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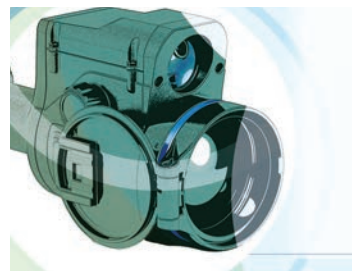
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NRA™ Official Journal of the National Rifle Association of America

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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JAY GRAZIO



What Is the Striker Control Device?

The Striker Control Device from Langdon Tactical shows you how the striker inside certain models of Glock pistols is moving. That's it. That's all it does. However, that can be very useful in certain situations and can radically affect how you re-holster your pistol, giving you added peace of mind in certain situations.



The Great Shooting Stance Feud

There are feuds, and then there are feuds about pistol-shooting techniques. But, is all the worry and argument over what type of stance is actually best really worth all the effort? Sheriff Jim Wilson has a humorous, well, stance, on what shooting stance is actually the best.

SERENA JUCHNOWSKI



First Time at Gunsite Academy

Every journey has to start somewhere, and starting your journey toward an armed and safe lifestyle should begin with techniques that have withstood the test of time. Widely respected Gunsite Academy is an ideal place to begin, as much of what we know about how to use a firearm in defense of life and limb was first taught at this renowned firearm-training school.

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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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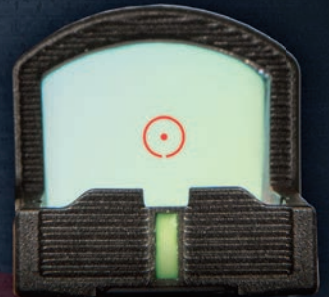
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A Letter from the Publisher

What Must Be Done



Let's be clear: We are the good men and women of America. We are parents, military veterans, law-enforcement officers, first responders, teachers, union workers, truck

drivers, home owners and armed citizens ready to stand up against evil. We are the law-abiding who support law and order. We are the backbone of the USA!

And yet, the president of the United States says we must give up our freedom because of the actions of criminals.

We won't do that. Instead, we need to stand up maturely for this critical association. We need to recruit new NRA members. We need to renew or upgrade our memberships, because only together can we protect our freedom and force even President Joe Biden (D) to target the real problem; the criminal element in our society.

Let's be plain about this. The last 24-plus months have left us frustrated and dismayed. The fact that violent crime is surging is undeniable. But, much of this increase is due to policies that let rioters in many metropolitan areas run amuck in 2020. It is due to policies like no-cash bail, a lack of prosecutorial zeal from woke district attorneys, an all-too-successful defund-the-police movement, prisoner releases and more.

Now that those policies have predictably led to higher crime rates, we can't let them blame our freedom for their bad policies.

We must go to school-board meetings, to town-council meetings, to town halls being held by our representatives and others and demand they harden our schools, lock up violent criminals and stop blaming American freedom for the actions of monsters.

We must step up and volunteer. Just go to nrafrontlines.com to get materials and to find out how you can help. NRA members, for example, can help by texting, calling and attending events to advocate for our freedom.

We need to get out and vote for our freedom on November 8 (or before that critical Tuesday as early voting allows). The NRA Political Victory Fund will soon be posting grades for politicians at nrapvf.org.

We can't be demoralized now. Your NRA is under attack by President Biden and his surrogates in the media because they know when we stand together upon this fundamental and natural right, we win.

This is why they don't want you to know that gun sales have been booming—and that millions of Americans have recently bought their first gun—because this freedom is about personal and societal safety. They don't want you to know that, according to the most-recent data (the *2021 National Firearms Survey*), Americans use guns 1.67 million times annually to protect themselves, the vast majority of the time without firing a shot.

They don't want voters to know that the vast majority of America's 100-million-plus gun owners are safe, responsible, good citizens who know they are the first line of defense when targeted by violent criminals.

We can't let them control the narrative so much that voters hand over our freedom for a false sense of security. The NRA is our association. The NRA is our place to stand together. The NRA gets attention from politicians because of its membership. Despite what the mainstream media says, the NRA is not strong because of the political donations it gives; actually, the NRA is far from being one of the top political donors in this country. The NRA is only strong because of you and other like-minded Americans. And right now we need more freedom-loving Americans to stand up alongside us. To recruit or refer a new member, go to shootingillustrated.com, click on the JOIN button in the upper left-hand corner and sign up now. Help us protect Second Amendment rights for future generations of Americans.

Doug Hamlin
Executive Director
NRA Publications Division

True, True

I enjoyed Richard Mann's review of True Velocity ammo in the June issue. Like him, I bought some 168-grain .308 Win. and gave it a whirl. I don't have an expense account to pay for my ammo, so I limited the test to a couple of five-shot groups at 100 yards, along with a matching pair of groups using Federal 168-grain match. Result: I couldn't see any difference. I had no feeding or extraction issues in my Remington 700 heavy barrel, but unlike Mann, I was using a bolt action and fired less than a box. So, I'm delighted with True Velocity's quality, but at about \$4 per round, it'll be a while before I stock up on it. Perhaps if the company starts getting military contracts, the price will come down a bit. Thanks for a great review!

Dave Proulx
Lubbock, TX

That's Not a Knife...

Like a large number of your readers, I carry a pocket knife every day. Bryce Towsley's article in the June issue, "Surviving on the Edge," piqued my interest, but I found one thing missing from the story. There is an area where most of us are familiar: driving our cars. Many have found themselves in an accident where their door can't be opened and/or their seat belt is jammed, leaving them stuck in their cars. This can be a very dangerous situation. What I found useful was a folding knife with a glass breaker and a shielded razor blade to cut a seat belt. Along with my carry knife, I keep one of these in all of my cars. That said, I enjoyed the article.

David Gibson
via e-mail

Correspondence is welcomed and encouraged

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Send clippings via email to armedcitizen@nrahq.org, or by mail to "The Armed Citizen," 11250 Waples Mill Road, Fairfax, VA 22030-9400. For bonus features, visit "The Armed Citizen Blog" at americanrifleman.org. Share this column online at nrapublications.org.


In a normally quiet southeast Houston neighborhood, around midnight on April 12, an elderly woman was at home alone when she heard a knock on her door. The person knocking was a male dressed in scrubs pretending to be a health-care worker. The 65-year-old homeowner refused to open the door and called her son, who, fortunately, lived nearby. Just after the invader abandoned his ruse and busted through the front door, the woman's son arrived, shot him, and ultimately killed him. The armed citizen was not expected to face charges. (fox26houston.com, Houston, Texas, 4/12/22)

On the night of April 17, as a resident returned to his home and was trying to unlock his door, he was approached by two men impersonating police officers, with one of the suspects displaying a fake police badge around his neck. The two unknown and armed men forced the man to go into the dwelling and demanded money. The men allegedly tied the homeowners' hands with zip ties while threatening to kill him, according to an inspector. The 25-year-old victim, a licensed carry holder, fearing for his life, was able to free his hands and get to the firearm in his pocket. He fired multiple shots at the suspects, hitting one of them three times. The second suspect ran from the scene, and police were still looking for him. The injured suspect was taken to a nearby hospital where he was pronounced dead. No charges had yet been filed. (6abc.com, and fox29.com, Philadelphia, Pa., 4/18/22)

A burglary spree on April 20 ended with a twist when the Santa Rosa County Sheriff offered shooting classes to a victim. The day started with multiple break-ins in a Pace, Fla. neighborhood. The sheriff's office started getting calls and reports of a suspicious person and then of shots fired. During one of the alleged break-ins, the homeowner fired multiple shots at the suspect, but did not strike him. About 20 officers arrived, some with their K-9s, cornering the suspect in a different home that he had previously burglarized that day. After attempting to barricade himself in the bedroom, he jumped headfirst out of a window but was captured and arrested. According to Sheriff Bob Johnson, the suspect's first police interaction was at 13 years old and since then has been arrested around 17 times. "We sent him to prison for six and a half years for home invasion, and he just can't seem to get the picture of crime does not pay." The suspect was charged with one count of attempted burglary with assault, one count of resisting arrest, two counts of burglary to an occupied dwelling, one count of

criminal mischief, one count of attempted larceny and one count of burglary to an unoccupied dwelling. No charges will be brought against the person who shot at the suspect, but the sheriff suggested he take a gun-safety course they conduct: "If you take that, you'll shoot a lot better, and hopefully you'll save the taxpayers money." (pnj.com, Pensacola, Fla., 4/21/22)

In the early morning hours of April 22, Geneva County emergency responders were alerted to a home break-in and shooting. The homeowner said he was awakened by sounds coming from his back-door area. After arming himself, he went to investigate and found a man allegedly attempting to burglarize the home. The suspect was told to leave but did not comply. He instead attempted to fight with the homeowner, who was armed with a handgun and shot the criminal twice, in the leg and abdomen. He was taken to a nearby medical center where he was listed in stable condition. Upon release from the hospital, he was to be charged with home invasion; no charges were expected to be filed against the homeowner. (wdhn.com, Webb, Ala., 4/22/22)

A graduation party at an apartment complex in Charleston, W.Va., on May 25, became the scene of a shooting in which luckily only the suspect was injured and killed. The suspect had been warned about speeding with children playing in the area. Upset about the comment, he left the area, returned with an AR-15-style firearm and began firing into the crowd. One of the party attendees, who was legally carrying her own pistol, was able to shoot and kill the gunman before he wounded or killed anyone at the party. Charleston Police Department Chief of Detectives Tony Hazelett credited the armed citizen with bravery for engaging the threat and saving many lives. No charges were to be brought against the armed citizen. (wchstv.com, Charleston, W.Va., 5/25/22) 

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By Wayne LaPierre
Executive Vice President

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Soros' Pro-Criminal DAs

When President Joe Biden campaigned on the promise to enact pro-criminal policies like no-cash bail, George Soros, a gun-hating, soft-on-crime extremist, saw a major opportunity. On the coattails of the Biden campaign, Soros went to work successfully funding the election of dozens of radical district attorneys across the country.

There are now 75 Soros-backed DAs overseeing half of America's 50 most-populous cities. They represent an astounding one-in-five Americans, and their jurisdictions account for more than 40% of our nation's murders.

In a short time, they've transformed our major cities into war zones, where criminals are allowed to run free, and innocent men, women and children are made to cower in fear.

LOS ANGELES

For example, when Soros-backed, Los Angeles DA George Gascón took office in 2020, he immediately made radical, pro-criminal changes to prosecution rules, getting rid of sentence enhancements for violent gangs and criminals who commit crimes with guns.

The murder rate in LA is up more than 50% since 2019, the year before Gascón took office. Violent robberies are up 60%. Deputy DA, Shea Sanna, recently slammed his boss to the media, calling Gascón the criminals' "champ" and saying his policies are making it impossible for the DA's office to do its job.

"As soon as we catch a perpetrator, we have to release him," said Sanna.

For example, a 17-year-old criminal accelerated in his car and intentionally tried to run over a mother walking her child in a stroller. Gascón chose to sentence this attempted murderer to merely five-to-seven months in a soft probationary camp. A 26-year-old male, who "identifies" as a female, sexually assaulted a young girl in the women's restroom at a restaurant; Gascón tried the assailant as a juvenile, despite his being 26 years old and being convicted just a year ago for sexually assaulting a four-year-old girl.

Violent gang members and felons are celebrating Gascón. One such thug, Luis Angel Hernandez, who murdered a delivery driver, bragged that, thanks to Gascón, his lawyer has informed him he'd be out of prison soon. In a leaked call from prison obtained by Fox News, Hernandez said: "He's making historic changes for all of us," as he vowed to get Gascón's name tattooed on his face to show his support.

NEW YORK CITY

Over in New York City, where violent crime is up over 40% more than 2021, Soros-backed Manhattan DA Alvin Bragg is the criminals' champion. Upon taking office in 2020, Bragg immediately went to work unilaterally decriminalizing ... well ... crime. He announced his office would not prosecute

everything from drug possession, trespassing, minor theft, prostitution or even resisting arrest.

Just one example of Bragg's pro-criminal reign of terror: Tyrell Rodgers. Rodgers, a career criminal, held his estranged girlfriend at gunpoint, threatening to kill her and then robbed her. The detectives' office requested that Bragg issue a warrant to go after Rodgers and confiscate his illegally owned firearm. Bragg refused to issue the warrant. Just one month after he attacked his girlfriend, Rodgers killed a man with the same gun.

"Why didn't DA Bragg's office act?"

Detectives' Endowment Association President Paul DiGiacomo asked. "Why did another New Yorker have to die?"

For his part, New York City Mayor Eric Adams has seen enough. "No one takes criminal justice seriously anymore," Adams said. "These bad guys believe our criminal justice system is a laughingstock of our entire country ... We have to get serious about this because innocent people are dying."

SAN FRANCISCO

In a shocking move, the citizens of San Francisco voted overwhelmingly to recall Soros-backed DA Chesa Boudin. In a little over two years in office, Boudin's policies have all but completely destroyed life in the Golden City.

Just one example of many: Troy McAlister. A lifelong, repeat offender, McAlister in 2020 was awaiting trial on a robbery charge, which would have put him in prison for life under California's three-strikes law. However, Boudin directed prosecutors not to pursue three-strikes cases, so McAlister was given credit for time served and was immediately released. Predictably, McAlister got busted on drug and robbery charges in just a few short months—but still, Boudin refused to prosecute him. Later that year, McAlister struck and killed a man and woman while he was fleeing a robbery with a stolen car and a stolen gun.

Make no mistake, these reprehensible DAs are nothing more than foot soldiers for their high-ranking counterparts in Washington, D.C. Joe Biden, Kamala Harris, Charles Schumer, Nancy Pelosi and others give them the political cover and outright encouragement to carry out their insanely dangerous and deadly pro-criminal agenda. These same politicians and DAs working overtime to ensure criminals never face justice are scheming new ways to restrict our Second Amendment right to self-defense.

As NRA members, it is up to us to vote every pro-criminal, anti-gun representative and senator out of office this November. Not only for the sake of our freedom, but for our nation's survival.

Wayne LaPierre

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2022 NRA Annual Meetings And Moving Forward

With the 151st NRA Annual Meetings and Exhibits in my hometown of Houston still fresh in my mind, I want to give you a report—because what you probably read in the news, and what those of us who attended the event witnessed, were entirely different.

First, I'm grateful and humbled for being re-elected as your NRA President for another year. It's an honor for me to serve the cause of freedom and the Second Amendment that guarantees our ability to protect ourselves, our families and the individual rights that define and defend our nation.

But what I want to talk about today is you—the NRA members like you whom I met in Houston. The pride, passion, sense of a shared higher purpose and, above all, courage that I witnessed throughout the weekend's celebration of freedom was like a battery recharge.

If you saw legacy media reports on the Annual Meetings, you probably heard that attendance was down from previous years. More than 61,000 men, women, children and families attended—enough to fill the Houston Astrodome to standing-room-only capacity. Yet, the media tried to portray this as a setback for NRA. During a TV newscast, a report claimed that there were "thousands of protesters" at the NRA convention. While that "newscast" was airing, I was looking down from a window at Discovery Green, where there were no more than 100 protesters. While I suspect the goal was to keep the NRA crowd to a minimum, more than 61,000 loyal NRA members joined us for our first NRA convention in three years. As is always the case, NRA members don't scare easily.

Let's be clear: Like all Americans, NRA members are sickened by what happened in Uvalde. We have families, too, and like all good people everywhere, our hearts break and our prayers go out to the families struck by that horror. We share the world's outrage and wish that there were a way to ensure such a monstrous crime could never happen again. But, we also know that evil cannot be banished from the earth by any law. So, what we will not do, and never will, is surrender our ability to defend ourselves and our families from that evil, or from anyone who would do us harm.

Yet, that's what many in the anti-gun press and political class want us to do. They're pushing every kind of anti-gun policy you can imagine. President Biden called for a ban on the most-popular rifles in America or "at least" a ban on anyone under the age of 21 from buying them, a ban on standard-capacity magazines, so-called "red-flag" laws that would deny your right to self-defense without due process, repeal of the law protecting America's firearm industry from frivolous lawsuits and more.

And they're not just demanding new laws—they're also inciting the lawless. In a June 3 article for National Public Radio affiliate WAMC in Albany, N.Y., retired professor Michael Meeropol even went so far as to urge readers to level "personal attacks" on NRA board members, including "activities that might land oneself in jail."

It takes courage to confront evil. When faced with lies, hatred and irrational anger, it takes guts to stand for principle, reason and truth. But, that kind of courage is exactly what I saw in Houston from NRA members like you.

Yes, there are things we can do to make our nation safer: We need to secure our schools and protect our children. We need to support law enforcement with the training and resources they depend on to protect us. Over the past 60 years, NRA has trained nearly 60,000 law enforcement firearms instructors—more than any other group. We need to put violent criminals behind bars and keep them there—with no bail, no deals and no early releases for dangerous predators. These are the things that'll make us safer.

Demonizing lawful, peaceable people, defunding police, "decriminalizing" offenses, abolishing bail, releasing inmates, denying fundamental human rights, disarming victims—all these things cost innocent lives.

The NRA members like you that I spoke with in Houston understand that and aren't afraid to stand up and say so. So, it makes me proud and humbled to stand among you, and it gives me great hope for America's future.



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By Jason Ouimet
Executive Director,
NRA-ILA

YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE NOT ENOUGH.

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Dishonesty At The Core Of Gun Control

Gun-control advocates, anti-gun politicians and their supporters in the mainstream press have never been known for honesty. Unburdened by integrity, there's no data they won't misconstrue, statistic they won't massage or unpopular goal they won't attempt to hide. With their renewed effort to enact radical gun-control policies in recent months, the anti-gun crowd's reliance on dishonesty has reached new levels.

Chief among the gun-control effort's deceitful tactics is careful messaging. Rhetoric about "common-sense" or "reasonable" gun "reform" is all designed to secure support for extreme gun-control measures the public has repeatedly rejected through their elected representatives.

Observers can be certain that this messaging is a ruse because, from time to time, gun-control advocates, such as President Joe Biden, will spill the beans on the true nature of their unpopular endeavor.

To be sure, Biden is a world-class "storyteller." Just consider his oft-repeated claim that it was illegal for citizens to purchase cannons at the time the Bill of Rights was ratified. This whopper proved too much even for the "fact checker" at *The Washington Post*, who admonished the president by writing, "We have no idea where he conjured up this notion about a ban on cannon ownership in the early days of the Republic, but he needs to stop making this claim." That rebuke was in June 2021. Most recently (as of press time), Biden repeated the cannon lie in May of this year.

But it doesn't stop with an ahistorical view of cannon regulation in America. In one of his latest confused riffs, Biden admitted that he wants to prohibit 9 mm handguns. Speaking with a group of reporters on May 30, Biden recalled a purported encounter he had with a "trauma doctor," stating:

"A 9 mm bullet blows the lung out of the body. So, the idea of these high-caliber weapons is, uh, there's simply no rational basis for it in terms of self-protection, hunting. Remember, the Constitution, the Second Amendment was never absolute."

Biden went on to say, "I can't dictate this stuff. I can do the things that I've done. And any executive action I can take, I'll continue to take. But I can't outlaw a weapon."

A reasonable person would infer that Biden's position is that 9 mm, and presumably greater-caliber, firearms should be banned. Of course, support for banning America's most-popular handgun is the type of dirty little secret that hurts the gun-control effort when it gets out, so the president's allies sprang into action.

Left-wing *Media Matters* whined, "Right-wing media falsely claim Biden plans to ban 9 mm

handguns." White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre sought to assure the public that Biden "does not support a ban on the sale of all handguns."

The trouble for gun controllers is that this was the third time in four years that Biden let the cat out of the bag.

At a July 21, 2021, CNN "presidential town hall," the president expressed his disdain for semi-automatic firearms "whether it's a 9 mm pistol or whether it's a rifle"—referring to these items as "assault weapons." A November 2019 *Seattle Times* article reported on then-candidate Biden telling fundraiser attendees, "Why should we allow people to have military-style weapons including pistols with 9 mm bullets and can hold 10 or more rounds?" Biden has repeatedly called for a ban on so-called "assault weapons," and even called for confiscating these firearms during an August 2019 CNN interview.

After each of these instances, the press stepped in to conceal Biden's obvious position and re-establish the narrative.

Gun-control supporters also ceaselessly lie about the level of public support for their policies. Anti-gun activists and their press flunkies claim that 90% of Americans support the criminalization of private firearm transfers—something they term "universal background checks." A 2021 document from Michael Bloomberg's Everytown for Gun Safety, mislabeled as a "fact sheet," stated that a whopping 93% of "American voters" support this policy. The problem for these anti-gun radicals is that this purported support has never materialized in the only polling that matters—the kind done in an actual polling booth.

On June 3, *The New York Times* published a piece titled, "Voters Say They Want Gun Control. Their Votes Say Something Different." The article pointed out what NRA-ILA has been stating for years—that when background checks have been put to the voters, the policy has wildly underperformed the opinion polling. Even in deep-blue states like Washington and California, background-check ballot measures have underperformed polling expectations by about 20-30%. The *Times* explained, "the results suggested that a national referendum on background checks would have lost."

With gun-control advocates and their media lackeys willing to deceive in pursuit of political ends, it is incumbent on gun owners to stay informed and to help educate others. NRA is devoted to providing members the facts they need to combat our opponents' campaign, which can be found at NRAILA.org.

