

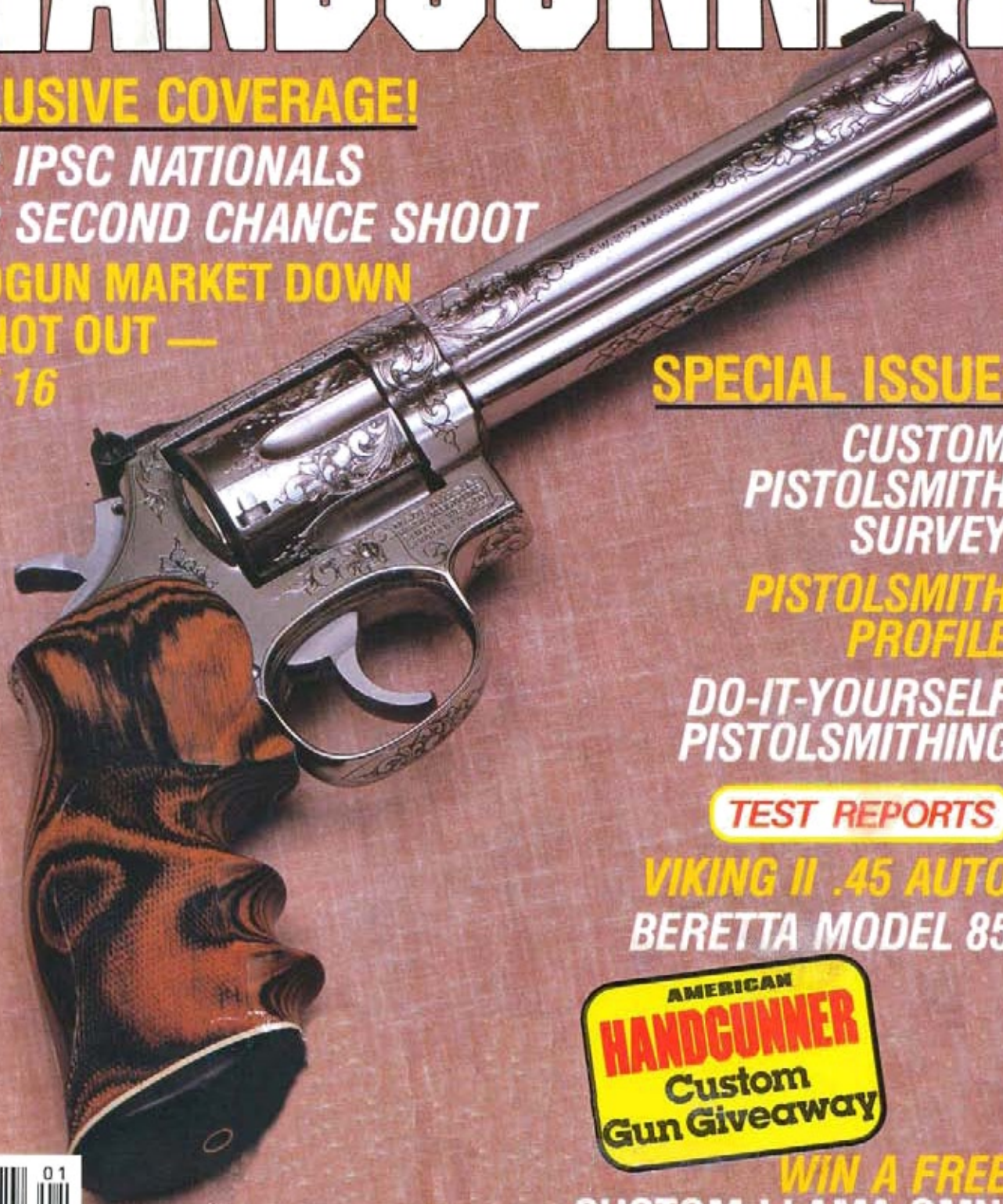
THE 1984 CUSTOM PISTOLSMITH DIRECTORY
AMERICAN

HANDGUNNER

EXCLUSIVE COVERAGE!

- 1983 IPSC NATIONALS
- 1983 SECOND CHANCE SHOOT

HANDGUN MARKET DOWN
BUT NOT OUT —
PAGE 16



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CUSTOM
PISTOLSMITH
SURVEY

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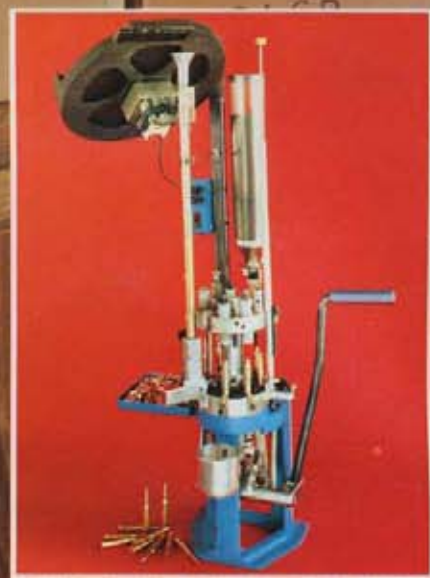


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AMERICAN HANDGUNNER

JANUARY/FEBRUARY, 1984, Vol. 9, No. 44

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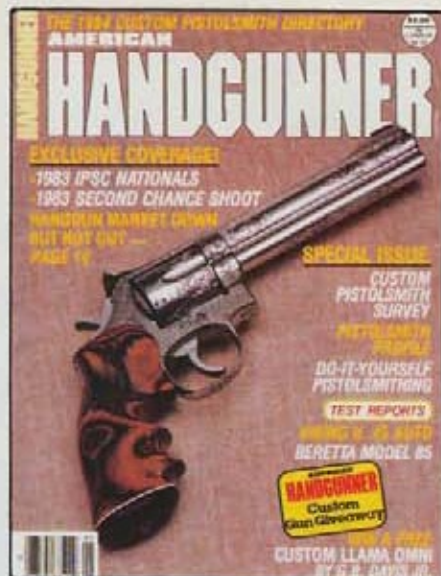
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COVER: S&W M&B .357 Magnum engraved by Jack Jones, general manager of the Ken Hurst Fire-arm Engraving Company. Grips by Guy Hogue. Photo by Nick Karras of San Diego, California.

STAFF

GEORGE E. von ROSEN, Publisher
JEROME RAKUSAN, Editorial Director
LEN DAVIS, Editor
SYDNEY BARKER, Art Director
TOM HOLLANDER, Circulation Director

NATIONAL ADV. OFFICE: 591 Camino de la Reina, Suite 200, San Diego, CA 92108 (619) 297-8520

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COP TALK

MASSAD AYOOB

'LET THOSE WHO RIDE DECIDE' WHAT TYPE HANDGUNS TO CARRY

Revolvers vs. autos for police service is a continuing debate, with firepower on one side and reliability on the other.

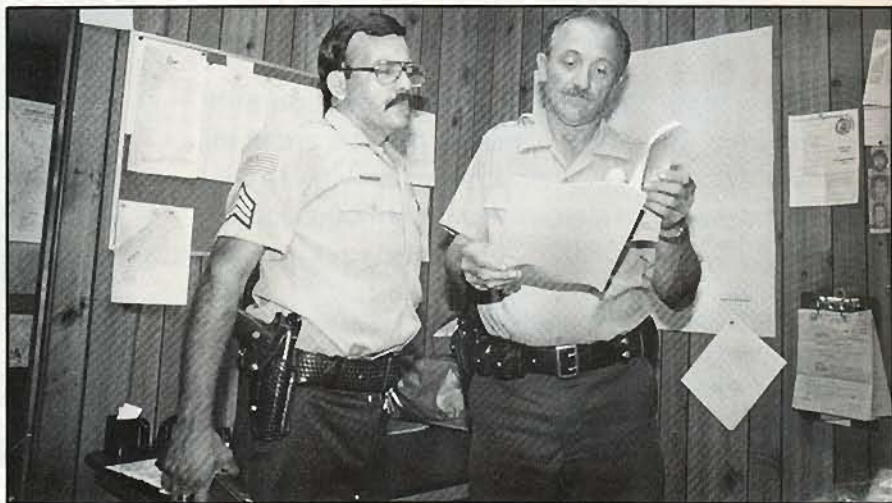
I see cops who were forced to carry automatics they didn't feel comfortable with to the day they took their 20-year retirement because they feared jamming and just didn't like the complexity of the gun. I also know cops willing to marshal the forces of the union and sue over having to carry wheelguns that they feel would dangerously handicap them in shootout situations.

Although I've been identified as a strong supporter of autoloaders for police, I'm actually in the middle. I don't like the auto as a general issue gun, but I'm all in favor of it in the hands of a good cop trained in combat pistolcraft.

Motorcyclists who didn't dig helmet

laws formed a political action group called ABATE to fight laws that dictated their headwear. Their slogan was, "Let those who ride decide." In police sidearms as well, that's a cry I can rally to: let the men and women in blue decide for themselves what handgun they'll trust their life to, as they ride on patrol on today's mean streets.

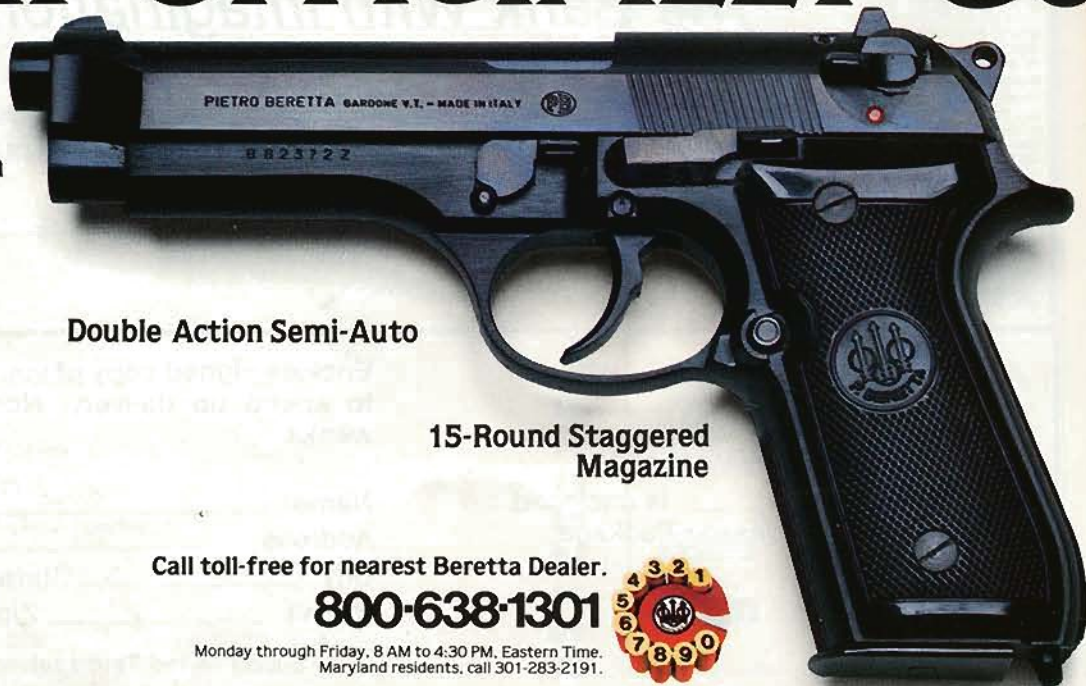
It is said that policework is paramilitary, and that rigid military discipline and uniformity are therefore necessary. I say that's a crock. True, we who wear the badge are as accountable to the governmental body



Author, left, discusses reports with Deerfield (N.H.) Police Chief Paul Dewey.

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that employs us as any soldier ever was to his; but there's a fundamental difference. We don't function in platoon or battalion strength; we're out there doing the job virtually alone, one or two at a time. "Ours is not to reason why, ours is but to do or die" is a philosophy that may have served soldiers in the time of Kipling, but has no relevance to policemen today; we *must* reason why, or we'll become robots, and maybe dead robots at that.

ENTER UNIFORMITY

Uniformity is overdone. There are three state police agencies in the country today—Washington State Patrol, Iowa State Patrol, and Michigan State Police—that require left-handed men to carry their guns in right-handed holsters for the sake of "uniformity." This is the same mentality that insists all officers must carry the same gun.

Where does that uniformity stop? Should all cops be six-feet-two with eyes of blue, and have an IQ of exactly 110? Should those with an IQ of 130 have shock treatments until they come down to an acceptable level?

We can get into some complex issues here. Illinois State Police found, when it issued its officers 9mm S&W automatics, that scores went up on the average and up significantly among previous poor shooters; but scores also went down among

Continued on page 66

Poly-Choke has vent rib for Ruger autos

The Poly-Choke Co., Inc. has come out with another ventilated rib—one this one for Ruger MK I and MK II bull barrel autos.



All ribs are available in a do-it-yourself kit, which enables the shooter to mount the rib in but a few minutes with professional results, without machining or fitting.

Suggested retail price: \$24.95.

For more information, write to the company at 150 Park Avenue (Dept. AH), East Hartford, CT 06108.

Federal adds new .41 Mag load to its line

Federal Cartridge Corporation has added a new .41 Remington Magnum cartridge to its line.

It's loaded with 210-grain semi-jacketed hollowpoint bullet to fill the needs of handgun hunters and metallic silhouette shooters.

The 210-grain bullet is of straight ogive design, which maximizes the bearing surface for greatly enhanced long-range accuracy.

The 100-yard energy is 495 foot pounds.

The large, tapered hollowpoint yields substantial mushrooming, while the long bearing surface keeps the core intact for driving penetration and high weight retention.

Muzzle velocity from a four-inch vented barrel is 1,300 fps.

For more information write to Bill Siems at the company, 2700 Foshay Tower (Dept. AH), Minneapolis, MN 55402.

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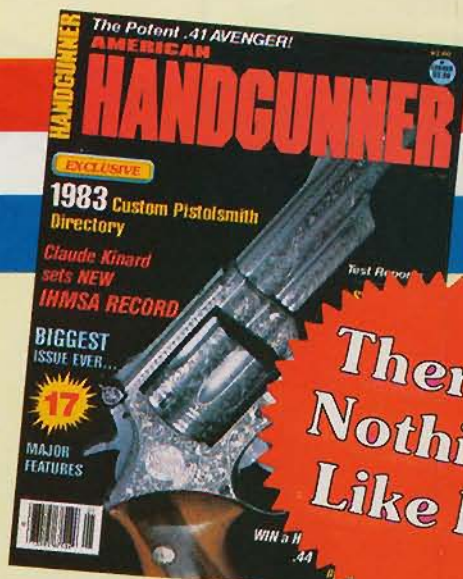
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HANDGUN LEATHER

AL PICKLES

ACTIVE LEATHER CO. LISTS NYCPD AS ONE OF ITS BETTER CUSTOMERS

Every time I review the current state of the gun leather industry I marvel at its ability to keep coming up with innovations. Just how many ways are there to holster a handgun?

Active Leather Inc. of New York is a new company, but only in the sense that it has gone commercial. The owner, Bob Angell, has been into leather rigs for years but his operation was primarily one of custom designing holsters and carry systems for plain clothes law enforcement people who had special problems or needs. In his area of operation the demand was quite high.

He offers a number of holster styles, mostly shoulder rigs; some are convertible to belt carry. Their uniqueness lies in the fact that there is no stitching.

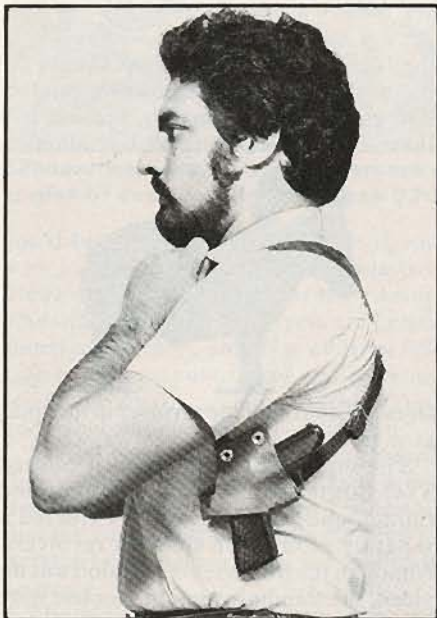
The Active Leather rigs, at least the ones I have examined, are made of one-piece quality leather that is folded and moulded to the shape of the particular gun, then held closed with snaps which do double-duty as fasteners for the nylon web shoulder straps. In some models, there are enough snaps available to alter the carry mode: horizontal, vertical or, in some cases, upside-down.

After confirming for myself that the leather was, indeed, good quality, I speculated that since no heavy machine stitching is involved in the manufacturing process, then the manufacturing costs and reflected prices must be lower. Not so, says Angell. It seems the price of the high-quality Dot Brand snaps—some complete rigs use nine or more—offsets any savings on machine stitching. Angell also indicated that the time involved in properly affixing the snaps may even exceed sewing time.

UNDERCOVER CARRY

The Active rigs are unlined and Angell wants to keep them that way, unless a customer wants a special order. His reasoning is sound for undercover carry. Lining adds to bulk and width of a holster; it is already hard enough to conceal a pistol while dressed in light summer clothing. While autoloaders are easier to conceal than revolvers, most of his customers have been NYCPD detectives who are generally not allowed to carry autoloaders. When carrying a revolver, you need all the help you can get.

Active holsters cover the range of popular revolvers and autoloaders; its styles, or models run from adjustable mode, shoulder/belt convertible, horizontal



upside-down, to a shoulder rig sporting a pair of holsters for Smith & Wesson N frame revolvers. Who, you might ask, would want to carry two .44 Magnums in shoulder holsters? Well, there have been times when I wished I had a pair of forty-fours, if only for balance.

Putting remote possibilities aside, however, handgun hunters on the prowl for dangerous game often carry a back-up gun. Ask Larry Kelly, president of Magna-port and handgun hunter supreme, if he carries a second gun when he goes after Alaska brown bear. The point is, when you are sure there may be trouble, go prepared.

Active's horizontal upside-down rig, dubbed the Model 3, is the only one I can't get the hang of. This is, of course, absolute proof of its value. It undoubtedly suits someone just perfectly; none of us is exactly alike.

The Active Leather holsters are being marketed by SILE Distributors Inc., Dept AH, 7 Centre Market Place, New York, NY 10013.

THE 9MM AUTO

Although I am not enraptured by the idea of a 9mm Luger (9x19) becoming our armed service handgun caliber, or even a police cartridge, I do know that common sense and politics are not necessarily compatible and we will probably end up with a 9mm handgun.

With that qualification up front, I am

Continued on page 65

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SILUETAS

PHILIP C. BRIGGS

REVOLVER SILHOUETTE SHOOTING IS CHALLENGING, LOTS OF FUN

Handgun silhouette shooting started with revolvers, and although the sport has gone on to create and popularize specialized single-shot pistols of awesome capability, the revolver still accounts for the bulk of the competition.

The revolver in use now has evolved tremendously in the past few years, but beyond that it has remained popular for a myriad of good and sufficient reasons, including more grins per grain of powder than any other pistol.

The second National Match in El Paso, in the fall of 1976, marked the appearance of the first funny gun: specialized, customized single-shots, designed to win. The seeds of change had been sown, but fortunately, the members and leadership of the just-formed IHMSA (International Handgun Silhouette Association) had the foresight to establish a separate class for

the funny guns, and establish classes for out-of-the-box, stock-as-a-stove production guns. I say fortunately, because it is these classes, standing and production



freestyle, that kept the revolver in the sport as it grew.

The superiority of the rapidly refined T/C Contender was not to be denied though and, in 1981, IHMSA created a separate production class for revolvers. Although the freestyle competition was divided, the standing position shooters were

left a choice; it was felt that in the standing position it was the shooter, not the pistol, that made the difference.

The revolvers had already begun to change under the forced draft of the sport. Some of it was evolutionary—such as longer barrels and better sights—but some new revolvers appeared as both competitors and manufacturers alike found that designs that had, until then, stood the test of time weren't up to a steady diet of magnum loads.

THE .357 SUPER MAG

The Super Blackhawk sprouted a longer tube, as did a couple of look-alike single-action revolvers (with bull barrels and target sights). The brand new Ruger Redhawk and Dan Wesson .44 Magnums appeared and began to work their way into the winners circle.

But the new class focused development on the revolver, and brought forth even more change. A new cartridge, the .357 Super Mag (developed by IHMSA president Elgin Gates), was adapted to the revolver—first by Ruger, then by United Sporting Arms and Dan Wesson. The Blackhawk SRM and the Seville sport special frames, 10½ inch bull barrels and target sights; Dan Wesson's already substantial .44 frame was lengthened, but in the process gained so much weight that only eight-inch barrels (with ventilated shrouds) will make the required weight.

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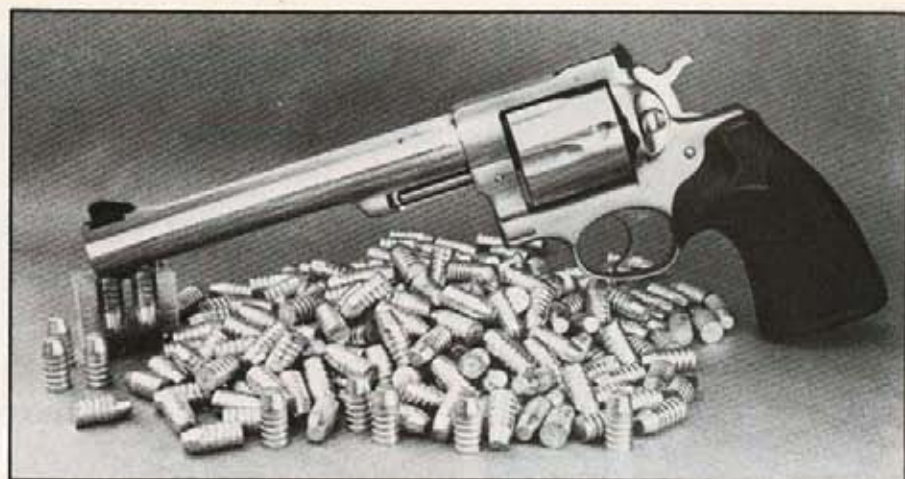
Smith & Wesson finally woke up and introduced a silhouette version of its Model 29, with a 10½ inch barrel and a special, adjustable front sight (its marketing people are still out of touch, judging by recent ads on the gun; hardly anyone uses the pictured reclining, Keith-type position and the site photographed for the ad is obviously neither a range, nor an informal practice area).

By the fall of 1981, the ultimate goal of many Revolver-class shooters was reached. Southern Californian Dave Wittman, a long-time pistol shooter, fired not one, but two 40 back-to-back straights. He has been an IHMSA competitor from the start, and had been actively trying to do the deed since the class was introduced. With a new Super Blackhawk 10½ inch .44 Mag, one he'd just bought because it seemed exceptionally well assembled, he went straight at a local NRA match, and followed it up the next week with another at an IHMSA match.

REVOLVER 'STRAIGHTS'

The next straight, fired with a Dan Wesson .357 Mag, followed before the end of the year; to date there have been several more; the most recent, was fired with a Blackhawk SRM. Still, straights are the exception in the Revolver classes, requiring the most favorable alignment of your stars, the wind, the chambers and the loads.

Scores have uniformly risen these past two years, so much that in the top classes



Silhouette shooters find revolvers are cheap to keep, being perfectly happy with a diet of cast bullets like these 320-grainers from an SSK Industries mold.

you'd better shoot in the mid-30s if you want to pick up some brass (plated plastic). There are several reasons for the growth. The silhouette-style revolvers are better suited to the sport, and have added a few targets. But, manufacturing and economics being what they are, we're talking good—but not match-level—accuracy.


Special components have been created for the revolver shooter; the change is not due to FMJs, but rather to the realization that the competitor must take the time to develop loads that maximize his revolver's accuracy.

The big factor in the increase is the

shooter. Once a few top shooters demonstrated the revolver's potential, the barriers were down and everyone learned that careful attention to basic marksmanship principles can produce amazing results. (I've been shooting .44 Mags for 20 years and I'm still impressed with the scores I've been able to shoot these last two years.) Still, scores in the 30s aren't easily come by. You have to work extremely hard to do well (I find I can't take turkeys reliably unless I believe they'll fall; we're talking high levels of concentration here.)

The revolver that the International class
Continued on page 74

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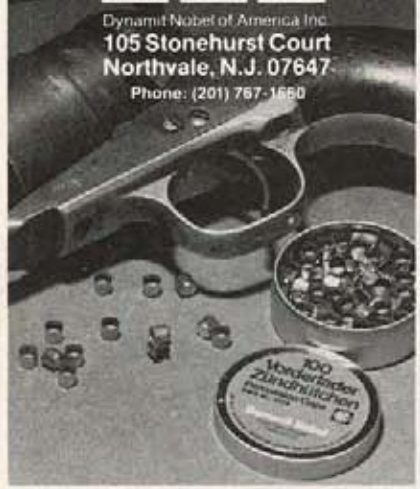
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2105126		1055	4.25	.17	5.30	.22	ribbed
2103863		1218	5.63	.22	5.30	.25	8 flanges
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HANDLOADING

DAN COTTERMAN

TESTS SHOW THAT BULLET LUBES DO LITTLE TO ENHANCE ACCURACY

Here's a homebrewed cartridge—a wildcat—that performs well: the .357 Herrett, of which I've made several.

You start with .30-30 brass, then file and trim (or cut) each case down in length, after which you chamfer, charge, and fire-form. It's a fairly critical procedure, and there is an inevitable loss of brass as a result of imperfections wrought during the remanufacturing process.

Now, if that was the only way we could get hot performance for .357 diameter bullets, I wouldn't be offering an alternative, as I do in this column.

There's a similar round that's been with us for more than 75 years and is capable of performance at least equal to the hand-made .357 Herrett. It's the old, reliable .35 Remington, which is something of a sled in terms of rifle performance, but which amounts to a terrific round for medium-size game or silhouette shooting with single-shot handguns.

Of special significance in this comparison is the fact that the smaller Herrett round tends to generate somewhat higher chamber pressures than does the .35 Remington, although velocity is not raised.

Compare velocity-yield versus pressure-penalty with these DuPont laboratory loads:

Bullet	Powder/ grs.	Vel., 14" bbl.	Press. (c.u.p.)
.357 Herrett			
170-gr. Sierra FMJ	4227/20.1	1,735 fps	45,000
.35 Remington			
170-gr. Sierra FMJ	4895/37.8	1,920 fps	34,100

If you think of higher pressures in terms of having made a negative investment in a handload, especially when the positive payoff/velocity is not forthcoming, then it will be apparent that the .35 Remington is the better cartridge.

The pressure/velocity ratio cited is generally sustained throughout the DuPont table. Take, for example, a 158-grain bullet. Herrett's .357 produced 2,045 fps, with a pressure of 44,900; the .35 Remington produced 2,030 fps, with a pressure of 34,500.

Of the loads tested—three each, propelling 158- and 170-grain bullets from both cartridges—revealed that the Herrett produced almost 23 percent higher pressures with the 158-grain bullet, while delivering an average of 9.56 percent less velocity. Checking the 170-grain bullet, the Herrett produced pressures that averaged

just over 23 percent higher, while velocities averaged 9.37 percent lower.

The .357 Herrett offers certain rewards, if you like to tinker and experiment. The originator informs me that due to the 14-inch twist in most barrels chambered for the round, he has never been able to develop accurate loads with bullets weighing under 140 grains; good results can be obtained with bullets weighing up to 200 grains.

