

**HANDGUNNER**

**NEW CUSTOM PISTOLSMITH DIRECTORY UPDATE**

**AMERICAN**

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 1981 \$2.00

# HANDGUNNER

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE OUTSTANDING AMERICAN HANDGUNNER AWARDS FOUNDATION

67522 T&E

**BONUS 7 HOT NEW TEST REPORTS**

**MITCHELL ARMS SA .44 MAG**

**HIGH STANDARD .22S KIT**

**BENELLI B-76 DA AUTO**

**BROWNING BDA .380**

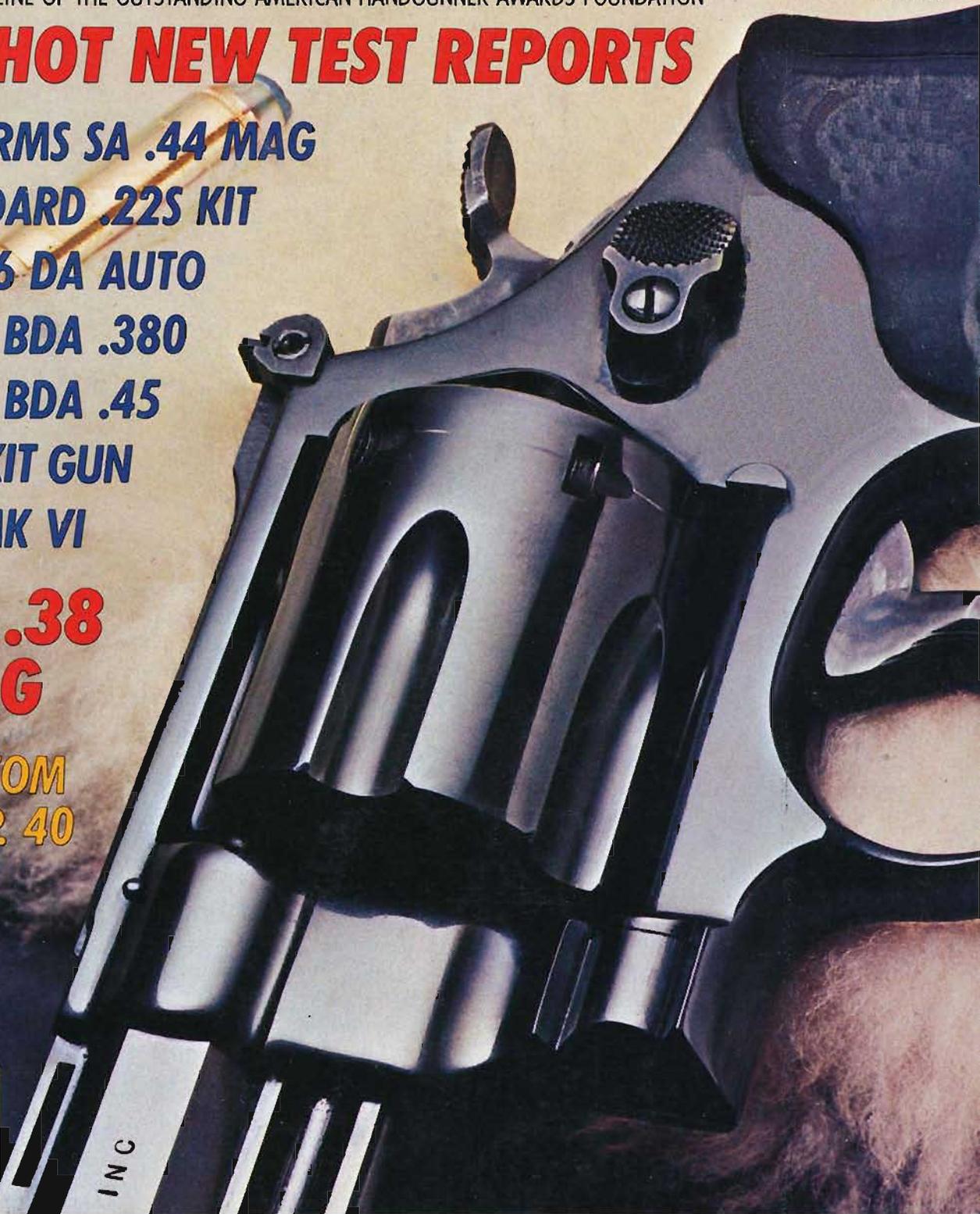
**BROWNING BDA .45**

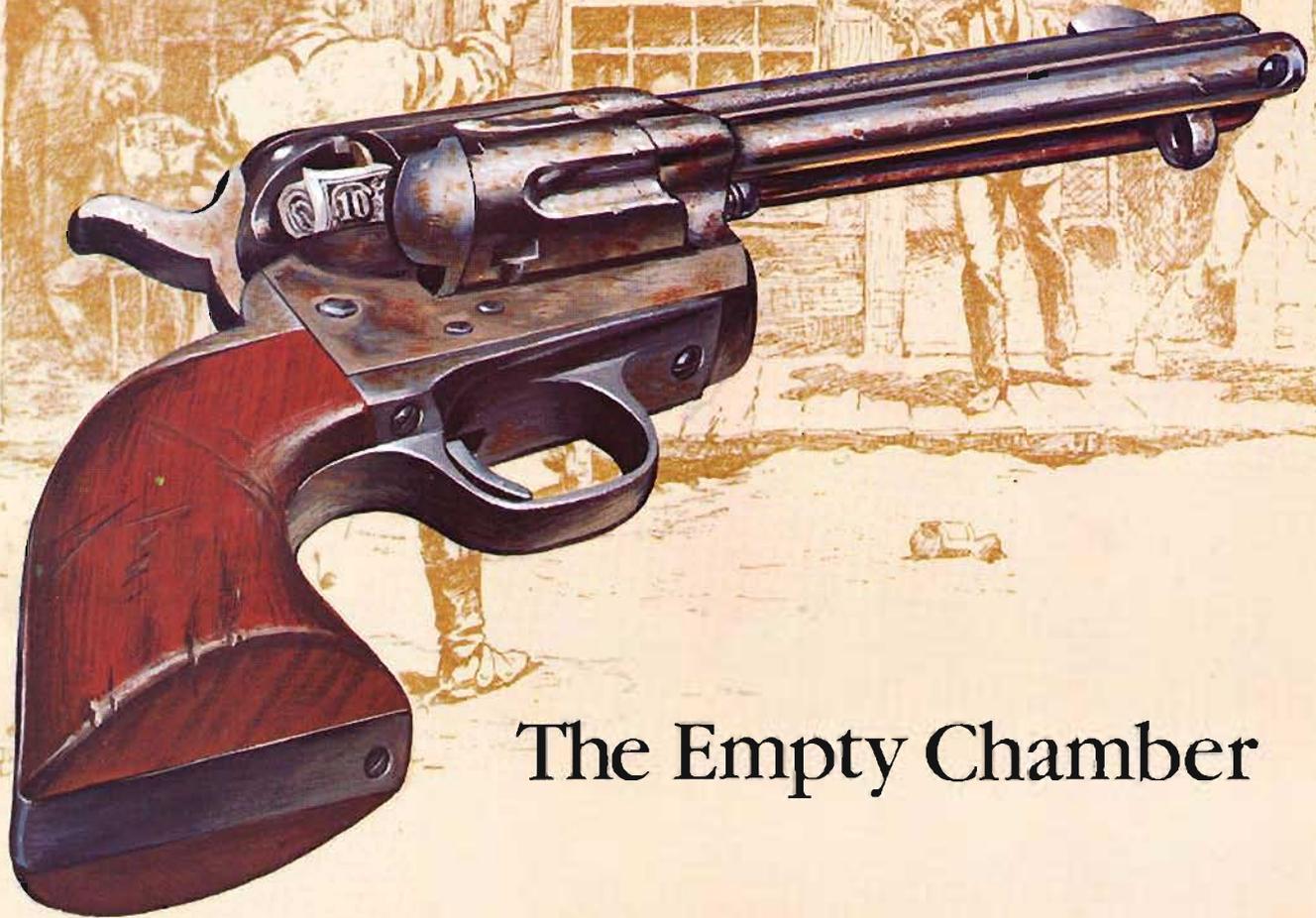
**S&W M63 KIT GUN**

**DETONICS MK VI**

**NORMA .38  
SPL. MAG**

**WIN A CUSTOM  
.45 AUTO, P. 40**





## The Empty Chamber

From the earliest frontier days of the old west, the mechanical characteristics and limitations of the single-action revolver have been well understood, as the writings of the day amply demonstrate. The safety precaution of loading the "six-shooter" with only five cartridges and resting the hammer on the empty chamber was universally practiced. According to folklore, some cowboys habitually carried "burying money" or their last bank note rolled up in the empty chamber. These old-timers understood that the notches in the hammer provided only limited protection, and that an accidental discharge could result if a fully loaded revolver were to be dropped, or if the hammer were to receive a sharp blow.

Despite the lessons of history, there are still

people who get themselves in trouble by ignoring the following common sense rules of gun handling:

1. The shooter should thoroughly understand the mechanical characteristics and rules for handling the particular type of firearm he is using.

2. The safest way to carry any old style' single-action revolver is with five chambers loaded and the hammer resting on the empty chamber.

*"The Ruger "New Model" single-action revolvers are not subject to this limitation and can be carried safely with all six chambers loaded. Some other manufacturers have added various manual safety devices to old style single-action revolvers, but no manual safety can ensure against accidents if the shooter fails to use it properly. Remember: There is no such thing as a foolproof gun!"*

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JANUARY/FEBRUARY, 1981 Vol. 6 No. 1-26



COVER: This S&W with vent rib is a product of Spokhandguns, whose story is on page 36. Photos by Richard J. Singer.

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# INDUSTRY INSIDER

JERRY RAKUSAN

## A COMPANY WITH A NEW TECHNIQUE & HIGH STANDARD UNVEILS X MODEL

There's a new name on the horizon—**Millett Industries**. Watch it closely for it may well be the most important advancement in firearms manufacturing since investment casting. Their new process apparently has all of the best features of investment casting combined with forging, though the high initial die cost limits its uses to long run parts. Millett is first offering fixed sights for autos; their adjustable sights will be out soon, and so will their scope mounts. Will there soon be full manufacture of firearms?

.....

**High Standard** has been doing some considerable trimming and juggling of their product lines. The long-awaited Crusader is finally out, but in the Commemorative models only. Those in .45 Long Colt caliber are awaiting their turn on the production line, but about half of the .44 Magnum Commemoratives—some three hundred guns—have already been produced and shipped.

An insider at the company tells us that no target date is in effect at this time for the plain-Jane, workhorse model Crusader. "So many internal target dates have been blown," we were told, "that we haven't even set an in-house target date."

Lest anyone perceive this as a sign of morbidity, the truth is quite to the contrary. Since their move from Hamden to a more compact, efficiently designed, and economical plant in East Hartford, Connecticut a few years ago, High Standard has maintained a healthy production rate.

Top quality .22 auto pistols for match competition are what High Standard is most famous for, and demand for such guns is soaring. True, conventional bull's-eye sport shooting isn't showing anything you'd call a growth spurt, but today's casual shooter is more sophisticated and quality-conscious than ever. Even for plinking, he wants the best. The proliferation of .22 rimfire metallic silhouette handgun matches have doubtless increased the demand for precision pistols in that caliber, as well.

The bottom line? In their last fiscal year, High Standard has produced and sold more of their Victory, Citation, and Trophy match .22s than in any twelve-month period in the past twenty-five years, including the years when bull's-eye shooting was at its highest peak.

To their credit, High Standard isn't satisfied. At this writing, the first samples of a

bold new concept in precision handgunning are coming off the benches of the company's master gunsmiths: the "X Model" pistol. The fitters with the greatest expertise have been selected for the task, and given carte blanche to go through the factory and seek out the finest component parts, and use them to literally hand-build super target pistols with an ultra critical fit. For the first mini-run, 120 barrels were Ransom-rest tested, and the seven best were selected for X Guns.

Why was this necessary, when most match-masters insist that the High Standard is capable of winning any bull's-eye match out of the box, and is fully comparable in accuracy to its major domestic competition, S&W's Model 41 and Ruger's Mark I? We suspect that it is the factory's answer to ultra-tuned match conversions of .22 pistols by such famed gunsmiths as Jimmy Clark, much as Colt's Custom Shop offers the specially tuned Python to compete with the best custom models produced in the private sector.

Don't misunderstand; High Standard doesn't want to put your friendly neighborhood gunsmith out of business. Their *real* target is the ultra-sophisticated (and ultra priced) .22s being imported for bull's-eye and, especially, International type competition: the Hammerli, the Walther, the Unique DES, among others. At a suggested \$599.50, the H-S X model should sharply undersell this competition; some of those foreign guns carry four-figure price tags. Look for a test of the X model soon.

.....

Before we leave the High Standard people, let us convey their reassurances to you that the popular Sentinel and Camper revolvers aren't dead, they're only sleeping. They were left out of the production schedule this year to allow a greater output of the back-ordered Western-style Double Nines, which are built on essentially the same production lines. Their field-grade Sport King pistol, once the company's answer to the Colt Woodsman, is still in production; it is just in the shadows of the Victor, Citation, and Trophy precision target guns which the firm has been concentrating on more. Current Sport Kings are being produced with the same .45-like grip angle of the Military style target jobs.

Over at **Mossberg**, the AIG Corp, handgun-making subsidiary is already well

(Continued on page 8)

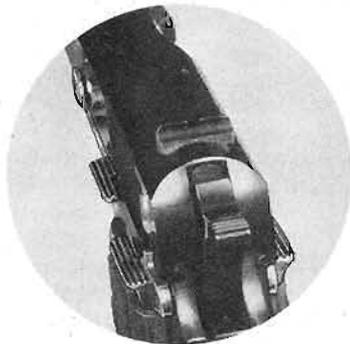
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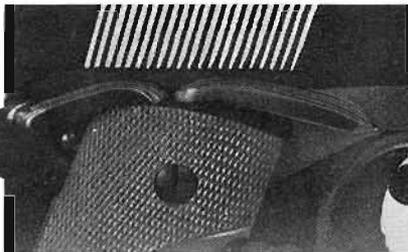
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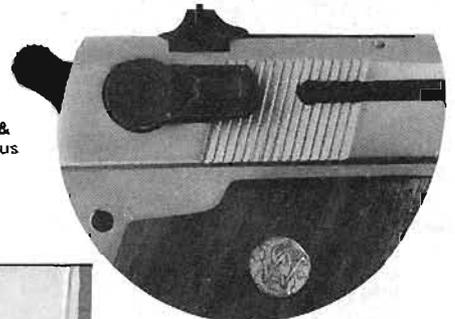
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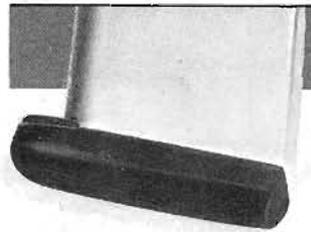
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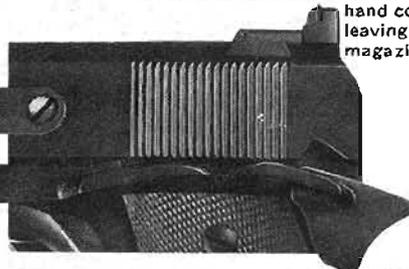


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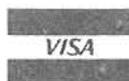


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## INDUSTRY INSIDER

(Continued from page 6)

back-ordered on their newly acquired revolver designs, the Abilene single action and the former Security Industries snubby. The Abilenes are already in the gunshops, and moving briskly according to reports.

Silhouette aficionados say that these guns are already winning in their class at IHMSA matches, even before the company has fielded the 10" barrel .44 Magnum expressly designed for that game. A Mossberg exec reports, "The 7½" .44 Magnum is far and away the best seller in the line, followed by the 6" .357 and the 6" in .45 Colt." The .45 is being made in that length only, while the Magnum calibers offer the choice of 4½", 6", or 7½" tubes.

The stainless snubby should have been out by now, admits a Mossberg exec, and has been held up only because the factory engineers have been busy on more mundane tasks. Mossberg's moderately priced rifles and shotguns are extremely successful in the marketplace, especially the model 500 pump shotgun that Mossberg

demand for their deluxe top-break model 999 has escalated sharply in proportion to the stable demand for their economy-grade revolvers.

One reason for this is the increasing sophistication and "quality consciousness" of the typical buyer, as we mentioned earlier. Another factor is the growing perception in the marketplace of the 999 as a "sleeper," a well made, good-shooting, extraordinarily durable gun at a relatively modest price. H&R's sales are built on long established designs that have been proven for decades, and have earned a reputation among gunsmiths as having an excellent frequency of repair ratio. In recent years, as the company began marketing superb imported rifles and shotguns at reasonable prices, H&R lost much of its old "cheap" image. That new perception in the marketplace is well-earned; the 999 holds its own quite well against many more expensive guns whose brand names have a tonier connotation.

Jan Stevenson's British *Handgunner* magazine is out at last. Nicely done. Stevenson is the man the late George Nonte once called "the most literate of the gun writers," and the new publication shows it.

**"For the first mini-run, 120 barrels were Ransom-rest tested, and the seven best were selected for X Guns."**

management calls "our bread and butter gun." With talent and manpower tied up on increasing the product flow of the standard items, new goodies naturally wind up on the back burner.

It now looks like 1981 at the soonest for the stainless snubby, which will be designated the "Pro 38" and is target priced at \$187.50 retail in 1980 dollars. It will have a round butt that will accept Pachmayr and other custom grips designed for the J-frame round butt S&W; barrel lengths will be two, three, and four inches, though management is well aware that the shorter length is by far the most in public demand, and will doubtless allocate production accordingly.

.....

"Now it can be told" department: it was Mossberg that built the tiny, high-capacity 9mm. prototype we wrote about in this space a year ago. Only the one gun was built, and a Mossberg spokesman assures us that the wee Parabellum is no longer being considered for production.

A look at handgun market trends through the eyes of Harrington & Richardson's decision makers is an interesting barometer of what is happening in the handgun world. H&R's bread and butter guns, sales wise, are the single barrel top break shotgun, and the .22 revolvers. Among the latter, says a company VP,

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Bull's-eye shooters will have something to talk about if the rumors we hear about S&W are true. Right now, though, they are just that, rumors. Our informants tell us that a modified Model 41 is in the works chambered for a .32 wadcutter. Center fire targetsmen should take to this like a duck to water.

.....

**Interarms**—those who have seen the new U.S. production of the **Walther PPK-S** tell us that it is a finer gun than the original German specimens. There is also word that Walther of Germany will soon stop production of their versions, reportedly first in .380 and later in .32 and .22, and get their guns for European sales from Interarms!

The **Merrill** single shot pistols are coming off the line at the Rock Pistol Manufacturing Co. in California, but ever so slowly. For all intents and purposes they are hand made guns, and until Rock gets some automated machinery, deliveries will be slow.



# HANDGUNNER

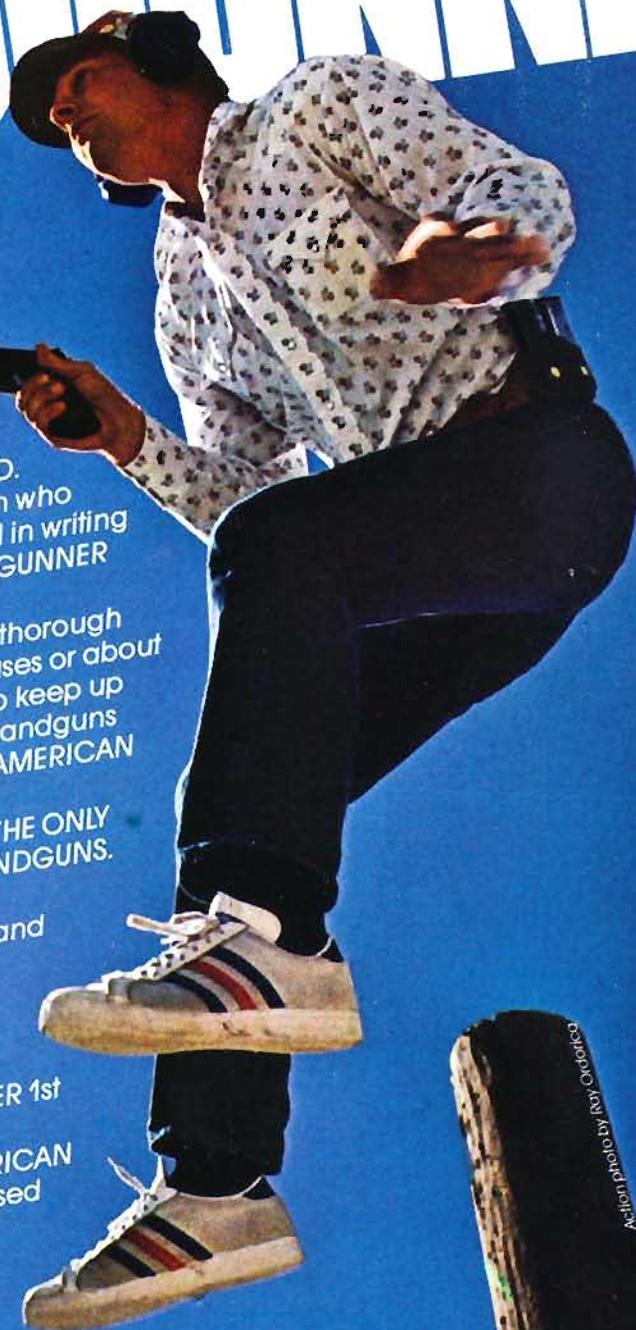
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# PISTOLSMITHING

BY RON POWER AS TOLD TO MASSAD AYOOB

## HOW TO SMOOTH OUT THE ACTION FOR THE ULTIMATE PPC REVOLVER

*THIS IS THE LAST PART of a series on the making of the ultimate PPC target revolver by custom pistolsmith Ron Power, as told to Massad Ayoob. Other parts appeared in AMERICAN HANDGUNNER of May/June 1978 and March/April 1980. Ron Power is the man who built the gun that carried Jimmy Collins to his first national championship, and a host of other guns that top-ranked combat revolver people throughout the country swear by. For more information contact Ron Power, Custom Gunsmith, P.O. Box 1604, Independence, MO 64055, (816) 833-3102.*

Since the last installment of this series appeared in HANDGUNNER, I've gone through some changes, and so have PPC guns in general. Shooters are trending more toward flat-sided barrels and quick-change sights. I no longer use Bo-Mar ribs exclusively, though they make up the bulk of my work; Bill Davis' Aristocrat rib makes sight changes a lot handier without having to count clicks, and so does Travis Strahan's Mascot series.

I've got my own rib out now, machined all out of stainless. It has quick-change features, and is sold only as a part of my Grandmaster guns, not separately. The Grandmaster I donated to HANDGUNNER for their contest is the one-thousandth PPC revolver I've personally built, which covers a lot of years of work. It's the ultimate refinement over my old Full House competition gun, and the demand is such that I may not be making the older model much longer.

The basic actions stay the same, though, and that's what we promised to talk about this time. Everyone who's ever had the sideplate off a Smith & Wesson seems to feel qualified to do action jobs, but in fact a book could be written on the details of this subject. Let me just touch on the high points, the way we handle them here at Power Custom.

First off, make sure the gun you choose for PPC competition is decent to start with. We find about three Smiths in ten will have the frame machined off, or the chambers not quite true, and a gun like that will either require lots of extra work, or never be a match grade custom revolver at all. Once you're sure you've got a good base gun, the first thing is to make sure that the cylinder is properly fitted, and the head-space and cylinder gap are correct. You don't want more than .001" endshake, and

it should be closer to zero on a new gun. Be sure that the extractor rod is perfectly straight, and the cylinder trued-up and free-spinning.

### THE HAMMER

I start with the hammer. I either fit a spring-loaded hammer nose (firing pin) spring, or install a Model 66 hammer assembly, which comes this way. The factory should build all their K frames this way, because it would save misfires. The way the frame is machined, the hammer nose has to pivot and go around a small corner to get through and reach the primer. Inertia throws the nose to 12 o'clock.

Put the sideplate back on with one screw (lower or rear), and with a 1/8" carbide cutter on a Dremel, go into the back of the receiver where the top part of the hammer goes through the frame, and take out 10/1000ths in the top half-inch area of the hammer slot. This frame widening ensures that the hammer's top edge won't rub the frame, which could cause drag and misfires.

Next, knock the sharp corner off the lower edge of the hammer foot where the rebound block slides under, and knock the corresponding corner off the rebound block, so they'll pass each other more smoothly. Be careful not to stone too much off this area, or the block will start wedging under the hammer foot, and give you trigger-return problems.

Also at this time, stake the hammer pins in on both sides, and stone both sides of the hammer. You want those surfaces glassy-smooth and totally burr-free.

### THE TRIGGER

Now, the trigger. I like to make it as round as possible in profile so the finger can roll over it. I don't want any sharp edges. This works wonders on either a standard trigger or a 3/8" Combat style. Then, drill and tap for the overtravel screw.

Stone the front portion of the trigger in the area the cylinder stop works off of, and also, cut a slight angle on top of this area so when the trigger returns forward it will require less pressure. This angle change reduces bind on the cylinder.

I fit the cylinder stop in the standard manner. If any metal is removed, it is from the upper left-hand side (as you would see it aiming the gun). The cylinder stop should fit free in the frame. If the slot in the

frame has to be widened, always do so on the left side.

At about this point, I polish the *main-spring* and bend it in an arc, which gives me more adjustment for the strain screw, which I'll replace with an Allen head unit. A brass plunger also goes into the bottom of a Power gun's frame, with a lock screw. This is so the shooter can adjust main-spring tension to his brand of primers. The reason we polish the springs isn't to make them weaker and lighter, but to eliminate any factory tool marks that could be the beginnings of fracture lines in the future.

The *rebound block* is a critical area. I polish all bearing surfaces, and then install one of our lighter rebound springs that are made especially for us. They're not too unlike the factory spring for the single action K-38.

#### THE HAMMER HOOK

The *hammer hook* is also touchy. On the Smith & Wesson, you're talking about a .007" notch; it's hard to get a stone into this area without rounding it and possibly ruining the hammer. Try to avoid that area entirely and concentrate on stoning the trigger. There will be times that this won't get all the creep out, and a burr in the SA notch of the hammer may be the cause. Use a round Carballoy tool and slide it across this area of the hammer foot, rather than stoning. It should clean out any burrs and give you a good, crisp pull. If you



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ignore my advice and try to stone a single action hammer hook, at least do yourself a favor and use a very fine, sharp-edged stone.

Make sure your *sear engagement areas* are parallel to each other, and 90 degrees to the pivot points of the hammer and trigger.

Fitting of the *cylinder hand* is crucial. S&W revolvers almost always need a wider hand than comes from the factory. One mistake many people make is to leave the front corner sharp. Trouble is, the extractor is soft and the hand is relatively hard, and every time you work the action it's like running a very sharp chisel across the extractor lugs. The gun will lock up quickly this way, but it won't lock up for very long. Since the wear will be on the

extractor, you'll need wider and wider hands, and before you know it you'll be reaching for a hand over .010" diameter, which means you're ready for a new extractor.

#### THE CYLINDER HAND

It's better to just round the corner of the hand, only enough to break the sharp edge so it won't dig. You also don't want it protruding any in front of the recoil shield, at all, because it will dig into cartridge brass and hang up your DA pull. The action will work great in the gunshop, and bind as soon as you load it on the range.

Gunsmiths can get hands from the S&W factory as wide as Size 100. I've seen some hands as wide as .104", and some 'smiths alter and offset the point of the hand or weld it up, but I find that on either K or N frame, the max practical width is .010. Beyond that, you need a new extractor.

