

# SHOOTING

## Illustrated

JUNE/JULY | 2020

## It's Time to FIGHT!

How we save the Second Amendment: Page 12



**NRA**

Official Journal of the National Rifle Association  
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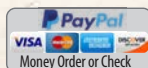
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**NRA** Official Journal of the National Rifle Association of America

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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SPRINGFIELD ARMORY



## First Shots: Springfield Armory Saint Victor Pistol in .308 Win.

Springfield Armory's recent addition of the new Saint Victor Pistol in .308 Win. to its Saint line of AR-based firearms offers large-frame power and is loaded with premium components. *Shooting Illustrated* gives you an inside look to the new pistol and all it has to offer in a new video series titled First Shots.

JAY GRAZIO



## How To Do a Glock Trigger Job

If you own a Glock pistol, but feel the trigger pull is a tad awkward, a bit of patience, elbow grease, time and a few tools can aid you in a DIY trigger job at home. Associate Editor Bob Boyd walks you through the following project with an easy and economical way to improve your pistol's trigger pull.

JAY GRAZIO



## Range Review: Wilson Combat WCP320 Pistol

Wilson Combat has improved upon almost every service pistol issued to U.S. Military personnel during the last 100 years. To continue with its tradition of making service pistols better, the company collaborated with SIG Sauer on the P320, and Managing Editor Jay Grazio gives his take on the upgraded model.

## News

Department of Defense Chooses Hornady 6.5 Creedmoor Ammunition



Vista Outdoor Lands International Police Contract

## Guns



FN America FN 509 MidSize MRD FDE

Legacy Sports International Citadel Boss 25



## Gear



Gerber Crisis Hook Knife



XS Sights DXT2 Big Dot Night Sights

DeSantis Holsters for Smith & Wesson Pistols



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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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# A letter from the Publisher

Dear Member,

The last several months have been challenging for so many organizations, and this has been no different at the NRA. In your May 2020 issue of this magazine NRA Executive Vice President Wayne LaPierre, in his "Standing Guard" column, communicated that he "had been forced to make drastic changes in NRA operations." These tough choices were made for the long-term health and well-being of the organization.

Based on a variety of factors, to include government-mandated shutdowns associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, it was decided that your June and July magazine would be combined. As a result you did not receive your June 2020 magazine issue. This is a one-time occurrence, and the plan going forward is to have a fresh monthly print magazine delivered to your mailbox.

On behalf of the entire staff at the NRA, we appreciate your patience and understanding during these challenging times. Your support is needed now more than ever before. Our strength as an organization during the past 149 years has been our collective voice in support of our Second Amendment rights and FREEDOM!



All good wishes for continued good health and blessings to your families and loved ones.

Sincerely,

**Doug Hamlin**  
Executive Director  
NRA Publications Division

## Hakuna Masada

Truly enjoyed the review of the IWI US Masada by Tamara Keel in the April issue. It was informative and clever. I loved her use of facts and history to explain how this beautiful pistol was made and how it functions. Also, a big shout out to Jesse Snyder for the great photos.

**Simon P. Etehad**  
Beverly Hills, CA

The review of the IWI US Masada by Tamara Keel was incredibly detailed and informative. My interest has been aroused to want to see, feel and shoot this pistol. With its Israeli heritage, rather than New Jersey as was pointed out, it has got to be a big winner.

**Terry Sanderson**  
via e-mail

## Correspondence is welcomed and encouraged

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

## April Fool's Oil

I wish I had the creativity in humor shown by Steve Adelmann in the "Sneaky Peeks" CBD Rifle Oil column in the April issue. It was simply brilliant. "Stress relieving properties" in steel parts and "craving the back-gassing from my suppressed 6.5 Grendel" really hit the bullseye. I actually chuckled out loud reading the narrative on Charlie Bravo Delta oil. Can't wait until next April 1!

**J. Sharpe**  
Idaho Falls, ID

## Casting the First Stone

Thank you for Richard Mann's "Ammo" column on hard-cast bullets in the April issue. I have for years wondered about hard-cast bullets and just what hard-cast lead was. No longer. I did understand the performance advantages of hard-cast bullets, but not the material itself. Now it all makes sense.

**Steve Warner**  
via e-mail

## Big City Nights

I really enjoyed Bryce M. Towsley's article, "Winds of Change," written about the changes and modifications he made to his CZ Scorpion EVO3 S1 in the April issue. I was not familiar with this firearm, but enjoyed reading about the changes and upgrades he made to it. I started checking out the reviews and write-ups about the pistol and quickly found the most frequently used term was "reliable." So, I got one for myself and have started to make my own upgrades to it. Thanks for sharing the creative and modification sides of gun ownership. That's what makes it all fun for me!

**Greg Stone**  
Chesapeake, VA

## Math is Hard, Typing is Harder

I look forward to receiving *Shooting Illustrated* each month. The articles are well written, and usually at least one each month grabs me. In the April 2020 issue I enjoyed the

"Shotguns" column on "Buckshot Diversity" by Jeff Johnston. In comparing the 11 highlighted rounds, I discovered an inconsistency of payload and velocity versus muzzle energy. I think the Aguila MiniShell energy calculation is incorrect. Using the formula kinetic energy = ( $\frac{1}{2}$  mass \* velocity<sup>2</sup>), and assuming your .63-ounce payload and 1,200 fps velocity are correct, the muzzle energy should be approximately 881 ft.-lbs. (not 262 ft.-lbs. as shown). This makes it more respectable as a home-defense round.

*Tim Schreiber  
via e-mail*

Thanks for pointing out my mistake. You are correct; the energy of the MiniShell is closer to 881 ft.-lbs.; and that is much, much different than 262 ft.-lbs. in terms of the MiniShell's viability as a home-defense round. I have written about the MiniShell before and stated that it has twice as much energy as a .45 ACP round, so this embarrassing mistake was a typo, I believe.

*—Jeff Johnston*


### Machine Gun Fail

In reading the May "Shots Fired" news story about the new SIG Sauer machine gun, I noticed something a bit off. You pointed out the current U.S. military-issued M240 has been in service for 60 years, but it was put in service in 1977. What gives?

*Michael W. Locke  
via e-mail*

Great catch. This was one of those cases where the need to edit for space unfortunately changed the meaning of the reference. Sixty years is the age of the FN MAG, which is the gun that was adopted by the U.S. military in 1977 as the M240. We regret the confusion.

*—Jay Grazio*



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**A** 21-year-old man wearing a gray hoodie and black ski mask hit another man with his car on March 7 in a Fort Wayne, Ind., Walmart parking lot, and proceeded to beat the man with a baseball bat. Witnessing the attack, an armed bystander drew his firearm, causing the assailant to get back into his vehicle and drive away. The assailant was initially able to avoid police, but was later arrested and charged with attempted murder. Local law enforcement was reportedly able to locate the suspect after receiving a tip from someone who recognized the car from a separate incident. (wfft.com, Fort Wayne, Ind., 3/9/20)


**A** man licensed to carry concealed fatally shot a woman outside a Tulsa, Okla., shopping center around 6:30 p.m. on March 27 after she allegedly began firing at other customers. Surveillance video showed the woman in an altercation in the same parking lot earlier that day. She left the shopping center, then returned about three minutes later, when she drew a gun and opened fire, according to a news release. The concealed-carry permit holder was in the parking lot at the same time. He drew his pistol and fatally shot the woman, preventing her from firing on more bystanders. The armed citizen was questioned and released by the detective division of the Tulsa police. (tulsaworld.com, Tulsa, Okla., 3/28/20)

**A** round 10:30 p.m., a pizza shop owner in Philadelphia's Wissinoming neighborhood shot an attempted robber who allegedly tried to rob the store at gunpoint. The owner, who is legally authorized to carry a firearm for personal defense, shot the would-be robber in the hand. The injured suspect was transported to a nearby hospital and placed in stable condition before being taken into custody by local law enforcement. (fox29.com, Philadelphia, Pa., 4/5/20)

**A** n elderly woman fatally shot a 19-year-old intruder around 12:45 a.m. after the intruder had attacked her fiancé. The couple was asleep in their Fredericksburg, Texas, home when they heard a loud banging noise coming from outside. The man, age 73, went to check the back porch and upon encountering the intruder, was attacked and hit with a blunt object. The homeowner was then put into a chokehold by the home invader, which caused him to lose consciousness. The woman woke up during the fight and asked the intruder to stop attacking, but was ignored. According to the Gillespie County Sheriff's Office, she retrieved a handgun from the bedroom and fired one shot, but the culprit continued to attack. Fearing for her safety after seeing her unconscious fiancé, she fired a second shot, which hit the assailant in the head. The

male homeowner regained consciousness and called 911, according to police. After transport to a local hospital, the teenaged thug succumbed to his injuries. (kvue.com, Austin, Texas, 4/12/20; kxan.com, Austin, Texas, 4/11/20)

**A** man in Jacksonville, Fla., helped apprehend an alleged arsonist March 4 by holding the suspect at gunpoint until local law enforcement was able to arrive. The armed citizen heard screaming from his neighbor inside a burning home and retrieved his gun while heading outside to see what the commotion was all about. Immediately, he saw the house was on fire and used his voice to help guide his neighbor to safety. The armed citizen also discovered the suspected arsonist and, using handcuffs and his firearm, held the lawbreaker at gunpoint until the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office arrived. The Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department and police department confirmed that the blaze was set intentionally. (actionnewsjax.com, Jacksonville, Fla., 3/4/20)

**A** 21-year-old man attempted to break into a Mather, Wis., home on March 5. Investigators said the intruder tried to forcibly enter a nearby business around 4 a.m. the same day and that when unable to do so, he then went to the nearby residence. The homeowner confronted the intruder, who promptly left. As the homeowner was reporting the incident to law enforcement, the young man again attempted to force his way into the home and threatened the homeowner with a knife. Using a handgun, the resident then fired several shots at the would-be invader, who was struck multiple times and subsequently flown to a nearby hospital where he was treated for his injuries. According to the Juneau County Sheriff's Office, the perpetrator faced multiple charges upon his release from the hospital, including felony recklessly endangering safety, felony bail jumping and misdemeanor criminal damage to property, criminal trespass and disorderly conduct. (wsaw.com, Wausau, Wis., 3/5/20; wisnews.com, Madison, Wis., 3/12/20) 

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# It's Time To FIGHT!

**Y**ou and I have been living through a moment in history that the world will remember for the next 500 years.

Our cities have been at a standstill. Tens of millions of citizens have been in a virtual lockdown in their homes. Businesses and American families have suffered enormously from the economic fallout of this crisis, worse than anything we've seen since the Great Depression.

I want you to know that, on behalf of everyone here at NRA, our thoughts and prayers have been with you, your family and our members throughout this crisis.

But if there's one thing I know, it's that NRA members like you are a special breed.

I have no doubt that, during the crisis we've all been facing, you've been a beacon of inspiration and strength to your family and friends.

I know this because I've personally witnessed your unwavering courage under fire more times than I can count.

I've seen you stand tough when anti-gunners tried to blame you for horrific crimes. I've seen you hold freedom's banner high when gun-haters have tried to smear your good name, simply because you choose to own firearms and keep your family safe.

And I know you've never forgotten—even in the darkest moments of this unprecedented national emergency—that we're headed straight into the jaws of the most decisive Second Amendment battle in the history of this nation.

You and I both know it in our hearts: If Joe Biden wins the White House in November, the Second Amendment as we know it will not survive.

Biden has made it clear that he'll weaponize the full power of the federal government to lay siege against the Second Amendment—each and every day until you're forced to hand over your firearms.

In fact, no presidential nominee in American history—not Barack Obama or even Hillary Clinton—has made it more clear than Joe Biden that freedom is in his crosshairs and he's coming for our guns.

Even while the Trump Administration was marshaling the full resources of the federal government to fight the Coronavirus pandemic, Joe Biden was issuing direct threats to gun owners on the campaign trail.

And even as record numbers of law-abiding Americans purchased firearms during this crisis for protection of their loved ones, Joe Biden was threatening to use his power as president to invoke door-to-door confiscation of those same guns.

At a campaign stop in Michigan, Biden stuck his finger in the face of a proud auto worker who was standing up for the Second Amendment, told him "You're full of s\*\*\*," and threatened to physically slap him.

Make no mistake. Joe Biden is filled with a venomous contempt for gun owners and the Second Amendment that goes deeper than any politician who's ever run for nationwide office. And if you and I don't take his message to heart right now, we won't get a second chance to keep our guns if Joe Biden wins the White House in November.

I'm asking you to help me make sure Joe Biden never becomes president of the United States, by renewing your commitment to NRA and freedom no later than July 24, 2020.

And at a time when we've never needed your help more—and recognizing that we're living through a unique and very difficult moment in this nation's history—I've taken two special steps to make sure that every NRA member can rally to the front lines of this battle.

made a lifetime membership commitment to the NRA, I've authorized deep discounts when you step up to the next level of our NRA leadership ranks.

Second, no matter what your current level of membership, I've commissioned some unique NRA gifts for every member who answers this battle cry by July 24th—to commemorate your role in helping win the all-or-nothing election fight we must now face together.

You can see the special discounts and gifts we've reserved for you by visiting **NRA2020.org** and entering your membership number from the front of this magazine. And it's no exaggeration to say that this will be the most important action you take in your lifetime to protect your Second Amendment freedom and the rights of generations to come.

Mark my words: Between now and Election Day, you and I are going to witness the most dishonest, vicious, hate-filled anti-gun campaign that we'll see in our lives.

Joe Biden—along with Fake News media elites and billionaires like Michael Bloomberg—are going to blame you personally for senseless murders committed by armed thugs who should have been behind bars.

They're going to point to the most heinous crimes ever committed in this country, and say you're to blame because you choose to own a gun.

They're going to stand shamelessly behind the armed guards who protect them every single day, and claim that you and your family simply aren't worthy of the same protection.

The lines are drawn. The risks are huge. And if Joe Biden wins the White House this fall, the most precious right we enjoy as Americans—our Second Amendment Right to Keep and Bear Arms—will be wiped off the face of the earth.

But this is the battle that you and I have trained for all our lives. And it's a battle that we can win if we all pull together NOW under the NRA banner.

With your help, NRA will find the voters who haven't made up their minds in the precincts that count and the battleground states that will decide this campaign.

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**Special Offers Expire July 24, 2020.**

And we'll make Joe Biden pay for his radical anti-gun extremism every single day on the campaign trail—and on Election Day, once and for all.

But we can't get the job done without YOUR help. Every ounce of NRA support right now makes a difference, and your decision to renew your membership or become a Life Member could be the one that puts us over the top.

Yes, the full weight of freedom's future is now on our shoulders.

But it's in times of greatest crisis  
that the greatest leaders emerge.

And this is our chance—together—to write our own names alongside those who won our freedom nearly 250 years ago, and who have protected it ever since.

Please, answer this call to action and fight with me and NRA today. Stand with this great fighting machine in the most important election of our lives. And in the years and decades ahead, please tell your children and grandchildren that when freedom called your name, you answered. Thank you!

Wqre La Pin

Photo by NRA Staff





By Carolyn D. Meadows  
President

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# COVID-19: A Wake-up Call To The Importance Of The NRA

**S**adly, so much has happened in our world since my last column to you. As we continue to address the unprecedented health and economic challenges sparked by the public health crisis, I want to begin by sharing how I pray for each of you every day—for the peace, health and safety of our over five million member-strong NRA family, our resilient Association, our elected leaders, and our country.

It was with a heavy heart that we cancelled the 149th NRA Annual Meetings and Exhibits in Nashville, April 16-19, as America prepared to endure a state of emergency. Gathering with more than 80,000 of you each spring to celebrate our NRA and American freedom is the highlight of my year. In the end, we were driven by our responsibility to ensure the health and safety of our members, supporters, and the surrounding community. Following Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines and travel restrictions, as well as actions by the state of Tennessee, we made the decision necessary to help mitigate the spread of the disease.

As so many sheltered in place during the weeks that followed, our Second Amendment family saw America's priorities shift back to basics—to a focus on family, faith, the love of our country, and the importance of self-protection and self-reliance. Marked increases in the production and sales of firearms and ammunition underscored the relevance of the Second Amendment and of the NRA's leadership role in protecting it. We witnessed how the ability to exercise such freedom is even more urgent in a time of emergency. And through it all, our NRA remained "freedom's safest place" as it filed federal lawsuits against New York and California for labeling gun shops "nonessential" businesses, preventing law-abiding residents in those states from buying firearms and ammunition. The NRA recognizes we have a right to that which protects our lives and our dignity and that a firearm needed for self-defense can never and should never be labelled nonessential.

Amid this sense of urgency, law-abiding gun owners are looking to the NRA for guidance and direction. As America's oldest civil rights organization, our NRA remains the leader in offering firearm safety, education and training programs while NRA-ILA wields its firepower to protect our freedom's future. Action and leadership are the NRA's daily mission, and without our dedication, how long would the Second Amendment continue to exist? Who will promote and protect freedom for all

law-abiding Americans—members and non-members alike—if not the NRA?

I ask myself these questions as our NRA is not immune to the economic impacts of the pandemic. Cancellation of our NRA Annual Meeting was followed by the required suspension of NRA safety and training programs and services, competitive shooting events, Friends of NRA fundraising banquets, and numerous other income-generating activities. Lost revenue comes as gun owners need the NRA now more than ever. Gun owners need the NRA to do the heavy lifting in protecting our rights in Congress and at the ballot box, but the NRA also needs our support.

## OUR SECOND AMENDMENT IS THE MOST BASIC SYMBOL OF FREEDOM, AND THE NRA IS THE REASON IT REMAINS INTACT.

I wonder if there has been a time in the NRA's long history when we have been tested like this, as we focus on survival during an election year whose results will determine our fate as a free people. We, the NRA members, share a mission to act—to support the Association and pass down our core values to future generations. Now more than ever, the NRA must remain viable and strong.

Our Second Amendment is the most basic symbol of freedom, and the NRA is the reason it remains intact. From every single NRA member to my fellow officers, directors, staff, and all our families, we remain invested in our nation's future and will rise from this crisis. Generations from now, our great-grandchildren will have history on their side to confirm that as individuals, as an organization, and as a nation, we stood for freedom.

I am blessed to be your NRA president and stand with you as we forge ahead. As defenders of freedom, that is our job. By embracing the faith we have in God, ourselves and one another, we will rebuild the greatest country the world has ever known. And with your help, our NRA will emerge the same way it always has and come out of tough times. Stronger than ever and looking to the future with confidence and resolve.

*Carolyn D. Meadows*



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By Jason Ouimet  
Executive Director,  
NRA-ILA

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# COVID-19 Exposes Ineffective Gun Control

**A**s I write this, America is still struggling with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Many have been directly affected by the virus. And virtually every American has been impacted in some way.

Fortunately, many of the worst predictions regarding the spread of this novel Coronavirus have, thus far, been wrong. And now, there appears to be a light at the end of the tunnel, and we may soon be getting back to a more normal way of life.

That's good news.

Perhaps also good news is that the response to COVID-19, in countless instances, has exposed the abject failures of gun-control laws.

Some of these failures were obvious, with power-hungry governors attempting to shut down gun stores and deny access by law-abiding Americans to the best means of defending their families at a time when they needed it most. Some were the consequence of existing ineffectual gun-control measures.

During the pandemic, Americans began acquiring firearms for personal protection in record numbers, even with the efforts to shut down gun transfers by anti-gun governors.

Americans are exceptionally self-reliant. Most realize that when it comes to their own safety and the safety of their families, they are likely on their own. This is especially true at a time when government services are diminished and many state governments have decided to release criminals from prisons and jails.

However, many new gun owners are discovering what NRA has been saying for decades; most gun-control laws only serve to create an unnecessary burden for law-abiding citizens. I have heard countless reports of first-time buyers being shocked at the bureaucratic and ineffective maze they must navigate in order to exercise their rights protected under the Second Amendment.

Whether it is criminalizing private transfers, unnecessary waiting periods, or requiring one to obtain a government-issued permission slip, gun control is failing law-abiding Americans and diminishing the Second Amendment.

Laws like so-called "universal" background checks make law-abiding Americans dependent on government's ability and willingness to grant permission to acquire a gun—something many governments have been unable to ensure.

These laws also make it impossible for existing gun owners to loan firearms to those in need. With gun stores closed in some states, their residents might wish to turn to gun-owning friends and family to borrow a firearm for the duration of the crisis. But, "universal" background-check laws make such transfers illegal and leave many Americans defenseless.

This crisis has shown that Americans cannot trust government to act as a gatekeeper on their fundamental rights. The lesson is simple. We must jealously guard our rights and keep them free from government interference.

COVID-19 is also highlighting the problems with firearms licensing in Connecticut. Under Connecticut law an individual seeking to acquire a firearm must obtain a permit to carry pistols and revolvers, an eligibility certificate to purchase a pistol or revolver, or an eligibility certificate to purchase long guns. Worse, such a permit or certificate is required to purchase ammunition in the state.

Under the best circumstances, these permits can take weeks for applicants to receive. But, due to problems created by the virus, processing times have been extended making it impossible for would-be new gun owners to exercise their rights.

Perhaps the worst situation for gun owners has been exposed in our nation's capital. Because of D.C.'s extremely burdensome firearms regulations, for years the District has had only one licensed firearms dealer: Charles Sykes. It isn't difficult to imagine why having a single dealer who can lawfully assist D.C. residents in exercising their constitutional right might create a problem.

In the middle of the surge in firearm purchases driven by the virus, Mr. Sykes decided that he could no longer function as D.C.'s sole licensed dealer. This left the residents of our nation's capital with no path to exercising their Second Amendment rights.

Because there were no alternative dealers, the Metropolitan Police Department took the extraordinary measure of becoming a licensed firearms dealer. If my experience in getting a License to Carry with MPD is illustrative of its efficiency in processing firearm applications, D.C. residents' rights are not going to be well served by the District's new firearms "dealer."