NEW HORNADY BULLET

For those of us who enjoy downing metallic silhouettes, there's a new bullet in the Hornady JTC/Sil (Jacketed Truncated Cone/Silhouette) series. It's in .38 caliber and weighs 180 grains. The objective, according to communications from company spokesmen in Grand Island, is to provide shooters the advantages of a full metal jacket, without the disadvantages of jacket separation. The jacket on this one is reversed, so as not to expose lead on the base. Plus factors include lessening the possibility of skirt separation in revolvers, and the forming of a better base in the rifling for improved accuracy.

Jacket thickness on the new Hornady has been increased. This modification is supposed to reduce deformation of the harder-alloy core as the bullet enters the forcing cone, which should result in better accuracy.

Letters, frequently accompanied by test samples of reloading products, continue to arrive. We decided to test some new bullet lubricants this time, and have arrived at a conclusion or two definitely worth mentioning.

First, if you want to learn anything about the performance of a component, you compare it to others by keeping everything else the same. In other words, in a test involving different lubricants, the load, the gun and the testing conditions are held in the strictest possible control, while only the lubricants were changed. That's how all this began, but we discovered nothing conclusive until we varied something other than the lubricants.

FIVE LUBRICANTS TESTED

On hand for testing were five lubricants, one Ruger Blackhawk .44 Magnum with a 6½-inch barrel, and three interested handloaders: Mike Banks of West Covina, Cal-

Continued on page 68

PALADIN PRESS



QUICK OR DEAD

by William L. Cassidy

A true classic on the skillful art of combat handgunning! Here are the proven techniques employed by gunfighters throughout history. "The book is interesting, readable and original, a rare combination in this field," writes Colin Greenwood in **Guns Review**. "... like eating a plateful of fudge brownies. It is too much, too rich, too historical and just too damn true," writes Mason Williams in **Law and Order**. Regardless of your level of shooting proficiency, you can benefit from William Cassidy's reportage and analysis of the modern masters of close-quarter shooting—Cooper, Fairbairn, Applegate, Askins, Jordan and FitzGerald. Learn ways of improving your speed and accuracy, grip, body posture and delivery. This is the one book essential to serious handgunners everywhere. 5 1/2 x 8 1/2, hardcover, illus., 160 pp. **\$12.95**



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THE COMPLETE BOOK OF COMBAT HANDGUNNING
by Chuck Taylor
All aspects of combat handguns and their use are covered in this complete manual. Hundreds of illustrations show using survival handguns, preparing the handgun for combat, caring for handguns, and handgun stopping power. An important firearms book for survivalists and combat handgun owners. 8 1/2 x 11, softcover, illus., 200 pp. **\$12.95**

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by Jeffrie Jacobs
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THE AR-7 EXOTIC WEAPONS SYSTEM
A comprehensive home workshop guide for the gun buff and hobbyist machinist. Over fifty working machinist's drawings, photos, and full-scale templates show exactly how to convert the AR-7 22 survival rifle into a full-auto silenced machine pistol or rifle. Step-by-step instructions detail how to modify the weapon's original receiver, fabricate new gear and safety, as well as make a simple, efficient silencer group assembly. 9 1/2 x 12, softcover, machinist's drawings, photos, full-scale templates, 72 pp. **\$12.00**

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Need more firepower? How does a twelve-gauge machine gun sound? Now you can convert your Remington 1100 semiauto into a selective-fire assault shotgun that will blow any other small arm off the map! This detailed manual has over 70 close-up photos, machinist's drawings and full-scale templates. The conversion process retains all original parts (except for safety) and can be accomplished with hand tools. Only 11 new parts are required. Equipped with a ten-shot magazine and assault stock, your full auto 1100 will be a survivalist's shotgun without peer. 9 x 12, illus., softcover, 88 pp. **\$12.00**

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DEALER INQUIRIES INVITED





U. S. hopes in the 1984 Summer Olympics shooting matches will rest heavily on this man's shoulders. He is Sgt. Eric Buljung of the Army's Marksmanship Training Unit, Fort Benning, Georgia. Buljung took a gold medal in the free pistol matches at the Pan-American Games in Caracas, Venezuela in August. Shooters constitute the second biggest group of athletes for the Olympics, behind track and field. Olympics shooting events will take place this August on a 65-acre site in the Prado Recreational Area near Chino in San Bernardino County, California. A pre-Olympics shoot is scheduled to be held on the range, now under construction, in April to give the facilities and staff a shakedown before the Olympics get underway.

Photo by Tracey Amles (NRA)

Tunnel-point ammo is now available

Neutralizer Police Munitions now has available a unique type of positive expanding revolver ammunition, especially designed for hunting and defensive use.

Both calibers—.38 Special and .357 Magnum—contain a 158-grain power-swaged lead alloy *tunnel-point* bullet.

The hollow point extends down into the bullet body .540 inch; it has a nose cavity diameter of .203 inch.

The .38 Special *tunnel-point* ammo is a low pressure load, well below accepted +P pressure levels. The velocity is 894 fps when fired from a four-inch S&W revolver; bullet expansion exceeds .67 caliber, when fired into gelatin. Weight retention is 100 percent, according to the manufacturer.

The .357 Magnum *tunnel-point* ammo also is a low pressure/low velocity load, capable of just under 1,000 fps when fired from a S&W four-inch barrel revolver. Bullet expansion exceeds .71 caliber. Weight retention also is 100 percent.

The size, interior angle and depth of the cavity coalesce to provide a structurally weakened bullet that guarantees super-fast expansion of awesome proportions, even when fired

Continued on page 17



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A whole new power and accuracy for target and hunting performance. A double action revolver you've got to shoot.

Description— Model No. 40.

Interchangeable barrel assemblies: 6", 8", 10".

Shroud types: vent, slotted vent (8" only), vent heavy

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The Innovators

Rifling: 6 lands and grooves, right twist 1:14

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The unique 8" slotted shroud dissipates heat, reducing heat distortion. Qualifies for 48 oz. IHMA weight limit; improves balance.

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Available through Dan Wesson distributors and dealers.

Dan Wesson Arms, Inc., 293 Main Street, Monson, MA 01057, (413) 267-4081

PISTOLSMITHING

JOHN G. LAWSON

EXPERT PISTOLSMITH PROVIDES TIPS ON HAND, MACHINE TOOLS

Pistolsmithing is a generic title that encompasses autoloading handguns, revolvers, single-shot pistols and other highly-specialized firearms.

In order to work at a competent level, a good selection of hand and machine tools, oriented to generalized work, and a much larger number of special tools—such as jigs and fixtures designed for specific pistol and revolver jobs—are required. These days, this amounts to a sizeable outlay of cash.



A vertical milling machine puts 'smith in big leagues with its versatility.

While much competent work can be accomplished with simple or makeshift tools, most work can be done better—and definitely faster—with proper tools.

I was in a friend's pistolsmith's shop the other day and was astounded to see that his only power tools were a Unimat lathe and a Dremel. I couldn't sleep that night, so I sat up in my chair and made a list of all the jobs I am normally called upon to do, noting whether I could accomplish them on the equipment my friend has available.

It amazed me how many types of work I would be able to handle with this primary setup, though I hasten to add that a great deal of ingenuity would be required for some phases. It would require also a special attitude toward the work, in that the machine's built-in limitations would have to be kept constantly in mind. Having analyzed every step of an operation before cutting any metal, I realized that good work could be performed, although virtually every run-of-the-mill job would take on a laborious aspect that could mean

working for little or nothing on a commercial basis; it would mean nothing, however, when working on one's own handguns.

USED MACHINE TOOLS

In the machine tools category, you should buy the very best lathe you can afford. Some very good small lathes are available, and there are always good buys in used machine tools. One company that will ship used machine tools to any part of the country is Tacoma Machine Tool (Dept. AH, 1523 Broadway, Tacoma, WA 98402). TMT has a good selection of used lathes and milling machines in stock, with a fair proportion in the smaller sizes best adapted to pistolsmithing.

A good drill press is a must. The Unimat converts to a small, accurate drill press suitable for certain types of work. Some of the larger Maximats are proportionally larger in capacity. If possible, you should obtain a proper floor model drill press.

Recently, I had to drill the barrel and bushing out of a Government Model Colt, the parts having been expanded by firing a bullet into the barrel with a bullet already stuck near the muzzle. The hapless shooter who brought in the gun helped me hold the pistol as clouds of smoke rose from the screaming drill, despite copious lubrication. The barrel and bushing are made of hard steel; obviously, this is not a job well-suited to a small drill press. The press I use currently sells for about \$1,400. In the dim and distant past, I did such jobs on the lathe, holding the part in a milling attachment. This latter setup may even have some advantage over a drill press, if the milling attachment includes a large vise.

BROWNELL'S CATALOG

A one-half horsepower grinder is a welcome addition to any shop, since it is versatile enough to sharpen lathe tools, drill bits and shape parts. It's a machine tool that will perform literally thousands of different things, quickly and efficiently.

If you don't have a copy of Brownell's catalog, which lists virtually every medium- and small-sized tool a pistolsmith or general gunsmith needs to do both common and unusual jobs, then send them \$4 and be prepared to spend some time reading—and wishing. Brownell's address is Route 2, Box 1, (Dept. AH).

Continued on page 62

Police Chiefs Convention



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HANDGUN MARKET IS DOWN, NOT OUT

By Jerry Rakusan

I don't know which was worse, the days in World War II when there were no guns but a lot of buyers with money, or the last few months when there were plenty of guns but no buyers.

There is no question that the handgun market is experiencing a depression unlike anything encountered before. Many manufacturers have reduced production staffs and many wholesalers are either in deep financial trouble or have already left the scene. Discounting what were once popular and hard-to-find handgun models is common throughout the nation.

The reasons given—other than the generally depressed state of the economy—are as varied as the experts who expound on them.

In a recent *Wall Street Journal* story, one expert said that one possible reason for bad business is that the sales of *used guns* seems to be increasing. Are the prices of used guns that much lower, especially when discounting of new ones is so prevalent?

Another expert blamed the strength of the U.S. dollar, which has reduced export sales for many manufacturers.

Yet another expert postulated that the size of the gun market itself is shrinking. This was reaffirmed by many dealers who pointed out that even self-defense guns are not selling.

BOOM YEARS

According to corporate figures and excise tax receipts (estimated), the handgun market boomed from 1973 until 1981, when sales almost tripled from \$87 million to an estimated \$280 million. Things went along smoothly until the spring of 1982, when a weakening of the market was first perceived. Shortly thereafter, the bottom

fell out. With more than 10 years of growth, few if any in the gun business expected such a drastic sales slump.

With predictions of a drop in sales revenue of from 15 percent to 20 percent in 1982, and an even greater drop seen in the first quarter of 1983, the immediate future of the handgun industry does *not* look good.

There are, however, some positive signs that indicate the industry, although reeling from a devastating blow, is not going to roll over and play dead.

Most business leaders predict a general improvement in the market, as the nation's economic picture brightens. Estimates on how long this will take run from an optimistic six months to several years.

The growth of the handgun business from 1973 to 1981 was brought about by several factors. Probably first and foremost was the increased sales of personal protection firearms. Strangely enough, this increased awareness of the public to guns for self-defense was not only created by the media's coverage of crime, but also by its coverage of anti-gun legislation.

SHOOTING SPORTS

There was also a perceptible increase in the handgun market, due to shooters' participation in recreational and competitive marksmanship.

While it may appear that the number of shooters who actively compete in combat or practical pistol shooting and handgun metallic silhouette matches represent only a small part of the total handgun market, their impact on the total market is substantial.

Part of the increase in the market during this period can also be attributed to the introduction of new models. The burgeoning growth of stainless steel handguns is one example.

It is a well-known fact that in a depressed market period, when people are not buying big ticket items, they continue to purchase parts and accessories for them. This is also true in the handgun market, where new companies were created on only one or two accessory items. Again, the growth of the recreational and competitive shooting sports spawned the need for virtually everything, from truly effective accessories to just plain gimmicks.

Unless George Orwell's predictions come true, and 1984 sees Big Brother remove the accessibility of handguns from the majority of citizens, the handgun business should recover at least as fast as the national economy.

Whether it will ever attain the growth rate of the late 1970s will depend heavily on several factors. Crime, or at least the perception by the public of a need for self-protection, continued growth of the handgun shooting sports, and the possible introduction of new ones will all determine the future of the American handgun market.



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You may be a writer and not realize it

"You can write!"

I said that to a couple of current contributors to the *American Handgunner* last year and they didn't believe me. They were, however, willing to give it a try.

Their initial efforts floundered somewhat; but with a little editorial guidance, we now count them as esteemed members of our growing cadre of freelance writers.

So why not give it a try—you readers out there—as they did. Nothing ventured, nothing gained. . . .

Just send for our writer's guidelines and *Tips for Writers*.

You may be a crackerjack wordsmith and not realize it. Quién sabe?

Of course you must be highly knowledgeable when it comes to the myriad subjects we cover in each issue.

No, we will not reveal the names of our newest contributors, who joined the ranks of such pros as Al Pickles, Mason Williams, Phil Briggs, Massad Ayoob, John Lawson, Stanley Trzoniec, Jon Winokur, J. D. Jones, Russ Gaertner, Claud Hamilton, Greg Moats and Michael Bane, to name a few.

Let's hear from you!

It may—just may—be the beginning of a new career for you. And a profitable one at that. (L. D.)

Continued from page 14

from a two-inch barrel .38 Special.

The *tunnel-point* bullet was specifically designed to maximize the potential of short-barrel revolvers, "and help preserve the life of the American police officer."

The company said the low chamber pressure of its new ammunition "makes it ideal for use in small-frame revolvers, where tensile strength and controllability in double-action fire are important factors.

"Our loadings are designed *not* to exit the human frame, which assures a high degree of safety to the general public.

"Excellent 25-yard groups can be achieved, using standard police service revolvers."

Price for the .38 Special cartridges is \$17.60 a box (50), retail; \$18.40 for the .357 Magnum.

The ammunition may be purchased directly from Neutralizer Police Munitions, 5029 Middle Road (Dept. AH), Horseheads, NY 14845.

INFO 'QUICKIE'

You aspiring combat shooters, before you master speed and firepower, concentrate on accurately-placed shots. The name of the game, really, is sight alignment and trigger squeeze. Old stuff, but true.

B-Square introduces mount for Redhawks

B-Square Company has introduced a no-gunsmithing mount for Ruger Redhawk revolvers with barrel dovetails only.

The new mount is for Aimpoint and similar devices only.



The mount clamps to the barrel dovetails with stainless steel clamps and large socket-head screws. It will withstand heavy recoil and continuous firing.

It is not necessary to remove the sights.

Suggested retail price: \$49.95.

For more information, write to the company at POB 11281 (Dept. AH), Fort Worth, TX 76109.



9MM

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Steyr GB

SPECIFICATIONS:

Overall Length.....8½"
 Overall Height.....5½"
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 Barrel Length.....5¼"
 Weight unloaded39 oz

For more information, write Dept. STEYR, P.O. Box 6607, Birmingham, Alabama 35210

DEPARTMENT OF GUN SOUTH, INC.

COMBAT SHOOTING

MICKEY FOWLER

IT'S ALL IN THE GRIP; FOWLER GIVES TIPS ON WHICH ARE BEST—AND WHY

Editor's note: Mickey answers three questions here, received from readers of his regular column in this magazine. If you have any you would like him to field, send them along and we'll forward to him. (L.D.)

Q. In your opinion, how effective are heavy recoil springs and recoil buffers in prolonging the life of the Government Model .45 auto? Is there less felt recoil with stock springs? For IPSC competition I'm using 200-grain bullets, which chronograph at around 880 fps in my IPSC loads.

A. I use standard Colt recoil springs, which rate at about 16 pounds. These springs, when used in conjunction with a Wilson Skok Buff give the frame and slide adequate protection from the pounding of loads which approximate factory handball ammunition. Some IPSC shooters use

springs rated at from 18 to 20 pounds. I don't like the way the pistol recoils with the heavy springs. It feels like holding on to a pogo stick and wants to jump more in my hand. Another drawback of heavy recoil springs is the increased possibility of "stovepipes" if a light powder charge is encountered. I find that spring type buffers give the same effect. The best way to cut down on pistol wear is to reduce practice loads two-tenths of a grain or more from match loads.

Q. I have observed a number of different grip styles by top combat shooters while firing their .45 autos. What grip style do you recommend?

A. Let's look at the plus and minus factors of different grip styles. Those who leave the strong hand, thumb-on-the-safety have the advantage of being able to get up higher on the grip safety, because the hand is higher in relation to the bore

axis; it gives slightly better recoil control. Another point in its favor is the positive disengagement of the safety. The thumb-on-safety technique is slightly quicker in leather-slap type competitions when the pistol is drawn and fired from waist level, because the thumb is positioned to fire the piece without repositioning it as soon as it makes contact with the safety.

One problem with this technique is the possibility of not depressing the grip safety when firing. Many competitors will pin, or deactivate, the grip safety; or install a flat mainspring housing to eliminate this potential problem. Care must be taken not to exert strong inward pressure with the strong hand thumb on the side of the slide. This could interfere with the slide's operation.

The strong hand thumb locks down on the middle finger and feels more comfortable to some shooters. One advantage is that there is no problem in depressing the grip safety. This technique is used by many top shooters who feel it is slightly better for precision shooting. Some competitors put the index finger of the weak hand up on the front of the trigger guard. This gives slightly better recoil control, and is most effective if the trigger guard is stippled, or checked.

The finger should be positioned as high as possible and pressure must be exerted straight back; any pushing or pulling by the index finger to the right or left will cause shots to be off-target. If you choose to use this method, have a friend observe you shoot and check to see if the finger stays in contact with the trigger guard. If it bounces off during recoil, more pressure must be applied. Leaving the index finger of the weak hand under the trigger guard, wrapped around the strong hand, gives a little less recoil control; but it is faster to assume on the draw, and consistent hand replacement is easier to achieve than with the index finger in the up position.

Championship performance has been achieved by shooters using *all* of the above grip styles. In advising a new shooter who hasn't decided on which grip to use, I'd recommend the following: Grip the pistol with the web of the strong hand as high as possible on the grip safety, allowing clearance for the slide to operate. Place the strong hand thumb on top of the safety and leave it there while firing. Wrap the weak hand finger around the strong hand with the weak hand index finger under the trigger guard. Grip the pistol as firmly as you can, without setting up muscle tremors. If you are gripping it too tightly, the front sight will appear to vibrate.

Q. Please explain aimed fire, point shooting and instinct shooting with the handgun. How does each method relate to competition and self-defense shooting?

A. Aimed, or sighted, fire is the most accurate way to shoot the handgun. Sight alignment (focus on the front sight) hold, trigger squeeze and follow-through are all vital parts of aimed fire. Probably 90 per-

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cent of all competitive shooting matches use aimed fire, in various degrees of refinement, as the primary technique for shooting high scores.

An accomplished practical shooter, with good lighting conditions, can get off a sighted shot as fast as the pistol can be brought to eye level; by using and practicing the proper grip and stroke (pushing the pistol at the target, so the sights come up to eye level already accurately aligned), shots can be fired—including time from the holster with hands held shoulder-high—in around one second. Aimed fire is effective in some defensive situations, such as mid-to long-range or hostage situations, which require pinpoint shot placement. Enough light must be available to see the sights.

My definition of point shooting is bringing the pistol or revolver to a point just below eye level and fully extending the arms toward the target. My eyes are focused on the spot on the target I want the bullet to strike. As soon as the arms reach full extension the trigger is squeezed in a quick but controlled manner.

Point shooting has limited use in competition. Comstock-scored matches, at distances of 10 yards or less on IPSC silhouettes or in dim light situations where the front sight is not visible, are effective uses of point shooting in competition. In a close-range, self-defense situation, point shooting gives you the advantage of being able to keep your eyes on the possible assailant.

In dim light, unless your gun is equipped with a nuclear front sight, point shooting is the only effective way to shoot. If you develop the proper stroke to the target by practicing aimed fire you will have no difficulty in learning point shooting.

Instinct shooting, sometimes called hip shooting, has limited use; but it should be learned. Only one hand—usually the strong one—is used to hold the gun. Your elbow should be bent about 90 degrees from the ground, with your forearm against your side. The elbow should be slightly behind your back with your wrist locked and your forearm parallel to the ground. You still must squeeze the trigger in a quick, controlled manner.

At ranges of more than five feet, instinct shooting is unreliable. In competition, its value is in the quick-draw events on large targets at close range. For defensive shooting situations, it is the fastest way to get off a shot from the holster. It also has great value when firing shots from close quarters, where an assailant could possibly grab your gun if you used the point shooting method.



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Here are some great silhouette targets!

By Len Davis

There's nothing quite like a large-caliber handgun slug striking—dead-on—a half-inch thick steel plate silhouette target in the form of a ram at 200 meters (220 yards).

And the thrill is similar when firing at the smaller metallic silhouette targets at 50 meters (55 yards), the chicken; 100 meters (110 yards), the javelina; and 150 meters (165 yards), the turkey.

We recently received a set of these four targets from *Target Masters*, which cuts them from high-quality steel (not scrap), then deburrs them to remove all rough or sharp edges before they are painted a flat black.



A computerized flame tracing machine cuts eight targets simultaneously, all to precision measurements. Sturdy bases are welded to each target.

Bob Yonce, general manager of *Target Masters*, told the *American Handgunner* that his company's full-scale metallic silhouette targets for big-bore handgun shooting are designed for any caliber "up to and beyond .44 Magnum."

For .22 handgunners, the company makes smaller, one-quarter-inch-thick steel targets for silhouette shooting at 22.9 meters (25 yards), 45.8 meters (50 yards), 68.7 meters (75 yards) and 91.6 meters (100 yards). These are 3/8 inch scale models, designed to IHMSA (International Handgun Metallic Silhouette Association) specifications.

Yonce said *Target Masters* manufactures also metallic silhouette targets in 1/10, 1/5, and 1/2 scale models.

"We design them to either IHMSA or NRA specs," he added.

The IHMSA is the sanctioning body for virtually all handgun silhouette matches held in the U.S. Its president is Elgin Gates of Idaho Falls, Idaho.

Another excellent product made by *Target Masters* is its quarter-size torso springer, which measures 7 1/2 inches wide, 17 inches high and 1/4 inch thick.



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Target Masters produces many other type targets for the shooter, including falling plates and "non-destructible," swinging beer cans. We recommend you send for a copy of its catalog and retail price list. The company's address is 8341 Canoga Ave., Canoga Park, Dept. AH, CA 91304.



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letters to the editor of no more than 350 words. They must include the writer's full name and address and be typewritten. Letters may be edited for purposes of clarity or space. Editor.

Handgun action jobs may shorten the gun's life

A short time ago, a 1903 .32-20 Colt Single Action Army was brought into my shop. It had four notches filed into the backstrap and quite a story about it being taken from a cattle rustler in Montana.

The bluing was gone and the exterior badly rusted. The action's solid clicking, while cocking, was a sound that is music to a pistolero's ears. The action was tight, smooth; a no creep, crisp trigger pull—just the best feeling single-action that you could imagine.

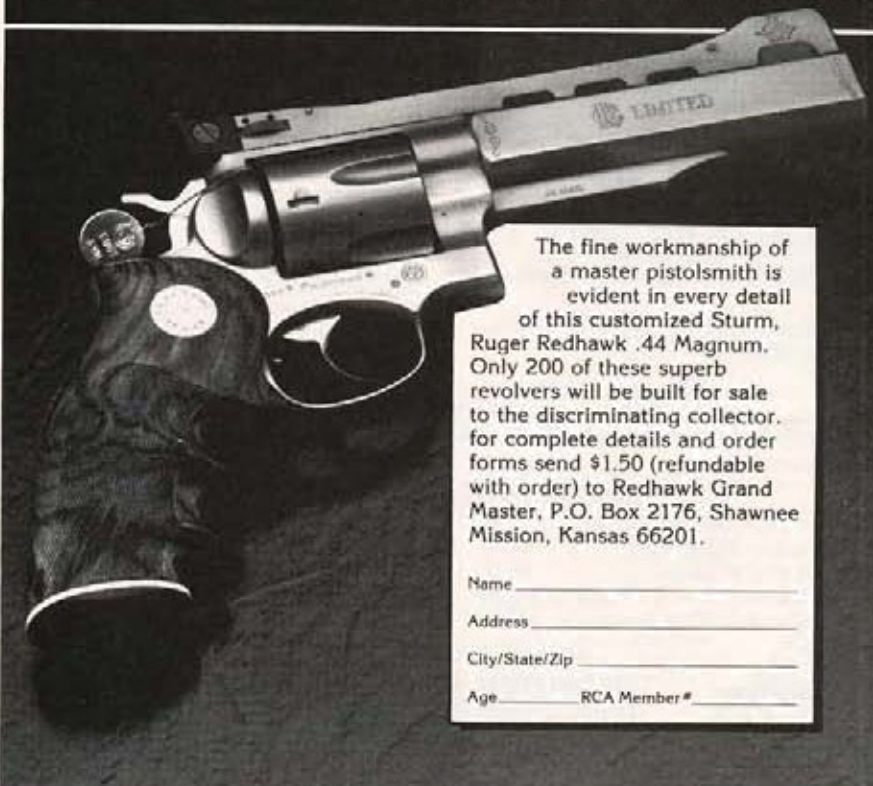
You can approach this feel with a modern revolver, but it will never quite equal the total effect that the old Colt conjures up. The steel may not be quite as good as modern steels, and some of the working parts may have been repaired over the years, but it is still one of the outstanding actions I have found in any revolver.

Part of the reason for this is years of wear and more handfitting of parts, both at the factory and by gunsmiths.

If you take a modern revolver as is, out of the box, and shoot it for 80 years or so, you will probably have an action that approaches the old Colt.

You can also take the revolver out of the box and send it to a pistolsmith for an action job, and approach the action of the old Colt. In either case, the revolver's contacting parts are smooth and

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worn down, and the total life expectancy of the moving parts is somewhat shortened. As the trigger pull is lightened and the contacting parts become smoother, the safety factor of the revolver is also lessened. This is of great importance to the pistolsmith, who has to impress upon his customer that the action job may make the gun less safe and shorten its working life to some degree.

I have seen some fine revolvers misfire and fail to cock properly, not because of an improper action job, but because the *edge* the pistolsmith had given it so carefully had worn off and the handgun malfunctioned.

When considering an action job on a handgun, the owner must be well-advised on exactly what the future holds in store for the wearing properties of the firearm, and how the safety of the firearm will be affected.

Collin Weisz
Underwood, North Dakota

Part-time cop requests info on .45 auto ammo

I am reading your May/June issue—and am impressed!

I had a subscription to your magazine last year; I found, in my opinion, that it was getting away from the average handgunner's interests. He—or she—cannot spend hundreds of dollars for custom-made guns. I let my subscription lapse.

If the issues I passed up were as good as this one, shame on me!

I am a part-time police officer; as such, I am interested in whatever will help keep me alive. I carry a Colt Government Model .45 on duty, and I have a question for you. What type of ammo would you carry "on duty"? Is the round-nose or jacketed hollow-point best? What about the 230-grain flat point? I carry the JHP, but I am wondering about the flat point; is the "shocking power" greater, more suitable, for the street?

I will continue to read your magazine now; thanks for coming back to earth.


Kenneth W. Post
Johnstown, PA

Editor's note: To answer your question, you can't do much better than the JHP ammo you carry. My second choice would be the 230-grain flat point, although I certainly would not knock round-nose, military ball ammo. Whatever, you'll get all the "shocking power" you need with any of these bullets—provided your shots are well-placed. (L. D.)

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Interarms counsel sheds more light on Walther P5

Our thanks for Donald M. Simmons' superb test report on the Walther P5 in the March /April *American Handgunner*.

