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AUGUST 2020 | ISSUE 15

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- · 12/20/410 Gauge / 3" Chamber
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- · Auto Ejectors
- Single Selective Trigger

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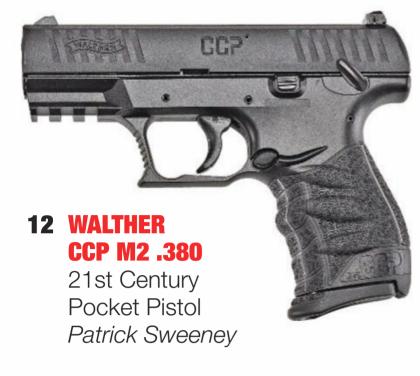


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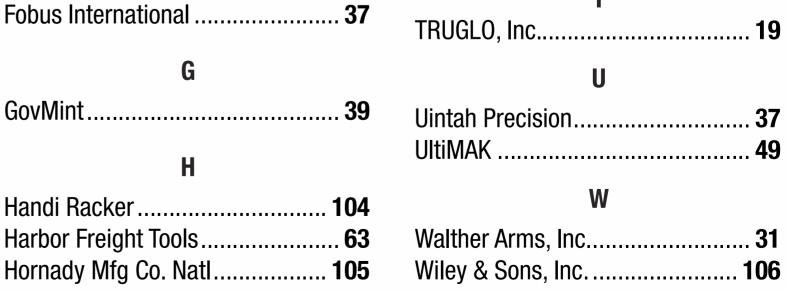
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Affordable Overkill.

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Now available in a Straight Bow version, also machined from solid S7 Tool steel. You won't find a better AR trigger on the market, at any price.

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NEW HOWA MINI ACTION EXCL LITE SERIES – NOW SHIPPING

Legacy Sports Int'l is excited to announce that their NEW HOWA EXCL LITE Mini Action rifle series is now shipping. The HOWA EXCL LITE series is in a HOWA Mini Action and is available in four great calibers — .223, 6.5 Grendel, 7.62x39 — all in 20-inch threaded barrels. A 350 Legend offering is available in a threaded 16.25-inch barrel. All are housed into a tough synthetic free-floating stock with a folding MIL SPEC adaptor which allows the stock to fold for compact storage and handling or it can be locked into full length positions as well. The butt stock is a LUTH Adjustable model allowing LOP from 12 - 15 inches.

The HOWA EXCL LITES are available in three synthetic stock options — American Flag, KRATOS camo, and black, they all come with two-stage match triggers, three-position safety, detachable mags and are also available with the very popular Nikko Stirling GamePro series in 3.5-10 x 44.



MSRP's Start at \$699 to \$999 depending on rifle only and scoped models along with the various color options. Lifetime warranty on rifles and scopes!

For more information about the HOWA EXCL LITE lineup and the rest of the LSI product line or to request a FREE 2020 catalog please call (775) 828-0555 or visit: LegacySports.com



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ETS 9mm magazines for the S&W® M&P® are available in 17, 21, and 30 round models. Magazines won't crack or break when dropped, won't become brittle over time, and the feed lips and body won't spread when being stored fully loaded. LIFETIME WARRANTY. MSRP \$21.99

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Legacy Sports Int'l is excited to announce that their NEW HOWA M1100 rimfire series is now shipping. Complete with the same Japanese precision and craftsmanship that all HOWA owners have come to know and love. The long-awaited arrival of the HOWA rimfire series will be a hit with all rimfire enthusiasts. The HOWA rimfire bolt action comes with an oversized tactical bolt handle, an 18" thread capped barrel, two 10-round detachable mags and is available in three calibers — .22 LR & .22 WMR and 17 HMR. All are housed into a tough synthetic Tactical / Varmint style stock with a beavertail forend with options of OD or Black finish. Overall Length 37". A Nikko Stirling 3.5-10x44 Gamepro Scoped package option is available and a Lifetime Warranty is provided on all Howa and Nikko Stirling optics — a win win all around.

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Sarco has just received what may be the best, most durable, and high-performance AK magazine on the market. Critically tested for reliable feed, locking, and ease of use, this magazine is synthetic and has survived the grueling "Serb" method of mag testing. 7.62x39 with 30-round capacity. New.

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Red dot sight, fully NVD compatible, with QRP2



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MALTHER **21ST CENTURY POCKET PISTOL**

By Patrick Sweeney Cover and lead photo by Mike Anschuetz

here are times and places when you just don't get kicked in the shorts by the nearest grandmother. need a big gun. Well, when you need a gun, you Not everyone has the option of working out and getting stronger, nor be able to handle a hi-cap or a pistol chambered in .40 or .45. Which is why the .380 has been with us, going strong, ever since John Moses Browning invented it in the first decade of the 20th century. That's right, the .380 dates from before the first moving assembly line that Henry Ford installed. The .380 was a John Browning invention from 1908, and the Highland Park assembly plant, on Woodward Avenue in Highland Park, didn't get up and running until 1913.

always need a big gun, but sometimes the price of daily packing it is just too much. Here in Michigan, the summers always include several stretches, sometimes a few weeks each, of "90-90" weather. That is, daily max temps over 90 degrees, and always over 90% humidity. (Ok, I know, in Florida that is "A spring day" but those people are crazy.)

When even the lightest of lightweight Hawaiian shirts is all you can stand wearing, the smaller the gun, the better able you are to keep it hidden.

Then there are people who don't have the hand strength to handle a big gun, or to work the slide. The first person who quotes "The 13th Warrior" will likely

In the last decade, we've lived through, the ammunition companies have worked hard to bring the bullet design improvements they've lavished on the 9mm, 40

[Cont. to page 16]





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BCMGUNFIGHT



BCMGUNFIGHTER[™] Pistol Grip

> Reduced grip angle keeps wrist in line for improved trigger control > Hinged Trap Door interior storage with water resistant rubber gasket Mod 0 similar to A1/A2 backstrap, Mod 1 with high rise backstrap ▶ Mod 2 up to 1/4 inch wider with interchangeable backstraps/inserts Mod 3 up to 1/4 inch wider with high rise backstrap/extended insert > All Mods available in Black, Flat Dark Earth, Foliage Green, Wolf Gray

BCMGUNFIGHTER Pistol Grips Prices start at \$17.95



BCMGUNFIGHTER[™] **Vertical Grip**

- > Forward angle increases rigidity of the forearm, provides more natural wrist angle
- > Featuring an aggressive texture, and generous storage volume
- Cross bolt designed to work with improvised tools
- > Reversible clamp for fastener setup on either side
- ► Made in the U.S.A. from high quality, impact resistant polymers
- > Available in Black, Flat Dark Earth, Foliage Green and Wolf Gray

BCMGUNFIGHTER VG - Screw Mount \$20.00



BCMGUNFIGHTER[™] VG

> Low-profile length for increased mobility and decreased "snag" factor > The forward angle increases the rigidity of the forearm, while providing

FIGHTER[™] Stock

Over a year in design, specifically engineered geometry, with no weak links. New patent pending latch reinvents the interface with the receiver extension, providing superior strength. ➤ Simple modular, snag free design utilizes only 5 parts and 1 screw > 2 ambidextrous sling mounting options including QD swivel socket > Color matched rubber buttpad for secure shoulder placement

> Available in Black, Flat Dark Earth, Foliage Green and Wolf Gray

BCMGUNFIGHTER Stock.....\$55.95

BCMGUNFIGHTER[™] **Vertical Grip - Short** ► Low-profile length for increased mobility and decreased "snag" factor

- > Forward angle increases rigidity of the forearm, provides more natural wrist angle
- > Aggressive texture, generous storage volume
- > Made in the U.S.A. from high quality, impact resistant polymers
- > Available in Black, Flat Dark Earth, Foliage Green and Wolf Gray

BCMGUNFIGHTER VG-S - Short, Screw Mount Version ... \$35.95 BCMGUNFIGHTER VG-S-KM - Short, KeyMod Version \$39.95



- > Forward rake gives positive retention when using "C-clamp" method of
- a more natural wrist angle
- > Can be mounted in reverse angle to increase control when grabbing handguard and grip
- > Flat sides with aggressive texture give better control to the shooter
- > Anchor and bolt system offers a simple and robust design, while maintaining a light-weight 1.9 ounces
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Soft recoil? The Walther has even softer than your usual .380 recoil, due to their Softcoil gas technology.

[Cont. from page 12]

and 45, finally to the .380, and now we have a pistol we can put them in and expect good things. The Walther CCP M2 .380.

The new Walther is named the same as its big brother, for the very good reason that they look alike. On top is a somewhat pyramidal in cross section slide, with cocking serrations front and back. The Walther logo interrupts the front left-die serrations, while the other three panels (one front and two in the rear) are left plain.

The Walther ejects to the left, as the vast majority of self-loading pistols do. There's a plenty big enough ejection port, and the spring-loaded extractor rides at the bottom line of the ejection port. The ejection port is also where all the required markings are applied. There are the required proof marks on slide and barrel, and serial number on the barrel and frame below the ejection port. One detail I find very interesting is that the frame serial number is applied directly into the polymer of the frame.

You might be wondering how Walther got away with marking the serial number in the polymer. Federal regulations are quite clear; the serial number must be stamped, etched, laser-marked or otherwise permanently marked, into metal, to a certain prescribed depth. Markings on plastic just won't do. The secret, if secret it be, is simple: what looks like the barrel, isn't. What it is is the frame portion that the fixed barrel is pressed into, and what you see as "barrel" is actually part of the frame. So, there's a serial number on the frame in two places, the barrel hoop and the polymer parts-holder. The sights are adjustable but low-profile, so you needn't worry about the sights snagging on that rayon floral-printed horror you elected to leave the house wearing. (Yes, I'm looking at you, Jim Tarr. At least

it wasn't made in China.) Walther ships the CCP M2 .380 with extra front sights, and the tools you'll need to remove and replace, should you wish or need to alter the point of impact. On the back of the slide we have the expected arrangement of panels that hold in the firing components of the slide, and a red-colored cocking indicator. If you see red, the mechanism is cocked. If you don't, it isn't. More on that later.





PERFORMANCE WHEN IT MATTERS MOST



PERFORMANCE CENTER® M&P M2.0 PISTOL LINE-UP

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The serial number is on the polymer frame, as well as on the "barrel." Actually, that isn't the barrel you see there, it is the frame, and the barrel is press-fit into the frame in that area. So, the serial number is actually on the frame and the polymer shell.

The front sight can be changed, using the supplied tools, to alter point of impact.



On the frame, things get interesting. First of all, you will notice the swoopy lines of the frame and grip. Walther has continued to refine the lines, the feel, of their pistols, to make them as ergonomic as possible. Looking at the lines of the grip area, you'd almost swear the Walther grew it, not made it. The frontstrap is undercut, for a higher grip. The frontstrap has one bulge in it, below the trigger guard, and this is to give your second finger more locking when the trigger finger is doing its work. Not a series of finger grooves, just the one bulge to help. The curve of the backstrap fills your hand. The problem with pistols that have finger grooves, as in more than one bulge/lump/hook, is that they are never spaced at the distances of your fingers. Well, my fingers, anyway. That makes them anywhere from useless to uncomfortable. Not so on the Walther CCP .380. The grooves and swells of the sides of the grip give your fingers plenty of leverage for a non-slip grip. And all that is before Walther has even applied the stippling pattern.

Actually, it isn't stippling. It is a raised pattern of tiny arcs of material, organized so any section of it has arcs in multiple directions, so your hand will always find a frictional fit. The non-random random pattern ensures that there is always something (usually a lot of something's) resisting recoil forces, regardless of where your fingers fall on the frame and frontstrap.

The bottom of the backstrap extends slightly past the magazine opening, and this gives you an index point on reloads. The bottom of the backstrap extends until it is flush with the baseplate of the magazine. So, on reloads, you can index the magazine against the bottom edge of the backstrap, to make sure you are getting the magazine in the right place, but once it is locked home it's flush, and doesn't protrude any more than the frame does. This means fast reloads without excess material to snag on clothing or catch and print while carrying. Oh, and those reloads? The magazine release is a button behind the trigger guard, in the expected American place, and that's why this is the Walther CCP M2 .380. M2 is their designation for the American-location release, instead of the dual-paddle European release. Magazines have baseplates with a front lip on them, one that continues the curve of the frontstrap. So, if you have large hands, the magazine baseplate acts to



The rear of the slide has the expected parts-containment plates, but there is also a cocking indicator, the red button in the middle of the striker guide.

lock the frame not your grip. If your hand isn't large enough to ride on that baseplate lip, no problem, it isn't in the way. And should you need to rip the magazine out on a reload, the front lip gives you plenty of purchase for that.

The magazines are also interesting. The CCP M2 .380 uses a single-stack magazine, because, well, it is meant to be as concealable a pistol as possible, and a slim grip helps there. Each magazine holds eight rounds, and the magazine does not fight you to load it. The Walther method of making a solid tube for a magazine never ceases to amaze me. They take a sheet metal stamping, and then fold it into a tube, but here's the best part: the edges of the main part of the tube are stamped with small rectangular recesses in them. Then, when Walther presses the main part into shape and fits the tabs of a spine of steel into the rectangular recesses, they interlock and provide a rigid fit. The whole assembly is then permanently attached together, and thus the rear section of the tube is an interlocking, self-reinforcing length of two strips of steel. Oh, and then, for extra longevity and corrosion resistance, it is nickel-plated. I stand accused (and rightly so) of being snarky about German engineering in the past. (Actually, over-engineering, but let's not be too picky, shall we?) But I have to tell you, if I could get all my magazines made this robustly, I would. In-





The Walther non-slip grip pattern has small arcs or crescents of material, arranged so any small section of it has arcs in different directions, there's always something keeping your hand from slipping.

between the grip and the slide, we have a collection of good parts, details and points of interest.

If you look closely, you'll see three holes in the polymer shell, each with a roll pin in them. These are the pins that attached the actual firearm, the serialnumbered part, to the polymer. The polymer shell is not the firearm, but the chassis inside is not meant to be user-serviceable. You do not take the chassis out to clean the pistol. It is not meant to be modular, and there are no other sized shells to swap the chassis into, should you even wrestle it out. Nor will there be. It was meant to be what it is, and the chassis and pinned polymer shell is just the best-engineered way to accomplish that. On the front of the shell, there is an accessory rail, where you can park the expected light, laser, whatever. The front accessory rail is now such a customary thing that I suppose in a short while we gun writers will simply assume it to exist. And we will not mention anything about rails, until we review a pistol that

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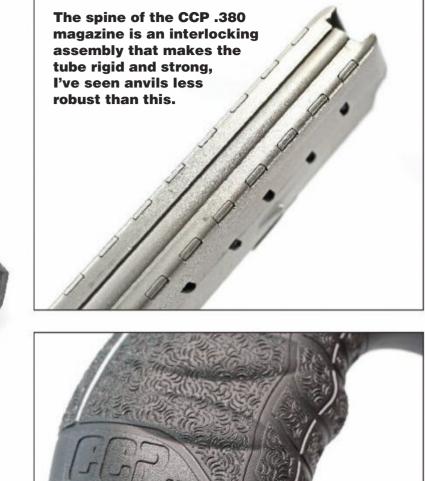


PROUDLY MADE IN THE U.S.A.



[Cont. from page 18]

lacks one. The use of a light or laser on an every-day carry pistol has become such an expected thing that the makers of lights and lasers make them compact enough to fit onto a pistol such as the Walther CCP .380. Picking one is simply a matter of selecting from an embarrassment of riches. The trigger guard is right out of the 1980s, with a curved and grooved front face, and a small hook at the bottom. The trigger guard then goes straight back until it has to curve up to meet the frontstrap, at the lifted part of the joint between trigger guard and frontstrap.



