of the show, where NRA Women hosted special opportunities to meet women who have dedicated themselves to protecting the Right to Keep and Bear Arms. A special sign-up carrel for new female NRA members stood alongside the world’s most perfect “selfie space,” stocked with Annie Oakley’s rifle (courtesy of the NRA’s National Firearms Museum) and attended by NRA Board Members



(Top): For the 148<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, the Meeting of Members celebrated NRA as the oldest and largest civil rights organization in America. (Above, L to R): NRA-ILA Executive Director Chris Cox, President Donald Trump and NRA Executive Vice President Wayne LaPierre addressed a sold-out crowd of exuberant NRA Members at the NRA-ILA Leadership Forum.

such as Marion Hammer and Il Ling New, and champion shooter Vera Koo—role models for NRA women everywhere.

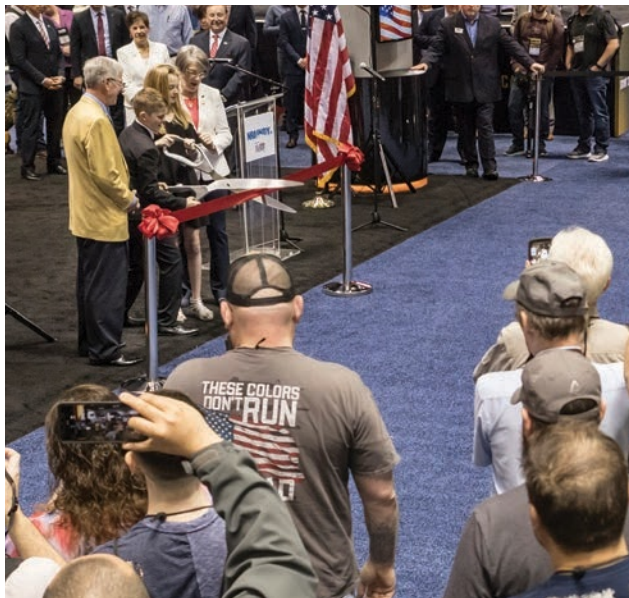
Although the Exhibit Hall, bursting at the seams with thousands of innovative outdoor products, is always a prime attraction for NRA members, those who ventured outside the show floor found informative seminars led by world-famous experts in the world of guns, hunting and self-defense. Members also delighted in the fellowship and inspiration offered by the National Prayer Breakfast, the NRA-ILA Dinner and Auction, Sunday’s Youth Day, the NRA Country concert (headlined by superstar Second Amendment supporter Alan Jackson), the NRA Foundation Barbecue and Auction, the Women’s New Energy

Breakfast and so much more. No matter your reason for supporting the Right to Keep and Bear Arms or your personal interests, the 148<sup>th</sup> Annual Meetings & Exhibits had something for you.

There’s nothing like three days of firearms, freedom and family fun to make one feel refreshed and refocused on our blessings as Americans—and on the road ahead. We hope you’ll join us next year as we welcome NRA members to the 149<sup>th</sup> Annual Meetings & Exhibits in Nashville, Tenn., April 17-19, 2020!

**USA**  
**Midway**





*Clockwise from top: MidwayUSA's Potterfield family opened the Annual Meetings Exhibition Hall Friday morning to the families waiting just outside the ribbon; shopping the NRA Store outside the Exhibition Hall is a great way to outfit your NRA family with the latest gear at great prices; a new award was introduced during the Members' Meeting this year: the Roy Innis Liberty Award, which honors the longtime NRA Board member, civil rights activist and Second Amendment Champion whose name it bears; our beloved Eddie Eagle posed with two of the 30 million children reached by the Eddie Eagle program since its inception; the Pyramid Air Gun Range delighted shooters of all ages and ability levels with some "trigger time," all under the close supervision of volunteer Range Safety Officers.*







## NRA WOMEN

The 2019 Annual Meetings embraced NRA women with female-specific seminars and events, such as the Women's New Energy Breakfast, which opened with a stirring speech from Susan LaPierre, as well as networking and roundtable discussions with female 2A activists and leaders such as past NRA President Marion Hammer (above), the first woman to hold the position. Top I: Welcoming NRA Youth Ambassadors were NRA Board member Susan Howard (center) and incoming NRA President Carolyn Meadows (second from r.).



Clockwise: NRA Members pledged their allegiance at the NRA-ILA Leadership Forum; NRA Country superstar Alan Jackson thrilled a standing-room-only crowd Saturday night; the Meeting of Members the following morning featured awards presented by EVP Wayne LaPierre to the oldest and youngest Life Members of the NRA present at the Meetings ... the oldest member of our NRA family was 92-years-young Herbert A. Louis of Ohio; the youngest was almost-2-month-old Elizabeth Ryan of Michigan.





NRA-INDY 19

# NRA-ILA Makes History In Indy!

## NRA-ILA's 2019 Leadership Forum

Presenting Sponsor Townhall Media/Bearing Arms and  
sponsored by Henry Repeating Arms

**O**ur 2019 NRA-ILA Leadership Forum was one that nobody will soon forget. President Donald Trump and Vice President Mike Pence brought all 15,000 NRA members to their feet.

And President Trump made history on our stage. Pulling out a pen in front of thousands of NRA members in attendance—millions more watching all around the country—the President signed a letter to the U.S. Senate announcing his decision to withdraw the U.S. from the disastrous United Nations Arms Trade Treaty.

It was a great moment. It was an amazing victory for freedom. And it was a true testament to the power of your leadership as an NRA-ILA supporter.

But let me be clear. Our fight is not yet finished—not by a long shot.

The 2020 election—which is already going at breakneck speed—is going to be the biggest Second Amendment battle of our lifetimes.

Every candidate running to defeat President Trump has vowed to make the destruction of our gun rights their top priority on their very first day in office.

And the only thing standing in their way is you, me, and the men and women of the National Rifle Association. Saving freedom is up to us. And I know that, together, we CAN and WILL win this fight.

It's a privilege and an honor to serve you as the Executive Director of NRA Institute for Legislative Action. And I'm proud to stand tall with you each and every day against those who would strip us of our freedom and deny us the ability to protect ourselves and those we love.



Chris W. Cox  
NRA-ILA Executive Director



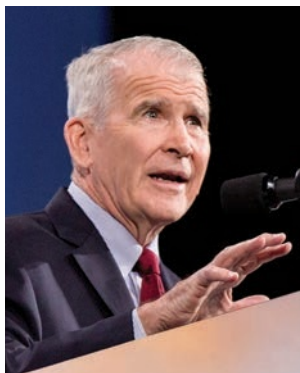
### Chris W. Cox

"Together, no one can match the righteousness of our cause or the sheer determination of our people. The tougher it gets, the more impossible the odds, the higher the stakes—the stronger we get. Because we're the National Rifle Association of America. We do one thing and we do it better than anyone else. We stand, we fight, and, by God, we win."



### Wayne LaPierre

"The only reason I can keep up this fight is because of you. Because of your leadership. Because of what's in your hearts. Because of what you believe and the way you live your lives every day. ... You inspire me. You fire me up. You keep me going."



### LtCol Oliver North

"I admire your patriotism, your independent spirit, your commitment to America's traditional values ... We do know freedom is what makes America Great, because we're the National Rifle Association of America; guardians of liberty and yes, we are still freedom's safest place."



### U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz

"That spirit is Texas, but that spirit is also the United States of America. It is who we are. It is who you are. And it is why I am proud to stand with the men and women gathered here. I'm proud to stand with you in support of the Second Amendment, of the Bill of Rights, of the Constitution of the United States of America."





### President Donald Trump

"I want to thank all of you, the proud, card-carrying members of the NRA. Every day, you stand up for our God-given rights without exception, without fail, and without apology. Together, we are fighting for the timeless values that have built and sustained our nation. And our nation is greater today than it has ever been."

"To all of our incredible friends at the NRA, thank you for fighting the good fight. It is an honor to fight by your side. And it's an honor to be with everyone in this giant hall today. I am with you. I will never, ever let you down. Thank you. God bless you. And God bless the United States of America."



### Vice President Mike Pence

"There are no greater champions of America's tradition of responsible gun ownership than all of you and the 5 million proud men and women of the NRA. Thank you for your stand. And I'm here today to tell you: We're with you. President Trump and I are with the NRA today, and tomorrow and always, because the National Rifle Association stands for freedom."



### House Republican Whip Rep. Steve Scalise

"I will tell you this country is worth fighting for. Our freedoms are worth fighting for. I thank each and every one of you for being a part of the NRA—an organization that helps fight for those fundamental freedoms. This is the greatest country in the history of the world, and we're going to keep fighting to make sure it stays just that way."



### U.S. Sen. Todd Young

"Let me just take a brief opportunity to say thank you. Thank you for helping to elect a President who will stand up for our Constitutional rights. Thank you for electing a Vice President from the great state of Indiana in Mike Pence who will stand up and safeguard our cherished freedoms."



### Candace Owens

"My question to the Democrat Party today is quite simple. Before you guys try to rid law-abiding gun owners of their right to defend themselves, why don't you rid the urban cities of your policies which have resulted in more gun deaths across America than you would ever care to acknowledge?"



### Turning Point USA's Kyle Kashuv

"Our courtrooms are protected by guns. Our airports are protected by guns. Our banks are protected by guns. And guess what, even our elected officials are protected by guns. Why are our schools not deserving of the same protection? ... The solution to school shootings is the Second Amendment."



### Kentucky Gov. Matt Bevin

"You are the ones who are standing by your nation now, and I thank you. As the Governor of Kentucky, I thank you. This nation thanks you. ... You've heard the term about the watchmen on the wall. You are the watchmen on the wall."



### Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb

"We're grateful for the work that you're doing. You've heard every single speaker recognize the importance of standing on that front line—standing in the gap to protect our Second Amendment and to promote the safe and responsible gun ownership that we all know."



### U.S. Sen. Mike Braun

"Hunting, for instance, isn't the foundation of defending our Second Amendment rights. Well, whether it's hunting, whether it's recreation, whether it's self-defense—all of that is in peril." 🦅







# From MSRs to Manual Actions: the **Daniel Defense** Delta 5

Daniel Defense, one of the industry's premier manufacturers of AR-15s, stepped outside its niche for the first time with an all-new bolt-action rifle built from the ground up.



**A**fter years spent in the AR-15-accessory market, Daniel Defense began selling complete rifles in 2009. Now, 10 years after those first AR-15s, the company dominates the MSR market, with sales running neck and neck with longtime industry giants like Ruger and Smith & Wesson. However, the team at Black Creek isn't slowing down, and the new Daniel Defense Delta 5 showcases a continuing trend of forward-thinking at the company.

Photos By Jesse Snyder

**By Evan Brune**  
Associate Editor, Digital



**Top:** A prominent barrel nut is essential for the AR-15-like barrel-swap feature on the Delta 5.

**Above:** The muzzle features standard 1/2x24 TPI threads and includes a thread protector.

Several separate elements collided to spark the development of the new Daniel Defense Delta 5. Marty Daniel, company founder and CEO, recognized a truth about his involvement with the company’s product-development process that needed some attention; namely, he was the product-development process. For years, Daniel Defense’s new-product launches were what Daniel wanted to launch. He needed



a product-development team to start slowly replacing his singular vision if the company was going to survive long-term. In addition, several members of the DD team had long discussed the need for a new rifle action that wasn’t just another, “Me, too!” in the marketplace. Remington 700s and Savage 110s were great for what they were, but simply improving on these foundational platforms wasn’t enough. Something more was needed.

Of course, with a rich history and body of experience with the AR platform, it makes sense that Daniel Defense would zero in on modularity as one of the key elements of the Delta 5. Durability is one of

the aspects also highlighted in the company’s AR line, thanks particularly to Daniel Defense’s cold-hammer-forged (CHF) barrels. The company is one of the few manufacturers in the industry with its own, in-house CHF machines, and this advantage proved to be a boon in the development of the Delta 5. Finally, a longtime fixture of DD’s AR line has been the ergonomic furniture designed in-house for the company’s guns, and this focus on fit and feel also played an important role when it came to designing the Delta 5.

At the heart of every gun is the barreled action, so that seems to be a good place to start when examining the Delta 5 design. One of the most-prominent elements of the rifle that screams to observers is the huge, notched nut located just forward of the action. This is one of the core features of the Delta 5, as this gun allows owners to easily change out barrels with only a vise and the company’s proprietary barrel-nut wrench, included whenever anyone orders a spare barrel (additional barrels will cost less than \$500). When installing a barrel, simply torque the nut to 55 foot-pounds. A properly torqued barrel nut holds the barrel and its extension at the right spot inside the receiver, so there’s no need to use gauges to check headspace during barrel installation.

While we’re talking about the barrel, let’s get into the specifics. Daniel Defense produces these cold-hammer-forged, Heavy Palma barrels in-house from stainless steel, and the CHF process is what produces the unique texture on the barrel’s exterior. Durability is a big benefit of this process, and during testing, DD engineers noted that they had fired more than 4,000 rounds through a single Delta 5 barrel without seeing any kind of degradation in accuracy. The barrel’s exteriors are also treated with a tungsten-Cerakote finish to match the action and barrel nut.

Specifications

**Manufacturer:** Daniel Defense;  
(866) 554-4867, danieldefense.com

**Action Type:** Bolt-action

**Caliber:** .308 Win.

**Capacity:** 5 rounds

**Barrel Length:** 20 inches

**Rifling:** 5 grooves; 1:10-inch RH twist

**Sights:** None; 20-MOA Picatinny rail for mounting optics

**Trigger Pull Weight:** Adjustable; 1.5 to 4 pounds

**Stock:** Adjustable; carbon-fiber-reinforced polymer

**Length:** 40 inches

**Weight:** 8 pounds, 15 ounces

**Accessories:** Stock spacers, 5-round Magpul PMag, hard case, manual

**MSRP:** \$2,199

Shooting Results Load	Velocity	Group Size		
		Smallest	Largest	Average
Hornady Match 168-grain ELD Match	2,597	.33	.96	.67
Federal Gold Medal Match 175-grain BTHP	2,522	.51	.83	.71
Federal Gold Medal Berger 185-grain OTM	2,518	.74	1.10	1.00

Velocity measured in fps 10 feet from the muzzle for 10 consecutive shots with an Oehler Model 36 chronograph. Temperature: 73 degrees Fahrenheit. Accuracy measured in inches for five consecutive, five-shot groups at 100 yards from a shooting-bag rest.