One minor point which Mr. Simmons did accurately state, but which might stand clarification. Discussing the advanced P5 automatic safety system, he writes that "the only time the firing pin can be impinged by the hammer is at the end of the trigger pull, when either the hammer is at full cock or the hammer has been brought to the firing position by a long pull on the trigger." The statement is correct, in that the pistol remains "on safe" unless and until the trigger is literally at the end of its pull.

That is, *even when the hammer is fully cocked* and the trigger retracted to its single-action position, the firing pin is still locked against forward movement and lowered out of the way of the hammer (opposite a safety recess milled in the hammer face). Only when the trigger is pulled the last 3/16 inch of travel is the firing pin unlocked and raised into position where it can be struck by the hammer face.

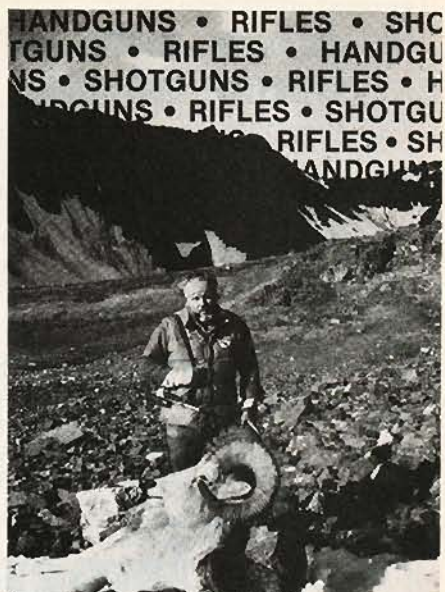
This state-of-the-art system obviates the need for a conventional manual safety, and lends an extremely high degree of security to the handling of the pistol (for example, if dropped while cocked)—an increasingly critical concern of law enforcement agencies.

Your readers may be interested to know that after extensive tests, the Dutch police have adopted the P5 as their official sidearm and will receive some 30,000 from Walther. In addition, the police of two states of the Federal Republic of Germany are now re-equipping with the P5. European police prefer—indeed, insist—that the magazine catch release be on the butt, rather than behind the trigger. According to Walther, this is to avoid the possibility of the holster rubbing the magazine catch and disengaging the magazine while the pistol is being carried—potentially embarrassing if it's not discovered until the pistol is drawn and fired, and the second round doesn't feed.

Michael J. Parker
Vice President and Counsel
Interarms (North American Group)
Alexandria, Virginia

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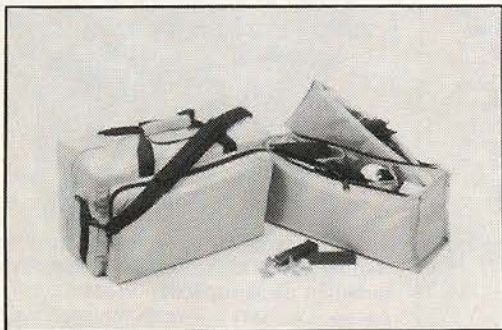
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Reader extends thanks to AH columnist Lawson

Our department sponsored a Lethal Threat Management Course March 28-April 1; taught by Massad Ayoob, an *American Handgunner* columnist.

John G. Lawson—another AH columnist—drove five hours round trip from his home in Tacoma to speak to the 21 law enforcement officers who attended a short course on the care, maintenance and modification of pistols and revolvers. Lawson's presentation was most interesting and he kindly answered a myriad of questions in a professional and straightforward manner.

Lawson is an asset to the gunsmithing profession and to your fine magazine. Please let him know that we appreciate his time and effort on our behalf.

Mike Kestner
Firearms instructor
Sheriff's Office
Vancouver, Washington

Editor's note: Your comments are appreciated. Both men are real "pros," and we are glad to have them on our team of regular contributors.

U. S. cop denounces French police ammo

As I read the article on the "New French Police Ammo" in the May/June issue of the *American Handgunner*, I was pleased with the results, until I read one sentence: "Under the same conditions, T.H.V. .38 Special ammo totally defeated Kevlar body armor, which resists conventional .44 Magnum loads".

As a police officer I shudder when I hear of any handgun round that will penetrate the vest that I wear on duty. It is unfortunate that many officers die at the hands of criminals who, somehow, got the officer's sidearm away from him/her. But it is a reality every officer must deal with. A police officer should only carry a load that his own body armor can withstand.

For this reason, I strongly disagree with the French official who said, "It is the ideal police load".

Due to the fact that such a load could defeat the Kevlar body armor, I feel such dangerous loads should be restricted from U. S. markets.

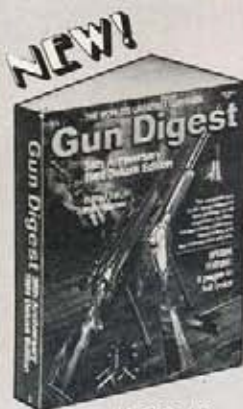
P.L. Mundy
Visalia, California

Continued on page 29

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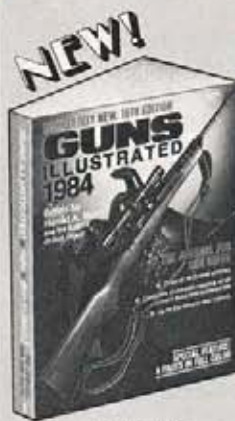
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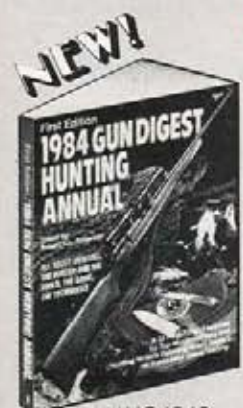
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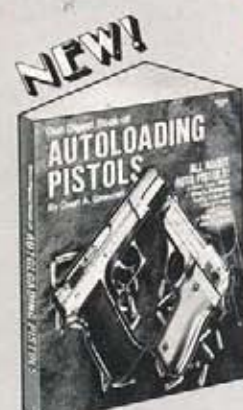
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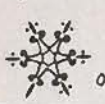
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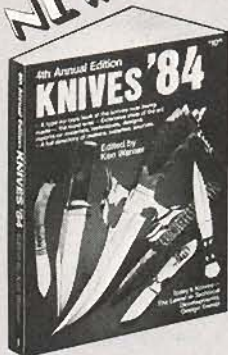


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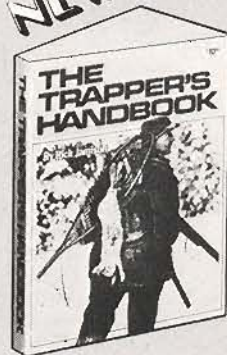
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KNIVES '84

Edited by Ken Warner

Custom grinder Bob Engnath tells how to make a knife. Ashley Halsey, Jr., talks of his collection of Indonesian krisses and other oriental swords and daggers. M. Serge Jorion writes on French Opinel knives. State of the Art coverage on the use of Damascus steel blanks by makers who do not forge their own steel, the testing of knives and knife making standards, and new thinking on knife steels. Trend reports on the good over-the-counter buys for all cutlery purposes. Sections on commercial hunters' knives, boots and fighters, even Bowies, from the big factories. Articles on heavy duty slip-joint and lockback folders. Beautifully illustrated displays of custom designers and their work. Plus an expanded directory of all available knife and accessory sources. 256 8 1/2" x 11" pages.

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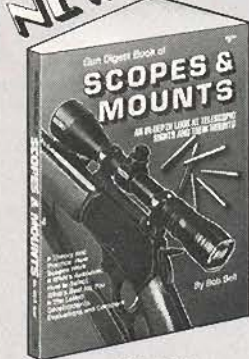
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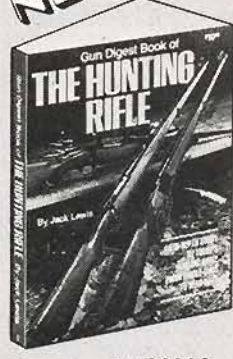
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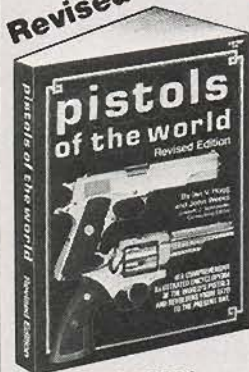
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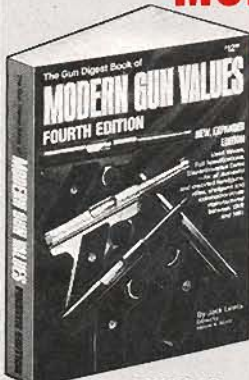
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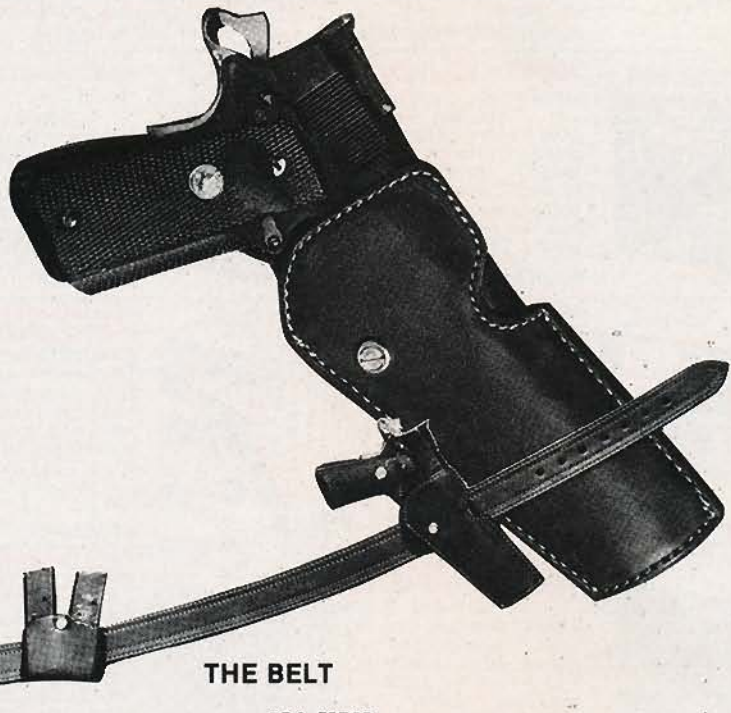
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SPEAK OUT

Continued from page 24

Hämmerli applauds piece on its M152 free pistol

Back from my holidays, I have just read the July/August issue of the *American Handgunner* with the Hämmerli 152 electronic Free Pistol depicted on the front cover and the extensive report beginning on page 32. A very nice surprise, indeed.

I want to congratulate you and Mr. Baiocco for this fine article, which contains a high degree of information for the marksmen interested in Free Pistol shooting.

I should be very grateful if you could send me 40 copies of this issue by ordinary mail, with invoice.

If you feel that I could be of service to you, please feel free to contact me any time.

P. F. Hediger
Hämmerli, Ltd.
Switzerland

Angle of stock on .45 auto bothers AH reader

Why has no one designed and built a .45 auto that points naturally?

A pair of antique dueling pistols, purchased in England many years ago, point naturally. The German Luger points naturally. Yet, after several decades of the Colt auto, with all of the modifications gunsmiths have originated, no one has ever changed the angle of the stock to the barrel to make it a natural pointer.

I have fired thousands of rounds from the hip with a revolver, fewer from a .45, but I'm still just a "would-be" expert. My opinion, however, is shared by a real expert: Bill Jordan (see page 68 of his book, "No Second Place Winner").

Seecamp, Swenson et al, please note.

Phil Aurand
Albany, Oregon

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**TEST-FIRE
REPORT**



Montana Highway Patrolman Dean Walston fires Viking 11.

By Mason Williams

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It's the new Viking II, which replaces the Viking I, introduced a couple of years ago.

The difference between Viking I and Viking II is the new manual firing pin safety, located beneath the rear sight, under the thumb of a right-handed shooter.

The safety moves from right to left and left to right. Moving it to the left retracts the firing pin just enough so that the face of the hammer cannot possibly strike it. Moving it to the right releases the firing pin.

The firing pin safety does not lock the firing pin so as to allow the hammer to strike it. The hammer literally cannot touch the firing pin when the safety is moved to the left.

Result: the safest automatic pistol on the market today, one that doubles the value of

the pistol for the man who carries a .45 auto on duty, day in and day out.

The Viking's double-action mode is based on a unique unit developed by Louis Seecamp—one that turns a single-action Colt auto into a double-action pistol. He accomplished this not by altering the Browning design, but by implementing it with his own invention.

Over the last 20 years or so I have owned and shot several of these conversion units on both Government Model and Combat Commander Colts.

OFF TO A SLOW START

In 1980 William A. Bertolini worked out a deal with Louis Seecamp and his son, Larry, whereby he would manufacture an all-stainless steel auto incorporating the Seecamp-designed conversion unit.

Production was spotty for the first couple of years, because the suppliers of parts were not meeting specifications, so Bertolini stopped production and re-



This 10-shot group was fired in 7 seconds (including reloading) to determine controllability of the Viking 11 auto.

vamped his entire operation. By 1983, the plant went back into production and turned out the Viking II, assembled from parts that met Bertolini's exact specifications.

Today, these pistols are among the best finished, tightest and most accurate I have seen in many years. I am surprised at the quality control put into these handguns by their manufacturer, Omega Defensive Industries (ODI) of Midland Park, New Jersey.

Tom Quinn, ODI's plant manager told me that 45 auto pistols are now coming off the line both in Government Model and Combat Commander sizes.

Except for all-stainless steel construction and the Seecamp double-action conversion, it's a M911 look-alike, but with a new manual firing pin safety.

Soon to follow, he said, will be 9mm pistols, also in both sizes.

The pistol that Quinn sent me is one of the early production Combat Commander Viking II's and is the handgun I will report on here.

The Viking is the first production pistol to incorporate the Seecamp double-action mechanism, which permits the shooter to draw and fire the pistol just like a revolver. The Seecamp conversion unit—which adds nine parts to the gun—does not affect or alter the original Browning mechanism.

Herein lies one of the wonders of this pistol. By removing the double-action mechanism the shooter has a single-action pistol.

The double-action mechanism is excellent for a duty pistol. Just draw and fire it. Unfortunately, this Seecamp unit does not permit fine tuning of the trigger, however, since this is essentially a street gun, a fine trigger pull is not necessary. This applies both to the original double-action of the first shot and to single-action subsequent shots.

GOOD DOUBLE-ACTION GROUPS

It is possible to turn in some very acceptable groups firing with the double-action mechanism. Because most firefights take place at distances of less than 20 feet, there is no need for a fine trigger pull. Nor is there any need for match accuracy.

By removing the Seecamp double-action conversion unit and then installing a regular GI or factory trigger, this gun may be used in competition as a single-



These are the parts that were taken out of the Viking II auto to turn it into a single-action pistol. Note the simplicity of the Seecamp conversion unit.



The firing pin safety has been moved to the left in the ON position. With the thumb safety UP and the hammer at full cock, the Viking II is extremely safe.

action pistol. It takes about 10 minutes to convert from double- to single-action.

When fired in its single-action phase, the Viking II has proven to be exceptionally accurate due not only to its close-fitting tolerances but also to its fine, clean, four-pound trigger pull.

When fired in my Ransom Rest at 50 yards, Winchester Match wadcutter ammunition gave me a 10-shot group of just under five inches. Federal Match gave me 10-shot groups running about one-inch

larger. Surprisingly, Remington, Winchester and Federal ball 230-grain service ammo turned in average groups close to six inches.

At the start, Viking II would not function reliably with one of my handloads: 3.8 grains of Bullseye behind a 225-grain lead, hard-cast bullet. It would however, function well with 4.3 grains of Bullseye and the 225-grain bullet. By the time I had completed machine rest testing, function testing and just plain fun shooting the Vik-

ing II handled *all* my handloads without any problems.

Instructions that come with the Viking II advise firing at least 400 rounds through it to loosen it up and break-in the fit of parts. This is true of any finely assembled pistol. The instructions further advise to keep key points well oiled with a synthetic lubricant. This has always been true of stainless steel parts.

NO FUNCTIONING PROBLEMS

I have put close to 800 rounds through this pistol, firing both handloads and any factory ammunition I could find around the house. I had no problems with functioning that were traceable to the gun.

You want to load and holster the Viking II with the Seecamp double-action unit installed? Slam in a loaded magazine. Throw the firing pin safety to the left, pull back the slide and let it go forward chambering a cartridge. Throughout this action it is impossible for the pistol to fire because the hammer cannot strike the firing pin.

You do not want to carry the pistol cocked and locked? Leave the firing pin safety on and simply pull the trigger. The hammer falls. You then shove the firing pin safety to the right freeing the firing pin. Holster the pistol. Because the firing pin is shorter than the distance from the face of the hammer to the face of the breech it cannot fire the cartridge in the barrel

firing pin has been withdrawn and is locked and retained in position by the sliding safety bar, and because the hammer is down solidly on the steel block that surrounds the rear end of the firing pin you cannot have any qualms about carrying the pistol in this manner. When drawing the pistol you must first push the firing pin safety to the right with your thumb as you bring out the handgun. Then double-action it.

If you are even more timid, there is one other method of carrying the Viking II. Once you have seated the magazine, move the firing pin safety to the left, pull back the slide and let it go forward. Leave the firing pin safety to the left, then snap up



Viking 11 auto with double-action conversion unit removed, and standard GI trigger to replace original ODI trigger.

Much thought has gone into the design of the hammer and the grip safety spur, so that there is little chance of a shooter's hand being pinched by the hammer. The grip safety has been disconnected: an excellent idea. However, it can be reactivated merely by removing a small screw.

The grips are made of teakwood. The sights are fixed and slightly larger than standard Government Model Sights, yet are not too big to affect proper holstering of the gun.

I would like to see the rear sight sent out by the factory deeply blued, and the front sight fitted with either a red or yellow plastic insert.

chamber. If you wish to draw and fire the pistol, do just that. No problems and no fussing around and thinking about safeties.

ANOTHER OPTION

Suppose you are a bit on the timid side. You slam home the loaded magazine. But you do not want to carry the pistol either cocked and locked or with the hammer down on a loaded chamber. Just move the firing pin safety to the left, pull back the slide and let it go forward, chambering a cartridge. You then leave the firing pin safety on, pull the trigger and drop the hammer and holster the pistol. Because the

the thumb safety. This rams the conventional hunk of steel into the bottom curve of the hammer, thus locking it. Leave the hammer back at full cock and holster the pistol. It would be difficult to make the pistol any safer. Before firing, however, you must first push the firing pin safety to the right, then shove down the manual thumb safety. Only then can you fire the pistol.

'ABSOLUTELY SAFE'

I personally like the manual firing pin safety because it makes the slide *absolutely* safe. When it is on to the left, it removes

Continued on page 47

BERETTA'S M84 AND M85 .380 AUTOS

TEST-FIRE
REPORT

By Massad Ayoob

Experience with a wide variety of .380 autoloaders tends to generally make one less than 100 percent comfortable with that type of gun. I'm talking about the run-of-the-mine .380s the public buys, not the neat, flawless .380s that gun writers always seem to get to test.

Teaching how to use a handgun gives one an opportunity to observe the relative reliability of production models under the duress of several hundred rounds fired.

The .380s that showed up at my *Lethal Force Institute* in recent months included an American-made Walther PPK/s that fed Super Vel hollowpoints perfectly, but shot more than a foot high at seven yards (the student switched immediately to a Ruger .38); a German PPK/s that shot perfectly to point of aim, but wouldn't feed 100 percent, even with hardball; an OMC Backup that went 500 rounds without jam-

Writer favors the M84, with its bulkier grips, blockier sights and 13-round magazine. He thinks the .380 is 'absolutely minimum in stopping power' and comfortably light in felt recoil.

ming, but sustained three misfires, due to light firing pin hits, and an HK-4 that hammered the owner's hand, and wouldn't feed hollowpoints.

But then there were Beretta M84s. One student, a merchant who carries his M84 under his suitcoat daily, shot 100 percent on the qualification course with his; a newsman used his M84 to put all six hits on a 100-yard silhouette target during long-range familiarization; a petite female having difficulty with her man-size service revolver switched to a cocked-and-locked M84, cutting her groups by half in size and proportionately doubling her confidence. There was not a single malfunction over a course that demands 300 to 500 rounds apiece, with hollowpoints recommended.

The .380 is absolutely minimum in stopping power. I'm comfortable with a .357 or

Continued on page 56



Beretta M85 and 25-yard group (left); gun has good "feel," right. Author compares M85 with S&W M66.



It can save you money...

DO-IT-YOURSELF PISTOLSMITHING

By Russ Gaertner

The idea of handgunners working on their own guns is hardly revolutionary, but recently it has been gaining ground.

The increasing popularity of books such as the late George Nonte's *Pistolsmithing*, and *The NRA Guidebook to Handguns* is one tip-off.

New customizing kits come out every day, and specialized parts for accurizing and improving handguns are getting to be big business. Another tip-off.

Combat matches and silhouette shooting competition give much impetus to do-it-yourself pistolsmithing by putting the emphasis on combining power with accuracy.

Pistolsmiths can certainly help us with their guidance and personal experience. And new tools designed and made by 'smiths now let us tackle tougher jobs, and do them right the first time.

In the *American Handgunner* for March/April (1983), I described one such tool: Brownells' Revolver Forcing Cone Chambering Kit, which a shooter can use to upgrade accuracy and performance. This stirred up much interest among handgunners, so much so that I took a look at other 'smithing tools, tried them out, and now describe those which appear useful in

There are many new tools on the market designed to make home pistolsmithing a relatively easy task.

the hands of serious, but untrained, pistolsmiths.

I am not a pistolsmith, so I did a quick survey of available tools. I tried to include only the more generally useful ones. Not even all these can be covered in the space available in this story.

After narrowing my selection, I enlisted the help of the man who is undoubtedly deserving of the title, *Mr. Gunsmithing Supplier*: Bob Brownell, head of Brownells, Inc. (Montezuma, Iowa 50171).

Brownells' catalog is the prime source for anyone interested in gunsmithing. You can learn more about the subject by reading it (\$3.25, refundable with \$30 purchase) than by studying some heavy books; and it's up-to-date.

Let me describe my experience with several of the newer tools and methods which make tough pistolsmithing jobs easy and precise. These include both customizing and repairing operations. This story will provide some tips to make jobs clearer and help handgunners avoid problems as they perform unfamiliar work for the first time. Refer to the NRA book and your instruction manual for disassembly steps, and use the instructions supplied by the tool maker for details of the work.

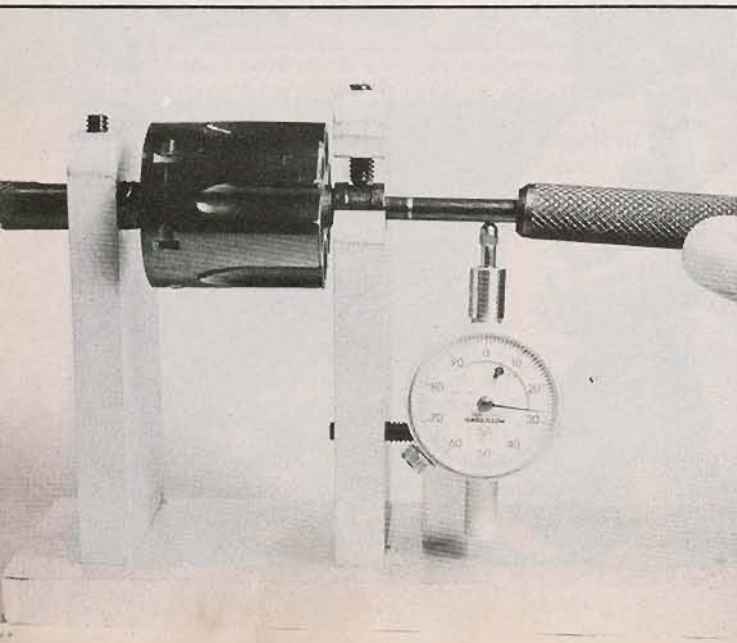
COMBAT/TARGET SIGHTS

Installing new combat or target sights on .45 autos or similar guns probably is the most popular customizing job. This is deceptively simple. It looks easy; but if not done right, the sights may not line up properly, or they may shoot loose.

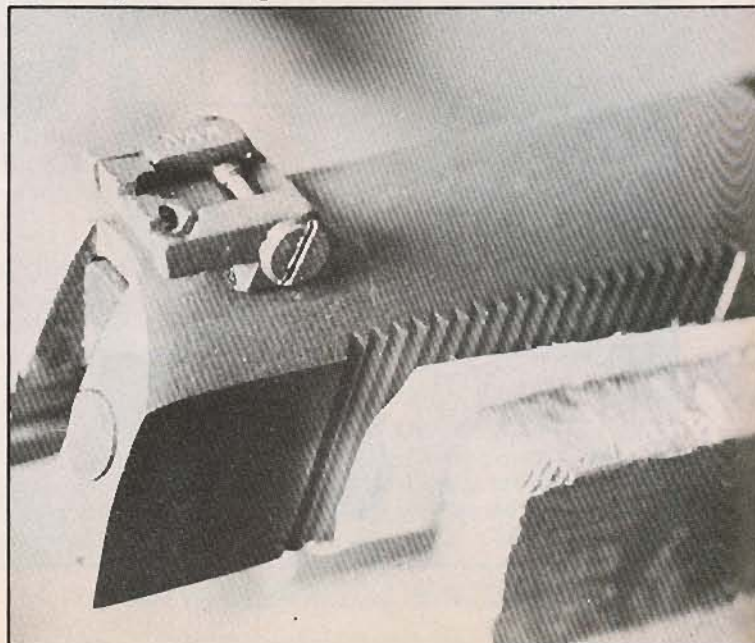
The older method of soldering on the front sight is one which amateurs were well advised to leave to a 'smith. I ignored that and silver-soldered a Micro target blade on a Browning Hi-Power. After exhausting my vocabulary of cuss words, I finally got it right; but the clean-up and slide refinishing parts of the project were messy. I learned that lesson the hard way.

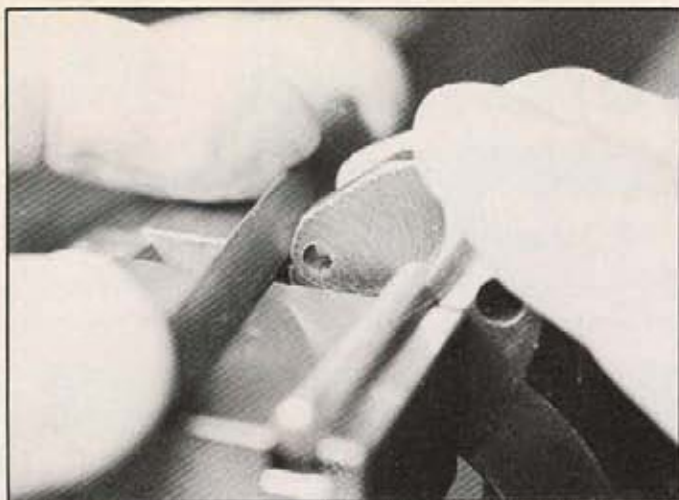
A new front sight staking tool made the

Pressure is applied gradually to bent ejector rod of a S&W M57 revolver until runout reads zero on dial indicator.