Barriers to the peaceful exercise of a constitutional right are always bad policy. During a time of crisis in which governments cannot be counted on to carry out their duties, these policies are dangerous and leave law-abiding citizens defenseless.

Perhaps many of these new gun owners will begin to appreciate the burden that these types of laws place on Americans' fundamental rights. I hope they will join NRA, or at least turn to their friends in NRA for guidance as to what they can do to protect and expand their Second Amendment rights. I count on you to help them, and to remind them that the elections this November will be critical for the future of our right to keep and bear arms.

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By Jason Ouimet  
Executive Director,  
NRA-ILA



# The NRA Fights Back As Gun Controllers Dismiss The Second Amendment As "Nonessential"

**T**he NRA has always been guided by a simple premise: The right to keep and bear arms was recognized as essential in 1791, when it was officially adopted into our Constitution, and no public official has the authority to revisit that decision.

So while the COVID-19 outbreak has changed many aspects of American life in the last several months, your NRA has not only remained steadfast in ensuring that the Second Amendment does not become a casualty of the virus, we've forged ahead in securing our rights against future infringements.

History will record how in early 2020, a deadly contagion emerged from China to wreck havoc around the world.

America went into "lock-down" to contain the spread, with hundreds of millions effectively confined to their homes.

Who can emerge and on what terms hasn't depended on whether or not a person is infected (there's often no way to tell), but whether the governing authorities have determined an activity or business to be "essential" or "non-essential."

Many brave people have worked heroically to care for the sick and to ensure the country remains supplied with food, medicine and other necessities. Nurses, farmers, truck drivers, grocers and pharmacists are, to name a few, serving on the front lines of this campaign.

Others, however, have been overcome by concern over the virus and willing to accept any new restraint on freedom in hopes of achieving some increment of safety.

No doubt, decisive mitigation measures were necessary and appropriate in responding to the outbreak's early stages, as other countries reeled from its effects, and scientists and doctors scrambled to understand and counter this novel Coronavirus.

Yet, the NRA has seen too many crises, real or imagined, exploited by opportunistic politicians and activists to assail America's essential liberties—not because it was necessary

to avert danger but simply because fear made some people more passive to overreach.

We recall, for example, how authorities seized firearms from law-abiding residents of New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

We remember that a North Carolina city even used the pretext of harsh winter weather to try to ban the otherwise lawful sale and carrying of firearms in 2012.

And we haven't forgotten the governor of the U.S. Virgin Islands signing an order in 2017 for the National Guard to seize residents' lawfully-owned firearms and ammunition, supposedly in response to the approach of Hurricane Irma.

This is hardly an exhaustive list of such abuses.

And so we have remained vigilant against any attempt to use the fear and uncertainty surrounding the COVID-19 emergency to advance the pre-existing agenda to undermine the Second Amendment.

We didn't have to wait long.

Patient Zero of the eventual epidemic of opportunistic gun control was Champaign, Ill., where in early March an ordinance was passed to give the mayor authority to ban the sale, transfer or even "giving away" of "firearms or ammunition of any character whatsoever."

After being rebuffed by a tsunami of complaints, the mayor would later claim she never intended to exercise the authority to infringe Second Amendment rights.

But documents would then emerge from a public records request showing that days before the anti-gun ordinance was passed, the mayor was promoting a "training" seminar conducted by a Michael Bloomberg-backed gun-control organization.

Soon thereafter, the NRA was forced to disperse most staffers to their homes and to cancel its 149th Annual Meeting in Nashville, Tenn., all as part of our own commitment to being good citizens and to protecting the health and safety of the NRA family and the public.





Shoppers wait in line to purchase ammunition and guns at Gun World in Burbank, Calif., on March 17 as U.S. sales of guns and ammunition soar amid the Coronavirus outbreak.



But we remain on the job with the same focus and dedication, facing not just the virus but a pandemic of anti-gun activity.

By the second and third weeks of March, events were transpiring so quickly with respect to COVID-19 and the Second Amendment that it was difficult for observers to keep up with it all.

As the media breathlessly (and often inaccurately) reported on the virus, concern amongst the American people about the virus, and the response by many governors, spread. Stores began to run low on food and supplies, with America's newfound shortage of toilet paper becoming a national topic of discussion. Big city mayors, sheriffs, and police chiefs—prodded by anti-incarceration activists—announced plans to reduce arrests and even free some inmates from jails and prisons, measures they claimed were necessary to curtail the virus's spread.

Whatever else Americans believed about what they were seeing and hearing on their radios, televisions, and computer screens, they understood it was time to take proactive measures to protect themselves and their loved ones.

During middle and late March, firearm and ammunition sales soared to record levels, driven largely by first-time buyers and those who admitted in news reports that, despite prior political aversion to guns, they now understood the need for a prudent safeguard against the unknown.

Americans themselves, in other words, reached a consensus across political and cultural divides that the ability to obtain firearms and ammunition is, in fact, essential.

So many people were buying firearms that the FBI's National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) and points of contact for NICS operated by the states became mired in backlogs, with systems periodically crashing and becoming unavailable. This underscored how when the system is stressed, background checks, licensing and private sales prohibitions can all lead to de facto sales bans.

Meanwhile, new gun buyers unacquainted with the bureaucracy of retail firearm sales were shocked to discover that—despite Barack Obama's past assertions—it really is harder to buy a gun than a fresh vegetable, even in an emergency.

Gun-control activists, of course, reacted to the run on gun stores with horror, and many abandoned the "moderate" pose they normally (and unconvincingly) try to portray. Some even suggested that buying a gun is

more dangerous than the virus itself. A writer for *Salon* insisted, "Bringing a gun into your home is stupid" and is "the last thing anyone should be doing in this crisis, if they want to stay safe."

This same aversion to the widespread embrace of the Second Amendment was shared by a number of anti-gun local officials, who began campaigns to close gun shops as "non-essential" businesses during the crisis. Some blamed the supposed dangers—not of contamination—but of "first-time gun buyers."

Then the governors of a handful of states upped the ante, banning sales of guns in their respective jurisdictions statewide.

Other governors, however, explicitly announced that gun sales would be considered essential and could continue, in some cases with measures designed to mitigate unnecessary person-to-person contact. An under-reported part of this story was that some of these decisions (especially in normally anti-gun states) were no doubt prompted by laws the NRA helped pass after the Katrina debacle to limit infringements on the Second Amendment during declared emergencies.

Throughout these developments, your NRA has kept its members informed of every late-breaking story, often in real time. We even launched a new website—[nra.org/coronavirus](https://nra.org/coronavirus)—to update gun owners on developments in their own jurisdictions. The site features an interactive map and state-specific information from across the country.



In the meantime, the Trump Administration backed the citizenry's right to arms by issuing guidance to the states via the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) classifying firearm retailers as part of America's essential emergency infrastructure. This was crucial, as some officials who were banning gun sales had cited a lack of clarity from DHS on the matter.

The NRA and others also filed or threatened lawsuits challenging gun store closure orders, including in California, Delaware, New Jersey, New Mexico and New York.

These efforts caused even some of America's most anti-gun politicians to change course, with the governors of Delaware, Pennsylvania and New Jersey, and the sheriffs of Los Angeles County and Wake County, N.C., all reversing earlier decisions to infringe their constituents' right to obtain firearms.

But the endgame for Michael Bloomberg's Everytown for Gun Safety—America's most well-funded firearm prohibition organization—was unmasked (so to speak) when its lawyers released a March 31 memo to encourage the outright banning of gun sales to law-abiding people, en masse.

And it may have worked in a couple of cases. After the memo's release, Massachusetts Gov. Charlie Baker reversed his prior determination that gun stores are essential and ordered them to close statewide.

Andrew Cuomo, perhaps the most anti-gun governor in America, also joined the gun prohibition cause. Cuomo, like a few other anti-gun governors, focused on restricting the rights of law-abiding Americans, while releasing those accused or convicted of actually breaking the law. Unsurprisingly, some of the released individuals didn't only ignore rules regarding social distancing, they also returned to the same path of crime that led to their incarceration in the first place.

In one particularly terrible example in New York, a criminal released by Governor Cuomo violently assaulted and robbed a 62-year-old man. Yet Cuomo seemed more interested in generating headlines with his gun ban than protecting the people of New York.

Cuomo reacted to the NRA's challenge to his unconstitutional sales ban by bragging that he is "immune to NRA lawsuits." He may have been encouraged by the deference emergency sales bans have received so far in lower courts.

But will the higher courts or the U.S. Supreme Court itself—with its two Trump appointees—prove to be the antidote to the attacks being launched against the Second Amendment under the cover of COVID-19?

Time will tell.

Rest assured, however, that whatever the future holds for America during these extraordinary times, your NRA will be fighting every day to ensure you and your essential liberties remain healthy and secure. 🌀



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By Todd Grable  
Executive Director of  
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# Thank You for Standing with NRA through Thick and Thin.

**T**hese are tough times for all of us. Millions of Americans have had their lives turned upside down as our nation combats the Coronavirus. This is a crisis unlike anything we've ever experienced in our lifetimes.

But in this time of frustration and hardship, I'm grateful to know NRA members like you will never lose sight of the things that are most important in life – our American values of faith, family, and freedom that make our country great. And I take great pride knowing that you continue to stand tall for the Second Amendment each and every day.

I want you to know that even in the midst of this upheaval we've been working hard to bring new benefits to you and your fellow members – including an all new credit card partnership offering great benefits like 24/7 fraud monitoring, EMV chip-enabled cards, and digital wallet technology to help safeguard your financial security.

These programs are all designed to put money back in your pocket, make your NRA membership more valuable, and to express our deep sense of appreciation for the loyal support of members like you.

I'll be sharing more information with you about these new benefits in the coming months. But today, I want to tell you about something we're doing

NRA leadership role – we've rolled back dues 25 years, to the rates that were in effect in 1995. What's more, if you take advantage of this special dues rollback opportunity, we'll make sure you receive a hand-selected NRA gift to commemorate your courageous stand for the Second Amendment at this unprecedented moment in American history. No matter what your level of membership – whether you're an annual, Life, Patriot Life, or Golden Eagles member – we have an exclusive special gift reserved for you.

To take advantage of these offers, simply visit **NRA2020.org** and enter your membership number from the front of this magazine to see your discounts and gifts. Or, if you prefer, call us Toll-Free at **833-NRA-2020**. One of our representatives can help you extend or upgrade your membership over the phone in just a few minutes.

But please don't wait. Even in the midst of this crisis, anti-gunners haven't stopped trying to tear down our rights. They're still fighting 24/7 to hand Congress and the White House to extremist gun-ban politicians in this year's elections and annihilate the Second Amendment forever. That's why – not just for ourselves, but for our children and grandchildren – we must stay laser-focused on winning in November. And that's why I urge you to take advantage of these limited-time offers and recommit yourself to saving our freedom.

On behalf of everyone here at the NRA, thank you for standing with us at this time of unprecedented challenges for our nation.

We wish you and your loved ones the blessings of health and safety during this difficult time.

*Todd Grable*

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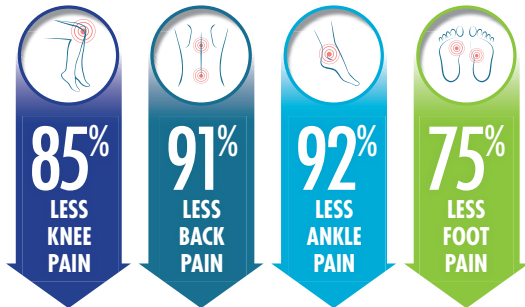
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# Helping Hands

The firearm industry responded when the shortage of personal protective equipment (PPE) for health care workers, first responders and law enforcement personnel serving on the front line against COVID-19 became obvious.



The shooting industry has stepped up to help combat COVID-19, with multiple manufacturers changing lines to make protective equipment and others donating PPE to healthcare workers.

PHOTO: MYSTERY RANCH

Our inventory of firearm-related companies that joined the fight against COVID-19 is far from complete. The list is long, grows by the day and reflects an industry-wide compassion that shines through the worst of storms, even when the challenges paralyze others in fear. With apologies to those we overlooked in the fight, here's an abbreviated look at a few early members in this all-volunteer army.

It starts with some industry legends. Smith & Wesson donated 10,000 sets of eye protection to the Baystate Health medical centers and N95 masks to the Springfield, MA, Police Department. Rather than let Remington's machinery remain idle during the health-mandated closure order in Ilion, NY, the company offered its 1 million square feet of space and equipment to the effort.

"We would be honored to donate our facility to the production of ventilators, surgical masks, hospital beds or any other products mission-critical to the war on coronavirus," Ken D'Arcy, Remington CEO

wrote in a letter to New York Governor Andrew Cuomo and President Donald Trump.

Federal Ammunition donated N95 respirator masks to a pair of health care facilities—Mercy Hospital and Cambridge Medical Center. Both are located near the company's Anoka, MN, headquarters.

Brownells provided computer server time to Folding@Home, an international effort to understand the molecular structure of COVID-19 and defeat it. "Our IT team learned about the Folding@Home project and their work using computer modeling to better understand the molecular and protein structure of the virus," said Brownells IT Director Curt Graff. "We are committed to helping protect our country by virtue of our personal protection and sustainability products, but we see this as a way to support the international community in a time of significant need."

Beretta switched its Italian facility from production of 3D printed firearm and accessory prototypes to make emergency respiratory masks. The effort will continue until supplies are sufficient to handle patient load.

Versacarry converted its equipment to manufacture face shields and face masks. Its peak production was expected to reach 20,000 units a week.

Radians, a manufacturer of PPE and quality safety eyewear and hearing protection, donated more than 14,000 N95 masks to its hometown Memphis, TN. "We're thankful for our first responders and glad that Radians can lend a helping hand during the crisis," said Wes Miller, director of sales for Radians' sporting goods channel.

Otis Technology partnered with Saint Lawrence Spirits to make, bottle and distribute hand sanitizer to first responders. In addition, the company began using its facilities—that normally manufacture firearm cleaning and maintenance equipment—to produce PPE supplies. Cole-TAC, Blue Alpha Gear and Mystery Ranch shifted production to face masks. Primary Arms donated 7,000 gloves to local law enforcement.

Protective equipment was not the exclusive focus, either. CMMG provided free lunches to first responders in Booneville, MO, until social-distancing guidelines forced closure. "In times like these, we get through things by supporting our neighbors and serving each other," said Chris Reinkemeyer, CEO of CMMG.



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## Leupold Mark 5HD Selected by Army Precision Sniper Rifle Program

Leupold & Stevens' Mark 5HD riflescope was selected as the day optic for the U.S. Army's Precision Sniper Rifle (PSR) program. Like all Leupold riflescopes, the Mark 5HD is designed, machined and assembled at the company's Beaverton, OR, factory.

The U.S. Army Mark 5HD 5-25x56 mm will come in a proprietary flat dark earth coating and utilize the U.S. Army's patented Mil-Grid Reticle. The optic will be issued on the USSOCOM selected MK22 Mod 0 based on the Barrett MRAD rifle, a bolt-action, multi-caliber system in .338 Norma Mag., .300 Norma Mag. and 7.62 NATO.

"The Mark 5HD has been built from the

ground up to deliver unparalleled performance," said Sam Horstman, director of military sales for Leupold. "And, like all of our optics, the Mark 5HD has been strenuously tested for durability and fully meets the high standards that the military demands. Our Soldiers need their optics to perform, and we're glad to be able to offer a solution that's built to deliver on those expectations."



LEUPOLD

### Quick Shots

The U.S. Army received its first shipment of Heckler & Koch M110A1 Squad Designated Marksman Rifles in March, the first of many that will eventually total in excess of 5,000 weapon systems.

The Miami Beach Police Department has purchased B&T APC9K Pro platforms equipped with SIG Sauer P320 magazine-compatible lower receiver groups, B&T three-lug QD suppressors and Aimpoint sighting systems.

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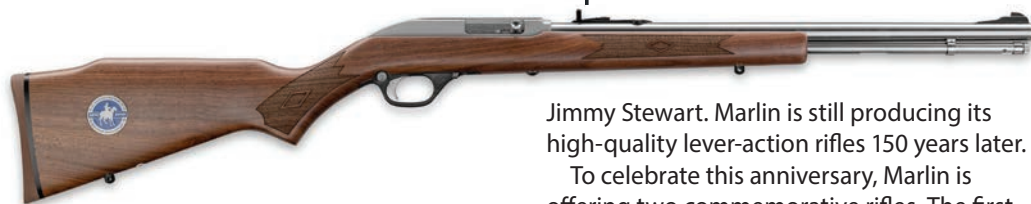
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# Marlin Celebrates its Sesquicentennial



**Marlin Firearms Company got its start in 1870**, when founder John Marlin opened his facility in New Haven, CT. Initially focusing on single-shot rifles, Marlin wouldn't produce the signature lever-action rifle for which it is most famous until 1881. The company also offered top-break revolvers in the latter part of the 19th century.

But, it is the lever-action rifle that made Marlin famous, with the legendary Model 336 (originally launched in 1948, but derived from the 1893) arguably filling more freezers with deer than any other rifle. The lever-action rifle is an icon unto itself, a lifeline to the American West, at least the American West made famous by John Wayne, Chuck Connors and

Jimmy Stewart. Marlin is still producing its high-quality lever-action rifles 150 years later.

To celebrate this anniversary, Marlin is offering two commemorative rifles. The first is, naturally, a lever-action rifle in .444 Marlin. With an American black walnut stock, gold-inlay receiver and half-octagon, half-round barrel, this distinctive rifle features historically correct checkering and Skinner sights. The other rifle is a Marlin Model 60, the company's semi-automatic, tubular-magazine-fed offering. This rifle features a special 150th anniversary medallion in the stock and a special serial number.

In addition to the two commemorative rifles available, Marlin is also offering a limited, one-year run of ammunition. A first for the company, these can be paired with the anniversary rifles or solo, with commemorative headstamps and collectible packaging.

## Quick Shots

The Fresno, CA, Police Department has adopted the Glock G45 as its official duty sidearm.

Protective case maker SKB has been acquired by the Clarus Corporation.

L3Harris Technologies announced on March 24 that it signed a definitive agreement for the sale of optics-manufacturer EOTech to American Holoptics—an affiliate of Koucar Management. The transaction is expected to close in mid-2020.

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Each lapel vase is crafted from a brass shotgun shell and brass flower and leaves above the oval. MSRP is \$26.09, flowers not included. Visit [etsy.com](https://etsy.com) and visit the IrresistibleWorks shop to order.

### Shooting Off

*"I view my gun as a tool that gives me parity of force with bigger, stronger or more numerous opponents. I have the ability to enforce decisions about my body and my boundaries without depending on others. ... I have more options than just hoping for rescue. I'm my own rescue."*

—CCW holder Sarah Cade Hauptman told the Minnesota Star Tribune in March when asked why she was one of the growing number of women with carry permits.



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The MC312 Sport is an inertia-operated semi auto shotgun with a **24-inch long barrel** with raised sight rib, aircraft aluminum alloy receiver, pistol grip stock, integral machined Picatinny rail and includes red-dot optics with a wide field of view. The optic can be removed for restricted competitions and divisions, leaving the shooter with a raised ventilated rib with a fiber optic front sight and white mid bead.

Other competition-minded features include an extended and knurled bolt handle, a large bolt release button, a bright red alloy follower, common magazine tube threads and an **enlarged magazine loading port for quad loading**.

The large loading port is milled into the receiver to make it easier to reload fast and enables loading multiple shells at once (Quad Loading). The machined integral Picatinny rail eliminates the hunt for the dot as the optics are in your field of view when you bring the gun up. The MC312 is truly an out of the box 3 gun shotgun that can go against custom guns costing four times as much. **Get the advantage you have been looking for at a down to earth price (MC312 Sport).**

**SUGGESTED PRICE \$602**



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## Ammo Demand Doubled



GUY J. SAGI

Ammunition sales are up significantly as law-abiding citizens reinforce their home-defense supplies during the COVID-19 crisis. Widener's Reloading & Shooting Supply, an online ammunition retailer, reported roughly twice the sales from Feb. 23 to 25 when compared with the previous year. "It's clear our customers want to be prepared in a worst-case scenario," Jacob Long of Widener's said.

Ryan Repp, director of content and communications for Brownells, indicated the company experienced something slightly different. "Our ammo sales are up a few points, but our emergency food and survival supplies sales are trending up higher even than ammo."

Sales haven't slowed, either. The National Association of Sporting Goods Wholesalers reported that ammunition sales doubled in one week during March—going from \$9.9 million to \$18.6 million. The industry is working tirelessly to meet the demand.

SIG Sauer Chief Marketing Officer and Executive Vice President of Commercial Sales Tom Taylor said the company is working non-stop to fill orders. Nathan Robinson, marketing manager at Olin (Winchester Ammunition) stated, "Like many manufacturers in the shooting sports industry, we are experiencing an extremely high demand for our products. We are continuing to manufacture and ship our high-quality products on a daily basis."

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**E59501**



# The Wizard Drill

Put your skills to the test with a drill inspired by a training wizard.



With only five rounds, the Wizard Drill can help you assess whether or not you possess the vital marksmanship skills needed to successfully hit targets quickly and accurately.

PHOTO: ED HEAD

**T**his month we're going to look at another of Ken Hackathorn's standard drills—one he has used for many years to evaluate shooter skills. As a matter of fact, at a Colt industry event held at Gunsite to introduce its new Python revolver, Hackathorn ran us through the Wizard Drill many times with the Python and Colt 1911 pistols. It's a good drill and it goes like this:

As with most good drills it seems simple on the surface, but may be a little harder than you think. Fired from a concealed-carry holster beneath a cover garment, the drill is revolver or pistol neutral, meaning it can be shot with either, there being no advantage in one over the other. You'll need a single silhouette or Option target, a timer and only five rounds of ammunition. You can use this


drill as a gut check to evaluate your current skill level by shooting it cold with your carry pistol and ammunition, or you can burn through a lot of practice ammo shooting it over and over. Each stage has a time limit of 2.5 seconds.