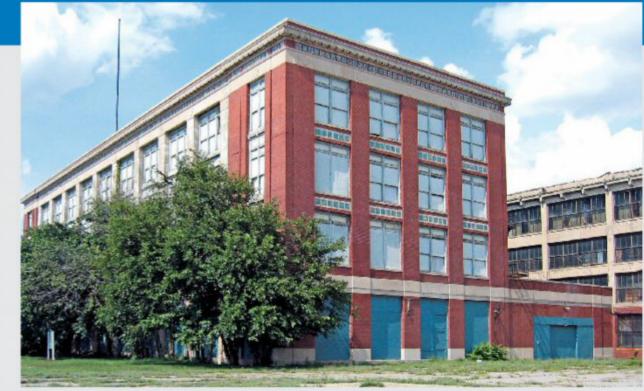


The magazine baseplate follows the contours of the frame. The backstrap of the frame protrudes below the mag well opening, and provides an indexing location for reloads.

.380 AUTO

The .380 Auto is a mild-pressure pistol cartridge that doesn't really require a locked breech to be handled by a pistol. The original Browning models all used straight blowback designs, and they worked just fine. But, they were all-steel (that was the only way you made pistol back then) and daily carry wasn't as common as it is today.

America was just transitioning to the automobile when the .380 was new in 1908. You could buy a .380 for maybe \$12, and an automobile for \$800. The price of the pistols edged up over time, but the price of automobiles actually came down, once Henry Ford had pioneered assembly-line production. Auto The original assembly line building is now a shell. The neighborhood is relatively safe, by local standards, but the surrounding Detroit neighborhoods are essentially freefire zones.



and truck chassis would be transported down a powered track, and assemblers would bolt on the parts they were assigned to install. Pistols, not so much. By 1923, the Model T base price was \$298.

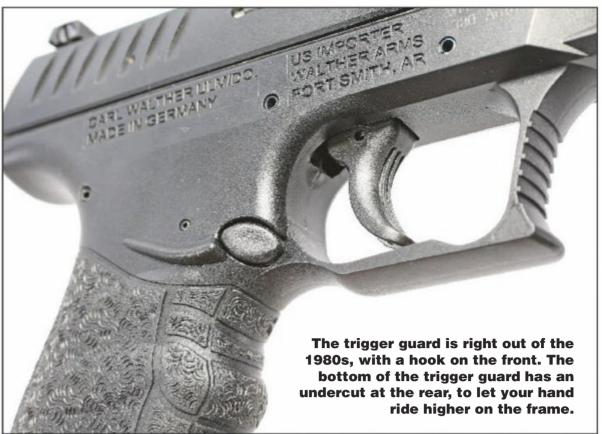
Once autos became pretty much bullet-resistant, the .380 began a gradual decline. Replaced in police service by the .38 Special before WWII, and then the .357 Magnum, the .380 was relegated more and more to back-up gun status, or a ladies' gun. But the 21st century resurgence of daily carry has changed that. A lot of people now carry, some with a .380 as a prime, others with a .380 as a back-up. And they want modern ammo. Federal has just announced their Hydra-Shok Deep .380 load, which penetrates to and past the 12" minimum the FBI test calls for. It does this both in bare gel and heavy clothing tests. As soon as it is available, we'll be testing it. I had thought that the .380 Auto and the .38 spe-

cial were two popular defensive cartridges that could never be made to cross the FBI 12" threshold. So, I'm looking forward to that test.

The fate of the assembly line was not as kind. The original, Highland Park, is now a shuttered shell. One of the biggest ones in Detroit, the Packard plant only five miles away, has been closed for more than half



On the side of the polymer shell, you can see the three pins that hold the chassis inside the shell. They are not to be removed. The magazine button, behind the trigger guard, is the American location, and thus this is the M2 pistol. Above and behind those are the slide stop and safety.



The trigger is curved, and lacks an internal, or central, safety blade. Behind it is the slide hold-open lever, or button. You can use this to lock the slide open, or if it is open, press down to release the slide. And behind it, is wonder of wonders, a thumb safety. A right-handed-user-only thumb safety, but a thumb safety. When I first pulled the Walther CCP .380 out of the box, I looked at the safety location and angle and thought "This is going to be a problem." Once I've logged a firearm into the bound book, I will wipe it off and then leave it on the desk while I do my research, email the makers and designers, and plan my range trips. I'll periodically pick it up and handle it,

pushing the safety (if there is one) on and off, pop the magazine out and re-insert it, you know, get the feel of it.

Not once in my handling did I fail to properly push the safety lever off or back on. Hmmm, maybe the Walther designers do know a thing or two about pistols, you think?

The next wondrous detail that I noticed came when I test-fired it. I customarily do my chrono work first. This lets me know what velocities any firearm generates, but also does several other things as well. First, I see if it is going to work reliably. Second, I can check to see if it hits to the sights. And third, I get a feel for the recoil. On the first shot with the CCP M2 .380, I stopped. I pulled out the magazine and gingerly pulled the slide back, fully expecting to have an empty case fall onto the bench. Nope, a loaded round came out.

Well, interesting. I load it back up and shoot some more. As I'm working along, I think "This is the softest-shooting .380 I've ever handled," and now that I'm paying attention, the slide is really easy to retract, as well. And that is due to the gas system. Walther calls it their Softcoil gas technology.

The CCP uses a piston that is pinned to the slide, but the pinned interface has some play to it, it is hinged, essentially. The piston slides into a tunnel in

a century, and is now a subject of photographers "ruin porn" images. Imagine, if you will, of three-and-a-half million square feet of building that stretches for nine city blocks, that would be a perfect setting for a postapocalypse movie set, if it were not a post-apocalypse site itself. Too hazardous to actually enter, and too dangerous to get to, it is like Chernobyl with gunshots as a soundtrack. Sometimes it is just too depressing to contemplate.



Existing assembly lines now are more often found in countries where the prevailing wage is doggone it, pretty much like the pay of the original Highland Park assembly line in 1913: five dollars a day.



Federal has just announced the new Hydra Shok Deep .380, which promises to exceed the FBI threshold of twelve inches, and also expand.

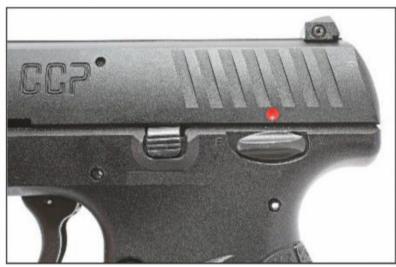
This is what 3.5 million square feet of urban ruin looks like. This used to be an auto plant that employed tens of thousands, and produced products for America and the world. You go in here, you'd better have more than just a .380 on you.







When the safety is up, the safety is on, and the CCP M2 .380 won't fire.



The thumb safety (not common on a .380) looks oddly placed, but falls properly under your hand for use.



The ejection port is plenty big for the .380, and the extractor is robust for the work asked of it.

the frame (below the barrel) and there is a gas port in the barrel, ahead of the chamber. When you fire the CCP .380, the gas, venting through the port, pushes on the piston. The case thrust of the cartridge wants to hurl the slide to the rear. The gas pressure in the piston resists this pressure, keeping the slide closed until the gas bleeds out when the bullet exits the muzzle.

Once pressure drops, the inertia of the case-thrust drives the slide back, but so much has been soaked up by the pressure on the piston, the resulting recoil is very soft. And the recoil spring only has to handle the residual inertia, not all of it, and only needs enough inertia on return to strip off a cartridge and close up for firing. So, recoil is greatly diminished, and the force needed to retract the slide is also greatly diminished.

Those of you who own one, or remember it, will be going "Of course, just like the HK P7." Yes, but without the obnoxiously high slide velocity, and snappy felt recoil the HK had. Also, without the heavy weight of the all-steel P7. Part of the snappiness had to be the HK handling 9mm Parabellum, instead of .380 Auto, but there was also the difference in bore height. I pulled out my HK P7 and compared. Yep, the CCP M2 .380 has the bore closer to the hand. Not much, but add that to the soft-recoiling .380, and the difference is marked, especially given the disparity on weight. The P7 is all steel, and you'd expect it to be softer in recoil. You'd be disappointed. The ejection of empties from the CCP is to the right, but with a definite upwards component. On my gun clubs covered range, the empties rattled

around in the rafters of the roof before falling to the concrete floor.

The gas-delayed blowback system does have one drawback, or a potential drawback: lead bullets pose a potential cleaning problem. The base of a bullet is exposed to the full heat and pressure of the burning powder. Lead bullets can leave lead behind. This may or may not clog up the gas piston and tunnel in the CCP .380. However, I see this as more of a potential than actual problem. The vast majority of .380 shooters are going to be using factory ammo, and no-one that I know of makes an all-lead-bullet .380 load. Reloaders might, but the cost savings would be minimal. I did a short perusal of component prices, and the reloading difference between loading .380 with lead round-nose, versus plated round nose, came to \$18 per thousand rounds more expensive for plated. Really? For \$18 per thousand rounds, you're going to experiment with cleaning the lead out of the CCP .380 gas system? The decreased slide spring force makes the Walther CCP .380 attractive to those with diminished hand strength. Not everyone keeps in shape with fingertip pushups, and the force needed to retract the slide on a big-bore pistol, or a regular-sprung .380, can be too much. So, for them, the Walther CCP .380 is a boon. Another boon is the tool-less takedown. OK, I have a confession to make here. I usually don't bother with the owner's manuals of any of the firearms that pass through here. I've been taking firearms apart for more than half a century, and for more than two decades of that I worked as a gunsmith. Taking firearms apart is a puzzle long-solved. Well, the CCP .380 ended that

string. I looked at it, I pushed and pulled, I checked all the various parts that seemed like they would do the job, and nothing. Nada. Zippo.

So, with a sigh and expecting points deductions from my man-card, I opened the owner's manual and read the process.

First, make sure it is unloaded. Then dry-fire it. Remove the magazine. Now, with one hand press in the end cap that surrounds the cocking indicator, the gizmo I call the striker guide. See the serrated panel below that? Press that to the right side, and once it clears the engagement is has with the striker guide the guide is pushed out of the slide, and the whole slide is now free to be lifted up and removed from the frame.

Once you know, it is simply a matter of coordinating some fingertip pressures. Until then, it is a complete mystery.

Getting it back together is a bit more work. The dif-

.380 AUTO PERFORMANCE

Despite being depended on for generations now, the .380 Auto has never gotten much love. The basic ballistics of it, a 95- to 100-grain-FMJ-bullet, at something approaching 900 fps at most, don't exactly instill confidence.

The popularity of the round has for a long time been due more to the pistols it could be had in, than the horsepower it generated. The traditional FMJ round nose held on because it was what was used when the round was invented. When we went to JHPs, the first ones didn't expand, so no change, really.

When bullet designs began to actually expand, a problem arose: the work to expand the bullet had to come from somewhere. The end result was decreased penetration. As a result, some law enforcement agencies that allow .380s as back up or off-duty options, mandate FMJ ammunition. They'd rather have the assurance of penetration to and past the FBI 12-inch minimum, than expansion and shallow penetration.

An additional choice I'd suggest is to find the load that your pistol shoots most accurately. With the .380 (with any handgun cartridge, really) you need good, centered, hits, and the more accuracy you have from the start, the better.

ficult part here is getting the piston to slide back into the gas tunnel in the chassis, while at the same time fitting the slide over the barrel, and down onto the frame. I found that the easiest way was to point the muzzle up, and then let the piston hang down freely from its connection on the slide, so I could tip the slide and frame around until the piston lined up with the tunnel as I slid things together. As with all such things, the first few times were a bit of work, but once I learned the touch, it became pretty easy.

Test-firing, as explained, was a pretty enjoyable experience. Along with the soft recoil, the CCP .380 delivered excellent accuracy. That's something that all

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The start of disassembly. Unload and dry fire. Remove the magazine.



Press the striker guide in...

5



Then slide the retaining plate to the right....



And once it moves to the right the striker guide is free to push out of the slide.

[Cont. from page 22]

fixed-barrel pistols seem to bring to the table. Even the least-expensive pistols in .380 and .32 that I've shot, you know, the ones that retailed for not much over \$100 on the high end, delivered accuracy. Those



Once the guide is free....

guns had a track record of breaking with only a bit of shooting. Walther does not make stuff that breaks, so no worries there. In fact, I suspect that if something did break, someone in Ulm, Germany [Cont. to page 26]





The slide can be lifted up off of the frame.





The piston to keep the action closed is attached to the slide, and can readily be wiped clean when you need to.

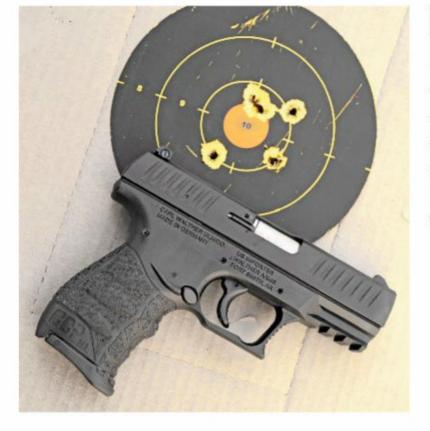
WALTHER CCP M2 .380

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The accuracy of the Walther CCP M2 .380 does not disappoint. For a "pocket" pistol it is the equal of a lot of full-sized pistols.

[Cont. from page 24]

would be forced into retirement, after a long period of soul-searching and apologizing. Walther products do not break.

The accuracy of the CCP M2 .380 was on-par with that of full-sized pistols with monger sight radiuses,

CHRONOGRAPH AND ACCURACY DATA								
Ammunition	Bullet weight (gr.)	Velocity	Es	sD	Accuracy, Ave & best			
Hornady Critical Defense	90	900	46	17.6	2.4" / 2"			
Winchester SXT	95	778	70	32.5	2.6" / 2.25"			
Browning X-Point	95	810	113	44.2	2.5" / 2.1"			
Black Hills FMJ	100	794	58	23.7	2.5" / 2.2"			
Accuracy results are averages of 3, 5-shot groups at 25 yards off a Champion shooting rest. Velocities are								

averages of 10 shots measured on a Labradar chronograph set to read 15 feet from the muzzle.

and bigger frames to hold on to. I attribute this in part to the inherent accuracy of a fixed-barrel pistol, but also to the nice trigger and soft recoil. Don't let anyone kid you: recoil is a hindrance to good groups. A softer-shooting pistol, all other things being equal, is going to be easier to shoot accurately. The trigger, an ounce over five and a half pounds, is clean, and the trigger travel is just over a quarter-inch. If the trigger pull of the Walther CCP .380 is hindering your shooting, you are doing it wrong.

As far as holsters go, a quick check produced an overwhelming array of choices.

So, we have a light, compact, ergonomic .380 pistol, that is accurate, easy to shoot, doesn't bust the bank, and is easy to work due to the light recoil spring tension. And now, not just in black. You can have the CCP M2 .380 with polymer shells in colors such as

Angle Blue, Titanium and Tungsten, and slides either black, or bare stainless steel.

The Walther CCP M2 .380 does not disappoint.