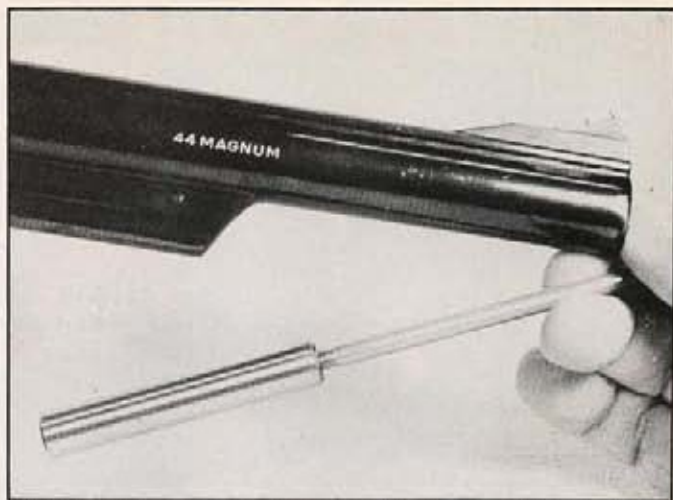


Seated with Loctite and staked in Auto Ordnance slide dovetail, this MMC sight is low and will never shoot loose.





Wilson jig precisely positions New Model Blackhawk hammer notch for honing with triangular-shaped Arkansas stone.



Cylinder alignment is checked with Brownell's Range Rod; tip should pass smoothly down barrel, throat and chamber.

job easy and quick, with no refinishing. Simply pick any tenon-type front sight—by Millett, Micro, MMC or others—then knock out the old factory sight with a punch from inside the slide. The slot in the slide (clean out any gunk or grease) accepts the new sight tenon, and the MMC tool fits onto the open front end of the slide. A set screw in the tool holds the sight in correct alignment, protected with thin cardboard, and fastens it in place. Then tap a slotted wedge into the slot from the front of the tool, swedging the tenon metal up into the slot, filling it completely, for a strong joint. Loosen the set screw, remove the tool, and the job is done.

The tool costs \$81.20. But a couple of jobs will pay for it, considering what pistolsmiths charge today.

Rear sights are not as tricky, but they too must be done right. I recently installed a MMC white-outline, adjustable low-profile sight on my Auto Ordnance .45 to use with the factory front sight, which I gave a yellow insert. No special tool is needed, but this job is so often botched it deserves mention.

I punched out the old fixed rear sight from the left side of the slide (the narrower side). Then I cleaned the slide dovetail and tried the new base from the right side. It would not enter the dovetail; but a few

strokes with a fine-cut needle file eased the fit, leaving about 1/4 inch of resistance. The dovetail was degreased and two drops of Loctite placed in it. Using a nylon punch, the sight base was driven into the dovetail slot to the center mark of the slide. Before the Loctite set, a small steel punch was used to stake the base in the slide. Metal from the slide need not fill the staking notch, but it should touch both sides of the notch.

FRONT SIGHT INSERTS

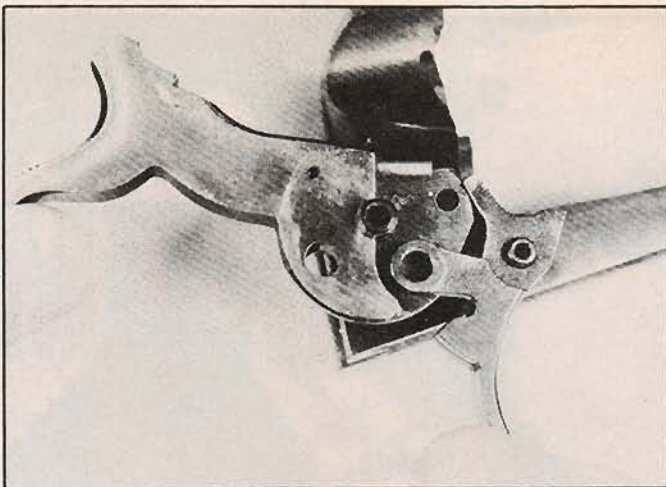
Then it was just a matter of adding the leaf and spring and then the windage screw, staking it to the nut, as the directions

Millett Handgun Boresighter has a .45 Hardballer longslide on its barrel rod; the gauge measures height of the front sight.





Tip of Brownells' Yoke Alignment Tool will not enter the center hole of this S&W M57 backplate (indicates yoke bent).



Brownells' Trigger Adjustment Pins fit holes on right side of frame to show exact hammer sear/engagement for honing.

indicate. This made a fast, visible, low rear sight which can be adjusted for any ammo. It will never shoot loose.

Front sight inserts are becoming popular. I have installed several Red Ramp types. Recently, I tried a Bullshooters kit with good results. Preparation of the sight blade is important. Undercuts and holes retain the insert. I work with the most fluid mixes of insert resins I can handle to get strong inserts without weak spots or voids.

If you have a newer Ruger Blackhawk or a Colt Python with a pinned sight blade, the C-More plastic replacement blades from Magnum Sales (30016 South River Road, Mt. Clemens, Michigan 48045) work well. They are almost indestructible and come in ramp and Patridge designs, five bright colors to a package (\$14.95). I

use a yellow C-More target Patridge on a Python with good results. Be sure to use the exact size (.059 inch for Colt) drill bit in redrilling the holes in the blade, to avoid enlarging the pin holes in the base.

A .45 auto, even those which have been throated for semi-wadcutter ammo, is reliable only after the magazine has been reshaped to move back the release point so semi-wadcutter ammo doesn't jam on the top of the chamber. An experienced pistolsmith can do this in a minute with a pair of pliers, but most of us need help.

A simple tool, made by Creative Gunsmithing and available from Brownells, is a bumping die which fits inside of the magazine lips. A smoothfaced hammer is used to flatten the front section of the lips. Then a rounded punch is

tapped into the sharp angle of the die from both sides. My .45s have been throated but they feed reliably with lighter loads after reforming the lips. My Auto Ordnance clip (set for hardball), after forming, worked just as well as more expensive stainless or Gold Cup clips; it even fed .41 Avenger rounds perfectly in my converted Gold Cup .45. The Novak die is priced at \$29.95 and it can also be used to fix magazine lips bent by being dropped.

MILLETT BORESIGHTER

Zeroing-in handguns can be wasteful of ammo and time-consuming. The new Millett Boresighter is a precision gauge designed to measure sight settings and zero them for high-velocity factory ammunition.

Continued on page 50

Ron Power's custom-hardened stainless steel yoke bearings (one on yoke stud) eliminates yoke looseness on this M57.



Power Custom
Inc.

THE 1983 IPSC NATIONALS

Rob Leatham takes top honors, defeats 2nd place Brian Enos — 1983 Bianchi Cup match winner — by substantial margin. Women shooters shine. Mickey Fowler, Mike Dalton not in top 20 this year.



Rob Leatham, pictured here, practices regularly with Brian Enos out on the Arizona desert. This practice paid off for them as they finished back-to-back.

By Jon Winokur

More than 300 topflight IPSC (International Practical Shooting Confederation) shooters from the United States and Canada gathered near Moline, Illinois over the July 4th weekend for the 1983 IPSC National Championships.

Rob Leatham of Mesa, Arizona dominated the tournament and won the Championship by a decisive margin over second-place finisher and 1983 Bianchi Cup match winner Brian Enos. Two-time IPSC National Champion John Shaw finished third.

There were actually *two* tournaments, the overall match won by Leatham and, for the first time, a separate *U.S. Women's Championships* held prior to the main match in which 31 women competed for the title and a spot on the *U.S. Women's World Shoot VI* team.

Lee Cole of Fayetteville, Arkansas was the winner. Kelly Steward of St. Louis, Missouri was second and Sarah Van Valzah of Columbia, Maryland was third. (Van Valzah was also high female in the overall competition).

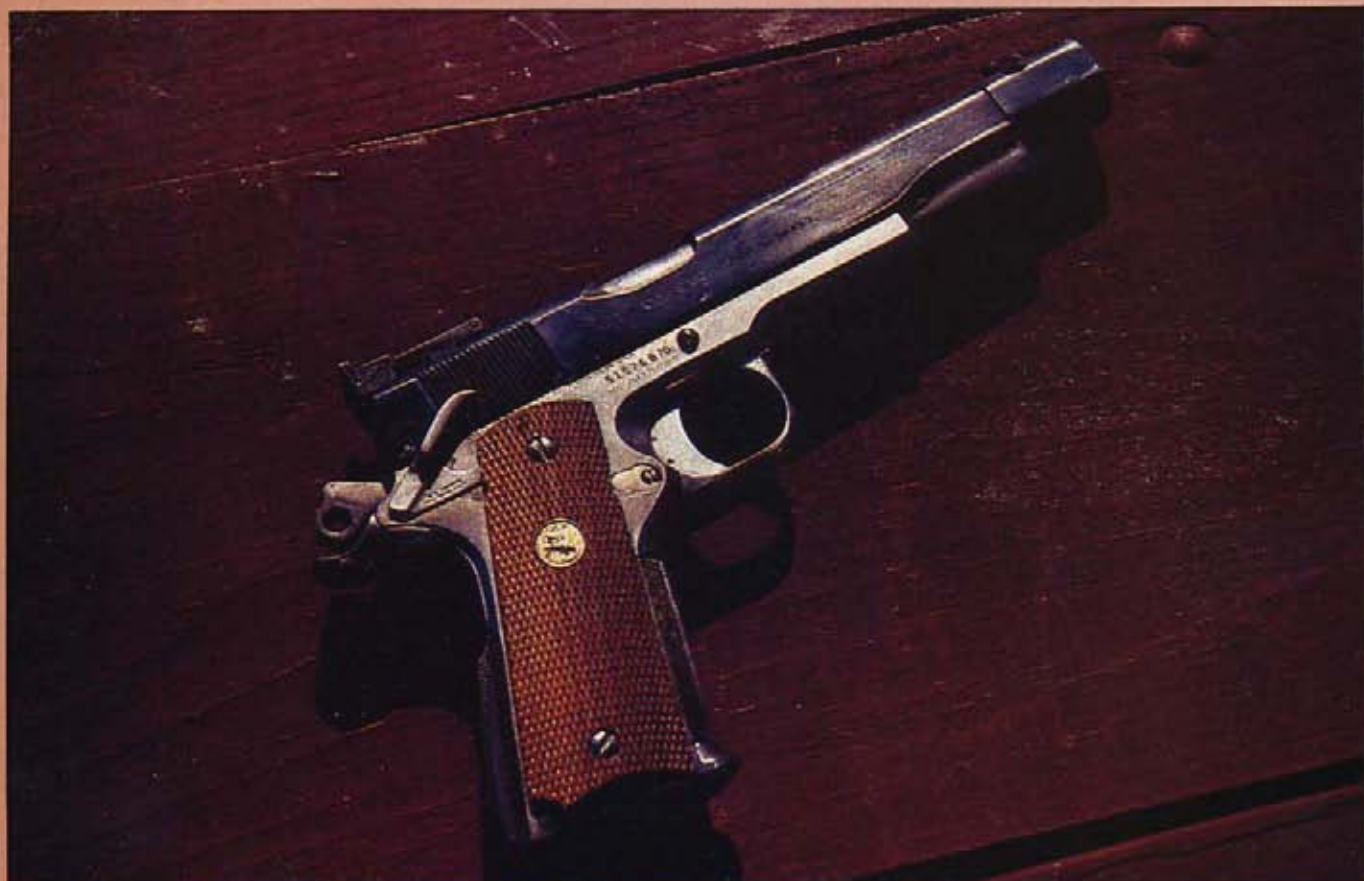
The Milan Rifle Club's excellent ranges, near-perfect weather, competent, courteous range officers and a challenging, semi-surprise course of fire combined to produce one of the best Nationals yet.

The four-day tournament consisted of six stages designed to incorporate the principles of practical shooting first promulgated by Jeff Cooper: *Diligentia* (Accuracy), *Vis* (Power), *Celeritas* (Speed).

Match I, *Devil's Hole Defense*, was a quick and dirty affair, which put a premium on speed. There were targets at 4, 5 and 7 yards, with a no-shoot "hostage" partially covering the target at 7 yards. Scoring was "limited Comstock." Ross Carter of Harrison, Arkansas won the stage, the 1983 *Steel Challenge* match winner, Mickey Fowler, was second; John Shaw was third.

TEST OF ACCURACY

Match II, *Advanced Military Modified*, is an IPSC staple as a test of accuracy, with targets at 10, 25 and 50 yards. Three competitors turned in identical scores of 246 out of a possible 250. Jim Zubiena of North Hollywood, California was the trophy winner under a tie-breaking formula based on performance in other matches.



Here is Rob Leatham's match-winning Accu-Comp .45 auto.

John Shaw placed second, Mark Day was third.

Match III, *Grocery Store Panic*, was a tricky assault course with no less than seven hostage targets. Rob Leatham negotiated the problem flawlessly to win the stage. Lee Souter was a close second and Ross Seyfreid was third.

Match IV, *Gasoline Alley Encounter*, another assault course, featured a slow-moving mover, a crawl under a simulated truck and, again, several no-shoots. Rob Leatham turned in a smooth and accurate run to take first place. Brian Enos was second, Ray Neal third.

Continued on page 58



U.S. Women's Champion Lee Cole.

TOP 20, THEIR LEATHER

NAME	SCORE	HOME	MFG.
Rob Leatham	98.0947	Mesa, AZ	Davis
Brian Enos	94.5906	Mesa, AZ	Davis
John Shaw	91.6299	Memphis, TN	Davis
Bill Wilson	89.5124	Berryville, AR	Rogers
Tom Campbell	89.0226	Huntington, MA	Rogers
Lee Souter	87.5070	Tucson, AZ	Davis
William Rogers	86.4958	Jacksonville, FL	Rogers
Chip McCormick	85.9798	Austin, TX	Rogers
Eddie Brown	85.9082	Perry, MO	Bianchi
J. Michael Plaxco	84.9871	Roland, AR	Rogers
Jim Zubiena	84.6611	N. Hollywood, CA	Blocker
Rick Castelov	84.4982	Madison, TN	Blocker
Ross Seyfried	84.0736	Roggen, CO	Sparks
Mark Day	83.5534	Los Angeles, CA	Blocker
John Sayle	83.4500	E. Liverpool, OH	Davis
Murray Gardner	82.6597	Vancouver, B.C.	Sparks
Steve Duffy	82.5780	Pontiac, IL	Bianchi
Jason Cole	82.5624	Fayetteville, AR	Bianchi
Ross Carter	82.4507	Harrison, AR	Rogers
Fred Boulton	82.4197	Caracas, Venezuela	Bianchi

Box score: Rogers, 6; Davis, 5; Bianchi, 4; Blocker, 3, and Sparks, 2.

TOP 20 WOMEN

Cole, Lee	458.506
Stewart, Kelly	432.201
Van Valzah, Sarah	399.998
McHugo, Susan	390.584
Culbertson, Judy	359.406
Dardin, Constance	332.813
Geer, Roberta	330.062
Sayle, Sally	328.981
Fichman, Joanna	325.545
Divitis, Linda	313.871
Livingston, Ann	307.416
McClure, Kerry	301.829
Howard, K.I.	280.029
Rogers, Christie	275.360
Seney, Jennifer	259.601
Stamper, Susan	248.568
Predovich, Mary	237.188
Hadfield, Ollie	222.100
Chapman, Beverly	219.075
Anspach, Charlene	218.695

AN INTERVIEW WITH LEATHAM

By Jon Winokur

Rob Leatham, a 23-year-old computer operator from Mesa, Arizona, is still a relative newcomer on the handgun competition circuit, having competed in his first IPSC National Championship in 1981. It was an auspicious debut: he finished tenth. He continued shooting and improving, placing fifth in the 1982 *Steel Challenge* match and sixth in the 1983 *Bianchi Cup* match.

His victory at this year's Nationals was prodigious. He won four of the six stages, and set a record for the highest total in the seven-year history of the tournament, with a factored score of 98.0947 out of a possible 100.

He beat second place finisher and shooting partner, Brian Enos, by three-and-a-half points, a huge margin in a match where many final scores were separated by mere hundredths of a point.

I had an opportunity to talk with Leatham immediately after he finished his last stage, the *Gasoline Alley Encounter*, on which he clinched this year's title.

JW: You've just won the 1983 IPSC National Championship. How does it feel?

RL: Wow! I'm not sure it's sunk in yet. National champion! Are you sure you're not talking about Ross (Sefried) or Mickey (Fowler)? It's going to take a while to sink in.

JW: Was your goal to win the Championship?

RL: It's always in the back of your mind. You'd like to win whenever you compete, but I didn't approach it that way. I told myself to go out there and shoot within my ability and, if I don't win the match, I will not have lost anything. I'll just have been beaten by someone better, and there's no disgrace in that.

In a match like this there are at least 10 persons who can shoot the scores necessary to win. Last year, for example, it was tied between Ross Seyfried and Mike Plaxco, because neither had made any glaring errors. Mike shot just a little better than Ross on the final stage, and won it. That's how I like to see it happen, rather than the "attrition" that results from everyone pushing too hard. It's much more satisfying to go out there and win, as opposed to having everyone else blow it.

This year, when it came time to shoot my last stage, I knew that it would take a serious error to lose the championship. I liked that because I felt in control of my own destiny. I was, in effect, shooting against myself.

JW: How do you approach a match like the IPSC Nationals, with its assault courses and fast shooting, as opposed to a precision match like the Bianchi Cup?

RL: In fast shooting, I don't consciously fire the gun. I just watch the sights and everything else seems to happen automatically. I just track the sights and the little computer upstairs does the rest, if I let it. If I've practiced, my subconscious does the shooting for me.

JW: How did you prepare for the match?

RL: Brian (Enos) and I shot as many matches as we could. We felt we didn't have anything specific to learn, or any particular aspects of our style to perfect. We just got as much match experience as we could, and there's a match somewhere in Arizona just about every weekend. By the time we came to the Nationals, I knew I'd reached a peak.

JW: Is that your usual practice routine?

RL: Well, off-season, we load Brian's pickup with targets and stands and drive out to our favorite spot in the desert. We don't have a formal range, so we tend to work with simple facilities. During the season, we try to shoot in as many matches as possible.

one can do it; but how many people do it right? How many people put the required amount of concentration into it? That's the key element I see missing in a lot of shooters: *concentration*.

And you have to make sure you don't practice the wrong things. There are certain basic skills common to most matches, and people spend far too little time working on them. If you want to do well in a semi-surprise match, such as the Nationals, you can't possibly simulate the match beforehand—even if you did have the resources. On *Gasoline Alley*, for example, they had you shoot two 25-yard targets over the hood of a car, crawl under the car, and then shoot a moving target. You can't set up that at home. But you can practice putting two shots on each of two targets at 25 yards. A competitor should be well-versed in the basics before he shows up at a match. At a minimum, he ought to be able to place a shot on a target at 25 yards in two-and-a-half seconds, and he ought to be able to shoot quickly and accurately at



Rob Leatham, right, receives trophy from Guy Johnson, Milan Rifle Club prexy.

JW: What's your advice to aspiring National Champions?

RL: I see too many new shooters getting too involved with equipment. Don't get me wrong, I'm a gadgeteer to the end; but in a match like this, I try to keep everything simple.

My advice would be to get solid, good quality equipment, something you'll be able to build on. Buy a Colt MKIV, have a trigger job done on it, and install decent sights. I like adjustable sights, because I'm constantly experimenting with different loads.

As for practice, it's much simpler than you might think. You don't have to do a lot of 50-yard shooting or fire El Presidente-type matches. You can find perfection in the simplest of shooting exercises. For example, the one-shot draw at 10 yards.

10 yards.

JW: Do you have a method to help you remember the procedure in a surprise or semi-surprise match?

RL: Not as such; but our league has a lot of procedure-oriented matches. I never have any idea what I'm going to shoot. I just show up and whoever's running the match that day will have set something up. We don't have a formal coursebook, such as the Southwest Pistol League has. So, you get to the point where you can study a course of fire for a few minutes, and then go ahead and shoot it. When I shoot a stage, I don't want to have any questions in my mind. I run it over and over to the point where I can actually see the sights aligned on the target. Know the play beforehand, and don't change it.

Continued on page 59

THE CUSTOM LLAMA OMNI 9mm

By G.B. Davis Jr.

'PURVEYER OF HIGH TECHNOLOGY FIREARMS'

TO THE AMERICAN HANDGUNNER:

Here is the custom *Llama Omni* I promised to send for your Custom Gun Give-away program.

It is the result of collaborative craftsmanship, and a typical example of my product. I firmly believe that no one person can excel in all phases of customizing. By employing selected specialists, however, I can enlarge the scope of my capability to bring innovative ideas to fruition, and at the same time bring maximum expertise to all areas. It has always been my practice to consult metallurgists, machinists and fellow pistolsmiths to research the feasibility of new ideas; in that way, I am assured of providing a combination of the soundest and most technically advanced custom pistols.

I chose the *Llama Omni* for this project because of its well engineered design and beautifully balanced feel, which bears similarity to other European automatics. The ignition system is impressive, with a separate system for single and double-action, allowing the pistolsmith the latitude to adjust one without compromising the other.

This *Llama* began as a basic fixed sight 9mm *Omni* with four factory magazines, all provided by Stoeger Industries of Hackensack, N.J. For the sake of simplicity, I will describe the customization of this pistol from the top and work down.

The sights were replaced with a dual crimp and low mount from Millett.

The rib on top, initially smooth, was recut and hand checked at 40 LPI (lines per inch).

The slide is milled narrower in the front for holstering ease; all edges are hand-radiused to extend the life of the finish. The rear of the slide is hand-checked at 40 LPI.

The safety latch is hand-checked at 30 LPI; so is the gripping surface of the hammer, which also has been lightened by drilling out.

The barrel bushing was custom-built by Caraville Arms of Thousand Oaks, Cal-

ifornia, using a teflon O-ring for optimum fit. It's called an "Exacta Ace" bushing; bar none, it is the best. The barrel was refinished from the original matte and engine-turned in my shop.

The finish on the slide is glass-beaded standard blue; preparation and application by Doug Canaday of Ridgetop Gunsmithing, East Greenbush, N.Y.

The frame is rough-checked on the front strap for grip, and is entirely hand-radiused. The magazine well has been opened up for easier insertion of the magazines. After initial work was completed, the frame was sent to Bill Barron of Perma-Chrome (Victoria, Texas), who handles all of my plating. The finish is tough, uniform and aesthetically appealing.

All friction bearing internal parts and magazine chutes have been treated by Electrofilm of Valencia, California with Lube Lok 5306. This material drastically reduces friction and is extremely rust resistant. After break in, the magazines function as smooth as silk.

All internal functions have been tuned, along with a reworked slide to frame interface for the utmost in accuracy.

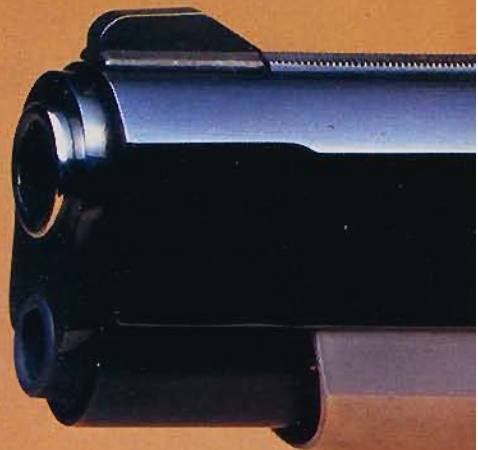
The *Llama Omni* was test-fired with 50 rounds of lead bullet reloads. There were no jams.

To carry the gun, Mike Taurisano of Tauris Leather (New Hartford, N.Y.) has provided a beautiful bench-made cordovan scabbard. Mike builds all types of holsters to order, on request.

In addition to *Llama* automatics, I offer custom work on Sig, H&K, Beretta and Walther, as well as S&W and M1911 types. Turnaround time is variable, but rarely exceeds three months after I accept the contract. Estimates are made at no expense. Work for my fellow law enforcement officers receives a courtesy discount.

I hope the winner of the *Llama Omni* will enjoy this fine pistol for many years to come.

Geoffrey B. Davis, Jr.
POB 160 Latham, NY 12110



TO ENTER CONTEST: Use a postcard, follow sample; include name, address, HOM-J/F, local dealer name and address. Mail before February 1, 1984. Send to AMERICAN HANDGUNNER, Box 16025, San Diego, CA 92116.

Name _____

Address _____

City & State _____

HOM-JAN./FEB. 1984 Phone _____

If I win, please ship my gun through the following dealer:

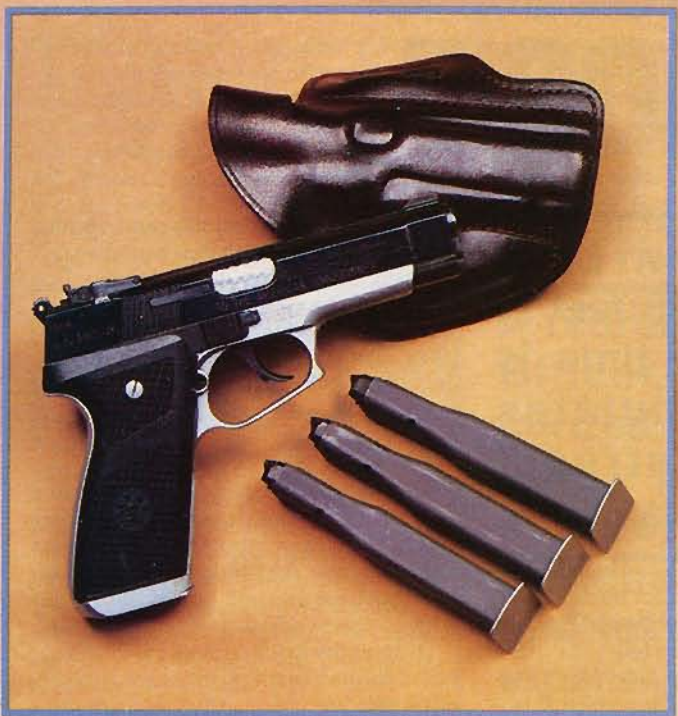
Dealer _____

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.

AMERICAN
Custom Gun
Giveaway
HANDGUNNER



Here's what winner gets: the Llama Omni 9mm auto, three magazines and a fine holster made by Tauris Leather Company.



THE 1983 SECOND CHANCE COMBAT SHOOT

By Jon Winokur

The 1983 Second Chance Combat Shoot, held June 12-18 in Central Lake, Michigan, was host to more than 300 shooters who competed in near-perfect weather for more than \$55,000 in cash and prizes.

Jim Blackard of Claremore, Oklahoma won the Five-Pin Event with a blistering time of 19.0 (or 3.8 seconds per run) to beat second-place finisher Michael Murray of Dublin, Ohio by two full seconds.

Richard Davis, president and founder of Second Chance, is an ex-Marine and invented the modern concealable ballistic vest.

In 1971, in a dramatic demonstration of his new product's capabilities, Davis shot himself in the abdomen at point-blank range while wearing an early model vest.

Knocking down bowling pins at 25 feet in split-second time is fun and emulates real-life "street" confrontations.

To show that he could react immediately after being hit, he jumped up and quickly shot three discarded bowling pins off a nearby table.

By 1975, the Second Chance vest had become the overwhelming choice among the nation's peace officers. Davis wanted to

thank his market personally, and decided to put on a pistol match that would be *fun*. He remembered the discarded bowling pins from the demonstration and soon thereafter the "National Street Combat Shoot" (as it was then called) was born. Only thirty or forty people showed up that first year.

BIG STOP ON CIRCUIT

Second Chance vests have saved the lives of more American police officers (nearly 300) than all other body armors combined, and the "little backyard bowling shoot" has become one of the biggest stops on the handgun competition circuit.