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**1. Comb height is easily adjusted, as well as cast-off or cast-on.**

**2. Shallow depressions on the grip aid in thumb placement.**

**3. With a 20-MOA-canted rail, the long-range chops of the Delta 5 are evident.**

**4. The unique texture on the Delta 5's barrel is a result of the CHF process.**

**5. A Sako-style extractor contributes to reliability, and a three-lug bolt provides a short, 60-degree throw.**

The action is an entirely new design from Daniel Defense. One of the highlights is the integrated recoil lug, which actually wraps around the entire action from top to bottom. The primary job of the recoil lug is to prevent the action from moving inside the stock. Rather than bedding down into the stock itself, though, the action sits inside an aluminum mini-chassis, which features a cut-out at its leading edge in which the recoil lug sits. This mini-chassis then mates with dual pillars integrated into the bottom metal cut to accept AICS-pattern magazines, leading to a fully bedded action and a freefloated barrel.

In addition to an action designed from the ground up, Daniel Defense also tackled the stock design in-house. While this was done partly to address the proprietary nature of the action footprint, designing the stock allowed the DD team to address every aspect of the gun's ergonomics, step by step. Dozens of different stock designs underwent testing for fit and feel, with special attention paid to the grip in particular. The rear of the grip is designed to guide a shooter's thumb into the shallow depression on the strong side of the stock wrist. This aids in ensuring that the trigger pull is linear for more-accurate shooting.

Daniel Defense's design team also aimed to make the stock ambidextrous and easily adjusted to fit a wide range of shooters. Each rifle ships with additional stock spacers, and loosening two Torx screws accessed through a narrow slot in the rubber buttpad allows length-of-pull adjustment. At the top of the stock is an adjustable cheek-piece, which can be raised or lowered with a thumbscrew. The comb can also be adjusted to the left or right or angled to fit a shooter's face contour, thanks to

two Torx screws located on the top of the cheek-piece. The stock also features a wide, flat fore-end for shooting off bags.

Our first opportunity to shoot the Daniel Defense Delta 5 came at the November 2018 rollout of the new gun, and the platform was, I noted at the time, "boringly accurate." All the attendees assembled were able to reach out at extended ranges with ease, ringing steel at 800 to 1,000 yards with little difficulty. Daniel Defense doesn't ship this rifle with an accuracy guarantee, but the gun's designers noted that obtaining .5-MOA groups should be possible with the right loads and, of course, the right shooter.

With that kind of confident statement, though, it seems that obtaining at least sub-MOA performance should be a given for this platform. Though it's claimed that this rifle can achieve .5-MOA groups or better,





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**15+1 CAPACITY**

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Every Day Tough

I'm definitely not that good of a shooter. That being said, though, the Delta 5 gave me one of the best groups I've ever shot, measuring in at .33 inch using 168-grain Hornady Match ammo. Seriously, I never do that, so it's certainly a testament to the capabilities of this rifle. The factory-installed, Remington 700-pattern Timney Elite Hunter trigger certainly aided in my shooting, providing a wide, serrated face for easy finger placement, a crisp break and short travel.

Overall, the concept of a modular, easily modified precision platform that attracts tinkerers and AR-rifle fans to the world of precision shooting is an attractive one, and I hope to see more caliber and stock options from Daniel Defense and other manufacturers as this rifle takes hold. The Daniel Defense Delta 5 is also capable of impressive performance on the range, which certainly bodes well for its success in the precision-rifle market. It appears the dynamic team in Black Creek, GA, isn't running out of steam anytime soon. 



**1.** M-Lok slots on the sides and bottom of the stock allow for accessory attachments.

**2.** The two-position safety selector will be familiar to many of today's rifle shooters.

**3.** Each Delta 5 is equipped with an adjustable Timney Elite Hunter trigger.

## HOLD OVER



## NO HOLD OVER



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# Color Me Impressed

A high-tech gun coating need not have a high price if you do it yourself.



It's easy to feel inadequate when you go to the range and see all the "tactical" looking handguns while yours is basic black and a little worn and shabby.

Any professional gunsmith would be happy to coat your pistol with one of the "in" colors such as flat dark earth, burnt bronze or, for the adventuresome among us, pink with fuchsia highlights. The trouble is, the cost is pretty high.

Fear not. Coating a handgun is a good do-it-yourself project for the advanced amateur. Most of the cost for a pro is in labor. I look at tinkering on guns as recreation, so the hours spent are really of no concern. You can have fun doing this and end up with a very cool-looking shootin' iron.

All this applies to long guns as well. The main difference is that they require a bigger oven for heat-cured coatings.

There is a wide range of spray-on coatings available. Some require oven curing, while others will air-cure. While I am covering the process used for heat-cured products like Cerakote, you may also consider a simpler approach with an air-cure product.

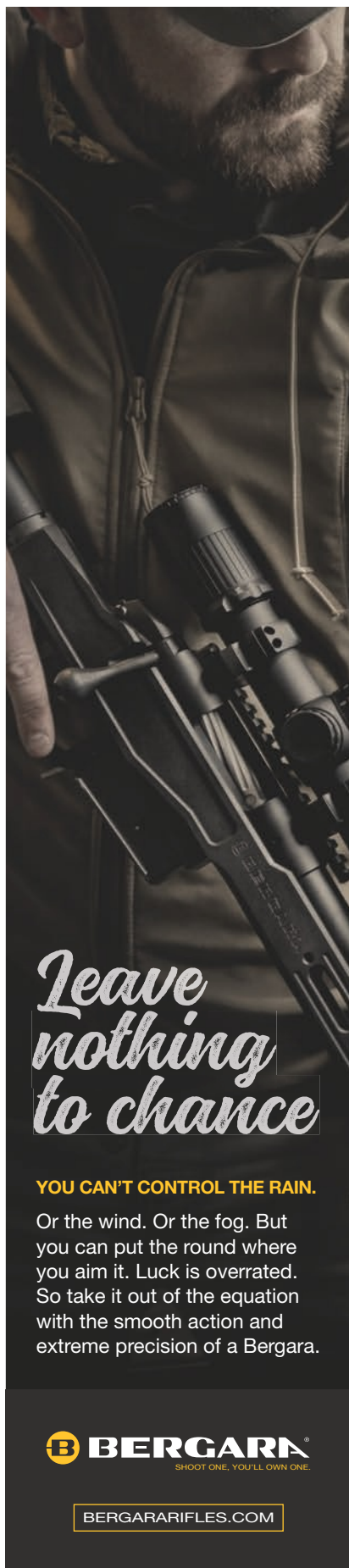
Professionals believe that the most-durable finish is one that's baked on, but one that dries at room temperature can hold up well. As you read on you will see that oven-cured products require more equipment. Do not be afraid to experiment with spray finishes that air-cure. I have used them for many years with considerable success.

Air-cure products I have had good luck with include Cerakote C, DuraCoat and Brownells Aluma-Hyde II. Some of them come in rattle cans for easy application. Others must be applied with a spray gun or airbrush. Cerakote C is a spray-gun-only proposition.

Bake-on products include Cerakote H and Elite, DuraBake and a couple from Brownells: Gun-Kote and Teflon/Moly. Cerakote and Teflon/Moly are spray gun only, while the others have multiple application options. The list goes on with a lot of other products on the market, but these are what I have some experience using.

---

Story and Photos by Bryce M. Towsley



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Clean the surface free of oil, carbon and other contaminants. Acetone or brake cleaner work well for this task.

The key to success is in the preparation work. Your best approach with any spray coating is to sand-blast the surface, as explained later. However, if you do not have a sand-blaster or even an air compressor, DuraCoat has a product called No-Sand that is said to eliminate the need for sandblasting when used with its air-dry coatings. I have not tried it, but it has a good reputation and the DuraCoat products I have used worked as advertised. No-Sand with air-dry DuraCoat, which is available in aerosol cans, may well be a good choice if your resources are limited.

For handguns, you could do the heat-cured finishes in your kitchen oven. That works best for old and stinky bachelor, hermit types. To maintain domestic bliss, however, use a dedicated toaster oven in your shop or garage. Buy the biggest one you can find. Also, pick up an oven thermometer, as those built into the oven are not accurate enough.

### Strip and Clean

Strip the handgun down to parts. That includes removing the sights. Clean and degrease the parts using acetone or Brakleen. You must remove all dirt, crud, grease and oil. These solvents can be hard on some plastics, so

be cautious with any polymer parts. After degreasing, do not handle the parts with bare hands, as fingerprints leave oil. Powder-free latex gloves are probably the best option.

If your gun is a "seasoned" firearm, you should remove any pits or scratches, or else those can show through the coating.

Of course, if there is any rust it must be completely removed or the coating will not stick properly. Once the parts are clean and prepped, completely degrease them again using a solvent that dries without residue. Brakleen is good, acetone is better. It's probably best not to soak non-metal parts, but to spray and wipe with a clean cloth dampened with degreaser.

Tape off anything you will not be coating with painter's masking tape. That includes the surface of any moving parts that are a critical fit. The slide rails for example, should not be coated. If you are coating the barrel, plug both ends. I use tapered silicone plugs. Be careful about where you coat, as this adds dimension. For example; coating a 1911 barrel where it's visible in the ejection port is fine; coating where it fits into the bushing usually is not.

Now is a good time to figure out how you will hang the parts in the oven. They must hang so nothing



Tape off the parts you don't want coated and use wire to suspend the components as they dry.



touches them. You can shape wire hangers to hang from the top shelf. I have some magnetic hooks that hold on the top of the oven and give me more room than leaving a shelf in place. (Plan this all out ahead of time. Standing in front of an oven with wet paint on the part is not the time to figure out how to hang it. You will also need a way to hang the parts in the work area to flash off, before cooking. So, plan that all out in advance.)



Painter's masking tape and tapered silicone plugs come in handy for controlling where the coating goes.

## Blast Away

Each part will need to be sandblasted with 80- to 100-grit aluminum oxide. Use 80 to 100 psi air pressure for the metal and 30 to 40 psi for non-metal parts such as wood, fiberglass, plastic or polymer. Anodized aluminum parts will require only 30 to 40 psi. There is no need to remove the anodizing, but you must resurface it.

After blasting, nothing should be shiny. There should be an even, matte appearance. If there are shiny spots on any part, hit it again.

The idea is to rough up the surface and give it "tooth" to help the spray coating adhere to the part.

There are a few ways to do this. If you have a local shop you trust, take the parts to them. A blasting cabinet works best, and most metal shops or gunsmiths will have one. It's worth paying them a few bucks to sandblast the parts.



When sandblasting to rough-up parts, wearing face protection and a respirator is always essential.

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# Traveler's Guide to the Firearm Laws of the Fifty States

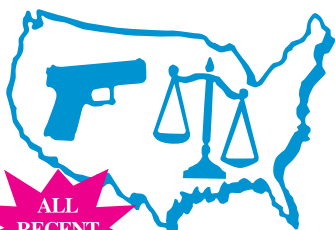
— a state-by-state guide to the gun laws most useful to the traveler —

- ❖ concealed carry reciprocity
- ❖ vehicle carry (loaded or unloaded?)
- ❖ carry in state and national parks
- ❖ carry in restaurants & hotels
- ❖ prohibited areas - gun-free zones
- ❖ open carry on your person
- ❖ self defense rules for travelers
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There is a range of air-cure and thermal-cure coatings. Some come in spray cans; others require an airbrush or spray gun.

Table-top blasting cabinets are not all that expensive, if you have access to an air compressor. Or, you can get by with an inexpensive gravity-feed sandblasting gun. Before I bought a blasting cabinet, I used my handheld sandblaster over a cut-off 55-gallon plastic drum to capture some of the sand for reuse. Of course, you can consider the abrasive a consumable and just buy more. Either way, do this outdoors, as you don't want the abrasive dust in your shop. Always wear a respirator, safety goggles and heavy gloves. Don't think you can get by without the gloves. Sooner or later you will mess up and blast your hand. Without gloves it hurts like hell. I know this for an absolute fact.

After blasting, remove the tape and, if you have a compressor, blow all the sand off the parts. Degrease the parts again; making sure all sand or dust from the sand is removed. Again, protect sensitive areas with tape. If you are going to

heat-cure the part, use a high-temperature tape. Regular painter's masking tape cooks on and can be difficult to remove. Wear gloves to avoid leaving any fingerprints.

Cerakote recommends baking uncoated metal parts for an hour at 300 degrees to "gas out" any solvent or oil. Non-metal parts should be done at a lower temp, say around 150 degrees. This helps identify any hidden pockets of grease or oil.

## Spray and Pray

Cover up everything you don't want painted, like walls, floors, tool boxes, kids, dogs, etc., with drop cloths. I buy the cheap plastic sheets designed for one-time use (but don't use these for kids or pets). Another approach is to hang the sheets from the ceiling to make a small, isolated paint booth. The trouble with working in the shop without an evacuation fan is that the air becomes filled with atomized paint, which is bad for you. Always use a good respirator when spraying.

In good weather, I often spray outdoors. I have a couple of metal shepherd's crooks sold in lawn and garden departments. I stick them in the ground outside my shop, preferably in the shade, and hang the parts to do the spraying there. I do not let the parts hang outdoors, too many bugs. I take them inside to flash off or hang dry. This process is less than ideal, but it keeps the mess to a minimum and the air in

my shop healthy. Of course, rainy days and wintertime are a problem. If it's not too cold, it works OK if you warm the part a little, step outside to do the spraying and then get back inside in just a few minutes.

Cover your work area with plastic and/or drop cloths, as the spray mist can get almost anywhere.







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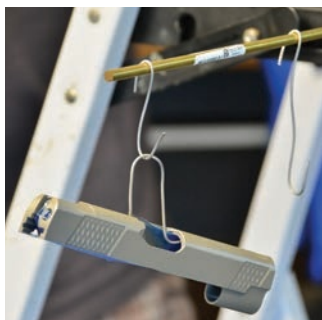
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**PROTECTION**



**Left to Right:** Multiple passes with different colors can create intriguing camo patterns.

Sprayed parts, even those that will be baked, require a little hang time.

results in a rough, matte-finish look that is not durable. So, practice, practice, practice, then spray your gun.

For Cerakote and most other spray-on products you will need a high-volume, low-pressure spray gun and a compressor. You can use an airbrush with canned propellant for some coatings such as DuraCoat. Check the directions of your preferred coating.

Make a few practice runs on scrap cardboard with the sprayer so you will know how to get the best results. With a spray gun or air brush, adjust to the recommended pressure and spraying distance for the product you are using. It may take a bit of experimenting with the mix of air and paint to get it right. You want a nice, even, thin coating. If you use too much liquid, it will look like paint, not a firearm finish. It will also be subject to runs, which means you will have to wash it off and start over. If you have too much air and not enough material, or you are too far from the piece being coated, the atomized paint can partially dry before it coats the metal. This

### Gone in a Flash

Most of the oven-cured products require a little hang time to flash off some of the chemicals before you put the coated piece in the oven. The key is to hang them free from touching anything. One little bump or brush and you will have to do it all over again.