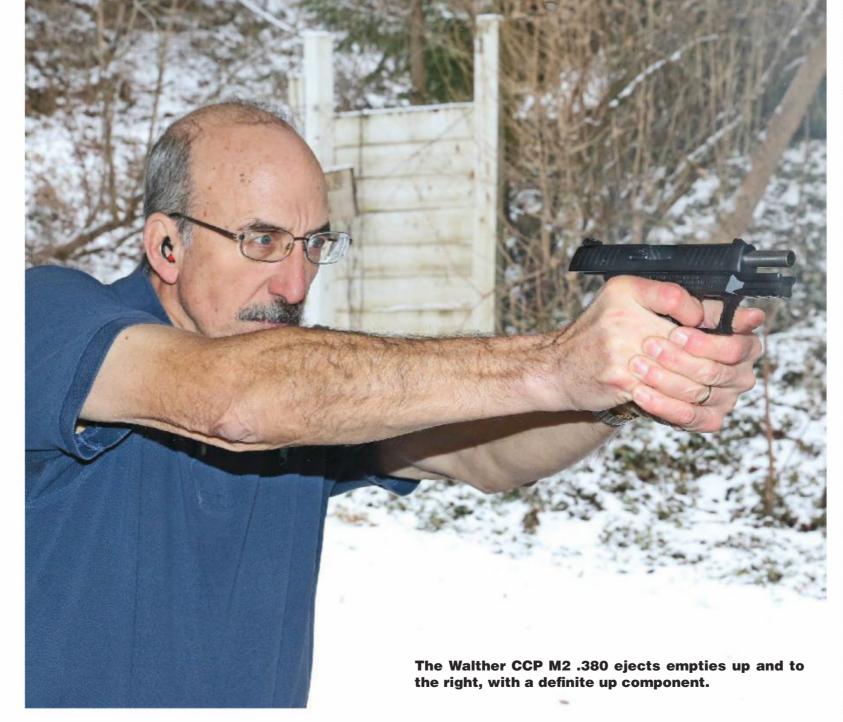
SPECIFICATIONS WALTHER CCP M2 .380					
Туре:	Type: Gas-delayed-blowback pistol				
Caliber:	.380				
Capacity:	8+1 round				
Barrel:	3.5"				
Length:	6.4"				
Height:	5.1"				
Weight:	20 oz				
Trigger:	5 lbs., 9 oz.				
Finish:	Polymer, black oxide				
MSRP:	\$469				
Maker:	Walther USA				
Contact:	WaltherArms.com, (479) 242-8500				

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WALTHER CCP M2 .380

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SPRINGFIELD ARMORY HELLCAT? HELLUVA DEAL!

By Patrick Sweeney

e live in a golden age of daily carry options. Back in the prehistoric era of EDC (aka: Before anyone outside of Arkansas knew the name Clinton) daily carry was only for a few, and they had few options. There was the ever-popular 1911, in the full-sized and anvil-weight Government Model (I carried one until I could find something better, despite the backaches it produced) and only ever seen in .45 ACP.

Those with contacts, or lucky enough to score one could opt for a Lightweight Commander, also in .45 ACP. Those two pistols, in .38 Super were also somewhat popular down near the southern border, but the lightweight option was rarely found, indeed scarce, in .38 Super.

Then there were revolvers. You could choose a snubbie in .38 Special, five or six shots. You even had airweight options there. Those airweight options went away if you wanted more than a .38 Special. Go up to a .357 Magnum, and everything was steel. And if you wanted a bore bigger than .357, you had to get an even bigger revolver. The apex was the .44 Magnum or .45 Colt. In Detroit, mere .32s were sneered at on both sides of the LE divide. .38s were little guns, Magnums were what a man would carry, and if you could, you carried more. The exemplar here is a Detroit officer who was my customer and the first gunshot save by a Second Chance vest, Ron Jagielski, who carried on and off duty back when I knew him, a six-inch nickeled S&W

25-5 in .45 Colt. When he had need of a handgun, he wanted the others involved to know that he was using a big one, a not uncommon attitude at that time, and in that place.

Oh, there were numerous instances of people carrying war-surplus or imported .32s, .380s and other pocket pistols. But they were carried mostly because of extremely hot weather. Or carried in non-permissive environments. Most of those had magazine capacities that topped out at six or seven rounds. And we did not speak among ourselves of such things, as the thought of carrying a .32 was just not talked about in polite company.





The Hellcat came with a test-fire target.



With a pistol this small, you'd expect an earth-shattering roar. But for being a Hellcat, the Springfield pistol is quite civilized.

VOLUME 74 - ISSUE 15



You'll notice the lack of 9mm options in the sparse offerings.

That's because the offerings were even more limited. Your choices were a Browning Hi Power, or an S&W M-39. The P35 was as big as a 1911, and while it held more ammo, the ammunition choices back then were even more limited than the sidearms. You carried round-nosed FMJ if you packed a pistol, and lead something-or-other if you used a revolver.

The M-39 was even more of a box of hammers. Not only was it as large as a 1911, it only held the same number of rounds, they were 9mm FMJs, and you had the double action trigger to deal with as well.

Oh, there was the S&W M-59, with its 14-round magazine, but it had a grip that was more like a 2x4 in its ergonomics than a pistol. No-one loved that one. Today?

You can hardly look in the display case of your local gun shop and find choices so sparse as what we had back then. Assuming, of course, that your shop is open, and there is inventory left. But that's a pandemic thing, not a potential firearms choice thing.

And chief among the modern choices is the Spring-field Armory Hellcat.

version of it, the XDm. For 1911 fans who wanted a more-compact version, they shrank the 1911 as much as they could, and then the developed the EMP, a true 9mm-scaled 1911.

But the world has more than just 1911 fans as handgun buyers, and so Springfield had their mad scientists locked in the secret lab in the bunkers in the hinterlands, where they worked up a new pistol.

And thus, we have the Hellcat.

The most succinct description I can give of the Hellcat is that it is a double stack, striker-fired micro compact 9mm pistol. Which is about like saying Marilyn Monroe was a woman with a nice figure.

And the Hellcat OSP is even better.

OK, from the top:

The slide is alloy steel, machined, deburred, inspected, tested, and given a Melonite treatment, which makes it harder than an auditor's heart and more resistant to staining than a Carthusian monk. The slide has cocking serrations fore and aft, and they are an interesting design. The slots are wide, flat-bottomed grooves, and the raised ribs in-between have a small gutter machined down them. So, you have both large and small spaces for your fingers to press into, and gain traction.

On top, the slide is flat, with rounded edges to the sides, and there is an iron sight set there to catch your eye. The front is a big glowing ball of tritium, with a white circle around it. The rear is a half-moon notch with a white half-circle that matches the notch. If this is a set not big enough for you, then we might have to consider getting you a new set of eyes. Springfield calls this their U-Dot system.

The rear of the barrel has a beveled hole in it, as a loaded chamber indicator. You need to see if you have [Cont. to page 32]



Springfield made their name as the company that made 1911s that worked and cost less than a Colt, and the M1A, a semi-auto-only clone of the M14. They still make both, offering a dizzying array of 1911s, and the finest and most useful variants of the M1A/M14. But they have expanded since then. They entered the hi-cap market with their XD (of which I have a super-custom one I'll be writing up for *Firearms News* readers in the future) and the refined

SPRINGFIELD ARMORY HELLCAT OSP

For fast sight acquisition, it is hard to beat a red-dot sight.



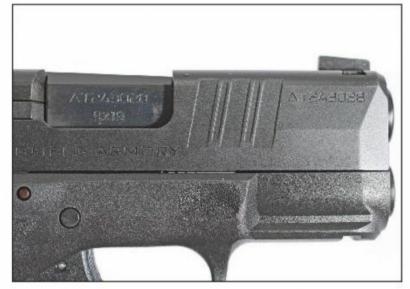
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The front sight on the OSP is a tritium-inserted blade, with the insert ringed by a yellow outline.

[Cont. from page 30]

a loaded pistol? (Really, they are all loaded, aren't they? Isn't that Rule # 1?) Just look through the indicator hole. Forward of the chamber Springfield has roll-marked their logo into the flat top of the slide.

The cocking serrations are grooves in the slide, with

the tops of the grasping ridges themselves grooved.

The barrel, while short (that's part of the microcompact description) at three inches, has an integral feed ramp, so the path from magazine to chamber

MAGAZINE GIRTH

The very early 1990s were an interesting time. The .45 still held sway in many quarters, and if you were going to offer a hi-cap pistol, it had darned well be offered in .45 ACP. The late 1980s had seen the Para Ordnance arrive. In 1990, the .40 was invented, and suddenly 9mm pistols were not hot properties. The STI frame came along in 1993, and it used .45-sized magazines.

So, we had fat .45 magazines, and scaled-up 9mm magazines for the .40 pistols.

Then there was a seismic shift in USPSA/IPC, and Open guns went full .38 Super. To make the existing pistols work, designers crimped grooves into the tubes, along the sizes, to make the internals work properly with .38 Super, not .45 cartridges.

One manufacturer tried to do it right, Caspian. They made a hi-cap frame that used magazine tubes the right size for .38 Super, and those would not hold .45 ACP. Alas, the Assault Weapons Ban came along just in time to turn the cartons of magazine Caspian had into one-time products.

And so, it went for a couple of decades, until the .40 started slipping in popularity. If you are is smooth and assured. The barrel is cold hammerforged, with Enfield-type rifling, so it has no problems with lead bullets, unlike some other striker-fired polymer pistols. The barrel is also given a Melonite treatment, so it is good and hard, and good and smooth.

The back of the slide is flush, there's a plate that contains the striker assembly and its associated parts, such as the striker safety.

You'll notice on the OSP that there are a pair of hefty bolts on the top of the slide. Those hold on the filler plate, which fills the gap for an optic sight. Yes, you can unbolt the plate and remove it, and then install a red-dot optical sight. The Hellcat came with an RMSc on board, and this is a good choice.

The Hellcat sent here is the original, all-black version. New is a hellcat with a Desert FDE color in the polymer frame, and the slide is given a matching coating over the Melonite slide. The barrel, sights, and controls are left black.

Inside the slide, the Hellcat has a dual-spring recoil system, and a spring guide rod that is the full length of the system. The front end nestles into a recess machined into the rear of the slide nose spring retainer, and the rear slips into a notch machined into the lower lug of the barrel.

On the frame, the designers at Springfield went with a non-slip pattern they call Adaptive Grip Texture. A fine-grained pebbly-looking surface, the tighter you grip, the harder the texture resists movement. The





The rear blade has a U-shaped notch, to match the large, round, white-outlined front sight Tritium insert.

AGT is also applied to the frame below the slide, but forward of the trigger guard, as an indexing place for your trigger finger. A lot of people park their finger right there. Me, I practically wrap mine up over the top of the slide, but then I've been known to do some things to excess. The AGT wraps around the frame below the magazine release, 360 degrees with no break. Then there are two panels, one on each side, above the magazine release, as extra gripping real estate for your thumb or trigger finger knuckle joint.



You need to know what the name of your pistol is? Springfield has it right there.



going to make a micro-compact pistol, chambering it in .40 won't make you any friends. The loss of capacity, and the ferocious recoil made them slow sellers.

Which is now why we have 9mm-only hi-cap magazine tubes, again.

They are a must-have for capacity in really, really compact EDC pistols.

"Everything old is new again" is more than a song in "All That Jazz." It describes some aspects of the firearms industry.

SPRINGFIELD ARMORY HELLCAT OSP

The non-slip texture wraps around the grip, and Springfield has even put it on the magazine base plate.



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Down on the bottom of the frame, on the left side, there is a small inset panel that has "Geneseo, IL." cut into the mold. That's the only break in the AGT wrap-around panel.

The front of the frame has a small accessory rail, but that rail is big enough to mount one of the ultracompact lights or lasers that are now common. The frame is also marked there, denoting it was made in Croatia. The serial number is in a metal panel on the underside of the dust cover, inside the accessory rail.

The frame controls are all on the left side of the frame. In the rear is the slide stop, or hold-open, depending on where you are in the shooting cycle. It is protected by a small fence that borders it on three sides. You will find it highly unlikely that your hand can bump the stop up and lock the slide back before you have run out of ammo.

Up in front of that is the takedown lever. We'll go over that when we discuss disassembly.

Below that, and behind the trigger is the magazine release. It is shielded by a raised portion of the frame, that meets the button from behind and also keeps your hand from inadvertently dropping the magazine.

The trigger has a trigger safety in the center of the straight trigger. OK, straight except for a small curve forward at the very bottom of the trigger. The safety prevents the trigger from moving fully to the rear unless your finger has pressed the safety blade and cammed it out of engagement with the frame.

Then there is the subject of magazines. OK, for many years until recently, 9mm pistols have been designed and shipped with magazines that were initially intended to hold .40 cartridges. To make them work with 9mm ammunition, not only did the feed



Springfield added an indexing location of the nonslip texture, for your trigger finger to rest on.



There's a trigger-mounted safety, so you can carry the Hellcat with the firing system locked out.



The loaded chamber indicator is simplicity itself: a viewing port on the rear of the barrel hood. Note the Springfield logo ahead of the chamber.

lips have to be re-configured, but the tubes internal volume had to be changed. The easiest way to do this, and still have frame commonality between 9mm and 40 pistols, was to crimp grooves into the sides of the







on your person before you invest in extra magazines.

The magazines have witness marks, and those are numbered, so you can keep track.

SPRINGFIELD ARMORY HELLCAT OSP

PAGE 34

magazine tube, in essence making the interior smaller (to properly stack the 9mm rounds) but keep the tube externally the same size.

This was the common approach once everyone switched to the .40 back in the very early 1990s. What makers had found back then was, by using 9mm-pro-

ENDURANCE TESTING

Sounds like fun, right? Get a pistol, rifle or shotgun, and run as much ammo through it as you and your friends can? Guess again. I've done a bunch of these, and while I can get my test-crew volunteers to show up, getting a full day's work out of them can get problematic.

One of these, I managed to score enough magazines so each of the crew got a magazine, and could fill it and shoot. Line up, load, shoot, get in line again.

It gets old, fast.

We managed to put 6,800 rounds through that gun (not a Hellcat) in one afternoon. And then I was on my own. That one, I managed 15,000 rounds, with one malfunction. The extra shooting took me months after that afternoon.



When it comes time to do an endurance test, having friends is a big bonus. Of course, friends expect free ammo. Oh, and those with a sharp eye will notice the assistant, lower right. Yes, for good or bad, I got Jim Tarr into gun writing.

Another, I put 23,000 rounds through a pistol, for two malfunctions. That one was all me, and it took a year. (And that was in addition to all the shooting I was doing with other firearms. This job can get to be a chore at times. No, don't weep for me, that's not necessary.) I'm in the middle of yet another one, and each time I wrap one up I think to myself "Not doing *that* again!" until the next one comes along. The only time my test crew bailed on me was when I had to test an airweight .44 Magnum. Five rounds in, one of them put it down and said, "*I'm not shooting that thing again.*" Even those who claim to be recoil-insensitive find they have limits.

SPRINGFIELD ARMORY HELLCAT OSP

protioned magazine tubes in the new cartridge created 40 pistols that held 10-11-12 rounds *in a full-sized pis-tol*. No one wanted that. So, the engineers re-designed magazines to hold enough .40 rounds to make customers happy, and then compromised to make them hold 9mm for the 9mm versions of the same pistols.



The red dot optics, on the OSP Hellcat, in this case the RMSc, add a dimension to our everyday carry options.

The OSP has a plate on the slide that you remove in order to install your red dot optic.

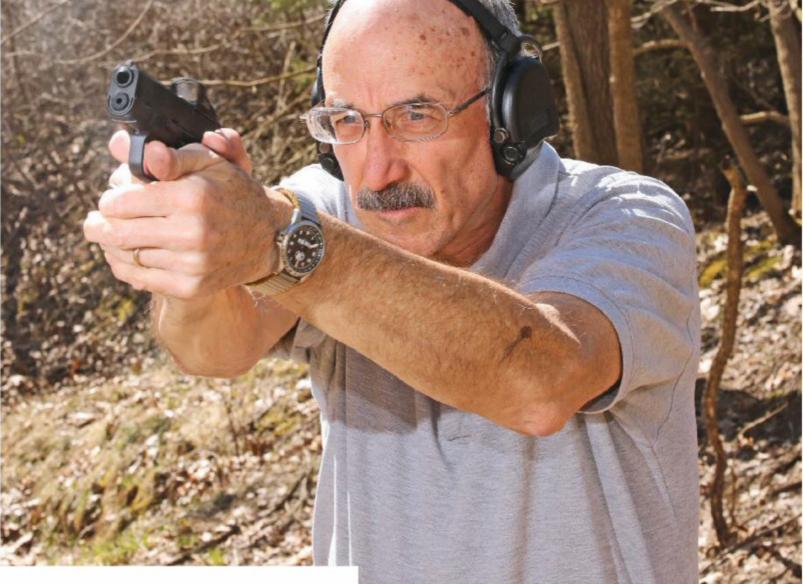
Well, no one wants a .40 anymore.