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By Jason Ouimet
Executive Director,
NRA-ILA



Our Constitution And Ideals Are **THE SOLUTIONS TO AMERICA'S PROBLEMS,** Not The Cause Of Them

This is a turbulent time in America. The nation is warily emerging from a pandemic, only to face spiking crime, rampant inflation, shortages of labor and goods and highly publicized acts of violence.

But the United States was born out of turbulent times. Its form of government and Constitution were created by those who understood the temptations and dangers arising from moments of national crisis. They knew opportunists exploit situations when emotions are running high and people are seeking reassurance.

As we look for solutions, it is more important than ever to remember who we are. The worst thing we could do would be to abandon the principles and the essential freedoms we alone in the world enjoy in responding to the problems that confront us.

Our form of government, those ideals and our essential freedoms are made for moments exactly like this. They are not the problem. They are our roadmap to solutions.

When you hear that we should pack the Supreme Court, that we should censor speech and expression, that we should eliminate the Senate filibuster (or reconfigure the Senate itself), that we should ignore our own borders, or that we should scorn our laws and vilify our cops, you know we face a tipping point.

The same is true when people claim America can no longer afford to stand by the Second Amendment.

These are not the ideas of people honestly seeking solutions to our national problems. They are the ideas of people who want to undo the nation as we know it.

The NRA, America's law-abiding gun owners, and their supporters in government and elsewhere have come

under withering attack in the aftermath of high-profile mass attacks committed by deranged criminals.

Some have called us terrorists or murderers. In Congress itself, an anti-gun U.S. representative called a U.S. senator a "baby killer" in a public forum for simply standing up for our right to keep and bear arms.

Again, these are not the voices of people acting in good faith. They are the voices of people who want to shift blame, usually from policies they themselves promote or support to policies supported by those they consider their political enemies.

America's gun owners and the men and women of the NRA are no different than anyone else when it comes to mourning the loss of innocent life. We have families and children of our own. All of us want to send our kids off to school with peace of mind.

What does make us different is understanding the dynamics of these terrible situations, while also seeing through the "solutions" gun-control advocates cynically pull off the shelf in response, no matter how unresponsive those measures are to what actually happened or how useless they would be in practice.

Most of all, we understand that the off-the-shelf gun-control "solutions" proposed in the wake of these events are not meant to address the actual problems, but designed to advance a pre-existing agenda while emotions are still raw and the demand to "do something" (anything) is high.

Yet the solutions typically ignore the actual facts of the events that supposedly justify them or would be useless in preventing the next one.

We the People of the United States
insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote
and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution

Article 1.

Section 1. All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which

shall consist of

Section 2. The House of Representatives shall be composed of Members chosen every

second Year, who shall have the Qualifications requisite for Senators of the most numerous State.

No Person shall be a Representative who shall not have attained

to the Age of twenty five Years, seven Years, and shall not have attained

to the Age of seven Years, and shall not have attained

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IN CONGRESS,

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united

Where in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.—That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness.

19

Joe Biden demonstrated all of the above tendencies of cynical gun-control opportunism in his own address to the nation following the Uvalde attack.

He pointed the finger at those who support the Second Amendment as the cause of the problem. "As a nation, we have to ask: When in God's name are we going to stand up to the gun lobby?" he scolded. Later, he pivoted to blaming heavily regulated, lawfully operated businesses: "[T]he gun manufacturers have spent two decades aggressively marketing assault weapons which make them the most and largest profit," he said. "For God's sake, we have to have the courage to stand up to the industry."

Biden then reverted to the same tired gun-control agenda that he was promoting before he was ever elected president, falsely suggesting the proposals would somehow do what they have failed to do in places where they are already the law. This included an "assault weapon" ban and empowering courts to hold law-abiding firearm businesses accountable for third-party crimes.

Yet New York, the site of a recent incident Biden invoked to justify his proposals, enacted its assault weapons ban in 2013, supposedly to "stop" mass shootings. And it enacted vicarious liability for the gun industry last year, supposedly to "stop" firearm-related crime generally.

But if guns and gun owners aren't to blame, what is to be done?

Plenty, and the NRA has been supporting effective interventions for years, knowing full well we will never get credit for it from anti-gunners in the media, academia, politics, entertainment or other elite opinion-makers. Because it's not about getting credit for us. It's about what's right.

We support measures to make schools safer for students and teachers. Politicians and media figures mock the idea of safe school engineering and security from their own offices within buildings designed to thwart aggressive intruders and staffed with armed guards. It's more than a little hypocritical to deny our children the same safety measures used to protect our legislatures, courts and executive residences.

We support devoting more resources to fixing America's broken mental-health system and ensuring those in distress get treatment and services—and isolation from doing harm, where necessary—when they need it, before things escalate.

Schools need adequate resources for guidance counselors and other mental-health professionals to help treat potentially dangerous individuals, before they're able to hurt anyone.

And, our national approach to mental-health treatment needs to be overhauled. While there were real problems with our public mental-health institutions, simply closing them and forcing many with serious mental-health problems into a life of homelessness without treatment was not the answer.

Figures from the Treatment Advocacy Center illustrate the problem. Over the last 60 years, the number of beds available at psychiatric hospitals in America has dropped by 96%. In 1955, there were an estimated 340 beds per 100,000 people with mental-health illnesses. In 2016, that number fell to 11.7 beds per 100,000 people.

We can, and must, do more to help our most-vulnerable citizens. Condemning them to a life without treatment in tent cities across America's metropolitan areas is unacceptable.

We support vigorous enforcement of existing laws against those who misuse firearms or illegally provide them to known criminals or threats, while also supporting frontline law-enforcement officers with the backing and resources they need to succeed.

THE NRA IS THE LARGEST PROPONENT OF ACTUAL GUN-SAFETY MEASURES IN AMERICA.

Meanwhile, many of the same people pointing fingers at the NRA advocate "criminal-justice reform" that leaves dangerous criminals on the streets, or they seek to discredit and defund the police.

As I detailed in my column last month, a study in our nation's capital recently found that 60 to 70% of all firearm crime in the city is committed by only 200-500 individuals. But, rather than creating a focused deterrence policy that attempted to limit the ability of the criminals to commit further crimes, the district decided to employ life coaches for these violent criminals.


There are existing solutions to these crime problems. During the last crime spike in the 1990s, policies were put in place to focus on arresting, prosecuting and incarcerating the most-violent offenders. And they worked. From 1993 to 2014, our national homicide rate fell by more than half. Thanks to NRA-supported programs like Project Exile and Project Safe Neighborhoods, government resources were focused on putting violent criminals behind bars, not disarming the law-abiding. We can, and should, take the same proven approach to the current surge in violent crime.

We support responsible firearm handling and storage, including through education provided by our sprawling network of NRA-certified trainers. Over 100,000 NRA-certified instructors train more than 1 million law-abiding gun owners every year.

Because of this training and other firearms-education programs, more than 1 million gun owners are able to safely and successfully defend themselves every year, most without ever firing a single shot. The simple truth is that the NRA is the largest proponent of actual gun-safety measures in America. And that's something that all NRA members should be proud of, even though these contributions will never be recognized by our anti-gun mainstream.

And, yes, we unapologetically and proudly support the right of the people to keep and bear arms; the ultimate safeguard when all other security precautions fail. This includes properly trained and equipped personnel in schools.

What we do not, and will not, support is any attempt to attack the fundamental right of all law-abiding Americans to protect themselves and their families.

Law-abiding gun owners and businesses are not to blame for the acts of remorseless criminals, and the NRA will oppose any attempt to shift the blame to our members or to the lawful industries that support them. 



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By Todd Grable
Executive Director of
Membership



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Membership discounts and gifts reserved for YOU until August 5th!

From the first days of his presidency, Joe Biden has launched one attack after another against the Second Amendment and American gun owners. He's had the full backing of the most powerful leaders in Congress, billionaire gun haters, and Big Media elitists who've helped Biden bombard every home in America with his anti-gun lies day after day.

By any measure, Joe Biden has had a wide-open path to enact the most draconian gun control measures this nation has ever seen. But what he didn't count on was your willingness to sacrifice for the founding principles that make America the greatest nation in the world. You've stood like a brick wall between Joe Biden and the Second Amendment, and you should be proud beyond words for everything you've accomplished alongside the NRA and our members nationwide.

But now, we face our biggest test—with an election headed our way in November that will shape the future of the Second Amendment for the rest of our lives. And to win this do-or-die battle, you and I and our fellow members need to pour every ounce of our strength into the fight.

That's why—regardless of your current NRA membership level—we're asking you to help NRA defeat gun banners this November by extending or upgrading your membership no later than August 5th. And in thanks for your continued Second Amendment leadership, we've reserved some very special discounts and gifts in your name.

If you're a one-year, two-year, three-year or five-year member, this is your chance to extend your membership or even become a Life Member at a special discount rate. If you're a Life Member, Endowment Member,

or Patron Member, this is your chance to save hundreds of dollars when you upgrade to an even higher NRA leadership rank. If you're a Benefactor Member, Distinguished Member, or one of our Golden Eagles, we have some very special opportunities for you as well. And no matter your current level of membership, we've reserved some great commemorative gifts to honor your NRA support as we face the most important midterm election of our lives.

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membership number from the front of this magazine. Or, simply call 855-NRA-2022 to talk with one of our customer service representatives. But no matter how you respond, please do so before these offers expire at midnight on August 5th.

Now more than ever, your immediate action can help change the course of history. I urge you to take advantage of your personalized discount and gift offer by logging into **NRA2022.org** today. Thank you again for your commitment to freedom!

Todd Grable

Hurry! Your special offers expire at midnight August 5, 2022!

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Gunsite Honors Wiley Clapp



GUNSITE ACADEMY

Shooting Illustrated's own Field Editor and author of the monthly "Fightin' Iron" column Wiley Clapp was honored during a weeklong celebration, April 25 to 29, at Gunsite Academy in Paulden, AZ. The world-class training facility also named one of its classrooms for the writer, further cementing Clapp's legacy as one of the premier proponents for the lawful use of firearms for home and self-defense.

"It was a grand week with a group of Wiley's friends and family that come annually for a private class," said Gunsite CEO and former Sheriff Ken Campbell. "But, this time we wanted to recognize Wiley for all he has done for his community, the Republic, Gunsite and the Second Amendment."

Clapp is a decorated Marine who served in Vietnam. After leaving the U.S. military he joined the Orange County Sheriff's Department, where he spent 18 years protecting and serving California residents. After retiring from law enforcement, he embarked on a writing and editing career that continues to this day. His column appears on the last page of *Shooting Illustrated*—a coveted position historically cited as a periodical's unofficial final word.

During the week of celebration, Gunsite Academy President and owner Buz Mills presented Clapp with a special plaque commemorating the classroom being named the "Wiley Clapp Training Room."

Shooting Off

"I didn't know what he was going to do, but I knew I was going to protect myself. I'm a fighter. I'm going to defend myself."

—70-year-old Virginia Morrison, an Orlando, FL, resident, told Fox35 News after shooting a home invader in self-defense after he ignored her warnings and chased her as she fled.

Lifestyle | Organized Stowage

Weaponlights, tactical flashlights, lasers, rangefinders and night vision all require batteries, but finding a fresh cell fast from the bottom of a go bag or range case is like herding chickens. They migrate into corners or get stowed under flaps and hard-to-find compartments to prevent power loss and the potentially incendiary reaction should a terminal contact metal.

The roundup headache is over with Thyrn's CellVault-5M Modular Battery Storage units, now available in gear-matching MultiCam patterns. The polymer systems have a waterproof gasket seal, integrated strap for MOLLE attachment, lockable latch and can be configured for CR123, 18350 and 18650 batteries. Regardless of setup, there's also storage for four CR2032s.



THYRM

They're a safety-conscious solution that provides easy access to a fresh cell in a rush. MSRP for any of the new MultiCam models, without modular inserts, is \$64.99. Visit thyrn.com to order.

Quick Shots

The FBI has awarded Hornady with a fixed price indefinite delivery/indefinite quantity (IDIQ) agreement for 9 mm ammunition. The company's 9 mm +P 135-grain Critical Duty round has been selected for two consecutive 9 mm FBI contracts, as the same load was selected by the FBI in 2018.

Sellmark has acquired INFORCE, a company that designs, engineers and manufactures branded and OEM products. Its American-made lighting systems are currently issued by every branch of the U.S. military. The acquisition adds INFORCE to a growing number of Sellmark brands that includes Sightmark, Pulsar, Firefield, Kopfjäger and BulletSafe.

Winchester Ammunition has been awarded a \$15 million contract by the U.S. Army for the design of the Next Generation Squad Weapon (NGSW) ammunition facility. Work will be performed at the Lake City Army Ammunition Plant in Independence, MO, the United States' only government-owned, contractor-operated small-caliber ammo-production facility.

El Pres Times Two

Making it a double helps to hone your defensive-shooting skills.



What makes a good training drill? It is one that teaches and tests essential skills of gun handling and marksmanship. Sure, running and jumping while shooting dozens of rounds is fun, but effective drills need not be difficult. I recall a federal agency that used our Border Patrol range for training and set up elaborate and complicated courses of fire designed to make the shooters fail so the instructors could belittle them. Not smart.

One of the classic drills is the El Presidente, conceived by the late Jeff Cooper and now practiced obsessively by competitive shooters. Fired at 10 yards, this drill uses three targets and includes a 180-degree turn, drawing the pistol, engaging each target with two shots each, reloading and firing two more shots per target. Cooper believed it was not a tactical solution to face three threats, but rather a test of effective gun handling.

There are variations of the El Pres, including a Demi-Pres and a Tactical Pres. I use this variation to test the skill level of CCW-permit holders, who often carry small guns. You will need two silhouette targets with body and head-scoring areas, a timer, your concealed-carry pistol and six rounds of defensive ammunition.


Here's the drill:

At 5 yards, starting with your back to two targets, turn, draw, engage each target with two rounds, take a step to the side as you reload and fire one head shot on each target.

So basically, it's turn, draw, two body, two body, step and reload, one head, one head.

Par time is 8 seconds. Shots in the scoring areas of the body and head count for five points, shots outside score two. There's a two-point penalty for each second beyond the 8-second limit, and you gain two points for each second less than 8 seconds. A perfect run within the par time yields a total of 30 points, while runs under the par time can exceed this total if there are no misses. If you're shooting a revolver, par time is 10 seconds.

It's vitally important you don't draw your pistol until you're facing down-range, as you don't want to sweep anyone with your muzzle as you turn.

This drill is easier if you use your training pistol and gear, but perhaps you'll find it a tad more challenging if you attempted to shoot it from concealment with your carry pistol, especially if you carry one of the small handguns that are so popular these days. 



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Sharpen your Scorpion's protective sting with the following products.

Compatible with all factory CZ EVO 3 models with 7.8-inch barrels, **HB Industries' CZ Scorpion Pakse Sapper 6.4" M-Lok Handguard** boasts fiber-reinforced, light-weight polymer construction and an enhanced sight radius thanks to its Picatinny top rail. M-Lok-compatible slots along the 3-, 6- and 9-o'clock positions bring welcome versatility to the platform by offering lots of room for mounting accessories, and there's an integral handstop to help keep your support hand away from the muzzle. Available colors include black, FDE, grey and OD green.

MSRP: \$49.99; hbindustries.net

Constructed from proprietary DuPont Zytel-based polymer, the upper-tower portion of **ProMag Industries' CZ Scorpion 30-round Black Polymer Drum** features over-molded, heat-treated, carbon-steel-reinforced feed lips for added durability and enhanced overall reliability.

An injection-molded follower ensures smooth feeding. Its heat-treated, stainless steel spring allows for long-term, fully loaded storage without losing tension.

MSRP: \$106.99; promagindustries.com

Designed as a one-piece, drop-in accessory to fit all CZ Scorpion variants, including the recent CZ 3+ Micro, **Timney Triggers' CZ Scorpion Trigger** has a factory-calibrated pull weight between 2.75 and 3.75 pounds and offers impressive features like a resistant black-oxide finish paired with a hammer coated in NP3 for maximum lubricity. Its hammer, trigger shoe and disconnect are precision-machined and heat-treated to 56 R/C for greater surface hardness and wear-resistance. Like all Timney offerings, the Scorpion's design promotes drop-in, hassle-free installation.

MSRP: \$249.99; timneytriggers.com

Featuring an enhanced angle for optimal control and comfort, the **Magpul MOE-EVO Grip CZ Scorpion EVO 3** is a desirable, drop-in upgrade over the factory offering. Magpul's proprietary TSP texturing along the exterior adds a surface to provide uncompromising purchase where it's needed most. The MOE-EVO qualifies as one U.S.-made part for 922(r) compliance.

MSRP: \$24.95; magpul.com

Designed to encircle the dominant forearm of a shooter and provide welcome stability, the **SB Tactical SBTEVO-G2 brace** features an arm cuff, similar to the company's popular SB-Mini. Its right-side-folding, polymer strut is attached to a lightweight housing that contains an integral QD socket. Such an accessory makes a great choice for disabled shooters or anyone who requires a bit more arm support when firing a large-format pistol.

MSRP: \$124.99; sb-tactical.com





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Understanding Transfer Bars

Do I need to download a double-action revolver equipped with a transfer bar with one round less than full to be safe? Apparently, one gunmaker thinks so.

For years, I have felt completely secure in carrying any of my revolvers into the field as a go-to gun for personal defense and general purposes. All of them have transfer bars to preclude accidental discharge in the event they were inadvertently dropped on the hammer.

Recently, I acquired a new seven-shot .357 Mag. revolver to add to my collection of handguns to shoot and schlep in areas where I need to have both hands free because of the terrain I occasionally encounter. The seven-round capacity was a plus, so I thought, until I read the owner's manual that accompanied the revolver. The manual stated in several separate places that a live round should never be carried under the hammer, and that the seventh chamber in the cylinder is meant for placement under the hammer empty for "safety reasons."

This caused me to dig out the owner's manuals for the other brands of double-action revolvers equipped with transfer bars I own to see if they recommended something similar. In no case did I find these manufacturers recommended an empty chamber be reserved under the hammer for safety purposes. In fact, one of my favorite brands openly recommended that its guns were totally safe when carried with all chambers loaded.

Maybe I am wrong, but I was under the impression that a transfer bar on a revolver was there to prevent the gun from firing unless the trigger is pulled and that a drop of the gun was unfortunate but would not result in a discharge. Is this wishful thinking or is there an element of truth to my thoughts? I'd like your advice on managing this important safety imperative. Thanks for any help you can provide.

*Jack Speedy
via e-mail*



This is a Ruger GP100, which states in its manual that, thanks to the presence of its transfer bar, you can carry six rounds in its cylinder without worry of an unintended discharge.

A transfer bar, by design and in name, transfers the energy generated from the hammer to the firing pin, indenting the primer and firing the cartridge in the chamber aligned with the barrel of a revolver. The transfer bar can only be in position to transfer the energy of the hammer to the firing pin if the trigger is fully depressed. Otherwise, without the trigger being pulled, the hammer

can in no way contact the firing pin, making it impossible to fire the gun.

Some guns use a hammer block, which operates a little differently than the transfer bar, but serves the same purpose. The hammer block mechanically prevents the hammer from contacting the firing pin unless the trigger is fully pulled.

The Sporting Arms and Ammunition Manufacturers Institute (SAAMI,) which sets firearm-industry standards, defines a hammer block as a device intended to isolate the hammer from the firing pin, except when the trigger is pulled. The transfer bar is a design of the firing mechanism to accomplish the same thing.

An easy way to see if the transfer bar or hammer block is working is to first make doubly sure the revolver is unloaded and the immediate area is free of ammunition. Position the revolver so the recoil shield—where the firing pin protrudes through to indent the primer—is easily visible. Then, pull the trigger fully and hold it to the rear. The firing pin should be visibly protruding through the recoil shield with the trigger fully pulled. Next, gradually release the trigger forward and the firing pin should retract, no longer protruding through the recoil shield. Once the trigger is released, applying thumb pressure to the back of the hammer will ensure the hammer is separated from the firing pin and the revolver is safe to carry.

Revolvers with transfer bars or hammer blocks in good working order are designed to be carried with the cylinder fully loaded. I am currently unaware of any exceptions in the arena of modern-manufacture, double-action revolvers.

I would never suggest that any gun owner ignore any manufacturers' recommendations offered in their owner's manuals. However, I would suggest calling their customer-service folks to get an explanation as to why they felt it necessary to include that bit of information in their manuals; especially if they mentioned it more than one time.

The answer you receive will help you decide whether or not you will choose to employ your revolver for the purposes originally intended.