A word on that: Always keep a bucket with solvent ready for goof-ups. You will have a few, so use the recommended solvent and remove the defective spray coating. Most products recommend that you blast again after washing off the part with the solvent.

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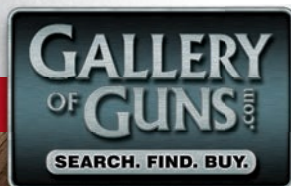


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A large, second-hand toaster oven is a good investment for drying coated parts.

### Now We're Cooking

Just like baking a cake, pre-heat the oven to the temperature recommended for your product. Carefully place the parts in the oven and set the timer. Remember that metal is baked at a much higher temperature than polymer. If you are doing a polymer handgun, use the temp recommended by the coating maker. Cerakote recommends metal at 250 or 300 degrees, depending on the product, while polymer or wood is baked at 150 degrees.

Let the parts cool. With most oven-cures, you can start putting the gun back together as soon as the parts are cool enough to handle. Air-dry will need a few days, or longer, to cure.

Once you have the gun back together, make sure to lubricate all moving parts. Also, any exposed metal must be coated with oil or another protectant to prevent rust.

Then, head to the range and strut a little as you show off your now-stunning handgun. 



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# 2019 New Optics Guide

Optics remain a major focus of innovation, with new models boasting technological enhancements never before seen on consumer products, or tech that used to be available only for those able to fork over pallets of cash. The rapid acceptance of dot sights for carry handguns might be the biggest area of advancement for optics, but traditional scopes, carbine sights and thermal devices have also seen significant improvements and expansion this year. This roundup is sure to include an optic for your newest firearm purchase, or for that gun you've left naked. Whether you're looking to outfit a rifle, pistol or shotgun for home defense, competition or just for fun at the range, and regardless of your budget, there's something here for you, with even more options at [ShootingIllustrated.com](http://ShootingIllustrated.com).

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*A Shooting Illustrated Staff Report*



## Aimpoint | Acro P-1

Aimpoint's new Acro is a departure from the norm for micro-reflex sights. A fully enclosed optic, it has been tested to 20,000 rounds on a .40 S&W-caliber handgun slide. Proven to stand up to extreme abuse, it is smaller than it looks and is a solid choice for an everyday-carry-pistol optic.

**Magnification:** 1X

**Objective Lens Dimensions:** 20x20 mm

**Reticle:** 3.5-MOA red dot

**Length:** 1.9 inches

**Weight:** 2.1 ounces

**MSRP:** \$660

(703) 263-9795; [aimpoint.us](http://aimpoint.us)



## Burris | RT-8

Available in front-, rear- and dual-focal-plane models, the latest entry to the RT line combines fast target acquisition at close and intermediate ranges with 8X magnification and 600 yards of trajectory compensation. Three illuminated-reticle modes allow shooters to adapt to changing shooting conditions on the fly.

**Magnification:** 1-8X

**Objective Lens Diameter:** 24 mm

**Reticle:** Ballistic AR, Ballistic Circle Dot, Ballistic CQ Mil

**Length:** 9.8 - 10.3 inches

**Weight:** 17.4 ounces

**MSRP:** \$399

(888) 440-0244; [burrisoptics.com](http://burrisoptics.com)



## Bushnell | SMRS II PRO

Using an all-new CQ-BDC reticle, the latest design in the Bushnell LPVO lineup provides an ideal optical pairing for today's modern sporting rifles, allowing for easy shooting at close and mid ranges. Features include Bushnell's EXO Barrier protective coating and a ThrowHammer lever.

**Magnification:** 1-6X

**Objective Lens Diameter:** 24 mm

**Reticle:** CQ-BDC

**Length:** 10.3 inches

**Weight:** 18 ounces

**MSRP:** \$1,989.95

(800) 423-3537; [bushnell.com](http://bushnell.com)



## Crimson Trace | CTS-1400

A highlight of Crimson Trace's new full line of optics, the CTS-1400 is designed for use on carbines and shotguns. It is rugged, minimalist and comes with the company's signature free "Batteries for Life" program. The 3.25-MOA red dot has 10 levels of brightness, and it mounts to a standard Picatinny rail.

**Magnification:** 1X

**Objective Lens Dimensions:** 33x22 mm

**Reticle:** 3.25-MOA red dot

**Length:** 2.3 inches

**Weight:** 2.9 ounces

**MSRP:** \$499

(800) 442-2406; [crimsontrace.com](http://crimsontrace.com)



## EOTech | Vudu 1-8x24 mm SFP

With an illuminated, .5-MOA center red dot and magnification up to 8X, EOTech's Vudu 1-8x24 mm SFP scope represents the "do-it-all" category pretty well. Close work is covered by the dot, while subtensions provide long-range aiming points.

**Magnification:** 1-8X

**Objective Lens Diameter:** 24 mm

**Reticle:** HC3-SFP

**Length:** 10.8 inches

**Weight:** 21.2 ounces

**MSRP:** \$1,399

(888) 368-4656; [eotechinc.com](http://eotechinc.com)



## FLIR | Scion

The Scion is a thermal monocular ruggedly built for use in harsh environments. It quickly detects objects of interest in low-visibility conditions, helping keep you aware when others won't be. A built-in microSD card slot allows capture of high-quality images.

**Magnification:** Digital zoom; 1X, 2X, 4X, 8X

**Objective Lens Diameter:** 14 mm, 18 mm or 25 mm

**Reticle:** None

**Length:** 9 inches

**Weight:** 16 ounces

**MSRP:** Starting at \$2,495

(888) 959-2259; [flir.com](http://flir.com)



## German Precision Optics | **Passion 4X 6-24x50 mm**

Built on 30 mm aluminum tubes, the Passion 4X offers an excellent range of adjustment, a custom MOA ballistic reticle and custom Kenton turret for your caliber of choice. Ideal for long-range shooting, this riflescope features double HD glass and the propriety GPObright lens-coating technology.

**Magnification:** 6-24X

**Objective Lens Diameter:** 50 mm

**Reticle:** MOA

**Length:** 15.4 inches

**Weight:** 27.2 ounces

**MSRP:** \$999.99

(844) 692-4667; [gpo-usa.com](http://gpo-usa.com)



## Hi-Lux Optics | **Leatherwood ART M1000-PRO**

In honor of the 50th anniversary of Jim Leatherwood's legendary Automatic Ranging Trajectory (ART) scope, Hi-Lux has redesigned its ART M1000-PRO. The ART system's general cam has been refined and improved in order to compensate the bullet drop of almost any caliber.

**Magnification:** 2-10X

**Objective Lens Diameter:** 42 mm

**Reticle:** HR1 MOA

**Length:** 12 inches

**Weight:** 32 ounces

**MSRP:** \$515

(888) 445-8912; [hi-luxoptics.com](http://hi-luxoptics.com)



## Holosun | **HE509T**

Based on the company's popular HS507C, the latest Holosun red-dot optic features a fully enclosed frame that enhances durability while also providing a clear sight picture. A single CR1632 battery powers the HE509T for up to 5 years, and the Advanced Solar Fail-Safe can run the unit indefinitely.

**Magnification:** 1X

**Objective Lens Dimensions:** 16x23 mm

**Reticle:** 2-MOA dot; 32-MOA ring

**Length:** 1.85 inches

**Weight:** 2.78 ounces

**MSRP:** \$470.58

(909) 594-2888; [holosun.com](http://holosun.com)



## Kahles | **Helia RD**

Redesigned to help achieve an intuitive shot, the Helia RD features a unique "Anti-Reflexion" coating for clear visibility and a precise 2-MOA dot. It also comes with a Picatinny mount and four manual illumination settings with intelligent automatic switch-off.

**Magnification:** 1X

**Objective Lens Dimensions:** 26x22 mm

**Reticle:** 2-MOA red dot

**Length:** 2.165 inches

**Weight:** 1.48 ounces

**MSRP:** \$443

(800) 426-3089; [kahles.at/us](http://kahles.at/us)



## Leupold | **Freedom RDS BDC**

Leupold's newest red-dot sight sports a 1-MOA dot, a 34 mm main tube and an included mount specifically designed for use on modern sporting rifles. This purpose-built optic carries the nearly indestructible Leupold DNA throughout its construction.

**Magnification:** 1X

**Objective Lens Diameter:** 34 mm

**Reticle:** 1-MOA red dot

**Length:** 5.3 inches

**Weight:** 6.9 ounces

**MSRP:** \$519.99

(800) 538-7653; [leupold.com](http://leupold.com)



## Lucid | **Litl Mo**

Micro-red-dot sights (MRDS) for pistols are all the rage these days, and Lucid's Litl Mo is an affordable option for those wishing to put a dot on their defensive handgun. Using the same footprint as the Burris FastFire MRDS, the Litl Mo will find a home on a good number of pre-cut slides.

**Magnification:** 1X

**Objective Lens Dimensions:** 19x28 mm

**Reticle:** 3-MOA dot

**Length:** 1.75 inches

**Weight:** 1 ounce

**MSRP:** \$349

(307) 463-2633; [lucidoptics.com](http://lucidoptics.com)





## Meopta | Optika6 5-30x56 mm

Part of the new Optika6 line, the 5-30x56 mm model features a 34 mm tube and ED glass, which, at higher magnification, eliminates chromatic aberration. It also features target turrets, multiple reticle options, one-piece tube design, zero-reset, a throw-lever-equipped zoom ring and rear-facing zoom display for easy viewing.

**Magnification:** 5-30X

**Objective Lens Diameter:** 56 mm

**Reticle:** Multiple options, including Illuminated and DichroTech

**Length:** 14.3 inches

**Weight:** 25.8 ounces

**MSRP:** \$899.95



(800) 828-8928; meoptasportoptics.com

## Meprolight | Foresight

The first augmented reflex sight on the market, the Foresight displays a reticle and useful data on a heads-up display similar to that found in military aircraft. Five reticle choices, a compass and a leveler can all be seen and used intuitively, and a light sensor automatically adjusts brightness.

**Magnification:** 1X

**Objective Lens Dimensions:** 33x20 mm

**Reticle:** Five options

**Length:** 4.6 inches

**Weight:** 9.9 ounces

**MSRP:** \$720



(833) 637-7654; meprolight.us

## Minox | Micro RV 1

LED Technology leads the way for the Micro RV 1 with a battery life at medium brightness of up to 50,000 hours. Consisting of a high-strength aluminum housing, it is fully waterproof and comes with a neoprene protective cover. It also features 12 brightness levels.

**Magnification:** 1X

**Objective Lens Diameter:** 18 mm

**Reticle:** 2-MOA red dot

**Length:** 2.52 inches

**Weight:** 3.39 ounces

**MSRP:** \$269



(210) 377-2527; minox.com

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## NcStar | VDFLIPGLOM2

Featuring the patented FlipDot folding red-dot reflex lens, the VDFLIPGLOM2 flips up with a simple push of a button, which automatically turns the optic on. When not in use, the lens will fold down flat and turn off. It also includes mounts for Glock MOS pistols.

**Magnification:** 1X

**Objective Lens Dimensions:** 22x16 mm

**Reticle:** 3-MOA red dot

**Length:** 2 inches

**Weight:** 1 ounce

**MSRP:** \$109.99

(866) 627-8278; ncstar.com



## Nightforce | ATACR 7-35x56 mm F2

New for 2019 is a second-focal-plane version of the extreme-long-range 7-35X scope Nightforce has offered in a first-focal-plane variant. Other than the focal plane, the ATACR 7-35X scope retains the same bombproof construction, large field-of-view and reproducible precision you'd expect in a Nightforce optic.

**Magnification:** 7-35X

**Objective Lens Diameter:** 56 mm

**Reticle:** MOAR-T/MIL-C

**Length:** 16 inches

**Weight:** 39.3 ounces

**MSRP:** \$3,100

(208) 476-9814; nightforceoptics.com



## Riton Optics | RT-S Mod 7 1-8x28IR-T

Riton Optics designed the RT-S Mod 7 in conjunction with Navy SEAL sniper Charlie Melton. The scope features a first-focal-plane, illuminated reticle and a true 1X low-end, similar to a red-dot-style sight. It is waterproof, fogproof and shockproof.

**Magnification:** 1-8X

**Objective Lens Diameter:** 28 mm

**Reticle:** Riton Tactical Illuminated

**Length:** 10.9 inches

**Weight:** 25 ounces

**MSRP:** \$1,299.99

(855) 397-4866; ritonoptics.com



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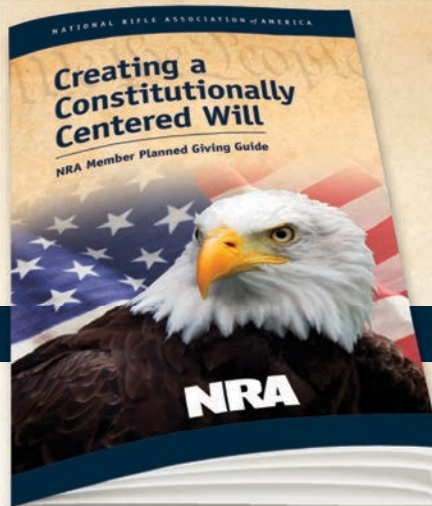
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## Schmidt & Bender | 1-8x24 PM II ShortDot Dual CC

Incorporating a first-focal-plane, mil-dot-based reticle for accurate ranging and compensation for hold-offs, hold-under and hold-over, the 1-8x24 PM II ShortDot Dual CC is a technically advanced day scope. Offering adjustable-intensity illumination as well as lockable elevation and windage turrets, the PM II ShortDot is a versatile optic.

**Magnification:** 1-8X

**Objective Lens Diameter:** 24 mm

**Reticle:** MDR-T6

**Length:** 11.5 inches

**Weight:** 22.26 ounces

**MSRP:** \$4,390

(770) 934-3384; schmidtundbender.de/en



## Sightmark | Wraith HD 4-32x50 Digital Riflescope

Digital magnification out to 32X, 10 different reticle options with nine different colors and night-vision capability along with an IR illuminator are a few high points of the Sightmark Wraith digital riflescope. It runs on 4 AA batteries and can record and export video.

**Magnification:** 4-32X

**Objective Lens Diameter:** 50 mm

**Reticle:** 10 options

**Length:** 10.5 inches

**Weight:** 36.3 ounces

**MSRP:** \$599

(817) 225-0310; sightmark.com



## Sightron | S-TAC4-20X50FFPZSIRMH

Designed for diverse tasks, the S-TAC4-20X50FFPZSIRMH features the new MH-4 reticle offering vertical and horizontal crosshair intersection. It also includes a zero stop, 22.9 MRAD of elevation adjustment, the ExacTrack windage- and elevation-adjustment system, multi-coated lenses and a flip-up lever on the magnification ring.