So, Springfield made the magazines the right size to hold 9mms. There is never going to be a 40 Hellcat, so there is no point in using a compromise 40 magazine. That's what makes the Hellcat both so compact, and still holding so much ammo.

The magazines have witness holes on the back as well as having the holes marked for capacity. The tube also has dual magazine catch slots. On the front, they are stamped "9mm" but that strikes me as overkill. One, try at stuffing a .40 in there, and you'll realize that these are 9mm-only magazines. But, here's always someone who didn't get the memo, hence the marking.

The standard flush-fit magazine holds eleven rounds of 9mm, with one in the chamber. You can get a standard-length magazine with a small finger lip on it, also holding eleven rounds. Or you can jump up to the extended magazine (not extended by much) and that not only has a finger-swell baseplate, but it holds thirteen [Cont. to page 36]





Recoil is quite manageable with the Hellcat.

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To disassemble, unload and lock the slide to the rear.

Pivot the disassembly lever up, and ease the slide forward.





[Cont. from page 34]

rounds. The extended magazine also has the AGT panels on the sides of the baseplate, which is itself sized to continue the exterior shape of the frame. It is like having a full-sized (or at least, compact instead of microcompact) frame and a short barrel and slide.

If finger-swell basepads aren't your thing, Springfield includes a flat, flush basepad in the box with the Hellcat.

Now, the OSP. The standard Hellcat models are built with regular sight systems. They also have the rear slide serrations machined to run up and over the top of the slide. You can score a Hellcat with a fiber optic front blade, if that's what you want. On the OSP, the rear serrations are subdued where they run over the optics plate. There are two torx-head screws that hold the plate in place. Remove those and you can then install a red-dot optic.

Underneath the plate you'll find locating studs, to

One detail that I like is that the optics plate does not include the rear sight, that stays on the slide. So, swapping the plate for an optic doesn't change the rear sight, and the optics bed is machined low enough that you can still see the iron sights through the optics window.

The end result is an every-day carry pistol in 9mm that holds twelve or fourteen rounds, with a red dot. A pistol so compact you can easily carry it in comfort.

Now, the designers and shooters at Springfield were quite happy with the Hellcat (Mental video of assembled Springfield staff, holding up pre-production Hellcats, to the sound of trumpets announcing progress), but pre-production isn't real-world. So, one of the first production guns was hauled off to a nearby range over a weekend, and four of the staff (with some extra volunteers) spent their time running 10,000 rounds of American Eagle 115-grain FMJ They had four rounds fail to go off the first time the striker whacks into them, but they all went off the second time around. Four in ten-thousand? Works for me.

The grip circumference of the Hellcat is small, and I find it reminiscent of a 1911 with trim grips. The Hellcat is a little more square-ish, but not a problem. And not noticeable after a bit of shooting.

The trigger is interesting in feel. There's a bit of light take-up, and then the trigger pull gets heavier. Then it rolls, as if it were a very short double-action trigger, with an unpredictable let-off. The reset is short and brisk. In all, a very nice, and useable, trigger for a pistol that has a striker to ignite the primer.

Takedown is easy. Unload the pistol. Remove the magazine. Lock the slide to the rear. Rotate the front end of the takedown lever (that's the one forward of the trigger, on the left side) one-quarter turn up. Grab the slide, and release the slide lock, while easing the

take the jolt of recoil, and bolt-down holes that have been threaded for your red-dot. Now, the instructions for installing a red-dot are quite clear. First, you have to be using a metric-thread screw, specifically M4-0.7. That's the easy part, because your red-dot will in all likelihood come with these.

But, the slide only has so much room, or steel. The holes can only be so deep. So, you must measure the protrusion of the screws out of the bottom of your red-dot and ensure that they are no longer than 0.095" long. This should not be a problem, as everyone involved knows what the deal is, as far as getting red-dots bolted to pistols is concerned.

ammo through it. (The poor thing.)

[Cont. to page 38]

CHRONOGRAPH AND ACCURACY DATA						
Ammunition	Bullet weight (gr.)	Velocity	Es	sD	Accuracy (in.)	
Norma	108	1,149	52	18.7	2.6	
Archon	124	1,002	31	12.1	2.7	
Hornady XTP	147	944	34	14.6	2.3	
Federal HST Micro	150	881	16	7.0	2.5	

Accuracy results were to be averages of 3, 5-shot groups at 25 yards off a Champion shooting rest. Velocities are averages of 10 shots measured on a Labradar chronograph set to read 15 feet from the muzzle.

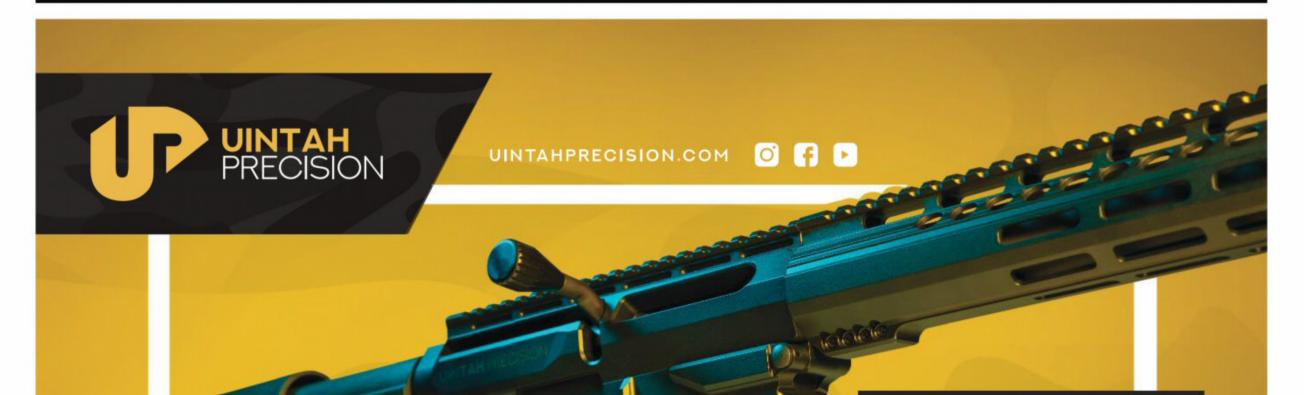
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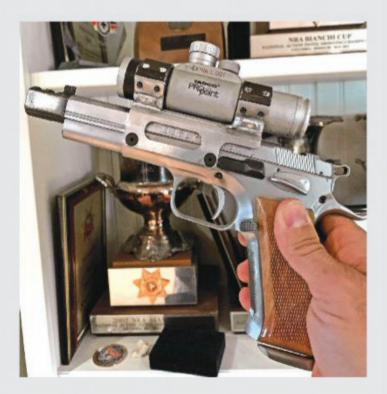
[Cont. from page 36]

slide to its forward position. Once there, dry-fire it, and the slide assembly will now come forward off of the frame.

From here the process is the usual, pry the recoil spring assembly out of its seat in the barrel, then tip

HISTORY OF RED-DOTS

The first red-dot sighting that moved the needle came at the 1990 USPSA Nationals. There, Jerry Barnhart used a red-dot optic (by today's standard, huge, with a narrow view and dim image) to thoroughly kick our butts. It made such an impression that within a few months, Doug Koenig had installed a red-dot on his pistol and used it to win the IPSC World Shoot. By the next season, if you didn't have a red-dot on your pistol, you were not going to win anything. The early years were... interesting. We basically had to fabricate mounts ourselves. Doug even went so far as to weld his together, to make it fit his pistol.



This is the pistol Doug Koenig used to win the 1990 IPSC World Shoot. Yes, the rings are welded to the base. Hey, it was 1990, remember? Who had pistol scope mounts then?

1991 was my last year with an iron-sighted pistol, and while I actually managed to place in the top ten in at least one stage at the Nationals that year, I was also building a pistol with a red-dot optic. By then we competitors had gone through two or three generations of optics, and had heinously modified them along the way. By the 1999 IPSC World Shoot, I was using a Modified Division gun that had the red-dot fitted into the slide, not on an external mount. I wrote soon after that that a red-dot optic would in the future be a daily carry, or duty, option on a pistol, just as it was becoming for rifles. If only my ability to pick lotto numbers matched my ability to predict firearms trends. the barrel and pull it down and backwards out of the slide.

The frame has the fire control parts assembled into a chassis that is pinned into the polymer shell. The chassis is not meant to be removed from the shell. This is not a modular design, so don't; go whacking on the pins with a punch and hammer, they aren't meant to come out. The various parts for the Hellcat can be cleaned by the usual methods, with the exception of the red-dot optic. If you have an OSP, and a red-dot on it, you won't be able to run the slide through your ultrasonic cleaner. That's a small price to pay, to have the speed and accuracy of the RDS.

Reassembly is easy. Put the slide, barrel and recoil spring back together. Make sure the takedown lever is still up. Line the slide up on the frame and run it back to full recoil position. Lock the slide back and lever the takedown lever back to horizontal. That's it.

The trigger of the Hellcat was a great aid in accuracy testing, along with the RSMc red-dot sight. Usually, with a pistol this small and light, accuracy testing is an ordeal, and tests the shooter as much as the pistol. The Hellcat gave excellent results.



This is a typical group from the Hellcat, and the credit should go to the really nice trigger, and the red-dot optics.

SPECIFICATIONS SPRINGFIELD ARMORY HELLCAT PISTOL

Туре:	Hammer-fired semi-automatic
Caliber:	9mm Parabellum
Capacity:	11+1 rounds and 13+1
Barrel:	3"
Overall length:	6"
Weight:	18 oz
Finish:	Melonite, polymer
Grips:	N/A
Sights:	Tritium U-Dot or RDS
Trigger Pull:	5 lbs., 9 oz.
Manufacturer:	Springfield Armory, 800-680-
	6866, SpringfieldArmory.com
MSRP:	\$599 (RDS extra)

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SPRINGFIELD ARMORY HELLCAT OSP





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onstantine the Great was the world's first Christian Emperor. But he didn't start out that way...

Ruling from A.D. 307 to 337, Constantine began as many

of his reign as a worshiper of Sol Invictus, "The Unconquerable Sun." But after a vision of the Cross led to his victory at the legendary Battle of the Milvian Bridge, and later to him being crowned sole Emperor of the Roman Empire, Constantine shifted his beliefs.

Believing that Sol Invictus and Christ were one and the same, Constantine legalized Christianity, allowing it to flourish. He merged the worship of Sol Invictus and Christ, creating religious practices still observed by modern-day Christians. And he authorized the striking of this Nummus coin—the first true coin of a Christian Empire, and thus the most important coin of Christian history.

TWO RELIGIONS BECOME ONE

To help convert the Romans, Constantine associated Sol Invictus with Christ:

- 🔆 On December 25th, the Romans honored Sol with a winter solstice feast. Under Constantine, this became a celebration of Christ (Christmas).
- 🗱 In A.D. 321, Constantine declared "Sun Day" as a day to rest and worship Sol Invictus. Upon converting, Constantine kept Sunday as the new Christian day of rest (instead of Saturday).
- Constantine merged the celebration of Christ's resurrection with that of the vernal equinox, moving Easter to the Sunday after the first full moon of the equinox.

FROM "SUN GOD" TO "SON OF GOD"

Approximately 20 mm

Constantine used the image of Sol Invictus to spread the Christian gospel, this is truly the first coin of Jesus Christ!

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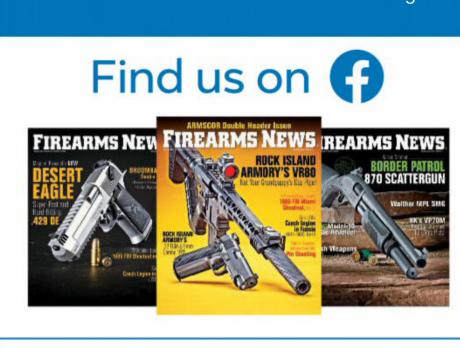
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Giving the American Market What It Wants and Needs

By James Tarr

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While not the subcompact that its name would imply, the HK VP9SK-B is a very viable CCW pistol that comes with three magazines and night sights. The 'B' version sports an Americanstyle magazine release.



eckler and Koch (properly pronounced 'Coke') introduced the VP9 in 2014. It was not their first striker-fired pistol, and far from their first polymer framed gun — for example, the HK VP70 machine pistol was produced in the 1970s and is a polymer-framed striker-fired gun.

HK has seen so much success with the VP9 that they are now offering a number of different versions, including one in .40 S&W (the VP40), an "optics ready" model, and a compact version, the VP9SK. They're also updating the design, for example upgrading the magazines for the full size model from 15 rounds to 17.

For this special CCW issue, I secured a sample of the new VP9SK-B, which is perhaps the version of this design most suited to concealed carry. Not only is it compact, but it comes with three different magazines and night sights, and an American-style pushbutton magazine release (which is the 'B' model). The full-size VP9 has a 4.09-inch barrel and flush magazines hold fifteen (soon to be 17) rounds of 9mm. It is roughly the size of a Glock 17, which means it is a bigger pistol than what most people are willing to carry. The VP9SK model, on the other hand, has been reduced in size for carry. The barrel has been shortened to 3.39-inches, and the grip shortened by nearly three-quarters of an inch so flush magazine capacity is ten rounds. Now for your brief German lesson. The VP stands for Volkspistole, literally 'people's pistol'. Which is ironic, considering the restrictive process in which

German citizens must go through in order to own handguns. (In Germany, this pistol is officially the SFP9.) The SK stands for "subkompakt" which I think even Antifa members wouldn't need me to translate into English, but I'll do it anyway - SK means "sorta compact." Because, apparently, Germany has a different idea about what constitutes a subcompact pistol than most Americans. The 'B' in the title means it has an American-style pushbutton magazine release instead of the VP9's original paddle magazine release. Knowing HK, I'm sure the 'B' stands for "bad Americans," but again I digress.





Overall, the SK-B is 6.61 inches long, 4.57 inches high, and 1.31 inches thick, weighing 23.07 ounces with an empty magazine in place. It's not the length and height which I think push this pistol out of the subcompact category (it is the same height as a S&W Shield and only half an inch longer) it is the thickness of the gun. For its size it is a very thick gun, which might make it harder to conceal than you might expect from a "subcompact."

Please, don't for a minute think this is a criticism. Small guns are easy to carry and hard to shoot, which is why I've always been a fan of carrying a big gun and dressing around it. Depending on which magazine you've got in this pistol (more on that in a second) the VP9SK-B is eminently concealable with the right holster/belt/covering garment combo, while shooting as well as many full-sized pistols.

The VP9SK-B is a limited production run of the VP9SK. All the B models fall into the "limited production" category, although HK is selling more of them in the US than the standard VP9 with its bilateral paddle magazine release. The polymer pushbutton magazine release of the B model is reversible. HK has a brief video on the product page for this





pistol showing how to reverse the magazine release, and it is simple — all you'll need is a flat-head screwdriver and a few seconds.

To HK's credit, they came out with a completely new gun when they designed the VP9. Yes, it does look a lot like their P30, but how many people even know what an HK P30 looks like? HK historically has done a mediocre job of selling themselves to the U.S. consumer market, but that seems to be changing with HK USA.