Correspondence is welcomed and encouraged

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

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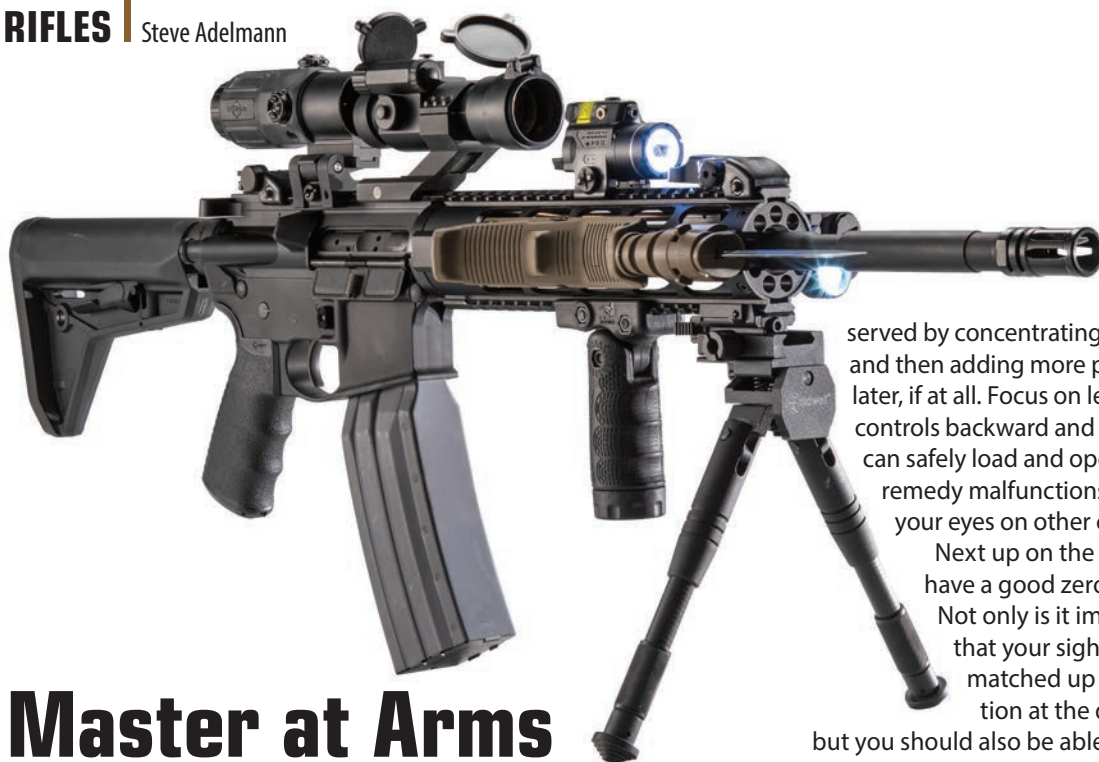
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Master at Arms

As a wise man once opined, don't tell me about your gear, show me what you can do with it.

Every so often, something that happens on a range serves to remind me that rather than dying or fading away, good lessons just keep chugging along. That these events usually involve high-stress competition or shooting instruction is evidence that well-executed training can expose the best (and worst) of our equipment and skill sets. The present example involves prioritizing function over form, and comes from a friend who recently attended a high-round-count carbine course. Apparently, as he uncased a rather nondescript, direct-impingement AR carbine chambered in 5.56 NATO, my friend drew immediate ridicule for committing the unpardonable sin of bringing a gun that did not bear an "accepted" brand name. He was unfazed, as in his words, the no-frills rifle was simply "built to go bang and hit targets." What a concept.

By concentrating on his own shooting instead of impressing those around him, my friend used a non-magnified red-dot sight to consistently hit large and small steel targets out to 500 yards, which made him the exception of the class. His rifle was also the only one that ran without issue. While most of the other guns were still shooting after several hundred rounds, they required copious oil and periodic wipe-downs to remain functional. Conversely, my friend's little carbine began the day cleaned and properly lubricated, then ran the entire time without further maintenance.

This is a great example of what happens when one focuses on shooting one rifle really well and leaves things like aesthetics and peer acceptance for the clique crowd to worry about. It really does not matter which firearm you choose to master, so long as it works and is capable of meeting your needs. In practiced hands, rack-grade rifles can be just as effective as fancy ones and, to be honest, you will be better

served by concentrating on simplicity first and then adding more pieces to the puzzle later, if at all. Focus on learning the controls backward and forward so you can safely load and operate it, and remedy malfunctions while keeping your eyes on other concerns.

Next up on the familiarity list is to have a good zero that you trust.

Not only is it important to ensure that your sighting system is matched up to your ammunition at the desired distance,

but you should also be able to discern what that distance looks like without the aid of conveniently spaced berms or a rangefinder. Knowing how to compensate for your pet ammo load at other practical distances is important, too.

Simplicity in sighting systems is a good thing, especially for rifles that are primarily intended for defensive use at realistic distances. Having an optic that allows you to measure the spread on a trophy buck's rack at 1,000 yards is not real helpful if the scope is so cumbersome that you cannot quickly bring it to bear on a close target. I can attest to the fact that receiving accurate, incoming fire will quickly reveal any flaws in your rifle's setup. Surviving to learn from those errors gives you the opportunity to ensure that they are not repeated. A good rule of thumb for sights is that if you cannot instantly get them on target under intense stress, they are the wrong choice for protecting you and your loved ones.

If you are at a loss for how to get the most out of limited range time or are simply overwhelmed by trying to up your game in too many areas, dial it back down around core rifle skills that can be built upon later. Included in that category are the fundamentals of proper body position, sight alignment, breathing and trigger manipulation. Next, practicing tangential skills, such as shooting from behind cover, using non-standard

Continued on page 75

MORE CAPACITY, NO COMPROMISE.



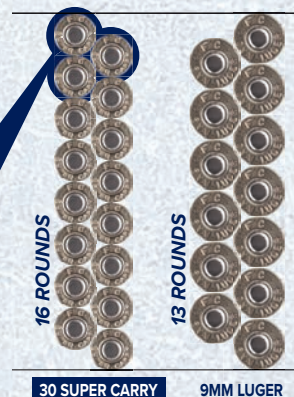
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Splitting Frog Hairs

Searching for empirical evidence of firearm superiority can be a useless quest.

Some years ago, there was an essay by writer, revolversmith and instructor Grant Cunningham in which he decried the obsession you can find in some corners of the defensive-firearms world with what he memorably called “meaningless increments of precision.”

In his essay, Cunningham was referring to the tiny slices of time that can be measured by shot timers, and the way that it’s easy to get lost in the effort to shave those slices off our timed drills.

Don’t get me wrong, I’m a big advocate of using a timer to measure personal improvement in pistol-handling skills; speed and accuracy being the two most valuable coins of the defensive-pistol-shooting realm. At the same time, it’s important to be realistic and understand that the difference of a couple tenths on a slidelock reload or a few hundredths on your splits are unlikely to be the margin between success and failure anywhere outside of the contrived environment of a match stage or the safety of a pistol-training class.

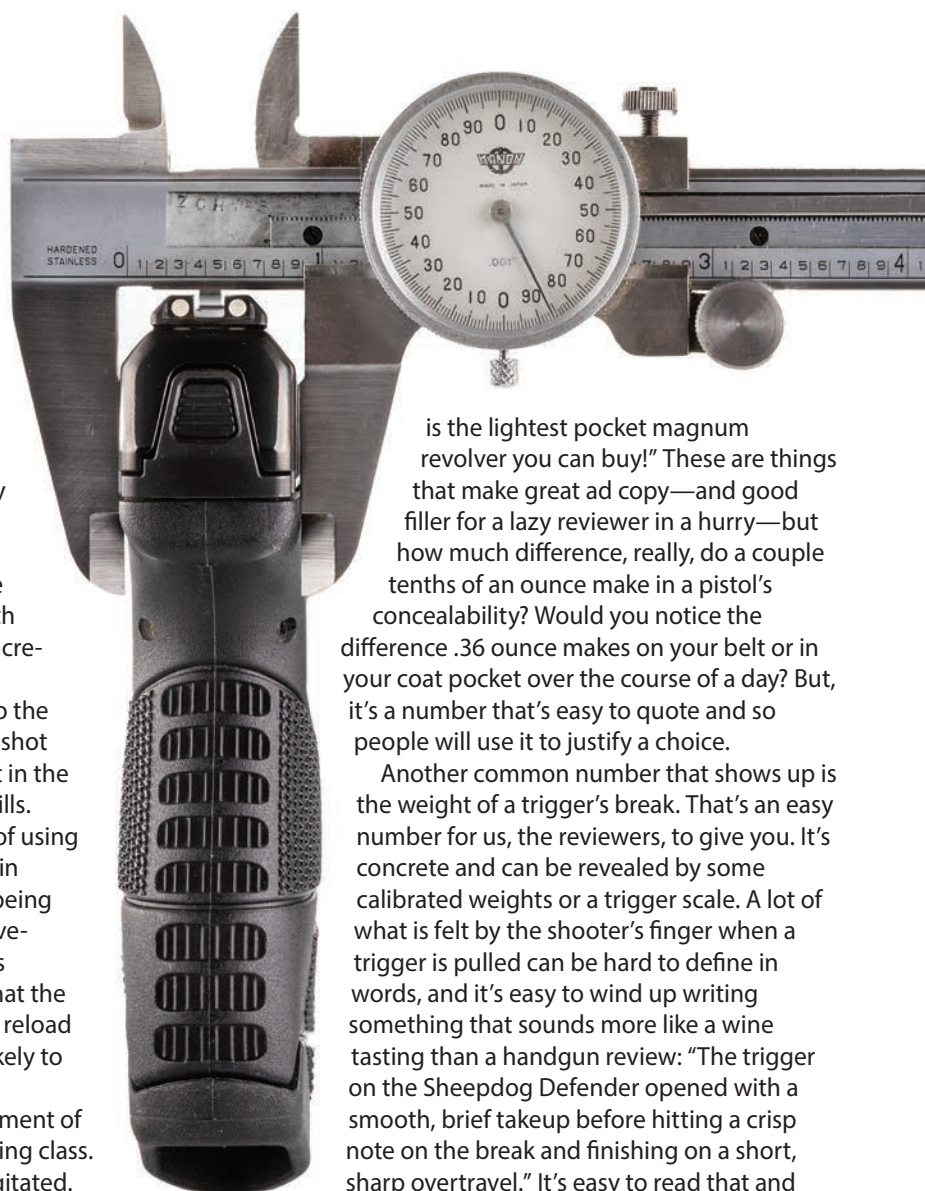
(I see you there in the back, getting all agitated. I’m not saying don’t track your performance; I’m just saying to keep some perspective, that’s all.)

But, that software-and-performance stuff isn’t the only place we sometimes get caught up in meaningless increments of precision. It rears its statistically ugly head on the hardware side of things, too.

In a way, it’s understandable, because carrying a firearm for defense involves selecting a firearm and ammo, which generally involves a gunmaker and ammunition manufacturer having to sell you product. Selling you their product means having to convince you it’s better than the other guy’s, and that usually means numbers.

For handguns intended for concealed carry, this often involves measurements of weight or thickness. Everyone knows that a lighter gun is easier to carry, after all, and a thinner gun will “print” less through a cover garment. But, it’s definitely easy to get lost in the sauce of all the associated marketing hype.

“The Blastomatic 2000 is the slimmest 9 mm double-stack subcompact on the market!” or “The GatMaster Chihuahua



is the lightest pocket magnum revolver you can buy!” These are things that make great ad copy—and good filler for a lazy reviewer in a hurry—but how much difference, really, do a couple tenths of an ounce make in a pistol’s concealability? Would you notice the difference .36 ounce makes on your belt or in your coat pocket over the course of a day? But, it’s a number that’s easy to quote and so people will use it to justify a choice.

Another common number that shows up is the weight of a trigger’s break. That’s an easy number for us, the reviewers, to give you. It’s concrete and can be revealed by some calibrated weights or a trigger scale. A lot of what is felt by the shooter’s finger when a trigger is pulled can be hard to define in words, and it’s easy to wind up writing something that sounds more like a wine tasting than a handgun review: “The trigger on the Sheepdog Defender opened with a smooth, brief takeup before hitting a crisp note on the break and finishing on a short, sharp overtravel.” It’s easy to read that and prefer a nice round number instead that can be plugged into a “Should I Buy This Gun” spreadsheet.

But, the nature of the trigger’s pull matters more for accuracy at speed than its absolute weight, or lack thereof. Similarly, a heavier trigger is not necessarily a panacea against making a loud mistake; the length of its travel during the pull is more important than the weight when it comes to protection against “woobie checking” (nervously touching the trigger) or involuntary clenches.

Perhaps nowhere is the “meaningless increments of precision” phenomenon found more often on the hardware side of the house than in caliber selection, or in the selection of specific defensive ammunition within a given caliber.

On one popular gun forum not long ago, I saw a common-tater (as Claude Werner, the Tactical Professor, likes to call them) take the time to construct an elaborate chart of common .38 Spl. defensive loads and their velocity and energy at various ranges. He did this as an indictment of the chambering; as though because there



were more powerful offerings available in 9 mm or .40 S&W, somehow .38 Spl. was doomed to bounce off bad guys these days.

Even more inexplicable are the shooters who choose the Thor-Hammer 147-grain over the competing loads from FreedomFist and 'MurricaHeckYeah because, according to the data on the box flap, it's 30 fps faster at the muzzle.

I don't mean to be the bearer of bad tidings, but those box-flap numbers come from a test barrel at the manufacturer's facility and may or may not have much correlation with how fast a projectile is ticking along when it exits the muzzle of your own pistol.

On top of that, you have to add in the phenomenon of "extreme spread." In a string of 10 rounds fired from the same box of ammunition, from the same magazine, in the same gun, at one sitting, even the really good, name-brand ammunition with outstanding quality control will exhibit a roughly 30 fps spread between the slowest and fastest rounds in the box.

So, if you're choosing Brand X over Brand Y based on a 15-fps difference in the ad copy—or, worse, getting into arguments about it on the internet—you're probably wasting your time and your keystrokes from more worthwhile pursuits, like arguing over comic books or sourdough recipes.

Not everything is empirical, especially in shooting. Whether arguments of caliber, or specific loads within a caliber, it's important to remember the old maxim that "Shot placement is king, adequate penetration is queen and everything else is angels dancing on pin heads."🔫

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Kimber Mfg. Inc. ("Kimber") has discovered a quality issue involving the firing pin safety block of certain Kimber R7 model handguns shipped from January 10, 2022 through February 14, 2022. Firearms assembled with the subject firing pin safety block may release multiple rounds from a single trigger pull.

This Recall Notice applies only to the Serial Numbers of those products listed in the **List of Serial Numbers of Recalled Products** located at kimberamerica.com/serial-r7-mako. If your handgun is among those in this **List of Serial Numbers of Recalled Products**, please contact us immediately by calling 888-243-4522, and do not load, use, sell, or otherwise make available your handgun, as the condition may lead to serious personal injury or death. Kimber is voluntarily recalling the affected products to help ensure the personal safety of the parties that purchased and/or used them.



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The Shotgun is Top Gun

Have you lost that lovin' feelin' for your scattergun? Here's why it should be a go-to choice for home defense.

Chances are, you've got that one buddy who thinks the AR-15 is the be-all, end-all weapon for everything.

"It's so accurate, I'd just shoot it [a charging brown bear] in the head," they claim, despite the 5.56 NATO cartridge not being permitted for deer hunting in a number of states due to its lack of killing energy.

Then, there are the handgun gurus who have spent lifetimes shooting paper and steel, but who tend to forget about a little something called "terminal ballistics" that has everything to do with how something behaves after it has been hit by a bullet. Fact is, most (large) living creatures don't dramatically fall over dead after they've been hit with a bullet from a 9 mm handgun as they do in the movies. Mind you, I'm not suggesting shotguns aren't overly dramatized in movies, too—they certainly are—but there's a reason why shotguns are so feared on the streets, in homes and on battlefields all over the world.

Here are my arguments for why a shotgun is the top gun:

You can hit moving objects consistently with a shotgun.

I'll bet any pistol or rifle champion in the world right now that my 14-year-old nephew can beat them in a round of skeet—if my nephew uses his shotgun and the champion uses their rifle or pistol of choice. But, this statement isn't profound; it's obvious. What is not so obvious is this: I'll extend the bet to the "rabbit" target on a sporting-clays course. The rabbit isn't flying; it's "running" across the ground. My point is, shotguns are superior for any moving target, whether that target wears orange paint, feathers, fur or sneakers and a ski mask. Keep in mind, in real life most targets aren't stationary like those found on a square range; they're moving like hell.

A shotgun's close-range terminal energy is devastating.

Academically, one can calculate that a 12-gauge shooting a nine-pellet, 00 buckshot load produces a muzzle energy of around 1,650 ft.-lbs. (Hunting loads with 12 and 15 pellets are significantly more powerful.) Compare this to a 5.56 NATO at 1,250 ft.-lbs., a 9 mm at 350 ft.-lbs., a .45 ACP at 350 ft.-lbs. or a 12-gauge, 1-ounce slug at 2,500 ft.-lbs.

Still, I've heard internet aces say stuff like: "Numbers on a calculator don't mean anything in the real world." Don't believe that nonsense.


More energy translates to more penetration, more hydrostatic shock to the central-nervous system and more devastation to vital tissue. This means faster incapacitation, and while I haven't personally witnessed the following comparison on humans, I have taken scores of 150-pound wild hogs with shotguns, rifles and pistols. With pistol rounds, more often than not multiple shots are needed, even when the initial shot impacts center mass as intended. But, with rifles of .243-caliber and larger, as well as 12- and 20-gauge buckshot and slugs, it's a different story. Any shot to the vitals with these guns (inside of 35 yards with buckshot), spells quick demise for the hog. At these distances (and certainly shorter distances such as those found inside a home), I expect similar results.

For longer ranges, slugs are an option.

Certainly, shotguns can't hold a candle to a rifle in the long-range department, but they can bridge the gap between the close-range effectiveness of a pistol and the long-range effectiveness of a rifle. With sabot slugs and a scope, 150-yard accuracy is possible. This type of range lends the shotgun on-demand versatility that pistols don't have.

The shotgun is far more versatile than a handgun or rifle.

Quite simply, there are far more options available for the 12-gauge shotgun than for any other firearm. Steel shot, varying sizes of buckshot, slugs, less-lethal rounds and other types of projectiles are available. The shotgun can perform the widest variety of tasks one can ask of a firearm by a mile.

Certainly, the shotgun has its downsides, too: Its recoil is significant, most are slow to reload and they are neither lightweight nor easily concealed. Still, if I had to pick one gun for home defense, hunting, survival and sport, I'm going with a 12-gauge shotgun. In trained hands, you're unlikely to miss close-range targets and whatever is hit with is unlikely to hit back. Of course, I am *Shooting Illustrated's* Shotgun Editor, so you knew I wouldn't choose a trendy AR or tricked-out pistol. But, I'd love to hear your thoughts. 

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"The feel of this knife is unbelievable... this is an incredibly fine instrument." — H., Arvada, CO



"This knife is beautiful!" — J., La Crescent, MN



It was a perfect late autumn day in the northern Rockies. Not a cloud in the sky, and just enough cool in the air to stir up nostalgic memories of my trip into the backwoods. This year, though, was different. I was going it solo. My two buddies, pleading work responsibilities, backed out at the last minute. So, armed with my trusty knife, I set out for adventure.

Well, what I found was a whole lot of trouble. As in 8 feet and 800-pounds of trouble in the form of a grizzly bear. Seems this grumpy fella was out looking for some adventure too. Mr. Grizzly saw me, stood up to his entire 8 feet of ferocity and let out a roar that made my blood turn to ice and my hair stand up. Unsnapping my leather sheath, I felt for my hefty, trusty knife and felt emboldened. I then showed the massive grizzly over 6 inches of 420 surgical grade stainless steel, raised my hands and yelled, "Whoa bear! Whoa bear!" I must have made my point, as he gave me an almost admiring grunt before turning tail and heading back into the woods.

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I was pretty shaken, but otherwise fine. Once the adrenaline high subsided, I decided I had some work to do back home too. That was more than enough adventure for one day.

Our Grizzly Hunting Knife pays tribute to the call of the wild. Featuring stick-tang construction, you can feel confident in the strength and durability of this knife. And the hand carved, natural bone handle ensures you won't lose your grip even in the most dire of circumstances. I also made certain to give it a great price. After all, you should be able to get your point across without getting stuck with a high price.

But we don't stop there. While supplies last, we'll include a pair of \$99 8x21 power compact binoculars **FREE** when you purchase the Grizzly Hunting Knife.

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Bitten by the ASP

Nosler expands its entries in the personal-protection market with its new line of ASP handgun ammo.



With a consistent bullet upset of 1.6-times bullet diameter combined with 12 to 13 inches of penetration, the 115-grain 9 mm ASP load from Nosler should be an ideal defensive-handgun load.

Nosler has an impeccable reputation for producing quality ammunition and components, but it is most often thought of as a company that manufactures hunting bullets and hunting ammunition. This is understandable—the company was founded on the Nosler Partition bullet. In 1950, it was the premier big-game bullet and you could argue it remains so today. However, Nosler also offers match-grade and self-defense ammo. The company's line of bonded, defensive-handgun ammunition is excellent. But, starting at \$35 for a box of 20, it is a bit expensive.

For 2022, Nosler introduced a new line of handgun ammunition with a new name. Nosler's ASP (Assured Stopping Power) line of handgun ammo combines match-grade accuracy with a reliably feeding, terminally effective, hollowpoint bullet. Even better, you can pick up a 50-round box of ASP ammo for about the same price as a 20-round box of Nosler's current defensive-handgun ammo.

Shooting Results: Nosler ASP Ammunition

Load	MV	AV	ME	MD	SD	PEN	EXP	RW	CC
9 mm 115-grain	1,097	1,170	307	28	10	13.0	.585	113.5	3.49
.45 ACP 230-grain	792	850	320	36	12	14.5	.605	229.5	4.09

Average muzzle velocity (MV), maximum velocity deviation (MD) and standard velocity deviation (SD) measured in fps 10 feet from the muzzle for 10 consecutive shots with a Caldwell G2 chronograph. Advertised velocity (AV) is provided on each box of ammunition. Muzzle energy (ME) measured in ft.-lbs. Penetration (PEN) and expansion (EXP) measured in inches for the average of 10 shots fired into blocks of Clean Ballistics at 10 feet. Recovered weight (RW) measured in grains. Crush cavity (CC) measured in cubic inches for the average penetration depth and the average diameter of the recovered bullets. Temperature: 66 degrees Fahrenheit.