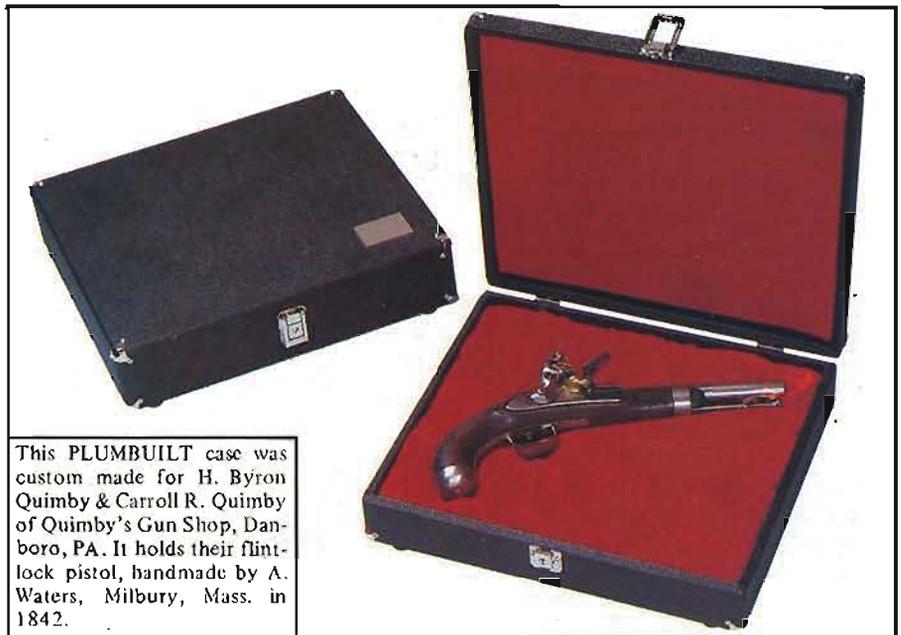
The fitting of the *cylinder stop* is often overlooked in timing a Smith & Wesson. Customers often complain about the marks this makes around the cylinder between the bolt cuts. If you want performance, face it: there's no way functioning will be proper and reliable without marking the cylinder this way.

The relationship between the front edge of the trigger and the bevelled edge of the cylinder stop is critical. The length of this area determines how low the cylinder stop  
*(Continued on page 23)*

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# SIGHT SETTINGS

LUCY CHAMBLISS

## AN EDUCATION IN DIRECTORSHIP & A DISAPPOINTMENT IN ARIZONA

I will not be a candidate for reelection to the NRA Board of Directors when my term expires in 1981. My one term was an honor, an experience, and an education. I know of no substitute, no other accurate way of seeing the detailed operation of our NRA, than to be a director. By personal contacts and through this column, I have tried to make people aware of projects or improvements, some perhaps only being considered in a sub-committee. Sure, they may not survive the close scrutiny of a full committee, the Board, and the Executive Committee to become a reality. However, I see no harm in letting you know your representatives in this huge organization do listen and do try. I was not willing to take the unjust criticism made by some members, that "Directors don't listen, don't care what we think and are too far removed by time... or, have never been 'there' in the first place, to ask our opinion." The involvement of more shooters is vital to this body which governs our shooting events. On, or off the Board, I will continue to encourage more shooter involvement in such decisions.

### ARIZONA INTERNATIONAL

I fired the U.S. International Shooting Championships at Black Canyon, Arizona last June for the first time in several years. The indoor, air-conditioned air gun range is a great asset and improvement. My impressions and constructive criticisms of the championships otherwise were that the range had deteriorated and the spirit of the match subdued. The latter could have been due to the Olympic boycott, as these were to be the tryouts for our team going to Moscow. Many firing points that could have been used to shorten the number of relays were not used, because—I was told—there were no target frames. The support holding the partitions at my firing point won't be there another year if the rotten boards aren't replaced, etc.

Scheduling of the use of the air gun range was bad, a fault I understand will be corrected in '81. Half a day was for air rifle only, half for air pistol only. This idea probably looked good on paper, I have had similar bad ideas as a Tournament Director. Invariably, the .22 rifle shooters were squadded to shoot their matches while the air gun range was open for air rifle only. When it opened for air pistol only, many of us were scheduled to fire Center Fire, Ladies match, or Standard

pistol. Consequently many firing points were vacant that should have been used every minute. You were not allowed to fill in any time there was a vacancy, in order to get your 3 aggregates fired. Next year, the range may be divided in half by firing points and that half used all day on a fill-in basis by air rifle and the other half all day by pistol. Hopefully this will be done. Shooting these championships that are so interesting and so challenging, should not take 5-6 days, with 3-4 hours of sitting and waiting and only shooting 2 hours out of a day, as motel, meal, car expenses grow. Let's try to use every firing point for at least a 6 hour day. Too, one official should be on hand to check guns all day, not just morning hours. Many competitors arrive anytime at the range the day prior to their event and would like to get that compulsory item out of the way.

### PRACTICE UNNECESSARY

There was a practice day and most shooters thought that unnecessary. You have sighters in each match and that day could have been for record, removing some of the one day luck involved in just one 60 shot match. I realize some matches were shortened this year to give more time to the Olympic qualifying events and that more shooting is planned for '81. There was talk of a cut-off for next year, after 2 days of record firing. I hope they don't, if you get to a tournament of this importance, after qualifying through a preliminary tryout, you want to shoot as much as possible. With elimination scores, you are also putting another statistical burden on your stat people, pulling out scores for the firing of the championship day, rather than getting through and getting your winners off the top. Next year will probably see some improvements so plan to be in this match, I will be. A nice souvenir for all competitors was a Certificate of Participation signed by the president of the U.S. Olympic Committee: it looks good in a police resume file.

### ASSIGNED RELAY NEEDED

I think these championships would benefit from the assigned relay system. For the military it wouldn't matter, but for the civilians and police we're trying to interest, who are trying to plan a family vacation, or get in and out of Phoenix quickly to save job "down time," being given a specific

*(Continued on page 26)*



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# HANDGUN HUNTING

J. D. JONES

## HANDGUN, DISTANCE, GAME, COVER AFFECT WHETHER TO SHOOT OR NOT

I've see more BS written on handgun hunting in the past year than I have in the past ten. A lot of these published "experts" would have you believe handgun hunters are "super people," who don't shoot unless an animal is within 50 yards standing broadside and will wait until you get into a rock steady position, clear out all of the weeds and limbs, measure the distance and compute trajectory, remaining velocity, energy and compare it to the charts to see if it's great enough to assure a clean kill. Bull! Most decisions are made in a split second. You buckle something on and go for a walk in the woods. You either have a target or you don't. Sitting down watching a run or waterhole gives you a little time to think things out, but at least 50 percent of the time the animals don't cooperate by showing up exactly where you envisioned them—or by stopping where you want them to.

So what do you do now? That ten-pointer is five yards away and staring straight at you. Think he'll stay there when you raise your gun? Think he'll be curious of those four clicks when you ear back the hammer of the S.A. Colt? Nope. If you've any sense at all you'll do whatever you think you can and nail him. Maybe you will and maybe you won't, but it's almost guaranteed you'll try unless smitten with a bad case of buck fever or just don't know what to do. No one can tell you what to do or what the outcome will be. Your skill, his room to maneuver, cover and just plain luck is going to tell the tale.

Several years ago I'd just about have bet all I owned, and maybe some I didn't, on a shot at a mulie. I was carrying a scoped 10" T/C in anticipation of the possibility of a long shot. Strolling around in the middle of the day suddenly two nice buck appeared in front of me in the scruboaks. Couldn't have been more than 30-35 yards away. Picked out the one that looked biggest, raised the T/C and two dead 4-6" limbs intersected right through the middle of his shoulder to form a shallow "X." I thought I could heart-shoot him with no trouble but just to be on the safe side, bent my knees slightly to give a little more room to shoot under the limbs. Touched her off and the deer took off. Figured a perfect heart shot. Reloaded, took two steps and saw the only old fence within ten miles with its top strand shot clean in half. Had I not bent my knees a little the bullet would

have missed the wire—and maybe hit the deer or the limb.

How about shooting through a little pine covering the shoulder of a deer? Whitetails frequently stop behind little trees or bushes. Chances are excellent a heavy slug will go right on through a pine or bush without being deflected. However, if that pine is 10 feet from the shooter and 100 feet from the deer it's foolish to try. Reverse those distances and I'll try it.

### DISTANCE

When is an animal too far away to shoot at? It's simple—if you have any doubt about being able to hit him where you want to hit him, he's too far away. That could be 20 feet if you are totally winded. It could be 200 yards with a scope or some heavy, powerful iron that will shoot clean through a deer lengthwise at that distance. Your skill, gun, ammo and the general conditions at the time of the shot make anything but the most liberal generalizations inappropriate.

I'm fond of generalizing that the .357 Mag isn't enough gun for most deer hunting. I also know an individual who has killed in excess of a dozen Cape Buffalo with a .357 wheelgun. That does not make it a good deer gun though. The .357 can be made to penetrate. No doubt about that. I think I could probably build a bullet capable of penetrating the skull of an elephant when fired from a .357 wheelgun, but I doubt if I'll ever have a call for it. Handgun Hunters International, Box .357 Mag, Bloomindale, OH 43910, members have a real exchange going over the .357 and its performance on game.

### PISTOL POWER

Pistol power also enters into the question of to shoot or not. Today's guns are capable of terrific power. Generally I don't have much use for the .357 Mag, .30 Herrett or anything packing less punch than those for game of over 100 pounds. Both are accurate, mild recoiling varmint guns that leave a lot to be desired when shooting large or medium-sized game. The .41 and .44 magnums seem fairly close in the field with the edge, of course, going to the .44. I wouldn't hesitate at shooting a deer at 100 yards with a .44 but really doubt if I would try it with a .357—at least I haven't tried it yet.

The big single shots in various calibers  
(Continued on page 27)

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# COP TALK

MASSAD AYOUB

## SEVEN THOUSAND POLICEMEN AGREE .38 ROUND NOSE ISSUE INADEQUATE

No doubt about it, Los Angeles Police Department is the trend-setting uniformed law enforcement agency in the nation. Since the epoch of Chief William Parker, whom many criminal justice professors think did for public safety management what Thorsten Veblen did for the study of economics, LAPD has been the pace-setter in patrol tactics, equipment planning, training, special enforcement projects, you name it.

There is, however, one area where most students of the specialty—and most of LA's seven thousand cops—think the department is terribly backward. This is the fact that the only sidearm ammunition permitted is .38 Special high-speed, 158-grain round nose lead.

To find out the reason for this curious contradiction, the magazine assigned me to go to LAPD and learn both sides of the issue from the people involved... the patrolmen, and the spokesmen for management.

Sgt. Dick Newell is head of firearms training and he is the man LAPD's cooperative public information section referred us to for official department comment.

Sgt. Newell is extremely knowledgeable in his field, and is responsible for some pioneering innovations in police handgun training that we'll discuss in future issues. He is also fiercely loyal to his agency, a trait that runs throughout the ranks of this corps of men and women so widely noted for integrity and esprit.

We asked what the city's rationale is for issuing the cartridge in question. Said Newell, "They (LAPD's decision-makers) think that our city is somewhat different in density than other cities may be, and that our needs are perhaps unique to our city. They believe the 158-gr. round ball load meets these needs."

The general feeling among firearms people is that the load in question is poor for the job because (a) it delivers very little "stopping power," (b) it has wicked ricochet characteristics, and (c) has a severe tendency to exit a felon's body with enough force to kill anyone behind him. Sgt. Newell could not state how many shootings a year involve such dangerous exit wounds, but concedes, "It is quite a penetrating round."

We asked if LAPD thought this degree of penetration was desirable. "From the literature I've read," Newell replied, "it is most desirable to see the round expend its

energy in the first few inches of the subject it hits. You and I both know there are better rounds for doing that, if that is your total objective." Was there another consideration, such as the ability to shoot through car doors?" He replied, "The training is to try to surround the suspect and subdue him by other means."

Public outcry against police brutality, Newell says, is one factor Headquarters considered in its decision to stay with round-nose bullets, instead of hi-performance loads such as hollowpoints, which ACLU and other groups have branded "dumdums." Yet this seems to be an almost groundless fear in Los Angeles. No citizens groups have complained about the fact that each police car is equipped with an Ithaca combat shotgun loaded with 12-ga. Magnum 00 buckshot, the destructive power of which compares to .38 hollowpoints as a Kenworth truck compares to a VW Rabbit. Newell added, "Several agencies around here have changed to an expanding bullet, and I was surprised; there was very little public reaction. I had anticipated a lot more. Highway Patrol changed to (110-gr. JHP "+P+" Treasury Load) and got a lot of pressure, but we didn't hear much when the sheriff changed to expanding bullets, and we didn't hear as much as we expected when FBI came out and recommended an expanding round."

### NO HOT LOADS

In local jargon, hollowpoints and other performance rounds are known as "hot loads," and to be caught with one in his service weapon or off-duty gun costs an LA cop dearly. "An officer found with hot loads will absolutely be penalized. Routine inspections are done in the divisions at the discretion of the supervisor, and I doubt that a week goes by that the officer's weapon isn't at least glanced at by a superior. If no shooting was involved, the prohibited ammo would result in a couple of penalty days off; if shooting was involved, discipline could be more severe, and the officer would be subject to civil liability suits (in which he would not be supported by the department)." It is almost unknown, continues Newell, for LA cops to carry the outlawed ammo.

The most often quoted reason for the round-nose ammo is that an officer or bystander shot with an officer's gun will be less seriously injured. According to Sgt.

(Continued on page 27)

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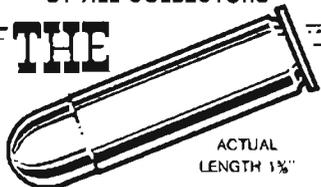
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# SILUETAS

PHILIP C. BRIGGS

## SIERRA'S NEW .44FMJ CARTRIDGE PASSES THE TEST FOR SILHOUETTE

Sierra had samples of a .44 caliber full metal jacket bullet at the 1978 IHMSA Internationals in Salina, but by the time I'd sniffed them out they were almost all gone. The bullet looked like one of their 170 grain .357 caliber FMJ's scaled up; a blunt round nose atop a long cylindrical body with a cannellure at the juncture. It weighed 240 grains and came in two versions, one a traditional FMJ, and the other a round nose with a very small lead tip.

Later efforts to secure a couple of boxes to test were met with a request to wait a spell; apparently the bullet wasn't performing up to Sierra's standards, and it was being redesigned.

Finally, this past spring, Sierra released their final design, and indeed it had been revised from that first attempt. The new bullet is a 220 grain truncated cone bullet, and although referred to as an FMJ, it's really a flat (soft) point, with a rather large flat nose of exposed lead. Actually it looks a lot like their 9mm and .45 caliber JHP's. There's no hollowpoint, but the jacket nose is rolled over into the core just like on the JHP's. Truncated cone shapes seem to

be gaining favor in pistol bullets, and they of course have been used by Sierra in their line of jacketed pistol bullets.

Picking ten bullets at random from the box, I weighed and miked them to get a feel for their uniformity. They averaged 221.1 grains on my old scale, with variation of 1.5 grains. Average diameter was .4284 inches, on my mike, with a variation of .0008 inches. I don't know how accurate my measurements are, but the diameter (the average is a thousandth under Sierra's spec's) is about the same as their 240 grain JHC. In any event, the variation is probably correct (and not much).

The bullets laid around for several months as I was occupied with a couple of unlimited guns (I'm a freak for unlimiteds). Finally getting back to siluetas mainstream I loaded up several test series, and repaired to the range with my M33 Oehler, Lee Precision pistol rest and my old six-inch flat top Blackhawk (I said it was old).

The table shows the results of the morning's session. I didn't have enough bullets to pursue a best load for this pistol with the



Left to right: 240 grain Hornady FMJ, 220 grain Sierra FMJ, and 240 grain Sierra JHC. Right photo: Sierra FMJ (l), Hornady FMJ (mid), Sierra JHC (r).

### .44 Mag Test

	Powder	Charge	Primer	Group Size (Inches)	Velocity (Feet/sec.)
180 Sierra JHC	H110	29.3	CCI-350	2.03	—
240 Sierra JHC	H4227	21.7	Fed-150	2.34	1285
240 Speer SP	Factory	—	—	2.85	1404
240 Hornady FMJ	H4227	21.7	Fed-150	2.57	1269
220 Sierra FMJ	H4227	21.7	Fed-150	2.17	1273
220 Sierra FMJ	H4227	24.5	Fed-150	1.90	1386
220 Sierra FMJ	H110	22.6	Fed-150	1.90	1307
220 Sierra FMJ	2400	22.5	Fed-150	2.12	1431

Velocities are instrumental at 10 feet from muzzle, and are average for one live-shot string; group size is the average of three five-shot groups from the Lee rest.



A spotter in a silhouette match looking comfortable seated in the BackJack.

bullet, but it shot essentially the same size groups (two inches) with the four loads tried. Not as good as a good single shot, but that's about as good as this pistol has done with anything I've used to date. And it shot the 220 as well or better than two other Sierra bullets, and better than a couple of the competition's. Can't ask for much more than that.

#### THE BACKJACK

I recently was sent a strange looking apparatus, called the BackJack, for an evaluation as to its utility to the silhouette shooter. It looks like a modern tube framed canvas covered chair, except it doesn't have any legs. Rather than sitting in the frame, you sit on a cushion that flops out from the short loop of the frame, and

rest your back against the tall loop. They call it a leisure seat, and the brochure shows all kinds of people draped over it, in a lot of different situations.

Now it would make a great rest for the shooter, but that's a tad illegal, so we took it to the range for the spotter to use.

It works fine. As you can see from the photo, the ground level seating position puts the spotter down close to the freestyle shooters line of fire. This reduces parallax between the scope's line of sight and the bullet's path—which allows the spotter to better judge misses by the location of the bullet strike behind the target.

Further good news is that it's comfy, even on the hard ground, and the canvas cover stayed clean (the color matched that of our dust) and if it does get dirty the cover removes for washing.

In use, the spotter gets settled, reaches over for the scope, and sets it down with a leg on either side of theirs, and the third in the middle. With your back firmly supported, you move the scope back till you can see, and then concentrate on staying awake. It's that comfortable.

In fact, if things really go to hell, you can flop it over, lay back on it and go to sleep.

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# Sheriff's Model 44/40



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Using a barricade for support to increase accuracy with a handgun is a simple process, right? All you've got to do is lean on the barricade and blaze away, so it would seem at first glance. Actually, there is a little more to it than that, as any seasoned match shooter can tell you.

As a practical matter, there are two reasons for firing from cover, both of them important. First, the object you are behind will provide protection from an enemy's fire. Secondly, if properly used for support accuracy potential can be greatly enhanced, at a time when your nervous system may not be at its best level. In recognition of these vital functions, the barricade has become an integral part of both the NRA Police Combat matches and the IPSC freestyle competition program.

Use of the barricade to best advantage can be a rather subtle thing, and involves more than just support against a solid surface. Proper foot placement should be understood, full advantage of the available cover should be taken, and paradoxically, not too much dependence should be placed on the barricade for support.

Jim Cirillo and Ray Chapman, both men of great match experience, make the point that not too much weight should be placed upon the barricade. Their experience has been that from match to match, and from place to place, barricade construction will vary widely. At one match the support will be rock solid, and at the next it might be as shaky as a politician's promise. Also, if too much weight is placed on the supporting surface the shooter's hands can take quite a scraping and beating when the gun recoils.

### FOOT POSITION

Perhaps the proper place to start would be with foot position. The shooter's stance should be well balanced, so that muscle strain will be lessened, and so that disturbance from wind and recoil will be minimized. To attain this balanced effect the shooter should position himself a comfortable arm's length behind the barricade with one foot near each side of the box or foul line. This stance is less strained and better balanced than placing the left foot in front of the right when shooting around the right side of the barricade. You are also less susceptible to errant gusts of wind. The feet should be fairly even, with neither leading the other. Some shooters will raise the left heel off the ground when shooting

around the right side, and vice versa for the left side.

Once the feet are comfortably positioned the pistol should be grasped as you would normally hold it in both hands when firing without support. This is important, because if you change your grip significantly it will also change the point of impact of your bullet.

Next extend the arms, either fully or with elbows slightly bent, to suit your style. If you have positioned yourself correctly, and if you are right handed, the back of the left or supporting hand will be even with the side of the barricade while you are in a fairly upright stance.

### USE LIGHT SUPPORT

After extending the arms, lightly lay the back of the left hand against the side of the barricade. Jim Cirillo put it very succinctly when he described this contact as "just hanging the skin of the hand on the side of the barricade." This light support does



Left-side shooting stance is assumed by Ken Hackathorn. As body leans left, the right heel is lifted for balance.



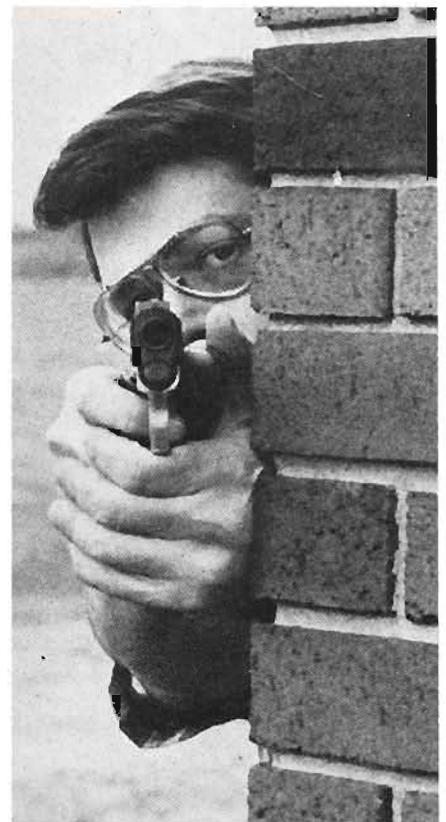
**Left side barricade technique exposes more of the shooter when using strong side grip, but speed and control gain. Here it's OK to cant the gun slightly.**

several things. It helps to steady the pistol for that all important accuracy, but it doesn't place too much reliance on what might at best be a wobbly crutch. It also minimizes recoil effect on the left hand against the wall. It goes without saying that the pistol itself is never laid against a hard object for support.

Shooting around the weak side of the barricade calls for a somewhat different approach. In years past it was quite a common practice to just switch the pistol to the weak hand and use the same methods described above. Nowadays, quite a few pistoleros keep the pistol in the strong hand and just lean over and shoot around the barricade with their normal two hand grip. This necessitates canting the pistol a bit to accommodate the stance to the left side of the barricade, but that's not necessarily as bad as it may seem. Point of impact will be shifted somewhat, especially at the longer ranges, but once you've learned to hold off to correctly compensate, that ceases to be a problem. Aiming just a trifle high and right on the target will compensate for a slight cant to the left.

Most people have far better control of the weapon when they keep it in the strong hand than if they switch to the weak. So, whenever the rules permit a freestyle approach in this type of shooting, most people are better off with this method.

*(Continued on page 22)*



**Felon's eye view of basic barricade technique on the right side. Not much of the shooter is exposed. Left hand touches wall lightly for steadiness.**

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(Continued from page 21)

While we were attending his school in the fall of 1978, Ray Chapman demonstrated a good barricade technique for really windy and blustery weather conditions. Ray suggested quickly jumping into position and dropping to both knees to lower the center of gravity. In shooting around the barricade from this low position the shooter is steadier and less subject to buffeting from the wind. Also, if you are stuck with a wobbly barricade this might help to steady things down and improve your performance enough to make a difference.

#### ATTAIN INSTANT STANCE

While expounding on his barricade techniques, Ray Chapman also pointed out the advantage of attaining the proper stance the instant the competitor enters the shooting box. In a match calling for a quick approach to the barricade it is quite common to see much shifting of feet to get the best positioning, but when Ray enters the box he is in the correct firing stance as soon as his feet hit the ground.

Oftimes, as in freestyle shooting, the contestant will be required to approach a wall quickly and then fire an extremely fast burst of shots at several targets. The range will usually be short and the need for precision will be secondary to lightning quick accuracy. In such a situation trying to utilize the barricade for support is out of the question.

#### UTILIZE TWO-HAND GRIP

To meet this problem the experienced pistolero just assumes the Weaver Stance and shoots around the wall as if it were not there at all. The two hand grip is utilized for recoil control and the rapid shifting of aim from target to target. If an attempt were made to utilize the barricade it would only interfere with rapid recoil recovery for follow up shots and shifting of aim between targets.

The use of barricades on a formal range is fairly straightforward. Techniques are relatively well standardized, without too much variation between shooters. One thing that must be kept in mind is that use of the artificial barricade on a range should not so limit and stereotype our approach that we become inflexible and unable to adapt. This range training, after all, is just a limited attempt to teach and indoctrinate the shooter to use cover wherever possible. I sometimes think that more imagination could be used in match design to further this goal.

In 1978, Ken Hackathorn hosted a very vigorous surprise assault course with several interesting features. It included firing and exiting from a moving vehicle, going down through a large and brushy creek bed, and going into a small dark house. The most interesting feature though, to me at least, was a requirement that all "hostile" targets be engaged from cover or

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while on the move. This, to stress the fact that in actual combat we wouldn't want to present a fat and easy target to an opponent. Brush, trees, the creek bank, barrels, the prone position, etc., were all considered to be "covered." Ranges varied from a scant ten feet right on out to about thirty yards.

This was a very fresh breath of air injected into a type of match that, while stimulating, often suffers from a lack of any combat logic at all. I'm not for a minute suggesting that it is the last word for a match of this type, but the use of improvised cover and movement while firing is not a thing to be overlooked in either training or competition.

All in all, shooting from cover is a tactic that more shooters should take a serious look at. The match shooter has done this already, in a rather stylized and stereotyped manner. I think most of us could benefit by looking at the whole concept in a more flexible and innovative manner.



## PISTOLSMITHING

(Continued from page 11)

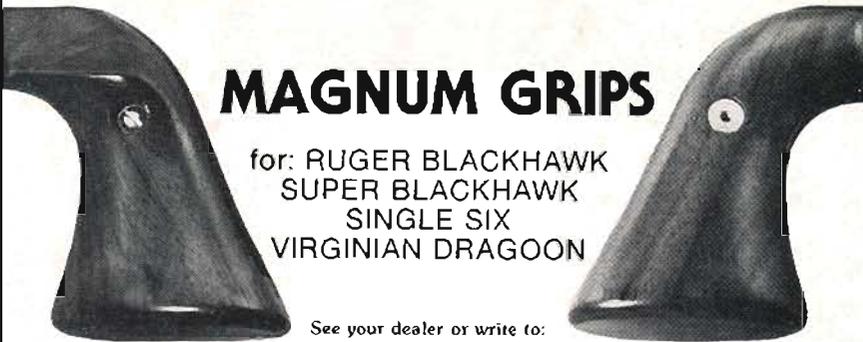
will be pulled down into the frame. At no time do you want the top to come all the way down inside the frame. It can hang up there, and the cylinder won't lock. You want it fitted so that the top portion of the stop, which engages the cylinder notches, will bottom right into those notches for maximum bearing surface—and marks on the bluing be darned!

The thumbpiece is a troublemaker often overlooked. Oftentimes it's not properly fitted, and the cylinder won't rotate completely free. The centerpin is pushing back against the thumbpiece bolt assembly, the rear of which is too long and bottoming out on the frame. This creates forward pressure on the cylinder pin, and the result is constant friction. Remove the thumbpiece and file 15 or 20 thousandths off its back edge. The way to check for this is to close the cylinder assembly, and pull the thumbpiece to the rear as you turn the cylinder. If it now turns freely, you've found the problem.

### THE TIMING

Once the parts are stoned and fitted to each other—a laborious process; remember, we're only touching on the high points in this article—you're ready to set up for timing. Getting every chamber to lock in position for proper alignment with the DA hammer fall requires proper fitting of the hand and cylinder stop. In the last few years, we've found that not only width, but also length of the S&W hand seems to be important. I wish they'd make them about

(Continued on page 52)



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By Bill Davidson

The collecting of large, sometimes mean wild pigs with handguns is a fairly esoteric sport. Hog hunting with shotguns and brush-type rifles has been a staple sport in the South and West for years, but handgunning pigs is almost as rare as the old British-India style of sticking 'em with lances or spears.

The smallish, rather delicate javelina or Southwestern United States-Mexican pecary can be taken with almost any handgun, although available evidence suggests that the .357 magnum is fairly well favored. But for full-scale wild pigs of the European breed and for many of this continent's large genuinely wild pigs, the .357 may be underpowered.