First to clarify — the VP9 is not a (hammer-fired) P30 that has been retrofitted into a striker-fired gun (cough*SIG P250=P320*cough). While it shares a lot of the design points, and the P30 magazine, the VP9 is an all new design, one that takes full advantage of the striker-fired trigger system which allows for a much lower bore than you'll find on any other HK pistol.

The 3.39-inch hammer forged barrel and the slide sport HK's corrosion-resistant "hostile environment finish." As this pistol is made in Germany, you'll see the serial number on the frame, the slide, and the barrel, along with the proof house markings.

There are nicely aggressive flat-bottomed serrations front and back on the slide. They cover a lot of real estate, but the engineers at HK weren't that easily satisfied, they also equipped the pistol with "charging supports." These are polymer ridges that stick out from the very rear of the slide under the rear sight, behind the rear slide serrations, and provide for the ultimate in traction for people wearing gloves or with reduced hand strength. From behind they make the slide look rather fat, but from the side you might not even notice them.

When cocked the rear of the striker is visible through a hole in the back of the slide, and there is a small red dot on it. It does not protrude from the slide at any time. The barrel has polygonal rifling which should be very familiar to anyone who has ever looked down a Glock barrel.

Unique to this pistol variant are the TruDot night sights, made by Meprolight. These are steel sights, and the tritium inserts have white outlines.



With the pistol you get three different magazines, three sizes of backstraps, three grip inserts for each side, a magazine loader, and a lockable case.



SEISMIC "HIGH MASS" 9mm AMMUNITION



Seismic Ammunition is a new brand with an extremely heavy-for-caliber 185-grain 9mm round. They are promoting it as high-mass ammunition.

d been hearing of Seismic "High Mass" Ammunition (SeismicAmmo.com) for quite some time, and after being subjected to a lengthy video featuring a well-known bearded tactical trainer espousing the merits of their 9mm load without providing any factual data (cough*undeclared paid endorsement?*cough) I purchased some to test it.

Seismic's heavy 9mm load features a 185grain bullet loaded as fast as possible to keep it still subsonic, an advertised 900–1050 feet per second depending on whether you're shooting it out of a pistol or PCC. It is loaded to 9mm NATO pressures, which equate to a light +P load. Such a heavy bullet in the 9mm cartridge isn't unheard of, I've read about Navy SEALs in the 1980s experimenting with 170-grain bullets in 9mm to maximize the performance while still keeping them subsonic for their suppressors. This ammo is designed to work best in larger (4-inch+ barreled) handguns.

The bullets are hollowpoints and have a black nitride coating. They are loaded into Shellshock NAS3 hybrid two-piece cases, which have a steel base and an aluminum body. These cases are lighter than traditional brass cases while advertised as being able to handle higher pressures. Seismic's slogan is "Heavier hits harder." In fact, rifles hit harder than pistols, and it's not because their bullets are heavier, it's because they're travelling significantly faster. However, you simply can't get that kind of velocity out of pistols, which is why Seismic's advertising for this round is all about the mass. *[Cont. to page 46]*



The VP9SK-B with a flush 10-round magazine inserted. Next to that is a 10-round magazine with extended finger hook, 13-round magazine with grip extension, and full-size 17-round VP9 magazine for size comparison.





The rear night sight is steel, tritium inserts with white outline rings. When the striker is cocked (as seen here) a red dot is visible at the rear of the slide. The polymer "wings" at the rear of the slide for improved grip are visible.

From the rear the polymer "charging supports" make the slide look fat.

More interesting than the sights, however, is the modularity of the grip. Like the P30, the HK VP9 offers both interchangeable backstraps and side panel grip inserts. Medium-size panels and backstrap were installed on my pistol from the factory, but the small and large ones were in the case in their own foam cutouts. All the backstraps and grip panels are marked S, M or L, and the grip panels are also helpfully marked Left or Right. The HK VP9's grip panels slide out to the rear after you've removed the backstrap. To get the backstrap off, all you have to do is push out what most of us would call a roll pin, but HK's engineers term a "clamping sleeve." I was curious if mixing and matching the different sizes would result in sharp edges or steps between panels and backstraps of differing sizes, but that's not the case. So, if you want a large right grip panel,

small backstrap, and medium left grip panel, go for it.

More important to your performance than the sights or the grip, however (at least in my opinion), are the magazines provided with the pistol. HK provides three — a flush-fitting ten-round magazine, a ten-round magazine with an extended fingerhook basepad, and an extended 13-round magazine with a grip extension. The front of the frame has two finger grooves, and most people will find two fingers are all they can get on the frame. Their pinkie will most likely be hooked around the baseplate of the magazine. This doesn't provide you with as much control as you might like, but of course carried this way the pistol is more concealable.

With the 10-round magazine with extended fingerhook you can get your entire hand on the pistol,





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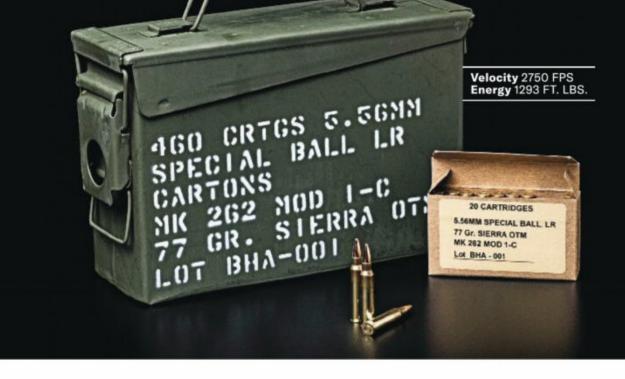


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The front sight is steel. There is a tritium insert with a white outline. The forward cocking serrations are nicely aggressive. The compact VP9SK pistols accept the original 15 or the new 17-round magazines meant for the full-size VP9 pistols, as seen here.



With the VP9SK-B you get all sorts of slide serrations front and back, as well as a three-slot tactical rail for mounting a light.

[Cont. from page 44]

but I don't see very many people using this magazine. Why? Because it is the same length as the extended 13-round magazine, and why go with 10 when you can have 13?

This pistol will of course accept the magazines meant for the full-size VP9. The original full-length magazines hold fifteen rounds, and new for 2020 are 17-round magazines. Personally, the 13-round magazine with grip extension makes this feel like a completely different gun, and even though it isn't as concealable that is the magazine I'd have in this pistol if I was carrying it. It vastly improves handling and controllability while shooting. In the "just because you say something a lot doesn't make it true" category of firearms hyperbole, HK continues to tout that the VP9 has a trigger pull that is "best in class." Now, admittedly, "best" is a subjective term, which makes it nearly disprovable by lawyers. The trigger pull on the VP9 series of pistols is very acceptable — just about as crisp as a striker-fired trigger pull gets, while not being too heavy.

I had to dig through the German HK website to find the official trigger pull specs for the VP9. The standard TR trigger pull is 30-35 Newtons, and their SF (Special Forces) trigger pull is 20–25 Newtons. For those of you still rejecting the Metric system, in addition to whatever the heck measuring system uses Newtons (Martian?), let me translate that into English for you: the standard trigger pull is 6.7-7.8 pounds, and the SF trigger is 4.5–5.6 pounds. Considering every VP9 or VP40 trigger pull I've tested has been under 5.6 pounds, it appears that HK has equipped the pistols heading to the US consumer market with their lighter SF trigger, which both surprises and pleases me. That makes them not quite as good as the Walther PPQ, but better than every Glock except, maybe, the Gen 5s. Trigger pull on my sample SK-B was 5.25 pounds.



Tarr fired the Seismic 9mm ammo through a pistol (Beretta 92) and a Ruger PCC (from left to right) into both bare gel, and gel covered with heavy clothing. The bullets expanded in bare gel (much more so when fired out of the PCC), but did not expand when fired through gel blocks covered in clothing, although they did penetrate deeply.

[Cont. from page 44]

This 185-grainer is called their Quakemaker +M (mass) bullet. I understand the love of heavy bullets. Heavy bullets usually mean deeper penetration, and you can't convince the bad guy to stop what he's doing if the bullets you're firing at him aren't reaching any of his vital organs. That is why a number of serious gun toters that I know choose 9mm defensive loads with heavy-forcaliber 147-grain bullets.

My experience has shown me, however, that by choosing 147-grain bullets you're almost guaranteeing your bullets won't expand, because of a lack of velocity. Even the best and most modern 9mm bullets in this weight only expand some of the time.

For this evaluation I chronographed and did ballistic gel-block testing with both a pistol and a PCC — in this case a Beretta 92 Elite LTT with a 4.7-inch barrel (which is a duty-sized handgun), and a Ruger PC Carbine with a 16.12" barrel.

Using an Oehler Model 35P chrono, out of the Beretta's 4.7-inch barrel the 185-grain bullet posted 894 fps. Out of the longer barrel of the Ruger PCC it did 992 fps. It remained subsonic even out of the longer barrel, and felt recoil was on par with most 9mm rounds. Velocities were very consistent between rounds, with standard deviations in the teens, showing good QC.

For gel block testing I used blocks from Clear Ballistics. Unlike true FBI-spec 10% ballistic

The trigger itself is polymer and curved, with a safety lever in the center. The trigger face has some tiny ridges to either side of the safety lever, which itself has a groove in it, so the trigger feels serrated gelatin these blocks are polymer, but provide similar results. Extensive testing by me in concert with the Black Hills Ammunition's ballistics lab, echoed by information I've received from Federal Ammunition, are that bullets expand the same in these Clear Ballistics blocks as FBI-spec gel blocks, however they will penetrate roughly 10% deeper than when fired into actual gel blocks, so keep that in mind.

I fired bullets from both the handgun and carbine into both bare blocks and blocks covered [Cont. to page 48]

[Cont. to page 48]

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The 'B' in the VP9SK-B means it has an American-style push-button magazine release. It is easily reversible, and low profile to prevent accidental activation.

The only difference between the SK and the SK-B is the magazine release, so all slides are marked SK. Both the takedown lever and slide release are low profile.

[Cont. from page 46]

with the FBI's "heavy clothing" barrier, which consists of two layers of cotton shirt material under a layer of cotton-poly sweatshirt under a layer of denim.

In bare gel the bullet fired from the Beretta penetrated 13.25-inches and expanded to .60", with 100% weight retention. Only the very front of the hollow point expanded. When fired through the carbine the bullet penetrated an even 16inches while expanding to .70", with again 100% weight retention. This is very good performance and honestly better than what I was expecting.

The FBI heavy clothing test is good because not only do bad guys usually wear clothes, but layers of fabric tend to slow down or prevent the expansion of hollowpoints, and that's what I found with this ammo. When fired out of the Beretta through the heavy clothing barrier, the bullet penetrated 21.25-inches and did not expand at all. When fired from the Ruger PCC through heavy clothing, the bullet penetrated the block 23.25inches and again did not expand.

Once you do the conversion from polymer to gel blocks even with the impressively heavy bullets these 9mms just barely exceeded the FBI's recommendation of 18 inches of penetration.

However, ... through the FBI's "heavy cloth-



With the VP9, not only are the backstraps interchangeable, but so are the grip inserts on the sides. Three sizes of each are provided with the pistol.

[Cont. from page 46]

under your finger, although the face of it is relatively However, the difference was not as great as I

ing" barrier the Seismic bullets didn't expand at all. I am unsurprised, this is very common with bullets that are "heavy for caliber." They're just not moving fast enough for their weight to diameter ratio.

If you have studied ballistic testing at all you know a standard 9mm NATO 124-grain FMJ round will penetrate ballistic gel 20- to 25inches, so if you're only concerned with penetration, buy some FMJ ammo. It's a heck of a lot cheaper than hollowpoints that probably won't expand.

flat, which is a good thing.

When I hit the range my goal unique to this pistol was to determine how much the different magazines (and their available gripping surfaces) affected shootability. I timed myself running a plate rack as well as timed strings of fire on an IDPA target, all at realistic defensive distances (7–10 yards).

What I discovered was that I could shoot as accurately with the flush ten-round magazine in place as I could with the larger magazines, just not as fast. If I shot as fast with the flush magazine in place when compared to the mags with the extended basepads, my accuracy suffered.

expected, no more than a ten percent spread, and usually less. The difference was in how much control I felt I had over the gun — the extended mags made my hands happier, but didn't produce as much difference downrange as I expected. I think this is due in large part to how controllable this pistol is. Because it is not, in fact, a subcompact, and that matters when shooting. Even with a flush magazine in place recoil is not abusive, the sights are prominent and set a decent distance apart, the dual recoil springs to absorb recoil, the wider gun which spreads recoil over a larger backstrap area — all of these things contributed. [Cont. to page 50]

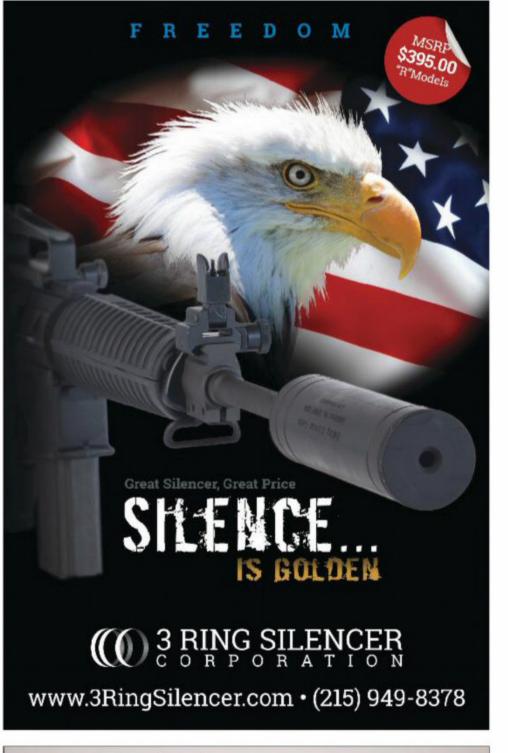












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[Cont. from page 48]

PAGE 50

I loaded up each of the three magazines with ten rounds apiece (in this case with Winchester's USA Ready 115-grain FMJ FP load) and at ten yards shot them at the center zone of an IDPA target, going as fast as I could while still keeping the hits inside the zone. It was not tough. In the accompanying photo you'll see the vertical stringing expected when you're pushing unfamiliar equipment hard and not quite timing your muzzle bounce right. However, the short flush magazine didn't produce the high and low rounds, my accuracy with it in place was just as good, I just had to shoot a tiny bit slower.

Personally, I like the way the 13-round magazine feels in my hand the best, and even though I barely perform any better with it, sometimes confidence is what you

need. Also, those three extra rounds. Sometimes three extra rounds are what you need ... and a reload on your off-side, using a full-length 17-round magazine, just in case you find yourself in the middle of a police-free "peaceful protest" that goes off the rails

The VP9SK-B is a newer pistol, and not that common. It will, however, fit into any holster designed for the standard SK, and there are a number of those out there. Actually, it will fit into any holster designed for the full-size VP9 as well, although it will be a little short. DeSantis Gunhide (DesantisHolster.com) is just one of many quality holstermakers which offers IWB and OWB holsters for this pistol, in both leather and polymer. They sent me one of their Mini Scabbards for the SK-B, which is a minimalist leather belt holster that tucks the butt of the pistol in tight to the body, and allows it to just disappear under a loose shirt. This is not a pocket pistol, so you will need both a quality holster and a belt to hang it on.

The Ultra Custom holster from 1791 Gunleather is leather over a layer of thermoplastic polymer, which can be molded to your specific firearm after heating. These tools help form channels for your front sight

when molding the holster to your gun.