Since the 1986 FBI shootout in Miami, we've seen many different attempts at making the ideal defensive-handgun bullet. Everything from bonded bullets to compressed-particle projectiles has been touted as the next-best thing. And, truth is, some of these bullets deliver fantastic terminal performance, sometimes even through a wide assortment of intermediate barriers. With the bullet used in the new ASP ammo, Nosler took a more conventional approach.

It took the common cup-and-core bullet style and encased a pure-lead core in a gilding metal—95-percent copper and 5-percent zinc—jacket. Nosler also deeply skived the jacket so it would deliver reliable deformation at moderate impact velocities. Nosler claims you can expect optimum bullet upset when impact velocities are between 800 and 1,300 fps. The company also claims it has enhanced the terminal performance of the conventional bullet design without sacrificing accuracy and reliability.

Nosler is offering eight ASP loads in five different calibers. There's a 115-grain, 9 mm load at 1,170 fps, a 124-grain load at 1,150 fps and a 147-grain load at 950 fps. For .40 S&W, Nosler has a 150-grain load at 1,110 fps and a 180-grain load at 1,005 fps. There is only a single 10 mm load, which launches a 180-grain bullet at 1,150 fps. And finally, for the .45 ACP, the company will be offering a 185-grain bullet at 980 fps and a 230-grain bullet at 850 fps. Each load is packaged in either 20- or 50-round boxes and retail prices are encouraging. Except for the 10 mm load—which will cost \$29.49 per 20 rounds and \$58.49 for 50—20-round boxes will retail for only \$18.49 and 50-round boxes for \$38.95.

You should note that several of these loads offer subsonic performance. And, you should also notice that these velocities are as moderate as the prices. A 20-round box of Federal 230-grain Hydra-Shok .45 ACP ammo will cost \$35.99 and has an advertised velocity of 900 fps. If you opt for the Nosler ASP 230-grain load, you'll save 87 cents per round, but the muzzle velocity will be about 5-percent slower. These variations in price and velocity are consistent throughout the ASP ammunition line.

Nosler provided me with its 115-grain 9 mm and 230-grain .45 ACP ASP loads for testing. First, I ran 10 rounds over my chronograph to establish velocity performance. The ASP

ammo produced quite consistent velocities with standard deviations of 10 and 12 fps. Also of note was the more conventional muzzle velocities. The 115-grain 9 mm load averaged 1,097 fps out of a 4.62-inch barrel, and the 230-grain .45 ACP loaded averaged 792 fps from a 5-inch barrel. This is slightly less than common velocities for these bullet weights and 73 and 58 fps less than respective Nosler advertised velocities. (It's not unusual to see velocity variations as high as 50 fps from gun to gun.)

Next, I fired 10 rounds of each load into blocks of Clear Ballistics to get an idea of terminal performance. Both showed good deformation; on average, 1.6 times the bullet diameter for the 9 mm load, and 1.3 times for the .45 ACP load. Both loads also achieved a minimum-penetration depth of 12 inches, and neither exceeded 15 inches of penetration. I'd liked to have seen the .45 ACP load

deform with a bit wider frontal diameter, but with a muzzle velocity of only 792 fps, it performed very well considering how soft it shot. With either load, overpenetration should not be a concern, and weight retention was at the 98- to 99-percent mark.

Nosler has been offering factory ammunition for some time, but it is perhaps best known for supplying component bullets to handloaders who want to craft their own ammunition. If you're a handloader who wants to create your own ASP loads, Nosler is offering all the same bullets loaded in its ASP line of ammunition as components. Also available as a component is a 135-grain .40-caliber (10 mm) bullet. These bullets are available in 250-count boxes and are priced from \$77.95 for 9 mm up to \$108.49 for the heaviest .45-caliber bullet.

Nosler's new ASP line is not an expensive, hot-rodged approach to self-defense-handgun ammunition. It

is a practical and affordable collection of ammunition and components that have been engineered to deliver good terminal performance, without excessive recoil, at a price that will not cause you to mortgage your home. And, that's even if you want to stock up for a year's supply.

The 115-grain 9 mm load proved to be laser-like accurate in my light-weight Browning Hi Power, the moderate velocity will not batter its alloy frame and the soft recoil makes hammered pairs a delight. Right now, the most popular defensive handgun in America is the ultra-compact 9 mm pistol, and this load should be ideal for those itty-bitty guns, too. I pushed a lot of the 115-grain ASP load through a variety of subcompact 9 mm handguns and did not experience a single stoppage. As has been said many times in the past, and will probably be said more in the future, Nosler has done it again.🌀





Practical Tactical

Mossberg's long-awaited fightin' version of its celebrated 940 Pro shotgun—the 940 Pro Tactical—offers pleasant surprises aplenty.

My boss had called me into his office several weeks ago.

"Can you shoot slugs?"

"Well, yeah," I said "but I usually just pour salt on 'em. It's easier on the tomato plants." He stared at me for a while, no doubt again wondering what the hell was wrong with me and just how high the office pool on that was now. What had prompted the question was the fact that there was an opportunity to shoot Mossberg's new tactical version of its vaunted 940 Pro shotgun at Gunsite Academy, but he knew I'd been dealing with a partially torn rotator cuff in my right shoulder. Factoring in the date and hoping for an elusive alchemy of anti-inflammatories, a pain-blocking shot and character, I agreed to go.

The idea of such get-togethers is to have assorted members of the firearm press assemble at Gunsite, distribute samples of the new gun to them and then to have the journalists wring them out by performing drills under the tutelage of Academy instructors. It efficiently familiarizes the writers with the firearm, demonstrates the firearm's capabilities, and also provides some insight into state-of-the-art firearm tactics.

The Gun

Mossberg's 940 Pro Tactical is the fighting version of the 940 Pro the company introduced two years ago. The first iteration of that gun was the 940 JM Pro, a 3-Gun-optimized semi-automatic incorporating tweaks from Jerry Miculek. That rousing success was followed by waterfowl and turkey versions of the gun. At last, we now have a pure fighter.

By Daniel T. McElrath
Senior Executive Editor
Photos by Eric Dean



A red fiber-optic front sight replaces the traditional brass bead • The orange, anodized-aluminum follower is durable and easy to see • Located atop the gun's wrist, the safety button is equally accessible to righties or lefties.

The 940 Pro Tactical has a laundry list of desirable features. However, they may all take a backseat to its true innovation—a receiver cut to accommodate a mini red-dot sight.

Granted, this is nothing new in pistols. In fact, most new handguns that have come off the drawing board in the last couple of years have had versions cut to readily mount a reflex sight, the model of sight dependent on the cut and what, if any, plates were available to fit what sight. This, though, is the first shotgun to come from the factory so equipped. Specifically, the Mossberg is cut for the popular Shield RMSc footprint and Mossberg has found the Holosun 507K to be an ideal match, due to its fit, circle-dot reticle and impressive toughness. Sure, shotguns now are commonly offered drilled and tapped to mount a scope base, but those bases typically raise the sight a bit, compromising cheek weld and thus rapid, accurate shooting. The first time you shoulder the red-dot-equipped gun and instantly, effortlessly achieve an ideal sight picture, you wonder why MRDS-ready shotguns didn't precede MRDS-ready pistols.

While being "optic ready" is huge, there are many other reasons to like the 940 Pro Tactical. First, it is fundamentally tactical, through-and-through. It's basically a synthetic-stocked, semi-automatic scattergun with an 18.5-inch barrel and extended magazine tube, but the details elevate it to another level of practicality. These include a fiber-optic front sight that will co-witness with the low-mounted MRDS, Accu-Choke-threaded barrel, seven-round extended magazine, barrel/magazine brace with M-Lok slots and a reversible sling swivel stud, oversize bolt handle and a wrist-mounted safety button that's easy to see and actuate.

One of the most unexpected but appreciated details is stock fit. Though the gun fit me well coming out of the box, an assortment of spacers and shims is included to tailor the length-of-pull, drop and cast to the particular shooter. Polymer furniture and clever design has thankfully moved us into a new age. The idea that the gun you grab in the middle of the night will mount perfectly to your shoulder (should it come to that) with your eye aligning precisely with the sight as you achieve cheek weld should make anyone sleep better.

Internally, the 940 Pro Tactical boasts nickel-boron-coated parts and a new gas system touted run with everything from 2¾-inch birdshot to 3-inch slugs. The system is non-adjustable, making such a design objective a pretty tall order. In addition to being versatile, the new system is claimed to be relatively low maintenance, requiring cleaning only every 1,500 rounds, a considerable improvement over the line's predecessor, the 930.

Other improvements include further Miculek tweaks. Jerry modifies Lena Miculek's competition shotgun, so Mossberg engineers took note and implemented as many of his enhancements as possible. For example, they measured the expanded loading port on Lena's gun and similarly expanded and beveled the loading port on the production guns, helpful even for those of us who don't quad load.

Performance

We ran the 940 Pro Tactical through every drill I knew and several I didn't. We engaged both paper and steel targets with birdshot, buckshot and slugs. It immediately revealed its merit in a number of areas. First, it's

MOSSBERG | 940 Pro Tactical



SPECIFICATIONS

Manufacturer: O.F. Mossberg & Sons, Inc.; (203) 230-5300, mossberg.com

Action Type: Gas-operated, semi-automatic

Caliber: 12 gauge; 3-inch chamber

Capacity: 7 rounds

Finish: Matte blued

Barrel Length: 18.5 inches

Choke: Accu-Choke (cylinder bore installed)

Trigger Pull Weight: 4 pounds, 14 ounces

Sights: RMSc-cut for MRDS, fiber-optic front

Length: 37.5 inches

Weight: 7 pounds, 8 ounces

Accessories: Shims and spacers to adjust LOP, drop and cant; Allen wrench, lock, manual

MSRP: \$1,154

lightweight with a slender fore-end and wrist. Twelve-gauge shotguns can intimidate some shooters, making them feel like they're hanging on for dear life. Not this gun. You can dominate it; grip it tightly, snap it to the shoulder, lean into it, take the light jolt and get the barrel back down fast. Add to this the facts that it has a very good trigger by tactical-shotgun standards and a simple manual-of-arms, and is about the softest-shooting shotgun I've handled, and the gun has a comforting, hard-to-quantify user friendliness.

We practiced carrying mixed loads and having to change loads in the midst of an engagement. If you were loaded with buckshot, but suddenly needed a precise shot or to smash through a barrier, you learned to make space in the magazine if none was there by firing or cranking out the chambered shell and getting the slug into the magazine and cranking the bolt handle again to bring the slug on tap. We learned to instantly replace each fired round with a fresh one while keeping the gun mounted (a process eased by the lengthened and beveled loading port). We



The loading port is expanded and beveled for quad-loading • Unusual for a tactical shotgun, the sub-5-pound trigger aided in accuracy • An MRDS-cut receiver is a revelation. A cover plate is included • Incorporating the Accu-Choke system helps exploit the shotgun's versatility • Capable of mounting a light, the barrel brace is yet another smart inclusion.



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It's basically a synthetic-stocked, semi-automatic scattergun with an 18.5-inch barrel and extended magazine tube, but the details elevate it to another level of practicality.

chose a method of getting a single round into the chamber, either over the receiver or under, in either case pressing the large but beveled and unobtrusive bolt release. The gun just "makes sense." Of course, you should read and thoroughly understand the manual; what I'm saying is there is a simple, straight-forward logic to the gun's operation.

I've always owned and have recently tested only pump-action tactical shotguns, so maybe I forgot the difference bleeding off a little gas can make to recoil. All I know for sure is that after three days of continual shooting, my partially torn rotator cuff didn't become a fully torn rotator cuff. It didn't tickle, but it felt no worse than it had been.

Gunsite has a seemingly endless series of ranges set up with every scenario you can imagine. On the Urban Scrambler, you'll have to knock down pepper-poppers while

standing, kneeling behind cover, or prone. Later, you'll have to take out a metallic "bad guy" with a head shot with buckshot even though he's holding a "hostage" whose head is mere inches from his own. In other places, you have to walk a rocky creek bed, engaging poppers as you encounter them. Finally, at the Scrambler, you'll load with rifled slugs and plug away at targets from 96 to 130 yards distant—with a shotgun. There were seven of them. It took me all of eight shots.

In between such feats, we shot clays with impressive efficiency, the circle-dot of the 507Ks offering a surprisingly effective sight picture on the fast-moving orange disks. We also competed in one-on-one contests, seeing who could knock down assorted steel targets the fastest. The much-anticipated shoot house-clearing was, as always, enervating, but fun, with the 940 Pro Tactical handling well within the confines of the structure.

The only glitch we experienced with the Mossberg was that it was unreliable with No. 7½ birdshot (obtained because that's what was most readily available), which begs the question: So what? Birdshot is never advisable in any tactical situation unless you're assailed by an angry covey of quail (Bobwhite Supremacists?). With everything with which it will realistically be loaded (buckshot and slugs), the 940 Pro Tactical is as sure as death and taxes.

Assessment

Just when you thought there couldn't be any more surprises, here's what might be the best one: Mossberg has given the 940 Pro Tactical an MSRP of \$1,154, which likely translates to a street price below \$1,000 (red-dot sight not included).

The list of 940 Pro Tactical virtues is long and impressive. The company has taken the base gun and, rather than just chopping the barrel, painting the gun black and calling it "tactical," really done its homework and included all the little things that make it ideal for its intended use. Moreover, beyond merely adding extant enhancements, Mossberg innovated with an MRDS-cut, a far more significant development than it first seems. I think this will be the first of many tactical scatterguns so modified. All things considered, I believe the 940 Pro Tactical establishes a new benchmark for mid-priced semi-automatic tactical shotguns. 



With rifled slugs and the excellent Holosun red dot, longer-range targets could be reliably engaged • The bolt handle is oversize to minimize fumbling under stress • Included spacers and shims allow precise adjustment of cast, drop and length-of-pull • A re-engineered gas system helps reduce carbon buildup and extends the maintenance interval.

MICHAEL BORDON/AFTER ACTION



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Born in the USA

Century Arms' BFT47 is an American-made, AK-pattern carbine for the modern sporting rifle enthusiast.

It's funny. Not all that long ago, I reviewed an AR-15 and started by waxing nostalgic for "the good old days" when ARs were expensive and AKs weren't. I reminisced about how in the mid-aughts, one could find a decent (well, functional) AK-variant for somewhere in the vicinity of \$300, while even entry-level ARs were almost triple that. These days, the paradigm has shifted, slightly, with entry-level AK- and AR-pattern guns within a few hundred dollars of each other.

Defining exactly how that happened is difficult, and fraught with geopolitics and other forces outside our control. Mainly, though, the supply of cheap guns dried up—

along with cheap ammunition. One of the driving forces in the aughts behind the affinity for the

AK-pattern rifle had to do with the simple fact that one could get a crate of 1,000 rounds of 7.62x39 mm ammunition for less than \$100. Way less.

Back in the days when .223 Rem.

was selling for \$5 (or more) for a 20-round box, that was a huge difference in the cost to feed your new rifle.

Over time, however, the AR-15 grew immensely popular and the surplus ammunition started to dry up, too. With prices beginning to equilibrate, the AK-style platform started to lag behind the AR. Add in the explosion in different chamberings available for the AR (and the fact that the AR is far more user-customizable) and even the ballistic "advantage" of 7.62x39 mm over 5.56 NATO became a moot point. Rounds like the .300 BLK provide performance similar to the 7.62x39 mm and offer vastly superior subsonic performance and sound suppression. And, lastly, there's still the thorny issue of 922(r) compliance.

What's 922(r)? Quite simply, it's the Federal law that forbids altering certain imported semi-automatic rifles (among other things) with certain parts. Without getting into the particulars (partly because it's quite confusing and mostly because we think it's ridiculous and should never have been passed into law in the first place),



Photos by Peter Fountain

By Jay Grazio
Executive Editor



Sights are of the standard AK pattern and can be adjusted as needed—the rear sight has the ladder-style elevation adjustments common to the AK platform.

in 1989 a number of foreign semi-automatic rifles were banned from importation into the U.S. under the auspices of having no “sporting purpose.” This is where we get things like thumbhole stocks rather than pistol grips, because somehow that makes a firearm “sporting” or not. (That sound you hear is my eyes rolling back into my head.) If you happened to have an imported rifle that was in its “sporting” configuration and wished to change it back to original, the use of foreign parts is not allowed.

Confused? That’s the point. What is or isn’t a part, where a part is manufactured, etc. are minutiae in which few are versed. For the casual firearm owner, it’s simpler to avoid these altogether. There is a reason for going down this particular rabbit hole, though. The Century Arms BFT47 is entirely American-made, so 922(r) simply doesn’t apply. Period. Full stop. You want to use a metal 30-round magazine of indeterminate origin? Go right ahead. Feel like putting on a stock you found at a gun show? No worries. Quite simply, because it’s an American rifle, it’s no different from any other type of native firearm. Avoiding these types of regulatory problems, combined with customer demand, was the driving force behind bringing the BFT47 to market.

Let’s back up a bit, though, and unpack the name. It’s pretty clear why the “47” is there, but the “BFT?” That’s a bulged/forged

trunnion, referring to the reinforced section of the lower that’s thicker (1.5 versus 1 mm) for enhanced durability. It’s a difference that’s probably of minimal importance, in the grand scheme of things, for a semi-auto carbine, but it’s a look into the thought process that went into the design of the BFT47.

Adam Ruonala, national marketing director for Century Arms, explained the impetus behind the BFT47: “The BFT47 is the next evolution of the All-American-made AK. It ties in the reliability of American production, both from the engineering and import availability aspects, as well as incorporating the specs of the platform that people love on the imports. We wanted to make a firearm that could finally bring together the AK community that had the debate of cost to quality. With a bulged and forged trunnion, bayonet lug and cleaning rod, optics rail, American hardwood furniture and enhanced mag release and safety, we are confident we did just that.”

Visually, the BFT47 looks, well, like a standard AK-pattern rifle. Whether you want to get your “Red Dawn” cosplay on or simply prefer the manual-of-arms of the AK, the BFT47 will fill that role nicely. Actually, you’ll need to drag it down a gravel road first, because it’s quite a good-looking piece—there’s no “shellacked using Olga’s toenails” finish on this AK. American walnut is used for the stock and handguard, giving the

CENTURY ARMS | BFT47



SPECIFICATIONS

Manufacturer: Century Arms; (561) 908-7993, centuryarms.com

Action Type: Piston-operated, semi-automatic

Caliber: 7.62x39 mm

Capacity: 30 rounds

Finish: Black manganese-phosphate

Barrel Length: 16.25 inches

Rifling: 4 grooves; 1:10-inch, LH twist

Sights: Adjustable front and rear

Trigger Pull Weight: 7 pounds, 5 ounces

Stock: American walnut

Length: 37.25 inches

Weight: 7 pounds, 8 ounces

Accessories: One US Palm 30-round magazine, cable lock, manual

MSRP: \$829.99

SHOOTING RESULTS

Load	Velocity	Group Size		
		Smallest	Largest	Average
Barnaul 123-grain FMJ	2,364	1.27	2.95	1.74
Hornady American Gunner 123-grain HP	2,384	1.43	1.99	1.68
American Eagle 124-grain FMJ	2,327	1.28	2.76	1.70

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

BFT47 a polished, dare I say attractive, look. As AK-pattern rifles go, the BFT47 is one of the better-looking ones out there. Aesthetics aside, it's got all the right pieces in all the right places, right down to the cleaning rod under the barrel that runs through an honest-to-goodness bayonet lug.

As for handling, it unsurprisingly handles like every other AK. Magazines rock into place and with a *click* that can be heard in the next county. The safety selector requires significantly more hand strength to engage and disengage than that of the AR-pattern rifle, although there is a slight deviation here on the BFT47 from the standard AK: there's a cutout in the safety lever that serves to hold the bolt in the open position. Similar to using a slide stop on a handgun, when retracting the bolt rearward, simply engage the safety (in the correct spot, of course) and the bolt stays open. Actuating the safety off will close the bolt—handy for quick engagement if needed. Naturally, the safety can be engaged without locking the bolt open, as well.

A polymer pistol grip and upgraded trigger round out the control options. While the pistol grip is pretty plain, there's a world of aftermarket grips (and stocks) out there from which to choose should you want to upgrade. And, again, no need to worry about that replacement grip's country-of-origin. The RAK-1 enhanced trigger is described as single-stage, but a case could be made for it being closer to a two-stage, with a short, heavy takeup followed by a crisp break. It's not a 2-pound, long-range precision trigger, but



While it was a bit on the heavier side, even for a fighting rifle, the BFT47's RAK-1 trigger proved quite capable of delivering decent accuracy. Even though the pistol grip is polymer and minimalist, changing it out is simple if desired, and a staggering variety of aftermarket grips are available given the rifle's American provenance. If, for whatever reason, you wanted to put a bayonet on your BFT47, there's a lug for that.

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Options for Optics



RS Regulate AK300

Midwest Industries Gen2 QD

Mounting an optic to an AK has traditionally been a more difficult proposition than with an AR-pattern rifle. Absent the side-mount, a variety of, well, less-than-stable options have been available, from receiver covers with rails to railed handguard sections that replace the wood covers. Even with the side mount, it can be dicey getting a mount that's sufficiently sturdy to allow a proper zero with an optic. Here are two options we've found to work well.