This writer's experience hunting big, capable Northern California wild pigs—truly wild ones, not feral hogs—was indicative. I hunted with Phoenix outdoor writer Ben Avery and six other gun-writing/editing people on the Dye Creek Ranch and Preserve near Red Bluff. The agreement was that on the hunt's first day

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210-gr. SP, HP,	19.5 #4227
K-type lead	18.5 #2400

#### **.45 COLT**

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SP, HP, K-lead	35.0 FFg black
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#### **.44 MAGNUM**

240-gr. SP,	19.0 #2400
HP, K-lead	22.0 #4227
265-gr. SP	20.5 #4227
	18.0 #2400

At right, author Bill Davidson with hog shot with .41 Ruger using factory loaded soft point bullet. Below, hogs roam wild at Dye Creek Ranch Preserve.



# HUNTING WILD HOGS



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we would use only handguns. Afterward, those who wanted could switch to rifles.

The hunt was assembled by H. L. (Bill) Richardson, a California state senator, ardent hunter, bird-dog trainer and a stand-out advocate of people's rights to keep and use guns. Richardson is also a sometime writer on hunting, gun "control" and other subjects important to sportsmen and others.

Richardson wanted to find out how eight handgunners, most of them reasonably proficient, would do on Dye Creek pigs. We all found out, each reaching perhaps a slightly different conclusion. But the main result was that only the big magnums seemed adequate for the hardy wild pigs which have ranged Northern California since the Forty-Niners abandoned their ancestors in favor of the gold diggings.

The Northern California hogs are not Europeans. They are not as big and probably not quite as aggressive. But they are wild in the genuine sense—not just feral hogs. According to Dye Creek game-managers-biologists Dan Patten and Jim-Dorsey, the Northern California tuskers have been breeding wild and free for 120-130 years; they are no one's Miss Piggy gone astray.

#### YOU COULD GET HURT

No one has yet officialized a grand slam on North American wild pigs, in the mystique created about wild sheep and some other species. The pigs' genealogy is too indistinct at this point. There are fairly large numbers of European wild pigs in Western North Carolina and East Tennessee, and there is another bunch of Europeans (often miscalled "Russian" or "Prussian" boars) in California's Monterey Peninsula country. Both Appalachian and Monterey Europeans have interbred with local feral hogs and to some extent with native wild pigs. But all pigs descend in girth and awesomeness from the European downward; the Appalachian Europeans will weigh about 150-200 pounds more than wild pigs of the Dye Creek breed, and maybe 100 pounds over their Monterey County cousins.

But they're all impressive, especially when you figure you can get hurt—genuinely hurt—taking on either European or native wild pigs with a handgun. And that adds a tang to pig hunting that you cannot get from scrambling up the sheerest slope in wild-sheep country or bagging the fastest buck ever.

The Deep South wild pig is usually not as wild, although the degree of difference is probably academic and Southerners will argue their porcines as troublesome as any. It is usually harder in the South to figure out whether a pig is wild or someone's free-ranging winter meat. There especially, care about hog markings is advisable. In the Upper South—Arkansas, upstate Louisiana, Tennessee, etc.—there

*(Continued on page 52)*

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## SIGHT SETTINGS

(Continued from page 12)

time to shoot would reduce expenses. All shooters could save energy if they knew what time that 3rd relay came up. Guessing is risky so you come early—and sit in the desert heat. At least some sort of updated, more detailed time schedule sent with your entry confirmation would help. Surely by that time, 3 weeks before the matches, some tentative squadding is known. According to this year's program, POST entries are taken at this national championship. This may be one thing causing poor scheduling.

California matches have large entries, partly due to their use of the assigned relay, and certainly the combat regionals I attended in the east fired in that manner were some of the biggest and the best. Two hours to shoot 150 record shots in a Maryland regional compared to 2½ days in Arizona to fire 100 record shots makes a difference in how many people have an interest in NRA International and give it the needed support.

### RUDENESS & SHORT TEMPER

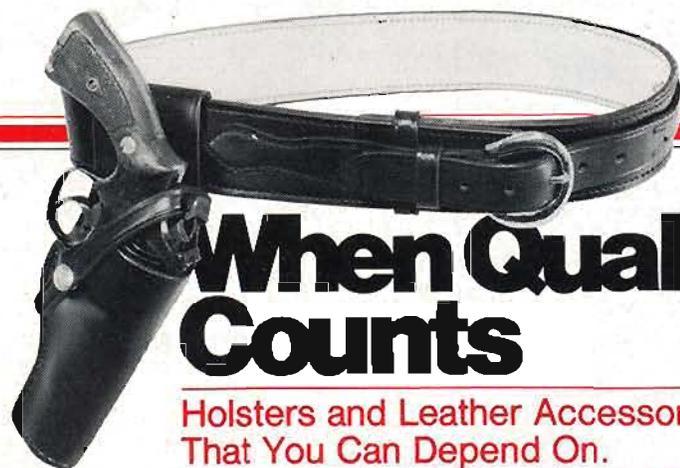
Many well-trained volunteer match officials were missing from Black Canyon. Some shooters said it was due to a few competitor's rudeness to these workers last year. This year these volunteers found something else to do beside stand on the Arizona desert and score targets or run the line for shooters. I know tempers get short in competition and sometimes you think an untrained official has selected you for extra aggravation. However, until we get some electronic way of turning targets, scoring, and giving range commands, tempers will have to be held. Develop the necessary automatic equipment, and I think it could be done, work and shoot both, or let up on the volunteers. I've said it often, a requirement to get an NRA classification, should be two days work somewhere, as a volunteer match official.

### NRA POLICE RULINGS

The NRA rule defining a police auxiliary-reserve officer is being rewritten by the LEA Committee. Whether or not civilians should be allowed to shoot combat is not the point. The rule says police, or auxiliary, and requirements and enforceability continue to be a problem since the rule allowed other than full time officers some years ago. I am sure, however, we will define a fair rule.

The letters are still coming about the service revolver aggregate we hope to start. The 4-inch barrel suggestion is a good one, it would be closer to the "real world" than a 6-inch. Custom gunsmiths would surely develop valuable information on improving such a true duty gun and we might all be surprised at how good it would shoot.

Lucy



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## HANDGUN HUNTING

(Continued from page 14)

can generate terrific power and accuracy. The XP-100 conversions are usually more clumsy to carry and harder to shoot off-hand than the Contenders are. Personally, I prefer the Contenders for hunt by about 25-1 over the XPs. I do have numerous of each in both hunting and target calibers. The XPs are simply more difficult to shoot off-hand than Contenders and equal power can be had in either. For example, a .458x2" XP conversion will exceed the recoil tolerance of most individuals at about the same velocity-energy level the .45-70 T/C does.

Sighting in for big game hunting with conventional revolvers has always been the same formula for me. I generally sight iron-sighted guns three inches high at 50 yards. Most are still impacting right about at the top of the front sight at 100. That means a top of the back hold at 150. I sight in scoped guns three inches high at 100. Most of them will be dead on around 150. I simply don't scope revolvers as I have enough guns to go around for any purpose likely to arise. I have nothing against scoped revolvers and they can be extremely effective. A scoped handgun will do the same for the handgunner as it does for a rifleman. It enables him to see better and place his shots with more precision. Granted, a scope takes some getting used to on a pistol. It shows every shake and wiggle. It's tough on the old confidence to know and accept that we aren't rock steady. Ever hear someone say, "Naw, I can't use a scope. Can't hold steady with one of those things on a gun." The scope generally doesn't change the hold—it simply shows you how poor your hold really is.

No one can tell you to shoot or not to shoot. You have to make that decision yourself. Hopefully, you will have enough rounds behind you to know your capabilities and make your decision based on realistic appraisal of your capability at the time a shot is presented.



## COP TALK

(Continued from page 16)

Newell, there are 40 to 45 accidental discharges reported each year with police weapons, including cases when a suspect gets an officer's gun away from him, and despite the fact that all LAPD service revolvers are modified to fire double action only, so that cocked guns cannot be fired prematurely by mistake.

That is the official LAPD position on the

service cartridge. A different stance is taken by the LA Police Protective League, the only employees' organization representing the more than 7,000 sworn officers. LAPPL Director Ken Bitterolf told us, "We are basically opposed to this round, as are most of our members. This bullet ricochets, goes through things, and usually exits a felon's body. It goes through plasterboard and other wall-type material. I personally know of one case where the bullet went through a window, a wall, and through another room completely insulated from where the officer was firing and happened to miss the suspect."

### ONE-SHOT STOPS RARE

"There are a lot of cases where a dangerous suspect has to be shot several times before ceasing hostilities. There are, of course, cases where one shot suffices, but those are rare in comparison to the other kind, where we shoot several times to say the least. I've got to be honest," Bitterolf continued, "one of the problems with our department is training. We have excellent basic training, but we qualify only once a month with 30 rounds, and only twice a year will that be with the service ammo we carry on duty. I don't think this is enough."

How often, we asked, did drastically poor stopping power show up in actual use of the .38 round-nose? "There is usually more to it than just a plain hit (when the suspect takes several rounds and still shoots, or shoots at, a policeman); the guy may be on drugs or at a high emotional pitch. But it happens; there seem to be two or three incidents at a time, and then no more for a year or two."

### HOPE FOR EXPANDING .38

Did the men feel that such people would have gone down if hit with hotter .38 loads, or with Magnums or .45s? "That seems to be the consensus of feeling, very much so, though it's purely speculative," the police association director replied. "Most of us have come to the realization that because of management's position, we aren't going to a gun other than the .38 Special. The big hope now is that we might go to a type of expanding .38 bullet that would mushroom upon hitting the suspect. I think the men would just as soon do away with the .38 revolver as well as our present cartridge, but this just isn't going to happen in LA, and the best we can hope for is probably more efficient ammunition."

Like Newell, Bitterolf noted that an LAPD cop would be disciplined if found with the same loads issued to county deputies, Highway Patrolmen, or Federal agents working in the same area, but said that the penalty was more likely to run from 5 to 30 days' suspension.

In one incident, says Bitterolf, an officer shot a crazed suspect five times and then had to subdue him in hand-to-hand combat; he was injured in the process. Two more such incidents followed, and LAPPL

(Continued on page 54)

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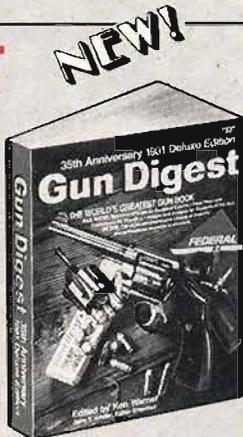
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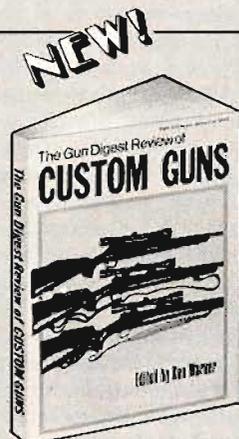


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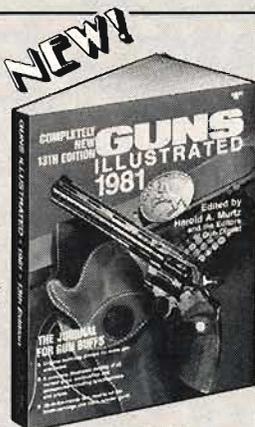


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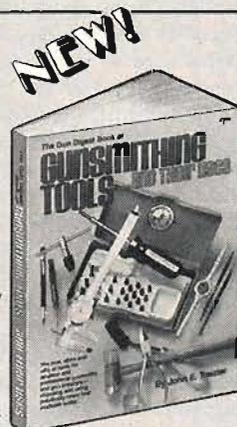


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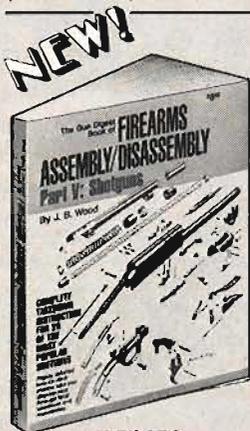
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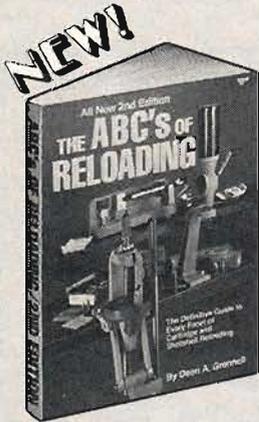
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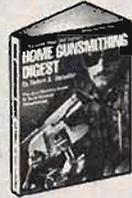
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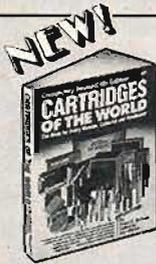
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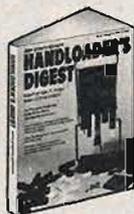
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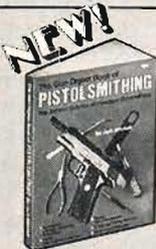
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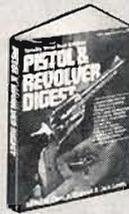
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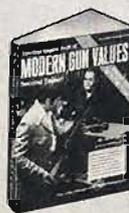
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# HANDGUNNER

## DIRECTORY OF CUSTOM PISTOLSMITHS

**UPDATED**

The acclaim received by our first AMERICAN HANDGUNNER CUSTOM PISTOLSMITH DIRECTORY (March/April 1980) has prompted this update to keep our Directory the most complete and accurate list known at this time. This list totals 99 custom pistolsmiths nationwide. All of them do custom work of some kind—not just repair. Prices have been left out this time because they are changing too rapidly to keep up with. Each 'smith either has a price list you can send for, or he will give you an estimate on the work. Notice only the highlights have been listed very briefly under each name. Remember that most all of them handle the normal range of 'smithing such as throating, beveling, stippling, metal checkering, and quite a few handle rebluing, and sight and rib installation. Some have in-house plating.

Some of the names are missing from the last list because of retirement, etc. Twenty-three are brand-new to our list. The names appearing on our last list are marked with an asterisk.

If we have missed anyone, let us know by mail and our next update will reflect the new.

# A,B

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**ACTION WORKS** (Charles Lowden), Box 23028, Richfield MN 55423—Hand-fitted action work on S&W, Colt, Ruger revolvers.\*

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**BULLSEYE GUN SHOP**, 5091-F Buford Hwy., Doraville GA 30340—Colt .45 accurizing, S&W K-frame action jobs.\*

# C

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**COLT CUSTOM GUN SHOP**, 150 Huyshope Ave., Hartford CT 16102—Custom engraving, tuning, grips, etc.\*

**CRAWFORD'S GUNSMITHING**, Swain Dr., Pleasant Valley NY 12569, (914) 635-3210—Accurizing autos & revolvers, NRA, IPSC.\*

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# D,E,F

**DARLINGTON GUN WORKS** (Jim Kelly), Box 698-516 S. 52 By-Pass, Darlington SC 29532—Combat autos, PPC revolvers.\*

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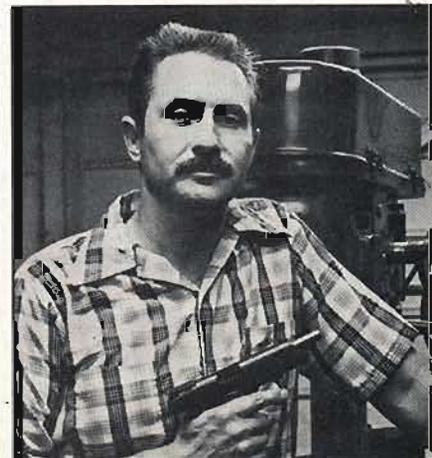
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# S

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**SCHNEIDER GUNSMITHING (James Schneider), 404 W. Garbry Rd., Piqua OH 45356, (513) 773-1417—Accurize PPC revolvers and Colt .45 Governments. S&W & Pythons.\***

**SCHONE TOOL & MODEL CO. (Don Schone), 309 13th Ave. West, West Fargo ND 58078—Heavy barrel PPC revolvers, rebarrels S&W revolvers for hunting.\***

**SDR CUSTOM HANDGUNS (Steve Rupert), Gateway Shooter's Supply, 10145 103rd St., Jacksonville FL 32210, (904) 778-2277—Wide variety of services on .45 Colt and Browning Hi-Power.\***

**L.W. SEECAMP CO. (Larry Seecamp), Box 255, New Haven CT 06502—Shortened autos, action jobs, most custom services.\***

**SHERMAN'S CUSTOM GUNS (Walt Sherman), 9621 Rose Rd., Tallahassee FL 32301—Specializes in Colt Python actions but will do S&W K & N frames.\***

**THE SHO GUN SHOP (Richard Nott), 26646 Five Mile Rd., Redford MI 48239, (313) 535-0819—PPC revolver, .45 and Browning Hi-Power, NRA Target accurizing work.\***

**HAROLD SHOCKLEY, Box 116, Hanna City IL 61536, (309) 565-4524—Mostly refinishing, blueing and plating, sights, parts for Colt and Browning.\***

**THE SIGHT SHOP (John G. Lawson), 1802 E. Columbia Ave., Tacoma WA 98404—Restore Lugers or Nambus, accurize revolvers or autos, including Browning.\***

**SILVER DOLLAR GUNS (George E. Sheldon), 10 Francis St., Box 489, Franklin NH 03235—Combat custom .45s\***

**SNAPP'S GUNSHOP, 6911 E. Washington Rd., Clare MI 48617—Hunting revolvers and silhouette guns.\***

**JOHN SPILLBORGH'S JS CUSTOM GUNS, Box 40529, Santa Barbara CA 93103—Custom .45s and PPC work. Long slide and mini .45s.**

**SPOKHANDGUNS, INC., East 1911 Sprague Ave., Spokane WA 99202, (509) 534-4112—Auto and revolver tuning and accuracy jobs.\***

**SPORTS WEST, INC. (Ikey Starks), 2200 W. Alameda Ave., Denver, CO 80223, (303) 934-4466—Combat .45s, NRA target, PPC.\***

**TRAVIS R. STRAHAN, Route #7, Ringgold GA 30736, (404) 937-4495—Complete accurizing of revolvers and autos. Mascot sight.\***

**EARL R. STROUP, 30506 Flossmoor Way, Hayward CA 94544, (415) 471-1549—.45 auto accuracy, rebarreling of Smith K & N frames, Pythons, PPC NRA, combat.\***

**SWENSON'S .45 SHOP (Armand Swenson), 3839 Ladera Vista, Box 606, Fallbrook CA 92028—Any customizing or accuracy work on .45s. Patented ambidextrous safety.\***

# T, U, V

**TOM'S GUN BLUING SHOP (Tom Volquartsen), 1818 Crestview Dr., Carroll IA 51401, (712) 792-4238—PPC, target, and silhouette conversions on Colts, Smiths, and rugers. .22 auto conversions on Rugers, High Standards, and Brownings.**

**TRAPPER GUN, INC. (Lin Trapper), 28019 Harper St., St. Clair Shores MI 48081, (313) 779-8750—Custom combat autos and Ruger SA revolvers. Bullseye spring kits for instant trigger jobs on revolvers.\***

**TRULOCK FIREARMS (George Trulock), Box 74, Whigham GA 31797, (912) 762-4812—Caliber conversions on N frame S&W, old model Ruger and new model stainless steel Blackhawks. Custom auto and revolver work.**

**DENNIS ULRICH, 2511 S. 57th Ave., Cicero IL 60650—Accurizing autos and revolvers for NRA bullseye and Interna-**

**tional Pistol. Prefers Colt .45s and S&W K frames.\***

**STEVE VANIADIS, 4657 E. 57th Pl., Tulsa OK 74135, (918) 496-2074—Accurizes and tunes .45 autos and PPC guns.\***

**VIC'S GUN REFINISHING (Victor Strawbridge), 6 Pineview Dr., Dover Point, Dover NH 03820—Action work on Smiths, Colts, and Rugers.\***

**VILLAGE GUNSMITH (Wayne N. Hill, Sr.), 310 Sheperd, Port Byron IL 61275, (309) 523-3444—Tune-ups on revolvers, PPC, S&W specialty. Some auto work, prefers Browning. Has limited edition M58s.**

# W

**WALKER ARMS CO., Rte. 2, Box 73, Selma AL 36701, (205) 872-3888—Action, accuracy, and conversions.\***

**WALTERS INDUSTRIES (Dave Walters), 6226 Park Lane, Dallas TX 75225—Combat and target NRA .45s.\***

**C. WARD CONVERSIONS, Box 610, Raymore MO 64083, (816) 331-3857—PPC supertuning, action work, 3" conversions, Python tuning, full custom build-up on revolvers. Also auto work, S&W 3" street gun conversion. Distinguished class.**



Michigan Armament

**ROYCE O. WEDDLE, 411 24th Ave., NW, Norman OK 73069, (405) 364-0444—Custom target revolvers, action jobs, single or double action trigger smoothing.\***

**WESTRANGE (Spencer Gibbs), Box 225, Danville IN 46122, (317) 745-4747—Action jobs and tuning on Dan Wesson.**

**WILSON'S GUN SHOP (Bill Wilson), 101-103 Public Square, Berryville AR 72616, (501) 423-2982—Acclaimed Wilson Combat .45 autos, basic to full house selection with varying price ranges.\***

**DAVID R. WOODRUFF, Box 5, Bear DE 19701—Revolver and auto conversions.\***

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Armament Systems

& Procedures

## NEW PRODUCTS FOR SILHOUETTE



WICHITA ARMS announces production of four new items: a limited edition firearms ensemble, a silhouette and classic pistol, and a new sighting system.

El Elegante is a pistol and rifle pair in a limited edition of 50. Named La Silueta Elegante and El Medallon Elegante, the guns commemorate the birth of silhouette shooting in Mexico. They come cased with an engraved ownership plaque, and a registered, numbered certificate. Both guns are built on the same slightly scaled-down Wichita Classic octagon barreled action.

Wichita's new Classic Pistol is a scaled-down version of the company's Classic Rifle, and it too features an octagon barreled action, plus

exhibition grade walnut stock with hand checkering; engraving is by Ray Veramontez. The Classic Pistol and the Elegante set feature left-handed bolts for the right-handed shooter.

Wichita's MK-40 Silhouette Pistol is a single-shot bolt-action with design innovations claimed to be conducive to speed and accuracy. The pistol comes equipped with Wichita's exclusive Multi Range Quick Change Sighting System, designed by pistolsmith Ron Powers. The sighting system features four positively repeatable range settings. Suggested retail for the multi-range sight is \$69.95.

For more information, contact Wichita Arms, Box 11371, Wichita, Kansas 67211.

Last December at the wholesalers' show in Denver, Norma Precision introduced a new handgun cartridge called ".38 Special Norma Magnum." Claiming a muzzle velocity of 1542 feet per second for a 110gr. JHP bullet from a 6" test barrel, Norma stated that only standard (not +P) pressure was developed. This amazing performance was due, they said, to a specially developed Norma powder.

Great stuff for the fellow with a 6" Diamondback, but, shucks, all of my small frame .38's have 2" to 3" barrels. What will it do for me? For that matter, nearly all of the small frame guns that require standard pressure loads *do* have short barrels. Will Norma's new .38 Spl. Mag. breathe more power into the little snubbies? How does it compare with +P loads? (Which should not be used in these guns, even though many folks carry them for emergencies.) Only way to find the real answers to these questions is to get some ammo and test it, so I set about designing the study, and gathering materials.

Advertising claims being what they are, I had a natural skepticism about the new round. At its retail price of about \$25 per box of 50, almost double that of

# .38

special

## NORMA MAGNUM

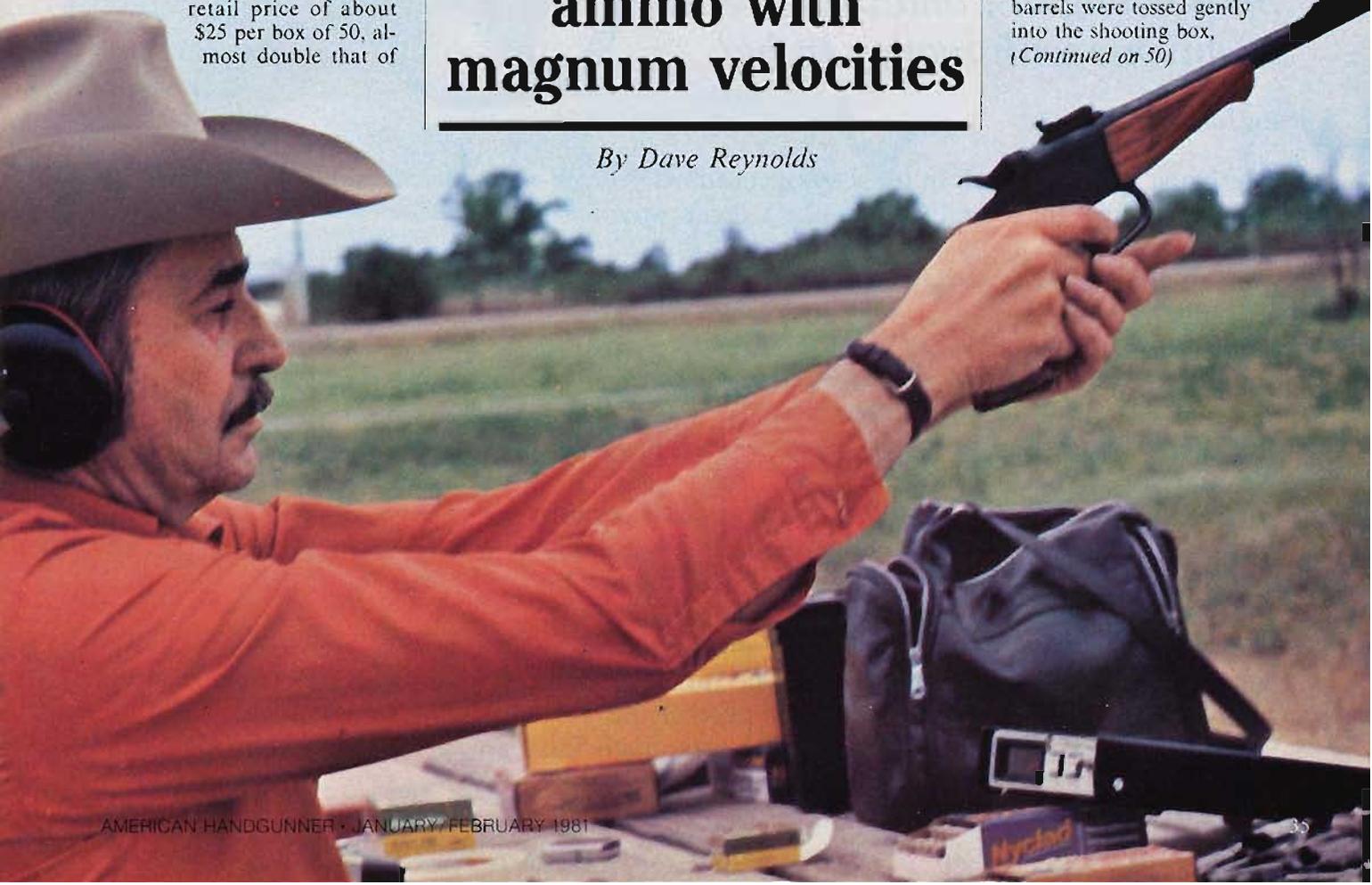
Medium pressure  
ammo with  
magnum velocities

By Dave Reynolds

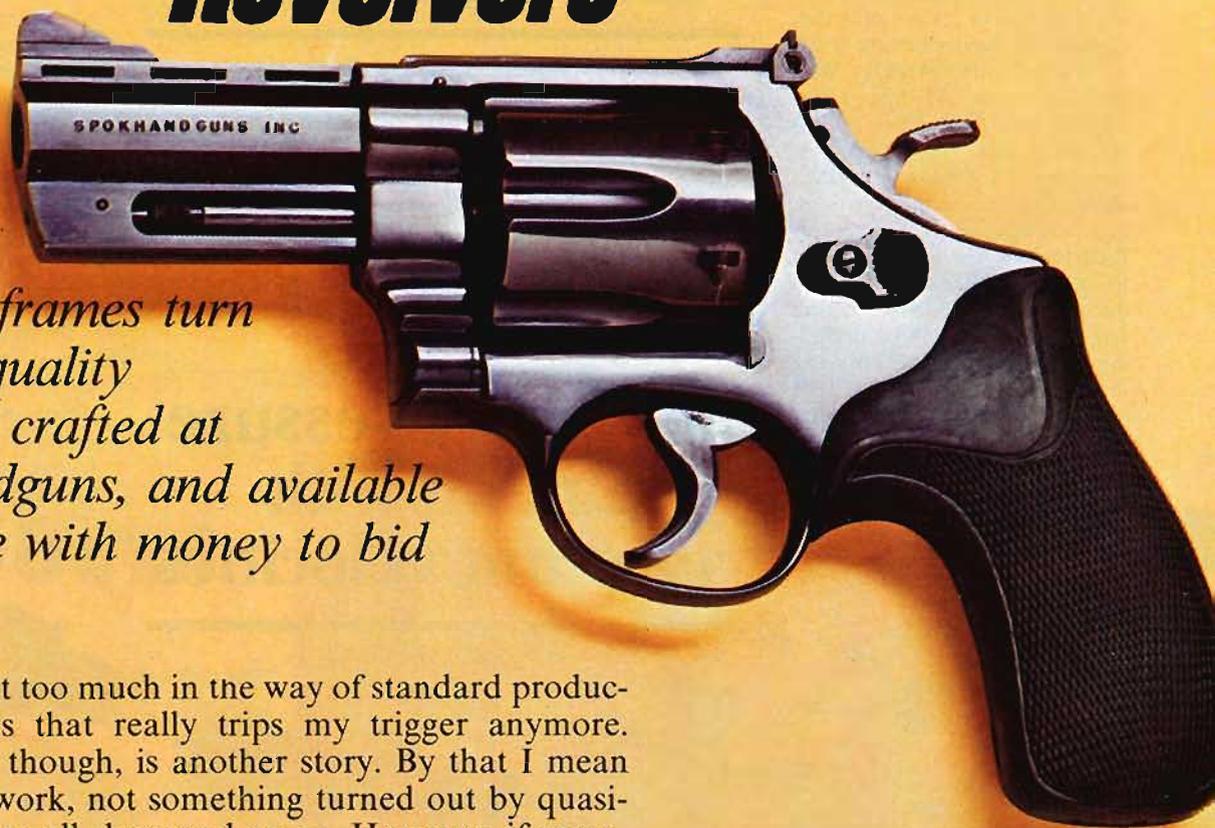
other 38's, it needed to perform very well indeed to justify its existence. It should be compared directly against standard and +P loads using 110gr. JHP bullets, and also with a 110gr. .357 load to give an extra dimension to the study. A pair of standard and +P 158gr. .38's should add further insight into the results.