Another intriguing option is the Ultra Custom IWB holster from 1791 Gunleather (1791gunleather.com). Offered in several different sizes, depending on the general size of your pistol, this is a "user customizable" holster with an exterior leather layer over a thermoplastic sheet inside. What does "thermoplastic" mean? It means you can heat up this holster and then form-fit it to your specific pistol, and when it cools it stays that shape. It provides you a hybrid holster that looks leather but performs (nearly) like a polymer/Kydex holster.

To close out this article, here's another brief German lesson, this one about history — traditionally, HK has just not offered true semi-auto versions of many of









The Ultra Custom holster from 1791 Gunleather, molded around the HK VP9SK-B. There are several different sizes of holsters to fit various firearms.

The Mini Scabbard from DeSantis Gunhide is a minimalist leather belt holster, one of many designs they make for the VP9SK. There is nothing like a leather holster.







Tarr experimented using the three different magazines, and while he wasn't able to shoot the pistol quite as fast with the flush magazine in place as the extended magazines, the pistol was eminently shootable with all three.

HECKLER AND KOCH VP9SK-B

Туре:	Striker fired	
Caliber:	9mm	
Capacity:	10+1 (13 round magazine provided)	
Barrel Length:	3.39 in.	
Overall Length:	6.61 in.	
Height:	4.57 in.	
Width:	1.32 in.	
Weight:	23.07 oz (with empty magazine)	
Construction:	Polymer frame, steel slide	
Sights:	3-dot Meprolight night sights	
Trigger:	5.25-lbs (as tested)	
Safeties:	Firing pin, mechanical (trigger lever)	
Accessories:	2 10-round magazines,1 13-round magazine and3 backstraps/grip panel sets	
MSRP:	\$849.00	
Manufacturer:	Heckler and Koch (706) 568-1906	



Ten rounds from each of the three different magazines, fired at 10 yards, as fast as Tarr could hit the center zone of the target. The short flush 10-round magazine slowed him down very slightly when compared to the extended fingerhook 10-round mag, and the extended 13-round magazine, but the pistol shot well with all three and was very controllable.

their storied military long guns, such as the UMP and G36 (don't you dare tell me the USC and SL8 count). This isn't because the German HK brass doesn't understand and doesn't like the US commercial market. Well, it's not just because of that, it is mainly because the German government restricts the commercial availability of firearms designed originally for their military.

When I first reviewed the VP9, I wrote how HK needed to offer a model with an American-style pushbutton magazine release, not because such a magazine release is superior, but because that's what American consumers want. However, the unofficial official HK customer service motto is, "You suck, and we hate you," so I sincerely doubted that would ever happen. I am happy to have been proven wrong.

I was told by an American employee on the US side of HK that things were changing and that they were making inroads against the stiff German leadership in regard to products for America, which is the single largest firearms market in the world. I am pleased to see this is more than just hyperbole. Between the American-style mag release buttons on the VP9 and the introduction of the SP5, so that we finally have semi-auto MP5 option made by HK, at a competitive price no less, they now seem to be producing the firearms American consumers want as opposed to the firearms they think the consumers should want. With HK now having production facilities in the US whose products will not be strangled by German law I am eagerly anticipating what comes next.

There are several versions of the VP9SK-B. The base model comes with one 10- and one 13-round magazine, and retails for \$740. This deluxe model with three magazines and night sights has an MSRP of \$849.

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HK-USA.com

HECKLER AND KOCH VP9SK-B

Load	Bullet Weight (gr.)	Velocity (fps)	SD	Avg Group (in)
Winchester USA Ready FMJ FP	115	1,121	22	2.9
Black Hills TAC-XP+P	115	1,109	14	2.7
Hornady Am. Gunner	124	1,085	7	3.7
Federal HST	124	1,103	12	3.2

Accuracy results are the averages of four five-shot groups at 25 yards from a sandbag rest. Velocities are averages of ten shots measured with an Oehler Model 35P 12 feet from the muzzle.





Rethinking your carry gun? Looking for something small and easy to conceal but easier to shoot and greater capacity? Consider SIG Sauer's P365.

SIG SAUER'S DESIGNATION OF THE SUBJECT OF THE SUBJE

gun, this is one to consider!

By David M. Fortier



HEARINGTON, NH USAL





ithout a doubt, more people than ever are thinking about self-protection, and looking to obtain both a pistol and a permit to carry. The question I've heard from many, especially those entirely new to firearms is: which pistol is best? Unfortunately, there is no blanket answer to this question. There is only which pistol best meets your particular needs and requirements, which are likely very different than mine. Now, that said one contender worth serious consideration is the SIG Sauer P365.

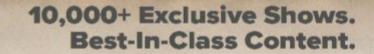
Why SIG Sauer's P365? Simply due to the fact that it meets so many requirements for concealed carry. It is small and fairly narrow making it very easy to conceal. Plus, it is light so you can carry it all day without noticing it. Better still, it is chambered for the 9mm cartridge, so it has the performance of a service pistol, but in a smaller package. For peace of mind, it has a capacity of 10+1, 12+1 or 15+1 depending upon which size magazine you select. What I like best though, is it puts all of these features into a pistol which is very easy to shoot well.

Before I delve further into the SIG Sauer P365 though, let's consider what you should look for in a pistol intended for concealed carry. There are some basic, but vitally important points you must take into consideration:

- 1. It must be 100% reliable.
- 2. It must be small and light enough so you will have it when you need it.
- 3. It must be accurate and ergonomic enough for you to be able to make rapid multiple hits at realistic distances with it.
- 4. It must be of heavy enough caliber to be effective in a life and death struggle.



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Caliber selection is important when choosing a pistol for personal protection, the 9mm (2nd from left) offers good terminal performance, high magazine capacity and controllable recoil.



The J-frame .38 Special and Glock 43 9mm are good carry guns, but with the threat of angry, violent mobs they may not be the wisest choice.

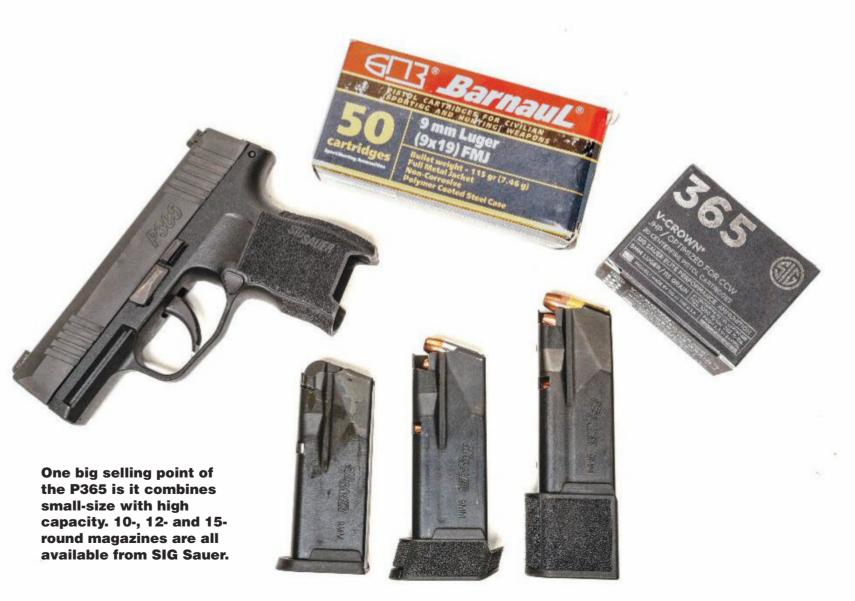
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This all sounds relatively straightforward. To a novice though, especially standing in front of a crowded display case at a gun store, it can be a bit overwhelming. There are just so many different makes, models, calibers and options. Trying to figure out which one is "best" can seem like a daunting task when all you have to go on is a bit of online research and what the guy at the gun store recommends.

Two common mistakes when selecting a carry pistol are going either too big/heavy or too small. Of the two, I think going too big/heavy is by far the worst choice. If you choose a pistol which turns out to be too large, bulky or heavy for your particular needs, you will probably not carry it day in and day out. Remember rule number one of a gunfight, have a gun. All too often though, someone selects a carry piece which is physically too large and heavy for them to realistically carry on a daily basis, like they should. Once their short love affair is over, it ends up living in their safe, or on their nightstand. Key point to remember, you don't know the day or hour of an attack, so you and unfortunately poor terminal performance. While quite "lethal", these small calibers may not have the immediate desired effect on your attacker.

Then there is what many consider to be the "ideal" class of pistols for concealed carry. These are compact single-stack 9mm autos such as the Glock 43,

compact .380 ACPs, and J-frame, and similar size, .38 Special snub nose revolvers. This group is small, light, and easy to conceal while having acceptable terminal performance. Their downside is they can be hard to shoot well and the limited amount of ammunition they carry. [Cont. to page 58]



must always be ready. A carry pistol isn't a fashion statement; it's a way of life.

The flip side of this is choosing something tiny and "cute" in a poor performing caliber such as .22 LR, .22 Magnum, .25 ACP (6.35mm Browning) or .32 ACP (7.65mm Browning). Ultra-compact pocket pistols have long been popular, despite their underpowered nature. Due to their small size they are easily carried, so you are more likely to actually have it when you need it. Being easily concealed, even in summer attire, is their great virtue. This is what makes them great back-up guns. Due to their tiny nature they can be difficult to shoot well, often have hard to see sights,



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[Cont. from page 56]

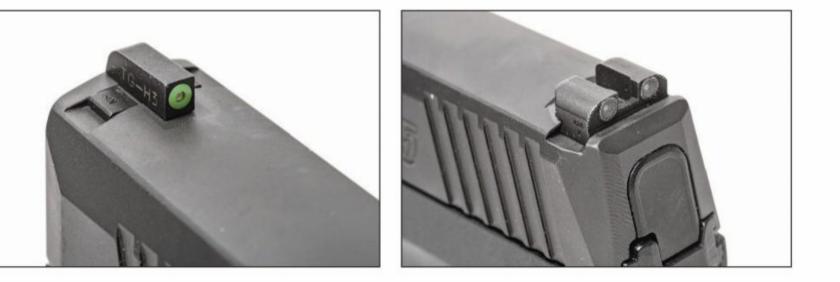
This last point, their limited ammunition capacity, has recently led many to re-evaluate their suitability for concealed carry in light of current events seen on social media and the news. Five to seven rounds seems plenty for a typical self-defense situation involving one or two assailants. But, what if, rather than one or two, you are faced with an angry violent mob? A mass of violent people which makes you fear for your life, and the lives of your loved ones.

The news is filled with outbreaks of civil unrest showing how quickly certain areas can descend into utter chaos. In such situations large groups typically roam in packs. They often block roadways attacking any who happen to drive by. In such situations you are likely to face a large number of armed and unarmed attackers, who will move quickly to surround and overwhelm you. It's not the ones in front of you that are the greatest threat, but the ones circling behind you, watching, waiting for their chance to blind-side you. Once you are off your feet and the mob descends on, well, you know what happens next. In such a situfired, and so dampens a bit of the felt recoil. Size-wise it is slightly shorter in the slide and the butt than a Glock 43 single-stack pistol. The first thing I thought when I took it from its box was, wow this is small.

The next thing that came to mind was how good it felt in my hand. While this is very subjective, the curve of the backstrap, texturing, undercut trigger guard and general contour of the frame fit my hand very well. It's important to find a pistol which fits you well, and the P365 just seems to fit a lot of people. This is a real plus.

Next, I noted the X-RAY3 day/night sights on top of the slide. These are bold, easy to see yet contoured to not snag during your draw. The front sight features a green donut with a Tritium insert for lowlight use. The robust rear sight features two Tritium inserts. The sights are dove-tailed into the slide, and are a real aid to getting the most out of the P365 on the range. Controls consist of a push-button magazine release, slide release and take-down lever. The magazine is triangular in shape and well placed. The slide release is fairly small and unobtrusive.

Then there is the trigger. I have spent decades carrying a Glock, and have gotten used to a generic, nothing-to-write-home-about, but serviceable trigger. The P365 though is different. It is blessed with a very good out-of-the-box trigger, which is definitely an aid to making accurate and quick hits on target. The trigger pull is very smooth, and breaks cleanly. While not



ation a 5-shot snub nose revolver or .380 Auto isn't a real confidence builder.

While it's true there are certain situations where you simply can't win, I suggest carrying a handgun which will let you solve any problem that can be solved with a pistol. For daily concealed carry one such option is SIG Sauer's P365 9mm pistol. So, let's take a closer look at this interesting and popular design.

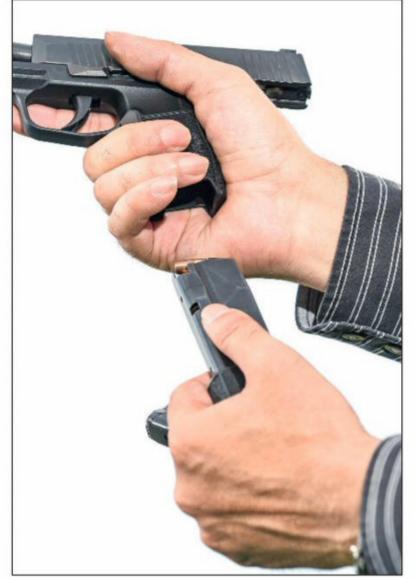
SIG Sauer describes their P365 as a Micro-Compact pistol sized for everyday carry. That pretty well sums it up. It is a polymer frame striker-fired design with a stainless steel slide assembly. The polymer frame reduces weight, and it flexes a bit when the pistol is

The snag-free X-RAY3 day/night sights are bold and easy to see. The front sight features a green donut with a Tritium insert for lowlight use. The robust rear sight features two Tritium inserts. The sights are dove-tailed into the slide and are a real aid to getting the most out of the P365 on the range.



The SIG P365's trigger is very good for its intended usage, being smooth with a clean break.

A look at the P365 stripped down, which is easily accomplished. Note the short 3.1-inch barrel and metal guide-rod assembly with captured dual springs.



a match trigger regarding pull weight, it is quite good for its intended purpose. The trigger blade is a curved design, which may not be as attractive as the current in-vogue straight blade to some, but it is quite comfortable. I like the factory trigger a lot.

Barrel length is a short 3.1 inches. Operation is via short-recoil with a tilting barrel. Beneath the barrel is a metal guide-rod assembly with captured dual springs. Overall length is 5.8 inches with a height of 4.3 inches and width of just 1.06 inches. Size-wise the P365 dropped right into my Glock 43 DeSantis polymer holster. The SIG Sauer P365 carries very well, and I do not even notice it is there. This is partly due to its light weight, which is only 17.8 ounces unloaded. Adding a loaded magazine will add a bit of weight, and this is an important topic I will cover next. The one thing many do like about the various single-stack compact 9mm pistols on the market is their limited magazine capacity. SIG Sauer addressed this with their P365. You can choose a flush fit 10round magazine, a slightly extended 12-round magazine or a noticeably extended 15 rounder. So, capacity is not an issue with the P365. This provides a bit of peace of mind. Some will opt to carry with the flush fit 10-round magazine and carry a 12-round magazine as a spare. I carry with the 12-round magazine locked in place giving me 13 rounds on tap, and carry a spare 15-round magazine. That is 28 rounds total, in a very small package. This is a huge selling point to many

people, and a feature that really attracted me to the design.

While SIG Sauer's P365 has a real advantage over, say Glock's popular 43, on paper, what about on the range? Does the P365 offer a real advantage over the Glock 43? This was easy enough for me to find out. I have been carrying a Glock 43 for a couple years, and know what it is capable of. So, I began with some informal range testing as soon as the P365 arrived. Frankly, I was excited to get it out onto the range and to put some rounds through it.