This was my first Second Chance match. The informal, carnival-like atmosphere, was a welcome change from the high pressure usually associated with other major

Continued on page 72

KENNETH E. JOHNSON



CUSTOM PISTOLSMITH

By Len Davis

There's too much emphasis placed today on the need for expensive, exotic equipment for .45 auto shooters.

That's the opinion of 58-year-old Kenneth E. Johnson of Poway Gun Works, a fine, modern gun shop in Poway, California. A retired Chief Petty Officer (USN), Johnson has been accurizing .45 autos since 1959, when he joined the Small Arms Training Unit at Camp Elliott, now part of Miramar Naval Air Station, near San Diego.

Johnson has accurized .45 autos for some of the nation's top competitive shooters, including Donald L. Hamilton, U.S. National Pistol Champion at Camp Perry, Ohio in 1965, 1966, and 1969.

When Johnson is through with a gun—it normally takes him about eight hours at his work bench to accurize one—he guarantees it to shoot “two-inches-or-under” groups in a Ransom Rest at 50 yards, with factory-loaded 185-grain SWC match ammo. (The 10-ring at this distance has a diameter of 3½ inches.)

The six-foot-one, 210-pound affable Swede from Afton, Iowa told the *American Handgunner* that he learned the fine points

of .45 accurizing—“at government expense”—when he was assigned to take several lots of 10 guns each, out of cosmoline, and told to find out exactly what steps should be taken to make them shoot more accurately.

“We took each gun and fitted it with a new barrel and bushing, before test firing,” he said.

A retired Chief Petty Officer, he has accurized nearly 8,500 autos. He suggests shooters do more to hone their skills and less to acquire expensive and exotic equipment.

“Then we took each gun and tightened its slide, before test firing.

BARREL/BUSHING CRITICAL

“We then measured the groups fired by the two 10-gun tests and learned that the new barrel and bushing did more for accuracy than the slide tightening.”

With 19 years of U.S. Navy service—he enlisted in 1942 at Dennison, Texas—under his belt, two of them as a navy armorer, Johnson tried out for the Navy rifle team in 1961.

His scores were high enough for him to be named to the team that competed at Camp Perry that year.

But after the National Matches were over he decided his first love was accurizing autos, not firing rifles.

After a brief tour of sea duty, during the Cuban missile crisis, he retired from the Navy in 1963 and accepted a Civil Service post as a navy armorer in his old outfit, the Small Arms Training Unit at Miramar.

He remained at Miramar, match-conditioning .45 autos, until 1973, when the unit was transferred to the Naval Ammunition

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CUSTOM PISTOLSMITH SURVEY

Most respondents give 'smiths high marks. Complaints include excessive turn-around time and excessive charges for work performed.

By Len Davis

A national consumer survey by the *American Handgunner* gives the nation's custom pistolsmiths high marks.

Of 69 reader responses, 59 indicated they were totally satisfied with all work performed, which ranged from minor repairs and alterations to full-house action jobs on revolvers and complete accurizing of autos.

The 59 satisfied respondents expressed glowing praise, with respect to turn-around time, work quality and prices charged.

One significant factor arising from the survey is the ratio of work done on autos and revolvers: 40 autos, 19 revolvers.

Of the 40 autos worked on, 35 were Colt Government Model .45s and Gold Cup models. The remaining five: an AMT Hardballer .45, an Astra A-80 .45, a Colt Super .38 and two Browning 9mm Hi-Power models.

One satisfied respondent wrote: "I am a deputy sheriff on the western slope of Colorado and have a working knowledge of all my weapons.

"When I encountered a problem I was not capable of correcting myself, with my own tools, I turned to the *American Handgunner* Pistolsmith Directory. I was not willing to entrust my duty weapon to just any gunsmith in my area.

"I located one, gave him a call and was satisfied with his competence over the phone. He was very helpful, answered all my questions and explained his recommendations to me in a manner I understood.

MANY PRAISES

"I have since had him work on my second Python, with complete satisfaction.

"He is well equipped to handle any work, from minor to full-blown customizing, and is the most competent 'smith' I have ever met.

"I feel I would have been in a real bind if I had not found him in the *American Handgunner* directory."

Another wrote:

"My custom pistolsmith, who advertises in the *American Handgunner*, does extremely high quality work and is interested in pleasing his customers. He rechecked my auto completely after 1,500 rounds had been fired, at no extra charge. He replaced broken parts after 5,000 rounds, also at no extra charge."

Following are other comments made by respondents:

"Delivery time was outstanding. Generally, my pistol was ready in seven working days, depending on what was involved. For example, installing S&W sights and hard chroming took only six working days."

"It is hard to find good pistolsmiths with reasonable delivery times. I don't mind waiting; but don't tell me six months and

Continued on page 63



1984 DIRECTORY OF CUSTOM PISTOLSMITHS

Listed by states, for your convenience, here is the latest and most accurate list of custom pistolsmiths published to date.

Except where a price is shown for catalog, brochure or price list, please send a stamped, self-addressed business-size #10 envelope for information.

The publishers and editors cannot recommend any specific pistolsmith; we have not had personal contact with all those listed. As with any other service, it will pay you to shop around for the type of work you require. Since the publication of our first Custom Pistolsmith Directory, we have received few complaints from readers who have used the services of the 'smiths listed. Our best advice is to be patient, ask questions, and don't contract for work until you understand exactly what work will be done, when it will be done, and approximately how much it will cost.—(L.D.)

*Indicates no response from our inquiry.

ALABAMA

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

ARIZONA

ACCURACY UNLIMITED (Frank Glenn), 16036 N. 49th Ave., Glendale, AZ 85306 (602) 978-9089. General services, plus full-house PPC revolvers, Colt .45 auto conversions.

COMBAT FIREWORKS (Robert Smith), 6617 S. McKemy St., Tempe, AZ 85283 (602) 839-0033. Combat conversions of .45 autos, PPC conversions, tuning S&W/Ruger revolvers.

THE GUN SHOP (R.D. Wallace), 320 Overland Rd., Prescott, AZ 86301 (602) 445-0568. Complete service, including manufacture of obsolete and specialty parts and accessories. Custom grips. Carving/engraving.

HAMMOND'S CUSTOM GUNS (Guy Hammond), 619 S. Pandora, Gilbert, AZ 85234. Home of the Hammond Record Reducer, general customizing, sight work.*

H-S PRECISION (Tom Houghton), POB 512, Prescott, AZ 86309 (602) 445-0607. IHMSA unlimited silhouette guns, and glass Fiberthane stocks, Atkinson barrels, S&W \$2.

J&G SALES, INC. (Richard Aldin), 442 Miller Valley Rd., Prescott, AZ 86301 (602) 445-9650. Tuning/customizing revolvers (S&W, Ruger, some Colt); also .45 combat conversions.*

ARKANSAS

BROADWAY ARMS CORP. (Joe Pruden), 4114 East Broadway, No. Little Rock, AR 72117 (501) 945-1853. Custom combat Colt, S&W, Ruger.*

J. MICHAEL PLAXCO, Rte. 1, Box 203, Roland, AR 72135 (501) 868-9787. Full competition combat autos for IPSC, basic to full-house custom packages. Delivery within 14 weeks, in most cases.*

WATSON'S .45 SHOP, 2057 Cline Ave., Fayetteville, AR 72701 (501) 442-2967. Colt auto modifications; competition, defense, sport.

WILSON'S GUN SHOP, INC. (Bill Wilson), Rte. 3, Box 211-D, Berryville, AR 72616 (501) 545-3618. Wilson Combat .45 autos, basic to full-house selection, with varying price ranges. Complete line of custom handgun accessories. Catalog \$2.

CALIFORNIA

AUTO SHOP (Craig Wetstein), 8545 Washington Blvd., Culver City, CA 90230 (213) 836-0179. Customizing/accurizing .45 autos.

BAIN & DAVIS (Jon Harting), 559 W. La Tunas Dr., San Gabriel, CA 91776 (213) 284-2264. Accurizing and action work on all autos and revolvers. Chambering for .357/.44 B&D cartridge.

BAR-STO PRECISION MACHINE, 73377 Sullivan Road, Twentynine Palms, CA 92277 (619) 367-2747. Match barrels and accessories for pistols and revolvers.

CHESHIRE & PEREZ DISTRIBUTORS, 130E Walnut Ave., Monrovia, CA 92016. Custom PPC revolvers, ribs/barrels.

F. BOB CHOW'S INC., 3185 Mission St., San Francisco, CA 94110. .45 auto accuracy jobs. PPC, NRA bullseye.

CHRIS SMITH'S (Donald Weir), 917 Trent St., Concord, CA 94518 (415) 798-7583. Custom combat, action jobs, PPC and IPSC. Specializes in Dan Wesson PPC, .45 combat autos, Ruger actions.*

DAVIS CUSTOM GUNS (Bill and Gil Davis), 2793 Del Monte St., W. Sacramento, CA 95691 (916) 372-6789. All types of accurizing and action work: PPC a specialty. (Formerly Cake-Davis.)

DAVIS CO., 1176 No. Knollwood Circle, Anaheim, CA 92801 (714) 952-2191. Bill Davis' second shop, managed by son Jeff; home of the Davis Custom PPC gun, the Smolt, and the Cougar; PPC custom conversions and super duty-tunes on S&W, Colt, Ruger.*

DUNCAN'S GUN WORKS (Bud Duncan), 1619 Grand Ave., San Marcos, CA 92069. Customizing .45 autos, PPC pins, restocking, Colt SA restoration.*

K. GENECCO GUN WORKS, 8825 Thornton Rd., Stockton, CA 95209 (209) 951-0706. General accurizing, and manufacturing in wood and metal. Works on customer specification, builds quality guns from scratch.*

BRUCE E. GRAY PISTOLSMITHING, 8009 White Birch Ct., Citrus Heights, CA 95610 (916) 726-3850. S&W and Colt revolver work, combat Colt auto, bob-cats to long slide.*

GUICE GUN WORKS (Jim Guice), 405 S. Vanderhurst, King City, CA 93930 (408) 285-1113. Custom silhouette and target handguns, wood stocks for T/C and XP100

KEITH HAMILTON, Box 871, Gridley, CA 92948 (916) 846-2361. Action work, accurizing autos/revolvers.*

HOAG GUN WORKS (James W. Hoag), 8523 Canoga Ave., Ste. C, Canoga Park, CA 91304 (213) 998-1310. Accessories for Colt .45 auto, competition grade pistols/revolvers.*

J. J.'s GUNSMITHING, 1637 S. Broadway, Box 369, Santa Maria, CA 93456 (805) 925-2721. Specializing in rebarreling and .45 modifications.

KING'S GUN WORKS INC., 1637 W. Glenoaks Blvd., Glendale, CA 91201 (213) 986-6010. Manufacturers King's Sights and shooting accessories for Colt .45 autos. Custom gunsmithing of all types. .45 auto accurizing, custom sight installation.

LAFRANCE SPECIALTIES (Tim La France), POB 178211, San Diego, CA 92117 (619) 293-3373. Manufacture of Nova Pocket Pistols and custom combat sights. General handgun modification. Free brochure on Nova pistols.

LEE'S RED RAMPES, INC. (Lee Baker), 7252 East Ave. U-3 (off 75th St.), Little Rock, CA 92541 (805) 944-4487. Custom Rugers built to order, rebarreling, rechambering, Ruger/Colt S&W trigger/action work.

MAC'S .45 SHOP (Jim McDonnell), Box 2028, Seal Beach, CA 90740 (213) 438-3056. Customizing/accurizing .45 autos. Patented "Accu-Guide" combat system. Also custom .45 barrels to order. Trigger installation and other work done while you wait. Call for appointment.*

JOHN V. MARTZ, 8060 Lakeview Lane, Lincoln, CA 95648 (916) 645-2250. Ruger and P38 custom work in the following calibers: .30 Ruger, .22 Magnum, 9mm, .45 ACP and .38 S&P. General repair on Rugers & P38s only. Brochure/parts list \$4.50.

NORTH VALLEY GUN SHOP (Charles Clemens), 179 East Ave., Chico, CA 95926 (916) 345-2928. PPC revolvers, N-frame conversions to .44 Special or .45 Long Colt. Parkerizing/electroless nickel/bluing.

PACHMAYR GUN WORKS, 1220 S. Grand Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90015 (213) 748-7271. Pachmayr grips, combat and NRA autos, finishes, .45 accurizing.*

POWAY GUN WORKS (Bill Simpson, Ray Peet, Ken Johnson), 13168 Poway Rd., Poway, CA 92064 (619) 486-0680. .45 auto (target/combat), bluing, custom work (both wood and metal).

ROBERT RICHTER, 5792 Vista de Oro, Riverside, CA 92509. Mini-.45 conversion for Govt. or Commander Colts. Action and accuracy jobs on revolvers and autos.*

CHUCK RIES, Box 205, Culver City, CA 90230 (213) 837-8858. Autos and revolvers; tuning, action, accuracy. List \$1.*



Grand Master by Ron Power

GREG ROBERTS, Roberts Custom Guns, 2135 Delaware Ave., #21, Santa Cruz, CA 95060 (408) 426-7630. High quality revolver work. S&W/Colt. Also quality reloaded ammo in .38, .357, .45 calibers.

SCHLUTER'S GUNSMITHING & SALES (Don Schluter), 568 6th Ave., San Diego, CA 92101 (619) 239-1386. Custom tuning Colt and S&W revolvers, .45 auto tuning for combat or match. Customizing most autos/revolvers.*

JOHN SPILLBORGH'S JS CUSTOM GUNS, Box 40529, Santa Barbara, CA 93101. Custom .45s and PPC work. Long slide and rib .45s.

EARL R. STROUP, 30506 Flossmoor Way, Hayward, CA 94544 (415) 471-1549. .45 auto accurizing, rebarreling S&W K/N frames, Rugers, Troopers (MK III/ MK V) Pythons; custom ribs with Ellipse sights (on .45 Autos). Fine-tuning for PPC/IPSC/NRA/combat competition. Rebluing/electroless nickel finishes. General repairs/tuning. Brochure \$1.50.

SWENSON'S .45 SHOP (Armand Swenson), Box 606, Fallbrook, CA 92028. Swenson ambidextrous safety, "Swensight," fixed combat sights for .45 Auto/P35 Browning; customizing .45 autos.*

COLORADO
DOMINIC DI STEFANO, 4304 Friar Lane, Colorado Springs, CO 80907. Full-house combat autos, NRA bullseye.

FISHER CUSTOM FIREARMS (Don Fisher), 2199 S. Kittredge Way, Aurora, CO 80013 (303) 755-3710. Colt .45 auto accuracy packages.*

JAWBONES LTD. (William C. Bidwell), 1555 Abilene Drive, Broomfield, CO 80020. Custom auto pistols for duty/IPSC competition; "Art Form" weapons built to customer specifications. Colt, Brownings, and CZ-75 work. SASE.

ROBERT A. MCGREW, 3315 Michigan Ave., Colorado Springs, CO 80910 (303) 636-1940. Action jobs on S&W, Colt, Ruger, Browning autos/revolvers.

FRED SADOWSKI, 300 Gunsmith Service, 4655 Washington St., Denver, CO 80216 (303) 893-2158. Combat and PPC revolvers/auto; short-action Blackhawks.

CONNECTICUT

COLT CUSTOM GUN SHOP, 150 Huyslop Ave., Hartford, CT 06102. Custom engraving, tuning, grips.*

CAMPBELL H. IRWIN, Rte. 20, E. Hartland, CT 06027 (203) 653-3901. Action work, accurizing revolver and pistols, barrel and cylinder conversions, Ruger rebarreling, trigger work. Colt warranty station. High Standard specialist.

PHILIP BRUCE MAHONY, White Hollow Road, RRI, Box 223, Lime Rock, CT 06039. .45 combat/accuracy work; trigger stops for odd model Ruger SA revolvers. General pistol-smithing.

FLORIDA
ACCURATE PLATING, 1937 Calumet St., #22, Clearwater, FL 33575 (813) 733-0923. Specializing in .45 accurizing, sight alterations, trigger jobs. All types of gun finishes.

CRAWFORD'S GUNSMITHING, Rte. 2, Box 80, Altita, FL 32421 (904) 762-8164. Specializing in IPSC pistols. Home of the *Tank Comp*, a unique compensator (completely removable, no pistol alterations needed to install, fits all gov't. models and Gold Guns with 6" barrel, and Commander with 5 1/2" barrel).

JACK'S GUNS & RELOADING (Jack Abene), 3911 W. Waters Ave., Ste. 3, Tampa, FL 33614 (813) 932-8824. PPC tuning/auto accurizing. Barreling, industrial hard chroming.*

REED KNIGHT, 1306 29th, Vero Beach, FL 32960. Custom conversions, unusual jobs.*

LOG CABIN GUN TRADERS, INC. (Steven D. Rupert), 91 Hwy., 17-92, De Bary, FL 32713. Custom combat IPSC .45s/Brown. Hi-Power; custom combat revolvers.*

SHERMAN'S CUSTOM GUNS (Walt Sherman), 9621 Rose Rd., Tallahassee, FL 32304 (904) 877-3390. Specializes in Colt Python actions, but will do S&W or N frames.*

THE SHOOTING SHED (A. Carl Steinmetz), 1100 Sunset Strip (Suite 2), Sunrise, FL 33313 (305) 792-8885. Match, combat, full-house conversions of Colt, S&W and Ruger revolvers; also IPSC conversions of Colt, Browning autos. Custom grips. Discount to police officers.

GEORGIA
ALPHA PRECISION, INC. (Jim Stroh), 1231 Sunderland Ct., Atlanta, GA 30319 (404) 453-0477. Custom .45s, barrels, compensator system for .45, bluing/plating. Brochure \$2.

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

RALPH W. INGLE, #4 Missing Link, Roswell, GA 30741 (404) 866-5589. Engraving in the traditional manner, hammer/chisel. Color catalog \$3.

STRAHAN & SON, INC. (Travis Strahan), Rte. 7, Townsend Circle, Ringgold, GA 30736 (404) 937-4495. Custom work on PPC/bullseye revolvers/autos. Design/manufacture Maseot sights and slide stop scope mount. Accurizing work.*

ILLINOIS
DONALD W. BARON, 6060 W. 95th St., Oak Lawn, IL 60453. Customizing combat .45 autos; also multi-caliber Colt Commanders and fine-tuning revolvers; both target/duty.*

BELLS CUSTOM SHOP (Dave Norin), 3313 Mannheim Rd., Franklin Park, IL 60131 (312) 678-1900. Reliable/accurate .45s for combat.*

CUSTOM GUN REPAIR (Bob Finkbeiner, Len Irlicher), 2908 W. Route 120, McHenry, IL 60050 (815) 385-2111. S&W, Ruger, Colt action jobs; duty guns made smooth, but "street legal." Graduates of S&W and Ruger armorer schools.

HALLOCK ENTERPRISES (Steven Hallock), 1207 Kirkwood Drive, Pontiac, IL 61764. Action jobs: Colt/Ruger/S&W. Combat work on Colt .45s. Ransom Rest testing.*

RICHARD HEINIE, 821 Adams, Havana, IL 62644 (309) 543-4535. .45 combat autos, bluing/parkerizing. Brochure \$1.*

MID-AMERICA RECREATION, INC. (Miller Custom Guns), 1328 5th Ave., Moline, IL 61265. Match-grade long slide .45s, short slide combat autos, revolvers, custom tune-ups.

QUALITY PISTOLSMITHING (Stephen M. Snider), Box 301, Energy, IL 62933 (618) 942-7285. Custom duty-grade S&W 39s and 29s, combat .45s. Special finishes: Nitex, Metalloy, PPC conversions.*

HAROLD SHOCKLEY, Box 136, Hanna City, IL 61536 (309) 565-4524. Refinishing, bluing, plating; sights, parts for Colt and Browning .45s.*

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

INDIANA

BROWN CUSTOM GUNS, INC. (Steven N. Brown), 8810 Rocky Ridge Rd., Indianapolis, IN 46217 (317) 881-2771. Colt .45 auto only/accuracy, custom and combat. Brown Custom Combat. Brochure.*

GUTRIDGE, INC. (Jack Gutridge), 2143 Gettler St., Dyer, IN 46311 (219) 865-8617. .45 auto and PPC accurizing/tuning. Popular Quickline combat sights, also custom sights. List 40¢.*

KENT LOMONT, 4421 South Wayne, Ft. Wayne, IN 48607 (219) 694-6792. Tuning, custom barrels/accessories for .44 Auto Mag.*

IOWA

MILLER CUSTOM GUNS (Fred R. Miller), 2620 E. 32nd St., Davenport, IA 52807 (319) 355-6165. (see Mid-America).*

TOM'S GUN BLUING SHOP (Tom Volquartsen), 1818 Crestview Dr., Carroll, IA 51401 (712) 792-4238. Ruger, High Standard .22 target conversions. Brochure \$2.

KANSAS

DUANE A. HOBBIE, 2412 Pattie Ave., Wichita, KS 67216 (316) 264-8266. Custom silhouette (unlimited) guns. PPC/auto tuning. S&W, Ruger, Colt, Dan Wesson tuning.

KENTUCKY

VALLEY GUN REPAIR SERVICE, 103 Valley Dr., Florence, KY 41042. Custom tuning Colt/S&W/Ruger/Dan Wesson revolvers; also Colt/S&W autos.

LOUISIANA

CLARK CUSTOM GUNS, INC., Rte. 2, Box 22 A, Keithville, LA 71047. Bullseye and combat .45, .38, 9mm and .38 Super conversions. Bowling Pin models. .45 grip mounts for scope and Aimpoint. Match Colt auto barrels (6") for 45 ACP, .38 S&W, 9mm and .38 Super.

KEN EVERSHALL, Box 8603, Alexandria, LA 71306 (318) 487-0823. Custom PPC revolvers, .45 long slide combat autos.

MAINE

LIBERTY ANTIQUE SIXGUN (Dave Chicoine), 19 Key Street, Eastport, ME 04631. Restoration/repairs, S&W collectibles (1885-1950). Catalog #6: \$5.

MARYLAND

LOU CIAMILLO, Maryland Gun Works, Ltd., POB 130, Clarksburg, MD 20871. Custom revolvers/barrels, .45 accuracy work, PPC revolvers, custom sights, accessories. Brochure \$1.

ALAN C. MARVEL, 3922 Madonna Rd., Jarrettsville, MD 21084 (301) 557-7270. Accurizing autos/revolvers; specialize in Colt .45 autos and .38 Super conversions to .38 Spec on standard and long slide for bullseye/IPSC models. Trigger tuning on High Standard and S&W M41 autos.

MASSACHUSETTS

PRECISION SPECIALTIES, LTD. (Fran Brown), 24 Davis St., Springfield, MA 01104 (413) 734-2665. PPC custom revolvers, action tuning.

MICHIGAN

ACCURACY ARMS, 677 W. Hollywood, Detroit, MI 48203.

CLINTON RIVER GUN SERVICE, INC., 30016 So. River Rd., Mt. Clemens, MI 48045. Hunting/pin/PPC; accurizing/repairs/alterations. Custom metal finishes.

MAG-NA-PORT INTERNATIONAL, 41302 Executive Dr., Mt. Clemens, MI 48045-3448 (313) 469-6727. Special porting of barrels on revolvers; custom work on revolvers.

MORAN CUSTOM GUNS (Jerry Moran), 2275 E. Farrand Rd., Clio, MI 48420. Browning autos and Auto-Mag/Ruger SA; tune revolvers.*

RUPERT'S GUN SHOP (John E. Rupert), 8936 Amsden Rd., Rte. 2, Fenwick, MI 48834. .45 auto (stress reliability over accuracy for combat or hunting). Brochure \$2.*

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

SNAPP'S GUNSHOP, 6911 E. Washington Rd., Clare, MI 48617. Reborning large-frame revolvers, custom barrels, integral front sight rings, unusual revolver conversions.*

TRAPPER GUN INC. (Lin "Trapper" Alexiou), 18717 E. Fourteen Mile Rd., Fraser, MI 48026 (313) 792-0133. Custom handguns, PPC/custom Rugers, custom combat autos, bullseye shooting aids, sight blades, tooling, bluing and

plating, barrels for handguns.

MINNESOTA

ACTION WORKS (Charles Lowden), 6814 Elliot Ave. S., Richfield, MN 55423. Hand-fitted action work on S&W, Colt, Ruger revolvers.

MISSOURI

NU-LINE GUNS (Gary L. Robison), 1053 Caulk's Hill Rd., Harvester, MO 63301 (314) 441-4500. Auto/revolver accurizing and action jobs. Brochure \$1.*

POWER CUSTOM, INC. (Ron Power), Box 1604, Independence, MO 64055 (816) 833-3102. High grade PPC revolvers, Grandmaster PPC and Bianchi Cup revolvers. Aimpoint sight bases, pistolsmithing tools (marketed by Brownells). Catalog \$2.

C. WARD CONVERSIONS, P.O. Box 610, Raymore, MO 64083 (816) 331-3857. Radical custom conversions on S&W Model 629 and Model 60 revolvers. Supertune on S&W K, L, and N frame revolvers. Waiting list. All other work discontinued through December 1984.

MONTANA

CANNON'S GUNS (Andy Cannon), POB 357, Victor, MT 59875 (406) 642-3937. Specializing in custom actions of "L" frame Smiths and Colt Pythons. Brochure.

NEBRASKA

CYLINDER AND SLIDE SHOP (Bill Laughridge), 523 No. Main St., Box 937, Fremont, NE 68025 (402) 721-4277. Auto/revolver accurizing. Brochure \$1.

NEVADA

THE ACCURACY DEN (Vern S. Juenke), 25 Bitterbrush Rd., Reno, NV 89523 (702) 345-0225. T/C Contender specialist. Championship match grade guns for silhouette, hunting, target; .221 Rem/.222 Rem/6x221/6x47/.257 VJ/.270 VJ/.270 VJL/.270x50R/.22LR.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

SILVER DOLLAR GUNS (George E. Sheldon), 10 Frances St., Box 475, Franklin, NH 03235. Combat/custom .45s.

VIC'S GUN REFINISHING (Victor Strawbridge), 6 Pineview Dr., Dover Point, NH 03820. Combat conversions, competition set-ups, general action/sight work; factory-trained on S&W, Colt, Ruger. Bluing, color case-hardening, nickel-chrome.

NEW JERSEY

ARMAMENT GUNSMITHING CO., INC., 525 Route 22, Hillside, NJ 07205 (201) 686-0960. General repair, revolver action jobs.

BEHLERT CUSTOM GUNS (Austin F. Behlert), Box 227, Monmouth Jet, NJ 08852 (201) 329-2284. IPSC, PPC, NRA custom handguns, practical holsters, sights/accessories.

JOE K'S, INC. (Joe Kassay and Jim Arbes), 500 High St., Perth Amboy, NJ 08861 (201) 442-4114. Customized auto/revolvers (IPSC, PPC, street/target); custom finishes and combat equipment. Brochure.

PRECISIONED SPORTS, INC. (Venry d'Aiguillon), 282 Hudson St., Hackensack, NJ 07601 (201) 343-5007. Accurizing auto/revolvers. Full-house combat auto/revolvers (PPC/target). Colt .45, Browning, S&W K and N frames; also silhouette pistols. Brochure \$1.*

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G.B. DAVIS JR., POB 160, Latham, NY 12110. Purveyor of high technology firearms. Customizes the Llama Omni, other autos.

NORTH CAROLINA

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JEFF'S GUN REPAIR (Jeff Virginia), 1707 E. King St., Boone, NC 28607 (704) 264-6430. PPC, IPSC pin guns and metallic silhouette conversions; general action work.