**Magnification:** 4-20X

**Objective Lens Diameter:** 50 mm

**Reticle:** MH-4

**Length:** 15 inches

**Weight:** 25.6 ounces

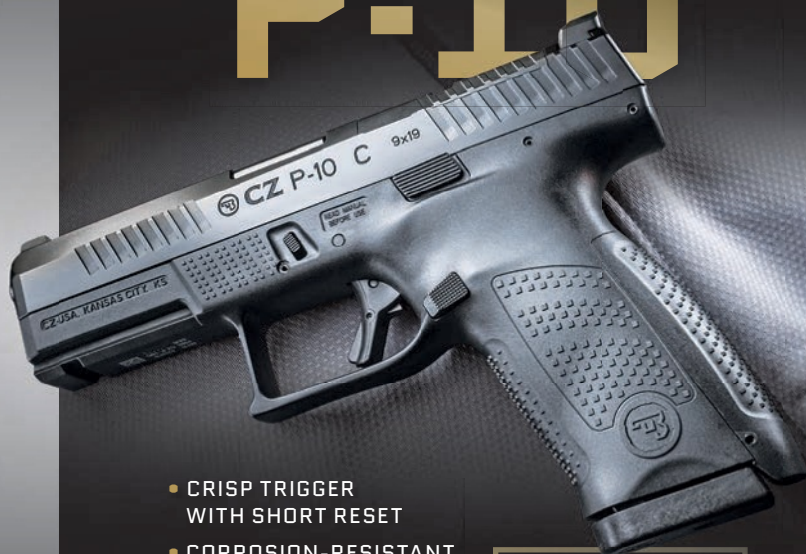
**MSRP:** \$999

(800) 867-7512; sightron.com



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## SIG Sauer | Romeo3MAX

Developed in collaboration with Max Michel, the Romeo3MAX features a 30 mm round lens for a wide field-of-view. The open reflex sight utilizes a red-notch filter to make its red dot clear and easy to acquire. It features motion activation and up to 20,000 hours of runtime.

**Magnification:** 1X  
**Objective Lens Dimensions:** 24x30 mm  
**Reticle:** 3- or 6-MOA red dot  
**Length:** 2.1 inches  
**Weight:** 1.5 ounces  
**MSRP:** \$719.99

(603) 610-3000; sigsauer.com



## Steiner | DRS 1X

In addition to three reticle modes, Steiner's new Defendu Reflex Sight features auto brightness and seven illumination levels to aid shooters in selecting the ideal setting for day or night use. Though it's capable of running on a single AA battery, two AAs provide a runtime of over 2,000 hours.

**Magnification:** 1X  
**Objective Lens Dimensions:** 24.5x32 mm  
**Reticle:** Single Dot, Dot and Stadia, Dot, Stadia and Close Dot  
**Length:** 2.57 inches  
**Weight:** 10.4 ounces  
**MSRP:** \$749.99

(888) 550-6255; steiner-optics.com



## Tract | Toric UHD 30 mm 4-20x50 FFP MRAD PRS

Improved to fit the requirements of PRS shooting, the new Toric 4-20x50 has an MRAD PRS reticle with a long-range "Christmas Tree-style" reticle sporting a .04-mil floating center dot and .2-mil windage correction holds. Schott HT glass provides outstanding resolution.

**Magnification:** 4-20X  
**Objective Lens Diameter:** 50 mm  
**Reticle:** MRAD PRS  
**Length:** 13.7 inches  
**Weight:** 34 ounces  
**MSRP:** \$1,294

(631) 662-7354; tractoptics.com



## Trijicon | SRO

Trijicon's new SRO (Specialized Reflex Optic) is designed for competitive handgunners. Its large, parallax-free window makes it easy to find and track the dot. The sight uses the same mounting footprint as the RMR, and offers a top-loading battery compartment.

**Magnification:** 1X  
**Objective Lens Dimensions:** 25x22.5 mm  
**Reticle:** 1-, 2.5- or 5-MOA red dot  
**Length:** 2.2 inches  
**Weight:** 1.6 ounces  
**MSRP:** \$749

(800) 338-0563; trijicon.com



## Vortex | Diamondback Tactical

A first-focal-plane optic for \$500? The EBR-2C reticle is ideal for maintaining elevation and/or wind correction(s) while accurately engaging targets at distance. This scope features fully multic coated glass for sharp, bright images.

**Magnification:** 6-24X  
**Objective Lens Diameter:** 50 mm  
**Reticle:** EBR-2C  
**Length:** 14.5 inches  
**Weight:** 24.6 ounces  
**MSRP:** \$499.99

(800) 426-0048; vortexoptics.com



## Zeiss | Conquest V4

Boasting a 30 mm tube and fully multi-coated lenses, Zeiss' new Conquest V4 offers a tremendous amount of reticle adjustment. It has 80 MOA of internal adjustment in .25-MOA clicks of its easy-to-manipulate, spring-loaded turrets. The ZMOAi-1 illuminated second-focal-plane reticle includes fine-line subtensions with 1-MOA graduations.

**Magnification:** 4-16X  
**Objective Lens Diameter:** 50 mm  
**Reticle:** ZMOAi-1  
**Length:** 14.5 inches  
**Weight:** 21.7 ounces  
**MSRP:** \$1,099.99

(800) 441-3005; zeiss.com





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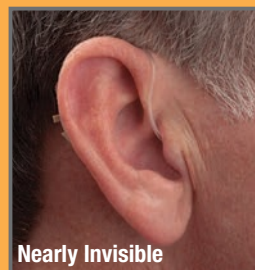
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Performing a task well is important, but equally important is having the intestinal fortitude to face the task in the first place.

Photos by Jesse Snyder

By Steve Tarani

**W**e all want to raise our level of skill, but why is gaining confidence equally if not more important than improving your physical skills? Having all the skill in the world with no confidence is just as bad as your mouth writing checks that your skill level can't cash. So, what does it take to increase both your level of skill and the confidence to pull it off?

Whether it's shooting, martial arts, defensive driving or any other physical (or mental) skill, the symbiotic bond between skill and confidence must be clearly understood and then fostered.

Skill is commonly defined as doing something well. "He or she is a skilled practitioner," means that there is a certain level of expertise demonstrated. However, there are varying levels of skill. Basic or intermediate skills are different from "highly skilled." As there are varying layers of skill, so are there varying levels of confidence. In fact, the two—skill and confidence—are inextricably bound. You cannot possess one without the other if you expect to do something well in any practical application.

The topic here is shooting, of course, but the principles apply to all forms of physical mastery. Given my background in the martial arts, I have something with which to compare my current continuing education in learning how to shoot well.

One of my master martial-arts instructors, Guru Dan Inosanto, states that there are four levels of competence. Unconscious Incompetence: You don't know what you don't know. Conscious Incompetence: You realize how much you don't know.



Conscious Competence: Your skill level is raised, but only when you think about it (mental focus) and with great effort.

Unconscious Competence: You can perform quite well without thought and with minimal effort. Unconscious competence is the earmark of a master practitioner.

One of my master shooting instructors, Rob Leatham, states that to raise your skill level, it is first necessary to raise your level of understanding. If you don't understand what you're trying to do,

Take presentations for example. Your first day on the range, you receive professional instruction on a four- or five-step drawstroke, punching out to a strong-hand-supported firing position. On day one, working with a qualified instructor, you put in about 80 repetitions. Great, you've raised your level of understanding from not knowing how to present your firearm, to knowing exactly which steps, each of the points and nuances of those steps and in what order to execute them.

movement further away from unconscious incompetence. At some point in your training experience increased familiarization converts to comfort. It can be said at this level that you are comfortable with your practice.

The road to comfort begins with increasing your understanding which affords you gainful repetitions, which makes you more familiar. The greater your familiarity, the more comfortable you become.

It turns out that skill and confidence, although integral, are only waypoints on the path to consistent on-demand performance. You can have the technical understanding and you can even have the skill, but converting your skill and confidence to on-demand performance is an entirely different matter.

Training extensively the last few years with several respected Masters and Grandmasters, my shooting partner Tom Rovetuso (USMC and retired SWAT Commander at Lake County, IL, Sherriff's Office) and I stumbled across an interesting discovery during our blood, sweat and tears on the range. It's something we call "The four C's of on-demand performance."

Comfort leads to Confidence which leads to Consistency which leads to Competence. The competence we refer to is unconscious competence.

Once you have achieved comfort (a four-part process), your next steps lead you down a long and winding road toward confidence. Although there's no quantifiable line of demarcation to know when you have achieved comfort, it's something quite discernible. You'll know it when you feel it.

Think about the first time you got behind the wheel of a car to drive with a driving instructor. White-knuckled and eyes wide open, the gas pedal, the brake pedal, steering wheel, et al, were all new tools sitting there with which you had no prior experience.

As you gained greater understanding of these tools and how they worked together to control the vehicle, you were able to put in some gainful repetitions

then there's little chance of you ever raising your skill in doing it.

Your first step is to increase your level of understanding. As your level of understanding increases, this causes you to know what and how to practice, which in turn allows you to discover the difference between "doing it right" and "doing it wrong." Once you've figured out the difference between what works (right) and what doesn't (wrong) then you have achieved the point in your training where you can begin making gainful repetitions.

One of my edged-weapons masters, Punong Guro Edgar Sulite, once said; "Repetition is the mother of all skills." However, it is also true that practice makes permanent. If you do something incorrectly for thousands of reps, now you must unlearn or "break" that training scar and do enough repetitions to undo the damage and then run the next set of thousands of reps to burn it in correctly.

Raising your level of understanding increases your ability to complete successful repetitions, which leads to familiarization. Repetition is the pathway to familiarization. The more reps you get, the greater your familiarization.

Consequently, you have raised your level of familiarization. In the beginning, you were completely unfamiliar because you'd never done it before. After about 80 repetitions you have more familiarity. You have taken measurable steps away from unconscious incompetence.

Over the decades, many of my students would pose a common question: "How many reps does it take to really get it?" A tough question to answer in full, because what does it mean "to really get it?" If that means doing something well, then it's far more than 80 reps. Word from experts in the know (Master and GM level shooters) claim it's anywhere from 5,000 to 10,000 reps based on the learning ability of the individual shooter.

It's been my observation and personal experience over three decades, and across a broad spectrum of tens of thousands of students, that the number is closer to 10,000. Either way you look at it, the greater the number of reps, the greater your level of understanding and the greater your level of familiarity.

Moving further up the skills/confidence ladder, multiple (correct) repetitions contribute to your



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Consider the Four C's of On-Demand Performance to be a flow chart that tracks progression when learning new skills. Each step builds upon the previous one.

by turning right, slowing down, turning left, using your directional and pumping the brake pedal a few times. After enough repetitions, you gained familiarity and over time you became comfortable driving.

Given more time driving and in different environments such as parking lots, streets, highways, traffic jams, etc., you gained a level of confidence. The more you drive the car, the greater your confidence. In fact, regardless of your environment or even changes in conditions such as day, night, rain, snow, etc., you're able to confidently display your ability to control the vehicle (on-demand performance) which demonstrates consistency.

Given even more time and now with no new or unfamiliar environment or driving conditions to challenge your skills, you have become competent and you don't even need to think about it anymore. You have reached a stage of unconscious competence.

Going back to the example of learning how to present your pistol from the holster, on day one (introduction) if you've never done it before (other than seeing it in the movies), you have little or no knowledge as to what the steps are, in what order they must be performed and the technical details of each. At this level, you simply don't know what you don't know (unconscious incompetence).

After a few days of detailed, professional instruction, you increase your level of understanding. Armed with this knowledge, you now can begin accumulating legitimate and effective repetitions. Over time, these repetitions lead to your familiarity with the individual steps of the presentation (conscious incompetence).

Given more time, in continuing your training you may enter a phase of self-discovery. You may find certain nuances about your presentations that your instructor never told you about or which he or she allowed you to discover on your own.

You may find by continual, correct repetitions that your comfort increases and that you have developed this new skill which boosts your confidence. Add even more time and more reps and you find that at certain times, if all your planets align (you do everything right and at the right time and in the right sequence and with unerring mental focus), you can consistently execute good control and pretty much hit your mark about 85 percent of the time (or even more). At this level, you have now reached conscious competence.

To quote lyrics from an Eagles' song "every form of refuge has its price," the same holds true for reaching conscious competence. The price for entry at this level is time, and it's not something that



can be rushed. You can plant a healthy tree in the most-fertile soil, water it and nurture it daily. No matter how much effort you put into growing that little tree, it will not bear fruit any sooner than it takes for it to do so naturally.

One of the greatest martial artists of our time, Bruce Lee, once said "I fear not the man who has practiced 10,000 kicks at once, but I fear the man who has practiced one kick 10,000 times." In achieving conscious competence, patience and perseverance become unexpected by-products of your effort and commitment.

At this stage of increased skill and confidence, your training tends to become frustrating, because your level of understanding will always exceed your level of skill. What becomes even more frustrating is when you discover that your level of skill will always exceed your level of performance.

On-Demand Performance Matrix		
Step	Condition	Competency
Introduction	Little or no Knowledge	Unconscious Incompetence
Understanding Repetitions Familiarity	Understanding	Conscious Incompetence
Comfort Confidence Consistency	Skill	Conscious Competence
Competence	Performance	Unconscious Competence

The perpetual struggle is to try and decrease the gap between your level of understanding and your level of skill. The struggle becomes even greater when you try and decrease the gap between your level of skill and your level of performance.

Anyone can press a trigger, so the struggle at the upper levels is not a mechanical one. The battle rages on in between your earmuffs as it becomes a contest of self-mastery. You end up fighting yourself mentally. It takes 100 percent of your mental effort to not use 100 percent of your mental effort. In other words, you must learn to "let it go" rather than "make it go." You must allow each piece of your hard-earned skill set to fall effortlessly into your subconscious where you don't need to think about it or consciously focus on it. Although a challenge in practical application, mentally processing that "I believe" button must become standard operating procedure.

As part of the Leatham Shooting System, Master Instructor Rob Leatham teaches no less than 16 recommended pre-ignition checkpoints prior to a trigger press. It's not possible for us common earth-walkers to keep all 16 points in



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Gaining confidence in your ability to draw from a holster comes from successful repetitions of the various sequences in the drawstroke, particularly in the numerous transitions needed for presentation.


our mind at the same time. It's a miracle if we can hold on to just one or two. The only way to do it is to move your skills to your subconscious. You will never reach the breakneck speed and accuracy of the masters by thinking about anything. In a world where decisions are made in thousandths of a second, thoughts take too long to process.