Starting at 15 yards I fired a few rounds slow-fire to get a feel for the P365 after firing my Glock 43. Then I began shooting steel silhouettes and plates. My initial impressions were entirely positive. For me, I found the P365 easier to shoot then my Glock 43. I have to work much harder with the Glock 43, just due to the dynamics of the design. The P365 just seemed much easier to hit with. So, I did a basic "Walk Back" drill starting at 15 yards. My target was a steel silhouette. Rules were simple, fire one shot, and if it was a hit walk back away from the target to a different yard line and fire another shot offhand. The goal was to work my way back until I missed. Keep in mind, this is advertised as a Micro-Compact pistol. I went from 15 yards and slowly made my way back to 50 yards, then 75 yards, and found myself on the 100 yard line. Carefully pressing the trigger I was rewarded with a hit, and continued back. I was surprised to find myself on

You can carry the short 10-round, or slightly longer 12-round magazine in the gun and keep a 15 rounder as a spare.





the 135 yard line when I finally missed. I came away extremely impressed by how well this little 9mm pistol performed. It is simply easy to shoot well.

Next, I moved to the bench to do the boring part of testing. Here I fired four five-shot groups with four different loads at 25 yards. Velocity was measured at the muzzle with a LabRadar Doppler Chronograph. Groups were fired off a sandbag, nothing fancy. Keeping in mind just how small the P365 is, it did very well off the bench. The trigger is good for a concealed carry pistol, the sights are bold and easy to see and the recoil is quite controllable.

I can remember testing a Kel-Tec PF-9 and found the recoil to be very snappy, and it was not a particularly pleasant pistol to shoot. The P365 has none of the PF-9's bite, and I enjoyed my time on the range with it. Best accuracy was obtained using Black Hills 124-grain +P JHP load which averaged 2.5 inches at 25 yards. Average velocity of this load was 1,114 fps. Moving from the bench I ran the P365 through a variety of drills from two to 15 yards. Here I found it to be quick into action. Practical accuracy is very good and it's an easy pistol to run. Due to its small size and relatively light weight you can expect more muzzle jump than a larger and heavy 9mm. This does slow down follow-up shots a tad. But, in my opinion it performs very well for its size, and I greatly preferred it over my Glock 43.

During drills I noticed that due to the shortness of the grip, my hand could prevent the magazine from falling free. I have medium-size hands and my pinky comes to the bottom of the extension on the 12-round magazine. If I move the pistol slightly in my hand to release pressure on the magazine baseplate, then it ejects cleanly. The recoil springs are on the heavy side and retracting the slide is slightly harder than on my Glock 43. With the short 10round magazine in place the grip is rather short making the SIG easier to conceal but slightly harder to shoot well. There is simply less to hang onto. The 12-round magazine adds a bit of length to the butt; however, it gives you just enough more to hang onto to make it well worth it. Plus, you get another two

rounds.

I suppose the real test is how well the SIG Sauer P365 actually carries. So, I carried it for six months before writing this review. The answer to this is simple, it carries very well. Its small size allows it to be tucked easily away. I found it comfortable for AIWB (Apendix Inside the Waist Band), even when seated in a vehicle. Its light weight lets you not even notice it's there as you go about your day.

OK, the SIG Sauer P365 has a lot going for it, but what about its cons? What don't I like about it? Well, let's be blunt, the design has had some reliability issues, especially when first released. Some customers reported problems with the slide not returning to battery. All of these gave me pause about considering the P365 as a carry pistol. This P365 has been

out a while now, it is not breaking news, but I waited

[Cont. to page 62]

SIG SAUER P365 — 25-YARD ACCURACY AND VELOCITY CHART						
Load	Bullet Weight (gr.)	Velocity (fps)	25 yards (in.)			
Black Hills +P JHP	124	1,114	2.5			
SIG Sauer Elite 365 FMJ	115	1,040	2.9			
SIG Sauer Elite V-Crown JHP	124	1,095	2.7			
Barnaul FMJ	115	1,128	3			

Groups are an average of four 5-shot groups fired from a rest at 25 yards. Velocity readings recorded using an Oehler 35P chronograph at an ambient temperature of 75 degrees F at 1,030 feet above Sea Level.



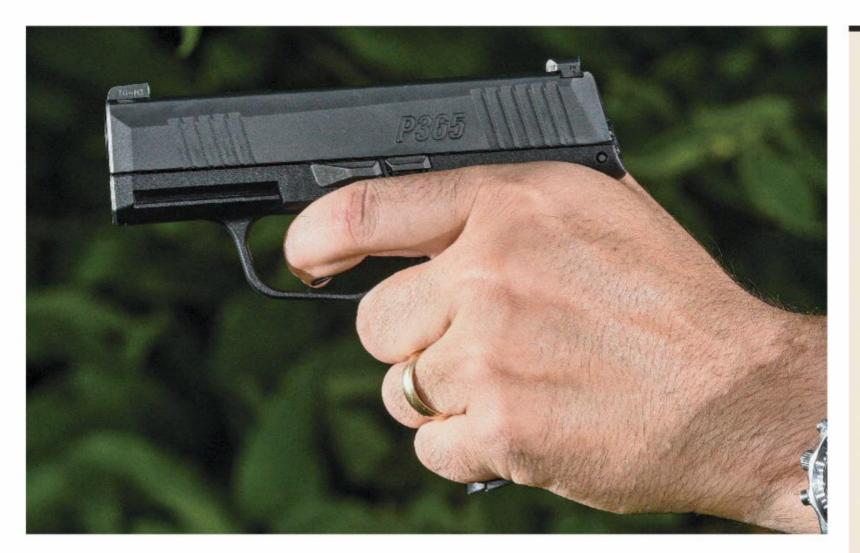
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Make no mistake, it's a small pistol and during drills I noticed that due to the shortness of the grip, my hand could prevent the magazine from falling free.



Here is a quick five rounds fired using economical Barnaul steel case 115-grain FMJ at 12 yards.

[Cont. from page 60]

intentionally. I finally requested a review pistol in August of 2019 and guess what; it couldn't make it through a magazine. It frequently failed to return to battery with any 9mm load I tried, including SIG Sauer's own ammunition. So, I sent it in for repair. It was turned around very quickly, arrived back and has functioned perfectly ever since. But, it did have problems out of the box. I tried two more P365s. One obtained directly from SIG Sauer, and another a friend purchased locally. Both of them ran flawlessly with zero issues. Keep in mind I received my first pistol in August of 2019. Once it came back it has run flawlessly ever since, for almost a year now. But, I waited and continued putting rounds on this gun waiting to see if any problems would crop up. They haven't, it runs fine, but this is what I experienced. My only other negative comment concerns the price of spare magazines. They are not



Practical accuracy of the SIG Sauer P365 is quite good and it's an easy pistol to shoot well.

inexpensive. I like to have a fair supply of magazines for any pistol I own, so this just adds to the cost of ownership.

My final thoughts? I never liked my Glock 43 the way I like my old Glock 23 or 19. It carried well, went bang when it was supposed to and that was it. I didn't particularly like shooting it. It was nothing more than a tool to me. The SIG Sauer P365 is different. I really enjoy shooting it; it's a fun gun on the range. I like its features and especially its trigger. For me, it is an ideal carry gun. A 12-round magazine in the gun and a spare 15-round mag and I'm good. I see no need to go back to a five-shot J-frame, or single-stack 9mm ever again. If you have been troubled by current events, and thinking about replacing your current carry gun with something offering increased capacity but without the size and weight, I'd suggest considering a SIG Sauer P365.

ee eese WANT A SIG SND **SAUER P365?**

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avidson's offers the GuaranteeD® Lifetime Replacement Warranty which backs all the firearms you buy through GalleryofGuns.com. It works like this: if anything ever goes wrong with any gun you buy with the Davidson's GuaranteeD® Lifetime Replacement Warranty, it will be replaced. If no replacement is available, it will be repaired at no charge to you. Simply return it to the retailer where you purchased it, pay for the return shipping and upon receipt Davidson's will ship the returning retailer a brandnew gun for you provided one is available. If a replacement is not available your firearm will be repaired for free. For complete warranty information please refer to the Guaranteed Warranty link found at the home page of GalleryofGuns.com. 💵

SIG SAUER P365

ALLER

Caliber:	9x19mm
Operation:	Self-loading with tilting barrel
Barrel length:	3.1 in.
Rifling:	6 groove, 1-10 inch twist
Trigger:	Striker, 6-pounds
Capacity:	10+1, 12+1 or 15+1
Weight:	17.8 oz.
Height:	4.3 in.
Length:	5.8 in.
Width:	1.06 in.

Sights: X-RAY3 Day/Night sights Finish: Nitron-finished stainless steel **MSRP:** \$577.99 Manufacturer: SIG Sauer (603) 610-3000 SigSauer.com

AMMO SOURCES
SigSauer.com
BlackHills.com



*Original coupon only. No use on prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase or without original receipt. Valid through 9/25/20.

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By Will Dabbs, MD



Reliable Reasonably-Priced Personal Protection

The SCCY CPX is an economical concealed carry pistol that was well ahead of its time.



The SCCY CPX is the concealed carry pistol for the common man. A quality inexpensive defensive arm, the CPX comes in a plain cardboard box with everything you need for basic personal defense and safe storage, and that includes three magazines!

he Springfield Armory Hellcat and SIG SAUER P365 have shaken the concealed carry world to its core with their compact geometry and impressive double stack magazine capacity. These two guns, rarefied though they undoubtedly are, remain quite expensive. However, it seems a gun company based out of Daytona Beach, Florida, introduced its own compact double stack 9mm concealed carry pistol years ago. The SCCY CPX is a time-tested, reasonably-priced deep cover defensive handgun that is good enough to save your life.

War Story

The young man worked in a local minimart and had never before squeezed a trigger. He watched the news

as do we all and felt burdened to protect himself in the face of life's many-splendored chaos. On his 21st birthday, his dad gave him an inexpensive SCCY CPX 9mm pistol.

The man applied for a concealed carry permit and was awaiting its approval. He then planned to get some firearms training and pack the little gun for real. On the day, he picked the pistol up at the gun shop he bought a box of 9mm ammunition and stored the lot in his book bag before reporting to work at the Quik-Stop. Unwilling to carry the gun without training and the permit, he stashed his bag in the break room at the store and got to work behind the cash register.

The bad guy was, as is so typically the case, a shortsighted opportunist. He barged into the minimart brandishing a weapon and relocated the young man and his coworker to the break room before securing them in place with duct tape. He then explained in unambiguous terms his intent to empty the cash register and then come back to kill them both. When the villain left the room to pilfer the till the young man knew he had minutes at best.

He wrenched himself free from his bonds and got to his book bag. Retrieving his new unfired SCCY handgun he quickly thumbed a few rounds into the magazine. Thusly equipped, he left the break room and confronted the aspiring murderer.

In the ensuing frenetic gunfight this young man fired four rounds, the first four of his life. Two of them connected. When the cops arrived shortly thereafter [Cont. to page 68]





From left to right are the SIG P365XL, the SCCY CPX-2, and the Springfield Armory Hellcat. All three guns are reliable concealed carry tools packing at least ten rounds of 9mm Parabellum in the magazine.

THE 9mm SCCY CPX



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Geissele SSA Trigger	add \$245.00 w/o kit \$275.00
KE Arms Drop In Trigger	add \$135.00 w/o kit \$165.00
Hogue Pistol Grip	add \$15.00 w/o kit \$20.00
ERGO SureGrip	add \$20.00 w/o kit \$25.00
ERGO Deluxe Tactical Grip	add \$50.00 w/o kit \$60.00
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Magpul 5.56 10 or 20rd\$14.00

Magazines

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	Noveske PIG KX5	\$135.00	AR1
	Smith Ent. Vortex	\$65.00	Arm
	Troy Midevil Flash Hider	\$45.00	Box
	YHM 28A		Bor
	Crush Washer	\$2.00	Bro
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Chamber Cleaning Stars	\$10.00
Gas Tube Cleaner 50pk	\$9.00
Handguard Removal Tool	
Military Sniper Manual	
Lower Receiver Vice Block	\$20.00
Upper Receiver Vice Clamp	\$25.00

[Cont. from page 66]

they found the terrified clerk performing CPR on the man who had just recently planned to kill him.

The police seized the young man's weapon as evidence. His father contacted the company to thank them for producing the tool that had undeniably saved his son's life. SCCY in return flew the young man and his dad to Daytona Beach to tour the factory, meet the employees who made the gun, and accept a replacement weapon free of charge. That was an incontrovertibly dark and horrible experience for the poor kid in that minimart. However, that, my friends, is what it's all about. A responsible citizen forced to face the darkness has the tools to transform himself from prey to predator. The good guy lives on as a productive citizen. The bad guy, not so much.

The Gun

SCCY is a reliably different sort of company. Where most gun manufacturers offer a cluttered catalog of sundry sizes, barrel lengths, and disparate designs, SCCY builds a single gun very, very well. That one gun is now available in either 9mm or .380ACP and features either a double action only or striker fired trigger, but the designs of both pistols are similar. This allows the good folks at SCCY to perfect their product.

The gun we reviewed for this project is the traditional CPX-2 DAO variant. The 9mm CPX-1 has the thumb safety. The 9mm CPX-2 does not. The CPX-3 is the .380ACP version without an external safety. The CPX-4 is the same .380ACP gun with the external









The 9mm CPX-2 is shown here flanked by a brace of CPX-3 .380ACP pistols. The basic chassis remains essentially the same throughout the line.

THE 9mm SCCY CPX



manual safety. The DVG-1 is the 9mm version with a striker-fired trigger.

I am diagnosably paranoid about handgun safety, but I am comfortable carrying the CPX without the manual safety. The long heavy DAO trigger is smooth and consistent from start to finish and mimics that of

a nice double action revolver. Firing the gun requires no extraneous thought, but it does necessitate some intentionality.

The indestructible polymer frame resists wear and abuse and features pleasant pebbling in the spaces that interface with flesh along with some smooth generic

finger grooves. The trigger guard is undercut to drop the bore axis as low as possible. The magazine release is a modest left-sided button in the expected spot.

Every SCCY CPX comes with two stubby tenround box magazines along with both flat and finger rest floorplates. These mags look like miniaturized versions of the sorts that feed your full-sized combat pistols. The flat floorplates minimize the gun's footprint, while the finger rest sort offer a spot to park your fifth finger and subsequently enhance control.

The tapered steel slide is built like a main battle tank with deep and aggressive charging grooves. All the edges are nicely beveled for a smooth easy draw.







The polymer frame is stubby enough to hide while filling the hand adequately to dissipate recoil.

The CPX's compact double stack magazine carries ten rounds of 9mm Parabellum.







Interchangeable floorplates allow for maximum concealability or optimal control.

The extractor is wildly overbuilt, and the top of the slide is laser grooved to reduce glare. The sights include three prominent white dots, and the rear sight is drift adjustable for windage. There is a left-sided slide release that is just the right size for easy access without snagging.

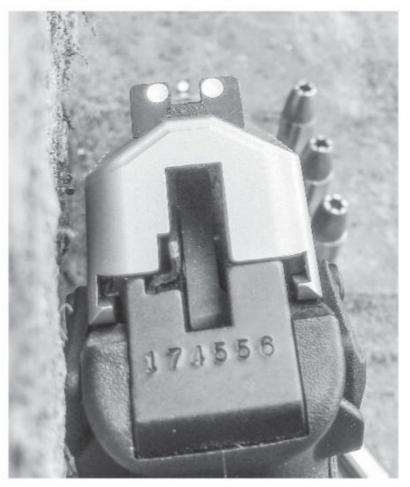
The safety is a pivoting thumb lever that features a modest protective ridge at the bottom to minimize the risk of inadvertent deactivation. The lever is oriented in reverse of that of the 1911. The pivot is at the front, and the lever bit points back at the shooter. Deactivation is intuitive and instantaneous. However, I find the protective ridge to be a bit uncomfortable for my tastes. I preferred the version not thusly adorned.