Never before had I thought that Dan Wesson didn't offer enough barrel lengths, but for this test, I wanted 2" and 3" jobs, so I asked Paul Brothers, Chief Engineer at DWA, if he could make them. Couple weeks later they arrived. DWA makes one fine gun (actually, two now, and soon three) for any purpose, but for the ballistic experimenter, it's a must. Being able to switch barrels on the same revolver cuts out a bunch of variables, which improves the integrity of any study. With the new barrels in hand, I was set to test with 2", 2½", 3", 4", and 6" tubes. To this I added the Thompson Contender to see how the stuff would percolate with a ten-inch shove.

Proof of the pudding is in the eating, so phase two of the study should employ some little guns. Accordingly, a 2" M36, a 3" M37, and a couple of unusual old Detective Specials with 2" and 3" barrels were tossed gently into the shooting box, (Continued on 50)



# Top-Dollar **CUSTOM** Revolvers



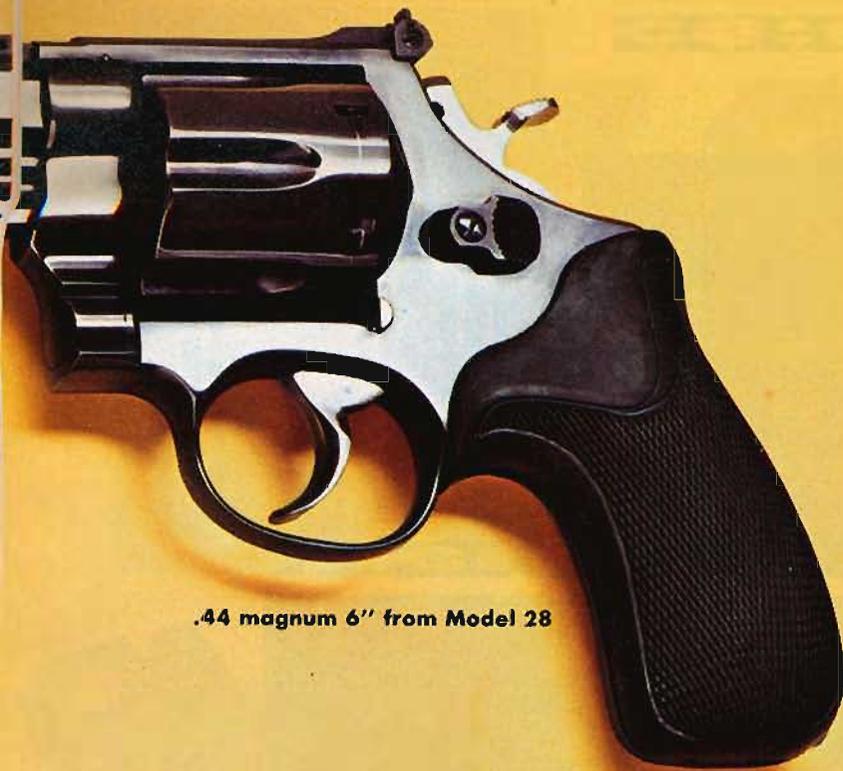
*S&W N-frames turn into top quality revolvers, crafted at Spokhandguns, and available to anyone with money to bid*

*By Jim Weller*

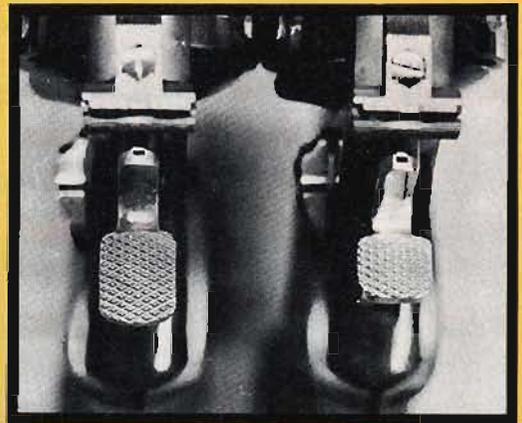
There just isn't too much in the way of standard production handguns that really trips my trigger anymore. Custom work though, is another story. By that I mean *good* custom work, not something turned out by quasi-artisans that are all show and no go. However, if something shows *and* goes, I sit up and take notice immediately. Such is the case with the guns currently being given a thorough going over by E. J. Christensen and Vern Ewer at Spokhandguns, Inc., of Spokane, Washington.

The original story line here was to be about a certain conversion being performed by these craftsmen, namely the Model 19 S&W to 5-shot .44 Special. (Yes, it can be done, and no, don't even write them and ask about it. They're backlogged three years on them, the cost is unreal, and I was told emphatically that no further orders will be taken for sometime to come, and possibly never!) When I first contacted Spokhandguns, I was given the aforementioned statement, and expressed my *(see page 59)*

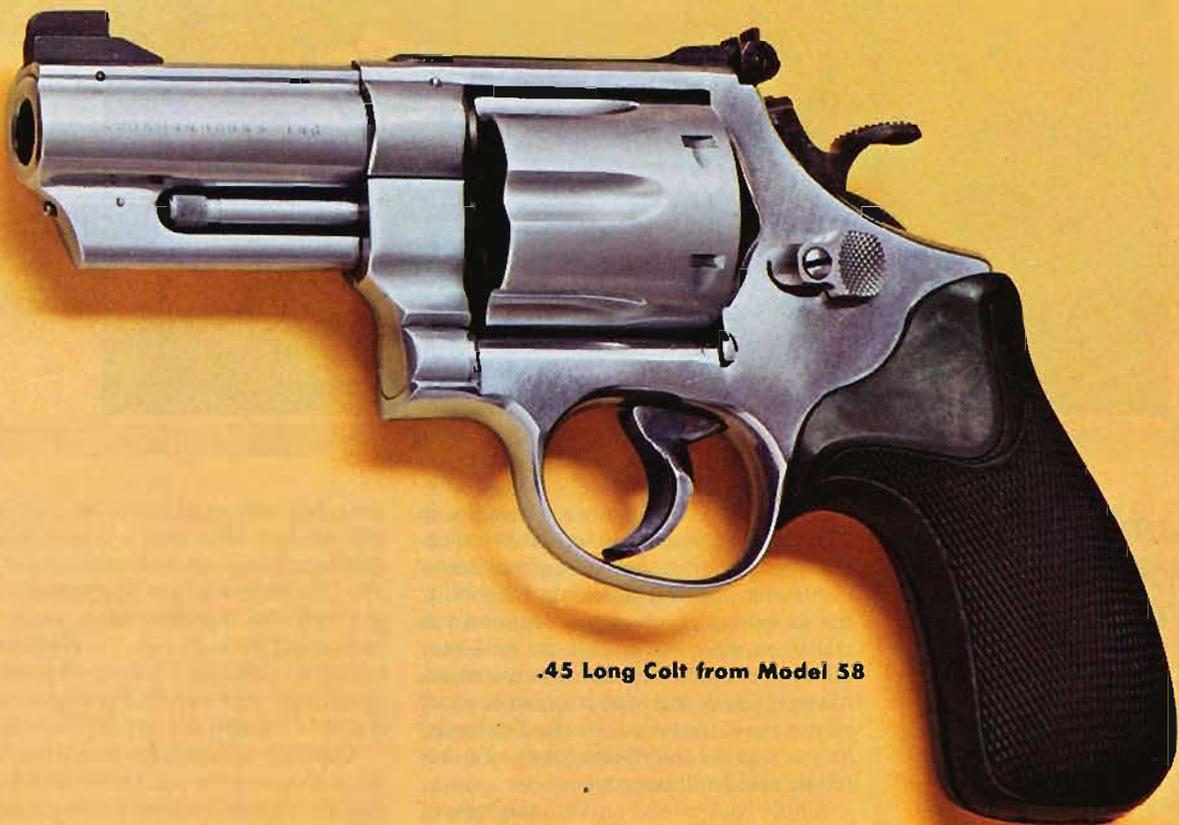
**.44 magnum 3" from Model 28**



**.44 magnum 6" from Model 28**



**Spokhandguns offers two basic hammer styles. Left, standard S&W. Right, cut-down version.**



**.45 Long Colt from Model 58**

*Photo by Richard J. Singer*

# THE .270 VJ CONTENDER



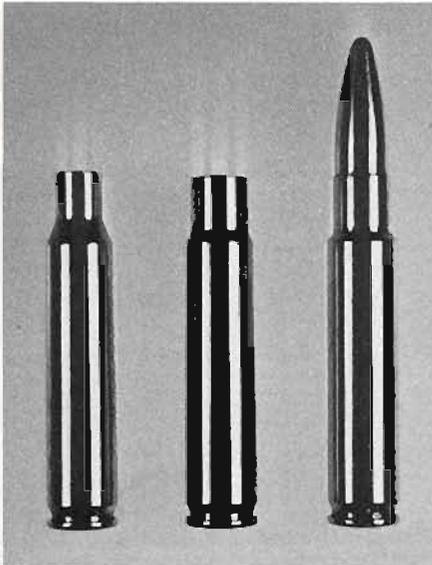
**V**ern Juenke  
accurizes  
TC Contenders  
to a point where  
they set records  
*By Tom Shippy*

VERN JUENKE is well known nationally in silhouette circles because of the modifications he performs on Thompson-Center Contender pistols. He belongs to an elite, but dwindling group of people, known as craftsmen, who take pride in the work they do. This, coupled with an inventive mind, has made him one of the foremost pistol gunsmiths in America. In the Contender he saw a pistol that had a lot to offer but felt he could still improve it.

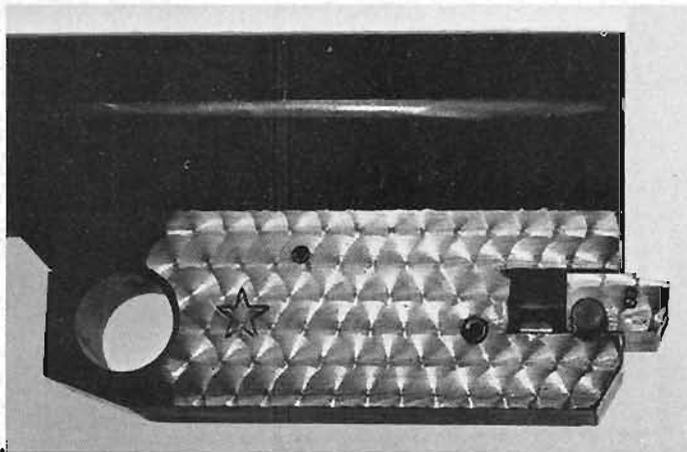
A little background on Vern might be in order to further establish his qualifica-

tions. His interest in guns goes back to his high school days and a comprehensive 1200 hour machine shop class taught by a Mr. Crandall, who just happened to be a gun buff. During these three years Vern memorized the ballistics of every cartridge available, received a good background in metallurgy, and also found time to make chamber reamers for special calibers.

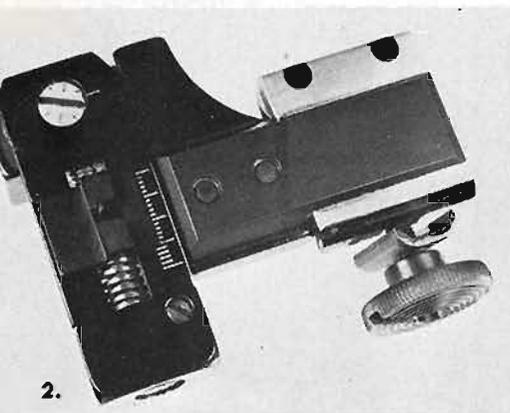
After high school, Vern found himself in the army where he and his brother Arnold qualified expert while posting the two highest scores on the rifle range. Later,



1.



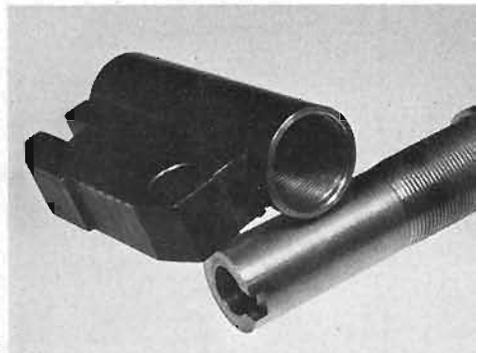
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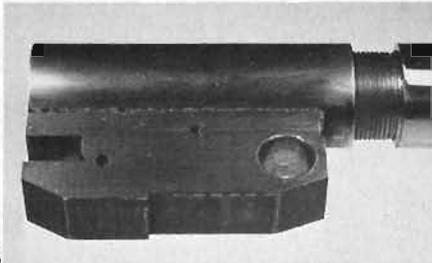
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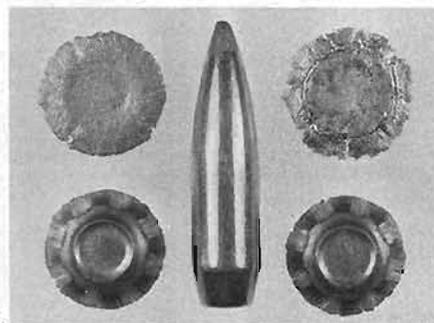
6.



3.



7.



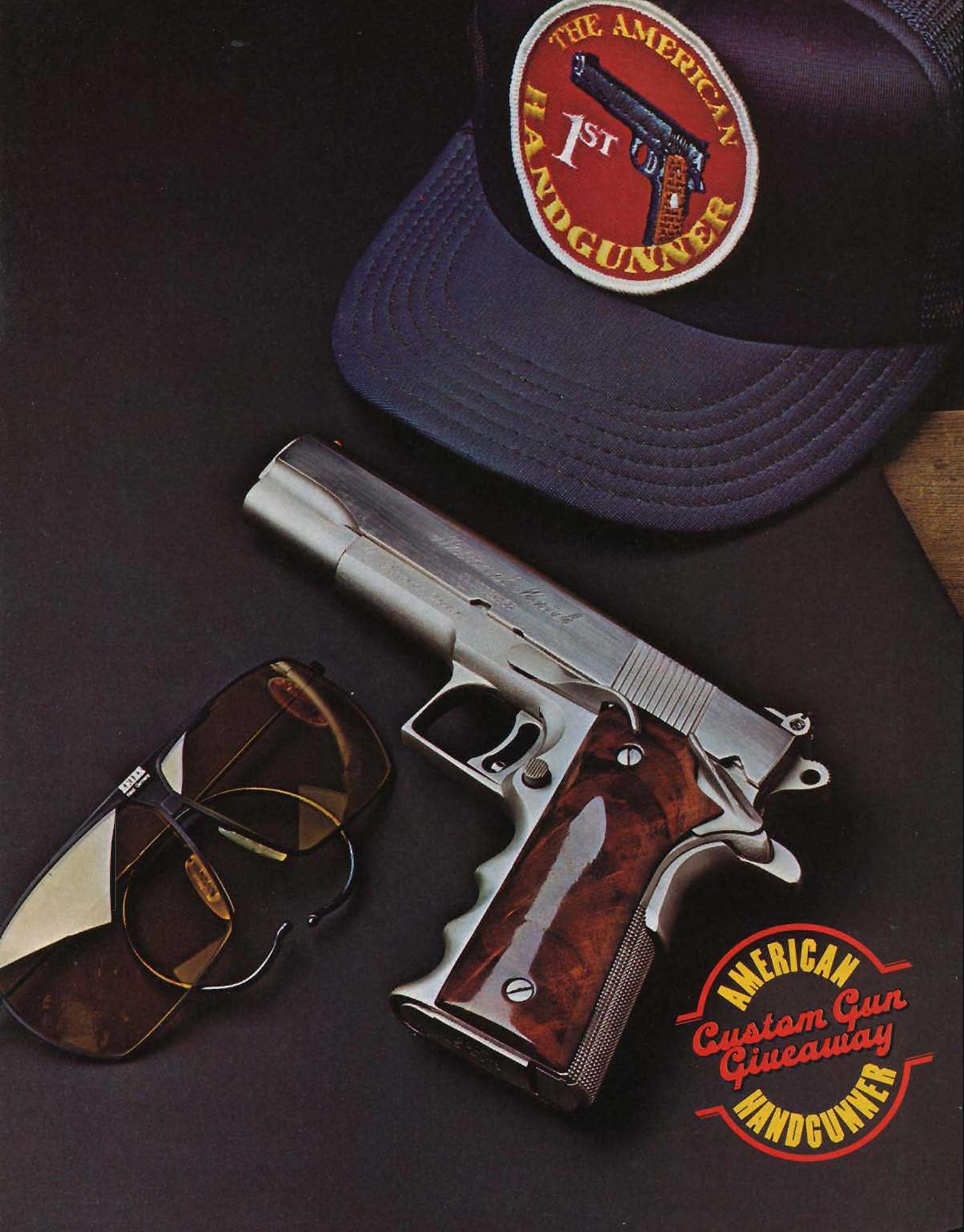
**1: (L to R).222 Mag. case, .222 Mag. necked to .270, and the .270 VJ.  
2: The convertible rear sight.  
3: A light weight .270 bbl. partly installed.  
4: The heart of an accurizing job—the eight degree lock.  
5: The Kit'n muzzle brake.  
6: The machine work necessary to make an "action stud" from a standard T/C barrel.  
7: Four bases from .130 grain Sierra boattail bullets recovered from in front of the ram targets at 200 meters. Note the eight lands on the lower ones.**

after being wounded in action, Vern continued his study of ballistics and firearms while convalescing in a hospital in Paris. After his army stint, he and his brother opened a gun shop where they made all the reamers for the original I.C.L. line cartridges. During this time they built rifles for such notables as Gary Cooper, Noah Dietrich of Hughes Tool, and Jerry Orbach and Wilbur May of the Orbach and May department stores.

In 1956 Vern went into electronics and didn't get back into gunsmithing until

1970. His son, Ken and he started a bench rest handgun club a few years back and were able to learn a great deal about ballistics and the accuracy potential of handguns. During this time he shot an official 100 yard, 10 shot group of .336 with a bolt action .221 fireball pistol that he built himself, action and all. Shortly thereafter Vern turned his attention to the Thompson Center Contender, which is probably the most popular single-shot cartridge pistol ever manufactured.

After doing a lot of experimenting and  
*(Continued on page 56)*



# MEMO

August 20, 1980

TO: J. RAKUSAN, EDITOR,  
AMERICAN HANDGUNNER  
FROM: VERRY D'AIGUILLON, CUSTOM  
PISTOLSMITH, OUTDOOR PRECISION  
SPORTS & CRAFTS

Dear Mr. Rakusan:

I am proud to send you one of our Custom .45 Auto full house jobs. This one was not fussed all over to overly impress you and/or to be different than our actual production. It was in fact made previously to our conversation as a run of the mill sample to present various possible features to our prospective customers and kept on our display case as a demo.

For this project we started with an Essex frame which we favor for being made of steel and lightweight. We opened the trigger channel to accommodate a Colt gold cup trigger with its adjustable travel stop and wider, extended and grooved surface. The trigger guard was given a single slit cut and the rounded surfaces heated and straightened. This was followed with weld-filling of the resulting gap, hand reshaping and checkering. Next the grip front strap was cleaned and with welding molten metal was deposited to form the three finger grooves, which were hand shaped on the outside to give a positive grip without increasing the grip width. The magazine well was beveled and the inside surface at the bottom finger was removed allowing angled insertion of magazine for speed reloading. This is not readily visible unless the magazine is removed, as the added and removed metal blend in with the overall design. A Colt gold cup flat housing was used. It was shaped by grinding to fit exactly with the contour of the frame. After reshaping the whole backstrap was checkered. A longer magazine catch, obtained from a .45 Llama and modified to work properly was installed. Original Colt slide release and thumb safety were built-up by welding and hand shaped and grooved to provide suitable extensions to fit the individual hand. A Colt commander hammer was used instead of the gov. or gold cup to minimize clothes snag and was altered by reshaping to be used with a Colt

(Continued on page 63)

## WIN THIS CUSTOM .45

This custom .45 auto caused quite a stir when it arrived at the HANDGUNNER offices—everyone wanted one. It's easy to see why, and the gun feels as good as it looks, take it from us. Custom pistolsmith Verry d'Aiguillon (see his letter) says this is a sample of his regular work, except this gun is loaded with extras and retails for over \$1,000. But, if you're lucky enough, you could win it free.

Otherwise, you can get details of this and similar custom work by writing: Outdoor Precision Sports & Crafts, 105 W. Palisade Ave., Englewood, NJ 07631; (201) 569-3450.

TO ENTER: Send name and address and all information shown in sample, on a postcard. Mail to: AMERICAN HANDGUNNER, Box 16025, San Diego, CA 92116. Mail before February 1, 1981. Be sure all information is on the card.

Name	_____
Address	_____
City & State	_____ Zip _____
<b>HOM-JAN/FEB</b>	
If I win, please ship my gun through the following dealer:	
Dealer	_____
Address	_____
City	_____ State _____ Zip _____

Contest void where taxed or prohibited by law. No purchase necessary. Winner must comply with all federal and local laws. Employees and agents of Publisher's Development Corp. not eligible.

# TEST REPORT

## DETONICS MK VI

Reliable one-shot  
stopping power in a  
concealable package

By Evan P. Marshall

Whenever the subject of concealability and the .45 Auto is brought up, the lightweight Commander is almost universally recommended. In spite of its widespread support, it's not the best answer for those concerned about concealment. Cops like myself generally forget that citizens are considerably more concerned about the consequences of exposing their carry gun. It's one thing to tell responding officers you're "on the job," and relatively easy to verbally convince them of your police identity. The citizen, however, is on much more delicate ground.

This concern about concealability leads to the generally accepted practice on relying on the .38 snub or pocket auto. While there have been new developments in the area of high performance ammunition for these guns, I'm not convinced of the reliable stopping capabilities of any small bore handgun.

The obvious solution, then, is a large caliber handgun in compact form. There are, of course, currently a wide variety of either cutdown Colts or other brands of compact .45's. The Detonics has been around for a few years, but I've been careful not to get too excited about new firearms. They often either go out of business or develop severe problems in early samples. Detonics was no exception, with some early versions requiring extensive modification. They've solved their problems, however, and current production Detonics .45s have proven to be reliable guns.

When Jerry Rakusan called and gave me the assignment on the Detonics new stainless steel version, I was only mildly excited. After all, neither stainless .45s or compact .45s are new, right? Well, the combination is, and it's long overdue. When the temperature crawls above eighty, both concealment and corrosion become real concerns.

About two weeks after hearing from Jerry, the gun arrived. It comes in a rug like the Browning Hi Power, with a spare stainless magazine and operating instructions. The MKVI comes with low adjustable



The stainless steel Detonics .45 auto has a lot going for it: stopping power with concealability, rust-resistance, reliability, and low adjustable sights.

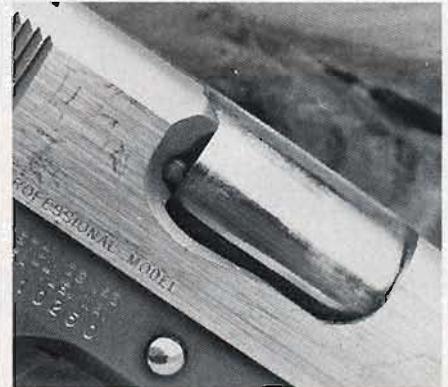
### SPECIFICATIONS

Caliber:	.45 ACP
Action:	SA semi-auto
Magazine:	6-shot
Barrel:	3¼"
L.O.A.:	6¾"
Weight:	29 oz.
Sights:	Combat type, fixed
Stocks:	Checkered walnut
Finish:	Stainless steel
Price:	\$579.00

combat sights. They're unobstructive and easily adjusted with the allen wrench included.

While the Detonics falls into that category of firearms that are "carried often, but fired seldom," it seems important to give the gun enough of a wring-out to answer any questions about reliability. A few hours spent at the loading bench produced 1,000 rounds of my favorite IPSC load, a 200 grain semiwadcutter on top of 4.8 grains of Bullseye. Along with this, I fired an additional 200 rounds of assorted factory loads.

Very early in the testing of this weapon, it became obvious that the trigger pull was not acceptable for fast, accurate shooting. A short trip to The Sho Gun Shop (26646 Five Mile Road, Redford, MI 48239), resulted in the trigger pull being reduced from nine pounds to an acceptable five pounds. Rick Nott, The Sho Gun Shop's



Detonics .45 enlarged ejection port. Polished feed ramp is also standard.

custom pistolsmith, informed me that if I switched to a regular steel Detonics hammer, he could take the trigger pull down to 3½ lbs. safely. Rick specializes in combat tuning the Detonics, and knows whereof he speaks.

It also became evident that this gun doesn't care for light loads. It routinely refused to feed the last round when match wadcutters were used. I don't consider this a real handicap, however, since it's designed as a defensive weapon, not a target pistol. Furthermore, it fed all other loads without a hitch.

Since I was curious to see how much performance was lost from the Detonics abbreviated .45, I took the gun to the range. Velocity was checked on my Oehler

(Continued on page 64)

# TEST REPORT

## BROWNING BDA .380

Fourteen shots in a reliable, accurate handgun

By Evan P. Marshall

What constitutes an adequate defensive handgun is a subject of hot debate. As a cop, I routinely rely on a .45 Auto for my plain clothes needs. Of course, in my case it's not only a matter of carrying a weapon for personal defense, but the continuing possibility of taking police action whether on duty or off. The armed civilian on the other hand, carries the weapon for self protection, and is not bound by law or department regulation to take action against law breakers.

Civilian gun carriers, furthermore, are not generally gun buffs. The weapon they choose is routinely purchased and carried without much practice or training. They generally choose between the pocket auto or .38 snub, with the short-barreled .38 the favorite. I really consider the snub a poor choice for personal defense. Virtually all of them as they come from the box have extremely heavy trigger pulls. This coupled with inadequate sights and grips make accurate shooting with them extremely difficult. They're also quite slow to reload and only hold six rounds at most. I only own one .38 snub, and it's used exclusively for second gun purposes. I leave it in my locker at the precinct, so I'll never be tempted to carry it off duty.