It has been documented in most cases, depending upon skill and experience, there can be a decrease in performance ranging from 10 to 20 percent between one's skill level and on-demand performance.

Applying numbers for illustration, consider a shooting standards test. You can run the

standards test in your pajamas all by yourself on a pleasant sunny afternoon on the range and find on a good day that you can achieve a cumulative score of 20 seconds. Now place yourself in a match (competition) or in a real-world defensive situation (tactical) where there is increased pressure, your performance could drop to as low as 24 seconds or more depending upon the level of duress.

The higher your skill level, the lower the variance. Certain military special-operations personnel are said to maintain around a 10-percent variance. Hence, the reason why they might hypothetically train to 110-percent standards and testing to meet such a high-pressure performance demand.

On-demand performance; to place a round precisely where you want it and when you want it regardless of circumstance or condition, is the true mark of a master shooter. It's something we all lust after and train for—a destination that cannot be reached without first passing the milestone markers of skill and confidence. 

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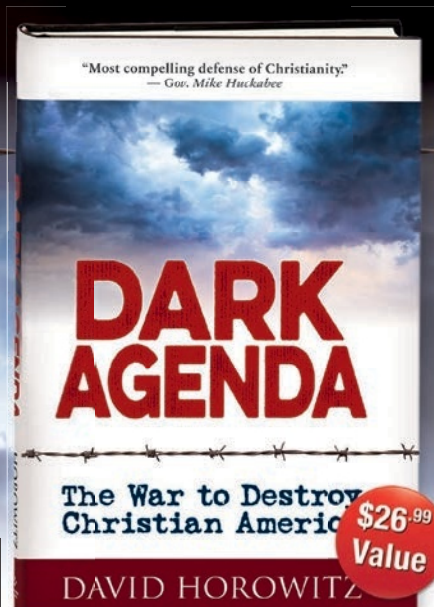
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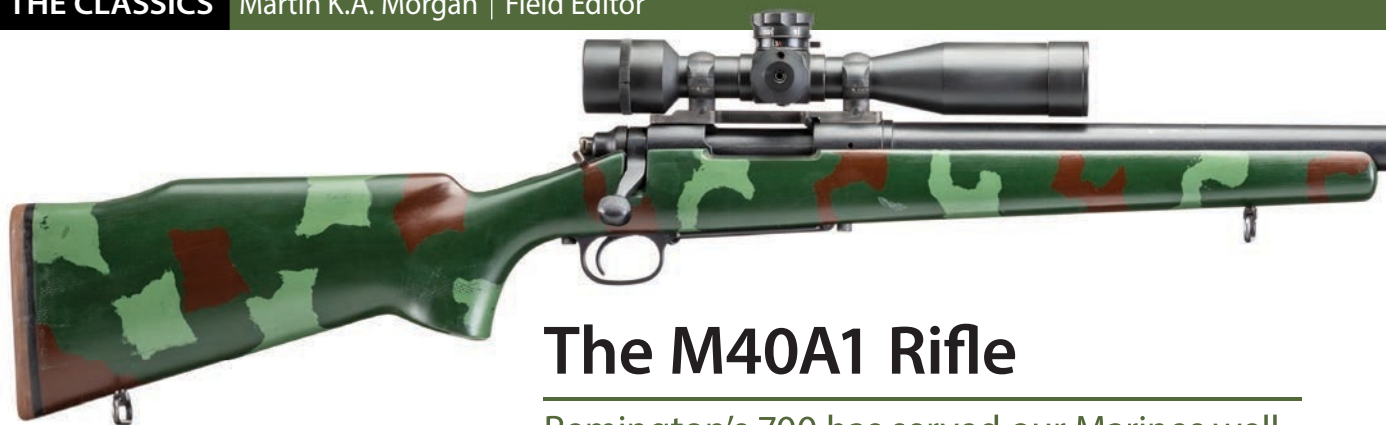
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## The M40A1 Rifle

Remington's 700 has served our Marines well for more than half a century.



Clockwise from above: U.S. Optics provided the 10X scope for this modernized M40A1.

Crowned for superlative accuracy, the heavy barrel is 24 inches long.

McMillan's HTG stock is accentuated with a Pachmayr buttpad for recoil relief.



The tradition of American military sniping stretches back to the Civil War when specialized equipment was first developed to get the job done. For example, the .451-caliber Whitworth rifle, with its 1:20-inch-twist hexagonal rifling and its side-mounted telescopic sight, made Confederate snipers a meaningful battlefield threat. World War I brought the Model of 1903 rifle equipped with the Warner & Swasey scope, and World War II brought the M1903A1 and the M1903A4. Thereafter, the mighty Garand rifle armed U.S. Army and USMC snipers in the form of the M1C and the M1D rifles.

Although the M1D remained in inventory as the war in Vietnam began to spool up, it was nearing the end of its service life, and it chambered a cartridge that was in the process of being phased out. For those reasons, the Marine Corps began looking for a more-contemporary sniper rifle and it found what it was looking for in Herkimer County, NY.

Prior to 1966, Marines in Vietnam used the Winchester Model 70 rifle in .30-'06 Sprg.—and even the .50-caliber Browning machine gun—in the sniping role, but those weapons did not provide the ideal platform. When Remington Arms, on the Mohawk River in the village of Ilion, near Utica, indicated a willingness to work with the USMC toward the creation of a custom rifle, a partnership was born that would last

decades. What the company submitted was a modified version of its Model 700/40X target rifle that was chambered for the short-action 7.62 NATO cartridge.

The gun featured a freefloat, 24-inch, medium-weight barrel with a 1:10-inch twist and factory bedding, a one-piece wood stock with no checkering and two fixed sling swivels. It was built on the short-action Model 700 using a cock-on-open bolt feeding from an internal-box magazine with five-round capacity. Remington delivered the rifles with a matte Parkerized finish and a commercial Redfield 3-9X Accu-Range variable-power scope presenting a distinctive green anodized finish. The scope mounted to the receiver through the use of a Redfield base and 1-inch short rings.

A USMC sniper in Huế, Vietnam, prepares to take a shot. The M40's performance in country led to changes that would become the M40A1.





The Marine Corps officially adopted the rifle on April 7, 1966 as the M40 and promptly ordered 700 units. Those examples wrote themselves into USMC history during fighting in places like Huế in early 1968 when one especially dramatic photograph captured a Marine sniper armed with an M40 preparing to send a shot through a third-floor window in the city during the battle. The M40 was put to severe use during the Vietnam years, with predictable results: by 1973, only 425 of the original 700 M40s issued remained in serviceable condition.

Because of this situation, in the years immediately following the end of the American experience in Vietnam, the Marine Corps recognized that it was time to upgrade the most-critical component of its Scout

Sniper program. Toward that end, a modified version of the M40 was developed that built on lessons learned during years of war in Southeast Asia.

To begin with, the M40's stock was eliminated because it was found that wood tended to warp in the high-humidity environment of the jungle. A synthetic stock made by McMillan and finished in green and earthtone red camouflage replaced it. In addition to that, a 24-inch Atkinson barrel with 1:12-inch-twist rifling optimized for the M118 Match cartridge replaced the M40's Remington-made barrel. The combination of the new barrel and the replacement of certain aluminum components with steel components made the new rifle heavier than its predecessor—3 pounds heavier. The improved rifle was adopted in 1977 with the designation M40A1 and it was paired with a Unertl 10X scope specifically made for it.

The A1 version of the M40 would serve the Marine Corps for more than 20 years, during which time the international balance of power shifted and shook. The Soviets invaded Afghanistan, the Islamic Revolution swept across Iran, the Berlin Wall came down and genocide ravaged Rwanda. Through it all, U.S. Marines were sent on overseas missions to places like Lebanon, Iraq and Somalia. One of the young Marines who carried an M40A1 during those troubled times was LCpl Anthony Swofford, a Scout Sniper with the Surveillance and Target Acquisition Platoon of the 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment. He went on to chronicle his experiences during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm in the 2003 book "Jarhead." Anyone familiar with the book will know Swofford became proficient with the M40A1, only to never fire a single shot through it in action. 

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## Ruger Hawkeye Long-Range Target

This Long-Range Target rifle, with three chambering options, is sure to meet the needs of any long-distance shooter looking to be the next master rifleman.

Long-range precision has become the fastest-growing competitive and recreational pastime for shooters. Because of that, many are looking to convert their current bolt-action into an extreme-distance tack-driver. This can be a fun and challenging endeavor. For those serious about sending bullets over a tremendous amount of real estate, starting with a rifle explicitly engineered for the task is the best answer—short- and long-term. Ruger's new Hawkeye Long-Range Target is just such a rifle.

First, you should know where the "Hawkeye" name came from. It belongs to Natty Bumppo, who was the lead character in James Fenimore Cooper's fictional pentalogy of novels known as the "Leatherstocking Tales." Unless you're over 50 you've probably never heard of them, but you've probably heard of the movie, "The Last of the Mohicans." In it, Daniel Day Lewis played Natty Bumppo—Hawkeye—who was regarded as the best marksman on the early American frontier. Since about 1850 "Hawkeye" has become a nickname for a master rifleman, and Ruger chose it to identify its line of rifles formerly referred to as M77s.

The Ruger Hawkeye Long-Range Target exemplifies that name because it's intended to deliver the most precision of any of the rifles in the Hawkeye line. It's built on the common M77/Hawkeye action, but is fitted with a 26-inch heavy barrel that measures 1.23 inches in diameter at the junction of the action and .833 inches just behind the muzzle brake. The barrel is cold-hammer-forged, 4140 chrome-moly steel with 5R rifling, and tolerances on bore and groove dimensions are held to tighter standards. Headspace is also set to an industry minimum around a chamber that is central-cut for either 6.5 Creedmoor (1:8-inch RH twist), 6.5 PRC (1:8-inch RH twist) or .300 Win. Mag. (1:9-inch RH twist).

Fitted to a laminated stock covered with a brown-speckled paint scheme is the barreled action. The stock provides plenty of room for the barrel to freefloat, and QD sling studs, an under-forearm M-Lok rail, and adjustable comb and length-of-pull are standard. Additionally, the comb, which is a saddle-type, polymer affair, can be moved about 1.5 inches fore and aft, and about 1 inch up and down.

It's locked in place by a lever on the right side of the stock. There's a soft, 1-inch buttpad, and by removing spacers the length-of-pull can be shortened from 14.5 to 13 inches. Both of these adjustable features are advised, if not mandatory, when you're interfacing with a rifle you intend to shoot at extreme distance.

The M77 action is of the traditional controlled-round-feed style. However, the test rifle allowed a cartridge to be dropped on top of the magazine follower and chambered by closing the bolt. It's been my experience that on some—about 50 percent of Ruger M77/Hawkeye-style actions—cartridges must be fed from the magazine. This is something to consider or check before purchase if it matters to you. The action also sports the praised Ruger three-position safety, feeds from an AI-style magazine and has an excellent two-stage trigger that broke cleanly on the test rifle at 2 pounds. The trigger is another point of interface that's critical on a precision rifle, and the Ruger Hawkeye Long-Range Target has a good one.

A SIG Sauer 5-30x56 mm Tango6 rifle-scope was mounted in Talley Tactical Rings and they were attached directly to the 13-slot Picatinny rail, which comes standard on the rifle.

The Hornady 140-grain ELD Match load turned in a disappointing first three groups. However, after the third group the rifle settled and turned in two back-to-back .75-inch groups. This is not uncommon when ammunition types are switched. It can take several rounds for the different copper/gilding-metal alloy used in the bullet jacket to sort of condition the bore. Thing is, with most rifles you simply will not notice it because they are not capable of shooting as well as this Ruger Hawkeye Long-Range Target.

Of course this rifle is intended for distance, and itty-bitty groups at 100 yards—while impressive—are not what long-range shooters dream about. So, I carried the rifle to the Beckley Gun Club and fired three

### On Target

Superior accuracy  
at a good price

### Off Target

Fragile comb  
adjustment



groups at 476 yards, which was the longest distance available. They measured 2.42, 3.02 and 2.66 inches. That's darn near coffee-can accuracy, and damned impressive for a rifle with a street price of less than a grand. I smiled all the way home.

My only complaints were with the comb adjustment and the bolt. The comb adjustment, though functional, seemed a bit fragile. As for the bolt,

it's been my experience that all Ruger M77/Hawkeye rifle bolts come out of the box with a bolt that's a bit rough/gritty. No, they are not terrible, just noticeable. With time however, they all smooth-up as I'm sure this one will, too. At 11 pounds the Ruger Hawkeye Long-Range Target rifle is heavy. But, make no mistake; this rifle will shoot the cents off a dime at 100 yards and the stitches off a baseball at 500.

—Richard Mann

## Specifications

Manufacturer: Ruger; (336) 949-5200, [ruger.com](http://ruger.com)

Action Type: Bolt-action

Caliber: 6.5 Creedmoor

Capacity: 10 rounds

Finish: Matte black

Barrel Length: 26 inches

Rifling: 5 grooves; 1:8-inch RH twist

Sights: None; Picatinny rail for optics

Trigger Pull Weight: 2 pounds

Stock: Speckled black/brown laminate

Length: 47.5 to 49 inches

Weight: 11 pounds

Accessories: One AI-style 10-round magazine, stack spacers, thread protector, M-Lok rail with Allen key, M-Lok QD sling swivel stud, magazine lock, manual

MSRP: \$1,279

## Shooting Results

### Load

Barnes Precision Match 140-grain OTM BT  
Hornady 140-grain ELD Match  
SIG Sauer Elite Match Grade 140-grain OTM

Velocity	Group Size		
	Smallest	Largest	Average
2,703	.502	.725	.587
2,724	.772	2.132	1.210
2,502	.527	.721	.600

Velocity measured in fps 10 feet from the muzzle for 10 consecutive shots with a Caldwell G2 chronograph.

Temperature: 51 degrees Fahrenheit. Accuracy measured in inches for five consecutive, five-shot groups at 100 yards from a sandbag rest.



1. Secured atop the traditional integral scope mounts is a 20-MOA, 13-slot Picatinny rail.

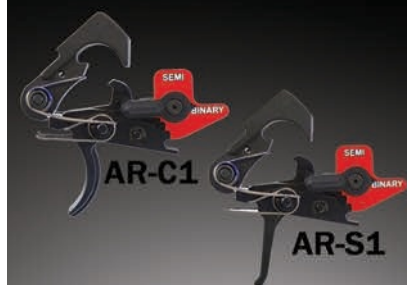
2. A Ruger Precision Rifle Hybrid muzzle brake reduces recoil without adding significant noise.

3. Easily accessible, the three-position safety permits the shooter to lock the bolt, or load and unload with the safety engaged.