## Here's the Drill

- Stage 1** 3 yards; fire one shot to the head, strong hand only.
- Stage 2** 5 yards; fire one shot to the head using both hands.
- Stage 3** 7 yards; fire one shot to the head using both hands.
- Stage 4** 10 yards; fire two shots to the body using both hands.

Designed as a pass/fail drill, your five shots must be inside the head and body scoring lines to pass and have to be fired within the 2.5-second limit. If you're having trouble making the time you can run the drill again, this time starting from the low-ready, muzzle-depressed position. If your hits aren't where they need to be, concentrate on making accurate hits without a time limit.

Want to shoot more? Try doubling the number of shots at each stage, all within the 2.5-second time limit. While this is designed as an individual skill test, you can run it with a buddy by shooting it side by side and scoring the targets. If you're both cleaning it, try reducing the time down to 2 seconds for each stage or add an additional two-shot stage at 15 yards.

Some drills have become standards—Jeff Cooper's El Presidente comes to mind—and Hackathorn's Wizard Drill is in the same category. Give it a try to see if you're a shooting wizard. 



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**Complement your everyday-carry gear with these less-lethal options, which give you a means to defend yourself when lethal force may not be justified.**

More than a typical flashlight, the **Pepper Ball LifeLite Kit** combines a bright LED with a CO<sub>2</sub>-powered launcher designed to propel less-lethal Pepper Ball projectiles to an effective range of 150 feet, providing significant standoff distance. Each LifeLite features a five-round capacity and a built-in laser to help the user hit the intended target.

MSRP: \$299.99; pblifelite.com

From its bark-like texture and clipped thorns along its shaft to the highly polished rounded faux wooden head, the **Cold Steel Blackthorn Shillelagh** is a handsome walking stick that will turn heads. It's a tad short when it comes to providing much support, but what it lacks in length it makes up for in defensive capabilities.

MSRP: \$39.99; coldsteel.com

Though benign-looking in appearance, **POM Industries Pepper Spray** delivers 10-percent OC with an ultraviolet dye and dispenses 12 seconds of continuous spray for approximately 20 to 25 uses. A protective cap covers the firing mechanism, which must be lifted to begin the firing sequence. Spray canisters are available in a range of colors and can be had with either a clip or key ring for a variety of carry options.

MSRP: \$12.95; get-pom.com

The simple press of a button rapidly deploys the telescoping 4140 steel striking surface of the **ASP Agent Infinity Concealable Baton**. A combination of a reduced diameter and a low-profile grip offer maximum concealability either inside a waistband or on a belt, while Crosstec knurling along the handle offers a nonslip surface. Pressing the endcap allows the striking surface to be retracted for stowage. Models are available in 30-, 40- and 50-mm lengths.

MSRP: \$150.50; asp-usa.com

Pairing a flashlight with a stun gun, the **Sabre Tactical Stun Gun With LED Flashlight** enables users to incapacitate potential threats with 2.517 microcoulombs of electrical current for a less-lethal defensive alternative. On its highest setting, the LED emits a 130-lumen beam with further versatility in the form of low and strobe modes. A 95-decibel alarm provides an alternate form of protection.

MSRP: \$39.99; sabrered.com





A person wearing camouflage clothing and a red hat is seen from the back, carrying a large, heavily loaded backpack. A rifle with a scope is slung over their shoulder. They are standing in a snowy, wooded area during sunset or sunrise.

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# It's a Spring Thing

I have a Remington R1 1911 chambered in .45 ACP. Arthritis has invaded my hands and it's getting harder for me to rack the slide. Would putting a lighter recoil spring in it be a bad idea? The factory recoil spring is 16 pounds. I bought a 12-pound spring for it, just to see if it solved my racking problem, and it did. I haven't shot it yet, and I would like to get a knowledgeable opinion on it before doing so. The only thing I have been told so far about putting the lighter spring in it is that the recoil would be increased. I'm not as worried about that as I am about risking unnecessary damage to my pistol. While I'm sure other shooters have this same difficulty, I don't know anyone in my area who does. Any insight and/or suggestions regarding how to tackle this challenge would be greatly appreciated.

*Larry Jones  
via e-mail*



Reduced-power recoil springs make racking slides easier for those with physical challenges, and the use of low-recoil ammunition can prove beneficial to both the pistol and the shooter's hands.

Age certainly has its issues, but at least you are still shooting and having fun. I have a few solutions that have worked previously in similar situations that should keep you comfortably shooting your R1 for some time to come.

There are several things to consider in reference to shooting your pistol without too much risk of damage.

While the recoil spring helps to attenuate recoil of the pistol, its main job is to return the slide forward, which strips the next round off the magazine and fully closes the pistol with the barrel and slide locked together, ready to fire the next shot.

The first thing I would do to aid in the function of the gun and help to prevent impact damage of the internal parts is to add a Wilson Combat Shok-Buff, or equivalent, to the recoil-spring guide for the lighter recoil spring to rest against. The Shok-Buff is a polymer shock absorber designed to help prevent slide and frame battering as they transition through the cycle of operation.

The next thing would be to buy or load some low-recoil ammunition that will consistently cycle in the gun. Standard-velocity ammunition with 185- or 200-grain bullets should serve you well for general application and defensive use. For target practice and to minimize wear on the pistol, but still have it cycle properly, match-grade wadcutter ammunition would be my choice—provided it will feed reliably in your 1911.

It is likely that target ammunition will reliably feed in your gun, since R1 pistols are advertised as having match-grade barrels. You may have to try a few different brands to fully validate the Remington's reliability with the lower-recoil ammunition.

Keep in mind the recoil spring and Shok-Buff are being worked hard with the lower-power rating of the spring and should be replaced at 500-round intervals or when obvious signs of wear are evident. The Shok-Buff will start to lose its shape and the recoil-spring length will shorten by several coils, indicating it's time to replace them.

Another upside of managing recoil to preserve the pistol is that it will help preserve your hands and keep you shooting well into the future.

## Correspondence is welcomed and encouraged

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# Short Shots

Don't stress too much over your rifle's accuracy when it comes to home defense. Keep things simple.



Soldiers clearing a building may need pinpoint accuracy if friendlies or non-combatants are present, but at such distances, even a 3-MOA gun will provide roughly half-inch groups. In all but the rarest of scenarios, that is more than enough accuracy for soldiers and civilians alike.

PHOTO: U.S. ARMY

Accuracy is important to me, especially when it comes to rifle shooting. While I don't get upset about a distant group that "opens up" by a tenth of an inch, I always appreciate the value of well-tuned and honed tools. The way I see it, the better the mechanical parts of the system—rifle, ammunition, optic—the greater the margin of error that the living, breathing, thinking part has to work within. In spite of our efforts to eliminate human mistakes, they happen often enough that paring down other variables makes for good insurance. Considering the high quality of today's rifle-system components, there is little excuse for a modern longarm to shoot poorly right out of the box. Having said all that, I firmly believe that hyper-focusing on the accuracy potential of a rifle that will most likely be used inside of the home for defensive purposes is not the best way to concentrate your efforts.

Before the accuracy purists' arrows rain down on me, I should explain my frame of reference. Most of my Army career was spent as a counter-terrorist operator. At the core of

that vocation is the need to maintain a standard of firearms proficiency and precision-shooting ability that is off-the-charts high. The reason for this is simple: There is no room for mistakes when you must discriminate between threats and non-threats in milliseconds, and then apply deadly force more effectively than your opponents. The price for inaccuracy during training is retraining or reassignment, but in combat, it gets good people killed.

In such a profession, one must be capable of consistently hitting exact points-of-aim in all sorts of crazy circumstances. Blacked-out conditions are the norm. Strong- and weak-hand shooting are required due to the complexities of working in confined spaces or while wounded. Throw in a steady stream of explosive breaching charges, terrified and often screaming non-combatants and an IED for good measure, and you start to get the picture. A further complication is that the people shooting back routinely use innocent civilians and even children as human shields. That sort of evil requires perfectly placed shots. I fully understand the need for and application of close-range accuracy.

I also know that while good tools matter, how they are wielded matters more. My teammates and I did live CQB with various handguns, heavily customized carbines, much larger sniper rifles and even World War II-era submachine guns. Dynamic situations often dictate the available tools. Home defense also requires flexibility, because we do not typically have any warning before a violent attack starts.

Right off the bat, we can expect to be working in low light. Proper gun setup and training to shoot in darkness are critically important preparations, especially when there is a need to discriminate between violent intruders and family members in a residence. The right ammunition—expanding, limited penetration, properly functioning—also has to be in play.

Distance considerations figure squarely into this picture. The average dwelling does not present particularly long indoor shots. In most cases, the greatest span is either across an open ground floor or down a central hallway. Thirty feet is probably a fair average, and unless you're a politician with multiple

Continued on page 98

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— H., Arvada, CO





# Plastics!

Polymer is here to stay—thankfully.



Modern, high-performance defensive pistol frames often begin life as modern, high-performance plastic, shown here in pellet form. Pellets like these are melted and injected into molds, resulting in the frames that are so familiar these days.

PHOTO: ISTOCK

**T**he movie “The Graduate” was before my time, and I’ve never actually seen the whole thing in one sitting, but there’s a scene that’s well-known enough to have become a meme back before memes were a thing. An avuncular neighbor takes Dustin Hoffman’s titular character aside just after he’s graduated college and, as a piece of career advice, offers one word: “Plastics.”

When the movie came out in 1967, plastics had been in use as a structural component of firearms for almost a decade already, in the form of Remington’s Nylon 66, which used the eponymous synthetic from DuPont for pretty much most of its construction.

Only a couple years after the movie, plastics had entered the handgun world, too, in the futuristic ray-gun shape seen in Heckler & Koch’s blowback 9 mm VP70.

Given this history, the hysteria about “undetectable pistols” (which are, of course, nothing of the sort) that attended the arrival of the Glock 17 in the ’80s seems difficult to understand. Looking back from 2020, when polymer frames are pretty much ubiquitous, it seems almost quaintly absurd.

Reading the ad copy from manufacturers, the benefits of polymer frames for handguns would seem to be legion. Polymer is lighter than pretty much any metal, and less weight

on the hip is appreciated by many. Polymer also doesn’t rust or require any special coatings to protect it from even the harshest environments a gun is likely to encounter.

Polymers tend to have a natural lubricity—one of the most touted, reliability-enhancing features of the Nylon 66 was that the bolt didn’t require lubrication to function, since it rode on polymer rails. While most pistols that use polymer for the frame include metal rails for the slide to run on, that’s not universal. Ruger’s now discontinued P95, a pistol with a well-earned reputation for rugged reliability, had the slide in direct contact with the semi-automatic’s rails molded from the polyurethane of the frame itself.

There are even claims made that the flex in the frames of some pistols when they’re fired is a recoil-absorbing feature, but I find that a little bit of a stretch. I don’t know if there’s any really scientific way to measure that reduction and see if it’s greater than the recoil that would have been absorbed if the frame were several ounces heavier and made of steel.

One advantage not touted by manufacturers, but definitely there, is that polymer frames are easier for the shadetree home gunsmith to re-contour or texture to suit their personal tastes. The latest round of pistols like SIG Sauer’s P320, where the polymer frame is actually separate from the serialized “chassis,” make this an almost risk-free process, since if you botch it, you haven’t hurt the firearm itself and can go back to status quo ante for the relatively low cost of a replacement grip module.

If one doesn’t trust one’s own hand with a soldering iron, there are plenty of companies that specialize in this work, such as Boresight Solutions and Bowie Tactical Concepts.

The real reason for polymer frames, though, and why they’re here to stay, is that they are simply much, much less expensive to manufacture. Even in the age of computerized machining, it will always be quicker and cheaper to squirt goop into a mold than to machine a frame out of metal. And if the end result of the cheaper process also happens to have plenty of beneficial side effects, then what’s not to like about it?

It’s doubtful Dustin Hoffman’s party guest envisioned his wisdom applying to firearms, but if I could give you just one word about the future of handguns, it’d be “plastics.”





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13.5" LENGTH OF PULL



SHOOTER HEIGHT: 5' 6"

+0.375" COMB HEIGHT

13.0" LENGTH OF PULL



SHOOTER HEIGHT: 6' 0"

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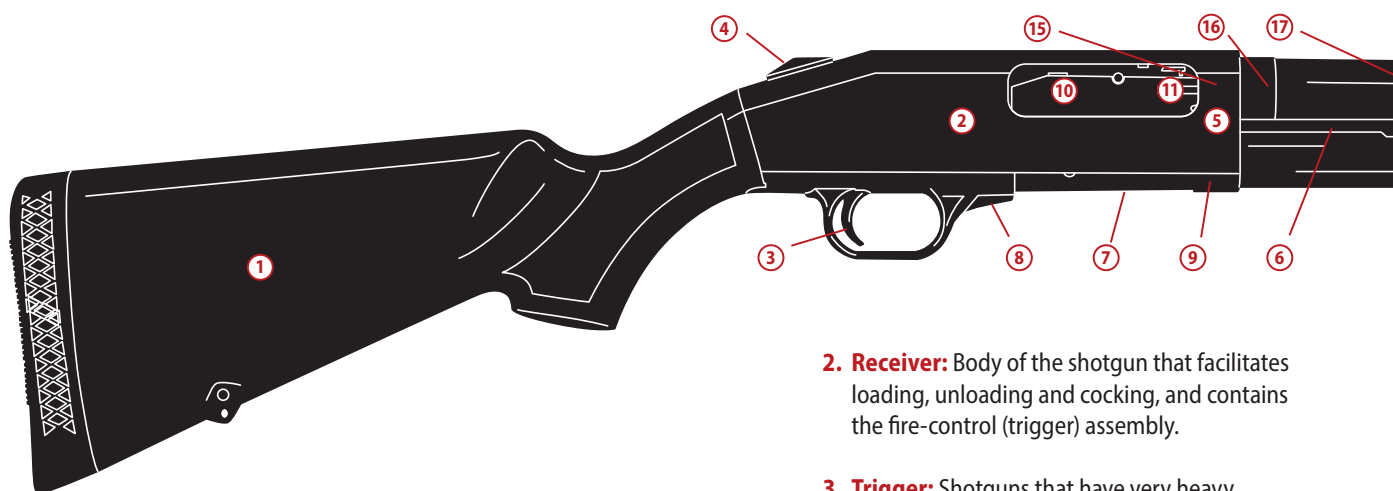


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## Anatomy of a Pump Shotgun

We often take for granted that everyone knows the basics, but sometimes it's important to get back to them.

Every part of a shotgun has a purpose, but that doesn't necessarily mean it is best for your purposes. Here are the practical definitions and functions of the various parts of a typical pump shotgun. This will help you identify any areas where your shotgun could be tactically improved.

1. **Buttstock:** Intended for securing the shotgun against the shoulder and cheek; used for aiming and controlling the shotgun, and mitigating recoil. Generally, full-figured buttstocks are best.
- **Buttpad:** A shotgun's spongy buttpad should cushion the significant force of a 12 gauge's recoil, but shouldn't be so sticky or thick that it snags the shoulder as the gun is mounted. Many tactical shotguns are lacking in this area and can be improved with aftermarket recoil pads.
- **Comb:** The part of the stock that the cheek rests upon. It ensures the eye is aligned perfectly down the barrel, and that firm cheek-to-stock contact—called the cheek weld—mitigates felt recoil. A proper comb is vital to point-and-shoot accuracy, comfort and control of the gun.
- **Drop-at-comb:** The measurement of how high or low the stock's comb places the shooter's cheek in relation to the sighting plane of the barrel.
- **Length-of-pull (LOP):** The measurement from the middle of the buttpad to the trigger; wingshooters typically prefer longer lengths-of-pull, such as 14 inches, while tactical shooters often prefer less due to a more squared stance. Shorter LOPs often result in more felt recoil, but also make the gun easier to maneuver and manipulate in less-than-ideal stances and scenarios.
- **Grip:** The area where the shotgun is grasped and controlled by the strong-side hand; a vertical pistol grip allows easier control of the shotgun with one hand, but is not as intuitive for natural point-and-fire shooting.

2. **Receiver:** Body of the shotgun that facilitates loading, unloading and cocking, and contains the fire-control (trigger) assembly.

3. **Trigger:** Shotguns that have very heavy triggers with a lot of creep are harder to shoot accurately. Aftermarket trigger assemblies are readily available for most popular designs.

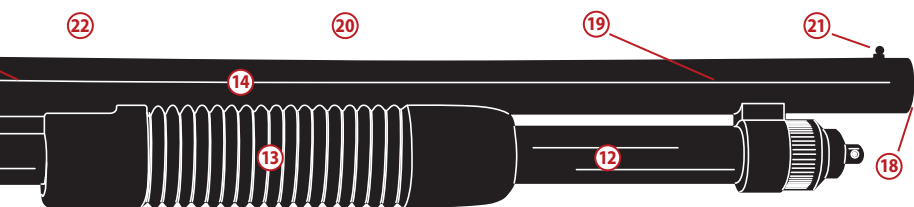
4. **Safety:** Generally, a shotgun's safety is located in one of four positions: just behind the trigger (Remington 870), in front of the trigger (older Winchesters), on the tang (Mossbergs) or on the left side near the shooter's thumb (shotguns designed to look like ARs).

5. **Action:** There are many variations of pump—also known as “slide-action”—shotguns, but most function in the same basic way. Due to the moving metal-against-metal parts that produce friction, all pumps run more smoothly when oiled.

6. **Action bars:** Thin strips of metal that link the fore-end to the bolt so the sliding action can move the bolt rearward (and then forward), ejecting the spent shell and loading a fresh one.

7. **Loading gate/shell carrier:** The area underneath the receiver where shells are loaded into tube-magazine-style shotguns. The loading gate prevents shells from falling out of the gun as they are moved from the magazine into the chamber; the loading gate must be pressed up to load shells into the mag tube and therefore can sometimes pinch the thumb. Customization of the loading gate is a common remedy for pinched thumbs.

8. **Action-release button:** The button that initiates loading the first shell from the magazine into the chamber and also unloads the shell from the chamber if the gun is cocked (unfired.) This button or lever is often found just behind the trigger guard.



**9. Shell-release lever:** A hidden lever on the inside of the action, just behind the mag tube that allows a shell to be released. Manually depressing it can unload the magazine without having to load and unload each shell through the chamber.

**10. Bolt:** Controls the shell for loading, unloading and firing; contains the firing pin and shell extractor; the bolt and bolt face should be cleaned and lubricated frequently.

**11. Bolt carrier:** The system on which the bolt rides on its way to and from the chamber. Some guns have a bolt carrier, some do not; should be kept clean and lubricated.

**12. Magazine:** The reservoir where additional shells are stored for quick reloading; varieties include: magazine tube, detachable-box magazine and drum magazine.

- **Magazine tube spring:** The heavy spring that ensures shells will be pushed down and ultimately fed into battery. Should be cleaned and lubed on a regular basis.

- **End cap:** Nut that keeps the fore-end, mag tube and barrel assembly together as a unit. Quite frequently houses a forward sling stud.

- **Mag plug:** This plastic or wooden removable dowel limits the number of shells the magazine can hold. It is often included with waterfowl hunting shotguns to limit magazines to a maximum of two shells, per waterfowl hunting laws.

**13. Fore-end:** The forward stock used to grip the shotgun with the support hand and to pump its action. Heavy ribbing or checkering for sure purchase is desirable.

**14. Barrel:** Typical sporting-shotgun barrels are 24 to 28 inches; tactical/home-defense barrels are best-suited in the 18- to 20-inch range. Most companies sell replacement barrels if you want a shorter one. Shotgun barrels must be at least 18 inches; if shorter, they are considered "short-barreled shotguns" (SBS) and are regulated under the NFA, requiring a more onerous process—including obtaining a \$200 tax stamp—to own.

**15. Barrel extension:** The portion of the barrel that attaches it to the receiver and facilitates lockup of the bolt as it moves into battery.

**16. Chamber:** The rear 3 inches (usually) of a shotgun's barrel where the shell is housed in the barrel to be fired.

**17. Forcing cone:** The first third of a shotgun's barrel that angles the shot charge into a funnel or choke. Typically, longer, more gradual forcing cones produce more uniform patterns.

**18. Choke:** The constriction placed on the payload to manipulate the spread of its pattern downrange. By definition, it is the percentage of pellets placed in a 30-inch circle at 40 yards.

- **Choke tube:** A short tube screwed into the muzzle of a shotgun that imparts varying degrees of choke (constriction) on the pattern.

- **Cylinder:** 40-percent pattern; .000 constriction; generally recommended for short-range buckshot and all types of slugs.

- **Improved Cylinder:** 50-percent pattern; .010 constriction.

- **Modified:** 60-percent pattern; .020 constriction.

- **Full:** 70-percent pattern; .030 constriction.

**19. Back boring:** Refers to the internal dimension of a shotgun's barrel that is purposely made larger than a 12-gauge's nominal internal diameter of .73-inch before the payload is constricted by the choke. Back boring—or overboring—is touted to reduce recoil and enhance patterns, but its effectiveness is questionable.

**20. Rib:** A thin bridge of steel forming a sighting plane that runs the length of the barrel; typically absent on defensive shotguns.

**21. Sights:** Styles include: brass bead, mid bead, ghost ring, fiber-optic, express-style and rail-mounted optics. Sights can be replaced or improved depending on the shotgun's intended use.

**22. Barrel shroud:** Vented hood of metal placed atop a shotgun's barrel to protect the user against heat generated by rapid firing. However, barrel shrouds in a practical, defensive sense are mainly cosmetic.

## Accessories

**Flashlight:** A necessary add-on to any defensive shotgun; add by way of a fore-end-mounted rail or integral fore-end light.

**Sidesaddle:** A proprietary name for a shell caddy, often polymer or nylon, that mounts to the receiver of a shotgun; meant for swift tactical reloading; a useful accessory.

**Rails:** Picatinny rails added anywhere on a shotgun that can be used to attach lights, sights or other accessories.

**Optics:** Red-dot sights, laser sights or any other optical apparatus used for aiming. They offer more precision in aiming, but also require dependency on zeroing and often batteries.