Midwest Industries' Gen2 QD Modular AK Optic Mount is, as the name implies, a quick-disconnect offering that gives a 16-slot Picatinny rail for longer, magnified optics or a red-dot sight and a magnifier. The bottom lever requires a bit of experimentation to find the right balance between tight and difficult to remove, but once in place is a super-stable mount for your scope.

MSRP: \$169.95; midwestindustriesinc.com

RS Regulate's AK-300 Modular Side Mount and Full-length Picatinny Rail work in conjunction to offer a 12-slot Picatinny rail section that can be mounted quite a few ways depending on the rifle to which it is being attached and the desired eye-relief of the shooter. The side-mounted lever also takes a bit of trial-and-error to adjust, but is quite low-profile and adds little weight to your carbine.

MSRP: \$143 (mount), \$82 (rail)
rsregulate.com

you shouldn't expect it to be one. It's perfectly fine for a defensive carbine, a role the BFT47 can fulfill quite well.

Adding to the utility of the BFT47 is an integral side-mount rail that allows a plethora of aftermarket accessory options. Companies like Midwest Industries, RS Regulate and others make a variety of attachment choices, with platform-specific mounts through standard Picatinny-rail models available. While flattop AR-15s are unquestionably easier when it comes to adding optics, the right rail attached to the solid side-mount plate on the BFT47 is a close second. With quick-release mounts, you can even swap between red-dot sights and magnified optics and, depending on the mount, not even lose zero. While it's still easier to mount optics on an AR, the side mount on the BFT47 closes the gap considerably.

For takedown, well, it's an AK. I've never been particular to the way the AK-pattern rifles take down, but it sure is simple, and the BFT47 follows the normal procedure: Unload the firearm (check it twice), push the button on the back of the receiver cover in, take the cover off and set aside. Remove the spring, then pull the bolt carrier back




While attractive and functional, the wooden handguard does not allow for attachment of accessories • With a red-dot attached to an aftermarket mount on the side-mounted rail, the BFT47 is more than capable of handling home-defense tasks • A metal buttplate caps the American walnut stock, providing scant recoil mitigation • Located ahead of the trigger guard, the magazine release functions like that of every other AK out there • Also standard (and expected) on the BFT47's barrel is the familiar AKM slant-cut muzzle device • Integral to the receiver is a side-mount for a rail • US Palm's polymer, 30-round magazine worked without incident in testing • Should a sling be desired, there's a mounting point near the bayonet lug that matches the one on the underside of the buttstock.

and out of the receiver. Rotate the lever and take the handguard and gas cylinder off. At this point, clean what needs to be cleaned and lubricate what needs to be lubricated. It's an AK. You should do this about every time the Olympics roll around. Heck, maybe even every time Halley's Comet returns. OK, that might be a slight exaggeration.

In operation, the BFT47 is unfailingly reliable—you know, like an AK. Whether in slow-fire or more rapid courses of engagement, there were no failures to load, fire or eject any round, from imported surplus FMJ fodder to brass-cased hollow-point rounds meant more for bolt-action precision work. While certain models of the BFT47 have been recalled for a "potential durability issue" that Century felt "may affect proper feeding and/or chambering of ammunition," none were experienced in the model received for testing. In addition to the US Palm magazine that comes with the BFT47, we tested an XTECH polymer magazine, a steel surplus mag of indeterminate origin and a Magpul PMag. The BFT47 didn't

care what was feeding it ammo. Of note is the, ahem, robustness of extraction—in our indoor range, empty cases were flung up to 20 feet away (and yes, the brass cases were mostly dinged). Accuracy was, despite what the internet will tell you, quite decent, with average groups of 2 inches or smaller at 100 yards. At ranges more likely to come up in defensive scenarios, that's well in excess of what you need.

So, what's the bottom line on the Century Arms BFT47? If you're in the market for an affordable (by today's standards) AK-pattern rifle that's good-looking and runs well, the BFT47 is definitely worth consideration. You can leave it as is, or swap components to perfectly customize it without worrying about running afoul of regulations regarding imported parts, because it's an American-made rifle. There is one downside, however. The American walnut handguard is just too pretty to risk catching on fire when performing mag dumps—although, lately, who's got the cash (or spare ammo) for that? 

The Century Arms BFT47 is entirely American-made, so 922(r) simply doesn't apply. Period. Full stop. You want to use a metal 30-round magazine of indeterminate origin? Go right ahead.

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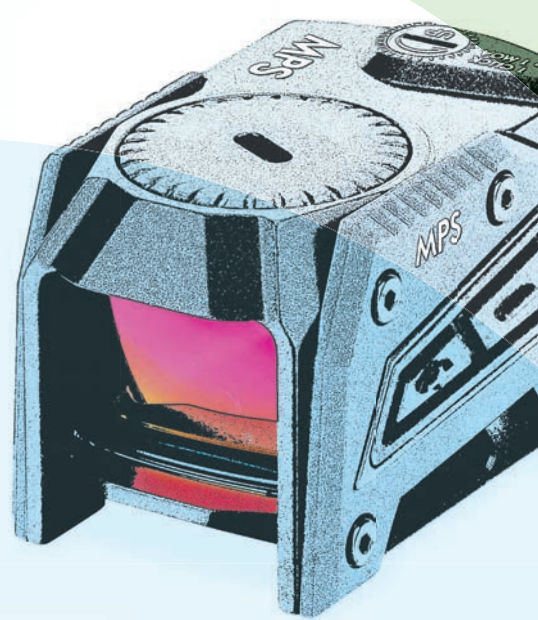
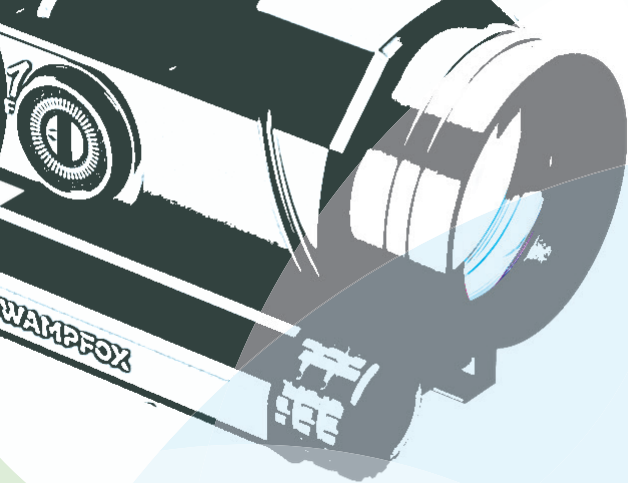
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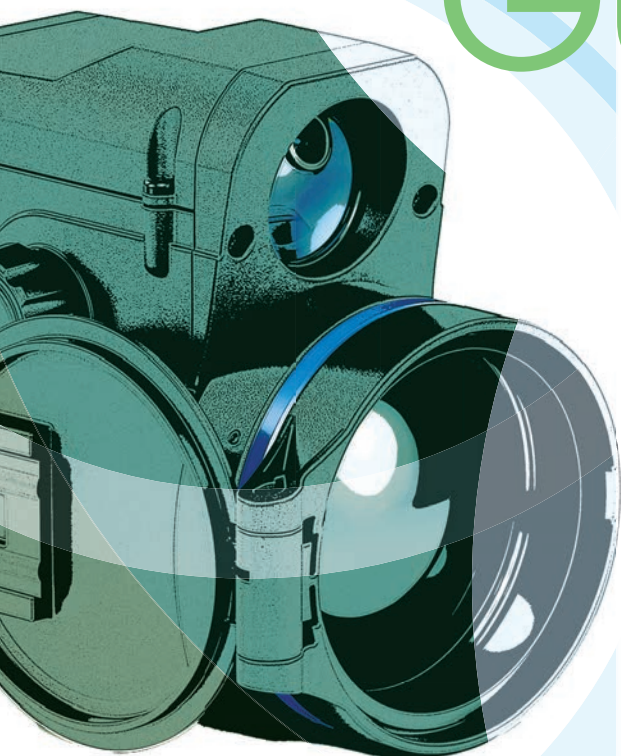
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2022 New Optics Guide



Optics are an increasingly vital part of more and more firearms, from traditional rifles to MSRs to shotguns and even ultracompact, concealed-carry handguns. With few exceptions, however, nearly every optic is made overseas, and every manufacturer uses at least one or two components of foreign origin. With the supply-chain crises of the post-COVID world, many new designs have faced serious delays prior to introduction. What you see here, however, is either in stock this summer or will be before the end of the year, and the number of innovative and improved new optics remains staggering.

A Shooting Illustrated Staff Report

Aimpoint | Duty RDS

For those who have desired an Aimpoint dot sight that comes with a mount, a spacer, a battery (that will last for three years), night-vision compatibility and the Swedish manufacturer's legendary durability, here's an affordable version that doesn't skimp on quality.

Magnification: 1X
Objective Lens Diameter: 18 mm
Reticle: 2-MOA dot
Length: 2.7 inches
Weight: 3.8 ounces
MSRP: \$499

(877) 246-7646; aimpoint.com



Ameriglo | Haven

Ameriglo's Haven offers a host of convenient, practical features. It has a 12-hour run time followed by a 12-hour, motion-activated auto-on. At a medium setting, battery life is up to two years. Its Carry-Loc system allows you to select a brightness setting, then disable adjustment so your setting is never accidentally changed.

Magnification: 1X
Viewing Window Dimensions: 28x19 mm
Reticle: 3.5- or 5-MOA Dot
Length: 1.78 inches
Weight: 1 ounce
MSRP: \$379

(470) 223-4163; ameriglo.com



ATN | X-Sight LTV Digital Day/Night Scope

With almost too many features to list, ATN's X-Sight LTV 3-9X digital scope can do virtually anything demanded of a riflescope and more. The day/night scope features a QHD+ sensor with HD optics, 720p video recording, ultra-low energy consumption, one-shot zeroing, light weight and easy-to-use controls.

Magnification: 3-9X
Objective Lens Diameter: 50 mm
Reticle: Dot, Fine Duplex, Crosshair with Dot, Post with Dot, Open Crosshair with Dot, Star Burst, Crossbow
Length: 12.2 inches
Weight: 25.6 ounces
MSRP: \$599

(305) 900-6841; atncorp.com



Axeon | MDPR2

Further proof that pistol-slide-mounted red-dot sights are still red-hot, Axeon has released its MDPR2 sight as an affordable option in this growing market. With simple two-button operation, 4-MOA dot and eight brightness levels, the MDPR2 uses the DeltaPoint Pro footprint and has a claimed 30,000-hour battery life—all for less than \$100.

Magnification: 1X
Viewing Window Dimensions: 28x19 mm
Reticle: 4-MOA red dot
Length: 1.8 inches
Weight: 1.36 ounces
MSRP: \$99.99

(479) 646-4210; axeonoptics.com



Axeon | Prism 3XRD

Looking for a fixed-power prismatic sight? Axeon's new Prism 3XRD offers both red and green aiming points on an etched reticle to accompany the fixed-power magnification. Flip-up lens covers, tethered turret covers and short sections of Picatinny rail for mounting backup dot sights are all standard equipment.

Magnification: 3X
Objective Lens Diameter: 30 mm
Reticle: Etched ballistic
Length: 6.4 inches
Weight: 16 ounces
MSRP: \$129.99

(479) 646-4210; axeonoptics.com



Burris | RT-5

Designed for shooters with personal protection or competitive shooting in mind, Burris' latest addition to its RT line features a compact, one-piece aluminum body and high-performance, multi-coated lenses for enhanced brightness and clarity. Its ballistic reticle has holdover markings for both windage and elevation.

Magnification: 5X
Objective Lens Diameter: 33.8 mm
Reticle: Ballistic
Length: 4.25 inches
Weight: 9.5 ounces
MSRP: \$539

(888) 440-0244; burrisoptics.com



Burris | XTR Pro

Featuring new illuminated-reticle designs, the Burris XTR Pro elevates your long-distance-shooting game. It utilizes a 34 mm nitrogen-filled main tube, boasts premium ED glass, improved anti-reflective lens coatings and up to 29 mils of elevation adjustment. A tool-free Zero Click-Stop elevation turret is also present.

Magnification: 5.5-30X
Objective Lens Diameter: 56 mm
Reticle: Horus TREMOR5, SCR 2 MIL, SCR 1/4 MIL
Length: 15.4 inches
Weight: 33.6 ounces
MSRP: \$2,639

(888) 440-0244; burrisoptics.com



Bushnell | Elite Tactical DMR3

Updated to be more compact and lighter, the new DMR3 sports ED glass, zero-stop turrets, a two-position magnification throw lever for fast adjustment in the field and enhanced light transmission. A side-focus parallax adjustment and an included sunshade make this scope a great choice for long-range shooting.

Magnification: 3.5-21X
Objective Lens Diameter: 50 mm
Reticle: G4P or EQL
Length: 13.2 inches
Weight: 35.5 ounces
MSRP: \$1,499.99

(800) 423-3537; bushnell.com



Bushnell | Equinox X650

This digital-night-vision monocular sports a built-in infrared illuminator and a detection range of about 650 yards. It is tripod mountable and can record images and video on an SD card. The X650's housing is durable, and it can run for six hours on the three included AA batteries.

Magnification: 5X digital zoom
Objective Lens Diameter: 32 mm
Reticle: N/A
Length: 7.5 inches
Weight: 11.6 ounces
MSRP: \$169.99

(800) 423-3537; bushnell.com



Bushnell | RXC-200

Durable to military standards and sporting automatic brightness adjustment, the RXC-200 is a great option for a handgun-mountable MRDS. It uses the Shield RMSc footprint and boasts 50,000 hours of battery life. Sized perfectly for ultra-compact 9 mm handguns that are all the rage these days, the RXC-200 is a welcome addition to the MRDS market.

Magnification: 1X
Viewing Window Dimensions: 20x15 mm
Reticle: 6-MOA red dot
Length: 1.6 inches
Weight: 22 ounces
MSRP: \$199.99

(800) 423-3537; bushnell.com



EOTech | EFLX

Joining EOTech's line of holographic sights is the new EFLX reflex sight, intended for use as a pistol-slide-mounted optic, backup sight or shotgun/carbine red-dot sight. With 3- or 6-MOA dots, the EFLX mounts using the DeltaPoint Pro footprint, can be ordered with a Picatinny-rail mount, offers a top-mounted battery and programmable power-management options.

Magnification: 1X
Viewing Window Dimensions: 23.4x16.3 mm
Reticle: 3- or 6-MOA red dot
Length: 1.9 inches
Weight: 1.4 ounces
MSRP: \$389

(888) 368-4656; eotechinc.com



EOTech | Vudu 1-10x28 FFP

Three reticle options add even greater value to the LPVO market in the Vudu 1-10x28 FFP first-focal-plane riflescope. With capped windage and low-profile elevation turrets, the 1-10x28 FFP features an illuminated, etched reticle and a robust 34 mm main tube for excellent light transmission and field-of-vision at all magnification ranges.

Magnification: 1-10X
Objective Lens Diameter: 28 mm
Reticle: SR-4, SR-5, LE-5
Length: 10.63 inches
Weight: 21.3 ounces
MSRP: \$1,799

(888) 368-4656; eotechinc.com



Firefield | RapidStrike 1-6x24 mm

Don't let the price fool you—Firefield's RapidStrike 1-6x24 mm scope comes with a host of features. A 5-MOA dot, available in green or red, sits at the center of a circle-dot reticle. Pop-up, locking windage and elevation turrets, a removable throw lever and a cantilever mount are all included with the scope.

Magnification: 1-6X
Objective Lens Diameter: 24 mm
Reticle: 1.34-MOA dot, 9.95-MOA circle
Length: 9.8 inches
Weight: 14.5 ounces
MSRP: \$206.99

(817) 790-9862; firefield.com



German Precision Optics | GPOTAC 8xi 1-8x24i FFP

The GPOTAC 1-8x24i scope has lockable turrets with .1-mil adjustments and a first-focal-plane reticle. The reticle illumination has an auto-off functionality and the reticle has a horseshoe outline for quick engagements at close distances as well as mil markings for longer-ranged shots. The parallax is set at 100 yards, and the scope has 3.5 inches of eye relief.

Magnification: 1-8X
Objective Lens Diameter: 24 mm
Reticle: Custom mil-spec horseshoe reticle
Length: 10.7 inches
Weight: 27 ounces
MSRP: \$1,999.99

(844) 692-4667; gpo-usa.com



German Precision Optics | SPECTRADot

The new SPECTRADot has a 3-MOA, red-dot reticle and key features such as six day and five night-brightness settings as well as a high efficiency power-management system that allows for a battery runtime of up to 50,000 hours. The sight comes with a Picatinny rail mount and is adjustable in .5-MOA increments.

Magnification: 1X
Objective Lens Diameter: 22 mm
Reticle: 3-MOA red dot
Length: 2.54 inches
Weight: 6.63 ounces
MSRP: \$421

(844) 692-4667; gpo-usa.com



Hawke | Reflex Sight Wide View

This rail-mountable dot sight is ultra compact, yet sports a wide viewing window for easy acquisition of both dot and target. It's CR2032 battery inserts in the side of the housing, so you can change the battery with ease without removing the optic from your firearm—not that you'll need to very often thanks to its motion-sensing auto-off feature.

Magnification: 1X
Viewing Window Dimensions: 33x23 mm
Reticle: Circle Dot
Length: 2.3 inches
Weight: 3 ounces
MSRP: \$189

(877) 429-5347;
us.hawkeoptics.com



Hawke | Vantage 30 WA

This affordable riflescope boasts multiple features normally found on scopes twice its price, like a 30 mm tube, a glass-etched, illuminated reticle and a fast-focus eyepiece. The BDC reticle has etched markings from 100 to 600 yards to help take the guesswork out of shooting either .223 Rem. or .308 Win. loads.

Magnification: 4-12X
Objective Lens Diameter: 40 mm
Reticle: .223/.308 Marksman
Length: 13 inches
Weight: 19.9 ounces
MSRP: \$329



(877) 429-5347; us.hawkeoptics.com

Holosun | SCS MOS Green

Holosun's SCS MOS dot mounts directly to the MOS cut itself, eliminating one set of screws and plate. A solar panel powers the sight, which has a non-removable battery with an included power-level indicator. Users can cycle between the 2-MOA dot, a 32-MOA circle and the dot/circle combination.

Magnification: 1X
Viewing Window Dimensions: 14.7x19.6 mm
Reticle: 2-MOA green dot, 32-MOA green circle
Length: 1.93 inches
Weight: 1.3 ounces
MSRP: \$435.28



(909) 594-2888; holosun.com

Holosun | EPS Carry

Designed as a closed-emitter red-dot for today's concealed-carry, optics-ready handguns, the EPS Carry offers a 2-MOA dot with an ultra-low mounting height, which may allow co-witnessing of existing sights without the addition of suppressor-height sights. Solar panels offer increased battery life, and a version with a green dot is also available.

Magnification: 1X
Viewing Window Dimensions: 14.7x19.6 mm
Reticle: 2-MOA red dot
Length: 1.62 inches
Weight: 1.23 ounces
MSRP: \$435.28



(909) 594-2888; holosun.com

iRayUSA | Infray Outdoor RICO Mk1 640

Offering seven reticle option (two scalable, five fixed) stadiametric ranging, four color palettes and five different imaging modes, the Infray Outdoor RICO Mk1 640 will quickly detect objects of interest in ultra-low visibility at distances beyond 2,000 yards. It incorporates a lithium-ion battery with a 6-hour runtime, and is capable of onboard image/video recording.

Magnification: 3X
Objective Lens Diameter: 50 mm
Reticle: 7 user-selectable options
Length: 9.84 inches
Weight: 33.68 ounces
MSRP: \$7,000



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Leupold | Mark 5HD

Leupold's justly celebrated 5HD riflescope is now available with the uncluttered yet precise PR2 reticle. Available in 5-25x56 mm or 7-35x56 mm, the 5HD PR2 is designed to provide long-range shooters the ultimate in performance while being easy to use.

Magnification: 5-25X, 7-35X

Objective Lens Diameter: 56 mm

Reticle: FFP PR2-MIL and FFP PR2-MOA

Length: 15.7 inches

Weight: 30 ounces

MSRP: \$2,099.99 for 5-25X,
\$2,299.99 for 7-35X



(800) 538-7653; leupold.com

Leupold | Patrol 6HD

Designed to defend your home or to compete as you hone your skills, the Leupold Patrol 6HD is ready for everything from CQB to longer-range shooting. It features a true 1X magnification to get you on close targets fast. Both available models have 30 mm main tubes, second-focal-plane reticles and .25-MOA adjustments.

Magnification: 1-6X

Objective Lens Diameter: 20 mm

Reticle: Illuminated FireDot Duplex or
Illuminated CM-R2

Length: 10.8 inches

Weight: 16.2 ounces

MSRP: \$1,399.99 to \$1,499.99



(800) 538-7653; leupold.com

Liemke | Sperber-1

The new Sperber-1 from Liemke is a thermal aiming device with a 35 mm diameter objective lens and 3-12X magnification. The field of view is 13.2 meters at 100 meters. It also has a 384x288 pixel, ceramic VOx detector with 12 µm pixel pitch and a 1280x960 LCOS color display, and a frame rate of 50 Hz.

Magnification: 3-12X

Objective Lens Diameter: 35 mm

Reticle: Multiple options

Length: 15 inches

Weight: 32 ounces

MSRP: \$3,999



(210) 377-2527; liemke.com

Lucid | L7 1-6X

With a 30 mm main tube, exposed windage and elevation turrets and a throw-lever for quick magnification changes, Lucid Optics' L7 1-6X is an excellent choice for your modern sporting rifle. Water-, shock- and fogproof, the L7 offers an illuminated aiming point and subtensions for longer-range targets.