4. QD sling studs and an under-forearm flush-mounted M-Lok rail allow for the attachment of desired accessories.

5. Adorning the stock is a soft rubber butt pad with an adjustable comb and spacers for length changes.

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# Supreme Court Rejects NYC's "Desperate Attempt" To Delay Proceedings In Gun Rights Case

**LATEST  
LEGISLATIVE  
NEWS FROM  
INSIDE THE NRA  
INSTITUTE FOR  
LEGISLATIVE  
ACTION**

## IN MEMORY NRA-ILA CONTRIBUTIONS

April 1-30

**Paul A. Romeo**, Mt. Vernon, NY (from: David Romeo); **David Strand**, Sturgeon Lake, MN (from: Reese Musk); **Austin Boosted**, Tuscon, AZ (from: Martha Boosted); **Keith Burge**, Foristell, MO (from: Darlene Burge); **Johan Nelson Larsen** (from: Northern Dutchess Rod & Gun Club Inc.); **Carl Noll**, Columbus, OH (from: Marilyn Noll); **Robert Wasielewski**, Marshalltown, IA (from: Dale P. Nelson); **William Henry Dorrance**, Smyrna, DE (from: Cheryl D. Nicolò); **Dorothy Jayes**, Hamburg, NY (from: Hamburg Rod & Gun Club); **Frank D. Smith**, Montoursville, PA (from: John & Peggy Martin); **Chuck Stone**, Chatham, IL (from: Sharon Millburg); **Orland M. Owen, Jr.**, Charleston, SC (from: Palmetto Gun Club); **Herman "Bud" Zemke**, Newberg OR (from: Beverly Montgomery).

## NRA-ILA

ILA Grassroots:

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NRA-ILA website: [nraila.org](http://nraila.org)

**O**n April 29, the U.S. Supreme Court refused to grant a request by the city of New York to delay the proceedings in the NRA-supported appeal of *New York State Rifle & Pistol Ass'n, Inc. v. City of New York* (No. 15-683).

Generally, New York state law prohibits even the possession of a handgun in the home without a license. A licensee in New York City (NYC) must comply with additional and specific restrictions. A license is "not transferable to any other person or location," and anyone with a "premises license" is prohibited from removing the handgun "from the address specified on the license." However, because the rules also require licensees to "endeavor to engage in periodic handgun practice," an exception at 38 R.C.N.Y. § 5-23(a)(3) allows a licensee to transport a handgun "to and from an authorized small arms range/shooting club." This narrow exception applies only to seven ranges located in NYC. It restricts the travel to a direct route to and from the range, and requires the handgun to be transported unloaded (in a locked container) and separate from any ammunition. Licensees who wish to take their guns to other ranges or participate in events or competitions outside NYC—or who want to transport their guns to another location—are prohibited from doing so.

In January, the Supreme Court agreed to hear the appeal in this case. The petitioners, individual licensees and the New York State Rifle and Pistol Association argue that—apart from the "precisely zero empirical evidence" provided by the city to justify its licensing rules as a public safety measure—these "extreme, unjustified and irrational" transport and travel restrictions on lawfully owned handguns violate the Second Amendment, the Commerce Clause, and the fundamental right to travel.

However, on April 12, legal counsel for the city of New York and the New York City Police Department (NYPD) filed a motion with the Supreme Court seeking to suspend

the proceedings, based on a new proposal to change the NYC handgun rules. The motion indicates that the NYPD has published a "Notice of Public Hearing and Opportunity to Comment on Proposed Rule," which should set in motion a process that might result in a future change in the licensing rules.

However, even assuming this proposed rule would pass into law as drafted, it represents only a limited modification to existing 38 R.C.N.Y. § 5-23(a). The proposal would not rescind the restraints already in place (and at issue in the appeal), but would allow a premises' licensee to transport a handgun listed on their license to: (1) another premises of the licensee "where the licensee is authorized to have and possess a handgun;" (2) a small-arms range/shooting club authorized by law to operate as such, whether located within or outside NYC; and (3) a shooting competition at which the licensee may possess the handgun "consistent with the law applicable at the place of the competition." All of these retain the requirement that the handgun be transported unloaded (in a locked container) with ammunition being "carried separately," and that the licensee travel "directly" to and from these additional locations.

Counsel for the petitioners responded to the city's "extraordinary request" by indicating there is no good reason to grant an "indefinite hold." The city's motion is, at best, premature given the uncertain status of the proposed amendment, and the amendment itself is at odds with the city's forceful defense of the existing rules as both necessary and constitutional.

As NRA-ILA's Executive Director Chris W. Cox put it, "The city of New York did not respect its citizens' Second Amendment rights before the Supreme Court granted review in this case and it will not respect them going forward. We are confident that the court will reject New York's desperate attempt to avoid review of its blatantly unconstitutional laws."



Anti-government protesters take cover in May 2019 as security forces fire tear gas to disperse demonstrators in Caracas, Venezuela.



## MSNBC Reporter Unwittingly Discovers The Importance Of The Right To Keep And Bear Arms

Sometimes even the worst of the media inadvertently stumbles upon the truth. On April 30, MSNBC reported that the socialist government of Venezuela was running over its citizens with armored vehicles.

MSNBC reporter Kerry Sanders, seeking to explain how the government could oppress the population to this extent, invoked the disparity of power between the government and the people.

He noted: "You have to understand, in Venezuela gun ownership is not something that is open to everybody. So if the military have the guns, they have the power and as long as Nicolas Maduro controls the military, he controls the country."

These admissions, however unwitting, were a refreshing contrast from the usual MSNBC rhetoric that tends to favor the most far-reaching forms of gun control.

But while the political elite hide behind the guise of "common-sense gun laws," in reality they believe that they should be the only ones protected by guns. The rest of the population, in their view, is not to be trusted.

After years of pushing anti-gun rhetoric, MSNBC accidentally made one of the most powerful cases for the Second Amendment—showing that without it law-abiding citizens will not have the means to protect themselves from criminals or from the most blatant forms of government oppression.

The men and women of the NRA have understood this since 1871.

It's taken MSNBC a while to catch up to the rest of us.

For the people of Venezuela, unfortunately, the lesson arrived too late. ☹

### Payton Taylor is NRA Country

NRA Country presented lots of great music to attendees at this year's NRA Annual Meetings in Indianapolis.

One highlight was multiple performances by Payton Taylor. The daughter of a retired Philadelphia police officer, you may have seen her on the current season of American Idol. Her single, "American Born" resonates with fans who proudly have red, white and blue running through their veins. NRA Country's Vanessa Shahidi took a few moments to ask Payton some questions and get to know her a little better.

**VS: What was it like performing at this year's NRA Annual Meetings?**

**PT:** I was amazed at the number of families I saw in Indy. My favorite experience was when a mother told me she brought her daughter to the Annual Meetings for her 10th birthday. To see a mother and daughter making memories, learning, and spending time together was priceless. I was able to surprise them with a pair of tickets to see Alan Jackson later that night. The little girl thanked me and said it would be her first big concert! It's moments like that you don't forget.

**VS: Who taught you how to shoot and handle a firearm?**

**PT:** My father won several "sharpshooter" awards while on the police force. Needless to say, when I got to the age where I was going to be on my own, it was time for us to go to the range for some beginner lessons. Over the years, we've spent many hours making memories at the range.

**VS: NRA Country is a lifestyle brand all about hunting, fishing, being proud to be an American and supporting our military. How does that align with you as an artist?**

**PT:** My favorite part of touring is getting to see this country not just from a tour bus window, but by getting out with the crowds and hearing the stories that connect us. Music is one of those God-given blessings that transcends all boundaries and brings us back to the bigger picture of life. To me, getting outdoors and spending time with my loved ones grounds me. It's an escape that reminds me of what is really important. As an artist, I can only hope my music can give that same kind feeling. When I wrote my single "American Born," I wanted to capture all of the stories, people, and places I've had the blessing of being able to see.

Head to [paytontaylor.com](http://paytontaylor.com) to be the first to know about new music, tour dates, videos, and more.

*NRA Country is a lifestyle and a bond between the country music community and hard-working Americans everywhere. It's powered by pride, freedom, love of country, respect for the military and the responsibilities of protecting the great American life. For more information visit [nracountry.com](http://nracountry.com), follow on Twitter @NRACountry, and NRA\_Country on Instagram.*



By Joseph P.  
DeBergalis Jr.  
Executive Director,  
General Operations

## Featured Program: Certified Instructor

It is my honor to address my fellow NRA members, instructors and supporters as we begin our journey in making NRA General Operations the best it can be. In this inaugural issue of my monthly update from General Operations, I've chosen to recognize the professional and unwavering contributions of our NRA-certified instructors. There is no more cherished NRA tradition than marksmanship skills and firearms safety instruction for American citizens. For 750,000 students each year, the instructor in the classroom and on the range is the NRA. Recall how Olympians and national shooting sports champions often attribute their first firearms experience to an NRA-sponsored program. The men and women largely responsible for that introduction were NRA instructors. Few may appreciate the investment in time and resources made by these loyal members who unselfishly commit to the rigors of becoming an NRA-certified instructor and furthering the nation's highest standards in firearms safety.

Despite program changes and technical evolution in the classroom, our instructors soldier on to support citizens looking for instruction in safe gun ownership; to preserve their Second Amendment rights; for personal protection; or because of their passion for the shooting sports. We are pleased to announce that NRA's newest course—NRA CCW—has been incorporated into the NRA Instructor curriculum. Learn the details at

[americanrifleman.org/NRACCW](http://americanrifleman.org/NRACCW) or sign up at [NRainstructors.org](http://NRainstructors.org).

As changes in the national landscape influence our priorities and decisions, the personal touch in the classroom and mentoring on the range have been preserved, thanks to our dedicated instructors. As a firearms instructor, I've personally witnessed the devotion of fellow teachers who patiently provide equipment to that student who forgot to bring ear protection, calm someone who may be nervous because of having no prior experience with firearms, or expertly guide the class through NRA's safe gun-handling rules developed over the past 148 years.

I ask all of you—members, officers, board members and staff—to acknowledge the sacrifices and accomplishments made each week by these talented, loyal members of the NRA team. If you see the coveted instructor's patch proudly displayed on a jacket or vest, please introduce yourself and shake that member's hand with gratitude for their invaluable contributions.

We learn from experience. General Operations is no exception to this tenet, and we are working to integrate those lessons learned into our plans, with our instructors prominently accredited in those training programs. Stay tuned. The future is bright. S



[nrainstructors.org](http://nrainstructors.org)

[nrainstructors@nrahq.org](mailto:nrainstructors@nrahq.org)



Photos by NRA



2020 NRA ANNUAL MEETINGS  
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For hotel accommodations at the  
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## Check Your Local Events Now Online

See your connections below.

### NRA REGIONAL REPORT

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

#### FRIENDS OF NRA

[friendsofnra.org](http://friendsofnra.org)

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

#### GUN SHOWS

[gunshows.nra.org](http://gunshows.nra.org)

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

To become an NRA Recruiter contact NRA Recruiting Programs at [recruiter@nrahq.org](mailto:recruiter@nrahq.org).

#### AREA SHOOTS

[ssusa.org/coming-events](http://ssusa.org/coming-events)

For more information, send an email to Shelly Kramer at [mkramer@nrahq.org](mailto:mkramer@nrahq.org) or call (703) 267-1459.

#### LAW ENFORCEMENT

[le.nra.org](http://le.nra.org)

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

#### TRAINING

[refuse.nra.org](http://refuse.nra.org) | [nrainstructors.org](http://nrainstructors.org)

The NRA's Refuse To Be A Victim® program provides information on crime prevention and personal safety. To learn more about the program, visit [refuse.nra.org](http://refuse.nra.org). The most up-to-date seminar and instructor training schedule is available on the internet by visiting [nrainstructors.org](http://nrainstructors.org), or online training is available at [nraonlinetraining.org](http://nraonlinetraining.org). Questions? email to [refuse@nrahq.org](mailto:refuse@nrahq.org) or by calling (800) 861-1166.

#### STATE ASSOCIATIONS

[clubs.nra.org](http://clubs.nra.org)

Joining NRA-affiliated state associations supports NRA's mission in your state. See [stateassociations.nra.org](http://stateassociations.nra.org) for more information.

### Member Information & Benefits

### NRA.ORG

**MEMBERSHIP ACCOUNT  
INFORMATION: (877) 672-2000  
NRA Headquarters: (703) 267-1000**

**MEMBER SERVICE** (800) 672-3888  
**NRASTORE.COM** (888) 607-6007

#### 5-STAR MEMBER BENEFITS

NRA Wine Club (800) 331-9754  
ManageYOURid (888) 759-7866  
Medical Concierge Network (800) 352-6094  
Global Rescue (800) 381-9754  
NRA Travel Center [NRA.HotelPlanner.com](http://NRA.HotelPlanner.com)

#### INSTITUTE FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Grassroots/Legislative Hotline (800) 392-8683

#### OFFICE OF ADVANCEMENT/ GIFT PLANNING

(877) NRA-GIVE

#### THE NRA FOUNDATION

(800) 423-6894

#### NRA INSTRUCTOR/ COACH FIREARM TRAINING

(703) 267-1500

#### EDDIE EAGLE GUNSAFE PROGRAM

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#### REFUSE TO BE A VICTIM

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#### FRIENDS OF NRA

(703) 267-1342

#### NRA MUSEUMS/ GUN COLLECTOR PROGRAMS

(703) 267-1600

#### SHOWS & EXHIBITS

(866) 343-1805

#### MEDIA RELATIONS

(703) 267-1595

#### HUNTER SERVICES

(844) 672-6883

The "NRA Regional Report," a service for NRA members, is an up-to-date listing of NRA conducted and/or sponsored events scheduled in your region for the current month. Call to verify event dates and locations before traveling.

To search for events in your area, go to [nrapublications.org/regional-report](http://nrapublications.org/regional-report)

# Important Notice To Members: Exercise Your Rights Assist In The Nomination of Directors

**T**he NRA Bylaws provide for the election of one-third of the 75-member Board of Directors each year. This means that the terms of office of 25 Board members will expire at the 2020 Annual Meeting of Members in Nashville, Tenn., on April 18, 2020. Also, any members filling vacancies on the Board that occurred after the last regular election must stand for election in 2020 in the same manner as the 25 whose terms normally expires at that time.

Additionally, one Director will be elected for a one-year term on the occasion of each Annual Meeting of Members, by a plurality of the votes cast by those individual members present in person and entitled to vote. The slate will be made up of only those candidates who were nominated for election on the mail ballot but were not elected by mail.

The NRA Board of Directors is listed in the box below according to the expiration of their terms of office.