**Sling:** Because shotguns tend to be heavy and difficult to hold with one hand, a sling is a useful—some would say critical—accessory for carrying, holding and securing a shotgun. 🌀



# Picking a Load

Many factors go into determining what carry ammunition to choose; make sure your choice is an informed one.



Multiple defensive loads exist for concealed-carry revolvers like this Ruger LCR. No matter what handgun you carry, knowing how your ammo selection performs out of it is important.

PHOTO: RICHARD MANN

I recently picked up a 17-ounce Ruger LCR in .327 Fed. Mag. When knocking around in the field or hunting, I carry a Ruger Single Seven—the Lipsey’s Distributor Exclusive model with XS Sights that I helped design. Point is, I shoot a lot of .32 H&R Mag. and .327 Fed. Mag. ammunition, so keeping a compact, carry revolver handy that will shoot the same ammunition made sense. I felt it would also make a fantastic house gun, especially since .32 H&R Mag. recoil is something everyone in the house can handle.

Out of my 4.62-inch-barreled Single-Seven, I’ve conducted terminal-performance testing with every commercial .32 H&R Mag. and .327 Fed. Mag. load available. But, barrel length matters. I knew the prudent thing was to conduct similar testing with the LCR. Yeah, there’s lots of test results on the internet, but I like doing my own, partly because I often find discrepancies between my testing and others’. Mainly because I’ve been testing bullets in various test mediums for a long time, I trust me. I had several blocks of Clear Ballistics on hand, and while I don’t consider it the best test medium, it’s much easier to work with than ordnance gelatin. So, I assembled 11 loads I felt suitable for my purposes and tested them out of the little Ruger.

You may not realize it, but you can fire .32 ACP ammunition in a .327 Fed. Mag. revolver. Buffalo Bore offers a .32 ACP load that uses a 60-grain Barnes TAC-XP bullet. Advertised velocity out of a 2-inch-barreled Seecamp semi-automatic is listed at 943 fps. I thought this might be a light-recoiling option, but out of the LCR the load only clocked 719 fps. There was not enough velocity to initiate bullet expansion.

I tested five .32 H&R Mag. loads and penetration ranged from 9.75 to 15.75 inches. The DoubleTap load was the only load that did not meet the FBI’s 12-inch minimum depth requirement. It also bucked hard, with felt-recoil similar to .327 Fed. Mag. loads. With all the .32 H&R Mag. loads, actual velocities out of the short-barreled LCR ranged from 191 to 290 fps slower than advertised, with an average velocity loss of 230 fps. Based on the limited expansion, it seems apparent the two 85-grain loads and the single 100-grain load could have benefited from a bit more speed.

Similarly, the muzzle velocities of the .327 Fed. Mag. loads averaged 273 fps less than advertised. This disparity illustrates the importance of such testing; a certain velocity is needed to initiate bullet expansion/deformation. For example, out of my 4.62-inch-barreled Single-Seven, the Federal 100-grain JSP load will exit the barrel at—as advertised—1,400 fps. It will also expand to about 1.6 times its original diameter. This load only generated 1,168 fps from the snubby Ruger and didn’t expand at all. Similarly, the only time I’ve ever seen the Federal 85-grain JSP load expand is when fired from a rifle.

The 75-grain DoubleTap load came the closest to living up to its advertised velocity at only 129 fps short. However, this load generated a muzzle flash leaving you with a momentary concern the revolver had just exploded in your hand. The Federal Premium 85-grain Hydra-Shok load generated an almost identical level of felt recoil, but the Speer 100-grain Gold Dot load had noticeably more bite. That said, it was clearly the most potent option out of this little revolver. On the other hand, I’m not sure it’s worth the extra recoil. Shooting at a 5-inch circle at 5 yards, I found I could put six rounds of the Hydra-Shok load on target a full 1.5 seconds faster than with the Speer load.

Continued on page 106



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# The Importance of Awareness and Avoidance

As recent events have made us all aware, staying away from bad things—of any type—is a better idea than getting involved with an unknown.



By now, we are all well-aware “social distancing” helps slow the spread of disease. It also allows greater reaction time to deal with bad actors—whether that means preparing for an attack or leaving the scene before one even happens.

PHOTO: ISTOCK

If the armed citizen takes personal defense seriously, there is a lot to learn. They certainly have to learn to shoot their chosen defensive firearm accurately and efficiently. They have to learn defensive tactics and techniques that will help with surviving a deadly encounter. In spite of all of this, our goal should be to avoid a confrontation with criminals whenever possible.

Now I can’t speak for the ladies, but I do know that many men daydream about doing heroic things—the hero to the rescue, if you will. It’s one of the reasons action movies and John Wayne Westerns are still so popular. We sit and watch the hero cleaning up on the bad guys and we are thinking, “I could do that.” All of that is harmless, so long as we recognize that it is just fantasy.

In reality, lots of things can happen in a gunfight, and most of those things are bad. You may have the latest triple-stacked shooting iron, loaded with radar-controlled bullets, in a double-rectified synthetic holster of the latest, most pleasing colors, and still lose. The 23 classes you took at the Fanner 50 Combat School won’t mean a thing when the bad guy’s first shot ricochets off the curb and hits you between the eyes. That is the reality of gunfighting.

While you may scoff at all of that, I remember the night a wildly flung bullet went through a closed door and hit a Texas Ranger right between the eyes. Sometimes, it’s not the bullet with your name on it, it’s the one that says, “To whom it may concern.”

It is also important to avoid the tendency to want to “play police.” In most cases, law enforcement will take a very dim view of a citizen getting involved when not absolutely necessary. It is one thing to jump to the aid of a police officer who is clearly about to be overcome, but it is another thing entirely to insert oneself into a domestic dispute instead of calling the authorities. Oftentimes, the best favor we can do for law enforcement is to use our increased awareness skills to serve as good witnesses.

When we work to develop our awareness skills, we do so in order to spot disturbances as early as possible. When we spot potential troublemakers at the complete other end of the mall, we have a lot of options, not the least of which is to simply leave before any unrest starts. When our first awareness of the punks is when they block the doorway of the small shop that we are in, our options become much more limited, and avoidance may be out of the question.

While some folks think of personal defense in terms of defending against armed robbery or home invasions, everyday encounters may turn equally as bad. That minor fender-bender may turn into a road-rage incident. The boundary discussion with a neighbor could turn sour. In these types of cases, we have very little control over the emotions and actions of the other person. We can, however, control our own emotions and extract ourselves from an argument that could become violent.

Our society expects us to avoid trouble whenever possible. This is especially true when we are being judged by a jury. Imagine



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## STRAIGHT TALK Awareness

that you and I are on a jury and we hear this testimony:


*"I was trying to eat my steak, and this guy—I think he was drunk—kept trying to talk to me and argue with me. I don't have to put up with that kind of crap. I've got a concealed-carry license. So, I told him to pipe down or he'd be sorry. That's when he pulled the knife out and I had to shoot him."*

Imagine, instead, that this was the testimony given:

*"While I was trying to eat my meal, a guy at the next table kept trying to start an argument with me—he may have been intoxicated. I tried to be nice, but could see that it wasn't going to work. So, I left my meal unfinished, paid the bill and left the restaurant. The same guy followed me out into the parking lot and came at me with a knife. I had to defend myself."*

Which version do you find more sympathetic? Most people—like those you'd find on a jury—will find the second testimony far more persuasive in terms of determining that the use of lethal force in self-defense was justified.

Another reason for avoiding the use of deadly force whenever possible is the cost of legal representation. Very few people consider what an attorney will cost in the wake of a lawful use of deadly force. You can multiply that cost by a factor of 10 if the district attorney feels that you weren't justified in using that deadly force. I'm not a lawyer, but you should consult an attorney and find out what the fees would be under those circumstances. I'm fairly certain the amount will be staggering.

In short, there are all sorts of reasons that the armed citizen should avoid violent encounters whenever possible. Personal safety, expense and civil and criminal liability are important reasons. The best gunfight is truly the one that never happens. 



Jim Sursely

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# A (Slightly) BIGGER DEAL

Taurus' new G3 pistol is literally an outgrowth of its popular, little G2.

Gun manufacturers have been chopping down duty-size semi-automatic pistols to make them smaller and more concealable for about as long as there have been duty-size, semi-automatic pistols to chop. The earliest one I can think of on this side of the pond, at least, was Colt cutting the barrel length down on its Model 1902 Commercial .38 ACP to make the Model 1903 Pocket Hammer. (Not to be confused, of course, with the 1903 Pocket Hammerless.)

The pistol on these pages is something of a rarity in the industry, since it's the result of movement in the other direction. The G3 from Taurus is basically the company's G2 sub-compact after a growth spurt.

The G2 has been a tremendous sales success for Taurus. Launched in the early twenty-teens as an evolution of Taurus' Millennium line, the very attractive price point and compact size of the G2 ensured it would move well on the gun counters of America.

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By Tamara Keel  
Photos by Jesse Snyder





Thing is, a subcompact pistol in a service caliber may be a dandy concealed-carry, personal-protection appliance, but it's rarely the sort of gun a person would take to the range to while away an afternoon of target shooting. Similarly, unless the competition you're shooting in has a special division for subcompacts, it's discouraging to try and compete with one in most action-pistol games.

So, in a reversal of the normal process, Taurus took its very successful G2 and gave it the stretch treatment. The result is the new G3, which is marketed by Taurus as a full-size pistol. Strictly speaking, it's probably more accurately described as a compact, with its 4-inch barrel and 15-round, flush-fit magazine, dropping it squarely into Glock G19 territory.

The differences between the new pistol and its progenitor start at the top, with a slide that is obviously a stretched version of the G2, down to the shape and contour of the cocking serrations. Out toward the muzzle end, however, where the G2 has deep scallops along the top edges of the slide, the G3 features a more conventionally contoured top and a set of five forward-angled cocking serrations of the same pattern as the ones at the rear. The nose of the slide is nicely beveled to more easily find its way into holsters.

The sights, like those on the G2, feature three white dots from the factory. It's just white paint—nothing fancily fiber optic or radioactive—but that's to be expected in an aggressively entry-level-price pistol. The good news is that upgrades are easy, since the front sight is attached with a threaded tenon like the front sight on a Glock, and the rear can be drifted out of its dovetail after loosening a single setscrew.

"Loosening a single setscrew" is also how you adjust the rear sight for windage, and the only concession to elevation adjustments is that the owner's manual indicates that Taurus makes front sights in a range of four different heights.

The dustcover of the frame is extended to match the slide, and this means the G3's accessory rail has rather more usable real estate than the smaller pistol. It's a Picatinny-style rail and accommodated a range of SureFire and Streamlight weaponlights I added to it with no issues. (The irony of attaching a SureFire XH35 to the G3, thereby doubling the handgun's retail price, did not pass unnoticed.)

Aft of the rail, the frame features the oval indentations that Taurus calls "memory pads." These are primarily intended to give you a tactile reference point where you can park the tip of your trigger finger when you are not actually shooting, assuming you don't use the trigger finger on the slide or touching the ejection port for your tactile index. The one on the left side of the gun is where my support-hand thumb tended to find itself while firing, so the indentations can serve multiple functions and make the pistol a bit more accommodating to southpaws.

Moving toward the rear of the frame from the memory pads, you come to the nubbins of the gun's takedown lever ("disassembling latch" in Taurus parlance), which functions pretty much identically to that found on a Glock.

As with other double-stack, polymer-frame pistols, the weight is in the steel slide and the loaded magazines; the frame is practically weightless • Dual, nested recoil springs, a necessity in the smaller pistol, work their magic in the G3, too • A trigger safety blade doesn't seem or feel strange anymore • The top of the slide is unadorned, while the slightly sculpted backstrap incorporates a lightly textured area.

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Like the slide, the grip is pretty much a stretched-out version of the one on the G2. It's identical in width, just longer to accommodate the 15-round magazine (which will function in a G2). The grip features areas of texturing on both sides, as well as the frontstrap and backstrap. It's grippier than smooth plastic, but it's not very aggressive. I would personally add some skateboard tape or the like, but that's very much a personal-preference thing.

The magazine release is a conventional button, and non-reversible, so southpaws will be using their trigger finger to actuate it. The slim, low-profile, manual safety lever is also single-sided. As a matter of fact, the only concession the bare-bones G3 makes to the modern trend of ambidexterity in pistols is the inclusion of the aforementioned memory pads on both sides of the gun. This is probably the handgun-market equivalent of an automobile having vinyl floor mats and rollup windows.

## TAURUS | G3 9 mm



### SHOOTING RESULTS

Load	Velocity	Group Size		
		Smallest	Largest	Average
Remington 115-grain FMJ	1,086	2.75	4.10	3.45
Speer 124-grain +P Gold Dot	1,147	2.60	3.35	2.99
Federal Premium 147-grain HST	959	2.30	3.20	2.86

Velocity measured in fps 10 feet from the muzzle for 10 consecutive shots with a Shooting Chrony Beta chronograph. Temperature: 48 degrees Fahrenheit. Accuracy measured in inches for five consecutive, five-shot groups at 15 yards from a rest.

### SPECIFICATIONS

<b>Manufacturer:</b> Taurus; (800) 327-3776, taurususa.com	<b>Trigger Pull Weight:</b> 6 pounds
<b>Action Type:</b> Striker-fired, semi-automatic	<b>Length:</b> 7.3 inches
<b>Caliber:</b> 9 mm	<b>Width:</b> 1.25 inches
<b>Capacity:</b> 17+1 rounds	<b>Height:</b> 5.20
<b>Frame:</b> Polymer	<b>Weight:</b> 24.6 ounces
<b>Slide:</b> Steel	<b>Accessories:</b> One 15-round magazine, one 17-round magazine, lock, manual
<b>Barrel Length:</b> 4 inches	<b>MSRP:</b> \$345.23
<b>Sights:</b> Three-dot; drift-adjustable rear, post front	

Having just made that wisecrack, I'll point out that I was in for a surprise when I hit the magazine release. The slim, metal, double-stack magazine dropped freely from the pistol and, as I went to load it up for its first range session, I was caught off guard by the unit's quality.

At this price point, it's not uncommon to encounter magazines that feel a little flimsy and which feature feed lips that, while technically not actually shaving-sharp, could probably be made that way with not too many strokes of a whetstone. Not the G3's magazines, though. These were quite well-finished, Italian-made Mec-Gar units that felt substantially constructed and had nicely dressed feed lips. You could thumb rounds into these all morning and not come away with raw spots on your digits. Points to Taurus for this detail.

The gun ships in a variety of magazine combinations, from a pair of 10-rounders for ban-state residents, through dual flush-fit 15-rounders, to the configuration the test gun shipped with, which was one 15-round magazine and a 17-round mag with a polymer sleeve around the base to fill in the space between the bottom of the grip and the floorplate. The sleeve is textured to match the grip.

According to Taurus' website, the MSRP for this particular setup is \$345.23, with street prices commensurately lower. Seems like a really good deal; so how does it shoot?

When I picked up the gun at my local gun shop (Indy Arms Company), I had some ammunition with me, so I decided to go straight to the range. In the first 100 rounds of Speer Lawman 147-grain ball, I had two failures of the slide to close completely. The symptom was a dead trigger and the rear of the slide just slightly too far back. I was able to tell what was wrong at a glance and pushed the slide closed with my thumb and resumed shooting, but a total novice might have been a little more confused, since the gun looked "normal" to the casual glance.

Once home, the problem was apparent: The gun had arrived drier than the Oklahoma panhandle during the Dust Bowl. It was more or less entirely bereft of lubricant. A little judicious oiling was in order. Once I'd lubricated it to factory specifications, the next 700 (705, if we're being precise) rounds were largely uneventful.

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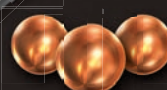
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The G3 has clean lines, especially on the right side, owing to the fact it's not terribly ambidextrous • Two magazines—a 15-round flush-fitting one and a slightly extended 17-rounder—come with the G3 • The frame size allows for inclusion of a three-slot rail.

The tabbed trigger pull is long, with an almost weightless takeup, then a sudden spongy wall before breaking somewhat vaguely at 4.5 to 5 pounds on the test gun. I would have sworn it was heavier, but it was at least usable. By the end of the test I was monotonously ringing the 8-inch steel plates at my club from 20 yards. Hey, the street price is under three bills some places; if you want a Wilson Combat trigger, you gotta buy the Wilson Combat pistol (or at least one modified by Wilson's shop).

The G3 lockwork also allows a double-action pull, which you'll only ever experience if you have a dud primer. One of those never occurred during the test, but it wouldn't have been a big deal, since the DA pull on the test gun measured only a bit more than 1.5 pounds more than the SA pull, at just shy of 6 pounds. The only really noticeable difference to the shooter is the DA pull doesn't have the long and weightless takeup.

I wound up being pleasantly surprised by the Taurus G3. It functioned fine with the 115- and 124-grain jacketed hollowpoints I fed it, and all sorts of ball ammunition. The only other feeding issue it had was with 147-grain Federal HST, with its long overall length and blunt profile. While chronographing, a couple of those nosedived into the pistol's feed ramp.

For someone on a tight budget looking for a new gun with a lifetime warranty, the G3 is really a reasonable choice. It's not a luxury blaster, but it's not marketed that way. It's for anything the G2 is a bit too small for, from action games to house gun to capacious carry gun. ☞

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# FULLY CHARGED



Ruger's latest take on its PC Carbine is not a carbine at all. The new Charger is a brace-ready handgun that is a great option for personal defense.

By Ed Head

Photos by Jesse Snyder

To be honest, I wasn't much impressed with Ruger's early version of a pistol-caliber carbine. It was produced from about 1996 to 2006 in both 9 mm and .40 S&W, but never really caught on. In 2019, Ruger tried the concept again with its PC Carbine in 9 mm and I was hooked. The new PCC remedied all the faults of the original carbine with features shooters demand and have come to expect. Like the takedown 10/22, the PCC is a takedown rifle, and can even be stored in the same carry bag as the 10/22 Takedown. It has adjustable iron sights, rails for attaching optics, lights and lasers, a threaded barrel and best of all, can be set up to use commonly available Glock magazines. The PCC is available in several versions and two chamberings, again 9 mm and .40 S&W.





Ruger drives growth in the company through new product introductions, and every time it comes out with a new gun, that product generally evolves into a complete line with one version following another. This leaves me, and all of you, wondering: What's next? In the case of the Ruger PCC the wait is over and now it's here: the Ruger Pistol Caliber Charger, made in the company's Newport, NH, factory.

Once more, Ruger has opened up its bag of tricks and returned to a successful formula. As the 10/22 rifle became a Charger pistol, so too has the PCC. What's a Charger? It's Ruger's name for a pistol variant of a semi-automatic carbine, meaning it has the action of the carbine with a shortened barrel, no buttstock and a pistol grip. As did the PCC, the new Charger is first appearing chambered in 9 mm, and it doesn't take much imagination to figure out that other pistol calibers will certainly follow.

The PC Charger I tested has a black composite body and a Picatinny rail atop the receiver. The polymer frame is actually a chassis that allows you to attach aftermarket AR pistol grips to the Charger, which comes

with a Ruger OEM model attached. No sights are provided, so it's clear Ruger intends you mount the sights of your choice. Rail-mountable flip-up "iron" sights will work, as will any number of red-dot sights or other options. I mounted a new Leupold Freedom RDS to the PC Charger, but found the mount included with the sight to be a touch high for this gun. To get it to sit a little lower, I installed the scope with a set of medium rings, providing for about 1.5 inches of offset.

The Charger has a 6.5-inch threaded barrel just itching to have a suppressor attached. Mounting one of the many direct-thread pistol sound suppressors to this handgun is easy, and for those who don't have or want one, it ships with a thread protector already attached. Another useful attachment would be a blast diffuser, but that is less of a concern with the pistol-caliber chambering.

Other features include an anodized aluminum freefloat handguard with M-Lok slots for attaching accessories. Because the Charger has such a short barrel, Ruger includes a hand stop on the underside of

At the aft end of the receiver, there is a molded-in Picatinny rail to attach arm braces and two sling swivel sockets.

## RUGER | PC Charger



### SHOOTING RESULTS

Load	Velocity	Group Size		
		Smallest	Largest	Average
DoubleTap 77-grain SCHP	1,722	.79	1.56	1.31
Defiant Munitions 115-grain TCX	1,320	1.04	2.08	1.49
Super Vel 115-grain +P SCHP	1,376	1.02	2.29	1.67
Hornady Critical Duty 135-grain FlexLock	1,082	.98	1.98	1.35

Velocity measured in fps 10 feet from the muzzle for 10 consecutive shots with a ProChrono chronograph. Temperature: 47 degrees Fahrenheit. Accuracy measured in inches for five consecutive, five-shot groups at 25 yards from a sandbag rest.

### SPECIFICATIONS

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

**Action Type:** Blowback-operated, semi-automatic

**Caliber:** 9 mm

**Capacity:** 17+1 rounds

**Frame:** Glass-filled polymer chassis

**Receiver:** Aluminum alloy, anodized

**Barrel Length:** 6.5 inches

**Sights:** None; Picatinny rail for mounting sights/optics

**Trigger Pull Weight:** 5 pounds, 2 ounces

**Length:** 16.5 inches

**Weight:** 83 ounces

**Accessories:** SR-series 17-round magazine, Glock magazine adapter, hex-wrench set, lock, manual

**MSRP:** \$799

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the handguard. As with the PC Carbine, the magazine release and bolt handle can be reversed; I prefer both on the port side. The instruction manual includes clear directions for taking the Charger apart, a procedure which is just like that of the PCC, and installing the included Glock-magazine adapter. This is the way to go, I think, because you now have the ability to use extremely common Glock 10-, 15-, 17- and 33-round magazines designed for the Austrian company's 9 mm pistols.