Magnification: 1-6X

Objective Lens Diameter: 24 mm

Reticle: P7

Length: 10.75 inches

Weight: 19 ounces

MSRP: \$659.99



(307) 463-2633; lucidoptics.com

Minox | LR 5-25x56 mm

The 5-25x56 LR scope from Minox has a 34 mm diameter tube with a first-focal-plane reticle. The reticle illumination has 11 different settings as well as automatic deactivation for longer battery life. The scope is rated to IPX7 for water and dust and is protected against internal fogging.

Magnification: 5-25X

Objective Lens Diameter: 56 mm

Reticle: Illuminated; MR4, MR5, THLR

Length: 17 inches

Weight: 35.2 ounces

MSRP: \$3,500



(210) 377-2527; minox.com

Nightforce | ATACR 1-8x24 mm F1

Nightforce bills the ATACR 1-8x24 mm F1 optic as the "ultimate low-power variable riflescope," a designation that's bolstered by a lengthy list of features. The first-focal-plane reticle includes an aiming dot as well as useful subtensions visible at higher magnification, allowing for long-distance shots with minimal hassle.

Magnification: 1-8X

Objective Lens Diameter: 24 mm

Reticle: FC-DMx

Length: 10.1 inches

Weight: 21 ounces

MSRP: \$2,900



(208) 476-9814;
nightforceoptics.com

Primary Arms | Compact PLx-1-8x24 mm FFP

Lightweight, compact and durable, the first-focal-plane reticle Compact PLx sports Japanese ED glass for superior image quality. It has a magnification throw lever, a 30 mm main tube and motion-sensing illumination for its reticle. The ACSS Raptor reticle includes aiming points for close- and longer-range engagements.

Magnification: 1-8X

Objective Lens Diameter: 24 mm

Reticle: ACSS Raptor M8 Meter

Length: 9.3 inches

Weight: 17 ounces

MSRP: \$1,499.99



(713) 344-9600;
primaryarms.com

Primary Arms | SLx 3X MicroPrism

Combining the small dimensions and light weight of a compact dot sight with the durability and precision of a 3X-magnified optic, the SLx MicroPrism provides added versatility at short to medium ranges. Its reticle has 13 illumination settings and a motion-sensing, auto-off switch. The included mount can be set to eight different heights for compatibility with many firearms.

Magnification: 3X

Objective Lens Diameter: 23 mm

Reticle: ACSS RAPTOR 5.56 Y

Length: 3 inches

Weight: 8 ounces

MSRP: \$319.99



(713) 344-9600; primaryarms.com

Pulsar | **Thermion 2 LRF XP50 Pro**

With 10 user-selectable reticle options, nine color palettes for heat signatures and magnification up to 16X, Pulsar's new Thermion 2 LRF XP50 Pro is an amazingly versatile thermal optic. A built-in laser rangefinder, its own app and the ability to record still photos and videos add to the Thermion's impressive list of features.

Magnification: 2-16X
Objective Lens Diameter: 50 mm
Reticle: 10 available
Length: 16.5 inches
Weight: 34 ounces
MSRP: \$6,599.99

(817) 761-1771; pulsarnv.com



Shield | **RMSx**

The RMSx is the new competition-ready red dot optic from Shield Sights. The RMSx has an 80-percent larger viewing window compared with previous models, yet still shares the same footprint. The optic has updated electronics for battery life. It can switch between an 8-MOA or a 4-MOA dot.

Magnification: 1X
Viewing Window Dimensions: 34 mm
Reticle: 4- and 8-MOA dot
Length: 1.7 inches
Weight: .67 ounces
MSRP: \$450

(801) 372-1629; shieldpsd.com



Riton | **5 Tactix 1-6x24 Thunder Ranch**

The 5 Tactix 1-6x24 mm Thunder Ranch scope has an illuminated bullet-drop compensator (BDC) and a second-focal-plane reticle designed in conjunction with noted firearms trainer Clint Smith, the founder of Thunder Ranch. The adjustment dials are graduated in .2-mil increments and has a field of view of 111.2 feet at 100 yards.

Magnification: 1-6X
Objective Lens Diameter: 24 mm
Reticle: Illuminated THR
Length: 10.25 inches
Weight: 22.2 ounces
MSRP: \$1,049

(855) 397-4866; ritonoptics.com



SIG Sauer | **TANGO6T**

Selected by the U.S. Army for its squad designated-marksman, variable-power optic program, the TANGO6T is now available to the shooting public. It can be configured with a first-focal-plane reticle (seen here) or a second-focal-plane reticle, and multiple reticle options are available. Compact and durable, it promises to be a high-performing scope.

Magnification: 1-6X
Objective Lens Diameter: 24 mm
Reticle: HELLFIRE M855A1
Length: 10.8 inches
Weight: 21 ounces
MSRP: \$1,588.99

(603) 610-3000; sigsauer.com



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Sightmark | Presidio 3-18x50 mm LR2

For those looking for an affordable scope for intermediate-range pursuits, Sightmark's new Presidio 3-18x50 mm LR2 may be just the thing. Offering low-profile, capped turrets and an aircraft-grade aluminum, single-piece main tube, the Presidio features a first-focal-plane reticle, red aiming point and a power-throw lever.

Magnification: 3-18X
Objective Lens Diameter: 50 mm
Reticle: LR2
Length: 13 inches
Weight: 30.8 ounces
MSRP: \$399.97

(817) 383-1163; sightmark.com



Sightron | S6 1-6x24 mm

Designed for the LPVO market, the new S6 1-6x24 mm features both first- and second-focal-plane reticle options. Using MC-777 multicoating technology over Japanese glass, clarity, light transmission, color accuracy and sharpness are maximized. The low-profile, capped turrets are resettable to zero with 140 MOA (SFP)/35 mil (FFP) adjustment ranges.

Magnification: 1-6X
Objective Lens Diameter: 24 mm
Reticle: New IR4A & LRT reticles
Length: 10.5 inches
Weight: 21.5 ounces
MSRP: \$1,299.99

(919) 562-3000; sightron.com



SiOnyx | OPSIN

Set to be available in summer, 2022, this color-night-vision monocular utilizes the most advanced CMOS chip available to provide clear, full-color images in near-total darkness. It can mount to a helmet and can record video on an SD card. The OPSIN also includes an onboard GPS module to document geolocation should you choose to activate it.

Magnification: 1X
Objective Lens Diameter: 15 mm
Reticle: N/A
Length: 4.7 inches
Weight: 10.6 ounces
MSRP: \$2,595

sionyx.com

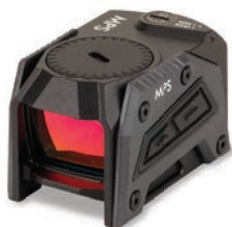


Steiner | MPS

The Steiner MPS (Micro Pistol Sight) boasts a rugged, mil-spec design to bring welcome versatility to your EDC pistol. All-metal construction and enhanced sidewalls fully enclose the LED for improved reliability in harsh conditions, while a recessed window with metal hood safeguards the front lens from potential damage. It also boasts a 13,000-hour battery life on a single CR1632 battery.

Magnification: 1X
Viewing Window Dimensions: 16x21 mm
Reticle: 3.3 MOA
Length: 2.17 inches
Weight: 2.05 ounces
MSRP: \$575

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



Steiner | Nighthunter S35 Thermal

Chock-full of useful features to help you combat things that go bump in the night, Steiner's Nighthunter S35 Thermal Riflescope is capable of heat detection beyond 2,000 yards. Features include five ballistic profiles, an easy-zero process, nine reticles, two-power zoom, hot-spot tracking and stadiametric ranging.

Magnification: 1-8X
Objective Lens Diameter: 40 mm
Reticle: Nine; user-selectable
Length: 8.5 inches
Weight: 36 ounces
MSRP: \$6,600

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



Swampfox | Saber

If a fixed-power, prismatic scope is what you're looking for, Swampfox's Saber offers 5X magnification with a 10-degree field-of-view—that's 30.9 feet at 100 yards. There are two short sections of Picatinny rail built into the Saber to allow a mini-red-dot sight to be attached for both right- or left-handed shooters.

Magnification: 5X
Objective Lens Diameter: 38 mm
Reticle: 42-MOA holdover
Length: 5.74 inches
Weight: 24.7 ounces
MSRP: \$389

(720) 389-6719; swampfoxoptics.com



Tract | Toric 30 mm 1-8x24 MRAD IR LPVO

With a glass-etched reticle and Schott HT lenses, the latest offering from Tract might be the best value for those seeking superior performance in an LPVO. Its light weight and short length add little bulk to an MSR platform, while its illuminated, second-focal-plane MRAD reticle provides range-estimation marks that can also be used for bullet-drop compensation.

Magnification: 1-8X
Objective Lens Diameter: 24 mm
Reticle: MRAD, illuminated center dot
Length: 11 inches
Weight: 20.3 ounces
MSRP: \$1,194

(631) 662-7354; tractoptics.com



Trijicon | VCOG 1-8x28 SCO

Want a tough, reliable scope that gets the job done? Choose the same optic the Marines rely upon. The VCOG 1-8x28 SCO is functionally identical to the one issued to Leathernecks, except for minor, cosmetic changes. With a true 1X magnification offered, this scope is effective for everything from close-quarters battle to use at extended ranges.

Magnification: 1-8X
Objective Lens Diameter: 28 mm
Reticle: Segment circle/crosshair with wind holds
Length: 10.93 inches
Weight: 32 ounces
MSRP: \$3,150

(248) 960-7700; trijicon.com



TruGlo | Red Dot Micro XR21 Red Box

Ready to mount on any pistol accommodating an RMSc footprint, TruGlo's Red Dot Micro XR21 uses a 3-MOA dot for precision and incorporates push-button brightness controls with 10 settings. It also has a motion-sensing "awake" feature, auto-off and a 20,000+ hour battery life.

Magnification: 1X
Viewing Window Dimensions: 21x16 mm
Reticle: 3-MOA Dot
Length: 1.6 inches
Weight: .8 ounces
MSRP: \$237

(888) 887-8456; truiglo.com



Viridian | GDO25

Viridian's GDO25 optic has a 2-MOA green dot and mounts to a standard Picatinny Rail. The sight will co-witness with backup iron sights with the supplied high mount and has 10 brightness settings. It also features more than 30,000 hours of battery life.

Magnification: 1X
Objective Lens Diameter: 25 mm
Reticle: 2-MOA green dot
Length: 2.7 inches
Weight: 6.7 ounces
MSRP: \$289

(763) 479 4091; viridianweapontech.com



U.S. Optics | TS-8X

From its 30 mm main tube, 24 mm objective to its 1-8X magnification range and capped zeroing/elevation knobs, U.S. Optics TS-8X has the makings for quite a versatile short-range, variable-power optic. With a choice of three illuminated reticle options, each in the first focal plane, and with a price less than \$800, this is one rifle scope that deserves a second look.

Magnification: 1-8X
Objective Lens Diameter: 24 mm
Reticle: JNG MIL, RBR
Length: 10.5 inches
Weight: 17.9 ounces
MSRP: \$795

(828) 874-2242; usoptics.com



Viridian | RFX15

The RFX15 has a green 3-MOA aiming dot and fits most pistols with a Shield-standard footprint. There are eight regular and two night-vision brightness settings as well as instant-on and auto-shutoff to provide more than 30,000 hours of battery life. The RFX15 is one of the lightest optics in its class.

Magnification: 1X
Viewing Window Dimensions: 17x24 mm
Reticle: 3-MOA green dot
Length: 1.6 inches
Weight: .65 ounce
MSRP: \$289

(763) 479 4091; viridianweapontech.com



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Resocializing After COVID

The recent pandemic has put more than our physical health at risk. Part of getting back to “normal” is re-acclimating ourselves to being out in public.

By Steve Tarani



Research has noted a variety of mental-health consequences that have been experienced by countless individuals, families, communities and businesses adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic since 2020. Now, as most states lift nearly all imposed restrictions, what happens when those people experiencing psychological and/or financial duress, anxiety, depression, panic, frustration and desperation move back toward resocialization? Should you expect a potential increase in physical violence? If so, how can you identify those risks and further protect yourself from emerging or harmful threats? The answers to these important questions begin with a deeper understanding of the current social condition.

In an article published by the American Psychological Association (APA) on the psychological impact of COVID-19 is this bit of information: "The coronavirus pandemic is an epidemiological and psychological crisis. The enormity of living in isolation, changes in our daily lives, job loss, financial hardship and grief over the death of loved ones has the potential to affect the mental health and well-being of many."

The article goes on to discuss the importance of identifying signs of anxiety, panic, depression and suicide in others. Similar research has brought to light further mental-health consequences of the pandemic, including stress, depression, frustration, desperation, insomnia, irritability, grief, emotional exhaustion and in some instances, traumatic-stress symptoms.

According to a relevant article by Serafini et al. (2020), "... although there may be varied responses to the COVID-19 pandemic, there are several common psychological reactions that are surfacing amongst the general population. These reactions include intense and uncontrolled fear related to infection, pervasive anxiety, frustration, boredom and disabling loneliness. Understandably, psychological consequences included in these findings may impair an individual's well-being and quality of life."

As further discussed by Serafini, "... the psychological impact of fear and anxiety induced by the rapid spread of pandemic needs to be clearly recognized as a public health priority for both authorities and

policymakers." Be it an admonition to authorities and policymakers, how does that translate to we non-authorities and non-policymakers? How does this put you on notice and more importantly, how can you identify such risks and further avoid or mitigate a threatening situation? Set your expectations, apply behavioral assessment and take proactive measures.

Setting Expectations

Expectations, in terms of socialization, are considered a set of pre-determined personal ideas or anticipations of a specific event or an activity.

Applying these APA findings made available to authorities and policymakers in your day-to-day life, you can anticipate an increase in experiencing mental-health consequences of the pandemic in others like stress, depression, frustration, desperation, insomnia, irritability, grief, emotional exhaustion and the like. Setting your expectations that there is a greater likelihood of your interacting with someone experiencing any or all of these consequences, places you ahead of the action-reaction power curve in terms of risk identification.

Setting your expectations should also include a plan detailing how you may interact with someone affected by these consequences to achieve a successful outcome. A commonly recommended method is to establish a rapport. Nothing melts social veneer better than sharing common ground. Be empathetic. It's not much of a reach to relate, as we were all impacted by the pandemic in one way or another.

Communication is the universal solvent. People love telling their story. Applying your empathy and exhibiting true interest in their situation breaks down real or imagined communication barriers and further paves the way for increased conversation, in turn fostering a common bond and even an affinity with the other person.

Last, but certainly not least, you can expect the unexpected. As you have survived abnormal social conditions, you can expect abnormal social consequences. Frustration, desperation, irritability and grief can cause people to say or do things that they normally would not under normal conditions.

Learning to identify forms of aggressive behavior—such as irritability and sudden outbursts—while interacting with others can help you avoid a potentially dangerous encounter.



Setting your expectations that there is a greater likelihood of your interacting with someone experiencing any or all of these consequences, places you ahead of the action-reaction power curve in terms of risk identification.

Expecting anything from anyone places you in the advantageous position of not being surprised by anything they might say or do. Eliminating that element of surprise keeps you from being knocked off balance and helps keep you alert to the realities of the situation. Setting your expectations gives you the advantage of foresight, affording you adequate mental preparation and planning. It is a simple, yet viable proactive measure contributing to your mental toughness and personal resilience that would otherwise be set at a lower default level.

Behavioral Assessment

If you are not aware of something, then that something remains invisible to you. What goes unseen can sometimes be the one thing that causes the biggest problem. A typical example of this you often hear after the fact is "Wow, I sure did not see that coming!"

It's true that no individual or organization can detect everything. However, the greater your powers of observation, the better your chances of success in spotting something you should know about. You can't respond to something you can't see. In the world of professional protective services, one often hears the cliché "see it, fix it" (before it turns into something potentially much worse.) But what exactly is "it"? The answer is called behavioral assessment.

A behavioral assessment can determine if something you observe is either an actionable item or a non-actionable item. If it is an actionable item, then it warrants your attention. If it is a non-actionable item, then there's no need to worry about it. If you observe a behavior that may catch your interest, raise your mental acuity or otherwise get your attention, then this is a behavior that qualifies as an actionable item.

To help you make that determination, observable activities of an emerging threat can be identified as any one of three actionable items:

Potential-violence influencers Observable concerning behavior Potential-threat indicators

A potential-violence influencer may take the form of a conversation revolving around the threat of assault on another individual or destruction of property. Something along the lines of "You know it just makes me want to punch that guy in the throat!" might be an example of a potential violence influencer which you could consider an actionable item.

A notch down from potential-violence influencers are observable concerning behaviors. Such behaviors may include something along the lines of a sudden physical outburst like observing someone kick or smack something with their hand or foot to physically emphasize a verbal statement. An observable concerning behavior such as expressive physical contact is considered an actionable item.

Lowest on the scale, a potential-threat indicator might be observing someone who is plainly irritable, frustrated or upset and appears to be on the verge of violence. Although not a clear and present danger, such behavior indicates a potential threat that may be a precursor to follow-on events and is therefore considered an actionable item by raising your awareness.

It should be noted that certain behaviors considered to be actionable for one scenario may differ substantially from those of another. Also, actionable in this context does not necessarily mean you need to take any action. Rather, it means that there is something worth paying attention to in the event action could be required.



A working knowledge of behavioral assessment and conflict de-escalation can help keep you and your loved ones safe in our post-lockdown society.

Setting your expectations and running a behavioral assessment are two very reliable proactive measures. The need to defend yourself arises when things deteriorate such that proactive measures are no longer applicable, and the only remaining choice is to rely upon your reactive measures.

Failing to observe a potential-violence influencer, concerning behavior or potential-threat indicator means that you have forfeited the opportunity to take proactive measures. If you fail to see emerging-threat indicators, then you have given up the opportunity to take further proactive measures. If you can't hear it, see it, feel it or smell it coming then you may be completely taken by surprise and have no other choice but be forced to react to the situation.

A reliable proactive measure utilized by law enforcement and professional protective agents is de-escalation. Referencing law enforcement and protection application, de-escalation can be defined as the application of non-violent strategies and techniques to decrease the intensity of a situation, improve decision-making, communication, eliminate or reduce the need for use of force.

If an obviously irritated person raises their voice and starts to get into a heated conversation with you where you realize that the pot of water is about to boil over, what are some things you can do to de-escalate the situation or lower the heat under that pot of bubbling water?

A 2016 report by Washington, DC-based criminal justice think-tank the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF) lists 30 guiding principles for law enforcement use-of-force policy and training. At least eight of the guidelines directly reference de-escalation or discuss aspects of how officers can reduce force by backing off in situations where immediate action is not mandated by law or required for officer or public safety. According to Police magazine, veteran street officers and trainers would tell you de-escalation is the result of a combination of communication, empathy, instinct and sound officer-safety tactics. Its goal is to help the officer achieve a good outcome where neither the officer nor the subject is injured.

Guiding principle number 18 of the 2016 PERF report stresses the importance of



Since we don't know what others are experiencing, being aware of things that can influence violent behavior can help you avoid conflict.

effective communication. Remaining in good communication with someone can include being aware of what the agitated person may be experiencing such as feelings, perspective, etc. from their point of view. Tuning into that person affords you a readable frequency from which to better communicate. You can lower your voice, change your body language (present the palms of your hands), walk away or any combination thereof.

If de-escalation is used extensively by the likes of protection and law-enforcement professionals, then there's something to it and it shouldn't be ignored as a viable risk-management or threat-mitigation option.

Avoidance happens to be the "A" answer when it comes to confrontational situations, but there are times when you cannot simply walk away or by doing so, the situation would deteriorate even further. In such scenarios, de-escalation becomes the quintessential "A" answer.

Given the extremely litigious society in which we now live, proactive measures are soft skills—those techniques utilizing your mind, powers of observation, decision-making, verbal communication and the like—that will serve you far better than any physical reactive measures. Proactive measures are a matter of soft skills where reactive measures involve physical use of force where you may incur a high probability of physical injury and litigious fallout.

Being well-informed by vetted research that has brought to light the varied mental-health consequences of the COVID pandemic such as stress, depression, frustration, desperation, insomnia, irritability, grief, emotional exhaustion, etc. allows you to make better decisions.

Setting expectations enhances your personal preparedness by preparing you, reinforcing your resiliency and significantly contributes to more effective decision-making, especially under duress.

Behavioral assessment of potential-violence influencers, threat indicators and other observable concerning behavior can help you determine if something you observe is either an actionable or a non-actionable item and subsequently provide you an opportunity to respond appropriately.

Such proactive measures—to include de-escalation and related soft skills—are a result of actively applying both your situational awareness and observation. Knowing what to look for and how to look for it allows you to see emerging-threat indicators and provide you the time and opportunity to take further proactive measures in post-pandemic societal reintegration. 🌀

No Easy Answers

How does an armed citizen avoid being confused for a threat? There's no simple solution, but there are ways to minimize that concern.



Our readers have no idea how much I appreciate them. Picture my editor breathing down my neck and wanting to know when my monthly column would arrive on his desk. Also, picture me without a single idea for that column. And then, just like the cavalry to the rescue, here comes a reader with some good questions.

Our reader, talking about a shooting incident in a public place, asks, "How do I identify myself as a 'Good Guy with a Gun?'" And, "How do I prevent myself from being shot by other good guys with guns?" I would suggest to our reader that you also have to reverse the thought process: How do I identify other good guys and not cause them harm? Excellent questions, but there are no easy answers.