**You may, if you wish, recommend any of the present Directors whose term expires in 2020. DO NOT RECOMMEND any of those whose term expires in 2021 or 2022.**

The Nominating Committee will meet in Fairfax, Virginia on Aug. 24, 2019, to select Director nominees. There are two ways NRA members can place names of eligible members in consideration for Board service. One is to recommend them to the Nominating Committee for consideration, and the other is to circulate a petition obtaining the required signatures for placement on the ballot.

The following information about each process has been summarized from the NRA Bylaws. A copy of the Bylaws will be provided to any member who sends his or her request to the NRA Secretary along with a return addressed, stamped envelope (\$.80 postage required).

## Recommendations To The Nominating Committee

**A**ll NRA members are urged to recommend suitable individuals as nominees for election to the NRA Board of Directors.

**1** Recommend as many persons as you feel are well qualified. You may supplement your recommendation with any background or biographical

material that you feel would be helpful to the Nominating Committee in arriving at its decision.

**2** If in doubt as to the membership status of any person you wish to recommend as a nominee, submit the recommendation and the membership status will be checked at NRA Headquarters.

**3** These recommendations should be received by the Secretary as soon as possible but must be received no later than Aug. 4, 2019 (20 days prior to the Nominating Committee meeting).

## Nominations By Petition

**A**ny member (sponsor) may submit petitions calling for the nomination of qualified members to the Board. The sponsor may be an affiliated organization. Petition packets may be obtained from the NRA Secretary. Requests should be mailed to the Secretary at the address printed on the following page.

**1** Petitions must be received no later than Oct. 8, 2019 (no more than 45 days after the Nominating Committee meeting).

**2** No petition for nomination of a Director shall contain the name of more than one proposed nominee, and no more than one signature by any member shall be counted on an official petition for any one candidate.

**3** Proposed nominees must indicate their principal city and state of residence.

**4** A petition shall not be circulated without the proposed nominee's written permission, and that permission must be on file with the NRA Secretary by the deadline for receipt of petitions.

**5** Only official petition forms provided by the Secretary's Office, which may be duplicated in full size (8½ x 11 inches), may be used to collect petition signatures.

**6** The petition may contain a brief resume approved by the prospective nominee.

**7** The name, address and membership number of the sponsor **MUST** be indicated on each sheet of the petition.

## THE NRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Term Expires in 2020

Thomas P. Arvas  
Clel Baudler  
J. Kenneth Blackwell  
Dan Boren  
Ted W. Carter  
Patricia A. Clark  
Anthony P. Colandro  
Allan D. Cors  
Charles L. Cotton\*  
Graham Hill  
Curtis S. Jenkins  
Herbert A. Lanford, Jr.  
Sean Maloney  
Robert E. Mansell  
Lance Olson  
Melanie Pepper  
Jay Printz  
Todd J. Rathner  
Carl T. Rowan, Jr.  
Ronald L. Schmeits  
Steven C. Schreiner  
Leroy Sisco  
Mark E. Vaughan  
Linda L. Walker  
Howard J. Walter  
Heidi E. Washington

### Term Expires in 2021

Scott L. Bach  
William A. Bachenberg  
Ronnie G. Barrett  
Robert K. Brown  
Dean Cain  
David G. Coy  
Edie P. Fleeman  
Joel Friedman  
Julie Golob  
Maria Heil  
David A. Keene  
Timothy Knight  
Carrie Lightfoot  
Duane Liptak, Jr.  
Carolyn D. Meadows\*  
Bill Miller  
Owen Buz Mills  
Il Ling New  
Robert A. Nosler  
Kim Rhode  
Wayne Anthony Ross  
Don Saba  
William H. Satterfield  
John C. Sigler  
Kristy Titus

### Term Expires in 2022

Joe M. Allbaugh  
Bob Barr  
Matt Blunt  
Pete R. Brownell  
Richard R. Childress  
Larry E. Craig  
Carol Frampton  
Sandra S. Froman  
Mark Geist  
Marion P. Hammer  
Susan Howard  
Tom King  
Willes K. Lee\*  
Karl A. Malone  
Craig Morgan  
Oliver L. North  
Johnny Nugent  
Ted Nugent  
James W. Porter II  
Esther Schneider  
Bart Skelton  
Dwight D. Van Horn  
Blaine Wade  
Allen B. West  
Donald E. Young

\* Officer



**8** The name of the person circulating the petition sheet, if different from the sponsor, whether the sponsor be an individual or organizational member, should be indicated on each sheet.

**9** Petitions MUST bear the membership identification numbers, names, addresses (**street, city, state, zip code**), signatures and date of signing of no less than seven hundred six (706) members eligible to vote. (Members eligible to vote are Lifetime members and annual members with five or more consecutive years of membership.)

**ANY SIGNATURES OBTAINED BEFORE THE PROSPECTIVE NOMINEE IS QUALIFIED TO HOLD OFFICE WILL BE RULED INVALID.**

**NOTE: SIGNATURES WITHOUT MEMBERSHIP IDENTIFICATION NUMBERS WILL BE INVALID. IF THE NUMBER IS NOT INDICATED ON THE MEMBER'S IDENTIFICATION CARD, HE/SHE MAY:** (a) copy the identification number from their NRA magazine label or (b) obtain it by calling NRA's toll-free number (800) 672-3888. When calling, it is important to give the last name, address and zip code as it is carried on the NRA membership record (including designations such as "Jr.," "Sr.," etc.) in order to obtain the proper identification number. Nominees and sponsors may call the toll-free number to obtain membership identification numbers for those who do not include them on the signed petition. Staff is only permitted to give identification numbers, and may not indicate voting status.

**10** Not more than five petition nominees shall be from any one state during any one year. If more than five are submitted, the five with the greatest number of valid signatures will be nominated.

**11** The Secretary will determine the validity of all petitions received and the eligibility of all signatories.

**12** If a petition is determined to be invalid, the Secretary must immediately notify the proposed nominee and the sponsor stating the reason for the ruling. The petitioner may appeal the ruling to the Nominating Committee within 14 days.

**13** If the appeal is denied, the petitioner may appeal to the Board of Directors, who will act at their next meeting. If the Board rules the petition valid, the proposed nominee will be declared a nominee for the next election.

The NRA Board of Directors consists of 75 NRA members elected by mail ballot by the membership of the Association entitled to vote and one member elected on the occasion of the Annual Meeting of Members. The right to hold the office of Director is limited to NRA Lifetime members who have attained the age of 18 years and are citizens of the United States. Directors are elected for a term of three years, with the exception of the Director elected at the Annual Meeting of Members, who serves for a one-year term. The term of office of one-third of the Board expires each year.

The Board of Directors has general charge of the affairs and property of the Association, and formulates and establishes the broad policies and programs under which the Association operates.

In past years, the Nominating Committee has taken several factors into consideration concerning those recommended for election to the Board. The Committee has felt that nominees should be persons well-known and respected in their communities, with broad experience and background in the affairs of the Association, and with the time necessary to devote to NRA activities. While these factors are not requirements, they may help in the selection of those recommended for nomination to the Board.

## 2019-2020 NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The members of the Nominating Committee elected by the Board are as follows: **Scott L. Bach**, Newfoundland, NJ; **Carol Frampton**, Prosperity, SC; **Sandra S. Froman**, Tucson, AZ; **Susan Howard**, Boerne, TX; **Tom King**, East Greenbush, NY; **Carrie Lightfoot**, Scottsdale, AZ; **Janet Nyce**, Elliottsburg, PA; **Lane Ruhland**, Waunakee, WI; and **Eb Wilkinson**, Tucson, AZ.

## Election Procedures

**1** The names of those selected by the Nominating Committee and of those nominated by petition, together with short biographical sketches, will be published in the February 2020 Official Journals.

**2** A ballot will be mailed to each member eligible to vote. It will

contain the list of names proposed by the Nominating Committee and those nominated by petition and, in addition, provide five blank spaces for write-in candidates.

**3** The ballot, properly executed, must be returned by the date indicated on the ballot.

## Mail this form to reach NRA by Aug. 4, 2019

Additional copies of this form are available upon request by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to NRA Headquarters. If you do not want to cut this form out of the magazine, send in a letter or postcard with the same information. Mail to:

**NRA Nominating Committee**  
**11250 Waples Mill Road • Fairfax, VA 22030**

I recommend the following individual for consideration as a nominee for election to the NRA Board of Directors in 2020.

Nominee Name \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Identification Number \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

### Recommended by:

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Your Complete Address \_\_\_\_\_

Your Membership Identification Number \_\_\_\_\_

To submit online go to: [nrapublications.org/nomination](http://nrapublications.org/nomination)

## 2019 NRA BOARD ELECTION RESULTS

The following members have been elected Directors of the NRA for three-year terms ending in 2022:

Oliver L. North	120,912
Ted Nugent	118,901
Sandra S. Froman	106,699
Allen B. West	105,973
Bob Barr	102,315
Susan Howard	101,242
Marion P. Hammer	98,930
Pete R. Brownell	97,295
Donald E. Young	96,427
Johnny Nugent	94,374
Esther Q. Schneider	90,807
Dwight D. Van Horn	90,409
Larry E. Craig	90,270
Matt Blunt	90,255
Blaine E. Wade	90,195
Karl A. Malone	87,742
Richard R. Childress	86,910
Willes K. Lee	86,883
Carol Bamberg Frampton	86,324
Joe M. Allbaugh	85,621
Bart Skelton	85,235
Mark Geist	84,405
James W. Porter II	80,935
Craig Morgan	80,540
Tom King	80,054

and for a one-year term ending in 2020:

Mark Vaughan	78,850
Herbert A. Lanford, Jr.	74,005

The remaining candidates on the ballot, who were not elected, are as follows:

Dave Butz	73,706
Adam Kraut	72,774
Richard S. Figueroa	69,346
Paul D. Babaz	67,457
Mark Robinson	66,054
Anthony P. Colandro	61,191
John Thodos	60,742
Kevin Hogan	54,725

Nominees for the election of the 76th Director were those candidates who had been nominated previously for the mail election of Directors but failed to be elected. The one NRA director elected for the one-year term by those members present and voting at the Annual Meetings was:

Anthony P. Colandro

## Ladies, Join Us In The Texas Hill Country At The Annual Women's Leadership Forum Summit!

The annual Women's Leadership Forum Summit will be taking place this Sept. 27–29 at La Cantera Resort in San Antonio, Texas. The summit is a great way to spend a weekend bonding with like-minded women, networking and enjoying an inspirational experience in a relaxed retreat setting.

We're pulling together an incredible lineup of Second Amendment supporters from around the nation to speak and lead discussions on relevant topics. We are pleased to announce Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) as a keynote speaker this year. Be on the lookout for our full speaker lineup soon. Past speakers have included 46th Vice President Dick Cheney; Governors Greg Abbott (Texas), Kim Reynolds (Iowa), Scott Walker (Wisconsin); journalists and political analysts Laura Ingram, Katie Pavlich, columnist Peggy Noonan of *The Wall Street Journal*; rising stars in country music; U.S. Olympians and more.

There will be plenty of optional activities available as well. These may range from special events at the range to day trips to historical excursions. Our events will give you plenty of time to sightsee and make new friends.

Don't miss out on the unique



opportunity to celebrate our freedom, friendships and the special sisterhood that binds us together. See for yourself why the NRA Women's Leadership Forum Summit is one of our most eagerly anticipated events of the year.

Together, we'll explore new ideas, connect with like-minded women, celebrate the role of women as Second Amendment leaders, and unite in the mission to further the NRA Women's Leadership Forum. And, we will have a tremendous amount of fun.

"It's like an elegant summer camp for the ladies of the 2A! The summit is an incredible weekend of connecting and reconnecting with ladies from all over the country who believe in Constitutional values. It has become a 'must-do' event for my daughter and me," reflected Cheryl Todd, a past summit attendee.

For details visit [nrawlf.com](http://nrawlf.com), or email [nrawlf@nrahq.org](mailto:nrawlf@nrahq.org).

## NRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Joe M. Allbaugh**, Oklahoma; **Thomas P. Arvas**, New Mexico; **Scott L. Bach**, New Jersey; **William A. Bachenberg**, Pennsylvania; **Bob Barr**, Georgia; **Ronnie G. Barrett**, Tennessee; **Ciel Baudler**, Iowa; **J. Kenneth Blackwell**, Ohio; **Matt Blunt**, Virginia; **Dan Boren**, Oklahoma; **Robert K. Brown**, Colorado; **Pete R. Brownell**, Iowa; **Dean Cain**, California; **Ted W. Carter**, Florida; **Richard R. Childress**, North Carolina; **Patricia A. Clark**, Connecticut; **Anthony P. Colandro**, New Jersey; **Allan D. Cors**, Florida; **Charles L. Cotton**, Texas; **David G. Coy**, Michigan; **Larry E. Craig**, Idaho; **Edie P. Fleeman**, North Carolina; **Carol Frampton**, South Carolina; **Joel Friedman**, Nevada; **Sandra S. Froman**, Arizona; **Mark Geist**, Colorado; **Julie Golob**, Missouri; **Marion P. Hammer**, Florida; **Maria Heil**, Pennsylvania; **Graham Hill**, Virginia; **Susan Howard**, Texas; **Curtis S. Jenkins**, Georgia; **David A. Keene**, Maryland; **Tom King**, New York; **Timothy Knight**, Tennessee; **Herbert A. Lanford, Jr.**, South Carolina; **Willes K. Lee**, Virginia; **Carrie Lightfoot**, Arizona; **Duane Liptak, Jr.**, Texas; **Karl A. Malone**, Louisiana; **Sean Maloney**, Ohio; **Robert E. Mansell**, Arizona; **Carolyn D. Meadows**, Georgia; **Bill Miller**, West Virginia; **Owen Buz Mills**, Arizona; **Craig Morgan**, Tennessee; **Il Ling New**, Idaho; **Oliver L. North**, Virginia; **Robert A. Nosler**, Oregon; **Johnny Nugent**, Indiana; **Ted Nugent**, Texas; **Lance Olson**, Iowa; **Melanie Pepper**, Texas; **James W. Porter II**, Alabama; **Jay Printz**, Montana; **Todd J. Rathner**, Arizona; **Kim Rhode**, California; **Wayne Anthony Ross**, Alaska; **Carl T. Rowan, Jr.**, Washington, D.C.; **Don Saba**, Arizona; **William H. Satterfield**, Alabama; **Ronald L. Schmeits**, New Mexico; **Esther Q. Schneider**, Texas; **Steven C. Schreiner**, Colorado; **John C. Sigler**, Delaware; **Leroy Sisco**, Texas; **Bart Skelton**, New Mexico; **Kristy Titus**, Oregon; **Dwight D. Van Horn**, Idaho; **Mark E. Vaughan**, Oklahoma; **Blaine Wade**, Tennessee; **Linda L. Walker**, Ohio; **Howard J. Walter**, North Carolina; **Heidi E. Washington**, Michigan; **Allen B. West**, Texas; **Donald E. Young**, Alaska.