At the aft end of the receiver, there is a molded-in Picatinny rail to attach arm braces and two sling swivel sockets. I used a leather single-point sling from Simply Rugged Holsters that allows the Charger to be slung across the body or under an arm for concealment and aids in shooting accurately when the Charger is pushed forward under sling tension. The trigger on my sample is typical of the PC Carbine design and breaks at a bit heavier than 5 pounds.

If you own, have shot, have looked at or have read about the Ruger PC Carbine, you basically know everything about the new PC Charger except how the shorter barrel affects performance. Therefore, rather than bore you by repeating even more of what you either already know or can easily find about the gun, I'll focus on how it shot.

I was unable to procure a stabilizing arm brace in time to get my range testing done, so I shot the Charger off sandbags as it shipped, putting through it a variety of defensive ammunition—more variety than normal in keeping with the focus on “how” rather than “what.” The first, something of a gold standard for defensive loads, was Hornady Critical Duty with a 135-grain FlexLock bullet. Lately, I've become enamored of solid-copper hollowpoint bullets for use in defensive-pistol ammunition, so the next four loads I chose to test all had these projectiles. I've been using the DoubleTap 77-grain hollowpoints for a couple of years now, and it's my choice of defensive ammunition in my Ruger PC Carbine. Here, it achieves velocities in excess of 1,900 fps, expands perfectly in ballistic gelatin and achieves 13 to 14 inches of penetration.

I also tested a load from Super Vel to see how the rekindled ammunition brand functioned out of a somewhat-unconventional barrel length. The first is the Hush Puppy



The short fore-end still provides M-Lok slots for mounting accessories, while the threaded muzzle ships with a thread protector that can be removed to mount a suppressor or other device • A serrated trigger face provides force to ensure a slip-free pull on the pistol-weight trigger • The crossbolt safety and blade-style bolt-release sit in front of the trigger and are easy to actuate from a

firing grip • An included handstop helps to ensure the support hand doesn't drift in front of the muzzle • Atop the receiver, a rail section allows for the mounting of a standard reflex sight.





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Two magazine-well inserts come with the PC Charger, allowing the use of either Ruger SR-series magazines or Glock mags • Perched atop the mag well, the mag-release button is reversible • Removing the thread protector reveals a 1/2x28 tpi threaded muzzle • Because of its chassis system, standard AR grips are compatible with the PC Charger.



load. This was a hot +P load using a 115-grain solid-copper hollow-point bullet.

The last load I chose to test is also the newest, a 115-grain TCX (Total Copper X-panding) load from Defiant Munitions. This is a new company founded by Pete Pi Jr., son of the creator of Cor-Bon Ammunition.

Unsurprisingly, the lightweight DoubleTap bullet won the velocity race by a wide margin. Because this is a pistol built on a carbine action, the velocities were faster than we'd normally see from a handgun, but then, the barrel is only 1.5 inches longer than that of a full-size pistol, so the velocities weren't all that eye-popping. The average group size for

all 25 groups fired was 1.35 inches, proving this pistol can deliver outstanding accuracy at ranges beyond where most folks can shoot a traditional handgun well.

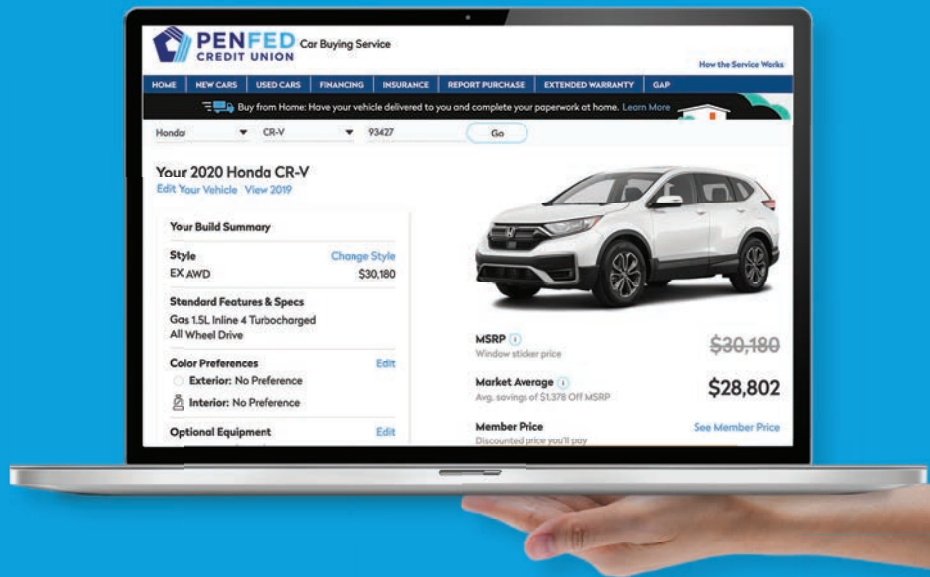
Finally, I need to answer the question of what the PC Charger is for. Is it an accurate, versatile pistol that happens to be based on a carbine action, but has many practical uses, or is it simply a fun gun to shoot at the range? Really, it's both. I see it as an ideal defensive tool suitable for use in a vehicle or camper, defending the home or being carried concealed on a sling by security personnel. It's reliable, practical and yes, fun, and I predict Ruger will sell every one it can make. 🍀

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# Rolling Your Own 5.7

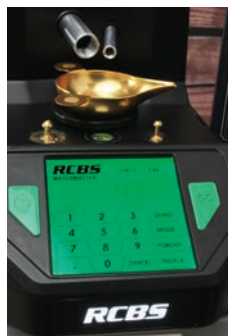
With the renewed popularity of 5.7x28 mm and the scarcity of ammo for it, handloading becomes a more attractive option.

**R**ecently, the firearm industry has been ablaze with the introduction of new cartridges. Cartridges like the 224 Valkyrie promised the AR-15 owner longer-range shots, while the 350 Legend offered hard-hitting performance at an affordable price. While new products are the gunwriter's bread and butter, nothing warms my heart like a good Cinderella story, and this year it seems to be starring the 5.7x28 mm, originally developed by FN Herstal. Numerous firearms in this chambering were introduced in early 2020, and the cartridge even played a major part in the recent box office hit "Bad Boys For Life."

By Frank Melloni



PHOTOS: FRANK MELLONI



Take care with any case modifications, especially when brass is hard to come by • Exact powder measurement is critical for safety • Precision dies ensure all rounds are constructed to the most accurate specifications.

Unlike the careers of Will Smith and Martin Lawrence, however, the 1990s were not as kind to this tiny powerhouse cartridge. For starters, it was just too darn expensive for most folks to run. Not only was the ammunition pricey, but the typical firearm chambered in it had an MSRP that was nothing to sneeze at, either. Nonetheless, those with deep pockets (like government entities) embraced it for its enhanced capabilities and its ability to provide increased magazine capacity without added bulk. These aspects kept it popular enough among professionals for the past 30 years, allowing FN to keep churning out its Five-sevenN pistols and P90 PDWs to all departments and militaries that were interested.

The round itself has a lot of draw to the civilian, too. Its compact size and high velocity make it a great fit for the varmint hunter who wants to carry a bunch of rounds afield to dispatch vermin for a long weekend. Its flat trajectory make it great for unknown-distance targets. The casual pistol shooter will enjoy increased accuracy and mild recoil. Yes, places to put the round were abundant, but the means of getting it there were rather limited. However, that situation has now all but ended.

Ruger stepped up to the plate with the introduction of its 57 pistol that brought traditional controls and contemporary features to the arena at a more affordable price. CMMG also introduced several conversions that attach directly to any AR-15 lower and offer an affordable solution for the rifle enthusiast. I was fortunate enough to have one of each on hand, but of course, barely any ammunition.

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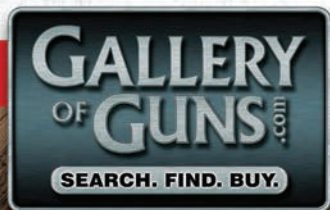
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FRANK MELLONI



Choosing quality components is always important, but even more so when the finished cartridge is a high-pressure round like the 5.7x28 mm.

During the introduction of our reloading course at Renaissance Firearms Instruction, I typically mention that chief among reasons to reload are economy and accuracy. I also like to get across that sometimes reloading needs to be done just out of sheer necessity. Well, it appears that I've said it so much, it came true on a personal basis—and it was going to be the only way that I would be testing these guns anytime soon. No worries, I mean how hard could it be? It's just your typical bottleneck cartridge, right? Unbeknownst

to me, I was about to open a proverbial can of worms. But hey, anything for science.

My journey began with the acquisition of brass. With factory-fresh offerings being virtually nonexistent, I had to scrounge for it. I quickly remembered a conversation with the president of my local club regarding an individual who was shooting the plate rack with this cartridge. Our concern was for both the plate rack and the shooter's safety, as the high velocity may lead to ricochet issues at that close of a distance. Now, mind that this conversation took place more than six months before the decision to go look for that brass. Lo and behold, the brass was still there, tarnished and coated with sand. After scooping up close to 100 pieces, I used a Lyman sonic cleaner and tumbler to bring it back to a factory shine. After this, I carefully inspected each piece to ensure that it wasn't cracked or damaged in any other way. Any time you are reloading range brass, extra safety precautions need to be taken. It turns out that the 5.7 is built with a polymer coating; while the sonic cleaner left it unscathed, the tumbler removed a good portion of it. Research would inform me that this coating is applied to aid in reliability—more on that later.

To help save the day, I gave it another 2-hour roll in some fresh media and then hit it one more time with the sonic cleaner to get off the newly embedded dirt, and cut my losses there. Time would tell if its removal meant that the cases are now useless. Conventional reloading information says that they aren't; just don't expect fluid-like functionality. I figured I could at least use them to determine my best

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powder charge and maybe even get them to cycle with a little bit of lubrication if need be. Of course, the now-uneven polymer coating is not going to do me any favors in the accuracy department. Since these aren't benchrest rifles, let's see if anyone even notices it.

With brass in hand, it was time to crack the books and see what was needed to make these pop again. Reloading data on this subject was pretty scarce, but I was able to find a few charts in the 49th edition of the Lyman manual. After scanning component options, I selected Vihtavuori N340 powder and 40-grain Hornady V-Max bullets. Vihtavuori powders have a reputation for excellence, and the short grain of N340 was sure to make life easier, as the entire charge range is just a minuscule half a grain.

I didn't have to acquire any 5.7-specific reloading tools to complete the work, as I had a set of Hornady dies leftover from a .22 WMR reloading project (don't ask). One tool I was glad to have on hand was the RCBS MatchMaster powder dispenser. This tool dumps powder to within two-hundredths of a grain, which is important when you want to undergo load development in increments of just one-tenth of a grain. If you don't already have one, you are going to want to invest in a headspace tool, as the firing process relocates the cases' shoulders significantly. This tool will help you confirm that they have been resized back to the proper dimensions, saving your fingers and your gun from a potential rupture.

Before resizing the cases, I rolled them across a traditional lube pad. At this time, I witnessed the Lyman claim of "up to .050 inch" of

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As the 5.7x28 mm round is meant for handgun and rifle, a wide range of safety parameters need to be obeyed • Be sure to inspect fired brass for cracks, uneven primer strikes and other imperfections.

shoulder displacement and checked every case after it was resized. The Hornady dies pushed it back where it was supposed to be, but I noticed a slight roundness to the shoulder. Using the headspace gauge, I confirmed that the resized cases measured the same as the ones belonging to the factory rounds. The cases also chambered without any extra effort so I wasn't too hesitant about using them. Unfortunately, I lost even more of the polymer to the die during the sizing process, leaving me some cases with almost no coating left.

I skipped the typical accurizing steps such as flash-hole deburring and primer-pocket uniforming because I didn't believe either of these firearms would reap the benefits of these steps. I was also skeptical as to if the rounds would even work, so there wasn't any point in working on accuracy when function wasn't yet guaranteed. I did, however, remove a military crimp from most of the cases and even trimmed a great deal of them.

Continued on page 96



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# The Four Laws

When it comes to firearms safety, understanding and following the four laws is crucial not only to you, but to those around you.

**T**he excitement of being a new gun owner is amazing. So many new challenges on the horizon, but as a new shooter there is a lot to take onboard. Probably the most important skill you develop is gun safety. Even if you do not intend on handling guns, understanding safety will prove invaluable if and when you find yourself in their presence. I'm sure many of you grew up around guns—surprisingly I did not. I did go shooting with family and friends on a regular basis, but there were no guns in my household. Even early on in my life I was exposed to safety and eventually to understanding the importance of gun safety in my daily handling of them.

If you do not know the universal gun-safety laws, let's start there. First, all guns are always loaded. Second, always keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction. Third, keep your finger off the trigger until your sights are on target and you are ready to fire. Fourth, know your target and what lies beyond it. You may have heard slightly different explanations, like the NRA's three safety rules that encompass the same points. You may also have heard several additional rules, but these are the four laws you must follow to ensure safety. These four laws are the key to a safe and fun experience.

An overlooked issue is safety has no rank or privilege. Been around guns your whole life? It doesn't matter. Your position within the gun community does not matter. Nobody, and I mean nobody, is excluded from the vital need to always follow these safety laws. The consequences for violating them can be severe.

Photos by Peter Fountain

By Jeff Gonzales



If you're a new gun owner, or just need a refresher, formal instruction is always a good idea.

These laws have a profound impact on our lives because when they work, we don't realize they are working. We only realize when people don't obey them. When the person handling guns does not know these rules, their ability to safeguard the public and themselves is in question. We as a community cannot allow this to happen. Everyone is watching and waiting for another excuse to try to restrict our God-given rights. We must at all levels educate the public and hold

everyone accountable to these laws. We must also strive to learn from the mistakes when they are not followed in an effort to ensure they are reinforced for future activity.

As you learn more about firearms and the safety laws, you start to understand them to a higher degree. For instance, the four laws are designed to be redundant. They are designed so, should one law be broken, the others should work to prevent or mitigate the damage should an unsafe incident occur. Whether the incident was an accident or a result of negligence is up to others to decide. An example would be the first law: All guns are always loaded. Regardless if you unloaded the gun, the people around you do not know its condition. Prudence demands they assume the gun is loaded and act accordingly. If I see someone handling a firearm in public, I naturally assume it is loaded.

Something else people overlook is how the four safety laws are not just designed to protect us when practicing, but how they are applied in the real world. Let's go back to the



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When you have your sights on a target you are sure is safe to shoot and are likewise sure that what is beyond it is also safe, you can move your trigger finger to the trigger and depress it to fire.

first law that all guns are always loaded. If you are in public and see someone handling a pistol, why would you assume it is unloaded? Even without context, it is prudent to assume it is loaded for obvious reasons.

I see poor gun handling a lot, particularly poor adherence to safety. As often as I can, I try to introduce the importance of safety with an understanding that the person

violating the safety laws most likely honestly did not know he or she was doing something wrong. It is a different story if the violator in question is an experienced firearm owner and should know better. Now, how does this apply to criminal activity? Simple, if a gun is pointed at you, assume it is loaded and act accordingly.

Secondly, keeping the muzzle pointed in a safe direction means you first need to know how to identify one. A cone from your muzzle forward where minimal property damage and no personal injury would result from the firearm being discharged is recognized as a

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safe direction. While it should go without saying, this includes not pointing the gun at your own body. Too many times I see reckless handling where the shooter does not realize they are pointing the muzzle at themselves as they try to lock the action open or—even

worse—they move their hand in front of the muzzle. We see this a lot when reholstering in beginners' classes. There is never a need for an armed citizen to reholster with great speed, so go back into your leather slowly, deliberately and make sure there's nothing that could snag the trigger on the way into your holster.

Something less obvious is when I see students working the action and they move their hand in front of the ejection port. Sooner or later, their fingers drift in front of the muzzle, but it somehow does not draw the same attention as overtly covering someone with the muzzle. It should, and you shouldn't perform any action that increases the danger that any part of you (or another person) will ever be in front of your muzzle.

As we handle guns more often, it becomes somewhat automatic to scan our location. Not so much for bad guys—that is of course a good idea—but for a safe direction. If we have to move with a gun, we want to know the safe direction to keep the muzzle pointed. You also have to realize it will probably change, or other people's movement could compromise your safe direction. Were someone to unknowingly walk in front of you or move into the safe direction without recognizing the danger, that direction is no longer safe, and it is up to you to change where you're pointing the muzzle.



Keeping your firearm pointed in a safe direction is crucial at all times, especially at a shooting range and during training.



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The third law is probably violated the most often. If you hand someone a pistol and watch how they handle it in those first few seconds, there is a high probability they will move their finger onto the trigger. Sometimes, they don't even recognize they are breaking the third safety law. When I ask in an effort to learn why they moved their finger to the trigger, most of the time they didn't realize and fix it for future gun handling. Others say they felt safe even though their finger was on the trigger. I don't blame them—they have been brain-washed watching hundreds of hours of poor firearm-safety practices in movies and/or on television. Trust me folks, Hollywood is the last place you want to turn to for gun safety. Not only do we keep our finger off the trigger until we're ready to shoot, we keep it out of the trigger guard entirely. While it may seem like a technicality, it is an

important distinction. In fact, you want your trigger finger placed off the same plane as the trigger's face. Should you be startled and your finger is in the trigger guard, or near the vicinity of the trigger, there is a good chance you will clench your hand and your finger will move to the trigger. The force your finger will apply is likely to be more than enough to fire the round. Keeping it up, in what we call the home position, will ensure you avoid this mistake.

If you are moving to investigate some type of disturbance, you will want to keep your trigger finger on home position. It does you no good to move with your finger on the trigger. It will take you longer to learn the source of the disturbance than to move your finger to the trigger. Some mistakenly believe they are faster if they already have their finger on the trigger should they need to fire. Again, it will take you significantly longer to locate and identify the source of the commotion than it will to move your finger to the trigger. The potential for a tragic mistake is too high to violate the third law.



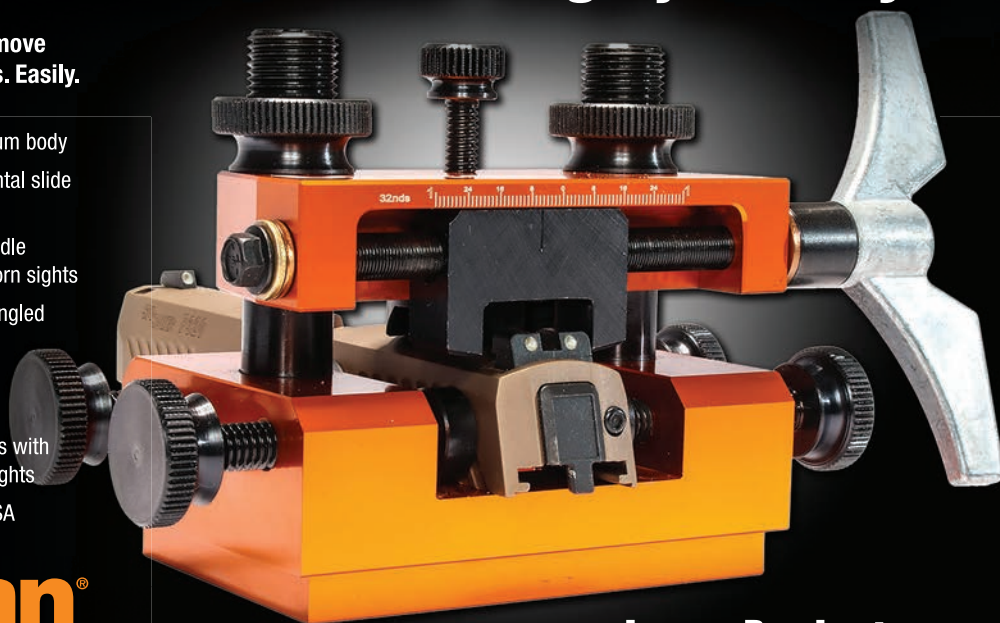
Though not one of the four gun-safety laws, placing a chamber flag in a gun that is not being fired is a good habit to have. Plus, it's often a requirement at ranges and shooting competitions.

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The fourth law is often forgotten, because it can be difficult to follow off of a square range. You must be sure of your target and what is beyond. In a training or practice environment make sure you safely place your target. Think about the final resting place for the bullet after it has gone through the target. If you are out on public land, this is super important because you are not the only one enjoying the outdoors. There may be hikers, hunters or others enjoying nature,



The fourth safety law requires you to know where your bullet will end up should it pass through the target, which applies even at an indoor range.

and the last thing they expect is a bullet whizzing by them. Think about how far your bullet can travel. The difference between a handgun and rifle round can be extreme.

In a home-defense scenario, law four is also vitally important. That bump in the night could have been a home invader or it could be a family member—know your target. Even when you determine that the target is in fact hostile, what's behind him? If your round passes through the bad guy, is a family member at risk? If one of your rounds misses the criminal threatening your life, will it end up in the ground or impact your loved one? It is imperative to always follow the fourth law.

What about those fools who do not recognize the danger of firing up into the air in celebration? While there is nothing in front of their projectile as it climbs to its highest altitude, it will have to come down at some point. Where it comes down is unknown.

Moreover, in a court of law, you will be required to justify why you used deadly force. You cannot use as your defense that there was a loud noise, a shadowy figure or

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scary situation. You have an obligation to ensure that when you apply deadly force, it was because there was a justification for its use. Positive target identification is part of your deadly force response.

As mentioned earlier, the four laws exist in a layered approach designed to create the largest safety net possible. Since we have more information regarding the laws, how do they work together and how can they help prevent an accident? If you approach each firearm with the understanding it is loaded unless otherwise inspected it goes a long way toward avoiding an unsafe atmosphere. I was once handed a gun and asked to dry fire it to feel the smooth trigger pull. There was this rush for me to pull the trigger, yet something was not right. The gun I was handed was foreign to me, so I stopped to examine it closer. I pointed it in a safe direction then figured out how to open the action. As I did, a blank round popped out of the action. My instincts were spot on and my training took over, and as a result, there was no nasty surprise. Should you see a firearm being handled recklessly, you must immediately recognize the danger. You can then either remove yourself or take action to remedy the situation.