The pocket auto in .380 caliber is generally superior to the .38 snub for a number of reasons. First of all is its increased magazine capacity. In comparison to the snubs five or six rounds, the .380 holds from eight to (in the BDA's case) fourteen. Secondly, its grip design gives the shooter a better hold than the inadequate handles on the snub. Third, it's much quicker to reload than the small revolver. Fourth, even with high performance loads, the snub does not appreciably outperform the .380 Auto. For example, Remington's .38 Special 95 grain JHP load produces 903 feet per second from my .38 snub, while their 88 grain JHP .380 Auto load produces 989 feet per second from the BDA.

If the Browning BDA looks surprisingly like another 14 shot .380 Auto, there's an obvious reason. The BDA is built for Browning by Beretta. There are some ob-



**Browning BDA .380 Auto has built-in trigger stop to limit overtravel. Note ambidextrous safety. The grips are beautifully-finished smooth dark walnut.**

### SPECIFICATIONS

<b>Caliber:</b>	.380 ACP
<b>Action:</b>	DA auto
<b>Magazine:</b>	13-shot
<b>Barrel:</b>	3-13/16"
<b>L.O.A.:</b>	6 3/4"
<b>Weight:</b>	23 oz.
<b>Sights:</b>	Blade front, windage adjustable rear
<b>Stocks:</b>	Smooth walnut
<b>Finish:</b>	Blue
<b>Price:</b>	\$314.95

vious differences, however. The Browning slide and ambidextrous safety differ substantially. Curiously enough, the Browning sells for less than the Beretta.

The BDA is beautifully finished with smooth grips of genuine walnut. The sights are small, but adequate for close, defensive purposes. The frame is aluminum to save weight in noncritical areas. The ambidextrous safety is small, but serrated for non-slip contact. The extractor also serves as a loaded chamber indicator. When fully loaded, a red spot is exposed on the extractor. The magazine has inspection holes that are numbered on the back of the magazine to let the shooter know how many rounds he has left.

The proof of the gun is in the shooting. I obtained a wide variety of .380 loads, and then took the gun and ammo to a local range. Velocity was checked on my Oehler

chronograph and expansion by firing into a block of Ductseal. Accuracy was checked at fifty feet on the B-27 Silhouette. The results are listed below:

Load	Velocity	Expansion
Remington 88 grain JHP	989fps	.423"
Super Vel 88 grain JHP	1034fps	.467"
S&W 84 grain JHP	1003fps	.471"
W-W 88 grain JHP	995fps	.453"
Frontier 90 grain JHP	933fps	.429"
Federal 90 grain JHP	965fps	.445"
KTW 90 grain AP	1089fps	none
Glaser 70 grain PF	1287fps	fragments

*Glossary: JHP = jacketed hollow point; AP = armor piercing; PF = pre-fragmented*

Problems developed early on in the accuracy testing, however. With double action autos one has come to expect long, gritty double action pulls, with fair single action pulls. The BDA, however, had a decent DA pull with a horrible single action mode. A quick trip to Rick Nott (26646 Five Mile Road, Redford, Michigan) produced a substantial improvement in the groups fired.

The BDA comes with a magazine safety that can easily be removed. The magazine release can be converted for left-handed shooters. As a southpaw, that's a feature I really appreciate.

Frankly, I'm not a fan of any small bore handgun for defensive purposes. I realize, however, that a lot of people don't share my sentiments. If you've been looking for a large magazine capacity in a concealable pistol, the BDA should meet your needs. It's reliable, accurate, and reasonably priced.



# TEST REPORT

## HIGH STANDARD .22S KIT

Convert to .22 Short for economy & lower recoil

By Jerry Ahern

A few years ago High Standard discontinued its .22 Short auto pistol. It was a fine gun but had only a limited U.S. market. Since then, the need for a gun to shoot the low-recoil, economical .22 Short round has continued with a small but significant group of target shooters. As a result, High Standard has come to offer a precision fitted .22 Short Conversion Kit adaptable to their Trophy or Citation.

It was decided to test the .22 Short Conversion Kit for AMERICAN HANDGUNNER along with a new production High Standard 5½-inch bull barrel Trophy in .22 Long Rifle. Since the kits are not a high volume item, some waiting was necessary until one became available. When both gun and kit arrived at Sid Harper's gunshop in north-eastern Georgia, both the assembled gun and the kit seemed both impressive and practical. The kit itself comes with a basic magazine and a spare, obviating from the start one of the most vexing problems involved with automatic pistol use and especially anything of limited production.

The basic Long Rifle Trophy was taken out for testing at a nearby outdoor facility. Accuracy at fifty feet was quite good, with tight groups the rule rather than the exception. To genuinely test the gun rather than the shooter, some strings were run with a two-hand hold from a modified kneeling position. Using CCI solids—not a special match round—the groups tightened accordingly.

Establishing that the gun itself performed well, the next step was trying the kit. In most cases, installation of such a kit would be no big trick for someone constantly involved with firearms, but what about the average shooter?

To find out if the average guy who purchased the .22 Short Conversion Kit would have difficulties fitting it to his gun, the author's 22-year-old nephew, George Smith, was given the gun, the kit, the instruction sheet and a work space and told to make the conversion. George has fired numerous handguns but is by no means any more versed in firearms than the average shooter. The first time around it took George just a little more than twenty minutes to completely assemble the .22 Short



The High Standard .22 Short Conversion Kit shown next to the HS Long Rifle Trophy pistol. The easily-installed kit further diminishes noise and recoil.



High Standard Trophy shown here takes the .22 Short kit and provides target accuracy.

Conversion Kit to the Trophy's frame, including pouring over the instructions. The only tricky part was finding a small enough Allen wrench to attach the muzzle break. This wrench is not included and should be—the size is so small it may well require a trip to the hardware store before assembly can be completed.

Before rushing out to find a .22 Short Conversion Kit, make sure your Trophy or Citation is fitted with the military grip—non-military grip models (a frame construction difference) will not accept the kit. And, if you have a military Victor, there is a separate kit just for this gun.

The Trophy/Citation kit includes the two magazines, the muzzle break, a lightweight slide-assembly with fully adjustable rear sight and a 5½-inch .22 Short bull barrel, with front sight in place.

Before installation of the kit, the gun itself must be partially disassembled. Put the safety on, withdraw the magazine and make sure the gun is clear by working the

slide. With the slide held back, raise the slide stop lever and ease the slide forward on its rails until these engage. Using a wooden block against a table or other work surface (and children's alphabet-type blocks work very well), depress the barrel takedown plunger at the forward portion of the receiver beneath the barrel. With this plunger depressed, pull the barrel up and away from the frame. Release the slide stop, making certain to hold the slide all the while, then draw it forward off the frame.

If the operation takes twenty minutes or  
(Continued on page 65)

# TEST REPORT

## S&W STAINLESS M63

A new .22/32 kit gun  
good for range or field

By Bill Bennington

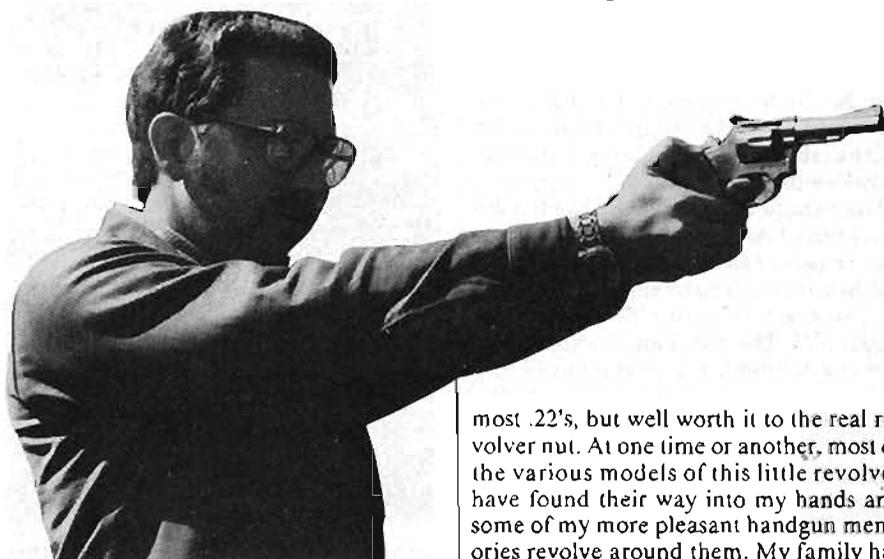
Any .22 caliber handgun must, from sheer necessity, be extremely tough and durable. Why? Fire 50 rounds through a .44 Magnum and you are generally through for awhile: put the same number through a .22 and you are just getting warmed up for the fun to come. For serious plinking I try to always have on hand at least 200 rounds and usually wish I had brought along just *one* more box! For practical use, I favor the smaller frame .22 revolvers, for recoil is certainly no factor to contend with, and the long range capabilities of the little rimfires are practically non-existent, precluding the use of a long barrel for added sighting radius. Velocity does suffer slightly in a short barrel but it is a toss-up as to whether a frog, turtle or rabbit recognizes this fact and certainly few paper targets ever complain. Portability counts for a lot in my book.

The small, "J" frame Smith & Wesson has always seemed to be the ideal size, in my estimation, and the .22/32 Kit Gun from the firm has long been one of my favorites, standing the test of time to the tune of almost 70 years! The original Kit Gun was based on the old, .32 Hand Ejector model and was introduced in 1911, sporting a six-inch barrel and somewhat primitive target sights. This particular gun sufficed, with only minor changes, such as recessing the chambers for the high-speed Remington ammo in the mid-thirties, until 1953. It was dubbed the ".22/32 Kit Gun" in 1935 and the name carried over, along with the Model 34 designation, on the gun as we know it today. Variations abounded at one time such as the M35 Target with a six-inch barrel, the 3½ inch barreled M43 weighing only 14½ ounces with its alloy frame, the Model 51 chambered for the .22 Mag round and the options of either nickel or blue finishes, 2- and 4-inch barrels on the standard model and either a square or round butt. In 1974, the Models 35 and 51 were laid to rest, following the Lightweight version's demise.

Since the Kit Gun possesses the same characteristics as the larger S&W revolvers, i.e. full target sights, slick, smooth action and beautiful finish, it has always been priced a trifle higher than



Smith & Wesson's new Model 63 in stainless steel weighs two ounces more than the standard Model 34, and offers a wider front sight blade with red insert.



### SPECIFICATIONS

Caliber:	.22 LR
Action:	DA revolver
Capacity:	6-shot
Barrel:	4"
L.O.A.:	8"
Weight:	24½ oz.
Sights:	Adjustable
Stocks:	Checkedered walnut
Finish:	Stainless steel
Price:	\$187.00

most .22's, but well worth it to the real revolver nut. At one time or another, most of the various models of this little revolver have found their way into my hands and some of my more pleasant handgun memories revolve around them. My family has always enjoyed big, succulent frog legs and the little .22's have provided many fine meals through the years. More for fun were the turtles, snakes and the larger variety of jack rabbits once encountered in the East Texas cotton fields but sadly no longer around due to pesticides. In my experience, the short, 2-inch barrel has proved to be highly accurate but the extraction of fired cases may be a bit tough with some of them due to the shortened ejector rod on the shorty. The discontinued Airweight model was simply too light, for a single heartbeat could play havoc with a sight

(Continued on page 64)

# TEST REPORT

## MITCHELL ARMS SA .44 MAG

### Replica Colt 1873 Army with natural pointing

By Mike Barach

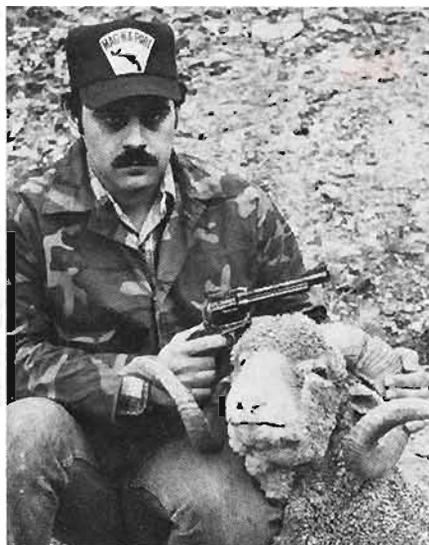
As we slipped through the woods at the Shawnee Hunting Preserve (Box 13A, West Fork Rd., Stout, OH 45684) I could picture a perfect barbiroussa ram in my mind. It wasn't too long after, that ram was lined up in my sights. He was about seventy yards below where the guide and I were on a hill. I cocked the hammer of the new Mitchell Arms .44 Mag. and leveled my sights just behind the ram's shoulder. I started to squeeze the trigger, but something spooked him. I kept the sights on the ram's shoulder as he started running up the side of the hill. He stopped, looking straight at me—a perfect broadside shot! As I squeezed the trigger, I felt the hammer start to fall, but just an instant before the .44 recoiled the ram bolted forward! The 200 gr. Hornady slug hit him at a slight angle approximately six inches behind his shoulder. Not acting as if he'd been hit, he tore up the hill and as I was following him in my sights, ready to let another shot go, he collapsed. The Hornady slug did its job well.

You noticed that I mentioned I used the new Mitchell Arms .44 Mag. on the hunt. The revolver is a new offering from Mitchell Arms Corp., being built around the legendary Colt Single Action Army Model 1873. The gun is made for Mitchell Arms by A. Uberti & C. Gardone of Italy. It's an exact replica of the original design with the exception of optional adjustable rear sights and a hammer block mechanism. All other parts are interchangeable with a Colt SAA. I usually shy away from imports because of inferior quality, however this revolver is an exception.

The gun sent to me for the hunt was a 5½" barreled model with adjustable sights chambered for the .44 Mag. After giving the revolver a fairly thorough inspection of fitting, finish, etc., I took it out to the range to sight it in. Shooting from a sandbag rest, 240 grain handloads struck 6"-7" high at 50 yards. I moved the rear sight down and put three more into the target. The group lowered, but it was still high, so I proceeded to move the sight down further. I was close to bottoming the sight on the frame and it was as plain as the nose on a hog's face that there wasn't enough adjustment left to lower the group to impact just



Author used Mitchell Arms 5½" barreled Single Action .44 magnum revolver and Roy's Custom Leather "Pancake" holster and belt during handgun hunting trip.



Author Mike Barach bagged this barbiroussa ram with the Mitchell Arms SA.

above the bull at fifty yards. After bottoming the sight, I shot three more rounds with them printing about 4½" above the bull. I switched to 200 gr. handloads, knowing they'd print lower, but it still wasn't enough. There was no alternative but to file off some of the bottom of the sight to lower the point of impact. After working on it with a file, there was enough adjustment to sight in wherever I desired. I feel the rear sight should be re-evaluated by Mitchell Arms and modified to correct this problem in future production guns. It may not be representative of other rear sights, however sufficient adjustment should be seen to at the factory, not at the range. This is the only major complaint I have with the gun.

Finish and fitting of my test gun are very well done. There are no tooling marks visible except for the sides of the hammer and they are more like a brush finish than machining marks. The forged steel frame is very nicely color-case-hardened and the backstrap & trigger guard are made of solid brass, not plated, so it does tarnish. The barrel and ejector rod housing are finished in a deep blue. Overall, it's a very attractive revolver and I'm sure that Wyatt Earp or Doc Holliday would've gone plum loco if they were to have had this piece in their time.

The one-piece walnut, styled grips are fitted to the backstrap nicely and feel comfortable in my hand.

The Mitchell Arms revolver has the tra-  
(Continued on page 65)

### SPECIFICATIONS

Caliber:	.44 Mag.
Action:	SA revolver
Capacity:	6-shot
Barrel:	5½"
Weight:	46 oz.
Sights:	Rampfront, rear adjustable
Stocks:	Walnut
Finish:	Blue
Price:	\$194.95

# TEST REPORT

## BROWNING BDA .45

Field-tested with excellent results at the Bianchi Cup

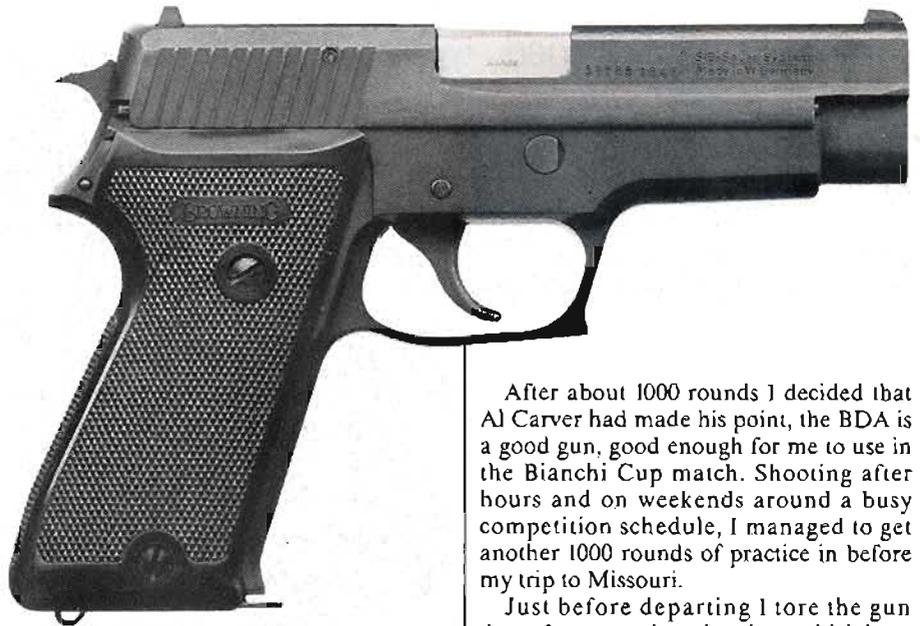
By Seth R. Nadel

This episode started with some small talk between myself and Al Carver, head PR man for Browning Arms at Morgan, Utah. Al began by praising the virtues of the Browning BDA (Browning Double Action) in .45 caliber. My response was that I had seen the gun, and considered the piece "clunky."

To this derogatory input Al had a simple rejoinder: "Have you ever shot the gun?" I had to admit ignorance, and dutifully followed along to the company outdoor range, still convinced that I could fire 20 or so rounds, explain my dislike for the BDA, and move on to something else. After the first 20 rounds, I was hesitant. After the next 20, I was interested, and at the end of a box and a half, I knew this gun deserved a closer look—much closer. I quickly arranged for Browning to send me a BDA in .45 fresh from storage. I particularly did not want a gun that had been used before, or one modified or tuned in any fashion.

What I received for test is a typical gun. Due to its alloy frame, the BDA only weighs 29 ounces, and measures 8" long by 5½" high with a 4¼" barrel. It has a rather high profile, and is strictly a holster gun—it's a bit large to hide under normal clothes. Using an external hammer, the gun is double action for the first shot, single action for the rest, and is made safe without using a safety. On the left side of the frame, just under the thumb, is a "decocking lever." When the hammer is cocked, pressing this lever down takes the hammer off the scar, and allows you to lower it to the decocked position. This spot is about 1/4 cocked, just on the mechanical advantage side of the double action linkage. Thus, the trigger pull from decocked is less than from hammer down, a point I had not realized. The earlier guns drop the hammer instantly when the decocking lever is applied, whereas the later version, like mine, allow you to lower the hammer slowly.

One of the "problems" with the BDA for some shooters is the bottom magazine release, and I admit I was not thrilled with it at first. But with some expert advice from



master shooter Jerry Usher, and a bit of practice, I found it to be no great problem. In fact I won an IPSC type match with several reloads in it by 6 seconds, and the man in second place is no slowpoke.

The very day I started to try it out, I received my invitation to the Bianchi Cup Match for 1980. Why not, I reasoned, use the BDA for my initial practice over the Bianchi course? I could learn the match as I tested the gun. Well, the more I shot it, the more I liked it, and the more I liked it, the more I shot it. Consistent 2" groups with match ammo at 50 meters (shot prone) demonstrated the accuracy of the piece was more than enough for the match. Reliability is the key to this match as I knew from last year, and the BDA shot ammo so grungy I wouldn't run it thru my other guns. The BDA would shoot accurately dirtier than any gun I've ever seen—and that's dirtier than you should ever let a gun get.

After about 1000 rounds I decided that Al Carver had made his point, the BDA is a good gun, good enough for me to use in the Bianchi Cup match. Shooting after hours and on weekends around a busy competition schedule, I managed to get another 1000 rounds of practice in before my trip to Missouri.

Just before departing I tore the gun down for a complete cleaning—which is no big deal. The BDA is cleaned as 4 parts, none of which are small enough for even a clutz like me to lose. Run the slide back, turn the takedown lever, run the slide forward, take out the recoil spring and barrel, and you're done. A really close look shows absolutely no wear on the alloy receiver rails. Not a bit of finish was, or is, worn through. Every other alloy frame I have seen has had the finish worn off the rails in 300 rounds, but not the BDA. I don't know what finish it is, but I wish the U.S. makers used it. I did find a tiny bit of peening on the cam slot of the barrel. Not very much, but just enough.

How good is the BDA? It's good enough for me to do that much better on a demanding course of fire against 219 shooters, some of whom had much more time and better facilities to practice on. It's good enough for me to win at IPSC matches, including reloading. In fact the BDA is good enough that at least one California Police Department is going to issue it, as the gun only has two conditions of load, decocked (double action) or fully cocked (single action). It allows the officers to carry a .45 without the bad PR and politics of cocked and locked, with a reliable, accurate, dependable pistol.

How good is the BDA? Damned good, and well worth a second look at your local gunshop, or better yet out on the range. It may not be as esthetically pleasing in looks as a 1911, but when you shoot it you will feel the difference. This is one gun you decide to buy on the range, not in a gun shop. Shoot one and you will feel what I mean.

### SPECIFICATIONS

<b>Caliber:</b>	.45 ACF
<b>Action:</b>	DA semi-auto
<b>Magazine:</b>	7-shot
<b>Barrel:</b>	4¼"
<b>L.O.A.:</b>	8"
<b>Weight:</b>	29 oz.
<b>Sights:</b>	Blade front, windage adjustable rear
<b>Stocks:</b>	Checkedered plastic
<b>Finish:</b>	Blue
<b>Price:</b>	\$399.95

# TEST REPORT

## BENELLI B-76 DA AUTO

A hefty 9mm designed for military and police

By Bert Myers

Within the time frame of the relatively recent past, a new 9mm double action, semi-automatic pistol has appeared on the U.S. commercial market. Designated as the Model B76, the gun is manufactured by Benelli Arms of Urbino, Italy and is distributed here by Sile Distributors Inc., 7 Centre Market Place, New York, N.Y., 10013.

For whatever reason, the advent of the appearance of this gun on the American scene has received but scant attention in the shooting press and with shooters themselves. It's time that someone told the shooting fraternity just what the B-76 is and what it is not.

We first located a B-76 on the shelf of our local retailer, Weissers of National City, California and were provided the opportunity to test and evaluate the gun on a lend-lease basis. Later Sile Distributors gave us a sample for testing and thus we were in a great position to test two guns which precluded the chance that we only had a hand-picked sample furnished by the factory, even though Sile assured us that they don't hand pick samples that go to writers. It was to Sile's credit that we can report no discernable difference between the two guns.

The very first impression was favorable. It has a massive, hefty design that is definitely eye catching and appealing. The grip angle is good. The sights, while fixed, are large and outlined in white. The safety mechanism is good, although by no means is it combat sized, and moves in a vertical on/off direction rather than rocking pivotly forward and down and rearward and up as is the case with many other autos. The gun is all steel, even though the frame is formed by stamping rather than being machined from a forging. The use of a stamped frame in no way affects the operation. Our congratulations to the Benelli people who didn't go to an alloy frame.

Disassembly is quite simply performed without the use of tools, and its interior is as impressive as hell with hard chrome on most internal parts. The fit and finish, are to say the least, striking.

A real plus factor is that the barrel is non-floating, being threaded to the breech unit, which in turn is rigidly affixed to the



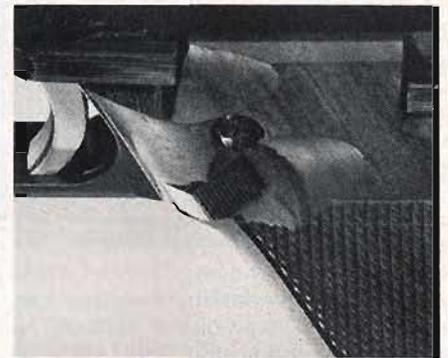
### SPECIFICATIONS

Caliber:	9mm
Action:	DA auto
Magazine:	8-shot
Barrel:	4 1/4"
L.O.A.:	8-1/16"
Weight:	34 oz.
Sights:	Fixed w/white inlays- Fast draw
Stocks:	Checked walnut
Finish:	Blue
Price:	\$349.95

grip frame. There is no barrel bushing and the barrel merely projects through a hole in the front of the slide when the gun recoils in the firing cycle. There is no question that this provides a more accurate assembly than is possible with the floating barrel, bushing, linkage type units of the Browning/Colt design.

A machine rest was not used, but the shooting was over a sandbag rest. The groups measured 2 1/2" x 3" at 15 yards. Handloads increased the spread to 3 1/2" to 4". The factory ammo was 115 grain FMJ, while the handloads were hard cast 125 grainers. The handloads, although 10 grains heavier in bullet weight, were loaded as close as possible to factory velocities.

The Benelli is quite fussy about the ammunition it digests. Only the loads that conform to the length of military hardball seem to go through every time. Sile con-



The magazine release of the Benelli is one of the fastest on the market.

firmed that the gun was designed primarily for the military stuff and so our tests just seemed to bear this out. Sile adds that the main purpose of this gun was for the European military and police market.

The fixed sights take it out of the target category but certainly are big and bold enough for combat competition that requires fast pointing. Speaking of combat competition, the magazine only holds 8 and there's been a big swing among shooters to go to the 14 shooters like Browning.

We were quite impressed with the overall fit and finish and some of the innovative engineering that went in to the Benelli. It settles down nicely with a two-hand hold. When you take it apart it looks like a silver mine with all that hard chrome interior. It looks different than most any other auto with its square and blocky silhouette.

Where does it fit in? No doubt its best purpose is what Benelli intended—for the military and police. It's perfectly adequate for home defense and if you don't mind losing some brass. It would be all right for plinking small game. It could be all right for combat competition with a few modifications but target shooting is out without big changes. As it stands now—it's a beauty—both in appearance and construction, and does what it's advertised to do. What more could we want?



# TEST REPORT

## OMEGA PEEPSIGHT

Don't knock it 'til you tried it... they can be fast and very accurate

By J. D. Jones

Sounds crazy doesn't it? Well, depending on your ability and personal preference it might be the best thing that you ever looked through to point a gun. If you don't go into trying one out with the right attitude—forget it—it won't work for you.

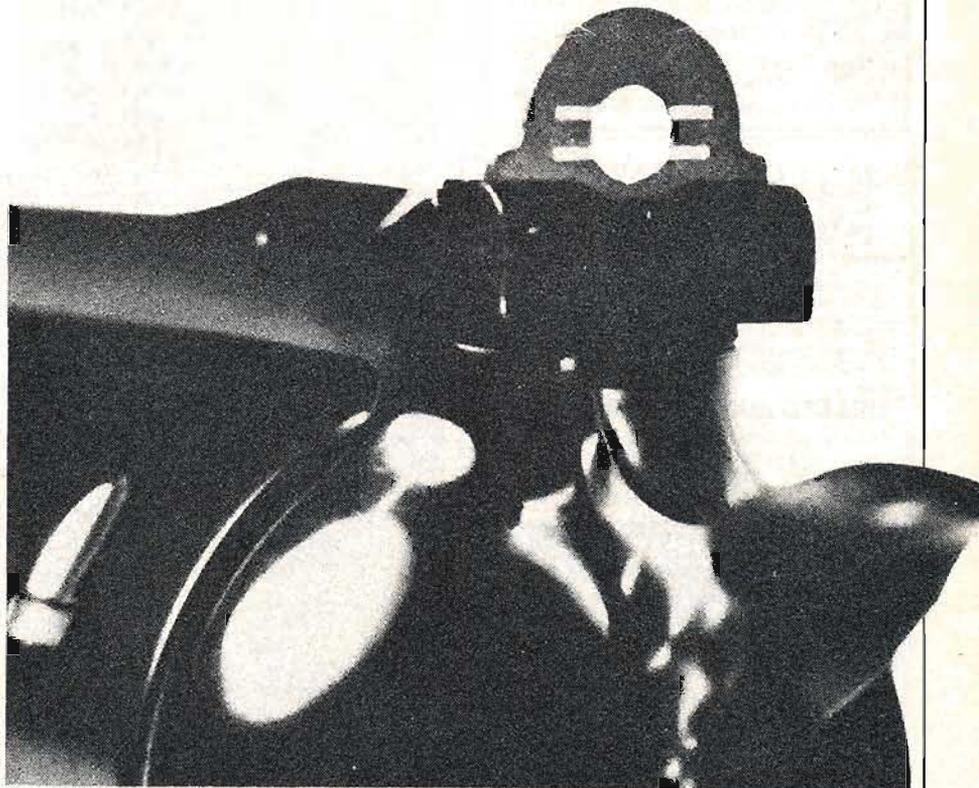
Early in the Silhouette game, peepsights—particularly combined with the SSK (\$8.50) crosshair front sight insert for the Lyman 17A or Redfield 63-64 sight worked very well for those with good eyes. I still shoot better 200 meter groups with this setup than any other iron sight.