Any time guns start going off, there are a lot of things that can happen, and many of those things are bad. Deadly scenarios place most people under the most stress they have ever experienced. Deadly encounters in a public place just mean more people, more stress, more chaos and more confusion.

Consider, too, that in any such public incident, some of those present may be lawfully armed citizens. Others may be plainclothes or off-duty police officers, while still others may be uniformed police arriving at the scene, but currently unaware of what is actually going on. And the thing to realize is that, due to the confusion and chaos, everyone there is subject to making mistakes—deadly mistakes. The fact is that we cannot simply look at a person and determine whether or not they are a lawfully armed citizen. You already know that good citizens come in all races, genders and clothing styles.

Because of all these factors, I would suggest that the first consideration, even if you are armed, is to gather you and yours and make a quick exit. Just because guns are going

off nearby doesn't necessarily mean that you need to have your gun out. Time might be much better spent finding an exit or, failing that, getting behind good cover. Once good cover is located and utilized, you can more easily identify a person who is, for whatever reason, coming toward you with deadly intent. This gives you nearly the best advantage you can hope for under the circumstances.


Still, there are times when we can't readily exit a bad situation. We may have family members still unaccounted for and not yet located. We may have been asked by law enforcement to provide assistance. We may have been asked by those in a leadership role to provide assistance until law enforcement can arrive. Regardless, we can't leave, and we may have to take an active part in resolving the situation.

Our primary concern should be to make as much use of cover as possible. Second, it's always a good idea to have our back against something solid so bad guys can't sneak up behind us (or we fail to hear a lawful command from a police officer who has approached from behind). Last, we need to do something with our defensive handgun besides holding it openly, where it might cause us to take on friendly fire.

Gunwriter and former lawman Rich Grassi recently commented on a technique that he calls the hand-on-holstered-gun ready position. Far from being a brand-new defensive technique, it is one we were practicing back in the Dark Ages when I first put on a badge. Oftentimes, when approaching a questionable situation, we had our hand on the sidearm with any holster-security devices already disengaged and a shooting grip on the pistol. It was a simple matter to draw and address the threat should that have ended up being necessary.

This same technique can work very well for the armed citizen. For those rightfully concerned about running afoul of local laws against brandishing, we are talking about a scenario where there is already a clear threat, we are just not clear exactly who the threat is and also want to ensure we ourselves are not misidentified as a threat. By getting a shooting grip on the handgun and being ready to draw and engage if the situation isn't otherwise resolved, we are prepared to defend ourselves while being less likely to be confused for the bad guy.

Furthermore, in the aftermath of an armed encounter, whether shots have been fired or not, the aforementioned hand-on-holstered-gun ready position makes good sense. We may no longer have a specific threat to address, but we know that could change quite quickly. And it is a really, really bad idea to actually have a gun in your hand when the police show up. The hand-on-holstered-gun ready position should be made a regular part of your defensive-practice sessions.

There are no easy answers to dealing with shootings in public. Get away, if possible, and avoid having to shoot. But, when it isn't, the goal is to be a survivor—not a hero. 

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The Webley MK VI Revolver

Britain's .45-caliber handgun used in two World Wars looks a bit different from its American counterpart.

The year was 1989. Two seminal events in my life took place that year. The first was that I accepted a part-time job at the NRA Headquarters Museum in Washington, DC. The second was that "Lawrence of Arabia," David Lean's classic 1962 film, had been painstakingly restored and re-released in theaters.

It was a film I just had to see on the big screen, and DC's Uptown Theater was the perfect venue, with a 70x40-foot screen upon which to see this epic. The curtains drew back and the film began. There he was in vivid color, larger than life—Peter O'Toole as T.E. Lawrence, astride a camel in traditional Arab garb set against an endless, golden desert. He leveled a Webley MK VI at an unseen enemy, the camera zoomed in on the revolver and I was immediately smitten. My love for that film and that revolver have remained undiminished ever since.

The Webley MK VI has become the iconic revolver of the British and Commonwealth military forces of the 20th century. With hundreds of thousands of them produced between 1915 and 1923, it appears in nearly every film that has had a British soldier in the story line.

The MK VI service revolver was the last in a long line of .455-caliber revolvers adopted by the British, beginning in 1887 with the MK I. Issued to Other Ranks and specialty troops, it was also sold commercially to officers, who still had to purchase their own firearms. Used throughout the Wars of Empire, the various Webley Marks (MKs) saw service in every

corner of the British Empire for more than 60 years.

The MK VI revolver replaced the MK V in 1915 and sported changes that included a longer barrel (6 inches) and a squared-off grip that was a departure from the classic "bird's beak" style popularized by the previous five MKs. It still fired the rimmed 265-grain .455 Webley cartridge that had a muzzle velocity of a paltry 600 fps, but it hit its target with undeniable force. (On a good day at the range, with the sun to your back, you can actually glimpse the round in flight at about 100 yards).

With the Great War raging on numerous battlefields across the globe, the need for Webley MK VI revolvers was greater than the production capacity of the Birmingham factory, so the British Purchasing Commission turned to commercial manufacturers in the United States to furnish revolvers chambered in .455 Webley. It issued contracts to Colt for its New Service and Smith & Wesson for its Hand Ejector models, which were also sent overseas in the thousands.

The Webley MK VI was a solidly built revolver that stood up well to the rigors of trench warfare, and its top-break action allowed for the ease and speed of ejecting and reloading cartridges. Cartridges were carried loose in an ammo pouch, or some officers could purchase and use the earliest known speedloader invented in 1893 by William De Courcy Prideaux.

British Other Ranks (NCOs) carried the Webley in an open-top holster with a brass



Opening the Webley would eject empty cases, as the mechanism for separating the two pieces also pushed the ejector star out of the cylinder. Located where it could be quickly reached by the right-hand thumb, a lever along the left side of the revolver opened the Webley to facilitate the reloading process.

cleaning rod stitched into the back of the holster, while officers carried theirs in a flapped leather holster. Captain Arthur Prichard patented a 10-inch bayonet that could fit a MK VI and W.W. Greener produced some for private sales to officers, but no accounts of them being actually used in combat are known to this author.

Production of the MK VI was ceased by Webley in 1918 with the end of the "war to end all wars." Nearly 300,000 had been produced by that time, making the MK VI the most widely produced MK of all the service revolvers manufactured by Webley.

In 1921, the RSAF (Royal Small Arms Factory) Enfield produced its own MK VI revolver, which it made until 1923. Enfield-manufactured revolvers bear the year of production and the name "ENFIELD" on the frame of the revolver. Both the Webley and Enfield versions were issued and used throughout the inter-war years and remained in service through the Second World War.

Vast numbers of surplus Webleys were imported into the United States until the passage of the Gun Control Act of 1968, where they failed to pass the imposed safety-point scheme. Many were "shaved" by American importers and gunsmiths so that they would accept the .45 ACP cartridge held in place with the use of half-moon clips that had been originally adopted for the Smith & Wesson and Colt models of 1917. These "shaved" guns can be identified by the missing proofmarks normally found on the face of each chamber of the cylinder and by the serial number missing its bottom sixteenth-inch on the outer rim of the cylinder.

From the trenches of Flanders to the desert of David Lean's Arabia, the sturdy and practical warhorse of the British Empire would never win any beauty contests. However, this interesting revolver continues to find an audience of historians and collectors who yearn for a tangible, iconic symbol of a historic chapter in world history. 🌀



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Smith & Wesson Shield Plus In 30 Super Carry

It's a bird! It's a plane! It's Super Carry!

Before we dive headfirst into the morass that is the 30 Super Carry debate, let's start with something (slightly) less controversial: Smith & Wesson's Shield Plus is a supremely good pistol. Building on the success of the standard Shield and updated M2.0 versions, the Shield Plus kept critical dimensions similar to allow most gear designed for the Shield to work for the Shield Plus. That's smart. Like, really smart. Rather than design a micro-9 mm double-stack pistol from the ground

up, Smith & Wesson took a long look at its popular Shield and made the necessary changes. End result? A pistol with 10+1-round capacity with the flush-fit magazine and 13+1-round capacity with an extended variant.

With seemingly every gun company under the sun jumping on the micro-9 mm double-stack bandwagon, upgrading the Shield to the Shield Plus was a brilliant move. Rather than hope the aftermarket adjusts accordingly to provide holsters for these new pistols, Smith & Wesson was able to draw on the aftermarket for the literal millions of Shields already in the marketplace. That is a not-inconsequential advantage. Then again, we said as much in our September 2021 article on the new Shield Plus. It's a smart move, positions Smith & Wesson perfectly in the market and required minimal adjustment in the market for associated gear.

So, how do you improve on that? Well, adding three more rounds is a good start, no? Seeing the potential of Federal Ammunition's new 30 Super Carry round, Smith & Wesson set about engineering the Shield Plus to accommodate this new chambering. In a pistol the same size (other than bore diameter, naturally), 30 Super Carry allows three more rounds in either the flush-fit or extended magazines: 13 rounds versus the 10 in 9 mm and 16 to 13, respectively. Federal's 30 Super Carry is ballistically similar to 9 mm,



SPECIFICATIONS

Manufacturer: Smith & Wesson;
(800) 331-0852, smith-wesson.com

Action Type: Striker-fired, semi-automatic

Caliber: 30 Super Carry

Capacity: 13+1 rounds

Frame: Polymer

Slide: Armornite-finish stainless steel

Barrel Length: 3.1 inches

Sights: Tritium vial/orange ring front;
two-tritium vial rear, optics cut

Trigger Pull Weight: 6 pounds, 5 ounces

Length: 6.1 inches

Width: 1.1 inches

Height: 4.6 inches

Weight: 19.3 ounces

Accessories: One 13-round magazine,
one 16-round extended magazine,
lock, manual

MSRP: \$595

SHOOTING RESULTS

Load	Velocity	Smallest	Group Size Largest	Average
American Eagle 100-grain FMJ	1,175	2.35	3.68	3.04
Federal Premium HST 100-grain JHP	1,156	2.17	2.64	2.40
Speer Gold Dot 115-grain JHP	1,060	1.29	2.45	1.74

Velocity measured in fps 5 feet from the muzzle for 10 consecutive shots with an Oehler Model 36 chronograph. Temperature: 69 degrees Fahrenheit. Accuracy measured in inches for five consecutive, five-shot groups at 15 yards from a rest.

ON TARGET

Near-full-size capacity

OFF TARGET

Betting on ammo availability



Sporting Smith & Wesson's latest M2.0-style trigger, this Shield Plus proved easy to shoot quickly and accurately • Containing a tritium vial and a photoluminescent orange ring, the front sight can be rapidly acquired • Aggressive without being painful,



and numerous effective defensive loads are available, so it's basically a no-brainer when you have more rounds in what is essentially the same gun, right?

Well, as my kids would say, yes, but actually no. Here's where we have to get into the 30 Super Carry debate. There's really two (possibly three) factors at work here. First, there's the ammunition-supply situation. There's simply no getting around the fact that, although it's starting to get better, ammunition is still not as easy to come by as it was, say, three years ago. Welcome to the 2020s. Many have questioned the business practice of adding a new caliber to a product line that can't be fully stocked as it is. Now, I'm going to go out on a limb here and guess that the folks at Federal have researched this and have determined that the company has the capacity for both 9 mm and 30 Super Carry.

The second factor is, and there's simply no other way to put this, status quo. A quick look at any "most popular handgun caliber" list shows 9 mm and .45 ACP at the top. Both have been in production for more than a century. Moving down the list, we do see the .40 S&W round, which is an infant in

ammunition terms, as it's barely in its fourth decade. Rounding out the "top five" are .38 Spl. and .380 ACP, neither of which are exactly what are considered "new" in any sense of the word. What does it tell you when four out of the five top calibers are more than 100 years old? Well, quite simply, we crave the familiar. And, as things stand right now, the 30 Super Carry is new and unknown.

So then you might ask, "Why should I run out and get one? What if this is the next .45 GAP?" Well, I don't have a crystal ball. I can't guarantee that 30 Super Carry is going to rocket up the favorites chart; it could crater into the ground on fire. From all appearances, it should do well—excellent performance and greater capacity means, on paper, it should shine. I'd take Smith & Wesson offering the Shield Plus in 30 Super Carry as a good sign, though. It's unlikely the company would take this step if it didn't feel that the new caliber would proliferate.

As another point of reference, our Handguns editor has made the point numerous times that owning a handgun in a caliber that's not the most popular has advantages in ammo crunches; she points out that calibers like .357 SIG or .32 ACP might be on shelves when 9 mm and .45 ACP have disappeared. Even if 30 Super Carry never becomes as popular as any of the "top-five" rounds, it's effective and you can carry a lot of rounds in a small pistol. If the caliber becomes super popular, then there will be plenty of ammo available in normal times. If it stays a boutique round, you should be able to feed your pistol when others can't. Plus, there's always the chance you can one-up that certain gun hipster in your circle of friends a couple decades from now, right?

Getting back to the Shield Plus in 30 Super Carry, though, it's, well, a Smith & Wesson Shield Plus. It's so reliable it's boring. It works. End of story. One interesting thing about the 30 Super Carry, though? It's loud—like 5.7x28 mm loud. While it does have

less felt recoil than its 9 mm counterpart, that extra noise is noticeable. If you're choosing 30 Super Carry over 9 mm for recoil reduction, it would be prudent to double up on hearing protection on indoor ranges. Other than that, though, our testing of the Shield Plus in 30 Super Carry was utterly without incident. Everything we put into it fed, fired and ejected with no fuss or muss.

So, what's the verdict? Well, if you're looking for greater capacity in a small pistol, the Shield Plus in 30 Super Carry is an excellent bet. Since it's a Shield, it'll be reliable and long-lived, in addition to having a ton of gear available. It's going to work and do all the things you expect of a defensive handgun. Also, it comes with an optics cut for many popular mini-red-dot sights, which is pretty much everything you might want in a highly concealable, double-stack pistol.

The only real question here is the future of the 30 Super Carry, and I'll leave you with this last thought: Of all the new handgun cartridges of the past, say, decade or so, this is the first in my memory that was brought to market solely by an ammunition manufacturer, rather than by a firearm company working in conjunction with an ammo company on a boutique round. Does that mean anything? If I knew the answer to that question, it would mean I could tell the future, in which case I'd be on my private island somewhere in the Caribbean right now admiring my yacht.

What I can tell you about the Smith & Wesson Shield Plus in 30 Super Carry, though, is that it works well, hits accurately and will do all the self-defense things you expect of a small, concealable pistol. With the new caliber, though, it will be able to perform all these tasks a few more times (and just as effectively) as the same pistol in 9 mm. It's a bet, of course, that this new round will continue to flourish and grow; however, with the players involved, that's a pretty safe bet to make in my personal opinion.



the grip texture helps anchor the pistol • No-slag-style rear sights also have tritium vials • One flush-fit and one extended magazine offer a total 29 rounds • Red-dot ready, the Shield Plus is cut for RMsC-style optics • 30 Super Carry is prominently displayed on the barrel to avoid confusion.

Tisas PX-9 GEN3 Duty

Not all striker-fired, polymer-frame pistols are the same.



SPECIFICATIONS

Manufacturer: Tisas, Turkey	Trigger Pull Weight: 4 pounds, 14 ounces
Importer: SDS Imports; (865) 604-6894, sdsimports.com	Length: 7.5 inches
Action Type: Striker-fired, semi-automatic	Width: 1.3 inches
Caliber: 9 mm	Height: 5.8 inches
Capacity: 18+1 rounds	Weight: 27.8 ounces
Frame: Polymer	Accessories: Two 18-round magazines, magazine loader, two backstraps, two pairs of grip panels, IWB holster, bore brush, cleaning rod, manual
Slide: CNC-machined, Tenifer-coated steel	MSRP: \$499.95
Barrel Length: 4 inches	
Sights: Windage-adjustable optics-cut rear, green fiber-optic front	

SHOOTING RESULTS

Load	Velocity	Smallest	Group Size Largest	Average
Black Hills 115-grain FMJ	1,055	3.5	3.8	3.6
Federal Hydra-Shok 124-grain JHP	1,116	1.9	3.5	2.4
Hornady 147-grain XTP	999	1.5	2.3	1.8

Velocity measured in fps 10 feet in front of the muzzle for 10 consecutive shots with a Shooting Chrony chronograph. Temperature: 64 degrees Fahrenheit. Accuracy measured in inches for five consecutive, five-shot groups at 15 yards from a rest.

ON TARGET

Comes with everything you need in the box

OFF TARGET

Magazine well can be troublesome

It's said that in life, one never gets a second chance to create a first impression.

SDS Imports, the company that imports the Tisas firearms manufactured in Turkey, appears to have embraced that piece of wisdom, because I was extremely impressed from the moment I opened the box containing its new PX-9 GEN3 9 mm semi-automatic pistol. Except for some ammo, the box contained everything you need to defend yourself and your loved ones.

Of course, there was the anticipated owner's manual, firearm and magazine with its 18-round capacity. Also, there was the (sometimes expected) bore brush and cleaning rod along with different sized backstraps and grip panels to ensure the pistol could be modified to fit the new owner. But, the real surprise was the second 18-round magazine with a loading tool wrapped around it to make things easier for those new to the joys of loading double-stack magazines. Already installed on the Tisas was an extended magazine well to facilitate speed loads in training classes or enhance your



Thanks to a removable adapter plate, the Tisas PX-9 can easily be equipped with a micro red-dot optic, while generously sized serrations adorn the rear of the slide to offer welcome purchase. A wide rear aperture devoid of dots creates a sight picture that is quick to employ and intuitive when seconds count. The

survival prospects on the mean streets. The mag well is almost like having target-style grips wrapped around the bottom of your hand. Not expected, the gun was packed in a fitted, minimalistic IWB holster made of plastic. You're ready to step directly from the store to the firing line for some serious training. If you have to drive to the training center, the pistol's lockable hard-plastic case meets the transportation-security requirements of some strict states (like California) or TSA/airline air-travel requirements. Check with the airlines, though because I haven't flown in quite a while.

The PX-9's slide and barrel are both steel, while the frame is polymer. The entire gun is colored OD green, much like my old military fatigues. The slide has angled grooves both front and rear for easy manual operation. Sight setup is pretty luxurious, with a dovetail-mounted rear sight adjustable for windage, a non-adjustable fiber-optic front sight and a removable plate atop the slide that allows the mounting of a red dot just in front of the rear sight. For those who prefer red-dot sights on their handguns, the PX-9 is cut for optics that use the Trijicon RMR footprint. Not having a red dot available, all test shooting was done with the factory-furnished sights.

Several safety features adorn the PX-9 (none of which are intended to replace the "Master Safety Feature"

located between your ears): The external extractor serves as a loaded-chamber indicator, while a pin in the rear of the slide tells you if the striker is cocked. There is a trigger safety (the inner "trigger in the trigger" system) and a firing-pin block that prevents the gun from firing if dropped. The gun can only fire if the trigger and trigger safety are pulled all the way to the rear. An ambidextrous thumb safety is optional, but the test gun was not equipped with one.

Like most striker-fired pistols, the Tisas is easily disassembled. After ensuring the gun is not loaded (do this twice), lock the slide back and rotate the disassembly lever clockwise, let the slide move forward, pull the trigger and move the slide forward off the gun.

The backstraps, frontstrap and side panels all feature a rough surface to assist in maintaining control of the gun while firing. Admittedly, the 9 mm cartridge does not produce severe recoil, but anything that improves shot-to-shot recovery time is a good idea, particularly on a hot day when hands get slippery with sweat. Depressing the mag-release button is relatively easy, requiring less movement of the shooting hand than do most guns, and it is also reversible for those who are left-handed.

I was able to swing by Gunsite Academy and get some trigger time and input from Training Director Lew Gosnell. It was one of the Arizona Chamber of Commerce's brilliantly sunshiny days, and both of us were a little overwhelmed by the brightness of the green fiber-optic front sight. It tended to wash away clear visibility of the rear sight, making a precise sight picture difficult to acquire, something necessary for shooting small groups. The effect is perfect for close-quarters defense because it's impossible to not see the "ball of green fire." It's quickly acquired, and when placed on the threat, ensures repeated solid hits to the torso. If I was carrying the PX-9 in a non-urban setting, I'd consider a slightly narrower rear-sight notch as a possible improvement in making hits at longer range. In conditions with less ambient light and inside of 20 yards, the PX-9 does its job as issued.

The pistol proved 100-percent reliable, as long as you ensured the magazine was locked in place. With the flared magazine well in the gun, the base of the magazines is flush with the base of the mag well. When loading the gun, slamming the magazine with the palm of your support hand as taught in training ensures it's locked in place. If you get tentative with a tactical or speed reload, you might find yourself with a class-one malfunction. If I were carrying the gun, particularly concealed, I might remove the mag well to ensure the magazine positively locks in place even with a casual smack, but the TISAS and I haven't spent enough time together to be sure. For home defense, I'd add a weaponlight and sleep comfortably at night. But then, I have a 10-pound dog that thinks he's a Rottweiler. He provides the alarm; the Tisas PX-9 provides the security. 🐕



addition of a bright-green fiber-optic pipe promotes quick front-sight acquisition • A wide trigger guard will accommodate gloves, while the red bladed trigger safety provides a bit of flair • A removable magazine well is one of the PX-9's many practical features • The PX-9 ships with two magazines, offering more than 30 combined rounds on tap • An assortment of backstraps and grip panels allow consumers to customize the PX-9 to fit their hands.