There will come a time when you expect the firearm to be loaded, you loaded it in an effort to conduct training or, God forbid, to respond to a life-threatening criminal attack. You are still responsible for the muzzle being maintained in a safe direction. Should you be moving either in response to a deadly force encounter or transporting a loaded firearm to a new location, keeping the muzzle pointed in a safe direction might become compromised. If the muzzle is compromised, and

you inadvertently cover an object or person, your finger resting on home position should eliminate the chances of the gun being unintentionally fired.

Should the justification of deadly force be met and I must discharge my gun to protect myself or my loved ones, I must be sure of my target. I have to take the time to positively identify the target as well as what's behind and around it. I am not going to discharge my gun at shadows, loud noises or activity I cannot positively identify.

There is nothing we can do to retrieve the bullet once it leaves the barrel. We must ensure we follow all of these laws at all times. In addition, we must educate those around us, whether they are new to firearms and shooting or if they should know better. I tell each student they are responsible for their own safety and, should they see something unsafe, to take action. The more educated the public is in handling guns, the less likely we are to see or hear about a preventable tragedy. Everyone is better off when we adhere to the four laws of gun safety. 🔄



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# What Good is Trigger Prep?

By George Harris

## The Problem

In your concealed-carry class, the instructor mentioned that staging the trigger, also referred to as trigger prepping, was a waste of time and should be ignored for defensive, competitive and speed shooting. In a previous class, a different instructor spent a lot of time teaching trigger operation including taking up the slack, pressing through the break, holding momentarily for follow-through, recovering to the target, releasing to reset, firing the next shot and repeating as needed. You realize there can be differences in opinion, but really can't make the distinction as to why one method is any better than the other—aside from personal preference. You acknowledge that learning is evolutionary, but don't want to practice incorrect techniques. Is one method truly better than the other for speed and accuracy, or does it boil down to what works best for each individual?

## The Solution

Trigger manipulation on any firearm can be distilled down to causing the gun to fire while the muzzle is in the proper proximity to the target to hit where you're aiming. Time may or may not be a concern, and the degree of precision placement of the hit on the target could be a factor, too.

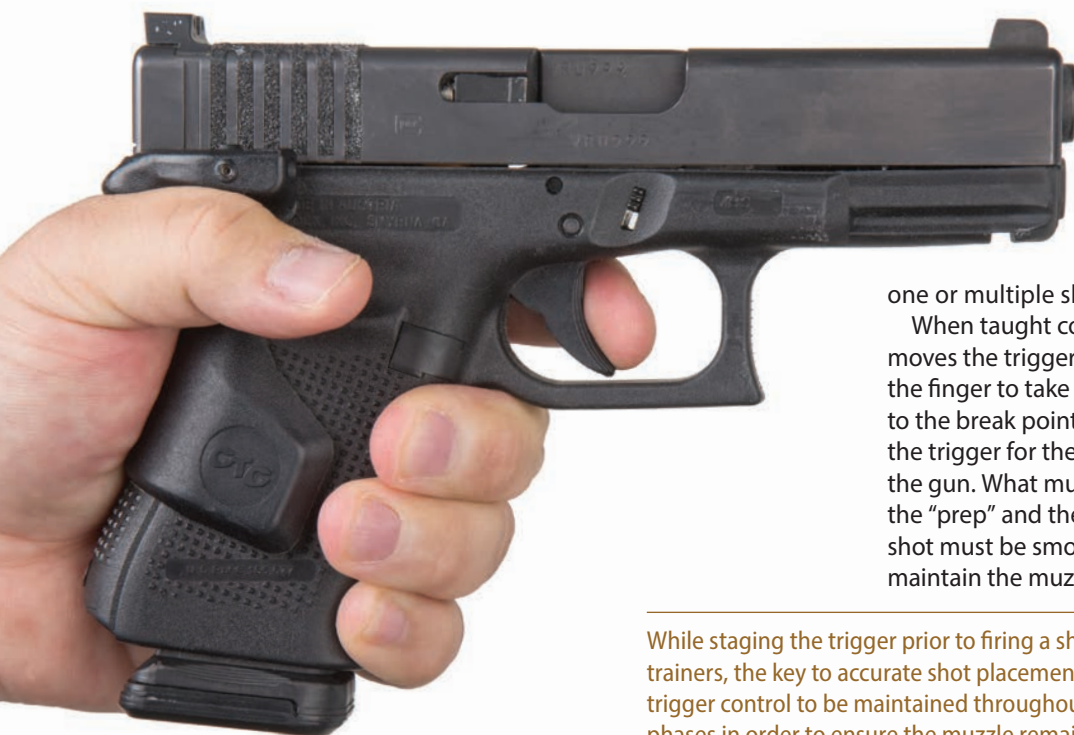
From a trainer's perspective, the skill level of the student has an impact on how trigger operation of a handgun is presented. In addition, the objectives of the class will guide the methods of trigger manipulation as well as how they are taught.

Instructors teaching foundational-level classes find the best success of teaching trigger manipulation by controlling the trigger in both directions. In fact, one of the simpler methods of teaching trigger operation is to maintain finger contact with the trigger from the beginning of a shot (or shot sequence) until no more shots are required—after which the trigger finger is

extended along the frame of the pistol, away from the trigger. For most people, this is the most efficient means of trigger movement because it minimizes the motion required in either direction to shoot

one or multiple shots.

When taught correctly, the sequence moves the trigger from initial contact with the finger to take up the trigger's slack prior to the break point. This "preps" it, readying the trigger for the extra added pressure to fire the gun. What must be emphasized is both the "prep" and the pull through to release the shot must be smooth and fluid in order to maintain the muzzle's position on the target.



While staging the trigger prior to firing a shot is preferred by some trainers, the key to accurate shot placement requires smooth, fluid trigger control to be maintained throughout the prep and pull-through phases in order to ensure the muzzle remains on target.

It is at the point where the trigger fires the shot that many experienced shooters and instructors disagree as to how the trigger should thenceforth be handled. I won't argue all the theories, but I will offer my opinion, which has proven successful.

Assuming your eyes are open, seeing the flash from the muzzle surrounding the front sight and the brass escaping the ejection port are indications the bullet has cleared the muzzle on its way to the target. The trigger can then be released forward to the reset point as the muzzle reaches the peak of its upward movement. As the muzzle settles back toward its original position, the trigger is "prepped" and the shot is released with the additional pressure applied as the sights (and therefore the muzzle) find the target. This can be repeated as many times as there are shots required with the utmost of efficiency using smooth, fluid, but not necessarily slow movement.

To be fair, some shooters—mostly seasoned professionals in the competitive ranks—can slap the trigger each time their gun is fired without moving the muzzle off the target. Obviously, there is no "trigger prep" for the trigger slappers, as their fingers often lose contact with the trigger each time they fire a shot.

In either case, if the target is being hit with satisfactory speed and accuracy, there is no controversy, just two methods of accomplishing the same thing.

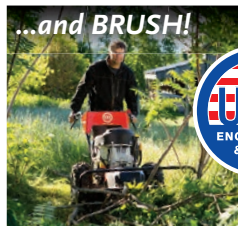
In my experience, teaching foundational shooters to slap the trigger most often ends up with the student jerking the trigger, resulting in corrective action requiring trigger control in both directions to achieve the desired accuracy.

Sometimes, in the evolution of learning, techniques change and may even reverse themselves as the objectives and requirements become more complex. It pays to be flexible and open to alternative methods of achieving one's goals. 🔄

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29 Piece Titanium Drill Bit Set

**\$10.99**

**\$18.99**

Save 83%

Compare to DeWalt DW1369 \$68.14

ITEM 5889 62781 61627 shown

Use Online & In-Store



ITEM 5889 62781 61627 shown

LIMIT 3 - Exp. 8/16/20\*

## SUPER COUPON

**COVERPRO**

10 ft. x 17 ft. Portable Garage

**\$169.99**

**\$199.99**

Save \$20

Compare to Shelter Logic 75377 \$290.75

Use Online & In-Store



ITEM 62859 63055 62860 shown

LIMIT 1 - Exp. 8/16/20\*

## SUPER COUPON

**CENTECH**

★★★★★ (2173)

3-in-1 Portable Power Pack with Jump Starter

**\$59.99**

**\$69.99**

Save 33%

Compare to Super Start 55001 \$99.99

ITEM 36391 64083/64049 62306 shown



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ITEM 36391 64083/64049 62306 shown

LIMIT 1 - Exp. 8/16/20\*

## SUPER COUPON

**U.S. GENERAL**

★★★★★ (1474)

30", 5 Drawer Mechanic's Cart

**\$199.99**

**\$239.99**

Save \$60

Compare to Snap-on KRCB10TBPS \$930

ITEM 64033, 64722, 64031, 64721, 64035, 64720, 64629



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ITEM 64033, 64722, 64031, 64721, 64035, 64720, 64629

LIMIT 1 - Exp. 8/16/20\*

## SUPER COUPON

**PITTSBURGH**

★★★★★ (2464)

300 lb. Capacity ATV/Lawn Mower Lift

**\$74.99**

**\$99.99**

Save \$46

Compare to Max Load 38028 \$121.47

ITEM 60395/62325/62493/61523 shown

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ITEM 60395/62325/62493/61523 shown

LIMIT 2 - Exp. 8/16/20\*

## SUPER COUPON

**CHICAGO ELECTRIC**

★★★★★ (4477)

6 AMP Variable Speed Reciprocating Saw

**\$19.99**

**\$27.99**

Save 66%

Compare to Porter-Cable PCE360 \$59.98

ITEM 65570 62370 shown

Use Online & In-Store



ITEM 65570 62370 shown

LIMIT 4 - Exp. 8/16/20\*

## SUPER COUPON

**McGRAW**

★★★★★ (486)

8 Gallon, 150 PSI Oil-Free Air Compressor

**\$119.99**

**\$137.99**

Save \$39

Compare to Kobalt 300841 \$159

ITEM 56269 64294 shown



Use Online & In-Store



ITEM 56269 64294 shown

LIMIT 1 - Exp. 8/16/20\*

## SUPER COUPON

**Diablo**

★★★★★ (1406)

3/8" x 50 ft. Industrial Grade Rubber Air Hose

**\$18.99**

**\$24.99**

Save 36%

Compare to Goodyear 12865 \$29.82

ITEM 61939 62884 62890 shown



Use Online & In-Store



ITEM 61939 62884 62890 shown

LIMIT 3 - Exp. 8/16/20\*

## SUPER COUPON

**HaulMaster**

★★★★★ (5880)

18" x 12" Mover's Dolly

**\$7.99**

**\$10.99**

Save 65%

Compare to Buffalo Tools HFDOLLY \$22.99

ITEM 60497/63095/63096 63097/63098 shown

Use Online & In-Store



ITEM 60497/63095/63096 63097/63098 shown

LIMIT 4 - Exp. 8/16/20\*

## SUPER COUPON

**BADLAND**

★★★★★ (2171)

2500 lb. Electric Winch with Wireless Remote Control

**\$49.99**

**\$69.99**

Save \$140

Compare to Superwinch 1125220 \$189.99

ITEM 61258 61297/63476 61840 shown

Use Online & In-Store



ITEM 61258 61297/63476 61840 shown

LIMIT 2 - Exp. 8/16/20\*

## SUPER COUPON

**BADLAND**

★★★★★ (286)

Snatch Block

**\$19.99**

**\$27.99**

Save 53%

Compare to Warn WAR88898 \$42.99

ITEM 62435 61673 shown



Use Online & In-Store



ITEM 62435 61673 shown

LIMIT 3 - Exp. 8/16/20\*

## SUPER COUPON

**EARTHQUAKE XT**

★★★★★ (1244)

20v Lithium-Ion, 1/2" Extreme Torque Impact Wrench Kit

**\$229.99**

**\$269.99**

Save \$49

Compare to Snap-on CT885PDB, CT88185BK, CTCT20 \$724.85

ITEM 63537/64195/63852 shown



Use Online & In-Store



ITEM 63537/64195/63852 shown

LIMIT 1 - Exp. 8/16/20\*

## SUPER COUPON

**PITTSBURGH**

★★★★★ (988)

32 Piece Screwdriver Set

**\$5.99**

**\$7.99**

Save 81%

Compare to Performax 48201 \$31.97

ITEM 61259 90764 shown

Use Online & In-Store

**SUPER COUPON** ★★★★★ (295)

**Noise Canceling Electronic Ear Muffs**

**\$11<sup>99</sup>**  
~~\$14<sup>99</sup>~~  
 Save 45%

Compare to Radians 980731 \$22.08

Use Online & In-Store

ITEM 92851 10715036 LIMIT 4 - Exp. 8/16/20\*

**SUPER COUPON** ★★★★★ (5010)

**Quantum 588 Lumen Tactical Flashlight**

**\$9<sup>99</sup>**  
~~\$14<sup>99</sup>~~  
 Save 83%

Compare to Streamlight ProTac IIL \$59.99

Use Online & In-Store

ITEM 64799 63934 shown 10731554 LIMIT 4 - Exp. 8/16/20\*

**SUPER COUPON** ★★★★★ (593)

**Apache Weatherproof Protective Rifle Cases**

Model 9800

2" Heavy duty ball bearing wheels

**\$114<sup>99</sup>**  
~~\$149<sup>99</sup>~~  
 Save 155

Super strong reinforced polypropylene construction

Adjustable pressure relief valve equalizes pressure for easy opening

50-3/8" L  
 13-5/8" W  
 5-1/8" H

Black ITEM 64520 Tan ITEM 56842

Use Online & In-Store

ITEM 64520 10754962 LIMIT 1 - Exp. 8/16/20\*

Strong, secure, easy-open latches

Pick-and-pull foam insert for impact-absorbing protection

Pre-drilled for two padlocks (locks sold separately)

Case contents not included.

Use Online & In-Store

ITEM 64520 10754962 LIMIT 1 - Exp. 8/16/20\*

**SUPER COUPON** ★★★★★ (1251)

**Magnesium Fire Starter**

**99c**  
~~\$1<sup>99</sup>~~  
 Save 90%

Compare to Coglian's 7870 \$9.99

Use Online & In-Store

ITEM 69457 63733/66560 shown 10739996 LIMIT 4 - Exp. 8/16/20\*

**SUPER COUPON** ★★★★★ (743)

**PITTSBURGH SERIES 2 Rapid Pump® 3 Ton Steel Heavy Duty Low Profile Floor Jack**

**\$99<sup>99</sup>**  
~~\$109<sup>99</sup>~~  
 Save 90

Compare to TED Correll TR800182 \$189.99

Use Online & In-Store

ITEM 56618/56619 56620 56617 shown 10748606 LIMIT 1 - Exp. 8/16/20\*

**SUPER COUPON** ★★★★★ (674)

**Kenway 12v LED Magnetic Towing Light Kit**

**\$22<sup>99</sup>**  
~~\$34<sup>99</sup>~~  
 Save 46%

Compare to Blazer 67300 \$42.65

Use Online & In-Store

ITEM 64282 10753224 LIMIT 3 - Exp. 8/16/20\*

**SUPER COUPON** ★★★★★ (3524)

**PITTSBURGH 130 Piece Tool Kit with Case**

**\$29<sup>99</sup>**  
~~\$39<sup>99</sup>~~  
 Save 54%

Compare to Anvil A137HOS \$66.39

Use Online & In-Store

ITEM 64301 63248/64080 64263 68998 shown 10753310 LIMIT 2 - Exp. 8/16/20\*

**SUPER COUPON** ★★★★★ (2168)

**CENTRAL MACHINERY 8", 5 Speed Benchtop Drill Press**

**\$54<sup>99</sup>**  
~~\$69<sup>99</sup>~~  
 Save 31%

Compare to WEN 4208 \$79.97

Use Online & In-Store

ITEM 38119 63520 60228 shown 10767748 LIMIT 1 - Exp. 8/16/20\*

**SUPER COUPON** ★★★★★ (163)

**UNION 10 Gun Electronic Security Safe**

**\$279<sup>99</sup>**  
~~\$329<sup>99</sup>~~  
 Save \$284

Compare to Stack-On SS-16-MB-E \$564.57

Use Online & In-Store

ITEM 64008 64011 shown 10778018 LIMIT 1 - Exp. 8/16/20\*

**SUPER COUPON** ★★★★★ (1251)

**PITTSBURGH 2 Ton Capacity Foldable Shop Crane**

**\$189<sup>99</sup>**  
~~\$239<sup>99</sup>~~  
 Save \$110

Compare to Big Red 116748-99 \$299.99

Use Online & In-Store

ITEM 60388 69514 shown 10780269 LIMIT 1 - Exp. 8/16/20\*

**SUPER COUPON** ★★★★★ (2065)

**HaulMaster 1000 lb. Capacity Swing-Back Bolt-On Trailer Jack**

**\$18<sup>99</sup>**  
~~\$26<sup>99</sup>~~  
 Save 62%

Compare to Reese Towspower 74410 \$49.99

Use Online & In-Store

ITEM 49780 41005 shown 10787584 LIMIT 3 - Exp. 8/16/20\*

**SUPER COUPON** ★★★★★ (426)

**HaulMaster Triple Ball Trailer Hitch**

**\$19<sup>99</sup>**  
~~\$31<sup>99</sup>~~  
 Save 66%

Compare to Reese Towspower 101179799 \$59.99

Use Online & In-Store

ITEM 64311 64286 shown 10788541 LIMIT 4 - Exp. 8/16/20\*

**SUPER COUPON** ★★★★★ (763)

**THUNDERBOLT solar 100w Solar Panel Kit**

**\$189<sup>99</sup>**  
~~\$102<sup>99</sup>~~  
 Save \$102

Compare to Windynation SOK-100WP-P30L \$292.44

Use Online & In-Store

ITEM 63585 10788886 LIMIT 1 - Exp. 8/16/20\*

**SUPER COUPON** ★★★★★ (953)

**8" Hunting Knife with Survival Kit**

**\$6<sup>99</sup>**  
~~\$9<sup>99</sup>~~  
 Save 53%

Compare to Whetstone 25-87612 \$14.92

Use Online & In-Store

ITEM 61733/61501/90714 shown 10791937 LIMIT 4 - Exp. 8/16/20\*

**SUPER COUPON** ★★★★★ (3005)

**PREDATOR 6.5 HP (212 cc) OHV Horizontal Shaft Gas Engine**

**\$99<sup>99</sup>**  
~~\$119<sup>99</sup>~~  
 Save \$230

Compare to Honda GX200U/20X2 \$329.99

Use Online & In-Store

ITEM 60363/54911 69730 shown 10845470 LIMIT 2 - Exp. 8/16/20\*

**SUPER COUPON** ★★★★★ (1193)

**Two Tier Easy-Step Step Ladder**

**\$19<sup>99</sup>**  
~~\$29<sup>99</sup>~~  
 Save 40%

Compare to Werner S322A-1 \$33.88

Use Online & In-Store

ITEM 67514 10813548 LIMIT 4 - Exp. 8/16/20\*

**SUPER COUPON** ★★★★★ (4132)

**VOYAGER 12" Tool Bag with 21 Pockets**

**\$4<sup>99</sup>**  
~~\$8<sup>99</sup>~~  
 Save 75%

Compare to AWP 3L-2216 \$19.98

Use Online & In-Store

ITEM 38168/62163 62349 61467 shown 10835709 LIMIT 4 - Exp. 8/16/20\*

**SUPER COUPON** ★★★★★ (958)

**luminar WORK 3w LED Rechargeable Cordless Spotlight**

**\$9<sup>99</sup>**  
~~\$13<sup>99</sup>~~  
 Save 75%

Includes AC/DC adapter and 12v DC cigarette lighter plug.

Compare to Peak PKCOTV \$39.99

Use Online & In-Store

ITEM 61960 61777 shown 10837240 LIMIT 4 - Exp. 8/16/20\*

**SUPER COUPON** ★★★★★ (6507)

**PORTLAND 7 AMP Electric Pole Saw 9.5" Bar**

**\$59<sup>99</sup>**  
~~\$79<sup>99</sup>~~  
 Save \$39

Compare to Worx WG309 \$99.98

Use Online & In-Store

ITEM 68862/63190 54808/62896 shown 10839129 LIMIT 2 - Exp. 8/16/20\*





## Remington M1903 Rifles in World War II

**While the M1 Garand gets the most accolades for its service in World War II, M1903 bolt-action rifles made by Remington also served our forces well.**

**S**hortly after D-Day, a U.S. Army photographer took a picture of a company of soldiers climbing the bluff above Omaha Beach after having just landed on the Easy Red Sector. In the shot, the column of troops snakes all the way up from the water's edge to the top of the bluff, past vehicles, equipment and even a concrete bunker that had been knocked out during the fighting on June 6th. A close examination of the image reveals that the troops are with the



The '03's receiver followed a similar pattern to many other bolt-action rifles of its day • Using a ladder-style rear sight, the 1903 was theoretically capable of aimed fire out to 2,850 yards • Robust and dovetailed, the front sight had glare-reducing serrations • Soldiers from the 2nd Infantry Division carried 1903 Springfields rather than M1 Garands on their way up the bluffs overlooking Omaha Beach.



2nd Infantry Division and a closer examination reveals they are armed with a firearm you might not expect to see on the invasion beaches in Normandy: the .30-caliber, M1903 bolt-action rifle. When we picture the U.S. Soldier fighting his way across Europe in World War II, we picture him carrying the M1 rifle. In fact, the Garand is thought of as the American rifle that did all of the fighting during the Second World War. But, another infantry rifle armed U.S. fighting forces during the conflict, and that rifle is well represented in the photo of 2nd Division soldiers climbing the bluff behind Omaha Beach. The M1903 did much more fighting between 1941 and 1945 than we give it credit for, and a commercial manufacturer made most of the examples of the rifle that did that fighting.