Accessory white outline sight blades for Ruger, Colt, Micro and Interarms have been available for quite some time priced at about \$6.10 each. They are very simply installed in less than a minute and are very popular.

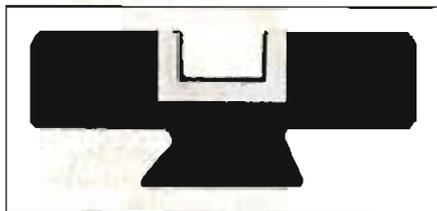
The peep blades fit the same sights. Three styles are now available. First, a plain peep blade which works equally well on revolvers or micro sights for 14" T/Cs or custom XP-100s. This setup provides a click adjustable sight that is repeatable and durable for unlimited silhouette or hunting. It is currently the only peep setup I feel is accurate and repeatable in adjustment as well as lightweight.

The plain peep works fine on revolvers. It's fast and accurate. Simply center the top of the front sight and squeeze off. It's easy to see around the front post and lay the post right on a deer's shoulder when he's moving in the brush. For me, after a little getting used to it's faster than a plain open notch and post because it's easier to line up.

In addition, a peep with one or with two range reference bars is available. Personally, I prefer the two bar rig. On a .44 Mag Super Blackhawk leveling the top of the front sight with the lower bar and sighting in three high at 50 yards will impact right at the top of the front sight at about 100. Split the difference between the bars with the front sight and the point of impact is on at 150-175. Raise the front sight to the top bar and you're dead on at 200-225. This seems consistent with most magnum ammunition. Obviously, the two bar sight



**A close-up of the two-bar range-reference peepsight made by Omega. Although it could get hung up in some holsters, the sight boosts speed and accuracy.**



**This white outline blade can be used on Ruger, Colt, or Interarms handguns. Easy installation takes only a minute.**



**A peepsight mounted on a Ruger Super Blackhawk. The two-bar model provides repeatable performances at long range.**

isn't as fast as the plain peep but it is as fast as a plain notch and post. Holding front sight up over a rear blade will hit a lot of long range targets and miss a lot more. The two bars provide a repeatable reference for long range shooting.

The sight has only one real disadvantage that I can see. It is higher than a blade and a gun could conceivably be dropped or bumped and bend or break the blade. It may present a problem in some holsters. It might just make up for those liabilities with increased accuracy and shooting pleasure.

No sight is perfect. All of them are compromises. Jimmy Clark (Rt. 2, Box 22A, Keithville, LA 71047) makes a damn good click adjustable rear replacement sight for Rugers that sells for \$16.50 plain and \$20.00 with a white outline blade. It is superior to the standard Ruger product.

White outline replacement blades (\$6.10) for Ruger, Interarms, Colt or Micro or plain peep (\$6.50) one or two white line bars for elevation control (\$7.15) are available from Omega Sales (P.O. Box 1066, Mt. Clemens, MI 48043) or SSK Industries (Rt. 1, Della Dr., Bloomingdale, OH 43910). Both firms offer other products for handgunners.



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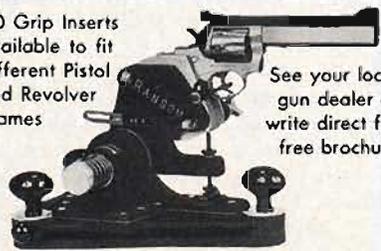
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## NORMA .38 MAG

(Continued from page 35)

along with a vintage 4" Model 19 Smith that has provided benchmark performance always. Also included were a few tools, some cleaning equipment, the Nikon, and Ken Oehler's Model 33 Chronotach.

Cartridges picked for the test included Speer #3710, std. pressure 110gr. JHP, Federal #38F, +P 110gr. JHP, and S&W #S357-110JHP, .357 Mag 110gr. JHP. The .38-158 std. and +P loads selected were S&W Nyclad #N383N and #N38P3N, respectively.

On the first available shooting day, only the Norma .38 and the S&W Nyclad ammo had arrived. Some of the gear was new and untried, so we went to the range for a shakedown cruise. First up was the Contender with std., +P and Norma, in that order. Next was the Dan Wesson, beginning with 6" barrel, then stepping down to 4, 3, 2½, and 2", recording 5 shot

Chart 1—Average Velocity  
Standard Deviation  
First Day Shoot

	S&W N383N Std. 158 SWC	S&W N38P3N +P 158 SWC	Norma 38 Spl Magnum 110 JHP
DWA 6"	746-23	892-26	1348-52
DWA 4"	705-22	849-26	1258-51
DWA 3"	725-15	861-35	1190-57
DWA 2½"	719-7	827-29	1157-30
DWA 2"	670-18	798-27	1046-4

groups of each of the three cartridges.

After running out of barrels for the Dan Wesson, the other guns were tested, beginning with 4" M19 and ending with 2" M36. Because of time delays typical of public ranges (people changing targets, etc.), we didn't get to shoot all possible combinations of gun/ammo; therefore, a few blanks exist where there should be some numbers.

Three shooters tried my old Contender with original style grips and agreed that it produced greater felt recoil (with Norma .38 Spl. Mag) than a 10½" Super Blackhawk using 240gr. factory Remington loads. The Super B chronographed 1504, incidentally. Shooting Norma Mag in the 3" Model 37 Airweight was uncomfortable, to put it mildly, even for a shooter who cut his eye teeth on a steady diet of Mags. The 2" Detective Special, with cut-away guard and bobbed hammer, has the softest and smoothest DA pull I've ever experienced on a small gun, but it misfired a couple of times on Norma ammo, indicating too soft mainspring for Norma's tough primers. It busted the S&W standard pressure loads without problem, though.

Chart No. 1 shows a summary of the 24, five-shot strings fired.

Oehler's 33 turns energetic statisticians into lazy types. After shooting a string of any given number of shots, it gives a complete summary of the data. By just pushing a button on the box 6 times, it displays low, high, extreme spread, average, standard deviation, and number of shots in the string. All of these terms are well understood by most shooters, with the possible exception of standard deviation. The SD is a measure of variability of numerical data that, with the average, describes the distribution. Sixty-eight percent of all readings will fall within ± one SD of the average, and 99 percent of all observations will be within ± 3 SD's. As anyone who can spell "statistics" knows, the SD calculated from a five shot string isn't a very reliable measure. However, the figures for a large number of such strings is more meaningful. Thus, Chart 1 shows the average and SD for each of the recorded strings. As expected, average velocity reduced almost consistently with reduced barrel length. The two SD's of 4 should be



disregarded as not representative. Looking at the rest of them would indicate that the standard pressure ammo is more consistent than +P, and both are more consistent than Norma. Interestingly, though, the .38 Spl. Mag seemed to be more consistent in short barrels.

Second time at the range, everything was in order, and all needed ammo had arrived. A 3" S&W M36 was substituted for the Airweight M37. Recoil on the M37 was too tough for any but the most serious shooting. A 2" Security Industries stainless .38 took the place of the soft-spring 2" Det. Spl. that had failed to fire Norma ammo first time out. We got to the range late in the afternoon, to take advantage of the better performance of Oehler's Sky Screens without direct sunlight. By the time we had finished Contender and 6" DWA, it was almost too dark to continue; not enough light to trigger the screens. I loaded the Security with Norma and fired five rounds over the screens. Only the first round recorded—1130—then the light failed. This gun handled recoil of the hot stuff best of all the small ones, due, undoubtedly, to its superior grip design.

**Chart 2—Average Velocity—Standard Deviation for all Gun/Cartridge Combinations Tested**

		Norma 38 Spl Magnum 110 JHP	Speer 3710 Std. 110 JHP	Federal 38F +P 110 JHP	S & W 357 110 JHP
Contender 10"	1	1727-51			
	2	1749-56	1199-29	1326-16	1808-19
DWA 6"	1	1348-52			
	2	1301-93	908-19	1033-12	1310-22
DWA 4"	1	1258-51			
	2	1297-44	896-20	979-19	1262-32
S & W 19 4"	1	1227-49			
	2	1294-44	975-28	1056-9	1324-34
DWA 3"	1	1190-57			
	2	1176-67	888-17	951-15	1191-21
S & W 37 3"	1	1138-45			
S & W 36 3"	2	1231-14	882-14		
DWA 2½"	1	1157-30			
	2		869-15	947-14	1162-27
Colt 2½"	1	1060-26			
	2				
DWA 2"	1	1046-4			
	2		848-18	932-10	1099-18
Colt 2"	1	Note			
	2				
S & W 36 2"	1	1109-18			
	2		855-13		

1—First day test, 2—Second day test. Note: soft spring did not fire Norma ammo consistently.

Moving to NASG indoor range, we set up again, and continued the test, only to run out of the Norma ammo before shooting the 2½" and 2" barrels a second time. During the shoot, the first round of Norma fired in 4"; Dan Wesson recorded only 771 fps. Report and recoil seemed normal, so the rest of the string was fired. The resulting summary was so out of line that the string was discarded and redone. It's possible that the unit was triggered by something other than the bullet passing overhead. Chart 2 shows combined results of all firings, a total of 64, five-shot strings, using six cartridges and 12 different gun/cartridge combinations.

In summary, I'll have to say Norma's got something there, especially in the velocity department. Lowest individual recorded vel. was 1015 in the 2½" Det. Spl., not counting the 771 mentioned above. Highest single reading was 1840 in the Contender. Neither of the other .38/110 loads approached the velocity obtained by Norma. The .357/110 stayed ahead in all direct comparisons except the DWA-4" second session, but by very small margins.

For practical purposes, Norma's new round does indeed produce magnum performance in small frame short-barreled guns. Further, it appears that the firm's advertised velocities of 1542 for a 6" test barrel and 1225 for a 4" vented barrel are mildly conservative.

Wet blanket to throw on this has to do with expansion—or lack of it. Dallas police ballistics lab chronographed the Norma load in a 4" Model 15, getting results very comparable to those shown for 4" barrels here. Expansion tests (in water) were disappointing. Other media, such as gelatin or wet phone books were not tried. The alleged poor expansion can probably be attributed to the copper plated steel jacket used on the bullet. Only other disturbing note was that Norma varied more in velocity than did any of the other cartridges tested. Perhaps the tougher jacket was partly responsible here, too. But, even with these possible shortcomings, I'm impressed. Since we shot it all, I'll have to go out and buy a box of Norma .38 Special Magnum. I have several little guns that I want to keep loaded with it.

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## PISTOLSMITHING

(Continued from page 23)

ten-thousandths longer, and rounded or possibly square across the top instead of the usual angle. This is a problem any good custom 'smith can fix his own way.

### THE STOCKPILE

Let's face it: you need a decent stockpile of parts to custom tune a Smith & Wesson. In addition to his skill and experience, that's one of the things you're paying a custom gunsmith for when he does your action. Springs are a similar story. I now offer Trigger Return springs at ten for \$15.00. They save a lot of time and work, they're closed on both ends, and while they feel a bit heavy when first put in, some dry firing will make them take a set and feel just right.

Some other things I can help you out with, if you're going to be working on a lot of Smith & Wessons, include my \$99.95 extractor rod straightener, for which you can get an optional \$30 dial indicator from Brownell's. If you recall our previous installments in HANDGUNNER, you remember our exclusive yoke endshake bearing. We sell them separately now, at \$15 for ten. Each bearing is .002", and one or two will do the trick.

### THE FINISH

We promised to talk about finishes this time. Practically speaking, there's not that much to say, though a how-to guide for a good bluing job is another book in itself. Blue or Metalife are both quite good, but I find myself favoring stainless, and my customers are going in that direction, too. There's a substantial cost saving in never needing any refinishing beyond a touchup on the buffing wheel. Admittedly, stainless guns are a little softer and will go out of time quicker. While factory guns may or may not be a little rougher in stainless, we find that we can get an equally nice action out of them in the custom shop.

I hope these articles have been of some help to you. Obviously, we can't teach you to build a match-winning PPC gun step by step. What we tried to show you were the master touches that you want in your custom S&W revolver. The Ruger, incidentally, makes every bit as fine a competition handgun.

I hope you enjoy building your custom PPC gun as much as I enjoyed making my last thousand of them. When the day comes that I stop enjoying it, I'll quit. I feel a special pride when someone like Jim Collins or Ad Clark or Ida McKinney wins a national championship with one of my guns, and I try to put that pride into every revolver that leaves my shop.

If you take enough care, you'll feel the same pride when the revolver that leaves your own workbench turns in a fine performance.

## HUNTIN' HOGS

(Continued from page 25)

are "razorbacks," which defy precise definition. They tend to be smaller and rangier than Northern California or Deep South feral hogs.

They all offer good hunting, if you're willing to take a handgun through deserts, thorn thickets, scrub, forests, pastures or wherever pigs lurk for feed and cover. And they eat well. Dye Creek fed us on wild-pig steaks for the two days and nights of the hunt; no one complained or had vapors from lack of sustenance. The boar I shot there fed my large family amply, and Ben Avery's sow did the same for him. Even javelina meat is edible, although it poses a challenge to cookery.

The Dye Creek hunt showed that for pigs over 150 pounds or so, the .357 magnum is borderline. My .41 magnum took two nearly "plumb-center" hits to collect a 220-pound mature boar. Avery found that the .30 M1-carbine caliber Ruger Blackhawk he grabbed at the last moment was totally inadequate as a gun, even though he shot it well.

We'd taken along a Ruger Blackhawk in .45 Colt caliber as a backup handgun. I offered it to Ben in lieu of the .30 M1 Blackhawk. Later, after getting his animal, Ben wore the .45 in case he got a second opportunity, but there was none.

Ben scored two neck-shoulder area hits with the .30 M1, using factory soft-point rounds. Both hits were well-enough delivered to have at least slowed the 180-pound sow as she took off in high gear in one of Dye Creek's open low-level pastures. But Patten, who guided the two of us (Dorsey and an assistant took the other six hunters into the hills), had to touch off a shot from his .30-06 to stop the sow. Ben ran up and finished her off with a second shot from the .30 M1 Blackhawk.

### SCORING HITS ON HOGS

When my turn came, I got off four shots, scoring two hits in areas very similar to where Ben hit his pig. The first was with a factory .41 magnum soft-point round; my boar, a long way from being "my" boar then, hardly grunted.

Patten tried a shot from his .30-06 to keep the pig from escaping into the hills where trailing with dogs would have been necessary, but he missed. The pig, after a 100-yard-plus sprint and the canal crossing, was tiring. I caught up and delivered a second neck-area shot with the .41, this time a reload using Speer's 200-grain hollow-point bullet.

The boar squealed, kicked over and died. Post-mortems showed Ben's two hits and mine should have all done the job. But only the Speer .41 magnum hollow-point did it, really.

We felt better about our shooting, if not about bullet performance; all but the two

finishing shots had been on running animals at ranges of 50 to 70 yards. And Patten felt better. He told us he and Dorsey had been nervous about turning a gaggle of people loose with handguns for pigs on the ranch. Until our hunt, they had never taken clients out after wild pigs strictly with handguns. They used .357 magnum and 9mm handguns to cull out undesirable animals. But these were mainly sickly sows or other pigs unable to get away. Dorsey and Patten, while not as thoroughly trained with handguns as some of us, are working wildlife professionals who know how to expertly get near the animals and birds they manage.

Patten said Ben's sow was the first pig taken there by a handgun-hunting client, and mine (shot about 45 minutes later) was the first boar.

Up in the hills, the other six hunters fared poorly. Patten had guessed right in taking us low; the other hunters sweated, strained, swore and persevered in the Sierra foothills part of the ranch, but they got no pigs.

Some had shots. One writer carrying two handguns suffered first a failure to fire with his Thompson-Center .30-30 pistol and then had four misses with his .44 Auto Mag. Richardson worked cannily in for a

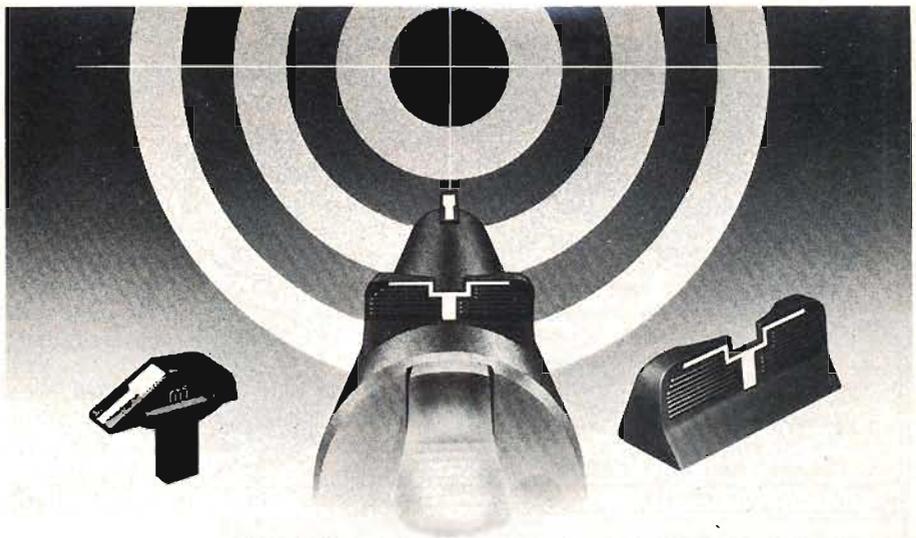
**"Until our hunt, they had never taken clients out after wild pigs strictly with handguns."**

coup in the brush on what he thought was a big boar, but it turned out to be undersized; the big one he'd spotted before the stalk had slipped away. The next day, a California gun writer shot a boar with a guide's rifle, since the handguns-only prescription applied the first day only.

Avery and I, Arizonans surrounded by California hunters, kidded our colleagues about our luck and their discomfort on their native heath. It was, of course, really a matter of luck and good guessing by Dan Patten. But to get vengeance for past football and basketball indignities committed by Californians on Arizonans, we posted a score-sheet reading "Arizonans 2, Californians 0." If Bill Ruger had been there, he could have done a number like "Rugers 2, all others 0," since only Avery and I carried Blackhawks.

But the basic lesson was that when hunting wild pigs with handguns, bigger is better.

Following is a list of loads I've used on wild pigs in Northern California, Arizona and Louisiana. Much lighter loads and smaller calibers will do on javelina, but these are all solid hitters that should flatten anything porcine that's been around since man started hunting his fatback.



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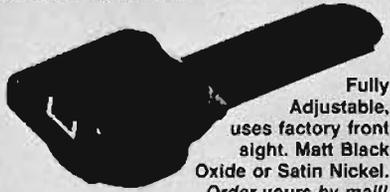
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## COP TALK

(Continued from page 27)

took the matter of weak cartridges as inadequate safety equipment to California's OSHA office. "We got a nice letter back saying Cal-OSHA didn't have control over guns and ammunition," says Bitterolf, "and a week later Cal-OSHA came and cited us for numerous violations.

### A QUESTION OF PRIORITIES

The matter has not been brought before the courts (as it theoretically could be, if an officer were injured after solid hits failed to keep a criminal from firing, because "It is a question of priorities right now. Do you sue over guns and ammunition, or do you sue over salaries and benefits and disciplinary actions? Guns and ammo are not on top of our priorities; close, but not on top."

There is another obstacle in the path of a courtroom approach to solving the problem of less-than-potent service cartridges: the so-called Long Beach Decision. The case was filed by the Long Beach, California, Police Officers Association in 1976, with a view toward forcing departments to issue things like guns and uniforms instead of making officers purchase their own. The court agreed that such necessities should indeed be furnished by the department, with the clear implication that the department could issue whatever it felt was suitable. This decision has been felt throughout California, and many lawmen in that state bitterly regret the well-intentioned effort by their own kind that wound up saving them money in some cases, but also seriously limiting their discretion in carrying high-powered weaponry they felt they needed, and felt so with sufficient conviction that they were willing to buy their own Magnums and auto-pistols.

Like Sgt. Newell, and everyone else who argues the LAPD Ammo controversy, Ken Bitterolf came back to the point about an officer or bystander being shot with a police gun. His response is, "We are trained expertly in hand-to-hand combat, and an officer who gets his gun taken away has made a mental mistake. I feel for him and his family, I truly do, but that situation is a rarity. Most officers don't make those mistakes."

### FACING DEADLY ODDS

For every instance where an officer ineptly uses (or loses) his gun, there are several cases where a conscientious officer may face deadly odds with no protection but a revolver loaded with bullets infamous for poor shock power. Bitterolf agrees. "Very, very few bad guys on the street use .38s with round nose lead bullets. They use things like 15-shot 9mm's and all kinds of guns. We're generally outgunned on the street." Bitterolf tends to think, as a patrol officer, that a policeman is more

likely to be killed because he doesn't have the firepower to instantly take down a heavily armed suspect, than because someone gets his own gun away from him.

Lt. Charles Higbie, head of the Shooting Team that investigates all officer-involved gunfire situations in LAPD, told us that several policemen have been shot over the years, after having hit the gunman with their own round-nose .38 slugs first. However, he refrains from drawing any conclusions about the service cartridge's stopping power. "In the heat of a gunfight, it is impossible to say where each bullet hit at each instant," he told us. "The guy you hear about who was 'hit six times before he went down' may have been shot five times in the arms or legs or other nonvital areas, and dropped when the last bullet hit him in the head. If a policeman who is looking down a gun barrel fires his own gun as fast as he can, the suspect might be hit six times before he falls to the ground even though the first shot killed him instantly."

### REFLEX ACTION

Here Lt. Higbie has made a telling point, one which Sgt. Newell also calls attention to. Gunfights don't occur in front of triangulated videotape machines, where the action can be played back in slow motion from several angles to determine when and where each bullet struck, after six were fired in a very short time frame. While this is a valid argument in some cases where the .38 Special and similar cartridges are condemned for impotence, it does not explain the many documented cases where the cop killer was hit several times in vital areas with the round-nose .38 bullet, without being prevented from committing homicide.

As to the argument that policemen had to be saved from their own incompetence via the issuance of low-power ammunition, Sgt. Newell told us there were about 40 accidental discharges a year versus an average 100 gunfight situations. Lt. Higbie elaborated that of these "accidentals," only ten to fifteen a year involved an officer or bystander actually hit with a police bullet, and that gunfight statistics run sixty to eighty encounters annually these days, shootouts having been on a downward trend for the past couple of years. This gives credence to the point made by Police Protective League Director Bitterolf, that the officer needs to worry about a weak gun pitted against a heavily armed criminal more than he needs to worry about a full-power sidearm jeopardizing himself or innocents.

### SNATCHED GUN

The "snatched gun" argument seems to be the cornerstone of "their" argument, "they" being the term spokesmen use when they refer to LAPD's decision-makers. Who are "They"?

According to all we could gather from both sides of the issue, "they" are former LA Police Chief Ed Davis, period. Though

Davis has a nationwide reputation as a hard-line law and order man, his own cops didn't see him in the same adulatory light as conservatives and pro-police activists elsewhere in the country. To say that Davis was a dictator, according to Ken Bitterolf, "would be putting it mildly. He admitted he was a dictator." A ranking member of LAPD told us, "On the guns-and-ammo issue, the vote was seven thousand to one. But the one vote for the old ammo was Ed Davis, and that was the only vote he needed."

Since the new chief took over, the Los Angeles Police Protective League has been too involved with other issues to bring up the ammo controversy again, though it is sure to resurface in future negotiations. When that happens, the LA cops will be resigned to asking for nothing more than high-performance ammo in their existing Combat Masterpiece .38s. It will be nothing more than a concession that well over half of their brother officers across the country have won; LAPD's own studies, conducted by Newell and others, indicated strongly that expanding bullets were in the best interests of public safety and officer survival. It is significant that members of the LAPD SWAT teams are all issued Colt .45 automatics.

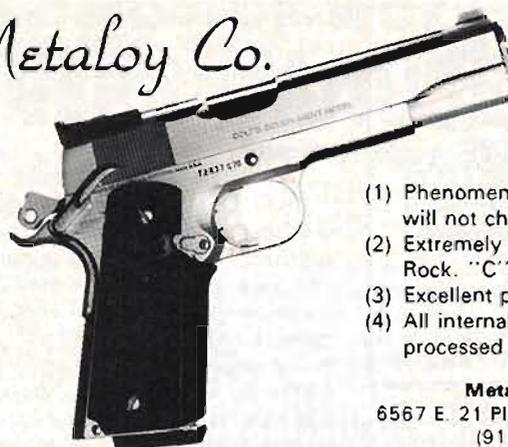
**"...the one vote for the old ammo was Ed Davis, and that was the only vote he needed."**

#### HOT LOADS—YES

As noted above, CHIP and LA County (departments every bit as progressive as LAPD) have gone to "hot load" .38 Special ammo. The FBI has adopted the 158-gr. lead hollowpoint, as has Chicago PD; neither have had serious adverse public reaction, and both have seen improvement in officer morale as well as an increased ratio of instant one-shot stops. Other Federal agencies are using the "Treasury Load," a 110-grain .38 jacketed hollowpoint at near 357 Magnum velocities; shock power improved tremendously, and ACLU never sued the government, nor accused President Carter of issuing "dumdum bullets." Phoenix PD was one of the first to go to .38 hollowpoints; they report a high rate of one-shot stops with the 125-gr. Remington load, though some of their officers still want more powerful guns.

Boston and New York City police management defended the round-nose lead bullet even more vociferously than LAPD, until the patrolmen's organizations wore them down; those departments now issue semi-wadcutter .38 ammo, and while the flat-nosed bullets have improved the gun-fight performance statistics somewhat,

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there are indications that what LA cops call "hot loads"—and what so many other progressive law enforcement agencies call "standard issue"—might be a more satisfactory answer.

### TIME FOR CHANGE

LAPD spokesmen are careful not to say that their issue handgun cartridge offers sufficient stopping power gunfights with criminals. This is because they know such a statement would be a falsehood, as documented by literally hundreds of official police gunfight reports from departments across the country, including their own. For that same reason, LAPD does not address itself to questions of ricochet and overpenetration, undesirable side-effects that are as heavily and positively linked to the round-nose lead .38 slug as lung cancer is to cigarettes.

To American citizens—indeed, to policemen throughout the world—"Los Angeles Police Department" is synonymous with the concept of progressive law enforcement. The continued use of the round-nose lead service bullet, repudiated by every scientific test and survey as inefficient, and dangerous to innocent bystanders as well, is a source of personal and professional concern to the members of this otherwise exemplary law enforcement agency.



## .270VJ CONTENDER

(Continued from page 39)

bench rest testing it was found that there is a certain amount of vertical stringing that occurs in the Contender, more in some receiver-barrel combinations than others. In order to get the utmost in accuracy, Vern found that certain modifications are necessary. First he fits and installs a custom-angled locking piece (which has been modified over the years) to the barrel. The old lug is discarded. The receiver then is closely machined to accept the new locking lug. These two steps don't sound too difficult but a lot of experimenting went into finding the correct combinations and everything is closely scrutinized to insure a tight "vault-like" lockup. The hinge-pin holes in both the receiver and the barrel are reamed to the same size and a custom pin is installed. Also, the trigger and sear are worked over and adjusted and a new heavier hammer spring is installed. The above process is done for a reasonable cost of \$62, which is far below the going rate for accuracy jobs on revolvers and automatics. The Contender, after undergoing the above process, is easily the least expensive, most accurate handgun that is available in calibers suitable for big game hunting and silhouette competition. If an individual has more than one barrel to be

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fit to the same frame, the second barrel is just an additional \$39. To eliminate any possibility of developing slack in a particular gun many prefer not to interchange barrels. However, for those who would like to retain the interchangeability feature it is easy to drive the hinge pin out with a brass punch. It should be noted that the trigger can still be adjusted without removing the barrel; it just takes a long-shanked .050 allen wrench.