**Communications intended for any member of the NRA Board of Directors should be addressed to:** (Name of Board member), NRA Office of the Secretary, 11250 Waples Mill Road, Fairfax, VA 22030; or [nrabod@nrahq.org](mailto:nrabod@nrahq.org); or (703) 267-1021. Please include your name, contact information and NRA membership I.D. number, as only communications from NRA members will be forwarded.





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## Cincinnati '77:

By NRA Staff

# Birthplace Of The Modern NRA

**C**incinnati, May 1977. The National Rifle Association had come to town with its Annual Meetings and Exhibits, America's largest gathering and celebration for gun owners and shooters. But there would be a marked difference from previous Annual Meetings, because at this event, a leadership battle would take place in the convention hall. Over the course of the weekend, and especially in one all-night session, NRA members would change the course of their organization's—and their nation's—history.

The NRA was at a crossroads. The showdown occurred one year after the founding of NRA's Institute for Legislative Action, formed to secure gun owners' civil rights first and foremost. Opposing factions had very different ideas about NRA's goals and operations. Should the Association focus on shooting competition and environmentalism to gain media approval, or should it prioritize political advocacy for gun-owners' rights in the face of a rising tide of anti-gun fervor? The leadership of the time proposed to move the Association's headquarters from the Washington, D.C. area to Colorado, much to the chagrin of most members.

But approximately 1,100 voting members who journeyed to Cincinnati were having none of



Photos by NRA

**1977 NRA Officers (l.-r.):** Warren L. Cheek, secretary; Lloyd M. Mustin, president; Robert J. Kukla, executive director of NRA-ILA; Harlon B. Carter, executive vice president; William B. Binswanger, treasurer; John B. Layton, first vice president

that. In a marathon Annual Meeting of Members starting at 7:30 p.m., an ad hoc group calling itself the "Federation for NRA" and influential members of the NRA's Board of Directors ousted the "old guard" executives and installed a new slate of leaders who vowed to aggressively defend Second Amendment rights and be more responsive to the needs of the members.

Not until the wee hours of the following morning did former NRA

President Irvine Porter adjourn the members' meeting. Harlon B. Carter, who had only recently retired as the first head of the Institute for Legislative Action, took the helm as executive vice president and told the members: "You, the membership, are entitled to have an NRA that is responsive to your wishes. That is right, that is what you have demanded, and that's the way it's going to be. You cannot be denied, my beloved friends." Pointing to the Board members, Carter added, "You are the NRA, not I, not these gentlemen here. You are all we have."

The crowd went wild, giving Carter a rousing ovation, confident their voice would start being heard and that "the NRA" would live up to the higher standard of "your NRA," an Association where members would assume a more participatory role in steering the organization thanks to such measures as nominating candidates for director by petition and placing non-directors on the Nominating Committee.

From the first vote to the last, surprising solidarity was shown by the Life members who came to Cincinnati.







Smiles greet Harlon Carter's announcement to the members that he would return to Washington, D.C., to assume the duties of the NRA's highest office.

Within months of the meeting, newly installed Executive Vice-President Carter made it clear that the NRA would dig in its heels and remain "where the action is," in Washington, D.C. That commitment expressed the new focus of the present-day NRA, and was a clear demonstration of the power of grass-roots activism.

The Cincinnati meeting established a blueprint for the future, one that united gun owners and all who truly believe in the civil liberties guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution. Driven by that clear objective, the NRA has never flinched in its successful efforts to preserve our right to keep and bear arms.

We have been tested time and time again. Our political enemies have ramped up their assault on our freedoms to include the most vicious personal attacks imaginable, aimed at our officers, board members, staff and members. They no longer try to conceal their true agenda of total disarmament of the American people. In fact, they are so focused on this, and so confident in their victory, they will stop at nothing to attain their goal.

Our enemies are getting smarter and richer, but the NRA has fought this battle before. We know our enemies don't have what we have—the hearts and minds of patriots who recognize that what is at stake is bigger than any of us. And we know that ultimately, victory can't be bought—it can only be earned by winning the support of our fellow Americans. ☺

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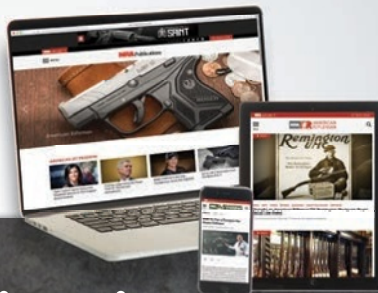
These come in a variety of configurations and action types, and span a price range from a couple hundred bucks to several times that amount. There are true double-action-only versions, like the Smith & Wesson Bodyguard .380 I kept in a small breast pocket on the outside of my winter coat for years. The virtue of this action type is the ability to take another try at a recalcitrant primer by just pulling the trigger again. The vice of this action is they generally have heavier and harder-to-master trigger pulls.

A variant on that type of trigger is the one found on the Kel-Tec P-3AT and several other pistols of its sort. While superficially resembling a double-action-only trigger, this action uses the cycling of the slide to partially cock the gun. This gives a lighter trigger pull than the true DAO, since the shooter isn't fighting the full weight of the mainspring, however, these guns also lack the repeat-strike capability of the true DAO.

Lastly, is the classic single-action with a thumb safety, as exemplified by SIG Sauer's P238. This is obviously the most manageable of the triggers on these sorts of pistols. Carrying one in Condition One in a pocket, however, demands a quality holster and excellent gun-handling skills, and even then still makes some folks a little skittish.

There have been numerous attempts to get 9 mm-caliber pistols into, or at least close to, this size class, but so far it's mostly been exotics like the now-defunct Rohrbaugh R9 and the Bond Arms Bullpup (née Boberg). The Kimber Micro 9 qualifies, but carries the same single-action caveat as the P238. For the foreseeable future, pocket concealed carry looks to be the province of the .380 ACP. 

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Chamber-support tools have worked very well for me on both small and large AR platforms. I keep the lugged end of these inserts clean and burr-free, securing them in a vise. Small-AR-receiver owners have options from companies like Brownells, Geissele Automatics, Magpul and Midwest Industries. Geissele also offers its Reaction Rod in a large-AR-receiver size. My barrel expert notes that he has seen barrels rotate within their extensions due to excessive torque applied when using one of these fixtures. That results in a misaligned gas port and a change to headspace, both of which are big problems. For this reason, you should always follow a manufacturer's torque recommendations and stay on the low end of those ranges. While several companies offer similar tools for bolt actions, I am told that they fit too loosely in the raceways to use for torquing a muzzle device. The preferred option is to mount the barrel in a vise, using padded barrel blocks to both hold it securely and prevent damage to the finish.

After detaching the muzzle device, you should also remove any crush washers or shims that were used to time or tighten it. Clean the threads with a stiff wire brush to ensure carbon buildup and residual thread-locker are removed. If you have the correct die, you can use it to "chase" the threads, cleaning up rough spots. Likewise, the correct tap will help to ensure the new muzzle device's threads have no thread-eating burrs. Finally, degrease the threads of both the flash hider/brake and barrel with mineral spirits or a similar cleaner before proceeding any further.

While you wait for the degreaser to evaporate, closely inspect your muzzle with a bright light and some magnification. Check for any crown damage that might negatively affect accuracy or other issues that need attention—like a small mountain of baked-on carbon—and fix those issues before proceeding.

The same tools used to remove muzzle devices and support barrels are needed for installation. Unless you plan to remove your muzzle device routinely—such as when using a direct-thread suppressor—a good thread-locking compound that can withstand high heat, such as Loctite 271 or Rocksett, should be used. The manufacturer's recommendations for torque are particularly important for suppressor QD mounts. Shim kits are typically provided with muzzle devices that require timing in a specific position, allowing you to err toward the low end of the torque range to prevent warping of the threads and muzzle.

Never use a crush washer to secure a QD suppressor mount. This spring-steel spacer is designed to apply pressure on a muzzle device to help it remain tight. Dimensional variations between each of the involved parts are large enough that a sound suppressor can come out of alignment with the barrel's bore when a crush washer is used, especially as the different metals heat up. Once this happens, sending rounds through parts of your suppressor becomes a real possibility. Suppressor alignment should be checked after installing a QD mount, whenever possible. I use a Suppressor Alignment Gauge from Geissele on my .22- and .30-caliber bores. These precision-ground and polished, stainless-steel rods help spot potential baffle strikes due to misalignment before you head to the range. If you plan to use a direct-thread suppressor some of the time, a knurled thread protector will keep your barrel threads in good shape when shooting unsuppressed. Mild thread-locking compounds like Vibra-TITE VC-3 will help to hold a thread-protector hand tight, but still allow you to remove it when needed.

Muzzle-device removals and installations are not overly complicated tasks. But, if you do not feel you can do the job safely or without damaging your rifle, let a gunsmith do the work for you. ☺



system, but it came to work fairly well. It took on a completely new light when it came to the innovative guys in the Army Air Corps.

The Air Corps used large numbers of Piper Cub airplanes to fly over the battlefield and observe what the enemy was doing. The unarmed planes were extremely maneuverable and elusive, and thus effective in getting a pair of eyes on the enemy. Some of the pilots grew tired of just spotting targets and reporting—they wanted to shoot. One of their number, Charles Carpenter, became known as "Bazooka Charlie" after figuring out how to mount bazookas on the wing struts of his little two-seater airplane. First it was three on the left wing, but then he added three more on the right side. Fired electrically from the cockpit, the rockets were pre-loaded and wired up before takeoff. Since the rockets in their tubes were essentially recoilless, as well as outside the propeller arc, it had no adverse impact on the little plane's flight. Before it was over, Bazooka Charlie killed 14 German armored vehicles by getting them from above and behind.

Then there was the Stinger. The 5th Marine Division was tasked with the assault on the critical island fortress of Iwo Jima. They wanted a machine gun that was lighter than the Browning M1919A4 and fired at a faster rate. The answer was a gun that came to be called the Stinger, an aircraft version of the .30-caliber Browning made for use in the wing mounts of early fighters, as well as in the flexible mounts of rear-facing torpedo and dive bombers. Marine ordnancemen took six of the aircraft guns, which were smaller and lighter versions of the classic Browning and added a buttstock and a bipod. The Stingers worked well and are part of World War II gun lore. Cpl Tony Stein was using a Stinger when he performed the acts the nation recognized with the Medal of Honor.

Necessity is the mother of invention with fightin' iron. ☺

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## Necessity

Weapons, like plans, occasionally need to be modified once hostilities commence.

There's an oft-repeated proverb which solemnly advises us "necessity is the mother of invention." We cannot be certain this is invariably true, but there are plenty of examples that suggest a great deal of credibility in the saying. Where weapons are concerned, more than a few warriors have come up with some innovative weapon or technique in order to go about their deadly work more efficiently. From the Molotov cocktail to COL Bob Howard's det cord and steel washers ambush-breaker, clever soldiers have found innovative ways to get it done. Rule books tend to be discarded when they start issuing ball ammo and live hand grenades. Let's take a look at some really effective improvised weapons or improvised means of deploying existing weapons.

In the 1930s, America ramped up for the possibility of another war. World War I saw the widespread use of armored vehicles, some of them tracked. Such vehicles could raise havoc in a formation of infantry, so we developed an anti-tank gun for the foot soldiers. In 1940, American infantry units—both Army and Marines—got the first 37 mm anti-tank guns. They looked similar to existing artillery howitzers, with split trails, recoil mechanism, rubber tires and a manually operated, breech-loading mechanism. Intended to be used for direct fire, the gun was a size and weight that allowed the crew to move it by hand and it could be towed by a jeep. The 37 mm bore was just under an inch and a half and there were several kinds of shells made for it. As soon as World War II got going, it became obvious that the 37 mm wasn't enough gun for its assigned role, at least in the European Theater of operations. The 37 mm shells just sort of bounced off the monster German tanks. Out in the Pacific, the Japanese seldom deployed their light tanks, so the Marines used their 37s against various kinds of fortifications. The cannister round, literally

Bazookas on an airplane? Combat realities can outpace standard procurement practices, resulting in ingenious field modifications.

a giant buckshot load, was quite effective when a proper target came along.

In the early years of World War II, the Solomon Islands archipelago saw a hard-fought campaign that is best known for the battle on and around Guadalcanal. There were many islands in the chain and many had Japanese Army and Navy bases. It became as much a naval campaign as an amphibious one. Light fighting vessels were used and the PT boats were absolutely perfect for the fighting. Made of wood and equipped with powerful diesel engines, the boats were capable of 40-knot speed. Indeed, speed and maneuverability were their defenses, while torpedoes were their main armament. The PT boats came with turret-mounted .50-caliber machine guns. Some of the young and aggressive PT boat skippers wanted something to work over the lightly armored barges the Japanese used for supply. The 37 mm anti-tank gun was tried and seemed to be a good idea. On the day before his last mission, the skipper of PT 109 ordered a 37 mm gun mounted on the deck of the boat. The wheels had to come off and a mounting system jury-rigged to hold the gun firmly in place. We never found out how well it would work, because a Japanese destroyer rammed 109 and sliced it in half. The skipper was a naval officer named John F. Kennedy, and we all know his story.

Clear around the world in France, another anti-tank weapon was used by our infantry soldiers with mixed success. The 2.36-inch rocket launcher (nicknamed the "bazooka") was a relatively light 15-pound metal tube that was fixtured to ignite and stabilize a rocket for the first few feet of travel. As a rocket, the driving motor was inside and traveled with that device until it burned out. A warhead at the front end carried an explosive shaped charge that could literally burn a hole through several inches of armor. Fired from a soldier's shoulder, the bazooka was effective only when the soldier could maneuver to get a flanking or rear-end shot at a German tank. Technical difficulties cropped up in the course of developing the

Continued on page 99



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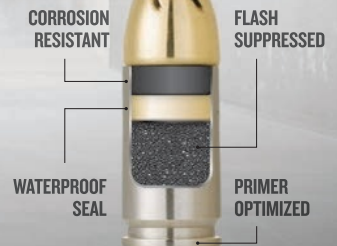
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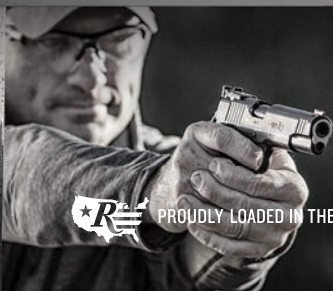


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