MULLIS GUNCRAFT (Brent Mullis), 3518 Lawyers Road East, Monroe, NC 28110 (704) 283-8789. Quality revolver tuning/accurizing. Custom bluing and stainless steel finishes. List.

NORTH DAKOTA

CW SPORTS (Collin Weisz), R.R. 1, Box 70, Underwood, ND 58576 (701) 442-3501. Action jobs on Ruger, S&W, Colt revolvers. Ruger is specialty.

OHIO

CLEVELAND BLUING CO., 1023 E. 185th St., Cleveland, OH 44119 (216) 481-2104. Custom auto/revolvers.*

DEVEL CORPORATION, 7100 Wilson Mills Rd., Chesterland, OH 44026 (216) 423-0727. Conversion of Colt/S&W autos (competition/concealment carry); accessories for both makes.



Jim Clark .45 Bowling Pin auto.

KOHUTH'S CUSTOM HANDGUNS (Bill Kohuth), 3937 Risher Road, Youngstown, OH 44511. Custom combat modifications for .45 auto.

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

SEME'S GUNSMITHING (Bernard Seme, Jr.), 3927 Broadway Rd., POB 323, Richfield, OH 44286 (216) 659-4141. Basic and full-house combat and PPC conversions; caliber conversion. Parkerizing.*

SSK INDUSTRIES, Rte. 1, Della Dr., Bloomington, OH 43910 (612) 264-0176. Custom XP-100 conversions, custom T/C barrels, scope mounts/ribs, rechambering, hard chroming.

OKLAHOMA

PRICE COMBAT GUNS (Bud Price), Western Gun Exchange, 119 Commerce St., Commerce, OK 74339. Colt .45 auto and Browning HP for IPSC competition. Metal checkering. Custom combat work for accuracy/reliability.

ROYCE O. WEDDLE, 4111 24th Ave., N.W. Norman, OK 73069 (405) 364-0444. Custom target revolvers, action jobs, single- or double-action trigger jobs.*

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LENZ FIREARMS CO., 310 River Rd., Eugene, OR 97404. Custom parts, conversions, tune-ups and factory service on Colt, Dan Wesson, Mossberg.*

K&R LEONARD, 3353 SE 13th Ave., Portland, OR 97202 (503) 236-8184. PPC conversions, S&W/Ruger revolvers for competition and duty; 4" bull barrel revolvers for duty. Douglas barrels, Aristocrat sights.*

RPS GUNSHOP (Jim Rice), Box 3502, Central Point, OR 97502 (503) 664-5010. PPC custom and duty revolvers, bull barrels, tune/accurize; some auto work.*

B. WITT GUN WORKS (Carl Witt), 4020 Ridgeland, West Linn, OR 97068 (503) 656-6186. IPSC modifications to S&W and Colt autos; Bo-Mar, Hoag, MMC, S&W sights, hardchroming, rebluing, revolver and auto action work.

PENNSYLVANIA

BEAL'S BULLETS, 170 N. Marshall Rd., Lansdowne, PA 19050 (215) 259-1220. Browning Hi-Power (10mm BB1) and Ruger Blackhawk (.38-40) conversions. Auto mag specialists.

PAUL JAEGER, INC. (Dietrich Apel), 211 Leedom St., Jenkintown, PA 19046 (215) 884-6920. PPC packages (specializing in S&W and Ruger), IPSC packages; general pistolsmithing.*

ARON S. LIPMAN, 101 Pittson Ave., Scranton, PA 18505 (717) 343-7352. Action jobs, revolvers/autos.*

W.R. MOORE, Box 17252, Pittsburgh, PA 15235. PPC revolvers, combat autos, individualized service (no package deals). Will do silhouette guns. Muzzle brakes for Commanders and full-size weapons; also Ruger MK 678 and MK 512. Moore dot front sights.

STINE'S CUSTOM PISTOLSMITHING, 32 E. Cottage Pl., York, PA 17403 (717) 846-7488. Double and single-action tune-ups, trigger work (both autos and revolvers), combat accurizing.*

SOUTH DAKOTA

SHOOTIST SUPPLY (John Cook), 622 5th Ave., Belle Fourche, SD 57717 (605) 892-2822. Revolver and auto work, IPSC autos, mail order accessories for .45s.

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SMALL ARMS WEAPONRY, 141 Donelson Pike, Nashville, TN 37214 (615) 889-0862. Gen-

eral customizing, both autos and revolvers. Fixed combat night sight for .45 autos.

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D&J GUN REPAIR (Darrell Douglas), 2045 High, Longview, TX 75602 (214) 758-4735. Customized Rugers and .45 autos.

DEMPEY CUSTOM GUN, 19715 Bolton Bridge Lane, Humble, TX 77338 (713) 446-7842. IPSC .45s, PPC revolvers, customizing, accurizing, conversions, rebarreling (Colt, S&W, Ruger and Dan Wesson).*

FRESHOUR MFG. CO. (R.L. Freshour), 1914 15th Ave. N., Texas City, TX 77590 (713) 945-7726. Custom pistol/revolver work, silhouette pistols, custom sights/ribs.*

HENDERSON CUSTOM GUNS (John Henderson), 5233 Palmer Dr., Ft. Worth, TX 76117 (817) 834-8479. Custom bullseye pistols, autos and PPC guns. Also work on .22s.*

DON JUDD, 3202 W. Dengar St., Midland, TX 79701 (915) 694-1766. Combat/target .45 ACP, accuracy work, custom metal working, rebarreling, action tuning, sight and rib installation, refinishing. Catalog/price list.

REEVES C. JUNGKIND, Box 4087, Austin, TX 78773. DA conversions on Colt Python, for competition or duty use.

KING'S ARMORY (Richard King), 3005 Monties Lane, Arlington, TX 76015 (817) 265-0118. Custom unlimited CP-100 pistols. King tube sight, custom stocks.*

MIKE'S GUNSMITH SHOP (Michael Ray Watkins), 918 84th St., Lubbock, TX 79423 (806) 745-1269. Trigger and accurizing for NRA match; .45 auto combat a specialty. Will build PPC and IHMSA unlimiteds.

PATTON'S CUSTOM GUNS (Leroy W. Patton), POB 4016, Temple, TX 76701 (817) 778-6453. Accuracy/action jobs on revolvers/autos for PPC, NRA or combat.

KEN STARNES, R.I. Box 269, Scroggins, TX 75480 (214) 365-2312. XP-100 conversions, PPC revolvers, duty and competition tuning, Browning and Colt warranty service, refinishing.

TEAGUE'S GUN AND TACKLE, 420 W. 4th, Weatherford, TX 76086 (817) 599-8061. Ruger Single Six .22 revolver conversions.

WALTERS INDUSTRIES (Dave Walters), 6226 Park Lane, Dallas, TX 75225 (214) 691-6973. Combat and NRA target .45s. Brochure \$2.*

BILL WISEMAN, 3600 Old College Road, Byron, TX 77801 (409) 846-3990. .45 accuracy jobs. Also works on Brownings and other autos.

VIRGINIA

FRED'S GUN SHOP (Fred Schmidt), 5904 Signal Hill Rd., Mechanicsville, VA 23111 (804) 746-9269. PPC revolvers, .45 accuracy jobs.

WASHINGTON

SPOKHANDGUNS, INC., East 1911 Sprague Ave., Spokane, WA 99202 (509) 534-4112. Specializing in S&W revolvers, Ruger SAs, Colt autos and "one-of-a-kind" custom conversions.

THE SIGHT SHOP (John G. Lawson), 1802 E. Columbia Ave., Tacoma, WA 98404 (206) 474-5465. "Master's Choice" combat pistols for IPSC, pin, military, police competition. Bluing/plating, Ruger/Nambu restoration. Brochure.*

WISCONSIN

ARMAMENT SYSTEMS & PROCEDURES, INC. (Kevin Parsons), Box 356, Appleton, WI 54912 (414) 731-8893. ASP M39 conversion, .44 Special Ruger DA revolver conversions. Catalog \$3.*

CANADA

LA CLINIQUE du .45 (Lucien Sèrandour), 1432 Rougemont, Chambly, Quebec J3L 2L8, Canada. Custom work, combat conversions on .45 GM/Browning HP. Brochure \$1.

VIKING II

Continued from page 32

any chance of the hammer striking the rear of the firing pin. When clearing a jam or malfunction it prevents any firing accident. You can depend upon it. You can actually see the firing pin down inside and you know it is impossible for the hammer to strike it.

There is, however, a potential trouble spot that may or may not arise, depending upon the holster you are using. Due to the size of the left side of the manual firing pin safety, it is possible that some holsters may push against this large end and partially or wholly shove the firing pin safety to the right. This same situation occurred many years ago with the Smith & Wesson magazine releases on its 9mm pistols. But a minor adjustment in holsters corrected this problem.

Check and double check your holster. If it does tend to shove over the firing pin safety, a little cutting away of leather should take care of this minor problem.

I understand that the Viking II will retail for around \$500. This is not appreciably more in today's world than the cost of a conventional Colt and, in my opinion, there is no comparison.

The Viking II gives the shooter a fast, compact street pistol plus a fine handgun with more than enough single-action accuracy to permit its use in IPSC, Steel Plates, Man Against Man and other similar combat-type matches.

Most important of all, it is a *safe* pistol if handled and used intelligently. I cannot recommend it too highly.



Editor's note: For more information on the Viking II auto, write to ODI, 124-A Greenwood Ave., Midland Park (Dept. AH), NJ 07432.

INFO 'QUICKIE'

Oddballs in a firearms collection seem to be limited only by the imagination of arms designers.

There have been guns in canes, pistols in gloves, belt buckles that fired as the wearer's arms were raised, tiny purse pistols that shot pea-sized bullets, huge horse pistols with one-inch bores, palm guns resembling a woman's compact, pepperboxes with several barrels clustered around a common axis, single-shot pistols built into knife handles, door locks that fired a single round through a keyhole at night prowlers, and that scourge of crooked card-sharks—the derringier.

In their various ways, all these guns testify to man's remarkable ingenuity in matters of personal defense.

AN AFFORDABLE LEGEND



Auto Ordnance introduces its production of the Government Model 1911A1 .45 ACP Automatic Pistol. The mystique of this widely recognized pistol is now intensified by the reputation that accompanies the Auto Ordnance name. From the select materials to the handsome finish, this is the gun you'll be as proud to own as we are to manufacture. *Accuracy of the Auto Ordnance .45 we tested was significantly better than the average as-issued M1911.* American Rifleman, Nov. 1981

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WHAT'S NEW

Hogue now offers grips for D. Wessons

Guy Hogue and his three sons are now producing custom grips for Dan Wesson revolvers.

Woods and prices are Brazilian rosewood, kingwood, bocote and cocobolo, \$50; mesquite (light color), pau ferro (ironwood) and Goncalo Alves, \$40.

Fine-line checkering is \$15 extra.

Hogue told the *American Handgunner* it takes about two hours to custom-make each grip.



Hogue Combat Grips (POB 2038, Atascadero, CA 93423) also makes custom grips for Colt, Smith & Wesson and Ruger revolvers, and Colt Government Model autos.

Hogue, a retired Los Angeles Police Department officer, said his three sons are now working fulltime in his business. Aaron, 22, does all the fine-line checkering; Kenneth, 19, roughs-out the wooden grips and inlets them; Patrick 16, specializes in molding their non-wood, one-piece Monogrip® models.

The Hogue "signature" on his wood grips is a fine stripe of ivory-like micarta (a strong synthetic material) between the main piece and its polished ebony (or other wood) butt.

Pachmayr offers auto shooters new products

Colt .45 auto shooters will be interested in three new products offered by Pachmayr.

Its *beavertail safety*, for both Government and Commander frames, takes the "bite" out of shooting full loads. The semi-soft, rubber-covered grip safety protects the web of the hand and helps reduce flinching.

The Pachmayr Grip Safety must be fitted to the gun by a qualified pistolsmith, because of the differences in

tolerance found in Colt frames.

Suggested retail price is \$37.50.

Pachmayr's one-piece *slide release lever/slide pin stop* facilitates easy closing of the auto's slide by extending the release of the slide release lever, increasing leverage and reducing the effort required to release the slide from its locked, hold-open position.

The all-stainless steel slide release lever features a grooved, elongated shelf that provides a positive, non-slip surface. The extended shelf falls directly under the right-hand shooter's thumb for immediate and convenient use. The pin is slightly oversize, which allows precise and proper fitting to all Colt and similarly designed autos.

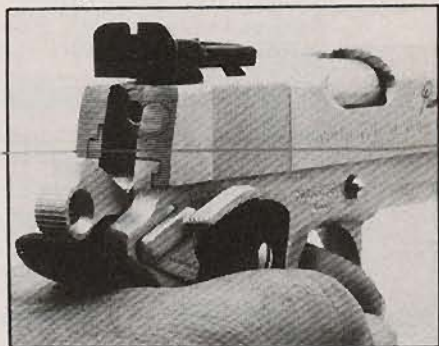
Left-handed shooters can actuate the slide release lever by using the trigger finger.

The lever is a *must* for both combat and bullseye shooters. Combat shooters cannot afford to waste time when they are competing against a stopwatch. Bullseye shooters demand one-hand operation, so they do not have to alter their proper grip on the pistol between shots.

Suggested retail price for the lever is \$32.50.

Pachmayr's *stainless steel magazines* are designed to keep malfunctions to a minimum.

A metered-tension magazine spring ensures correct elevation of the magazine follower, which has a polished and radiused feed ramp that raises the last round to perfect alignment for reliable chambering. Its lips are perfectly formed and hardened to handle all types of bullet shapes, from 185-grain wadcutters to 230-grain hardball ammo.



The dual-purpose magazine bumper protects the magazine from shock and internal damage if it is dropped, and the quarter-inch extension enables the shooter to insert and lock the magazine quickly and easily in place.

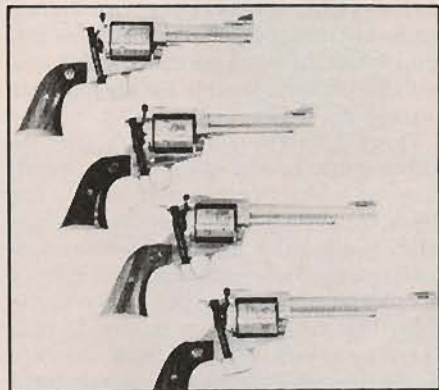
The bumper extension is attached to the bottom of the magazine with two strong screws, which allows it to be easily disassembled for proper maintenance and cleaning.

Suggested retail price: \$22.

For further information, write to Bruce Baker, Director of Marketing, Pachmayr, POB 15053 (Dept. AH), Los Angeles, CA 90015.

Ltd. edition series honors Alaskan game

Magnum Sales Limited, a division of Mag-na-Port Arms, Inc. is offering a series of four customized stainless steel Ruger Super Blackhawks in .44 Magnum caliber.



Dedicated to the big game animals of Alaska, only 200 of each gun will be produced.

Each of the series will feature an animal profile etched on the cylinder. "Alaskan Series" is etched on the barrel, and "One of 200" on the top strap.

The guns are fitted with the new high-contrast *C-More* front sight and an Omega white outline rear sight.

Timing in each Alaskan gun is checked carefully, the action is smoothed and the barrel Mag-Na-Ported.

Guns are sealed at the factory, assuring the collector that the gun's hammer has never been cocked after it left Mt. Clemens.

Each gun is shipped in a fitted walnut case; the appropriate animal's profile adorns a maple insert.

Animal and barrel lengths are grizzly bear, 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches; caribou, 6 $\frac{1}{2}$; Dall's sheep, 5 $\frac{1}{2}$, and moose, 7 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Price: \$695 each; \$645 each if entire series is ordered.

For more information, contact the company at 30016 South River Road (Dept. AH), Mt. Clemens, MI 48045.

Rig announces 3-cal. compact cleaning rod

Rig Gun Care Products has a new stainless steel handgun cleaning rod that opens from a compact 4 $\frac{1}{4}$ inch to a full 7 $\frac{3}{4}$ inch.

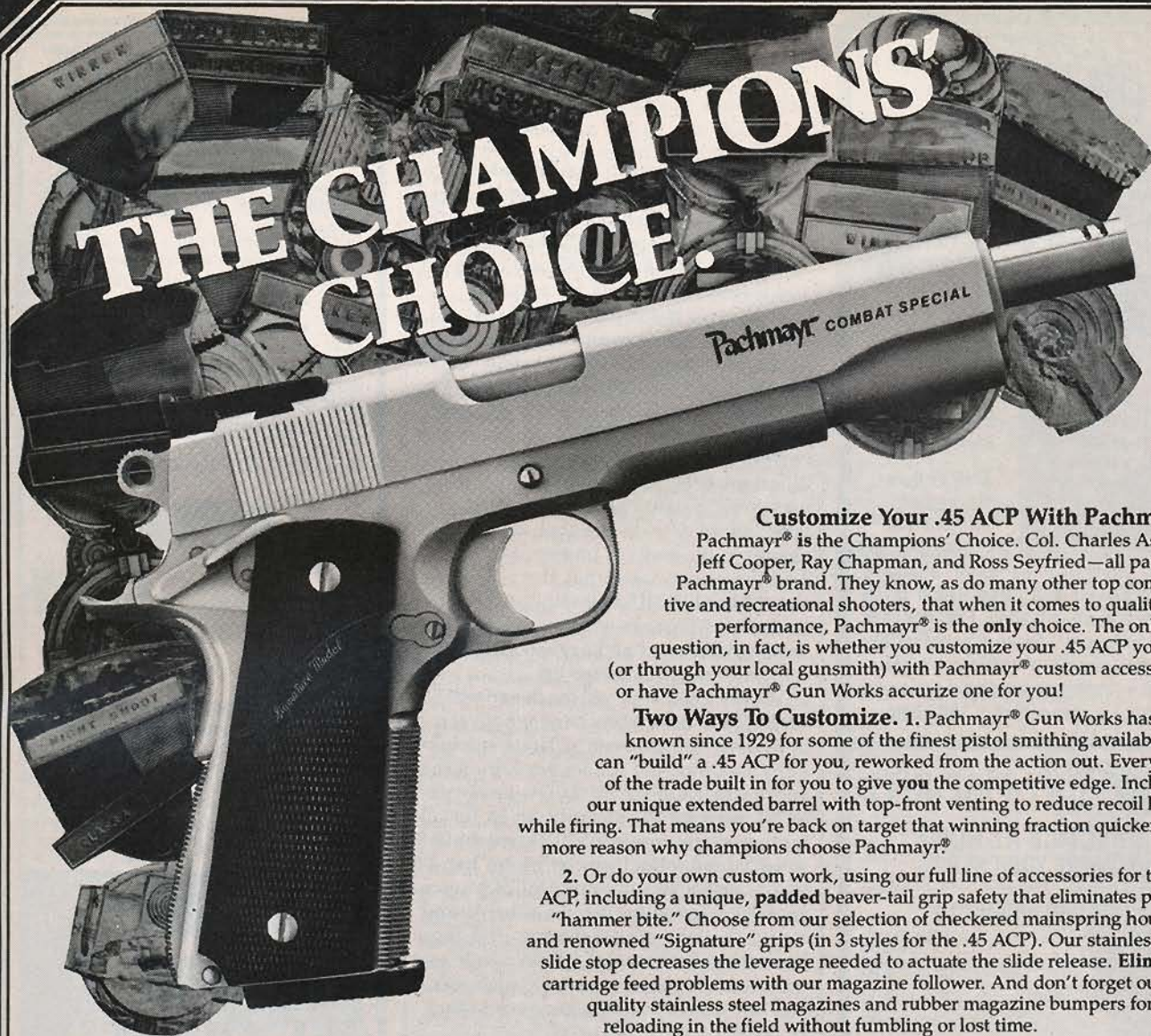
It will accept most brushes and tips and comes with .22, .38 and .45 caliber bronze brushes, a brass tip and a Delrin bore guide—all packed in heavy-duty, zip-lock plastic case.

The combo rod—designated RR8-2—retails for \$16.95.

Single caliber models sell for \$12.95 each.

For more information, write to the company at 87 Coney Island Drive (Dept. AH), Sparks, NV 89431-6317.

THE CHAMPIONS' CHOICE.



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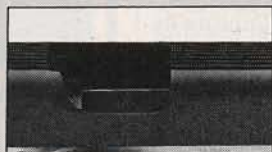
Pachmayr® is the Champions' Choice. Col. Charles Askins, Jeff Cooper, Ray Chapman, and Ross Seyfried—all pack the Pachmayr® brand. They know, as do many other top competitive and recreational shooters, that when it comes to quality and performance, Pachmayr® is the **only** choice. The only real question, in fact, is whether you customize your .45 ACP yourself (or through your local gunsmith) with Pachmayr® custom accessories, or have Pachmayr® Gun Works accurize one for you!

Two Ways To Customize. 1. Pachmayr® Gun Works has been known since 1929 for some of the finest pistol smithing available. We can "build" a .45 ACP for you, reworked from the action out. Every trick of the trade built in for you to give you the competitive edge. Including our unique extended barrel with top-front venting to reduce recoil height while firing. That means you're back on target that winning fraction quicker. One more reason why champions choose Pachmayr®

2. Or do your own custom work, using our full line of accessories for the .45 ACP, including a unique, **padded beaver-tail grip safety** that eliminates painful "hammer bite." Choose from our selection of checkered mainspring housings and renowned "Signature" grips (in 3 styles for the .45 ACP). Our stainless steel slide stop decreases the leverage needed to actuate the slide release. **Eliminate** cartridge feed problems with our magazine follower. And don't forget our fine quality stainless steel magazines and rubber magazine bumpers for surer reloading in the field without fumbling or lost time.



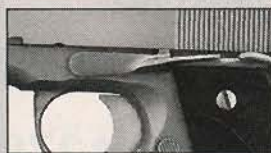
Extended barrel with top-front venting



Ejection porting for brass without nicks



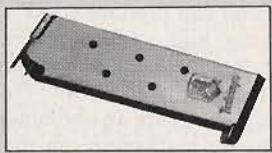
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DO-IT-YOURSELF

Continued from page 36

tion. The tool has two parallel rods which serve as a track to carry a movable dial gauge. Below these rods is an interchangeable barrel rod. The 9mm rod works also for .38 and .357 calibers; a .45 rod is furnished, others are optional.

You simply install the proper barrel rod, slip it on the handgun and move the gauge to the high point of the front sight; then, life the gauge tip and place it squarely on the sight. The relative height is recorded; then the gauge is moved to the rear sight (upper edge) and again read. The difference between the front and rear readings and the sight radius are referred to a table, supplied with the tool, to find the change in the point of impact at 25 yards. The directions state that the rear sight should be .101-.015 inch higher than the front sight. There is no provision for calibrating windage, but the rear notch can be centered under the gauge tip.

The Boresighter is well made and will be useful if you have many handguns to zero-in. It does not eliminate accurate zeroing-in by shooting, but it does get you on the paper, usually in the black. Obviously, detailed instructions cannot be given for all factory ammunition of different bullet weights and velocities, let alone handloads. I checked a couple of .45 autos zeroed-in for my target handloads and found that the rear sight was .013 inch lower than the front sight. With a little experience, the shooter can note such readings and easily zero-in other guns to similar loads.

The first thing many handgunners do with a new handgun is to try to improve its trigger pull. More amateur "trigger jobs" are probably botched than improved. The majority do not result in much net improvement, while some are downright unsafe.

There is no real excuse for this. With the right equipment and methods, any careful shooter can produce good trigger pulls on popular high-quality handguns. To me, the handgun with a light, smooth, crisp trigger pull is a joy to shoot. Heavy, grating, creepy pulls are an abomination; not even a master marksman can shoot them well.

SEAR ENGAGEMENT

The "secret" is the use of external gun pins and precision jigs for hand-stoning. In other words, to get a professional-quality job, do it the way the pros do.

Checking sear engagement is not easy in most guns, because the sear edge and hammer notch are hidden by the frame. The solution is to use a set of tightly-fitted pins which mount in the frame holes on the outside to show the hammer and sear in their exact internal relationship.

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Magnum revolver is a fine gun, but it had a seven-pound, creepy trigger pull. I used a Brownells pin set for the gun (it also fits the New Model Super Blackhawk and Single-Sixes). The sear pin was so tight that I had to tap it into the hole on the right side of the gun frame; but the excessive engagement was very visible when I mounted the sear and hammer. Machine marks on both the hammer notch and sear edge accounted for the roughness in the pull. The set sells for \$9.95 and is well worth it, especially if you have several single-action Rugers, as I do.

I set up the trigger in a Tom Wilson sear jig for these guns. (Old Model Rugers take a different set of jigs.) The Wilson jigs cost \$61.95; prices vary for other makes and models. By adjusting the trigger angle with the screw as directed, you can be sure your stoning will retain the correct angle, and that the surfaces will be square and flat. Both surfaces of the sear were stoned with progressively finer, hard Arkansas stones until they were flush with the faces of the jig, finally producing a mirrorlike finish. It is almost impossible for most of us to stone even one surface flat and square, let alone two which meet at an odd angle, without a jig of this type. The finished trigger was fine, but the engagement was still too deep, causing the creep.

The separate Wilson hammer jig was placed in the vise and the hammer on its pin adjusted to reduce the engagement; I stoned it to .013 inch; according to directions, it must not be less than .012 inch. I checked it visually on the adjustment pins several times. Finally the hammer notch was set at .002 inch above the jig face and honed with an oiled triangular stone to remove machine marks.

TRIGGER JOBS

Reassembling the gun, I substituted a Bullseye trigger return spring for the factory spring to reduce the trigger pull weight a bit more. After oiling with Break Free and working the action, the trigger pull weight measured a little more than two pounds and was as crisp as any single-action pull can be and still be safe.

Ruger makes excellent revolvers, but their full potential is brought out only by a fine trigger job. Most experts think two pounds is too light; and they recommend at least three pounds, clean and crisp.

Trouble with cylinder rotation or lockup, usually along with yoke looseness and misalignment, is more common than many handgunners realize. These result from overloading or mishandling and cause frequent misfires, uneven trigger pull weights in double-action and, in the worst cases, firing from unlocked cylinders. Often excessive headspace and shrunken cylinder/barrel gaps are present at the same time.

A couple of my projects involved very heavy handloading of a Smith & Wesson M57 .41 Magnum revolver. The cylinder was frozen in place several times by heavy

Continued on page 54

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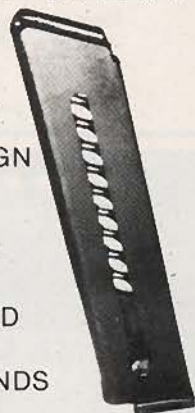
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KEN JOHNSON

Continued from page 43

Depot at Crane, Indiana. Johnson performed the same duties there until his federal retirement in 1979, when two of his former shipmates—Ray Peet and Bill Simpson—asked him to join them at the Poway Gun Works. Peet and Simpson are co-owners of the California gun shop, situated about 20 miles north of San Diego.

Looking back on his two years of combat service aboard destroyers and submarine patrol boats in the Pacific during World War II, coupled with his many years as a navy armorer, Johnson told the *American Handgunner* he is enjoying life as a civilian; "a civilian armorer," he added.

During his U.S. Navy and Civil Service years—from 1942 to 1979—Johnson estimates he has accurized more than 8,000 .45 autos.

Since becoming a civilian armorer, he has accurized more than 300 .45 autos, all at the Poway Gun Works, where action work on revolvers is done by co-owner Ray Peet. His partner, Bill Simpson, specializes in custom rifle barreling and stock work. Both Peet and Simpson also are retired CPOs.