After accurizing, a standard 14" Contender is the "best buy" for silhouette shooting and is capable of being a 200-meter chicken gun. The first "40" shot with a 14" Contender was accomplished back in February of '78 by Skip Talbot with a .30 Herrett. This was during the short period that the 14-incher was still classed as a production gun. Incidentally, that particular gun had been given the "Juenke treatment." Standard barrels cannot be used in a frame that's been accurized unless they're given the \$39 treatment. Small price to pay, really, for a gun that's capable of competing with the custom XP's costing two to three times as much.

For those who prefer the big bores for either silhouette shooting or hunting, Vern has developed a real effective muzzle brake that screws on to the end of the

**"...a gun that's capable of competing with the custom XP's costing two to three times as much."**

barrel. This brake works on the principal of exhausting the greatest amount of gas possible for a maximum braking effect. The barrel still qualifies under IHMSA's maximum length of 15" and, if desired, the brake can be removed and a plastic cap, supplied also by Vern, is turned onto the threads to protect them. After shooting two different loads through a .35 Remington with and without the muzzle brake, I can assure you that it's real effective. I think it could mean the difference between winning and losing to a person bothered by recoil in the late stages of a silhouette match. It would also be an aid when bench testing the hard-kicking calibers used in big game hunting. Everything else being equal, it's usually easier to get better accuracy from lighter recoiling guns, thus, a more reliable indication of how accurate one's reloads are. As it adds very little to the length of the barrel, a person could elect to carry it hunting or leave it home depending on personal preference.

There is certainly nothing wrong with the standard super 14" Contender but any gun can be improved with a little judicious tinkering by a knowledgeable gunsmith. One has only to look at how the standard XP-100 has been improved by all the attention and custom tuning done to it by any

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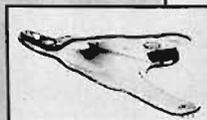
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number of gunsmiths. Vern felt that modifying a standard Contender to the same degree that the XP's are, would produce an ultimate unlimited Contender. An XP with its bolt arrangement might hold the case more rigid and certainly the barrel is immovable, but a tightly chambered Contender with a lockup like a bank vault and a chamber that allows very little expansion of the case would make the difference academic. An XP has more weight in the action and over the hand while a TC with the lighter action can afford to put more weight out front and utilize a heavier, stiffer barrel.

Another difference that many people don't consider is that a full-length sized case in a bolt action is canted slightly to the side by the extractor spring. With these considerations in mind Vern set out to build a better unlimited Contender.

First a custom barrel equal to the ones used on the XP's would be needed. A 15" Shilen 8 land barrel was chosen and was given a straight cylindrical taper out to the muzzle. The barrel can be left heavier than most barrels used on the XP action which certainly can't hurt the accuracy potential. Vern's barrels run around .915" in diameter. Vern cuts off a standard barrel, bores it out and threads it to receive the new bull barrel.

Caliber choice was another item that needed to be worked out. When Vern's boy, Ken, started shooting silhouettes in November '78 he used an accurized .35 Remington. With this combination he shot a 34 in his first match, which is truly remarkable, but they both wanted a flatter shooting caliber. As is typical with Vern, he

designed his own cartridges. The case settled on was the .222 Remington magnum case which he felt would be ideal in capacity, would leave a lot of steel around the chamber and would provide a little longer neck and larger capacity than the .223 case. It was given a 40 degree shoulder with a minimum of body taper and the chamber was cut to bench rest tolerances. (Vern has loaded his cases 25 times with no cases lost for any reason; this would indicate that a snug chamber is the correct approach.) The caliber chosen was .270 which has a good variety of bullets available with high ballistic coefficients and a .277 diameter bullet allows a nice-sized

**"Ken Juenke shot eight 40x40s in AAA silhouette competition in 1979."**

shoulder on this case for positive head-spacing. A Williams rear sight was chosen, but modified to eliminate any slack or backlash in the threads. A rear sight blade was then designed to his own liking. As load testing with a scope was planned, Vern modified a Williams 1" scope mount to allow the interchanging of iron sights and scope in a matter of seconds. There is also no need to re-zero when switching from sights to a scope if both have previously been zeroed. Tolerances are kept to such a minimum that the gun will still be perfectly zeroed. Of course, the gun was also given his standard six-step accurizing which was detailed earlier.

**.270 VJ LOADING DATA**

BULLET TYPE	POWDER	TYPE	PRIMER	C.O.A.L.	VEL.	FPS.
90 gr. Sierra Hp.	27.0 gr.	RL7	BR4	2.450	2685	
100 gr. Horn. spire	26.8 gr.	H322	BR4	2.450	2530	
100 gr. Nosler sb.	27.0 gr.	H322	BR4	2.515	2575	
110 gr. Sierra sp.	26.5 gr.	H322	BR4	2.550	2440	
130 gr. Sierra bt.	27.0 gr.	4320	BR4	2.550	2200	
130 gr. Nosler sb.	27.0 gr.	4320	BR4	2.515	2200	
150 gr. Sierra bt.	26.0 gr.	4320	BR4	2.550	2000	

(Consider these loads to be maximum. Start a grain or two low and work up. Neither Vern Juenke, the American Handgunner, or the author, assume any liability for the use of these loads.)



With a .270 VJ built by his dad, Ken Juenke shot eight 40x40's in AAA silhouette competition in 1979. Seven of these were official scores with one being disallowed as he shot the wrong ram. His load is 27 grains of 4320 with a 130-grain Nosler solid base bullet at 2200 fps. The November-December '79 issue of the Silhouette indicated that this is a record for an unlimited contender. The .270 VJ will shoot well under a minute of angle with a 4X scope from a bench rest. I've shot a group that measured 7/8" from center to center at 100 meters with a .270 VJ that Vern built for me. The load used was 26 grains of H322 with Sierra's 110-grain spitzer. I can't do this all the time, but the gun is capable of it and more often than not, groups cluster around one inch. It is an ideal cartridge for unlimited silhouette competition. Kathy Miner of Reno, Nevada, won the high lady trophy at the Phoenix IHMSA Internationals with an XP chambered to the .270 VJ cartridge. She shot a score of 78 out of 80 and she also has two 40's to her credit thus far with this gun. Recoil is real mild which would allow a recoil conscious person to concentrate more on sight alignment. It would be real hard to find a better choice for varmint hunting. It works well with bullets ranging from 90 to 150 grains. The .270 VJ is a flat shooter attaining velocities close to 2700 fps. with 90-grain bullets and around 2000 fps. with 150-grain bullets. Bullets of 130 grains at 21 to 2200 fps. seem to be best for silhouette competition. Most of the loads listed develop around 1400 foot pounds of energy which is way out of proportion to the small case.

Anyone who enjoys pistol shooting with contenders (and the list is growing daily), and wants the very best, should contact Vern Juenke at the Accuracy Den, 25 Bitterbrush Road, Reno, Nevada 89523.



## SPOKHANDGUNS

(Continued from page 36)

disappointment, but when they asked if I would be interested in wringing out three of their newest developments which he referred to as "camp & trail" guns, I could hardly turn that down, and the results of that testing follows.

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porate an excellent "Nite-Sight" which glows in low light like a four lane highway. Barrels will come in two lengths, those being either 3" or 5". The barrel on the .45 LC comes from the excellent S&W 25, while the .41's and .44's are another horse entirely, but I'll get into that later. All butts are cut down to the same size as a round butt 19, and come with both Pachmayer Signature Stocks, and a set of custom fitted wood grips as well.

The .45 Long Colt was finished in the hard chrome which reminds one of stainless steel. Sights were standard S&W rear, while the front end sported a high, square-cut post. The muzzle end was machined to approximately the same shape as the Colt Dick Special, and was very pleasing to the eye. Length on the barrel was 3.3".

The cylinder used on all the .45 LC's were of S&W make, but they were not .45 LC cylinders. They were all M-29 cylinders which had been re-chambered to the new caliber. A very nice touch, which should allow the use of any handload within reason. This one weighed 40 ounces, the trigger pulled at 3 lbs. on the nose, and the DA was glass smooth, but a trifle heavy to suit me.

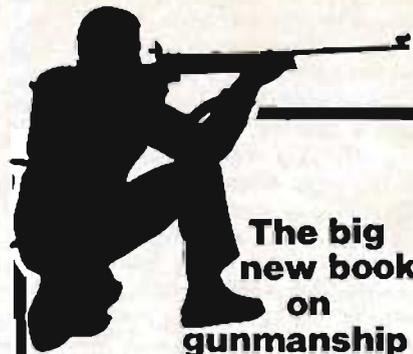
The .45 LC delivered groups averaging 2 1/2" at 25 yards. Not too shabby for a 3" barrel. Winchester and Federal ammo

**"The 3" .45LC delivered  
groups averaging  
2 1/2" at 25 yards..."**

grouped about equal with a slight edge going to the Winchester in this particular gun. My pet rat round for short barreled .45 LC guns consists of 16 grains of Hercules Blue Dot and the 200 gr. Speer JHP for 940 fps and right around 400 fp energy. This gun was a ball to shoot, and with a ramp front sight would make a good choice for plainclothes cops as well as campers.

The .44 Magnums sent to me had a 3" and 5" full octagon barrel with round butt. The barrel on these and the .41's started life as a 1 3/4" Bauska rifled blank which was then machined to final shape. *Everything* on these barrels was one piece, from the front sight, right down to the ejector shroud and ventilated rib. The workmanship on the barrels was outstanding. It took over 30 hours of machining to produce each of these guns, and I can believe it, as they were absolutely flawless.

The 3" gun had the standard S&W target hammer and trigger, but the set-up that really caught my eye was the combination on the 5" gun. The hammer was cut down, leaving just enough spur to be both pleasing to the eye and functional. The trigger started life as the wide target model, but had been narrowed and rounded, leaving six serrations in the middle. The rest of the trigger and the hammer



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was then polished smooth. SA pull on the 5" gun was one of the best I've ever seen, breaking at 2½ lbs. with absolutely no overtravel. When the hammer drops, the trigger stops, and right now! Weight on the 3" gun is 40 oz., and the 5" stopped the scales at 3 lbs. even.

When it came to the shooting part of this test, the accuracy displayed by all these guns was phenomenal. I had assembled a variety of factory ammo for the .44's, including WW 240 SWC and JHP, Frontier 200 and 240 JHP's, and Federal 180 and 240 JHP's. I shot groups at 25 yds with the 5" gun that averaged 1½", and that was with darn near anything I stuffed in it. Now I'm no paper puncher, but the gun fit my hand so well, that everything just fell into place. I've never shot a .44 that I considered a "fun gun" until these came along. The round butt with the Pachmayer grips cushioned recoil until it wasn't any worse than a lot of .357's that I've fired. All ammo was comfortable with the exception of the WW 240 SWC. That was a real bear in the shorter tube.

For funsies, there was a large rock against the 200 yard bank which was roughly the size of an IHMSA ram. With any of the ammo I had on hand, it only took one ranging shot before you could pop that rock with damn near every shot. I

## "I've never shot a .44 that I considered a fun gun until these..."

certainly wouldn't hesitate to give this one a try at any IHMSA shoot.

I purposely saved the 3" version for last, as I expected some rather abusive recoil. Well, I did get some of that, but only from the WW load mentioned earlier. While the other rounds let you know you certainly weren't shooting a .22, they were pale by comparison to that 240 SWC. Federal 180 JHP rounds were definitely the quickest, at least judging by bullet strikes, and belched enough fire to melt your next batch of wheelweights. I managed some 3½" groups at 25 yds with this one, but blame me, not the gun. I even gave this one a try at the rock, and four out of six hits were rather common. Yes Virginia, these guns do shoot.

The guns I tested were just prototypes for the final product and not for sale. There will be 20 guns built for the initial run—10 on each model. By the time you read this, the work should just about be completed on all of them. Spokhandguns prefers to sell the complete gun rather than work on the customer supplied piece, although that may change. The prototype guns were completed in just a short time and as a result there were a couple of minor things that I didn't like that I have been assured are not present in the end products. One was the DA trigger which I

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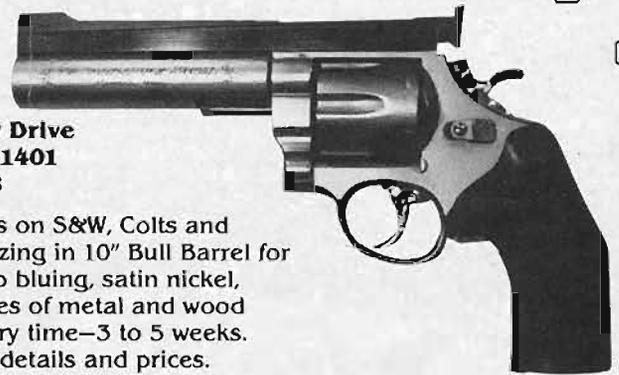
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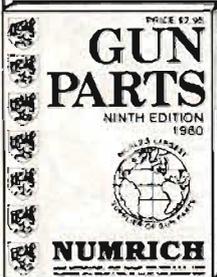
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had suggested was a little stiff, and the other was the bluing, which, although good, I did not think it was exceptional. However, these guns were merely the fore-runners and not for sale.

There are more extras that will come with these guns, and I'll try and give you a run-down on them.

First, all guns will have full length ejector shrouds, regardless of whether the sights are fixed or adjustable. The 3" guns will have smooth combat triggers, and will be supplied with one shortened target

**"...you'll notice I haven't mentioned price and for a good reason."**

hammer and one de-horned combat hammer, checkered on top, and fitted to the action. Actions will be a maximum of 9 lb. DA and 3 lb. SA. The 5" conversions will all be equipped with the shortened target hammer and custom target trigger as was my test gun.

Through all firing, there was no shaving or spitting of lead, even with alloy bullets. The smallest feeler gauge I could find on my cluttered work bench was .008 and it wouldn't even begin to fit between the barrel and cylinder. These guns are tight! But, even under extended firing with heavy loads, there was never any tendency for the works to bind up.

I'm very impressed with the work being turned out by this outfit. The 5" impressed me the most, and I fell in love with the way it handles and shoots. The 3" .44? Well, it will certainly sell to some, but it's not for me. That's not to say it's not superior quality, but I prefer something a little longer in my .44's, thank you.

Through all of this, you'll notice I haven't mentioned price, and for a good reason. Quite frankly, if you have to ask the price, you probably can't afford it anyway. Spokhandguns doesn't publish a current price list, and the boys that own it will readily admit that their customers have priced the bulk of their conversions beyond the pocketbook of Joe Average Handgunner. Spokhandguns has become slaves to the rich. When they develop a conversion like this, the price offered for the #1 gun sets the pace for the rest of them. To give you an idea, the #4 C&T gun on a Model 58 frame has already been set aside for a customer who offered \$1000.00 for it, so you can expect to have to shell out at least that for one of the others.

If you've got the bucks and like what you've seen here, Spokhandguns has asked me to tell you that the remaining guns will be sold on a bid basis, first come, first served. If you are serious about obtaining one, send your bid to Spokhandguns, Inc., East 1911 Sprague Ave. Spokane, WA 99202. Inquiries answered only if accompanied by an SASE.



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# GUN OF THE MONTH

(Continued from page 41)

gov. grip, safety and Colt gold cup sear (with its clutch assembly). Grips were obtained from Jay Scott, made of smooth fancy walnut and reshaped and refinished for individual fit and taste.

The slide is a Colt manufactured National Match (military NM 7791435 series) used because of its renown hardness, weight and proven performance with hardball. The slide's top was milled flat and grooved to provide speed "horizon alignment" of sights which are S&W-K sight on the rear and our own thin front red mini-ramp, providing a very low profile set up "close to bore" sighting while allowing for high enough configuration to give good visibility and adjustment without any holster drag or annoyance associated with high sights. This allows for rapid firing even with the gun slightly canted without throwing off the shots as significantly as conventional "ribs" because of the proximity to the bore of the sighting line. A mated set of National Match (military) barrel and bushing were fitted to the slide. The ejection port was completely reshaped and lowered to the extractor level for improved ejection. Barrel and frame were throated and ramped and perfectly matched then brightly polished to allow for empty cases chambering (or any shape of ammo). A buffering recoil spring guide was thrown in for whatever it is supposed to do. This particular slide set up

**"...tight enough for repeated performance but loose enough to allow for dirt..."**

is favored by and provides the longest possible sighting radius and quick line-up of sights. The slide was hand fitted to the frame, tight enough for repeated performance but loose enough to allow for dirt and lubricants for repeated functioning. The fit of the barrel to the slide is perfect and solidly fitted to each: barrel-bushing and barrel-hood to slide, ensuring a shot to shot repositioning of same. The action was brought down to around over three and a quarter pounds on this gun but lighter or heavier set-ups are available.

The frame and slide were bead blasted with the exception of the slab sides of the slides which were satin brush finished and the assembly electroless nickel plated for a rust resisting and striking effect. A red insert of fluorescent resin was installed on the front while the rear sight with its white outline was left in its original blue for a marked contrast.

Other variations of course are available.

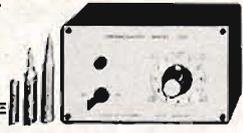
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I am glad to be able to provide some "lucky feller" out there with a nice thrill and pride of ownership, and hopefully a long and enjoyable one. 

shots into the same section of the target. Its action was a bit stiff but after one good plinking session, it smoothed up in a hurry. Trigger pull was just what you would expect from S&W; smooth even in double action shooting.

At a list of \$187.00, this feature will scare off some shooters, especially after most dealers add the usual extra for a "hard to get" item. This new Kit Gun will be a favorite with devotees of the rimfire at any rate for it is perfect for the shooter that uses a .22. Just as it has been a tackle box favorite for many years in the older versions, its new stainless construction should enhance this position even more. For the serious small game hunter, the plinker or the fisherman, this would seem to be perfection in a small package. 

## S&W M63 KIT

(Continued from page 45)

picture, especially after some exertion. It was, however, great for the fisherman or backpacker.

At present, only the standard Model 34 is available, along with the newest Kit Gun, the stainless steel Model 63. This newest version is, without a doubt, the ultimate in such a .22 revolver. Offered only in a 4-inch barreled, square butt configuration, it does offer some other advantages over the M34, other than the obvious one of stainless construction. First of all, although it weighs approximately 2 ounces more than the standard one, the 63's big plus is its sights. The rear is the standard, blued adjustable type but the front is a serrated, stainless steel blade with S&W's red insert. This blade's width is 1/8 of an inch compared to the older gun's blade width of 1/10" and I found this rather disconcerting before firing the new 63, simply because I had always liked the old sights. I need not have worried, however, for the gun's performance is every bit as good as the older one's. The new sight combination is quite a bit superior on dark, cloudy days and non-glaring in bright sunlight. The red insert serves to help sight alignment, both horizontally and vertically, giving perhaps a more consistent sight picture with greater ease. It is somewhat easier to locate the front sight due to this feature, too.

The stainless M63 handles all varieties of .22 ammo and I checked its performance with standard velocity long rifles, high speed long rifles, both solids and hollow points and fired a few CCI Stingers through its 4-inch tube. At the time I was set up to group the little gun, a strong wind was blowing with unpredictable gusts. At a distance of 30 yards, I was a bit surprised that performance was singularly good. The new Kit Gun showed no obvious eccentricities about its diet, grouping anything fed it into 2 1/2 to 3 inches and placing its

## DETONICS MINI .45

(Continued from page 42)

Model II with skyscreens, while expansion was checked by firing into a twenty-pound block of Ductseal. The results are listed below:

Load	Velocity	Recovered Diameter
W-W 185 gr JHP	872fps	.593"
R-P 185gr JHP	823fps	.501"QC
SV 190 gr JHP	899fps	.674"
Fed 185gr JHP	845fps	.712"
Frn 230gr SWC-FMJ	787fps	.452"
Frn 185gr JHP	832fps	.564"

It's obvious from the above results, that the Detonics packs sufficient punch for defensive purposes. The Federal load was the most impressive, but all performed well. The Remington JHP and Frontier SWC load would probably be best for un-throated weapons. All these loads fed through the Detonics without a problem.

It should be fairly obvious by now that I like this new pistol. It is, however, not perfect. There are a number of things I'd like to see changed. I hate to sound like a broken record, but everytime I evaluate a new semiautomatic pistol I have the same complaint. Why makers continue to offer us pistols with smooth frames I'll never understand. The Detonics frame is an investment casting. It should be offered with a finish similar to stippling or checkering on the front of the frame. I just received the information that Pachmayr is now producing their excellent grips for the Detonics, so that's one solution to the problem.

Furthermore, the trigger on the sample I received was unacceptable. After spending big bucks for such a weapon, it should come with such matters taken care of. Also, the front sight is gray stainless, and difficult to align under certain circumstances. The rear sight is black, and the front should be also.

It should be pointed out that the man-

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agement at Detonics has shown genuine interest in customer problems and complaints. I know of several incidents where early models were replaced at no expense to the customer. They stand behind their product, which is a refreshing departure from what seems to be the norm these days.

If you've been looking for a concealable pistol that's corrosion resistant and offers reliable one shot stopping power, there's no reason to look further than Detonics MKVI!



## HIGH STANDARD .22S

(Continued from page 44)

so for someone only modestly knowledgeable of firearms in general and never having even handled a High Standard auto of any persuasion before, it can readily be seen that subsequent re-installations of the .22 Short Conversion Kit, cleaning, etc., are relatively simple and would take no more than a few moments with practice.

Testing with the .22 Short Conversion Kit installed produced roughly the same type of accuracy as obtained with Long Rifle, with noise and the previously almost non-existent recoil further diminished.

The basic 5½-inch bull barrel Trophy is an attractive gun, with gold-plated trigger, grip frame stippling and highly attractive, stippled walnut grips. The rear sight tends to be a little sharp at the edges, this not a problem for a gun used solely for target work or even carried in a field holster. Yet, when manipulating the slide try to remember those sharp edges and avoid a nasty cut. Capacity with either unit is ten rounds in the magazine and magazine loading is easily accomplished by lowering the follower with the external button.

Whether for a Trophy or Citation—the kit tested here—or for the prestigious Victor, High Standard's .22 Short Conversion Kit is simply installed and works perfectly well. The basic Trophy retails currently at \$278.85, while the Kit is \$121.00. The combined total, with today's prices, isn't bad at all for two guns—both of them potential champion makers.



## MITCHELL ARMS SA

(Continued from page 46)

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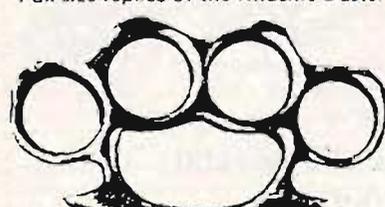
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engage the safety device allowing it to rest against the inside of the frame, well below the firing pin hole, preventing the firing pin from resting on a live round. The gun may be carried fully loaded with the hammer in this position. To disengage the hammer-block, the hammer is merely drawn back to either half-cock or full-cock positions.

The front sight is ramped with horizontal serrations and the top of the ramp is dovetailed to accept the sight blade. The blade is staked in place but mine worked its way loose under recoil and slid forward about 1/4". If you're not careful you could easily lose it and be out of business until a replacement is obtained. The sight blade should be secured to the ramp in such a manner that would keep it in place regardless of recoil, a knock, or whatever.

**FIRING ACCURACY GROUPS**

In testing the 5 1/2" barreled gun, I immediately noticed that it was well balanced and pointed naturally. It weighs in at 46 ounces; an ounce lighter than a 6 1/2" Model 29.

In testing the gun for accuracy, all groups were fired from a sandbag rest at a distance of fifty yards. Using the Frontier line, manufactured by Hornady, the 200 gr. JHP slug printed a 3 3/8" five shot group and the 240 gr. JHP bullets stayed in 3 1/4" for five shots. Remington's 240 gr. JHP ammo placed five shots in a 5" group. Speer's Lawman ammo in the 200 gr. offering also shot a 5" five shot group and the 240 gr. Lawman fodder put four shots into 3", with the fifth shot being called a pull and not included in the group. Federal's 180 gr. JHP ammo was the most accurate of the lot clustering five shots into 2 3/4", which is accurate in my book. The 240 gr. Federals yielded a 3 3/4" five shot group. Using the Sierra 180 gr. JHC bullet, backed with 30.0 grs. of H-110 produced a 4 1/4" group, which isn't too exciting. Switching to Hornady's 200 gr. slug and backing it with 16.0 grs. of SR4756 was even worse, shooting five shots into 5". This is an over the book max. load, so if you'd decide to try it, start out at around 12.0 grs. and work up slowly, watching for signs of excessive pressure.

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After firing a good many rounds of ammo through the Mitchell Arms Revolver and using it on the hunt, I've come to like it. Although my test gun had its bugs, I'm pleased with the accuracy, finish, fit, and quality of materials used in its construction. If you like to mix a bit of nostalgia with your sixguns, look it over. You might just walk out of your local gunshop with a new handgun tucked under your arm.

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1. Date of filing: September 17, 1980.
2. Title of Publication: American Handgunner.
3. Frequency of issue: Bi-Monthly.
4. Location of known office of publication (Street, city, county, state, zip code): 591 Camino de la Reina, Suite 200, San Diego, CA 92108
5. Location of the headquarters of general business offices of the publishers (Not printers): 591 Camino de la Reina, Suite 200, San Diego, CA 92108.
6. Names and addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor:

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Editor: Jerome Rakusan, 591 Camino de la Reina, Suite 200, San Diego, CA 92108

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HERE'S YOUR CHANCE to do something for your local club or range, and for handgunning. Our offices here have been getting calls and letters asking for the whereabouts of handgun shooting ranges and clubs—all over the U.S. There are apparently a lot of shooters out there that don't know where to go to shoot. We thought it would be a good idea, then, to put together a list of ranges and clubs and publish it in our magazine. And we could use your help. Just send us names and addresses of your local clubs and ranges as soon as possible and we'll get out a directory. Your club could profit from increased membership. Send to: AMERICAN HANDGUNNER LIST, 591 Camino de la Reina, Suite 200, San Diego, CA 92108.

## Firearms engravers establish new guild to promote the craft

TWENTY ENGRAVERS met together at the Las Vegas Sahara Gun Show on June 29, 1980, to begin what is hoped will be a guild of American arms engravers.

A steering committee was appointed, which is to inform other engravers of the proposed guild and begin plans toward establishing the guild as a non-profit, benevolent organization.

Points also agreed at the Las Vegas Show meeting were that the guild should act as a vehicle for a more free exchange of engraving information and ideas between members. This exchange would improve sources for learning, appreciation and acknowledgment of arms engraving skills and knowledge within the United States.

It was also agreed that the guild should establish and acknowledge various skill levels among member engravers and assist and encourage members to progress to higher levels of skill and proficiency.

It was also expressed that the guild should engage in an active public awareness program and also serve as a medium whereby the public could become better informed about the relative merits of arms engraving.

Engravers or other persons interested in obtaining more information should contact Frank Hendricks, Route 2, Box 189-J, San Antonio, Texas 78229.