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More NRA-ILA Efforts In The Courts

Last month, we told you about three cases in which NRA-ILA has been involved in defending the Second Amendment, but that was far from all we have been doing in the courts.

We began 2022 by suing California—again. This lawsuit challenged the newly enacted AB-173. California law requires that, every time an individual purchases a firearm or ammunition, or applies for a concealed carry license, they must undergo a background check and provide their name, address, place of birth, phone number, occupation, driver's license or ID number, race, sex, height, weight, hair color, eye color, and even their social security number and types of firearms that they own. This information was gathered from law-abiding gun owners with the understanding that it would only be used for legitimate law-enforcement purposes. But that changed with AB-173. The information must now be turned over to universities and

any “bona fide research institute” for research purposes. This privacy lawsuit was filed to stop California from “doxxing” people for exercising their Second Amendment rights.

NRA-ILA also scored a victory for gun owners against Los Angeles County in January. Los Angeles County, like many others, responded to the COVID-19 outbreak by declaring gun shops and ranges to be “non-essential” businesses, thereby closing them down and depriving citizens of their rights to acquire and maintain proficiency with a firearm. The shut-down was prolonged because California law also imposes a 10-day waiting period on all firearm purchases. This was challenged under the Second Amendment, and the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in our favor. NRA-ILA also filed three separate lawsuits challenging emergency COVID-19 orders in 2020. The others were against New York; New Mexico; and Alameda, Santa Clara, Contra Costa, and San Mateo counties.

NRA-ILA joined a coalition of hunting groups to defend the Department of Interior's decision to open and expand hunting and fishing opportunities on 2.3 million acres of land across the country.

iStock photo by treasurephoto



We also continued the fight in other cases. The Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals heard oral arguments in *NRA v. Swearingen*, a case that challenges a Florida law banning young adults from purchasing a firearm. We also filed and argued a summary judgment motion in *LaFave v. County of Fairfax*, which challenges a Virginia county's ban on possessing firearms in public parks and other vaguely defined areas.

HELPING THE HUNTING COMMUNITY

In March, NRA-ILA joined a coalition of hunting groups to defend the Department of Interior's decision to open and expand hunting and fishing opportunities on 2.3 million acres of land across the country. The court, however, ruled that the hunting community did not have a significant interest in the case, and denied us the opportunity to participate. We refused to sit that one out and appealed that erroneous decision.

That was not our only appeal. NRA-ILA has been fighting for states' rights to manage their wildlife for decades. The most-recent battle on that front involved the Department of Interior's decision to return gray-wolf management to the states. A federal judge in California overturned that decision, and, in so doing, stripped the states of their ability to manage their wolf populations. We appealed that decision, too.

FRIEND-OF-THE-COURT BRIEFS

NRA-ILA participated as a "friend of the court" in several cases so far this year. We began by filing a brief urging the entire Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals to review the ATF's rule reclassifying bump stocks as machine guns. A similar brief was filed last September asking the Supreme Court to review the rule.

In February, we filed an amicus curiae (friend of the court) brief asking the Florida Supreme Court to uphold the state's preemption statute. Florida's preemption statute imposes financial penalties on local officials who infringe on the people's Second Amendment rights. Several local officials who would pass gun-control ordinances but for that penalty filed a lawsuit challenging that statute. Our brief argues that those penalties are necessary to prevent those same officials from passing preempted laws, an argument that the Florida District Court of Appeal agreed with last year.

In March, NRA-ILA filed an amicus brief in a Fourth Amendment case in the Second Circuit Court of Appeals. The plaintiff there was pulled over on a routine traffic stop. He immediately handed the officer his driver's license, registration, and Connecticut carry permit, while simultaneously telling the officer that he was handing him his permit and that he was carrying a firearm in accordance with that permit. The officer dragged him out of the car and handcuffed him. The officer then verified that the permit was valid, but nevertheless decided to search the entire vehicle, finding only a flash drive with photographs of the driver's deceased father. The driver filed suit, alleging that the officer violated his Fourth Amendment rights. We agreed, and argued that exercising your Second Amendment rights does not waive your Fourth Amendment rights. 🌀

IN MEMORY NRA-ILA CONTRIBUTIONS

May 1 - 31, 2022

Billy H. Wagner, Uvalde, TX (from: LaDon & Colleen Richardson);
Barry L. Barnett, Elyria, OH (from: The Village of LaGrange, Ohio);
Yvon Carrier, Southington, CT (from: Bristol Republican Town Committee).



If you're a proud American that supports our military and loves great music, you'll want to know about a new country group and lifestyle brand, War Hippies. The duo, comprised of Scooter Brown and Donnie Reis, may be new on the country-music scene, but both members have lots of music experience. After serving more than four years as a U.S. Marine, Brown played over 150 concert dates a year, including performing with Travis Tritt and on the Grand Ole Opry. Reis first picked up a violin at the age of 10 before serving in the US Army from 2001 to 2009. Now the two have come together to tell their stories with a guitar and violin. "Our brand is about peace and love. It's about helping others and doing good in the world. But we also have values and beliefs that we believe are worth fighting for," said Reis. "In the words of the late, great Charlie Daniels, 'I don't wanna have to fight you but I darn sure will.'" War Hippies has become known for their stellar live performances, including tight harmonies and a wide range of song selections. We expect great things of them in 2022, so NRA Country's Lisa Supernauth recently spent a few moments getting to know the duo a little better.

LS: Who taught you how to shoot?

SB: Shooting was something I picked up on my own. The United States Marine Corps dialed it in.

DR: The U.S. Army taught me how to shoot at Ft. Benning, Ga.

LS: Do you have a favorite personal firearm?

SB: Charlie Daniels gifted me a Henry Rifle Golden Boy that is personalized to me. She's a keeper!

DR: During COVID, I taught myself how to build my first lower receiver for an AR. I'd say that rifle is probably my favorite.

LS: What are some of your favorite outdoors memories?

SB: 10 years ago, I cofounded a 501c3 non-profit called Base Camp 40, Warriors In The Wild. We take veterans and Gold Star family members on hunting and fishing trips all over the country. I've loved being able to help guide and host trips from elk hunting in Colorado to fishing in Alaska. Watching somebody receive the gift of the wild is just as good as being there yourself.

LS: What are you working on and what can fans expect from War Hippies?

DR: We released our first single, "Killin' It," and it's received a great response so far. Fans can find our music everywhere music is streamed and learn more about War Hippies online at **WarHippies.com** and all the main social-media sites.

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

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le.nra.org

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



GUN SHOWS

gunshows.nra.org

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

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



AREA SHOOTS

ssusa.org/coming-events

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



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friendsofnra.org

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TRAINING

refuse.nra.org | nrainstructors.org

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



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

NRA INDY '23
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APRIL 14-16, 2023

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





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



Mr. Dennis Doll

2021 NRA COL. CHARLES H. MITCHELL TRAINER OF DISTINCTION: Mr. Dennis Doll Of Tampa, Florida

This month I want to highlight Mr. Dennis Doll, who was named last year's NRA Col. Charles H. Mitchell Trainer Of Distinction. One of our highest honors, this award is bestowed for extraordinary dedication and performance in development and support of NRA training programs. An exceptional individual who is generous with his time and skills, Dennis' beneficial impact on the NRA training community is unquestionable.

The Trainer Of Distinction award is named for Col. Charles Mitchell, the NRA manager of training for more than 20 years. "Mitch" always provided a positive influence to everyone around him as a role model and mentor, with a lifelong dedication to the NRA, and especially training programs. To receive the Trainer Of Distinction award means to go above and beyond the normal scope of duty by volunteering time and efforts to help move NRA programs forward.

For as long as I can remember, Dennis Doll has been known as the "go-to" Training Counselor in the state of Florida. He currently serves as NRA's Region Six Training Counselor Liaison for the Southeastern states. A volunteer position, Dennis acts as a communications conduit between the NRA Education and Training Division and the thousands of Training Counselors working in his region. Having Dennis in this vital role has helped many in his area to receive NRA firearms instruction. Additionally, he is an NRA Law Enforcement Programs Instructor, an NRA Life Member, Benefactor Member,

and Golden Eagle Member, plus an NRA Marksmanship Qualification Program (MQP) Triple Distinguished Expert.

With a wealth of knowledge to share, Dennis spends much of his time in training programs. He also has nearly unmatched dedication to refining his craft. The NRA's Director of Education and Training Programs, John Howard, has known him for many years. "Dennis has been an NRA Instructor since 1983 and attended his first Training Counselor Workshop in 1992, when he became a Training Counselor," Howard said. "Since that workshop he has attended three more, just for refreshers and to stay up to date. I don't know anyone that has attended that many workshops as a 'student.'"

Dennis has personally taught more than three thousand students and certified more than 550 instructors. He is also using his considerable knowledge and dedication to help teach youth shooters. "Working with youth has been my passion of late," Dennis told us. "These are the folks who will be carrying on our rights in this country."

As a Training Counselor myself, I understand the amount of dedication it takes to properly do the job. People such as Dennis Doll, who are willing to sacrifice their time to support NRA programs, are vital to the future of the Second Amendment and the shooting sports. Learn more about NRA Training programs at firearmtraining.nra.org.



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Photos courtesy Dade City Precision Rifle Team

NRA Using Silver Mountain Electronic Targets For High Power Championships At Camp Atterbury

Big news for High Power Rifle fans—the National Rifle Association will be using Silver Mountain Targets electronic target systems during the 2022 National Matches at Camp Atterbury, Ind.

“Over the past year, the NRA has been working with the Indiana State Rifle and Pistol Association (ISRPA), as well as the Central Indiana High Power Rifle Shooters (CIHPRS) in order to bring electronic targets to the NRA National Matches,” said Joseph P. DeBergalis Jr., Executive Director of NRA General Operations. “The NRA is thrilled to be working closely with the Indiana National Guard, ISRPA, CIHPRS and Silver Mountain Targets in order to provide a great future for the competitive-shooting sports in Indiana.”

The NRA determined that Silver Mountain Targets were proven effective across the world and at Camp Atterbury for NRA competition.

“In 2019, the ISRPA chose Silver Mountain Targets for our High Power matches including the ISRPA Across the Course State Championships and the Governor’s Cup match in 2019,” said ISRPA President Charles Hiltunen. “We did an extensive comparison of alternatives and Silver Mountain Targets best fit our needs. Since then, we have been happy with the targets and support we receive. ISRPA is excited to support the NRA in extending this valuable technology to the National Matches.”

“Silver Mountain Targets is excited to be chosen for the first deployment of this technology at the NRA National Matches. Our advanced modular architecture represents the latest in electronic-target technology,” said David Schnelle, North American distributor for Silver Mountain Targets. “The system is designed to be easily expandable and provide a high level of reliability. System components are battery-powered to simplify deployment on a range and allows the system to operate—even if there is a power outage. Communications between targets and the firing line is through a highly reliable WiFi connection, using any WiFi-capable device to display competitors’ shots.”

“The National Rifle Association is pleased to continue our improvements at Camp Atterbury in order to better serve the competitive-shooting community and further promote the shooting sports,” said Cole McCulloch, Director of NRA Competitive Shooting. “With the Silver Mountain Targets system, we will be able to run more relays in less time and reduce demands on competitors and staff. We are also pleased that technical representatives from Silver Mountain Targets will be on-site for the entire championship to ensure optimum performance and to train NRA staff and volunteers on the technology.”

The 2022 NRA National Matches at Camp Atterbury will run from July 10 to August 7. Go to competitions.nra.org to learn more. 

2022 NRA BOARD ELECTION RESULTS

The following members have been elected Directors of the NRA for three-year terms ending in 2025:

Sandra S. Froman	64,738
Bob Barr	62,058
Marion P. Hammer	62,039
Joe M. Allbaugh	59,950
Blaine Wade	59,947
Matt Blunt	59,842
Larry E. Craig	59,566
Johnny Nugent	59,136
Carol Frampton	58,770
Dwight D. Van Horn	58,111
Willes K. Lee	57,083
Mitzy McCorvey	56,629
James W. Porter II	55,516
Ronald L. Schmeits	54,268
Danny Stowers	52,574
Dave Butz	51,673
Todd R. Ellis	51,006
Cathy S. Wright	50,966
Steven W. Dulan	50,814
Tom King	50,535
Al Hammond	50,126
David Norcross	48,381
Anthony P. Colandro	47,168
Charles T. Hiltunen, III	47,032
Paul D. Babaz	46,789

And for a two-year term ending in 2024:

Antonio Hernández	46,303
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and for a one-year term ending in 2023:

James Chapman	45,271
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The remaining candidates on the ballot, who were not elected, are as follows:

Frank C. Tait	43,686
Isaac D. Demarest	40,937

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

Isaac D. Demarest

2022-2023 NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The members of the Nominating Committee elected by the Board are as follows: **Anthony P. Colandro**, Woodland Park, NJ; **Carol Frampton**, Prosperity, SC; **Janet D. Nyce**, Elliptsburg, PA; **Mitch O’Neal-Mitchell**, Atlanta, GA; **Stephen Plaster**, Lebanon, MO; **Kayne Robinson**, Marengo, IA; **Don Saba**, Tucson, AZ; **Holly Turner**, Austin, TX; and **Robert J. Wos**, Sarasota, FL.

NRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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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; 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.

positions, performing tactical reloads and dealing with multiple targets can be mastered as you progress. This is usually where it helps to seek professional training, even if only once, in order to cultivate sound habits under the watchful eyes of an experienced instructor. Regardless of whether you get help through the NRA's extensive roster of training opportunities (firearmtraining.nra.org), attend a well-known trainer's course or find assistance on a flyer tacked to your range's bulletin board, your bare-bones rifle will be happy to accompany you on the ride.

Most of us have probably seen someone with a bunch of rifles configured so differently that they get confused by the controls or operating systems whenever they switch guns. Being that person in a life-or-death situation can get you killed.

Nonetheless, some shooters simply have needs that cannot be remedied by a single rifle. Should you be in that category, the best you can do is to set up your controls, sights and ancillary devices as similarly as possible and then ensure that you can swap from one firearm to another without having to fumble around.

I learned this lesson the hard way 25 years ago. At that time, my job required a high level of proficiency with so many different firearms, it was often difficult to decide what to train with. As a result, I began taking several guns to the range together, mistakenly thinking I would get something useful accomplished. I did not. Eventually, I arrived at the now-obvious answer of striving to master my main rifle (and pistol), with my other assigned firearms seeing daylight only after I was absolutely solid with my primary guns.

The next time you find yourself standing in front of a safe, closet or feed sack full of rifles, pick a gun—any gun—then go and get real good with it. When your rifle feels as natural in-hand as the EDC handgun you only notice when it's not carried, you are on the right track. 



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The Nine Known to None

Not all new ammo offerings are destined to hit the mark.

Going on 40 years ago, I blundered my way into my first job in the gunwriting business. It was a function of pure, dumb luck on my part and for that, I am eternally thankful. Among the many blessings of this luck were the great people I met and the range of new experiences. Such new people included the late Chuck Karwan, my fellow Vietnam vet and as good a friend as I could possibly want. Experiences included the two major shows of each year: the SHOT show and the NRA Annual Meetings. Those extravaganzas let you see literally everything new in the world of guns, ammo and accessories. Karwan and I were working for the same magazine and were always first to enter the show and last to leave. We couldn't miss a thing.

This was the late 1980s, back when the first Glock pistols were offered for sale in America and another gunwriter coined the wry term "Wondernine Wars." The world of handgunnery was on fire with new 9 mm pistols and new 9 mm loads. Much of the rationale stemmed from several much-publicized gun battles, the results of which suggested the good guys needed more capacity in their guns. The logic of that point might be a little shaky, but the result was a pronounced interest in greater-capacity pistols, the majority of which at the time were DA/SA operated. Therefore, Karwan and I had a lot to look at as we headed into the NRA show in Reno, NV. Among many other things, we saw a wide array of 9 mm handguns, including several new ones. This was interesting to us, because we had recently completed a book in which I had fired and reported on 50 different 9 mm handguns.

There were several revolvers in that group, so we were interested when we heard that there was a new 9 mm over at the Charter Arms booth. There was—the company's small size, five-shot revolver—but there was even more news. There was a new 9 mm cartridge, which was intended to solve the headspacing problem of 9 mm ammo in revolving-cylinder handguns. Specifically designed for use in typical magazine-fed semi-automatics, the 9 mm does not have a rim protruding beyond the body of the cartridge.

The headspacing (fitting the cartridge to the chamber) in a semi-auto happens when the case mouth stops against a shoulder in the chamber. In a revolver, headspacing happens when the rim fits against the rear face of the cylinder. The new cartridge, called the 9 mm Federal, was simply a 9 mm with a .38 Spl. rim. The initial load was a hot, 115-grain JHP right at home in the strong steel cylinders of modern revolvers. In the promotional material accompanying the new product introduction at Federal, there were also pictures of Ruger Speed-Six revolvers in the new chambering. It looked like the 9 mm-shooting public was going to get a new option in 9 mm guns.

Karwan and I were taken with the idea of a 9 mm revolver, particularly if regular 9 mm ammo could be fired in the same gun. But, we



were disappointed to find 9 mm ammo would not function in a 9 mm Federal chamber unless you used moon or half-moon clips to facilitate extraction. As designed, the 9 mm Federal cartridge worked perfectly in a revolver chambered for that cartridge, but no other. That's not necessarily a deal-breaker, but it gave up a performance selling point. We also noted another feature of the new cartridge that was frankly a little scary.

The rimmed 9 mm Federal cartridge was dimensionally very close to the .38 S&W. This old cartridge dated to the blackpowder frontier era. In fact, the cartridge had a long service life in several top-break, medium-size Smith & Wesson and other revolvers. Even in inexpensive wheelguns of the turn of the century, the .38 S&W was much in use. And, the military forces of the United Kingdom used the .38 S&W as a service-revolver cartridge under a different name. Everything worked well, as long as the ammo used was correct as to when it was made. But, if a shooter was to load one of these blackpowder .38 S&W revolvers with the quite similar 9 mm Federal ammo, a catastrophic failure was a near certainty. The gun would blow up.

Karwan and I had a day-long drive back to the office from Reno and plenty of time to discuss the situation. We concluded that someone at Federal had probably noticed the problem by now, but we should report our observation on this possibility in case they had not. At the magazine's office, we wrote a letter—signed by both of us—detailing our observations and concerns. We also offered a solution: If the 9 mm Federal were made with a double-thick rim, it would perform just as intended, but it would never chamber in a .38 S&W revolver. Furthermore, it would permit the use of the complete spectrum of 9 mm ammunition in a revolver marked as 9 mm Federal. It was the same situation as a .45 ACP revolver also using .45 Auto Rim.

We mailed our letter and went on with other features. In days, we got a gentlemanly letter in which we were advised that our observations were correct and our timing was excellent. The company was suspending further production of the ammunition. Only a limited amount of the stuff was made, and a small number of Charter Arms revolvers were ever produced. It was a pat on the back.

That's why 9 mm Federal-caliber ammo was never fightin' iron. 🍷

TRUMP'S BOMBHELL RETURN

JUST
RELEASED



Dick Morris reveals how Donald Trump will take back the White House in 2024 . . .

Democrats have ushered in a new era of dirty politics — the rules have been redefined.

Conservatives must wake up to this reality to beat the radical left and take back America in 2024. No one knows how to do it better than Washington insider, Dick Morris. And Morris knows one man can do it: Donald J. Trump.

In his blockbuster new book, ***The Return: Trump's Big 2024 Comeback***, renowned campaign strategist Dick Morris reveals what conservatives must do to take back the White House.

Inside ***The Return*** you'll discover Morris's plan to make sure . . .

- **Trump is the Republican candidate in 2024 — no exceptions, no substitutes . . .**
- More legal, eligible voters cast their votes for Republicans . . .
- **Stop post-election voting, ballot harvesting, end drop boxes, and require signature verification . . .**
- Real votes aren't canceled out by a crush of illegal ballots.

Americans know Democrats are set to decimate our social, cultural, economic and political freedoms.



#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR

DICK MORRIS IS one of the most prominent political consultants in the U.S. Morris was instrumental in the winning campaigns of Bill Clinton in 1996 and over 30 senators or governors nationally and is a key advisor to President Donald Trump. He is the host of Dick Morris Democracy on Newsmax TV and author of 10 *New York Times* bestsellers.

"Dick Morris and I conferred regularly throughout the 2016 and 2020 campaigns. He helped me hone my message and aim it the right audience. His father was my attorney, and he is my counselor. And I am grateful to them both."

— Donald J. Trump

We need Donald Trump more than ever and ***The Return*** is the roadmap to help seal his win back to the White House.

Inside this blockbuster NEW book, you'll discover:

- **Why Morris is 100% convinced Trump will run again and WIN — pg 51**
- **Who taught Trump to defend against ruthless attacks — pg 56**
- **The "Frank Perdue" strategy to flip votes to Trump — pg 65**
- **Terrifying prospect of our elections becoming nationalized — pg 106**
- **Platforms Morris believes we should run on in 2024 to snag an election win — pg 130**
- **Horrific Democrat plan to go after assets you've already paid taxes on — pg 194**

Filled with personal stories, anecdotes and eye-opening facts, this is a **MUST-READ** political bombshell. Through this exclusive offer from Newsmax you can get a copy of ***The Return*** absolutely **FREE!** \$27.99 value.

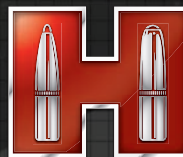
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