Even as the M1 Garand went into production at the Springfield Armory in 1937, the old 1903 remained the standard service rifle of the U.S. military. The design was proven in combat during the Moro Rebellion, World War I and the interventions in Siberia and Nicaragua. The '03s that did all of the work in those combat zones were produced at either the Springfield Armory or Rock Island Arsenal, and they were reaching the end of their service lives. While re-barreling could extend that, there was still another big problem. By late 1939, wars were raging in both Europe and Asia, and it was recognized that hundreds of thousands of rifles would be needed if the U.S. was drawn into either conflict. It was also known that the quantity of M1903 rifles on




U.S. ARMY SIGNAL CORPS



hand was not nearly enough and that it would take too much time for the Springfield Armory to produce the new M1 semi-automatic in sufficient numbers to meet the needs of a full national mobilization. In an effort to address this potential disastrous shortage of service rifles, the U.S. government issued a contract to Remington Arms to put the '03 back into production in September 1941 using the old Rock Island manufacturing equipment. At first, the Remington M1903s generally resembled the rifles produced at Rock Island toward the end of World War I, but then Remington began introducing modifications designed to reduce production time and decrease production costs. Grasping grooves

on the stock were eliminated, as well as several unnecessary machining steps, and non-critical tolerances were relaxed. These so-called "Remington modified" M1903 rifles began entering service shortly after the U.S. went to war, but the model did not last long.

As Remington continued to turn out guns, the design was repeatedly simplified for mass production until it eventually became an entirely new model. Slightly more than 8 months after the original contract with the company had been signed, the M1903A3 rifle was standardized on May 21, 1942. The A3's design made use of stamped sheet-metal construction for the upper-band assembly, the lower barrel band, the front sling swivel, buttplate and trigger housing/floorplate. A fully adjustable rear peep-sight assembly was added to the rear receiver band, increasing the rifle's sight radius by 5 inches. The Ordnance Department approved the

introduction of two-groove rifling for the barrels in October 1942, and deliveries of the new design began 2 months later. By the end of the Second World War, Remington had produced 348,085 standard M1903 and "Modified" M1903 rifles, in addition to more than 700,000 M1903A3s. These rifles served from Algeria to Burma, and from Peleliu to Salerno. They came ashore in northern Europe during the Normandy invasion; they crossed the Rhine River and they liberated concentration camps. In fact, when U.S. troops reached the camp at Buchenwald near Weimar, Germany on April 11, 1945, at least one of them was armed with an M1903A3. While the M1 Garand rifle turned in legendary service during World War II, the '03 did, too, and it is worth remembering that most of the examples produced during the conflict had the name Remington on the receiver. 

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# SIG Sauer P320 XCompact

This compact version of SIG's well-known P320 series performs well not only on the range, but also for concealed carry.



## SPECIFICATIONS

**Manufacturer:** SIG Sauer; (603) 772-2302, sigsauer.com

**Action Type:** Striker-fired, semi-automatic

**Caliber:** 9 mm

**Capacity:** 15+1 rounds

**Frame:** Polymer

**Slide:** Nitron-coated stainless steel

**Barrel Length:** 3.6 inches

**Sights:** X-Ray3 day/night

**Trigger Pull Weight:** 6 pounds

**Length:** 7 inches

**Width:** 1.3 inches

**Height:** 5.3 inches

**Weight:** 25.3 ounces

**Accessories:** Two magazines, hard case, manual

**MSRP:** \$679.99

## SHOOTING RESULTS

Load	Velocity	Smallest	Group Size Largest	Average
SIG Sauer 115-grain JHP	1,155	1.0	1.83	1.39
Winchester USA 115-grain FMJ	1,129	.97	2.07	1.75
Black Hills 124-grain +P JHP	1,185	.85	1.95	1.37

Velocity measured in fps 10 feet from the muzzle for 10 consecutive shots with an Oehler Model 35P chronograph. Temperature: 57 degrees Fahrenheit. Accuracy measured in inches for five consecutive, five-shot groups at 15 yards from a rest.

## ON TARGET

Compact, with optics-ready slide

## OFF TARGET

Fragile slide stop

Some pistols blur the lines between those made for competition and those made for concealed carry. Sharing features with the competition-oriented P320 X5 Legion, SIG Sauer's carry-size P320 XCompact is perhaps most exemplar of this approach where defensive pistols are designed to perform as well on the street as they do on the range.

The XCompact is modular with the firing mechanism contained in a serial-numbered, stainless steel chassis that can be inserted into different grip frames and used with different-length slide assemblies. A double-action pistol, pressing the trigger fully cocks then releases a partially tensioned striker.

Included are the defining features of "X-type" P320 pistols: extended-beavertail grip frame with wide radius, undercut trigger guard, optics-ready slide, X-Ray3 day/night sights, ambidextrous extended slide-catch levers and a flat-face trigger.

The grip features crinkle texturing on the sides and on the bottom portions of the front and backstraps, as well as a hole at its base for



With a tritium insert surrounded by a green polymer ring, the front sight is easily seen in different light settings • Two tritium vials adorn the rear sight on each side of the square notch, providing a frame for the front sight • An extended beavertail grip allows for assistance when performing a holster draw • An accessory rail is incorporated on the



dustcover, while beveled forward edges are present at the front of the slide, aiding in holstering.

a lanyard. The trigger guard is long enough to accommodate moderately thick gloves without accidentally activating the trigger and has an angled, serrated front for those who prefer to wrap it with their support-hand index finger. Rounding out the frame, the dust cover allots 1.5 inches of slotted rail for mounting a light or laser.

The slide has beveled forward edges to facilitate holstering and the interior of the ejection port is cut at an angle for more reliable ejection. It is also cut to accept SIG's Romeo1 Pro and Leupold DeltaPoint Pro red-dot sights. Because the rear sight is mounted to a plate that fits into this cut, you can run iron sights or a red dot, not both. The breechblock has a loaded-chamber flag that protrudes upward enough to visually and tactilely verify chamber status. The XCompact disassembles without having to pull the trigger, but the method is deceptively conventional, so be mindful to completely follow the directions.

Fixed, night sights on the gun are steel. The front has a tritium insert surrounded by a green polymer ring while the rear has an insert inconspicuously embedded on each side of the square notch. The front sight can be drifted to adjust windage, while the rear sight's leading edge is high enough to rack the slide by pressing it against a belt buckle or holster if one hand is injured.

Accuracy tested with three loads and function tested with three more offerings, 400 rounds were fired without any stoppages. The sights were well regulated for a center hold printing only .75 inch to 1.25 inches above POA, but dead-on for windage.

It performs well in practical single-handed shooting where the most important design elements of a handgun—trigger, sights and grip fit—work harmoniously to make me a much more capable shooter.

The trigger's flat, wide face reduces the perceived weight of pull while the 90-degree break combined with zero

overtravel reduces the tendency of hinged triggers to induce muzzle dip. Moreover, the straight trigger face allows the shooter to adjust the perceived weight of pull; pressing at the middle yields a measured 6-pound pull while pressing at the bottom edge reduces it to 4 pounds, 2 ounces due to the increased leverage, but adds an inconsequential amount of perceived travel.

I was impressed by the X-Ray3 sights, which work well in different lighting conditions and engender rapid, correct alignment. In daylight, your attention is drawn to the green ring on the front sight, while the small tritium vials at the rear blend into the sight blade without distracting your focus, as white dots often do. The moderately wide front blade is paired with a rear notch of optimal width, and the curvature of the top of the slide creates the illusion that the front sight's green circle is floating above it. In darkness, the front sight emits a larger green glow distinct from the smaller glowing dots at the rear.

This pistol points on target instinctively for those used to the M1911's grip angle, and the extended beaver-tail helps you obtain a correct grip when drawing from a holster. Controls are easily accessible with a mag-release button of ideal size and slide-catch levers that extend slightly outward from the frame are a welcome improvement over nearly flush-mounted, difficult-to-manipulate alternatives.

Though the XCompact is more refined than most polymer carry pieces, I found two areas for improvement. The magazine's witness holes are on the right side, making a quick load check only possible with the pistol held in the left hand, and the slide-catch levers could be made more substantial on the inside of the frame out of concern that they bend after many cycles of depressing them to chamber a round from slide lock. Other than those quibbles, this is a fine choice for carry, home defense and even some action competition.



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# Geissele Super Duty

Best known for its phenomenal aftermarket AR triggers, Geissele Automatics has expanded its offerings to include triggers for other firearms, other parts for the AR platform and now, a complete rifle.

**T**he first product Bill Geissele made was an improved trigger for the AR-15. Ever since then, he has been working his way through the parts and details of the AR-15, offering improved products at every turn. Now, his company offers a complete rifle.

The Super Duty is composed of mostly Geissele parts. The upper and lower receivers are machined in-house out of 7075-T6 aluminum forgings. In the upper, Geissele installs its own cold-hammer-forged barrel, which is chrome-lined, manganese-phosphate coated and sports a proper 5.56 NATO throat. The gas block is a low-profile Geissele

unit, pinned to the barrel, and the gas system is Geissele's own mid-length-plus, for the smoothest operation. The 16-inch barrel has a SureFire SF3P flash hider securely mounted, and for extra durability and ease of maintenance, the SF3P is given the Geissele Nanoweapon coating.

Geissele uses an improved Carpenter 158 alloy for the bolt and bolt forgings, and then machines them to dimension. Subsequently, they are mated to the barrel. They are, of course, stress-relieved via a shot-peening process and given a proof test before being magnetic-particle inspected. The carrier is composed of 8620-alloy steel, and the cam pin even comes in for an improved alloy choice. All the internals are also given the Geissele Nanoweapon coating, conferring added lubricity and corrosion resistance.

The lower has more Geissele extras: The buffer assembly includes the company's H2 buffer and a braided buffer spring for



## SPECIFICATIONS

**Manufacturer:** Geissele Automatics; (610) 272-2060, geissele.com

**Action Type:** Direct-gas-impingement, semi-automatic

**Caliber:** 5.56 NATO

**Capacity:** 30 rounds

**Barrel Length:** 16 inches

**Rifling:** 6 grooves; 1:7-inch RH twist

**Sights:** None; Picatinny rail for optics

**Trigger Pull Weight:** 3 pounds, 7 ounces

**Stock:** B5 Systems Enhanced SOPMOD Stock

**Length:** 34 inches (collapsed); 37 inches (extended)

**Weight:** 6 pounds, 10 ounces

**Accessories:** Lock, manual, swag pack, Geissele coupon

**MSRP:** \$1,599

## SHOOTING RESULTS

Load	Velocity	Smallest	Group Size Largest	Average
Black Hills 5.56 NATO 73-grain OTM	2,559	.83	1.0	.92
HPR .223 Rem. 75-grain BTHP	2,307	.88	1.2	1.0
ASYM 5.56 NATO 77-grain OTM	2,499	.60	.92	.84

Velocity measured in fps 15 feet from the muzzle for 10 consecutive shots with a LabRadar chronograph. Temperature: 35 degrees Fahrenheit. Accuracy measured in inches for five consecutive, five-shot groups at 100 yards from a rest.

## ON TARGET

Top-of-the-line components

## OFF TARGET

A bit on the heavy side



The flash hider is a QD mount for SureFire suppressors • An outstanding Geissele SSA-E X trigger sits inside an enlarged trigger guard allowing for greater access • A braided buffer spring is yet another reliability-enhancing feature • Attaching optics is easy with the full-length Picatinny top rail • Each



extreme durability and reliable function. Outside of the buffer tube, Geissele installs a B5 Systems Enhanced SOPMOD stock, which provides a solid and consistent cheek weld—always important in accurate shooting. The lower parts kit is the Geissele Ultra Duty, with ergonomically improved ambidextrous selector and trigger guard.

Its bang switch is the Geissele SSA-E X, with the company's Lighting Bow trigger. The Super Semi-Automatic Enhanced is a two-stage component, with the parts nanocoated, and the Lighting trigger bow is wider and straighter than a mil-spec bow. Straight triggers are now all the rage, but not everyone finds them an improvement. The Lighting trigger takes the best of both and combines them into one shape.

The final step in the basic rifle (as if anything from Geissele could be called "basic") is the handguard. It features a 15-inch MK16 Super Modular handguard. This is mated to the Geissele-machined Super Duty upper, and one notable detail of the fit is Geissele uses a center-alignment tab system to prevent handguard torque. Hard use, or vertical foregrips, can create handguard rotation if there isn't a tab like the one on the MK16.



Geissele bolt-carrier is stress-relieved via a shot-peening process • Generous in size, the Airborne Charging Handle allows the rifle to be charged with either hand, while serrated levers provide for added purchase.



The MK16 has a full-length top rail, machined to proper Picatinny specs, and on the other seven flats of the octagonal tube, Geissele has machined M-Lok slots. The Geissele MK16 uses a proprietary barrel nut and incorporates a pair of hefty crossbolts to clamp the MK16 to the barrel nut. Tabs (and locking screws) keep the handguard from rotating, and the barrel nut and crossbolts prevent it from moving forward.

To aid you in operating the bolt, Geissele installs an Airborne Charging Handle, the company's lowest-profile, but still ambidextrous, charging handle. You can request one larger, but this is the one a certain end-use group asked for, to reduce the changes of the charging handle getting tangled in their gear.

Each Super Duty rifle is custom-built to order. To review it, I requested a carbine in Desert Dirt Color (the Geissele Tan/Coyote/FDE/ Bronze anodizing), which I much prefer over other non-black colors. The rifle and all its externals came that color.

Testing the Super Duty risked spoiling me for all other rifles. I luckily did the chrono work with the Super Duty before the accuracy work and was able to get used to the Geissele SSA-E X feel.

Accuracy was better than gratifying and verged on brag worthy. I assumed that the Geissele barrel would deliver, so I used only the most accurate ammunition I had on the shelf, and I was not disappointed.

There may be two areas in which the Geissele Super Duty might seem to be less than spectacular: cost and weight. The basic rifle starts at \$1,599, and changes and upgrades will add to that. But you get what you pay for, and with Geissele you get extreme performance and durability.

Once you order your Super Duty, it will take 2 to 4 weeks for delivery. That will give you plenty of time to stock up on magazines and accurate ammo, and plan your range trip for show-off sessions.🌀

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Dropping powder was effortless in Match Mode on the RCBS dispenser. I started at the minimum of 4.3 grains of Vihtavuori N340 and, in .1-grain increments, created loads up to 4.7 grains, just shy of the 4.8-grain recommended maximum charge weight. That's pretty aggressive for me—I usually stop much farther away from the max—but with only six-tenths of a grain to work with, this made sense. All bullets were seated to give a cartridge overall length of 1.590 inches with just a small amount of crimp to keep them in place during feeding and recoil. When finished I fit them neatly into an ammunition box intended for .38 Spl. and hit the road.

Range day afforded me just the right conditions for testing experimental rounds with light bullets. Cool 58-degree weather with little to no wind is exactly what I aim for when testing new cartridges, and this day did not disappoint. I started my

testing at the 50-yard line with the 16-inch CMMG conversion upper. To my surprise, all of my homemade rounds ran pretty well. Except for just one failure to eject at the 4.5-grain mark, all other rounds cycled without issue, even those without any polymer coating at all.

While function was decent, consistency was not. I didn't bother getting the chronograph out, as the change in velocity from round to round was so pronounced, it was evident in recoil. Despite that fluctuation, however, accuracy was still respectable, with the best group of 1.12 inches at the lighter 4.4-grain mark. This outperformed the bulk practice ammunition I used earlier by more than an inch at this distance.

On the 25-yard pistol range, I tested the Ruger-57 with the same loads. At 4.4 and 4.5 grains, the Ruger choked with a complete failure to cycle. Extraction took a bit of effort

in both of these failures, and both instances involved a case with next to no polymer coating left. Later on, as I approached the two maximum charges, I had this failure more frequently. I got everything to work for the short term and achieved a best group of 1.37 inches, again better than standard factory ammunition. This group was also created with the lightest powder charge, thus avoiding any of the cycling issues experienced with the heavier loads.

So, is it all worth it? Well, it depends on the shooter and how much they enjoy reloading. With increased demand for 5.7x28 mm, ammunition manufacturers are creating new offerings, and the rejuvenated supply is likely to lead to a price drop on factory ammo. In the future, I am going to test a few other factory offerings and likely settle on one, but like everything else that I shoot, I'll save the brass—just in case. 🌀



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## RIFLES CONTINUED FROM PAGE 40

palaces, finding a shot much beyond 40 feet is an indoor rarity.

Even if you have a longer span to cover, simple math provides some context for acceptable indoor accuracy. For example, the oft-referenced minute of angle (MOA) equals 1.0472 inches at 100 yards. At 50 feet, 1 MOA is just .17 inches. Therefore, even if you have a rack-grade 2-MOA or (gasp) 3-MOA gun, your potential “group” capability at this longer-than-normal distance is going to be .34 to .51 inch, respectively. Unless your house is being swarmed by armed micro drones, there’s a pretty solid chance that a half-inch variance in shot placement is going to get the job done.

It is important to remember that unless you zero for very close ranges, your line of sight (through optics or irons) will be higher than the line of bore when shooting up close. That means it will probably take more distance than you have indoors for your projectile to cross through your line of sight when using a typical zero. Therefore, should you be presented with a tough shot—such as a partial threat target exposure around protective cover—you’ll need to know where to hold in order to make an effective hit. The best way to figure that out is to spend time shooting at various close distances on the range.

In spite of my tendency to look at rifle shooting through a sniper’s eyes, I know that home defense doesn’t require a sniper rifle. Whether it shoots half-inch or 3-inch groups at 100 yards, so long as it functions reliably, it is capable of doing the job for home defense if I do mine. Keeping things simple, practicing regularly and staying flexible are far more important than having an indoor tack-driver. Once you are confident that your rifle functions properly and your critical skills are at or above par, you can work on shaving .1 MOA off your defensive arm’s accuracy. That will be important if you ever have cause to step outside with rifle in hand. But that’s a topic for another day. 

# Trump's Coming **BLITZ** Are You Ready?

Buckle up — 2020 will be the political ride of your life!

Ever since he first announced his presidential quest — after coming down the escalator of New York's Trump Tower — the media, the establishment, and his critics in both parties belittled, demeaned, mocked, and even laughed at Donald Trump.

But the billionaire has had the last laugh and will again in 2020. And, as David Horowitz reveals in his just-released **BLITZ: Trump Will Smash the Left and Win**, Trump has been — and will continue to be — the Democrats' worst nightmare.

**BLITZ** reveals the attacks made against Trump have been the most brutal ever mounted against a sitting president of the United States.

Blinded by deep-seated hatred of his person and his policies, the left even desperately tried to oust Trump in a failed impeachment bid.

Horowitz shows that their very attacks — targeting a man whose mission has been to “Drain the Swamp” and “Make America Great

Again” — backfired, turning Trump himself into a near martyr while igniting the fervor of his “base.”

In **BLITZ** you'll discover the left's terrifying socialist agendas as you've never seen them before.

Trump's response? He's going to steamroll this opposition in November using the same playbook he has used to win before.

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- ✓ **How patriotism suddenly became “white nationalism” linking Trump to Hitler and the KKK.**
- ✓ **Why Trump is at the nexus of the left's secularism and hate pushed against Christians.**
- ✓ **Why every effort to demonize Trump and his supporters is backfiring.**

✓ **Obama's agenda: how the former president casts a much greater shadow over Trump's political woes than you ever imagined.**



**DAVID HOROWITZ** is not just any author. Once a radical liberal, he turned on his far-left friends when he saw their real motives. He soon became a noted conservative and author.

His *New York Times* bestseller **Big Agenda: President Trump's Plan to Save America** was written *before Trump was elected* — so certain was Horowitz of Trump's victory.



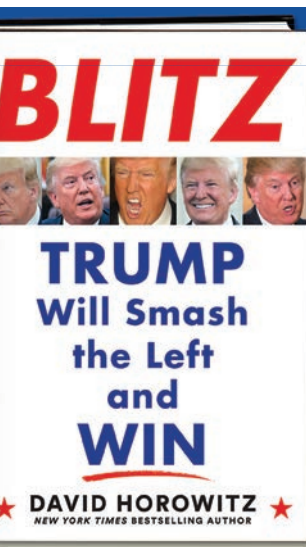
Now, Horowitz is so certain Trump will win reelection in 2020, he's written **BLITZ**.

★ **Hillary is not gone! **BLITZ** shows the “revenge” role she plans for Trump.**

✓ **The Genius: Trump's brilliant strategy has worked and will continue to work — w why he'll be president again in 2021!**

The effort to remove and destroy our duly elected president may be the greatest challenge America has faced since the Civil War, explains Horowitz.

For the first time **BLITZ** exposes the left's strategy to take down Trump, and how Trump not only beat them at their own game, but how he's turning the tables on them once and for all.



## Buzz on **BLITZ**

### Donald Trump Jr.:



“If you're interested in debating deranged liberals with facts, you won't want to miss this latest book.”

### Mark Levin:



“David Horowitz has written an indispensable book, **Blitz**, explaining why today's Democrats are so dangerous and why President Trump is their nemesis.”

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South Dakota became the first state to adopt an improved emergency powers law when Gov. Kristi Noem signed HB 1296 on March 31.

LATEST LEGISLATIVE  
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ACTION

## IN MEMORY NRA-ILA CONTRIBUTIONS

March 1 - April 30, 2020

**Ellen Potter**, Canton, CT (from: Frederic Potter IV); **George Alves**, Titusville, FL (from: Warren and Vickie Alves); **Linda Ingram**, Oklahoma City, OK (from: Jim and Wilda Rae Hankins); **Robert Goetzl**, Pierce, CO (from: Raymond Sauer); **Robert Dargue** (from: Susanne Folley); **Michael Robinson**, Modesto, CA (from: Modesto Rifle Club Inc.); **Audrey S. Pechin**, Downingtown, PA (from: Frank S. Pechin, Jr., Alfred and Margaret DuLuca, & Robert and Lucy Poole); **Dale Lester "Les" Collins**, Jr., Mullins, SC (from an anonymous donor); **Allen Woodruff**, Saginaw, MI (from: Paula Shellenbarger); **Frank "Buster" Bachhuber**, former NRA Board Member from Wausau, WI (from an anonymous donor); **Peter L. Sadler**, Flagstaff, AZ (from: Mrs. Robbie Sadler); **Alan L. Chesley**, Alexandria, VA (from: Everett E. Chesley); **John and Sigrid Walsh**, Easton, MA (from: William P. Keach); **Leonard Nordling** (from: William P. Keach)

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# Protecting The Second Amendment During Emergencies

The framers of the Constitution "knew what emergencies were, knew the pressures they engender for authoritative action, knew, too, how they afford a ready pretext for usurpation." So wrote Justice Robert H. Jackson in his famous concurring opinion on the scope of executive power in the Steel Seizure Case. Nearly 70 years later, Justice Jackson's words seem as pertinent as ever.