Johnson said his most frequent request for .45 auto pistol-smithing involves trigger work, followed by the installation of adjustable sights, beavertails and ambidextrous safeties for combat shooters. Next most frequent requests entail slide-tightening, and the installation of barrels/bushings to enhance the gun's overall accuracy.

When someone brings in a .45 auto for Johnson to *completely* accurize, he does the following:

- (1) Installs an adjustable rear sight and front target blade, or Bo-Mar ramp sight.
- (2) Tightens slide to receiver.
- (3) Fits replacement barrel, usually with one made by Fred Kart of Riverhead, New York, and barrel bushing (Kart, Micro or Clark).
- (4) Installs new, long aluminum trigger and adjusts it to a smooth 3½ or four pounds, depending on whether the shooter fires wadcutter or hardball ammo.
- (5) Examines and fits extractor; replaces if necessary.
- (6) Polishes loading ramp, for smooth feeding.
- (7) Test-fires from a Ransom Rest. Groups are saved and delivered with pistol.

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The cost of accurizing is \$175 for labor (eight hours, which does not include blueing time) and \$300 for parts.

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up: Top of slide, slide stop pin and barrel bushing.

He makes sure the rails are parallel and smooth. "Not too loose, not tight; sort of in-between," he said.

"It's simply a case of getting everything to come back to the same place after each shot," he added.

Johnson emphasizes that the extractor should work properly, every time.

"I don't want to see it come out with brass marks all over its face; and when I pull the receiver back by hand, with a loaded cartridge in the chamber, I want the extractor to hold the round firmly until it strikes the ejector," he said.

Johnson said he believes that both guns and ammo have attained their maximum capabilities, with respect to basic accuracy.

It's now up to the individual shooter to hone his skills when it comes to coordinating sight alignment and trigger control, along with the intense concentration that's required to fire match-winning scores.

"Expensive, exotic equipment is not necessarily the answer," he said.

"Perhaps the only thing left for us to do is to tighten the nut behind the gun," he added.



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MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

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Continued from page 51

primer cratering, and excessive recoil worsened the abuse. I was not as careful as I should have been in freeing the cylinder of this fine revolver.

I had a gun which functioned, but not very well, compared to its potential for smoothness and accuracy. It had all of the problems mentioned above, to some degree, but the obvious variations in double-action trigger pull weights, from chamber to chamber, played havoc with my speed, rhythm and accuracy. The gun is a personal favorite and I wanted to fix it right.

These problems are the "mild" type, which many shooters just put up with. Actually the job is complex, because so many faults combine to cause the malfunctions. To repair such a gun properly, a number of tools are needed, along with special supplies. But the good news is that we now have tools which can help the amateur tackle the problem areas in the correct order, so that one repair is not cancelled by a later "fix."

RON POWER

Custom revolver makers do this type of repair as a preliminary step in making a PPC (Practical Pistol Course) revolver. The tools needed to do this job are available to any shooter. The major maker is Power Custom, headed by Ron Power of Independence, Missouri. They are sold through Brownells.

The first step is to remove the cylinder/yoke assembly from my M57, slip the cylinder out of the yoke, and replace the yoke in the frame, leaving out the retaining front sideplate screw. In closing the yoke, end play was easily felt, which was cured by placing one Power yoke bearing on the yoke stud. The bearing is made only in .002 inch thickness, but more than one can be used. One usually does the job. The yoke must move freely into the closed position.

Next came cylinder endshake and headspace problems. To remove the extractor rod, I placed fired cases in the chambers to protect the aligning pins and unscrewed the rod. The Power Extractor Rod Remover is a clamp which does this without chewing up the knurled end of the rod. It's worth the \$18 price.

After cleaning the parts, the rear end of the yoke barrel was seen to be wearing evenly. (If uneven wear had been evident, a Power Yoke Reamer is available to trim it.) With only the cylinder and extractor star on the yoke in the frame, headspace behind a fired chambered case measured .015 inch with a feeler gauge. Headspace of more than .010-.012 inch can produce misfires. I prefer .006-.008 inch; but both

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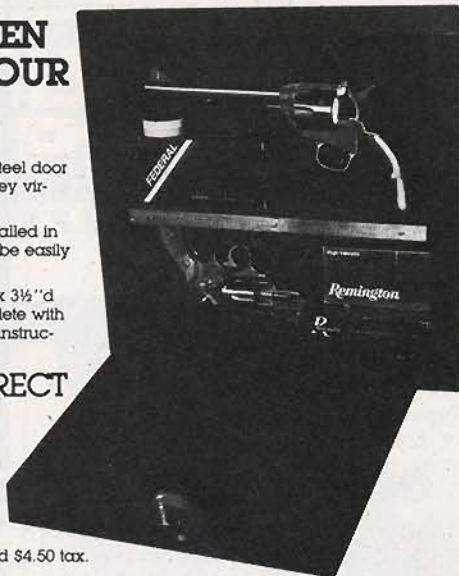
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headspace and gap were high in the S&W M57.

To reduce headspace to a tolerable .011 inch, I placed a Power .004 inch cylinder bearing inside of the cylinder center hole, added a couple of drops of Break Free and pushed it down with the extractor rod. These bearings come in .002, .004, and .006 inch thicknesses, and may be combined. They are made for S&W, Ruger double-actions and Redhawk revolvers.

The Power yoke and cylinder bearings are really indispensable. They are made of hardened stainless steel and sell for \$15 for a package of 10. This may seem high, but try to make one (as I did, out of shim stock) for less. My bearings were too soft and they fitted poorly, then one went to pot and jammed the cylinder of my M29. If Power bearings are lubricated, they seem to last indefinitely.

CRANE ALIGNMENT TOOL

Next I checked yoke alignment with Brownell's Crane Alignment Tool, a precision-ground rod which fits inside of the yoke barrel. The tip of the rod looks like a punch; it gives a close fit in the lockup hole in the center of the backplate. In my M57 yoke, the tool was a tight fit; but it would not enter the hole, showing definite misalignment. The yoke had been bent out of line just a few thousandths of an inch, enough to contribute to uneven cylinder rotation, although the cylinder still locked up normally.

This tool, which sells for \$11.35 (for S&W and Ruger), shows you the direction in which the yoke barrel must be straightened, though you have to use a magnifier and a good light to see it. The straightening tool is a heavy rod with a hole in the end to fit over the yoke; these rods are supplied with the Power Custom Extractor Rod and Yoke Alignment Tool (\$108.85; optional dial indicator, \$33.75). The "S" rod is for S&W; "R" is for Ruger.

With the yoke stud clamped and padded, pressure can be applied gradually until the alignment rod slips easily into the lockup hole. This can be overdone, bending the yoke too much the other way. I used caution, even though the job took several tries.

With the yoke barrel straight, I assembled the cylinder group and tightened the extractor rod. When it was spun in the yoke, I could see the rod wobble—the main cause of my uneven double-action trigger pull. I once spent several days trying to straighten the extractor rod on a M53 Jet revolver, without success. This job simply cannot be done by guesswork.

The Power straightening tool makes the repair easy and precise, especially with the optional dial indicator. The tool has a massive frame with adjustable bearings to hold a cylinder assembly with no play, allowing it to turn freely. My M57 cylinder was mounted in the tool, then the dial indicator was brought to bear on the rod, and its bolt

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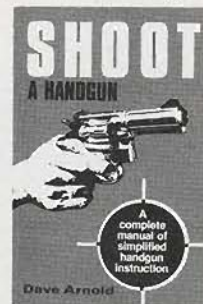
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BERETTA

Continued from page 33

.45, not uncomfortable with a 9mm Parabellum or .38 Special loaded with hot hollowpoints, but less than totally comfortable with a .380. Still, some of my students have jobs that require the absolute in compactness, or hands that require the minimum in felt recoil.

I've found the Beretta M84 to be the most accurate, controllable, and reliable .380 on the market, and the same goes for the clone gun made in the same factory and sold as the Browning BDA .380. Personally, I prefer the open-top slide, blockier sights, and cocked-and-locked capability of the M84; but those who carry such guns in double-action mode should opt for the Browning version, which has an S&W-style hammer drop safety to prevent accidental discharges when lowering the hammer.

The problem with both guns is that their 13-round magazines make the butts as fat as the most compact 9mm Parabellums. Beretta answered that problem last year by introducing the M85, which is essentially the same gun with a single-column, eight-round magazine that allows a flatter grip profile. The five-year-old M84 remains in production.

TIGHT GROUPS

I was not thrilled with the first M85 I tried, bought new from a distributor's shelf.

The double-action trigger was excellent for an autoloader, and the single-action release was crisp and without excessive backlash. Grouping was quite acceptable, with X-ring (B-27 Silhouette) size clusters at seven yards and barely 10-ring groups at 25. But the groups weren't in the right place. At five yards, the gun printed an inch high and roughly center. Back to 7 and 10 yards, it shot two inches high and an inch to the left. At 25 yards, it shot two inches to the left and six inches high. This is the first of the current generation Beretta .380s I've shot that didn't hit point of aim/point of impact with its fixed sights.

Then there were feeding problems. We had five failures to feed in the first 50 rounds, all with the first or second round in the magazine. A glance at the pistol showed a steep angle of feed out of the mag and into the chamber, and the bullet noses of the Remington 88-grain jacketed hollowpoints were snagging at 12 o'clock.

This round usually feeds 100 percent in any .380 that feeds ball, because the copper jacket covers all exposed lead. This particular lot of 500 rounds had the jacket actually extending slightly ahead of the hollow cavity, creating a pucker effect. I don't know if this particular lot of ammo,

patents pending

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the feed ramp design, or both were at fault; but it was not conducive to confidence.

THICK WALNUT GRIPS

The M85 has a magazine disconnect safety which causes the magazine to drag upon ejection, requiring manual removal despite the handy side-button release catch. All things considered, I'd leave it alone. More troubling is the fact that the walnut grips were quite thick; while they felt pleasant in the hand, they were nearly as bulky under a shirttail or jacket as the 14-shot M84s. These need to be thinned if the M85 is to succeed as a compact M84 for discreet concealment carry.

With its grip man-size in both length and thickness, I find the gun less concealable in ankle, pocket, or belly carry than a small-frame two-inch barrel .38. If one accepts the ballistic catalog figures of 294 foot pounds of energy for a 158-grain +P .38 Special load and 191 foot pounds for .380 hollowpoints, we have (see box, below):

Make/Model	Cartridge Capacity	Tot. Ft. Libs. of Ballistic Payload
Beretta M85	9-rd. .380 ACP JHP	1719
Beretta M84	14-rd. .380 ACP JHP	2674
S&W Chief's Spec.	5-rd. .38 Spec. +P	1470
Colt Det. Spec.	6-rd. .38 Spec. +P	1764

On the other hand, note that the 14-shot Beretta M84 offers half again the total deliverable muzzle energy of the six-shot .38, with 120 percent more rounds at your immediate disposal. Now, *there* you have an interesting choice.

For five years, the Beretta M84 and its sister gun, the Browning BDA .380, have proven themselves to me to be the most accurate and reliable guns in their caliber on the market. If recoil bothers you, this light-kicking, beautifully-pointing shooting gun may allow you to fire much more effectively than with a more powerful auto, or a snub-nose .38 revolver, if you're prepared to burst-fire to make up for its relatively wimpy per-shot stopping power.

The Beretta M84 is the .380 I would carry if I had to carry a .380. It's an absolutely superb gun. Based on my sample, I can't say that of its little brother, the nine-shot M85, which costs within a few dollars as much and seems to deliver much less.

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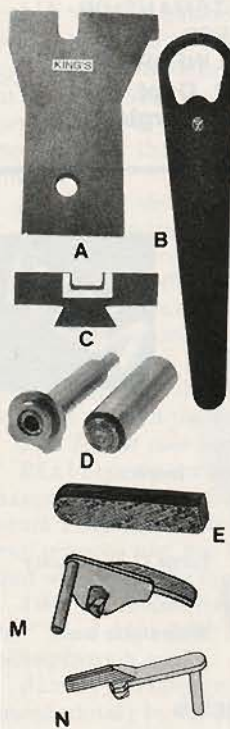
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- I. King's Target Bushing (blued), 45, 38, 9mm 9.95
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IPSC NATIONALS

Continued from page 38

Match V, *Run and Jump*, was a long assault course which required the shooter to jump through a window, engage two "z-combo" targets from a barricade, and burst through a doorway to engage more targets before hitting a stop plate. Rob Leatham won it after barely missing a hostage, the 1982 IPSC winner, Mike Plaxco, was second. John Shaw was third.

Match VI, *Twice as Fast*, was a Comstock-scored event with an unusual "pop-up" hostage target, which was activated by hitting a metal plate. The competitor had less than a second to hit the stop plate, before it became obscured by the no-shoot target. Rob Leatham was again able to sort it all out, finishing first ahead of Mark Day and Mike Plaxco.

The man-against-man shootoff pitted the top 16 finishers in a single elimination tournament. The course of fire involved many baby blue metal plates and the insidious pop-up hostage targets from Match VI. The 1978 IPSC winner, Ross Seyfried, won the \$1,000 cash prize by defeating Rick Castelow in the final bout.

According to Jake Jatras, IPSC Regional Director, there are now more than 200 IPSC-affiliated clubs nationwide, with new clubs being added each month. Jatras estimates the number of active participants at between 15,000 and 20,000 and believes the sport will continue to grow and be greatly enhanced by the advent of the United States Practical Shooting Association (USPSA), the new, individual membership program of IPSC. Among other things, USPSA will administer a national classification system, publish an official IPSC rulebook, and conduct on-site range officer schools for IPSC affiliates.

Jatras urges all practical pistol shooters
Continued on page 59

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One purpose of the U.S. Nationals is to determine who will represent the United States in the IPSC World Match at Yorktown, Virginia, Sept. 9-17.

As a result of the scores fired at the Nationals this year and last, U.S. representatives (gold team) will be:

Ross Seyfried (team captain), J. Michael Plaxco, Tom Campbell, Rob Leatham and Brian Enos.

For the first time, the United States will field a women's team, comprised of Lee Cole, Sarah Van Valzah, Judy Culbertson, Kelly Stewart, Sue McHugo and Joanna Fichman (reserve).

We will carry a report on the World Shoot in the March/April issue of the *American Handgunner*. (L.D.)

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LEATHAM

Continued from page 39

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JW: *What kind of gun did you shoot here?*

RL: A Wilson Accu-Comp. It's a relatively normal competition gun: muzzle brake, checkering, beavertail grip safety and Bo-Mar sights.

JW: *What kind of accuracy do you require in an IPSC gun?*

RL: Not a lot. I gave away some accuracy with this gun because of the muzzle brake; but for IPSC shooting, I can stand a gun that shoots an inch-and-a-half group at 25 yards. Four inches at 50 yards is acceptable, but I'd rather have something better than that for the Bianchi Cup match.

JW: *What about your other equipment?*

RL: My load was 5.5 grains of Winchester 231, which produces 860 or 870 fps out of my gun, behind the Hensley & Gibbs #68 bullet and with once-fired WCC cases and Federal primers.

I used a Davis *Phoenix*, a strong-side holster cut low in the front. It holds the gun straight up with the butt forward.

JW: *Is that your normal position?*

RL: I experiment with everything, but I haven't used the crossdraw for a couple of years. I like the strong-side better for general purpose use, but I'd advise people to find what's best for them, and stick with it.

JW: *You mentioned that you're a "gad-getter." How important is equipment at the championship level?*

RL: My shooting career has been helped tremendously by the people who make my equipment. My ammo is made by Carl Concke of the Sun Cartridge Corporation on a Dillon RL1000. I trust Carl's ammo more than I would my own. The Dillon is truly a state-of-the-art machine.

Custom pistolsmith Wilson has also been a great help. He turns my guns around very fast, especially since I tend to decide what I want at the last minute. In the holster department, Gordon Davis deserves a lot of credit in that regard; so does Bill Rogers. They all understand that *little edges* mean a lot to a competitor at this level, even if they're only mental.

JW: *From "little edges" come big victories. Congratulations, Rob.*



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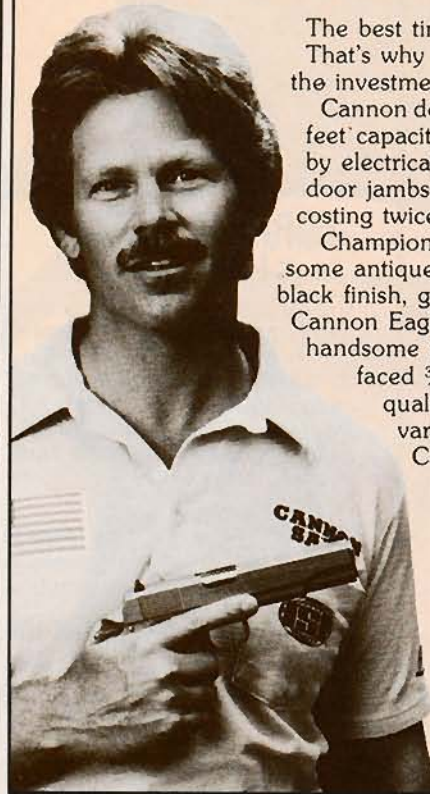
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DO-IT-YOURSELF

Continued from page 55

tightened. By turning the cylinder, the high and low points could be located precisely, something which I defy you to do without this or a similar tool. The runout was .019 inch from high to low (actually, runout is the distance from the true reading, or half of the measured difference).

CYLINDER REPAIR

Next you slip on the straightening rod ("S"), which has a hole in one end to fit the extractor rod. With the rod at its highest point of travel, I applied pressure gradually, downward, watching the dial indicator. The rod is strong and springy, but it can be bent too far or even broken. I had to flex the M57 through .100+ inch before any decrease in runout could be seen when the pressure was released. Finally the runout registered less than .001 inch, and that is straight. Without this tool, rods may as well be replaced, because straightening by any other method is a hopeless task.

My repaired M57 still had a wider cylinder/barrel gap than I wanted: .013 inch. Fixing it is still a job which requires a lathe. The barrel shoulder must be set back one thread (minimum), the barrel breech

turned down to the desired gap, and the underbarrel lock adjusted. An expert with a file can do the job, but I am not about to tackle it.

Another serious cylinder problem is lockup misalignment. Here the chambers do not line up with the bore in the locked position. In bad cases, the cylinder does not lock up at all, and the gun fires from an unlocked cylinder, a dangerous fault that causes lead spitting, loosening and inaccuracy—even frame cracking.

Brownells Range Rods, available in popular calibers at \$11.90 (extra heads are \$9.46), are precision-ground to fit down the barrel through the cylinder throat, all the way to the backplate. If the alignment is poor, or there is a constriction at any point, a "hard" spot will be felt, or the rod may not pass at all, this indicates a serious problem. Since the lands are narrower than the bore, and the throat should match the diameter of the bore, the rod should easily pass into the chambers.

The range rod is useful in checking new or used guns when you are thinking of trading or buying. Any new gun which is poorly aligned should be returned immediately to the factory; it will be repaired or replaced by a reputable manufacturer. A used gun with this problem needs an expensive repair: moving the cylinder latch hole in the frame and probably replacing the hand, or fitting a new cylinder.

If this discussion has whetted your interest for more information, I suggest that

you read the Brownells' catalog #35, especially pages 122-126, which cover the newer handgun tools. Then look through the index to locate customizing parts and supplies for pistol and revolver work. Only the individual shooter can decide whether pistolsmithing is for him. If it doesn't interest you, then you would be unwise to undertake this type of work; it is not easy, even with the finest tools. For me and many other handgunners, however, it is one of the more fascinating aspects of the game. I may save some money by working on my own guns, but it is the satisfaction of doing my own work and doing it well which keeps me interested.

Although we have examined some highly specialized tools, in all pistolsmithing jobs a number of general-use tools are needed; they are worth some comments. Unfortunately, tools from the corner hardware store are usually not suitable for this work. Other than a hacksaw and perhaps a few other items, such tools tend to be of lower quality and too large for pistol work.

Quality is probably the most important factor. Needle files which do not stay sharp are useless. Claw or tack hammers, likewise. A good tool is a pleasure to use, will hold up for many years, and is cheaper in the long run.

Where do you get high-quality general tools suitable for pistolsmithing? The only reliable suppliers are the best gunsmiths' tool distributors. Brownells carry every-

thing that the professional gunsmith needs, except standard replacement gun parts and large power tools. And that includes such pistolsmithing essentials as the right hammers, files, screwdrivers, punches, stones, drill bits and taps.

Take hammers. Just two handle any job I want to do: a small one with interchangeable brass and nylon tips, and a narrow steel type with a peening tip on one end and a smooth flat surface on the other. Files should be fine-cut singles for most pistol work; safe edges are needed for many jobs.

Screwdrivers are important. Ordinary ones are too soft and have tapered blades, which tend to jump out of the slots, chew up screwheads and scratch gun finishes. Get a good set of hollowground screwdrivers which fit most gun screws, such as those made by Grace; or the interchangeable tip-type made by Chapman. With the ratchet handle, they are good on tight screws.

USE TOP QUALITY TOOLS

Quality is not obvious in tools until you have used them for a while. The only way to be certain of quality when you buy is to patronize a reputable supplier to the trade. For instance, there are some poor stones for sale, but good suppliers have only hard Arkansas stones in the right grades and shapes, India stones for certain jobs, or others properly described and graded.

Drill bits for pistol work must be of

highest quality, especially the finer wire gauge sizes. Exact sizes are important, particularly for gunsmith taps. I buy these as a set and keep them together, using the drill only for that tap, because a good clean starter hole is the only way to get a properly *tapped* hole.

A good dial caliper is now an expensive item. My old Mitutoyo, which cost under \$30, is still a fine instrument. A more expensive German micrometer is okay, but I wouldn't trade one for the Mitutoyo, which measures up to six inches outside, inside or depth, and is accurate to less than .001 inch.

Power tools are useful. The type I use most often is the little Dremel Moto Tool, with its large assortment of grinding, smoothing, polishing and cutting accessories. Cratex rubberized abrasive tips are ideal for smoothing and polishing. I have two Dremels; one is the variable speed type. A portable drill is needed, too. I use my Delta drill press when accurate alignment is required. I position the work in a tilting machinist's vise. Actually, I manage without a lathe, because one large enough for long pistol barrels with the gearing, screwcutting and milling attachments run several thousand dollars.

Punches are not expensive. They should be the gunsmithing type. Keep a supply of the smaller sizes. A punch is useless if it is too large; it will ruin a hole, resulting in a loose pin. A set of replaceable pin punches is a good purchase.

Certain expendable supplies should be kept on hand, including metal-polishing papers and cloth (300, 400 and 600 grits); cements (Loctite, epoxy and quick-setting); solders (silver and soft); touchup blues (for both steel and aluminum); and inletting black. And you'll need a propane torch, an electric soldering iron, small clamps, spring tweezers, needle-nose pliers, and other types for various jobs.

The list seems endless, but many of them can be obtained a few at a time—as needed. The costs seem high at today's prices. Probably they will be higher tomorrow. Tools are a good investment in gun maintenance.

To sum up, many handgun repairs and customizing jobs can be accomplished by a handgunner who learns to analyze the work and uses the right tools correctly. The satisfaction of doing this work well extends beyond the actual savings in money.

Those who hesitate to get into pistolsmithing because of tool and supply costs might consider organizing a group of club members who share an interest in limited classes of handguns. By sharing the costs of tools designed for work on these guns, the cost per shooter can be kept low. Usually one or more members will accept the responsibility for learning and helping to make expert use of the tools.

In the long run, good pistolsmithing is the key to better and more enjoyable handgunning. That, as they say, is the name of the game.



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Continued from page 15



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Montezuma, IA 50171. The catalog comes with a coupon for a fine book called *Gunsmith Kinks*. It should be in every gunsmith's library.

Another book high on the priority list is *The Amateur's Lathe*, by L.H. Sparey. Don't let the title fool you; amateur does not mean beginner. You can learn lathe work from the very beginning in this book.

For another excellent catalog, write to B-Square Co. (POB 11281, Dept. AH, Fort Worth, TX 76108). Owner Dan Bechtel currently is offering a selection of tools oriented to pistolsmithing, and a good line of handgun scope mounts.

A relative newcomer to the business of supplying tools to pistolsmiths is Trulock Tool Co. (Dept. AH, POB 74, Whigham, GA 31797). I use a Trulock #109 Revolver Frame Wrench in my shop; it's a fine tool. Other Trulock tools—such as the S&W Crane Straightener—also are well made. I recommend them highly.

MILLETT SIGHTS

Still another catalog worth obtaining is the one put out by Millett Sights (Dept. AH, 16131 Gothard Street, Huntington Beach, CA 92647). Millett's handgun boresighter gauge is useful, far better than the old method of using a surface plate, parallels and a vernier height gauge. Its pistol sights are becoming extremely popular with combat shooters.

Alley Supply Co. (Dept. AH, Carson Valley Industrial Park, Gardnerville, Nevada 89410) sells the Jet line of machine tools. I have a Jet milling machine that I think is excellent. Dean Alley of the company has been a supplier to gunsmiths and diemakers for as long as I can remember.

Clymer Manufacturing Co. (Dept. AH, 14241 West Eleven Mile Road, Oak Park, MI 48237) makes good-quality chambering reamers, and will produce special orders to your exact specifications.

Michaels of Oregon (Dept. AH, POB 13010, Portland, OR 97213) specializes in slings, swivels, black powder accessories and many other unique and useful items. If you mount swivels on hunting pistols, for example, the special drills it supplies makes short work of this otherwise white knuckle work.

Frank Mittermeier (Dept. AH, 3577 East Tremont Avenue, New York, NY 10465) has a gunsmithing supplies catalog that caters to the woodworking end of the trade, and offers a wide range of basic gunsmithing needs.

Palmgren Products (Dept. AH, 8383 South Chicago Avenue, Chicago, IL 60167) makes a complete line of rotary



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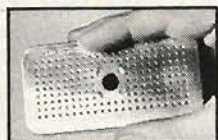
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tables and machine vises. I have more than a dozen Palmgren vises at work in my own shop.

L.S. Starrett Co. (Dept. AH, 121 Crescent St., Athol, MA 01331) produces a complete line of precision measuring tools. Starrett micrometers and gauges are virtually a legend in U.S. machine shops, although some foreign manufacturers are rapidly catching up. Mitutoyo tools, made in Japan, are competitive with Starrett and, in certain cases, have features found only in its line. I use precision tools made by both firms. The lines are handled by various industrial supply companies.

Williams Gun Sight Co. (Dept. AH, 7389 Lapeer Road, Davison, MI 48423) makes an excellent line of sights and some very useful tools for mounting and moving them on handguns.

This is only a smattering of tool supply sources for pistolsmiths. You could spend quite a bit of money obtaining all the available catalogs. Some machine shop supply catalogs that cost \$10 or more apiece. I can never leaf through one without finding something I could profitably use in my own pistolsmithing work.

My wife tells me that I am a tool collector; but I usually reply that if one tool would do all of the work that has to be done, there would be only one kind of tool manufactured.



SURVEY

Continued from page 44

then, in six months, tell me it'll take another six months. If you need a year, say so—right at the start."

"Some pistolsmiths offer a reduced price when old parts are exchanged. I think they should make it clear if the price quoted in their brochures includes the old parts as exchange, or if the old parts will be returned, on request."

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Now, the bad news.

The 10 respondents who expressed dissatisfaction with custom pistolsmiths, almost to a man, were vociferous in their denunciations of the 'smiths' who worked on their handguns.

"I'll never patronize him again."

"He should not be allowed to work on a Colt Python."

"Turn-around time was excessive."

"I had to send the gun to the factory myself to be corrected."

"The rear sight fell off the gun when I removed it from the box."