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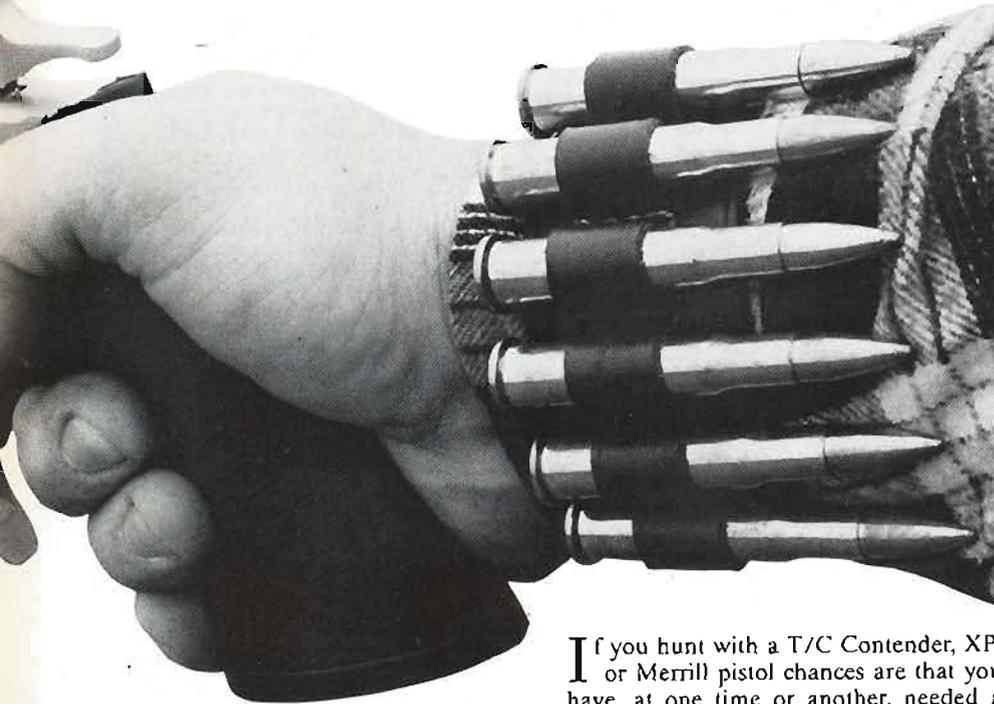
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# JWI

## CARTRIDGE WRISTBAND



Handy ammo  
wristband makes  
that back-up  
shot possible

*By Mike Barach*



If you hunt with a T/C Contender, XP, or Merrill pistol chances are that you have, at one time or another, needed a quick backup shot and you had to fight and fumble to get the round out of your pocket or cartridge belt. J. W. Industries has a piece of leather, appropriately called a cartridge wristband, that'll greatly speed up loading the single-shots without the problems of finding the round and chambering it.

The J. W. cartridge wristband is a very simple and practical accessory, yet unique in that none of the big leather crafters had come up with the idea sooner, at least not that I know of. It took a single-shot pistol shooter to come up with a solution to a problem due to his need for a product that wasn't offered. Of course that's what makes men great and benefits us.

As can be seen in the pictures, the wristband is made of split cowhide and cut twelve inches long, one and one-half inches wide, and one-eighth inch thick. The six bullet loops are sewn on as are the two strips of velcro on the underside. The velcro tabs are used to hold the wristband in place and also allow for some adjustment according to the size of your wrist. I think the use of velcro is a very good idea as it's just about impossible to wear out and isn't affected by water or mud.

The wristband comes in four sizes that will accommodate just about all the popular T/C & XP calibers, even the .22LR. I'm sure that if you happened to have a caliber that wouldn't fit into the bullet loops available, one could be made up on a special order, however I have no idea of the price.

The four test samples sent to me were all well constructed. The stitching is of the heavier type and doubled on the ends of the bullet loops. The velcro tabs are sewn on each of the four sides to insure it doesn't come loose. They should last for many years, even through hard use.

My first test with the wristbands were somewhat frustrating as they were stiff and held the cartridges too tightly to be easily removed and loaded in the T/C. I gave them a good dousing of neatsfoot compound and placed fired cases in the loops. The next session was better. The cases came out of the loops easier resulting in faster time in reloading the gun. My best time was around four-seconds. James Whittaker, owner, of J. W. Industries told me he can reload a T/C in 2.5 seconds. That's quick! He emphasizes practicing reloading from the wristband before using it in the field. To date he has taken two head of deer with his scoped T/C and the wristband combo.

The wristband was designed to be worn over the cuff of a long-sleeve hunting shirt or coat in order to be readily accessible and also to reduce sliding up and down the wrist. It can be worn in any position on the wrist that's comfortable to the shooter. I've found that positioning the wristband with the bullet loops on the inside of my wrist with the case heads facing towards my hand to be the most comfortable. This is especially true with the larger cartridges such as the .30-30 and .35 Remington. The wristband should be worn on the hand you shoot with so that the grip on the gun may be maintained. This seems to be the most natural way to wear it as it takes a minimum amount of movement to reload—from the wrist to the gun.

The major drawback of using a single-shot pistol is being able to get off a quick second shot when needed. Now that J. W. Industries has made the cartridge wristband available to the single-shooters. I believe the problem's been taken care of. At least it has for me.

All orders and inquiries should be sent directly to J. W. Industries, P.O. Box 73, Mt. Ephraim, New Jersey 08059. The cartridge wristbands cost \$7.95 each plus \$1.00 for postage and handling. State caliber when ordering.





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# SPEAK OUT

## WANTED BY POLICE: MORE POLICE ISSUES

I am a deputy sheriff in my home town. I particularly enjoyed the September/October issue with the police section. If you have a favorable response from enough of us perhaps this could become a regular feature.  
Fred H. Loving  
Amherst, VA

*No problem, Fred. Our "Cop Talk" is a regular column—watch for it. And, our Police Issue will be out every year, on top of various articles of interest to police throughout the year.*

## WHERE DO YOU FIND YOUR SPEED-LOADER?

Recently, I purchased a Rossi Model 68 .38 Caliber special, with 3" barrel. Since then I have tried to find a speed-loader to fit my weapon. I have had no luck in this endeavor and I was hoping you could help me.

Your magazine is most informative.  
Miles Adams

*You might try writing the following: Dade Machine, 2319 NW 7th Ave., Miami, FL 33127; Kubik Products, 631 Catherine St., Warminster, PA 18974; Safariland, Ltd, 1914 S. Walker, Monrovia, CA 91016; Second Six, Box 215, South Laguna, CA 92677.*

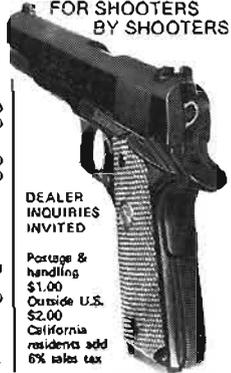
## 'OF TOP INTEREST TO ALL OFFICERS'

The HANDGUNNER for September/October 1980 is just great. Of course I turned first to the Police Section. The usual straight talk from Massad Ayoob made sense as usual, and the topics were of current interest. Your Editorial presented some excellent arguments, Jerry, and I couldn't agree more. You and I have been in the business of guns for a long time, and I know you will agree that I have just a little more than a modest interest in the subject.

I have marked the extra copy for the

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Sheriff's library, with an additional note on the Routing Slip, saying: "Of top interest to all officers."

As just one handgunner, although I know I speak for many, thanks for a grand magazine.

Lyman P. Davison  
Vice President, American Law Enforcement Officers Assoc.

## ADJUST YOUR PISTOL TO FIT YOUR NEEDS

Recently I subscribed to your fine magazine and have received the Guns Annual BOOK OF HANDGUNS as well as the July/August and September/October THE AMERICAN HANDGUNNER. While I am not a newcomer to the firearms scene, I have only recently become seriously interested in handguns. Therefore, I am asking the staff of your magazine to please help me through the maze of ammo, accessories, leather and other so-called goodies so perhaps I may become a more proficient handgunner.

The weapon I currently own is a Government Model 1911A1, strictly GI issue. For personal reasons, this is what I would like to use for my shooting. Presently, this will be of the Target variety, with combat style possibly in the future.

Now for my questions. I realize you aren't me, but I would appreciate your opinion on the modifications I should make on this auto. I should mention at this time my target shooting will be informal. Also, I would appreciate your thoughts on loads and shooters' accessories I should have. I am considering buying the Bianchi outfit tested in your September/October issue; however, your comments on this subject will also be welcomed.

Thank you very much for taking time from your busy schedule to help me, and I hope to hear from you soon.

John Dale  
West Farmington, Ohio

*For informal target shooting, your 1911A1 needs only "light customizing" which consists mostly of tightening the slide, a trigger-job (smoothing out the sear and lightening the trigger pull), and replacing a few springs for proper balance. Check with your nearest custom pistolsmith listed in the Directory in this issue. As for loads and accessories, it's best to wait and see what your needs are. Don't go out and buy a lot of expensive gear that you may end up not needing or find out something else would do better. The Bianchi is a good rig. However, it's no good if you can't put it to use. After reading a couple of issues of our magazine you will have a much clearer idea of all the options available.*

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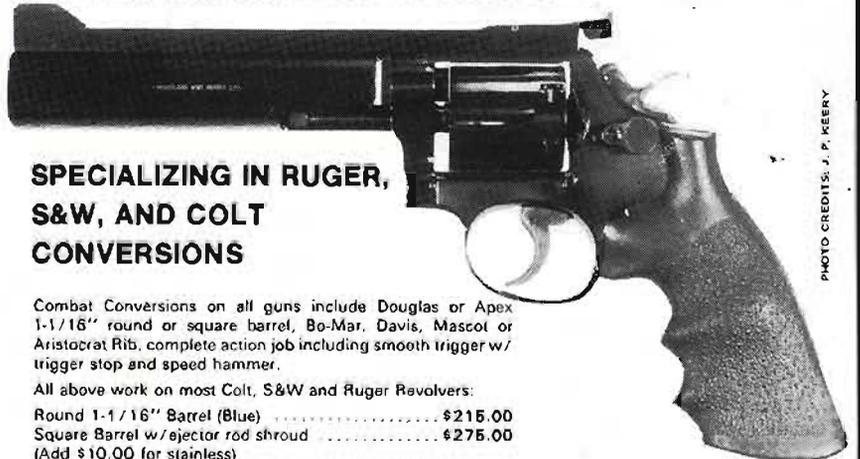


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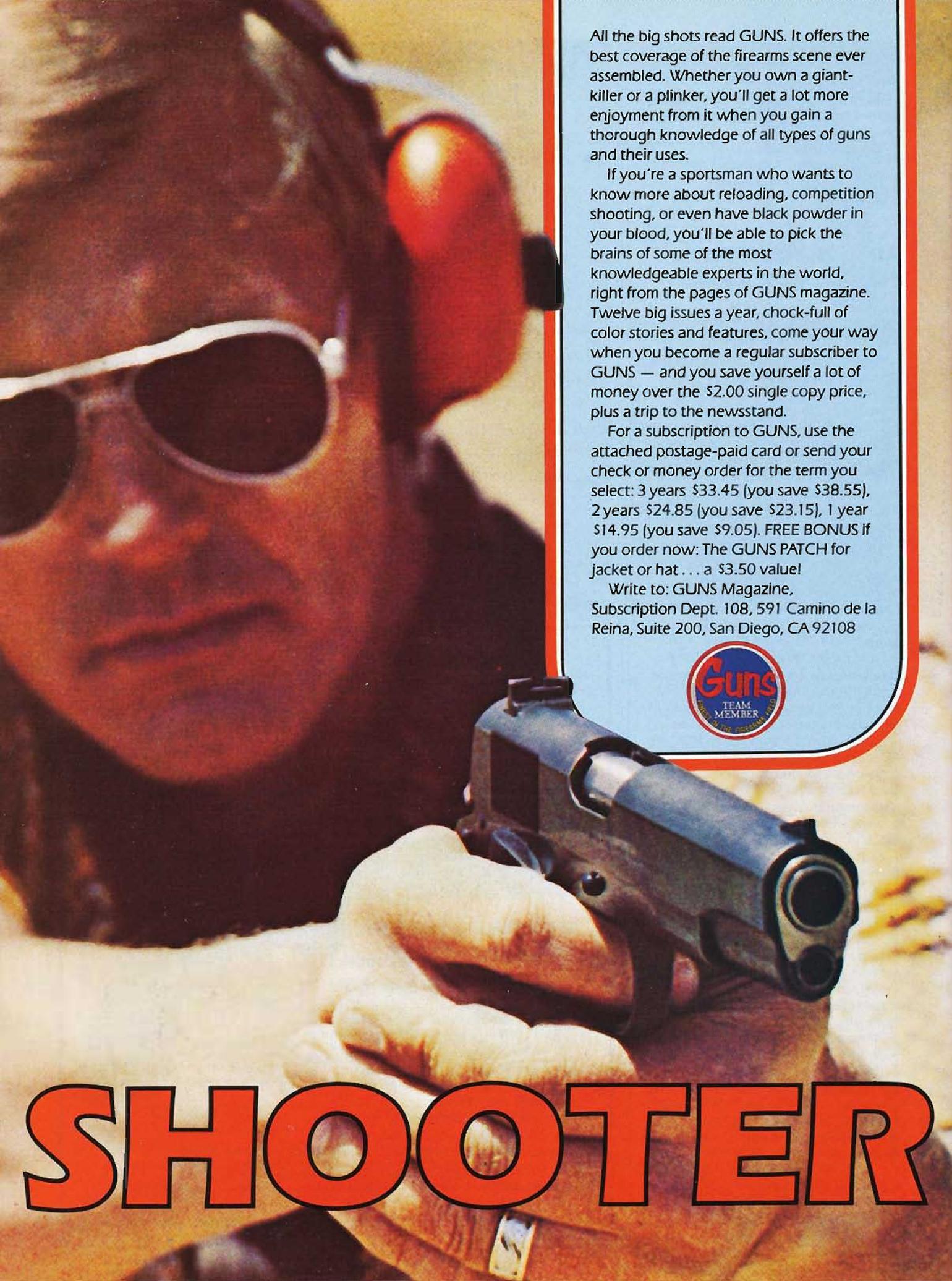
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Pacific International Service Co.  
P.O. Box 3  
Janesville, CA 96114  
The Cop Shop  
3707 Woodland Drive  
Anchorage, AK 99503

## New NRA police rule sets target at 7 yds for realistic training

THE NRA HAS CHANGED the course of fire for Police Match #1 Standing to reflect actual shooting situations more closely. The new rules state that two 12-shot stages, one at 7 yds. and the other at 15 yds., will be fired double-action from the standing-without-support position. Each stage will allow 20 seconds, beginning with a holstered, loaded gun, including reloading time.

The new rules were adopted by the NRA's Law Enforcement Assistance Committee following a review of a 10-year study of actual police shooting. The study showed that 80 percent of the firing was done at 6 feet or less. The committee changed the rules to concur with this finding.

It is the NRA's intent that police competition be an "extension of training" for the police shooter.

At the 7 yd. stage, the gun must be held in one hand only. At the 15 yd. stage, one- or two-hand hold is allowed.

This change is a step in the right direction for those who agree with Lucy Chambliss (Sight Settings, Sept./Oct. '80) on the need to bring current PPC rules in line with reality.

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# WHAT'S NEW



## Charter Arms announces new Pathfinder .22 mag

Charter Arms Corporation, a leading American firearms manufacturer, presents the Pathfinder .22 Magnum 3", a six-shot revolver with a 3" barrel length loaded with many of the design and performance features of the Charter Undercover .38 with a special snag-free, fully adjustable rear sight. Made of aircraft quality chrome-moly steel, with a virtually unbreakable beryllium copper firing pin and with a transfer bar safety between hammer and firing pin, the police blued-finished gun is complemented by a hand-checked walnut grip. Weighing a light 20 oz.; with an overall length of 7 3/4"; and a height of 4 3/4", the Pathfinder .22 Magnum 3" is available from Charter Arms Corporation, 430 Sniffens Lane, Dept. P, Stratford, CT 06497; (203) 377-8080.



## Stainless steel hammer for combat conversions

M-S Safari Arms now provides its stainless steel "commander" style hammer for use on combat conversions, an application designed to eliminate the possibility of snagging on clothing.

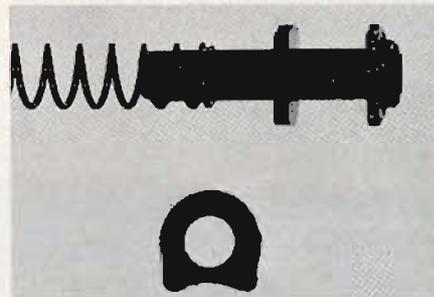
According to Don McNabb, president, this hammer is designed for use on "Colt" type automatics and enough metal is provided in the sear engagement area to allow for professional fitting and tuning. The hammer sells for \$14.95 from M-S Safari Arms, Box 23370, Phoenix, AZ 85063.



## Silver Tiffany grips by Wallace's Gunshop

R. D. Wallace maintains a gunshop called, appropriately, The Gunshop. They do carving, checking, inlaying of wood, metal, or precious gems, and work such as shown in the photo here. This Ruger .45 SA sports a heavy Tiffany in-house design by Wallace. The Gunshop also makes specialty parts such as the leafwork hammer shown.

For Tiffany grips and other work contact: The Gunshop, 320 Overland Rd., Prescott, AZ 86301; (602) 445-0568.



## New Shok-Buff for .45 stops cracks in frame

The new Wilson Combat *Shok-Buff* shock absorber kit for 1911 style .45 autos was designed to stop frame and slide cracks, stop excessive battering of contact areas, and stop malfunctions due to underpowered slide return.

Manufactured of new space age materials designed to withstand tremendous shock without damage, the kit consists of two poly-fiber buffers and one special HD recoil spring for a full 2,000 rounds protection.

And it is currently priced at \$5.50.

The idea came from Armand Swensen, the design out of Wilson's Gun Shop, and the manufacture by Rogers Holster Company and W. C. Wolf Company. Wilson is the sole distributor at this time, but he is inviting dealer inquiries.

The *Shok-Buff* kit is compatible with the standard spring guide, full-length guides, or the Dwyer Group-Gripper. The shock absorber is available for the Government Model, the Gold Cup, or the Commander.

Order the new *Shok-Buff* from Wilson's Gun Shop, 101-103 Public Square, Dept. AH, Berryville, AR 72616, for \$5.50 prepaid.



## New super-slip Tufoil protects & lubricates

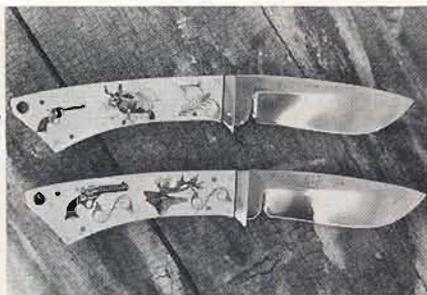
Tufoil gun-coat, new scientific cleaner, lubricant and all purpose weather protection for firearms, works from -60°F to +500°F. Tufoil gun-coat contains PTFE (polytetrafluoroethylene) in micro-miniature particles (less than 0.5 micron) that impregnate microscopic voids and form a boundary layer protection on gun metal that improves action and guards against corrosion. PTFE, popularly known as "Teflon" or "Fluon," is the same super-slippery, non stick substance used on cookware.

Guaranteed and patented (nos. 3,933,656 and 4,053,443); distributed nationally by Fluoramics, Inc., 103 Pleasant Ave., Upper Saddle River, New Jersey 07458.



## New Cross Draw holster by Bianchi Gunleather

This one's made in 20 different sizes for 2" to 8<sup>3</sup>/<sub>8</sub>" double action revolvers. In automatics the range is .380 to .45 with barrel lengths from 4<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>" to 10<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>" in single action revolvers. Covered trigger, hand boned and full silicone-suede lining. The belt loop is unique . . . it pulls the holster against the body for perfect concealment. The angle of carry and ride height have been carefully thought out for comfort and correct draw. It's just as good for field use as it is for law enforcement. Write Bianchi Gunleather, 100 Calle Cortez, Dept. AH, Temecula, CA 92390.



## Handgun Hunters Int'l limited edition knife

The Handgun Hunters International Charter Member Commemorative Limited Edition Knife—designed by noted custom knifemaker R. W. Wilson and J. D. Jones, HHI founder—will be each custom ground by Wilson himself and scrimshawed on one side of the ivory marcarta handle with an HHI inscription and the customer's name. The other side of the handle is customer's choice of any handgun with any animal head in scrimshaw.

Sheathed in a supplied black belt sheath and cased on a walnut display case, the 8<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> inch knife will be priced at \$210. Write HHI, Box 357 Mag, Bloomingdale, OH 43910; (614) 264-0176.



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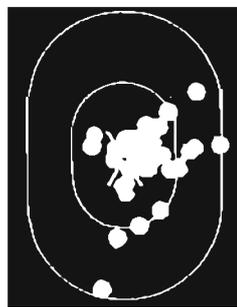
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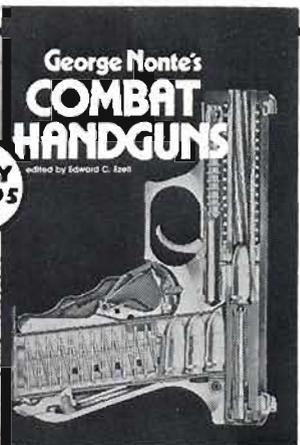
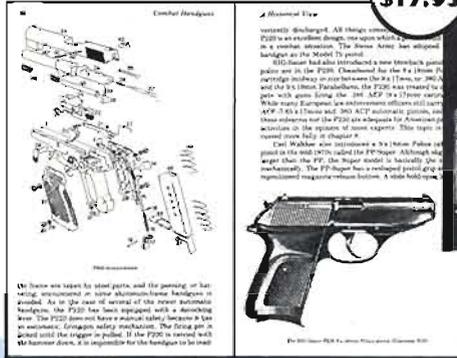
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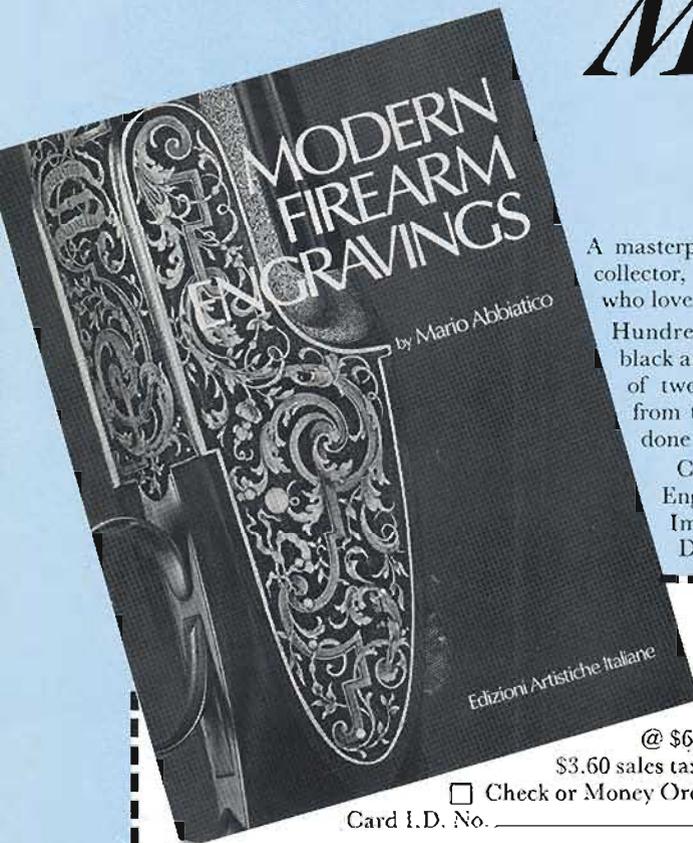
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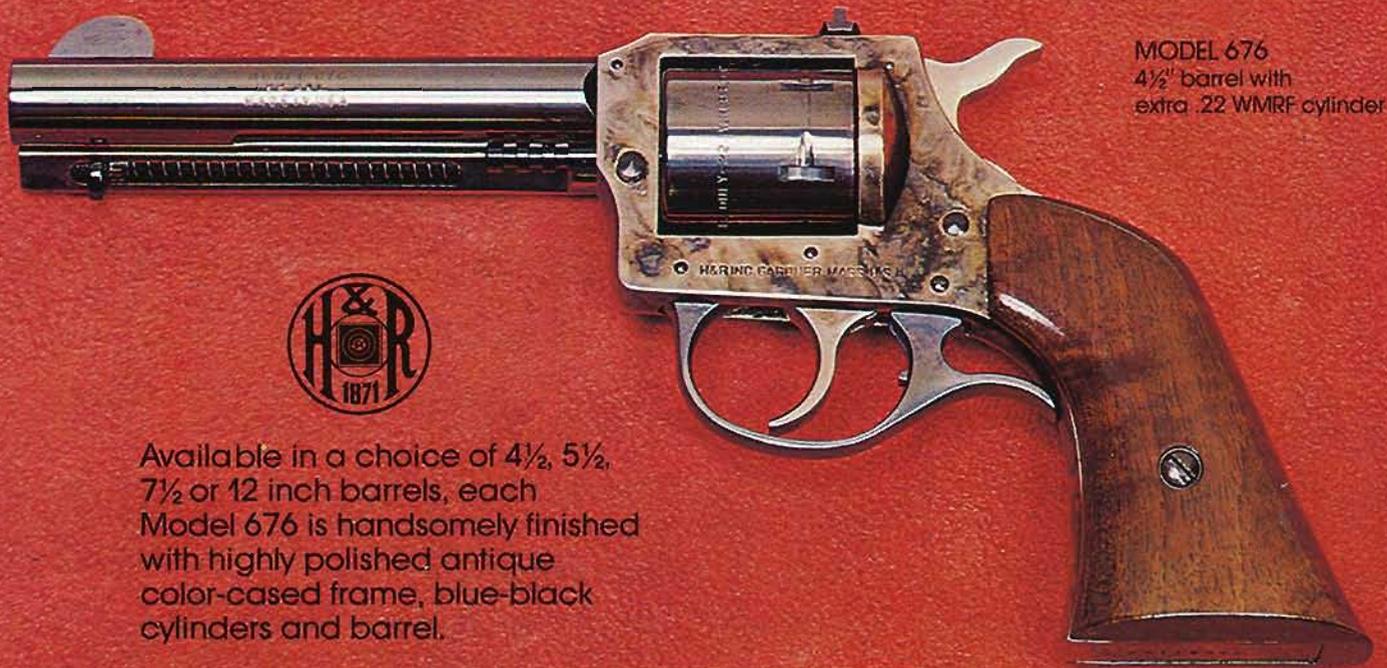
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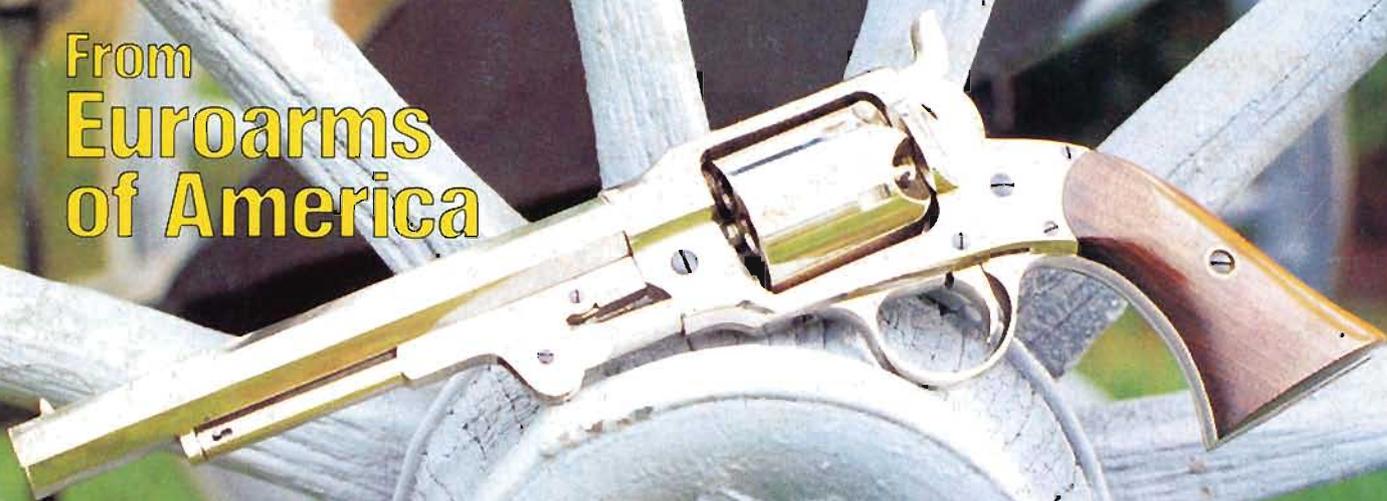
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