In the last few months, many Americans have experienced the exact "usurpation" of power and corresponding diminishment of their civil rights of which Jackson warned. While the Second Amendment alone should clearly protect the right to keep and bear arms during emergencies, as many have experienced this year, further protection by statute often provides an additional bulwark against executive overreach.

While many of the "usual" Second Amendment antagonists have used the present situation created by COVID-19 to restrict the right to keep and bear arms, the residents of some states that are considered less gun-friendly may have been surprised to find their state executives hadn't used the virus as a pretext to restrict their gun rights. This pattern is not without reason.

After Hurricane Katrina and the ensuing gun confiscation that followed it in 2005, NRA-ILA set to work seeking "emergency powers" limitation laws that expressly limit executive authority to regulate firearms. These laws explain why some less gun-friendly jurisdictions have placed few "emergency" limitations on firearms.

In Virginia, Gov. Ralph Northam is certainly no friend to gun owners. He even took the

time to sign multiple gun-control bills in the middle of dealing with the COVID-19 epidemic. Virginia's emergency powers law contains an important limitation that it does not "empower the Governor, any political subdivision, or any other governmental authority to in any way limit or prohibit the rights of the people to keep and bear arms ... including the otherwise lawful possession, carrying, transportation, sale, or transfer of firearms ..."

Similar restrictions on emergency powers in Minnesota and even Hawaii have kept firearm businesses operating in those states.

To provide even further protection, NRA-ILA has been working to improve these laws.

South Dakota became the first state to adopt an improved emergency powers law when Gov. Kristi Noem signed HB 1296 on March 31.

Passed on the final day of the South Dakota legislative session, HB 1296 provides that no state agency, political subdivision, or any elected or appointed official or employee may prohibit, regulate, or curtail the otherwise lawful possession, carrying, sale, transportation, transfer, defensive use, or other lawful use of any firearm or ammunition.

The law also protects indoor and outdoor ranges and prohibits firearm confiscation, revocation or suspension of carry permits, the refusal to accept carry permit applications, mandated gun store closures, or a limitation on the number of firearms or ammunition purchases.

NRA-ILA continues to fight the authoritative overreach that Justice Jackson warned about, and will take the lessons of the current emergency to help craft laws that provide further protection for law-abiding gun owners.

AP photo by James Nord

# Pro-Gun Senators Urge Regulators To Protect Firearm Businesses From Discrimination

**R**ecently, Sen. Kevin Cramer (R-N.D.) and 18 of his pro-gun colleagues in the U.S. Senate called upon the U.S. Treasury, Federal Reserve and Small Business Administration (SBA) to protect law-abiding firearm businesses against political discrimination from banks and other financial institutions that administer the recently enacted COVID-19 SBA loan programs.

In a letter dated April 28, the senators wrote: “[a] vocal but small minority has weaponized federally-backed banks against politically disfavored businesses that operate in good faith and compliance with the law, by denying them financial services based on political reasons that have nothing to do with creditworthiness. This includes the firearms and ammunition...industries.” They continued, “we are concerned the nation’s largest financial institutions will use participation in the Paycheck Protection Program and other SBA recovery loan programs to further

financial discrimination policies against selected segments of the economy, based on their social policy and in opposition to SBA eligibility regulations.”

Their concerns are certainly justified, as we have long been reporting that some of the largest banks and financial institutions in the country have adopted corporate gun-control policies with the goal of preventing law-abiding Americans and businesses from exercising their constitutional rights. We’ve also recently witnessed financial relief programs specifically excluding all firearm businesses from eligibility. Many of the same institutions that discriminate against lawful firearm activity are now the clearinghouses for the COVID-19 SBA loan programs, reportedly picking up billions of taxpayer dollars for processing fees along the way.

The senators’ letter also requests that the federal regulators provide clarity on how relief funds are being distributed

in an unbiased manner, what directives are provided to the financial institutions about eligibility for lawful industries and how conflicts between banks’ corporate gun-control policies that contradict SBA loan program eligibility are resolved.

Senator Cramer has been at the forefront of this issue as a member of the U.S. Senate Banking Committee, which has jurisdiction over matters related to banks and financial institutions. In addition to spearheading this letter, he has also introduced the Freedom Financing Act, legislation that would prohibit this type of discrimination against the firearm industry.

“Financial institutions are using exclusionary politics to attack the Second Amendment and discriminate against law-abiding firearm businesses,” said NRA-ILA Executive Director Jason Ouimet. “We thank Senator Cramer and his colleagues for their leadership on this important issue.” 🍷

## Don’t Mess With The Second Amendment

AN OPEN LETTER FROM CHARLIE DANIELS

**I**t is easy to discredit the fallacy that severe restrictions on the sale and ownership of firearms is a means of curbing violence in America. We need look no further than across our southern border.

Did you know there is only one gun store in Mexico, guarded by armed military personnel? It takes months of paperwork to even have the chance to buy a gun. If you are not law enforcement or military, you are lucky to procure a .22. Most Mexicans have about as much chance of being adequately armed to protect themselves and their families as they have of winning the lottery.

That is not to say there are not plenty of guns in Mexico. The dope dealers and cartels have an abundance of guns of any and every caliber. In fact, the paramilitaries the cartels use to enforce their will are about as well-armed as a combat soldier in the field. In essence, with the exception of law enforcement, military and a handful of people who can either bribe or game the system, practically all the guns in Mexico are illegal.

Let’s look at what effect such ultra-restrictive gun laws have had on crime. Between 2000 and 2012, 215,000 people were murdered. In 2012 Mexico had a murder rate of 21.5 per 100,000. In 2018 there were 33,341 murders, and the 2019 number is expected to be even higher.

Violent crimes increased from 5.2 million in 2017 to 6 million in 2018. Nearly 1,200 kidnappings happened in Mexico in 2018.

One of every 10 women in Mexico has been a victim of sexual assault, and there are 120,000 rapes a year—one every four minutes—making Mexico the number one nation for sexual violence.

Politics in Mexico are as crooked as a barrel of fish hooks and as corrupt as a mafia horse race. There is simply so much money generated by the drug trade that by means of buying off or intimidation, the drug cartels do practically anything they want without fear of official intervention. Some of the most gruesome murders of the century have been committed there: grisly, hideous mass graves show murders as warnings to informers, politicians and law enforcement officials who refuse to cooperate.

What have all the super-stringent gun laws done to protect life in Mexico? If you will be honest, you’ll have to admit they’ve done the opposite. The laws have armed the criminals who have no regard for any law and will obtain weapons illegally, while leaving law-abiding citizens without the means to protect themselves.

Most importantly, do you not understand that what’s happened in Mexico could happen in America? Can’t you see that when



you take away the means of protection from law-abiding people, it is not going to reduce the gun population among the criminal element one-half of one percent?

It has been proven over and over that about the only thing that stops a bad guy with a gun is a good guy with a gun, and no matter how vehemently self-serving politicians may contest this, the fact remains irrefutable. The next time you see Bernie, Uncle Joe, Elizabeth or any of the other anti-gun candidates, ask them, “If good guys having guns is bad, why do you always have armed security with you?”

What do you think?

God bless America.

— Charlie Daniels

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



## GUN SHOWS

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

## To The Heroes Among Us

Unprecedented times. Those are the words we hear every time we turn on our favorite news network for updates on the COVID-19 epidemic. There have been millions impacted, hundreds of thousands sickened and far too many whom have succumbed to the Coronavirus. As we reflect on our NRA family members during the COVID-19 crisis, we are saddened for our losses. We share a collective prayer for the departed, and hope that those left standing may be comforted in knowing you are among friends who care.

We are all now adjusting to the new normal dictated by the Coronavirus' restrictions, we can be inspired by what our nation always does when threatened. As we do during times of war and crisis, our great nation directed our industrial might in support of the cause, our small businesses added to the fight in supporting us all, and our neighbors and co-workers have reacted with courage and a spirit of community to fight off this pandemic. When we watched our loyal service providers in the news—medical staff, law enforcement and first responders, food servers, delivery drivers, farmers and private business people—we saw our NRA family, the heroes among us.

While social distancing may have temporarily thinned the hallways here at NRA Headquarters during the crisis, it didn't stop our hard-working employees and members from leaning forward and being proactive in support of their communities. Through telecommuting and networking with fellow members, we learned how many of you reacted with courage, rather than turned away in fear. From instructors who devised imaginative ways to continue gun safety instruction through social media, to our first responders and frontline healthcare providers who never wavered from their civic

responsibilities while worrying about their own families, to the neighbors who rallied to help each other—YOU inspired us. Many also found inspiration from our NRA state affiliates and clubs, who provided an outlet of uplifting initiatives to keep their members informed during these periods of social isolation. Be it encouraging folks to stay connected via various social-media platforms, delivering messages to maintain morale or to serve as an informational outlet as new information unfolded—these organizations never let us down.

By the time this message is delivered to your home, we hope the worst of COVID-19 will be in the rearview mirror. Life is changing in ways none of us could have anticipated, but by working together, I know that we will prevail. As for the bedrock of our membership—our shooting sports enthusiasts and competitors—we share the disappointment of postponed or canceled events, competitions and the temporary closure of shooting ranges. Time and American patriotism will soon bring back the sound of freedom to our ranges as competitions and training restart with a sense of urgency and vigor due to this invisible adversary.

Looking forward we will all stand shoulder-to-shoulder, with a renewed appreciation of our sacred Second Amendment rights that were challenged under this time of need. We will have beaten back the menace that threatened us, because our members are the fiber of this great nation. We do not run. We do not hide. We do not cower at the sound of thunder. We light the lighthouse for others. We overcome, because "We" stand together with the heroes among us.

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[onlinetraining.nra.org/  
online-courses](https://onlinetraining.nra.org/online-courses)



# Effects Of The Covid-19 Pandemic On The NRA Elections

Usually, by this time every year we have held the NRA's Annual Meeting of Members, where the results of the mail ballot election for the NRA Board of Directors are announced. After the adjournment of this meeting, the newly elected members take office.

However, this year, as a result of the severe COVID-19 public health crisis, this year's process is different for two reasons:

First, the pandemic forced the rescheduling of this year's Annual Meeting of Members, with the new date and location to be determined by the Executive Committee. All necessary steps are being taken to reschedule the meeting so that the election results can be formally announced. Candidates who are

unsuccessful in the mail ballot election are eligible to run for a one-year term as 76th Director. That election will be held in conjunction with the rescheduled Members' meeting.

Second, like many businesses across the country, the NRA's ballot processing and tabulation vendors were forced to suspend services. The deadline for receipt of the mail ballot was Sunday, March 29, as printed on the ballots. Ballot processing will be completed when all vendors are able to resume full operations.

The NRA remains confident in the integrity of our election process, and looks forward to the rescheduling of the Annual Meeting of Members and notifying you of the results of the 2020 mail ballot election of the NRA Board of Directors.

## Cancellation Of September 2019 Board Meeting In Anchorage, Alaska

On occasion, the NRA Board of Directors meets in different geographic regions that are not typically large enough to host an Annual Meeting. These meetings allow our membership in that area to participate in NRA business and interact with the Association's leaders.

At the May 2016 Board of Directors meeting in Louisville, Ky., the Board decided to hold a meeting in Alaska within the next three years. After further consideration, it was decided to hold the September 2019 Board of Directors meeting in Anchorage, Alaska and planning commenced accordingly.

In August 2019, it became apparent that with the legislative situation that was developing at the federal level, it was imperative that our officers and staff remain in the nation's capital to be fully engaged. After careful consideration, the difficult decision was made to cancel the meeting in Alaska and hold it in Northern Virginia. Fortunately, the NRA team's involvement on the ground was successful in heading off legislative attacks.


Although the meeting was not ultimately held in Alaska, we want to express our sincere appreciation to NRA Board Member Wayne Anthony Ross of Anchorage, his family, and the Alaska Gun Collectors Ass'n, for their assistance in the planning process. 

Photo by NRA Staff



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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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## AMMO | CONTINUED FROM PAGE 46

How do these loads compare to .38 Spl. loads out of a short-barrel revolver? One of the best .38 Spl. loads I've tested is the Speer 135-grain +P Gold Dot Short Barrel load. It'll penetrate to about 14 inches and expand to about a half-inch. The resulting crush cavity—based on penetration depth and expanded bullet diameter—consistently measures at a volume of about 2.75 cubic inches. This is, for all practical purposes, identical to the performance of the best three .327 Fed. Mag. loads fired from the LCR.

This brings me to the main point I'd like to make, and that's how I think you ought to be comparing terminal performance. With defensive-handgun ammunition, bullet weight alone means nothing; its contribution is ultimately measured in penetration. In most cases, the same goes for velocity, as long as the bullet expands. Kinetic energy doesn't matter much either. The .327 Fed. Mag. 100-grain JSP load

generates more energy than both .38 Spl. loads shown for comparison. However, the crush cavities created by both .38 Spl. loads were twice as large.

The crush cavity created by common defensive-handgun bullets may in fact be the best way to compare wounding potential. It's relatively easy to calculate, just plug the values into this formula:  $(R^2\pi P)$ , where, R is the radius of expanded bullet,  $\pi$  is, of course, 3.14, and P is penetration depth. For example, with a bullet expanding to .50 inch and penetrating to 14 inches, the formula would look like:  $(.25^2\pi 14) = 2.74$ . The key is to base any comparisons on test data obtained out of the gun you will be carrying as opposed to advertisements and data obtained with other handguns, especially those with longer barrels.

Regardless of the handgun/cartridge you're considering, testing like this can help you make an informed decision about which load to use. 

### TERMINAL PERFORMANCE TESTING

Load (Advertised Velocity/Barrel Length where stated)	VEL	ENG	PEN	EXP	CC	EF
<b>.32 ACP Ruger LCR Model 1.87-inch barrel</b>						
Buffalo Bore 60-grain Barnes TAC-XP (943 fps/2-inch)	719	68	8.50	.31	.64	1.00

<b>.32 H&amp;R Mag. Ruger LCR 1.87-inch barrel</b>						
DoubleTap 60-grain Barnes TAC-XP (1,300 fps/3-inch)	1,171	182	9.75	.54	1.22	1.73
Hornady 80-grain Critical Defense FTX (1,150 fps)	860	139	14.50	.37	1.55	1.19
Federal 85-grain JHP (1,120 fps/5-inch)	856	138	14.00	.38	1.58	1.21
Black Hills 85-grain JHP (1,100 fps)	909	155	14.25	.38	1.61	1.23
Buffalo Bore 100-grain JHP (1,315 fps/3-inch)	1,037	238	15.75	.40	1.97	1.29

<b>.327 Fed. Mag. Ruger LCR 1.87-inch barrel</b>						
DoubleTap 75-grain Barnes TAC-XP (1,550 fps/3-inch)	1,421	336	12.50	.52	2.65	1.68
Federal 85-grain Hydra-Shok (1,400 fps/4-inch)	1,184	264	12.75	.50	2.50	1.66
Federal 85-grain JSP (1,500 fps/4-inch)	1,059	211	16.00+	.31	1.20	1.00
Federal 100-grain JSP (1,400 fps/4-inch)	1,168	302	16.00+	.31	1.20	1.00
Speer 100-grain Gold Dot (1,600 fps)	1,253	348	14.00	.54	3.20	1.74

### .38 SPL. COMPARISON

<b>.38 Spl. Smith &amp; Wesson M&amp;P Bodyguard 38 1.875-inch barrel</b>						
Hornady 110-grain Critical Defense FTX +P (1,090 fps)	955	222	13.0	.48	2.35	1.34
Speer 135-grain Gold Dot (860 fps)	865	224	14.0	.50	2.74	1.40

Each load tested by firing three shots into a block of Clear Ballistics gelatin placed 5 feet from the muzzle. Average impact velocity (VEL) measured in fps with a Caldwell G2 chronograph placed just in front of the block. Temperature: 43 degrees Fahrenheit. Impact energy (ENG) measured in ft.-lbs. Average penetration depth (PEN) and average expanded diameter (EXP) measured in inches. Average crush cavity/volume of the hole created by the bullet (CC) established with the following formula:  $(R^2\pi P)$ . Expansion factor (EF) calculated by dividing the recovered bullet diameter by the diameter of the unfired bullet.

(or gal) starts to bond with what is rationally just another tool. I am therefore surprised that I sold my 42.

Deeper into my time with the Sheriff and away from a black-and-white, I no longer needed a backup. I sold the gun to a friend and regretted it within weeks. The little gun had been a sort of metallic insurance policy, and I missed it. But I finished up as a peace officer and retired to try my hand at writing about guns. That has been rewarding, and I am pleased that the Smith & Wesson Centennial has re-incarnated itself again. Returned to production, the gun is back and better than ever. Smith & Wesson focused on making them lighter, as well as more powerful. My CCW gun is a Model 340PD—light enough to carry easily and strong enough to take the rigors of .357 Mag. ammo. Happily, there are a number of variations at several price points. The company even made some chambered in .22 LR and .22 WMR.

Ironies abound in this tale. When I sold the gun, it was a sale to another officer. After that, I have no knowledge of where the gun went, but it is probable that there were other changes of ownership. Just last year, I got a letter from a property sergeant for a police department in Pennsylvania. Somehow, it had ended up in its possession. The gun was not used in a crime and a federal trace showed the original sale to me. The department was preparing to destroy it...unless I wanted it back.

Top shelf, second from the left—with the other fightin' iron. 🌀

*The above column marks the 200th Fightin' Iron to appear in this magazine. I deeply appreciate your interest and loyalty for these 16-plus years. So does my wife, Nancy, the lovely lady who proofread number 200 just as she did number one and all those in between. She is also the same effervescent partner who went with me to buy the subject gun 47 years ago. I'll keep writing as long as you keep reading, and we thank you.*

—WC

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# The Return

Sometimes, they come back.



Beneficial features such as a lightweight aluminum frame and a fully enclosed hammer for a snag-free draw make the author's recently recovered Smith & Wesson Model 42 an ideal option for a backup revolver.

**S**ept. 25, 1973. It was a long time ago, but I can vividly recall what I did that afternoon—I bought a gun. I was working as a Deputy Sheriff in Orange County, CA, and had recently been transferred from the Jail to the Patrol Division. It was my day off and my wife and I went shopping. At Grant's big gun store in Anaheim, we found a good assortment of short-barreled .38 Spl. revolvers. I wanted a best quality, American-made hideout, and that narrowed things down to either a Colt or a Smith & Wesson. Ruger had recently announced its first DA/SA revolver, but it wasn't the hideout snubby I was after. And there were plenty of reasons for a Southern California patrol officer to want a hideout during that period. This was the time of the Manson family murders, the SLA shootout and the Newhall CHP killings. More people than ever before turned to violence against society in general and the police in particular. Also, September of '73 was the month that Joe Wambaugh published a scary non-fiction book titled "The Onion Field." That had a profound effect on the police service and we all got more serious about our guns.

My primary holster gun was a Smith & Wesson Model 19 with custom grips and I was very happy with that one. But when you looked at the frightening—and growing—array of police shootings where the officer was shot with his own gun, you could make a good case for a concealed spare. Thus did I find myself and my wife standing before a long glass case looking at the complete selection of save-your-butt snubbies. I had already narrowed the search to a short .38 Spl. I'll confess to a prejudice for the Smith & Wesson brand because of my satisfaction with the 4-inch Model 19. I also had two other Smiths: a 2.5-inch, round-butt Model 19 and a 2-inch Model 60 with a bobbed hammer.

However, Colt was well-represented with steel Detective Specials and alloy Cobras. The Colt I lingered with the longest was an Agent, which was essentially a short-butt Cobra. This specimen had the old hammer shroud already installed. The Colts, of course, all had that all-important sixth round on tap.

At that point in history, Smith & Wesson had just introduced the first stainless steel gun in the Model 60, which could have fulfilled the role. I had one, which I had been carrying off duty. It was a good choice for that job, but I felt another heavy steel gun on my uniform might get a little onerous and that can sometimes cause you to rationalize away the need. So, I looked at the options in Smith & Wesson five-shot snubbies with aluminum-alloy frames. There were three choices: Model 37 Chief's Special, Model 38 Bodyguard and Model 42 Centennial. Since I planned to carry this little wheelgun in a trouser pocket, the best choice would have to be the one that had the least possibility of snagging on the draw. The Model 42, with a completely enclosed hammer and DAO lockwork, was an easy first choice. Dating back to the frontier era, that hammerless system was called back to duty in the 1950s, only to be discontinued in the purge of 1966, when several dated guns were dropped from the catalog.

On that long-ago day, I bought a new (old stock) Model 42 with blue finish and original high-horn grips and installed a Pachmayr grip adapter. I put the gun in my left front pocket of my forest green uniform trousers and went to work. For years thereafter it was always there and in the same place. I came to view the little revolver as a piece of safety equipment. You would be surprised at how much wear the gun showed despite frequent cleanings. It would be really dramatic if I could tell you about all the times the little Model 42 got me out of trouble. I can't—because it didn't.

Sure, there were a few times when things were getting a little dicey, but only once can I recall drawing the gun. My partner and I had need to go through a particular door under circumstances where our entry might be disputed. I had a gun in each hand. A workman comes to respect a tool that consistently performs, so it is not surprising that a gun guy

Continued on page 107

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