MORE COMPLAINTS

"A horrible trigger job."

"The finish of my new handgun was dented and marred."

"Work that should have cost \$800 ended up by costing me \$1,600."

"Screw-in bushing of my Browning Hi-Power came out every time I fired it."

"Three of my Browning mags were replaced with foreign makes."

"Poor workmanship—a real Mickey Mouser."

"I've returned my gun three times to have its safety repaired. It still doesn't work properly."

These are but a few of the verbatim comments made by the disgruntled respondents on the *American Handgunner* forms they filled out recently.

Approximately half of the complaints involved excessive turn-around time, coupled with excessive charges for work performed.

Of the 10 complaints, nine autos and one revolver were involved.

The survey was instituted with a notice in the March/April (1983) issue of the *American Handgunner*, asking readers to send for a form and make known their experiences—both good and bad—with custom pistolsmiths.

Although the survey represents only a small cross-section of the people served by the nation's custom pistolsmiths, we are gratified by the results.

We hope that the findings will encourage more 'smiths' to improve their turn-around time and workmanship, and keep prices for their services down to reasonable and affordable levels.



INFO 'QUICKIE'

One of the newest guns on the market: Dan Wesson's .357 Super Mag Model 40V8-S. It's a special revolver for metallic silhouette shooting and retails for about \$450, which includes two 8-inch barrels.

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A. Montgomery
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HANDGUN LEATHER

Continued from page 9

prepared to make my recommendation. The Steyr Model GB 19-shot 9mm outperforms them all, even the excellent Taurus PT-92 and the Beretta 92SB, and most certainly the S&W M559.

J. M. Bucheimer, apparently anticipating the upcoming popularity of the Steyr GB, designed an outstanding pancake-style belt carry holster for the gun. Any handgunner who has purchased a newly-designed handgun—particularly one made overseas—will testify as to how difficult it is to find a good commercial holster. Production holster makers usually are unwilling to tool-up until a gun becomes reasonably well accepted. Bucheimer is to be commended for his foresight.

The new Bucheimer holster is, indeed up, to its usual high standards. Quality top-grain leather and double-heavy stitching are but two features. The thumb-break safety snap is attached to a double-thick leather tab that works best when the gun is actually in the holster (in case you find yourself playing with one on your dealer's rack). The belt loops are spaced about 6½ inches apart and situated in a position to give you a secure ride at medium height. I like it, and think many of you will, too. J. M. Bucheimer does business at POB 280, Frederick, MD 21701.

INTERARMS HOLSTERS

Last, but never least, is the Interarms line of holsters. I have no idea who makes them for Interarms, since they are simply stamped *Interarms* on the back; but I suspect they are imported, as are many of their top quality firearms. Wherever they may come from, they are well made and will complement most any gun in the Interarms line-up.

Mine came as an inducement when I purchased a well-used Walther PP, which had belonged to a German police unit. Its design is similar to the aforementioned Bucheimer, with the exception of single heavy-stitching—for the smaller and lighter PP—and differently designed belt loops. I was not disappointed and find the Walther rides nicely, reasonably well concealed, at the small of my back.

I have not seen a catalog of Interarms leather, but I'm sure the company can fix you up for any gun it stocks, including the superb Astra A-80 in .45 ACP caliber.

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INFO 'QUICKIE'

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COP TALK

Continued from page 7

the top shooters on the force. Was it fair to lower the performance of masters with double-action revolvers because autos basically are easier for novices to shoot well?

Conversely, we find that since an auto needs more care in both handling and maintenance, it is more likely to screw up in the hands of someone who doesn't care about it than in the hands of a serious handgunner. Should we say then that since the lowest common denominator of cops may have accidents with cocked-and-locked .45s, seasoned veterans who can control that gun should be forbidden to take advantage of its many pluses in a gunfight situation?

'LIFELINE TO SURVIVAL'

The service handgun is the lifeline to survival for the officer, his partner and the citizens he protects when he is caught up in an encounter of cataclysmic human violence. I want that officer carrying the gun he or she is most familiar and confident with. That familiarity and confidence are more important than firepower, or some bureaucratic notion of "uniformity."

Two examples. One of the officers I work with today is Elizabeth Garczynski. Liz is tall, athletic and more aggressive (in a healthy sense) than most male cops I've worked with. She carries a S&W M15 four-inch .38 loaded with department-issued Federal 158-grain lead hollowpoint + P cartridges. I've found her cool under crisis and deadly on the range; I have no doubt that if I need her to back me up, she'll put those lead hollowpoints where they need to go. Should I insist, as her training officer, that she carry a .45 auto that she's unfamiliar with, just because I think it's a better fighting pistol? No; that would be counterproductive.

One of my old partners was Richard Brown, a rock-steady guy who held the state combat championship several times. If I walked into anything with Rich, I knew that between our two .45 automatics we could put 44 projectiles into man-size targets at seven yards in about 10 seconds. Did any chief have the right to tell either of us that we had to downgrade to lesser firepower because the average cop on our job couldn't handle what we carried? No. When a new chief did, Rich turned in his shield.

CHIEF PAUL DEWEY

The chief I work for today used to be in charge of police academy training, and is a lot more enlightened about keeping his officers comfortable in their own capabilities. Hats are optional; we can wear any of several uniform variations, as long as they look sharp and we're identifiable as police



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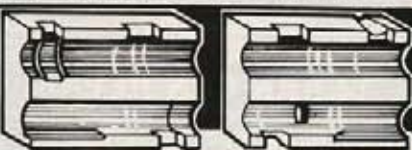
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The whole range of justifiable homicide appears in 1981 California statistics that show citizens justifiably kill twice as many felons as do police; in Chicago and Cleveland it is *three* times as many.

Such information helps redress the statistical imbalance that so distorts the handgun prohibition debate. While exhaustive statistics on handgun *misuse* are published annually, no comparable statistics on *beneficial* uses are compiled.

Even justifiable homicide statistics are only a crude index to the value of civilian handguns.

But they're a step forward, in the right direction. (L.D.)

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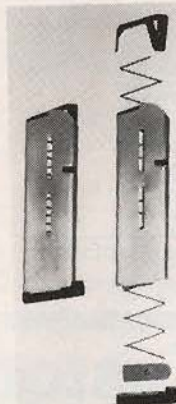
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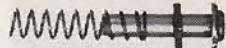
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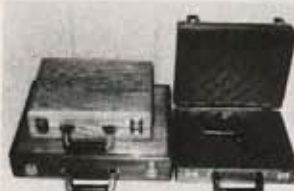
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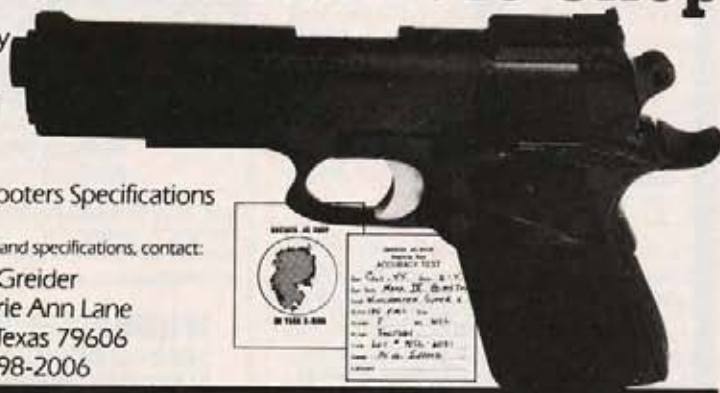
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HANDLOADING

Continued from page 12

ifornia; Rod Zeka of neighboring Azusa and myself.

What we set out to learn was which of the five lubes would provide less bore leading, hence better accuracy. Ancillary amenities, such as non-stickiness in handling, not being too runny, and overall convenience of use, also were considered.

Lubes involved in the tests were Tamarack (a 50-50 combination of Alox and beeswax), Lube-Rite, Javelina, the tube that exists in the grooves of bullets cast and sized by S&S Precision Bullets, and a new one by lubrication engineer Ed Carwile of El Cajon, California (9880 Chocolate Summit Drive, 92021).

We don't know what's in the S&S lube, and we don't know what's in Carwile's product, which arrived in stick form and had no name. For the purpose of identification, Banks dubbed it SGS (Sticky Green Stuff).

Carwile's observation was that, although it worked better than Alox, it might be too slippery.

The control load involved 24/WW 296, CCI 350, Norma .44 Magnum brass and S&S 240-grain cast (lino) bevel-based bullets. Average velocities were 1,400 fps. Successive five-shot groups were shot from a bench rest at 25 yards. Cylinder and bore were cleaned following each 25-shot string with the different lubricants.

Accuracy results, if not entirely conclusive, are perhaps indicative. The Tamarack-lubed bullets produced groups averaging 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ inch; those lubed with Javelina, 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ inch, S&S-lubed, 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ inch, Lube-Rite, 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ inch and SGS, 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ inch. Light leading was observed with all but Lube-Rite, which resulted in light-to-medium leading.

LUBES AND ACCURACY

Lube-Rite's makers (Palm Beach Wholesale Shooting Products) recommends that the reloader "use a light bulb, or some other heat source to warm the lube" prior to its use.

SGS, meanwhile, requires no pre-heating; however, it is inclined to run when it's warm. That's one fault its makers sought to eliminate with Lube-Rite. They've done it; the stuff doesn't run at reasonably ambient temperatures.

We could go on and on about this-or-that lubricant resulting in more-or-less leading, but nothing—not even messy dips of graphite in liquid—has given us completely lead-free shooting. We'll have to settle for light-to-medium smears.

The group sizes weren't all that good, either. In fact, no substantial shrinking of group size took place until the load itself was changed.

The new control load consisted of
Continued on page 15

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SECOND CHANCE

Continued from page 42

tournaments, such as the *Steel Challenge* and *Bianchi Cup* matches. That's not to say Second Chance competition isn't fierce. It's just that you don't seem to get as nervous at Second Chance. Maybe it's Davis' running monologue from his rangemaster's perch; maybe it's the fact that, unlike the other major matches, where you have assigned shooting times, at Second Chance you show up when you feel like it and shoot when you're ready. Or maybe it's the hospitality — the \$135 entry fee includes the Five-Pin Event and *all food and beverages for the entire week*.

In keeping with the purpose of the tournament, prizes are distributed so the "Ordinary Straight Shooter" can win as much in cash and prizes as the expert Master Blaster.

Second Chance *Master Blasters* include such fine shooters as Massad Ayoob, Jim Blackard, Brian Enos, Mickey Fowler, Leonard Knight, Chip McCormick, Jerry Miculek, Ray Neal, J. Michael Plaxco, Nick Pruitt, John Shaw, Jerry Usher, Jeff Wassom and Bill Wilson.

FIVE-PIN EVENT

The course of fire includes individual and team events, with the individual Five-Pin Main Event forming the backbone of the competition.

The shooter stands 25 feet from a 4X8 foot table on which five regulation bowling pins are placed 18 inches apart and 12 inches from the front of the table.

Timing begins with the report of the starting gun and ends when all the pins are off the table. Starting position is the gun touching the wooden rail directly in front of the shooter.

TOP 20

TIME NAME CITY/STATE

19.0	Jim Blackard	Claremore, OK
21.0	Michael Murray	Dublin, OH
21.0	Bob Denny	Cedar Falls, IA
21.0	James F. Swain	Memphis, TN
21.5	Lloyd V. Harper	Grafton, VA
21.7	David L. Wheeler	Newhall, CA
22.1	John Shaw	Memphis, TN
23.5	Dan McDonald	Redford, MI
23.5	Donnie Miculek	Gramercy, LA
23.8	Vance Schmid	Marion, IL
23.8	Ross Carter	Harrison, AR
24.0	David Stanford	Sedro Wooley, WA
24.3	Bruce Gray	Citrus Heights, CA
24.8	Harold Koontz	Columbus, OH
25.3	Louis J. Nardi	Center Line, MI
25.4	Blake Gann	Stoneville, NC
25.5	J. Michael Plaxco	Roland, AR
25.7	Wm. Pallazo	Culver City, CA
26.1	Jeffrey Chudwin	Park Forest, IL
26.5	Jerry Miculek	Gramercy, LA

The Five-Pin Event is included in the overall entry fee. All other events are optional and require an additional entry fee of \$20 per shooter.

In his excellent book on pin shooting (*Hit the White Part*, \$8 ppd. from Police Bookshelf, POB 122, Concord, NH 03301) Massad Ayoob writes that the Second Chance course of fire relates to "the street" far more than most people realize. It encompasses Jeff Cooper's principles of accuracy, power and speed: accuracy, if the bullet doesn't hit square its defensive power is wasted or mitigated; power, to stop an attacker you must deliver a decisive ballistic blow; and speed, you must achieve both of the other principles before your opponent can "do unto you."

Ayoob finds other parallels between pin shooting and serious armed encounters, and makes a strong case for the "relevance" of the match.

But even if that weren't the case, Second Chance would still be one of the highlights of the shooting year.

For more information, contact Second Chance, POB 578, Central Lake, MI 49622-0578.



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SILUETAS

Continued from page 11

shooter uses to topple more targets than most can with a Production gun is not exotic. For all classes combined, the most favored revolver, far and away, is the Super Blackhawk. The next most popular (but far behind) is the Dan Wesson .357 Mag (indicating not everybody is tough enough, mean enough, silly enough, to shoot a .44 Mag). The (fairly) new big, heavy, controllable and amazingly accurate Dan Wesson .44 Mag has posted some top scores, and the new .357 Maxies will stir up the pot some, and are good choices for those who are recoil sensitive. But for that extra knockdown edge, the .44 Mag is still on top, and Dan Wesson is the pick of the litter.

Why, you may ask, is the Revolver class so popular. Partly because revolvers epitomize handguns to most shooters. They just seem right. And the class is tough. To do well with a revolver takes a lot of work with various loads and lots of shooting practice. Doing well, therefore, is satisfying; good scores are difficult to attain, and they come only from your own effort and skills. Scores are lower, too; revolvers are just barely capable of straights, and even the best shooters usually miss a few. There's room for a shooter to err, and room to make it back up. (It's not miss-and-out like the top Unlimited classes.)

Everyone has a revolver, so there's more competition, and you can compete against your buddy, and maybe beat him this month if you try hard. Then, revolvers are the least expensive of all handguns to shoot. Less powder, cast bullets and not so much fuss in reloading. (You can crank out winning loads by the hundreds on a Dillon 450.)

SILHOUETTE RULES

And it doesn't take much to get started. A good quality revolver with a six-inch or longer barrel, with good quality sights and action, shooting glasses, ear protectors, a carpet remnant to lay on, and a blast shield for the side of your leg if you shoot Creedmoor are all you need. A notebook to keep track of sight settings and a scope-sighted observer/coach rounds out the package.

So far, I've been talking about IHMSA's long-range Revolver class; there are other variants where the revolver will do well.

The rules for the NRA long-range freestyle class have recently been revised, giving revolvers a better chance. The NRAs short course hunter's pistol rules allow only conventional cartridges (most are the revolver classics), and hence favor revolvers.

The IHMSA rimfire short course has a

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If a revolver shooter were to live in an area where both long and short course matches were held, they could do well with a battery of matching guns. Dan Wesson builds essentially identical .22s, .357 Mags and .44 Mags; Ruger single-action fans could use the Single Six, Blackhawk, and Super Blackhawk; S&W aficionados could do well with models 17, 14, and 29.

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HANDLOADING

Continued from page 68

19/WW 630, CCI 350 and Norma brass. Banks and Zeka didn't care for the bevel-based bullet configuration, so he ran off a batch of lino-casts bullets, using the RCBS 82043 (Lyman reference 429421), a Keith-type bullet that, with this casting, averaged out at 236 grains.

Results with Javelina lube (chosen more or less arbitrarily), were rewarding. One group—the one we prefer to talk about—had its first three shots clustered into a 3/4 inch, center-to-center spread. Banks should have quit there, because a fourth shot opens the group to 3 1/2 inch. This one's marked "flinch." The fifth shot closed it down to 1 1/2 inch.

For all practical purposes, we have an excellent grouping, human error notwithstanding, and the indication is that changing the load had a far greater influence on accuracy performance than changing lubricants. Tests with the other lubes will continue.

I've come across an arithmetically-contrived table of what renowned ballistics experimenter Homer S. Powley called the "Relative Incapacitation Indices" for several handgun calibers. These indices, he said, are essentially correlated to the relative effectiveness (stopping power) of various bullets.

A Shape Factor is assigned to each bullet, which is multiplied by the product of the bullet's muzzle energy and its sectional density. There's a lot more to this; we'll discuss it all in another column.

Send your comments to me, c/o Handloading, POB 222, Pinon Hills, CA 92372.



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INDUSTRY INSIDER
Continued from page 78



BUM RULING
A federal judge in Louisiana is hearing a case in which a plaintiff's daughter was killed by a man with a handgun.

The plaintiff is suing the gun manufacturer under the doctrine of "ultrahazardous activity."

This doctrine was originally designed to handle damages caused by the storage of toxic gas, crop dusting, and the demolition of buildings. Such activities are said to be unfeasible to ban outright, and that the risks are so high and so difficult to eliminate that the party "ought not to undertake the activity without assuming the consequences."

Judge Henry Mentz ruled: "If car manufacturers must reasonably expect purchasers of their products to speed periodically, then surely handgun manufacturers must reasonably expect purchasers of their products to kill periodically."


We submit that both Judge Mentz and the plaintiff's attorney, Windle Turley, should both sit back and think about their actions. This kind of thinking sets the principles of justice back a thousand years. God help us all if lawyers of the Turley ilk proliferate.

COMING... NEXT ISSUE:

A feature story on Ken Hurst Fire-arm Engraving Company of Lynchburg, Virginia.

The S&W M686 on the front cover of this issue was engraved by Jack Jones, general manager of Hurst's company, the largest commercial firearms engraving company in the world.

HANDGUNS



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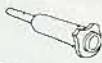
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INDUSTRY INSIDER

JERRY RAKUSAN

HANDGUN SHOOTING SPORTS MUST GROW IF INDUSTRY IS TO EXPAND

It is no secret that the gun business has felt the effects of the recession; many were surprised that handgun sales would drop as dramatically as they have. As this is written, in September, many handgun companies are just hanging on, especially some of the newer companies that have not yet established a firm foothold in the marketplace.

Much has been done by the manufacturers to stimulate sales; some have offered rebates, others have reduced their prices to distributors. It is truly a buyer's market in the handgun field today, and those shooters who are financially able to take advantage of the situation are reaping the benefits.

There are those in the firearms industry who say that as soon as the national economy levels off, handgun sales will return to normal. On the other hand, there are strong indications that even with an improvement of the overall economy, the handgun business will never return to anything approaching the strength it had in the 1960s and 1970s.

Why? The market itself—the shooters, collectors and tinkerers—is decreasing. Handgun shooting sports are losing participants; this, in spite of the tremendous growth of handgun metallic silhouette shooting and the various disciplines of combat or practical shooting. Gone are the great masses of bullseye shooters we saw in the past few decades; if they are still great in numbers, they are well hidden from the media.

PLINKERS DISAPPEAR

How much did you read in the papers, or see on TV, about the many gold medals our shooters won at the Pan-American Games in Caracas, Venezuela?

Gone, too, are the hoards of plinkers who have seen their favorite shooting areas either paved over for shopping malls, or closed down by laws or zoning changes.

If and when the American economy recovers, we may find ourselves without the vast handgun industry that (1) gave us the variety of models from which to choose, and the innovations of the past 30 years; (2) helped defeat many of the anti-gun laws we faced with their contributions of money, products and personnel, and (3) supported the new handgun shooting games that blossomed in recent years.

It doesn't take a genius to figure out that the future of the handgun shooting sports



and the industry which serves it does not depend on a new laser-operated double-action pistol, or a super-hot round for the .25 auto. Technical advancements may help sales within the immediate market, but they do little to enlarge the basic market.

The size and success of the industry and the future of handgunning will depend almost entirely on the increase in the number of participants. The industry, the shooting associations and clubs, and the concerned participants of today must band together in a total commitment designed to increase the number of handgun shooters, publicize existing handgun shooting sports and develop new ones.

If each of us gets just one more person interested in handgun shooting; if every manufacturer, who is not now supporting the sport, decides to participate; if we can let the world know that handguns *do* have a legitimate recreational purpose, then and only then will we be less susceptible to anti-gun harassment and strong enough to maintain the various handgun shooting sports as a viable recreational outlet.

Continued on page 76

INFO 'QUICKIE'

The two most popular revolvers used during the Civil War and the quantities purchased by the U.S. Ordnance Department were the Colt Model 1860 .44 percussion (128,697) and the Remington .44 percussion (115,563). The former represented 34.5 percent of all revolvers purchased, the latter 31 percent.

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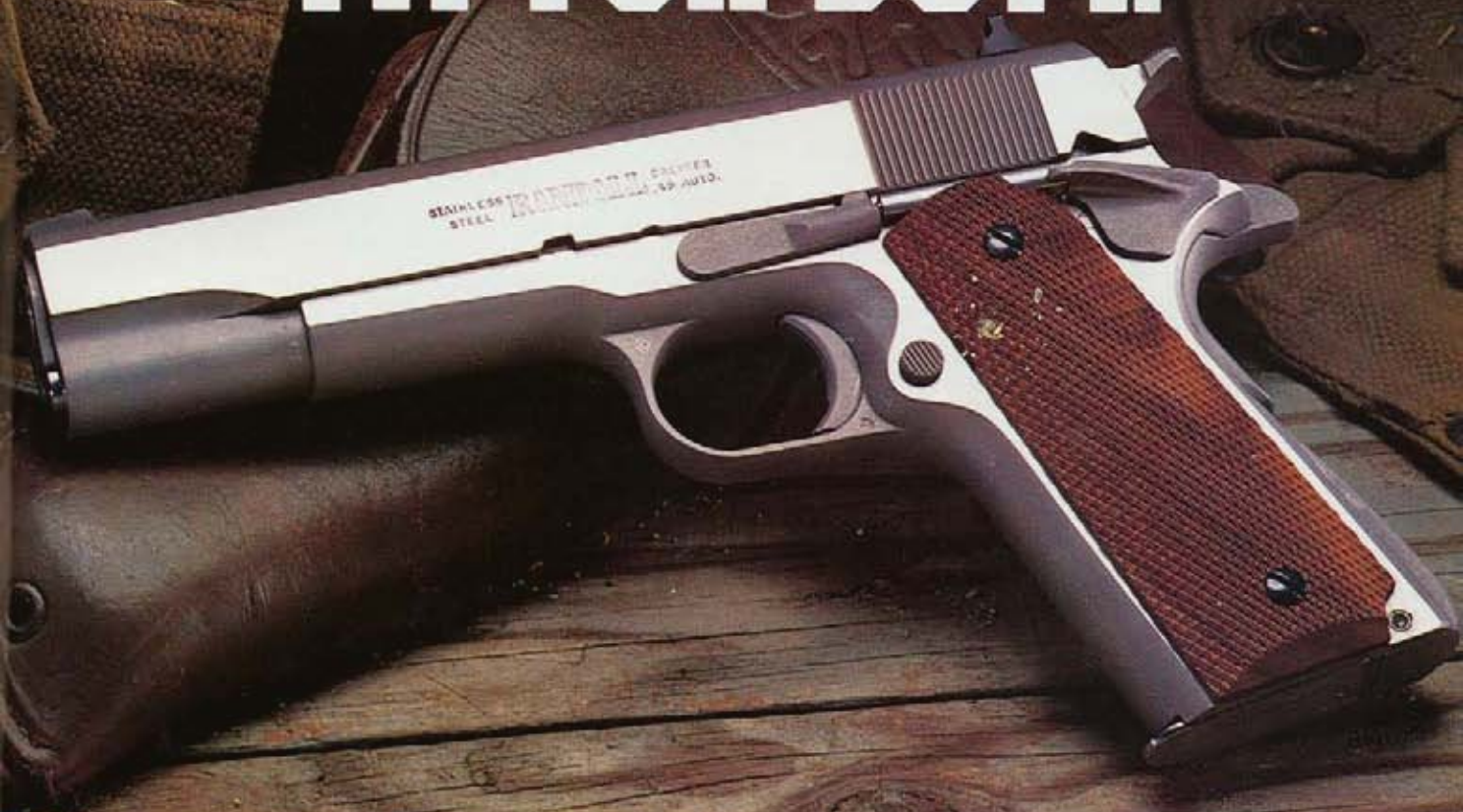
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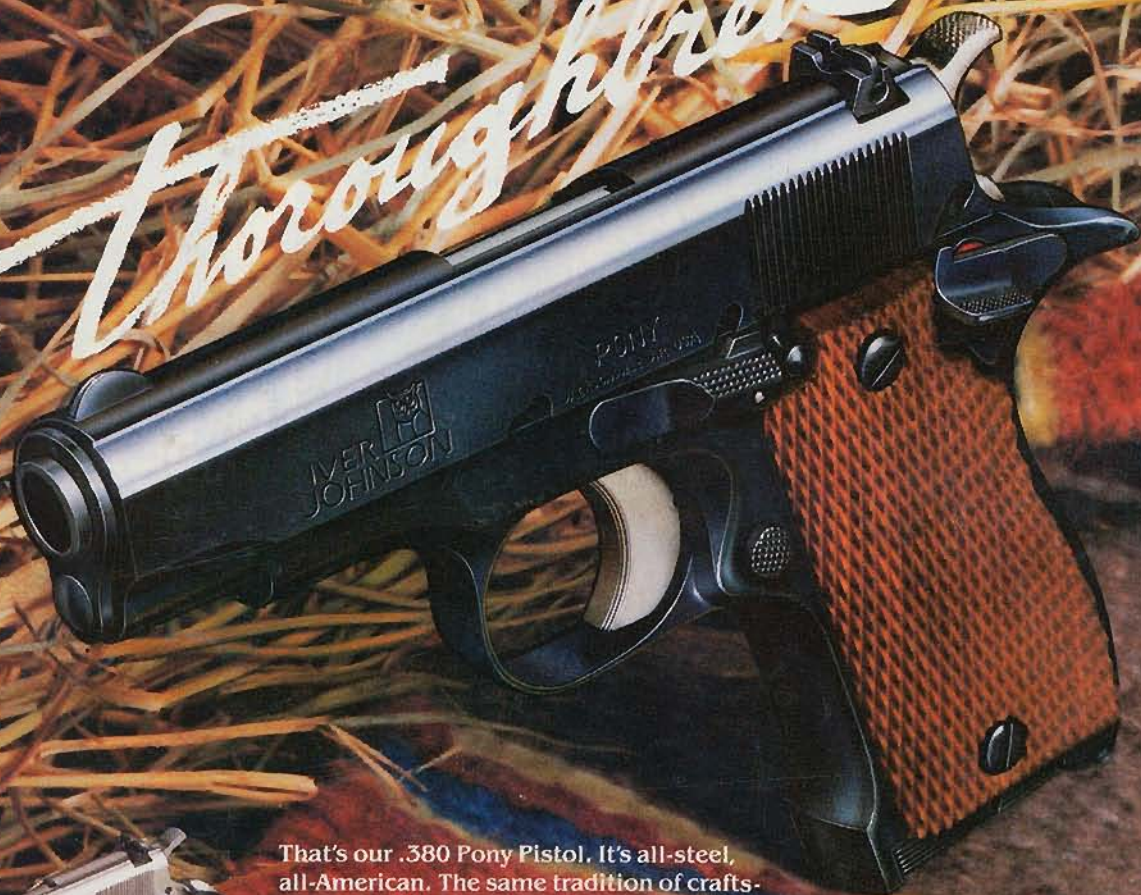
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