The SCCY CPX is as simple an autoloading handgun as mankind might contrive. The gun has all the [Cont. to page 72]





The left-sided controls are the perfect size and location.



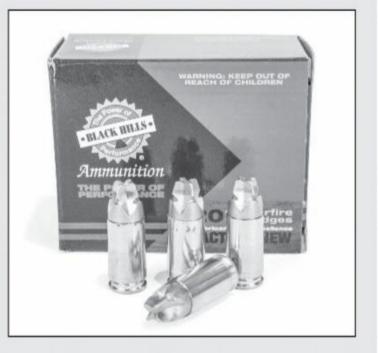
BEWARE THE FEARSOME BLACK HILLS HONEYBADGER

Black Hills Ammunition supplies ammo to some of the most esteemed military and Law Enforcement shooters on the planet. These guys clearly know how to make a superb product. Their line of HoneyBadger solid copper defensive ammo is radically different.

Black Hills offers their HoneyBadger line in nine different calibers. Each turned copper bullet is specifically optimized for the caliber and velocity. These unusual bullets are turned from solid copper and are not designed to expand at all. Think of them more like tiny little screaming airborne power tools purpose designed to foment mischief within the entrails of evil-doers.

The 9mm variants come in 100gr +P fast versions as well as 125gr subsonic loads. Even out of short-barreled concealed carry guns the 100gr rounds are blistering fast. Recoil is ameliorated over heavier loads, and downrange effects are fairly barrier blind and reliably catastrophic. Every round is loaded to Black Hills' exacting standards, and the fluted bullet design looks just scary as heck.

Black-hills.com



Laser engraved grooves help mitigate glare.

Simple three-dot sights get the job done without extraneous fluff.

The Black Hills Ammunition HoneyBadger round fires a solid copper defensive bullet designed to be effective via fluid dynamics rather than traditional malleable expansion.

THE 9mm SCCY CPX

CALL MAKE CALL A Us! 610.250.3960 AND ASK FOR CHOLLY, DAVE OR MARK **DAVE MICHELS CHOLLY STEEN** MARK DOTTEN PRESIDENT & CEO mdotten@sarcoinc.com mgdave@sarcoinc.com csteen@sarcoinc.com ext.224 ext. 223 www.SARCOINC.com 50 Hilton Street, Easton, PA 18042 **EXTRA SURPLUS TO SELL??**

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The manual safety is ideologically similar to that of a 1911 but oriented in reverse. The CPX-1 includes a prominent ridge underneath the safety lever.



[Cont. from page 70]

stuff you need without the fluff you don't, and the mechanical interfaces are perfect. Simple in the world of combat pistols equals uncompromising reliability. The unique recoil-driven action is described as the Roebuck Quad-Lock. This feature is named after the CEO of SCCY and designer of the CPX, Joe Roebuck. Joe is one undeniably fascinating guy.

If you've ever had eyeglass lenses ground while you wait Joe's machine did that. He also built a device that emplaces heart stents during coronary angioplasties. With several companies birthed, built, and spun off under his belt, Joe Roebuck focused his not inconsiderable mechanical and managerial talents on building the world's simplest, most reliable handguns. Joe told me that a passion for quality starts at the top, and SCCY is a reflection top to bottom of Joe's drive and gifts. Unlike literally every other gun company on the planet, SCCY builds every piece of their gun in-house. From the molded polymer frame to the machined steel slide to the magazines and individual small components, SCCY does it all underneath one really big roof. Joe told me that this was the only way he felt that he could control every piece of a machine upon which people's lives might ride. I guarantee you that young man in the minimart is a most fervent fan. The earliest SCCY pistols many years ago developed a reputation for problems. Joe had never built a



Joe Roebuck is the driving force behind the SCCY CPX.



The Proud Father of the SCCY CPX

I had the privilege of spending some time with Joe Roebuck in his Florida factory a few years ago. Joe is one of those unusual gentlemen who just doesn't seem to operate on the same plane as the rest of us. Like Thomas Edison, Elon Musk, and John Moses Browning, Joe Roebuck simply has a gift. A self-taught engineer, Joe started out working for Schrade Cutlery before becoming their head die maker. He then began designing his own products and building companies to market them. The impact he has had on the world is indeed prodigious.

Joe Roebuck is the singular personality behind SCCY firearms.

[Cont. to page 74]

THE 9mm SCCY CPX

PAGE 73

It's time to BE READY!



All you have to do is read the headlines to know why people all over the country are thinking more about preparedness. Whether it's catastrophic weather, utility breakdowns, terrorist attack or the collapse of civil order, millions of Americans aren't willing just to hope for the best. They are taking more active measures to get ready for the times when stopping at the grocery store or the ATM won't be options. **BE READY!** addresses the skills and supplies they will need to survive.

ON NEWSSTANDS NOV!





[Cont. from page 72]

gun before, and there is an inevitable learning curve. Over time he got the details worked out and the design polished.

How refined is the CPX nowadays, might you wonder? In 2016 SCCY sold 160,000 copies. In 2017, the first year of the Trump administration when the gun market was in a slump that number fell to 150,278.

Today, SCCY has the best warranty in the gun business. If your SCCY firearm fails, breaks, malfunctions, or hiccups for any reason SCCY will repair or replace it for free. That in and of itself is not terribly remarkable. However, if your gun is stolen send them a copy of the police report and SCCY will send you a new pistol. With all those hundreds of thousands of weapons in circulation the SCCY return department is one guy. I met him back when I toured the plant. He told me he was bored a lot.

How Does She Run?

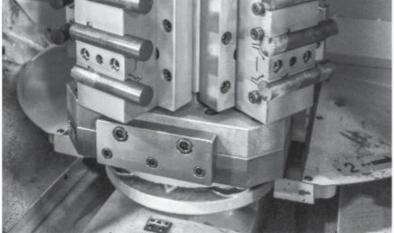
The SCCY CPX is like the Russian T34 tank. It is designed for a single mission. The CPX is intended to be easy to carry, easy to shoot, tactically accurate, and unflinchingly reliable. The CPX delivers on all points.

This gun falls comfortably in the palm of your hand. There is enough breadth to accommodate a standard set of human fingers without any extraneous ditzels or protrusions. The slide on my copy locks back reliably on the last round fired, and the empty magazines jump out of the butt like Leftist politicians fleeing responsibility. The overall chassis is compact enough for pocket carry if you are partial to baggy cargo pants. *[Cont. to page 76]*





SCCY makes all of their production fixtures in-house.



These steel bars are about to be cut into slides in the SCCY factory.

SCCY makes everything, even the magazines and tiny bits, in a single Florida production facility.



When I toured the plant SCCY was the fifth largest handgun manufacturer in the country. They make a lot of pistols.

THE 9mm SCCY CPX



PACKED with some of the most popular stories of the year!

Don't wait - they'll go fast!

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The SCCY CPX shoots plenty straight. These groups were printed at a typical seven-meter defensive engagement range.

[Cont. from page 74]

The gun fits the hand well and points naturally. The trigger pull is a smooth and predictable nine pounds, while the payload is 10+1 of 9mm Parabellum. The SCCY CPX is not a range toy. Given the gun's modest dimensions it jumps around a bit. The experience isn't painful or particularly unpleasant, but it isn't recreational.

If you want a pistol to use for plinking or keeping the burgeoning discarded beverage can population under control, then pick up a Ruger MK IV or a Walther P22. If you want a packable, powerful defensive tool that shoots straight, is easily concealed, and remains just dead nuts reliable then the CPX is your iron.

Denouement

When Joe set out to design the CPX he made an assessment of the gun market. The country was awash in expensive high-end plastic guns that cost half a grand or more. These combat handguns were undeniably effective but remained out of financial reach of the typical working stiff paying for a mortgage and diapers. At the other end of the spectrum were the cheap pot-metal gangster guns that didn't cost anything but were not packable and could fail in the crunch. Joe's gun was going to bring better quality than the Big Guys at a price within reach of the Common Man. Every single piece of Joe's CPX is built in one Florida facility by folks who know how to build guns. Joe backs up his baby with the best warranty in the industry. The SCCY CPX is easy to carry and conceal via a variety of platforms. At reasonable defensive ranges the CPX will drop its rounds right where you want them. All this and the MSRP for the CPX is about \$270. The street price is typically lower.

FEDERAL'S ONE-STOP SHOOTING SOLUTION

While our buddy in the minimart saved his life and that of others with the first four rounds he ever fired, most of us thankfully follow a different path. The capacity to carry and wield a defensive firearm safely requires sober decision-making and ample training. Federal Ammunition now produces a single product specifically designed to meet both training and operational needs. The Practice and Defend 100-Round Combo Pack covers all the bases.

Fifty rounds of Syntech Training Match ammo allow you to exercise your defensive pistol while minimizing metal fouling, barrel heat and friction, and splash-back from shooting hard targets. This dedicated training ammo is clean-shooting, reliable, and accurate. 147-grain bullets perfectly mimic the behavior, performance, and comportment of the corresponding defensive loads.

This same box also includes fifty rounds of highperformance HST Jacketed Hollowpoint defensive ammo. HST bullets expand reliably despite common barrier materials and consistently penetrate deep enough to get the job done. Developed as the result of generations of real-world law enforcement and defensive experience, Federal's HST rounds reflect the current state of the art. Both loads produce identical velocities, trajectories, and points of impact. Federal Ammunition's Premium Practice and Defend 100-Round Combo Pack is all you need to feed your primary defensive heater in one convenient box.

FederalPremium.com



Federal Practice and Defend ammunition includes two different loads with identical ballistics all in a single convenient box.

Though the CPX comes in a single chassis, it can still be ridiculously customized. Slides come in either black or natural stainless, while the polymer frames can be had in hues ranging from pedestrian [Cont. to page 78]

THE 9mm SCCY CPX

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PERFORMANCE — SCCY CPX-2 9mm					
Load	Group Size (in.)	Velocity (fps)			
Winchester Defend 147 gr. JHP	1.3	927			
Black Hills 100 gr. HoneyBadger	0.8	1,129			
Federal Syntech 147 gr. FMJ	1.1	899			
Federal HST 147 gr. JHP	0.9	877			

Group Size is best four of five rounds measured center to center and fired from a simple rest at seven meters. Velocity is the average of three shots fired across a Caldwell Ballistic Chronograph oriented three feet from the muzzle.

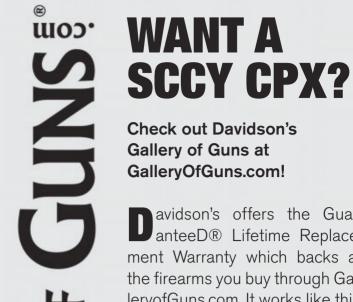
[Cont. from page 76]

to otherworldly garish with everything in between. No kidding, they come in eighteen different colors. If you're the sort who wants to blend into the crowd or color coordinate your defensive iron with your underpants, SCCY has the gun for you.

You can certainly spend more on a top-quality defensive handgun. Of course, you could also put your cash in a tidy pile and set fire to it as well. The SCCY CPX offers twenty-one rounds on tap should you care to pack the spare mag and runs as fast as your personal ability might dictate. The CPX is the Volkswagen of defensive handguns. Compact, utilitarian, and undeniably cool in an odd industrial sort of way, the SCCY CPX is a whole lot of peace of mind for not a lot of money.

S	CCY	CPX	-2

Caliber:	9mm Parabellum
Barrel Length:	3.1 in.
Width:	1.26 in.
Length:	6.01 in.
Weight (Empty):	15 ounces
Magazine Capacity:	10+1
Magazines:	2
Sights:	Steel Three-Dot Rear Adjustable for Windage
MSRP:	\$269.99
Contact:	SCCY Firearms (866) 729-7599 SCCY.com



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JALLERY OF





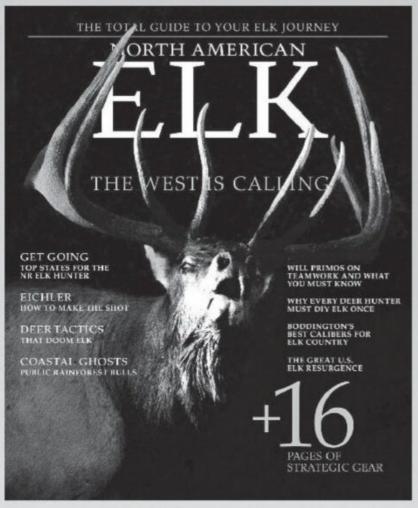
Compared to the SIG P365 (left) and the Springfield Armory Hellcat (right), the SCCY CPX is not too much bigger.

THE 9mm SCCY CPX

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RIO 8 RELIC

Czech CZ-82 9x18 Makarov semi-auto,

surplus sidearm featuring 3.9 inch barrel, black

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7.62 MM

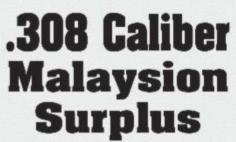
BALL L2A2

LOT 10 MAL 5-81

9x18 Makarov Brown Bear 94 Grain FMJ

Lacquered Steel Case Berdan Primed, Non-Corrosive

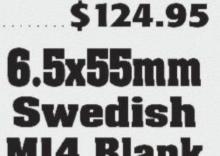
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CONGRESSMEN QUESTION ATF BRACE RESTRICTION PLANS

By David Codrea



G ongressman Matt Gaetz announced... the ATF is crafting secret rules restricting the possession of certain pistol braces by American citizens, and that he has sent them a letter demanding they stop," a June 16 Hot Take Press Room release reported. The letter, addressed to Attorney General William Barr and ATF Acting Director Regina Lombardo, was co-signed by Republican Reps. Neal P. Dunn, Bill Posey, W. Gregory Steube, John Rutherford, Ted S. Yoho, and Daniel Webster.

"We understand that ATF is currently considering restricting one arm brace model owned by over 700,000 Americans [and] strongly urge ATF to cease taking any actions and reconsider or rescind any secret determinations which call into question the legality of firearms owned by millions of law-abiding Americans."

ATF making and then changing its mind on rules that result in further infringements, not to mention economic losses for manufacturers and product owners — or loss of freedom for noncompliance — has turned out to be another way to enact bans that bypasses the representatives of the people. It does things by diktat that keep changing with the political winds.

Cases in point on braces:

as an SBR," ATF's Firearms Technology Branch Chief replied. "Generally speaking, we <u>do not</u> classify weapons based on how an individual uses a weapon. FTB has previously determined that the firing of a weapon from a particular position,

such as placing the receiver extension of an AR-15 type pistol on the user's shoulder, does not change the classification of a weapon. Further, certain firearm accessories such as the SIG Stability Brace have not been classified by FTB as shoulder stocks and, therefore, using the brace improperly does not constitute a design change." [Emphasis in original.]

So, no problem, right? Come and get 'em!

Then in 2015, NRA-ILA reported on ATFs "Open Letter on the Redesign of 'Stabilizing Braces'."

"Any person who intends to use a handgun stabilizing brace as a shoulder stock on a pistol (having a rifled barrel under 16 inches in length or a smooth bore firearm with a barrel under 18 inches in length) must first file an ATF Form 1 and pay the applicable tax because the resulting firearm will be subject to all provisions of the NFA," the reversed position stated.

Suddenly we had a problem. A huge problem, with life-destroying felony implications for anyone innocently caught up in a ridiculous bureaucratic net cast by people who either can't make up their minds or have their minds made up for them by hidden, politically-motivated string pullers. Fast forward to 2017 and it appeared everyone was happy again. Per a press release from SB TacticalTM: "An NFA firearm has not necessarily been made when the device is not reconfigured for use as a shoulder stock — even if the attached firearm happens to be fired from the shoulder," the reversed (yet again rule) assured everyone. "To the extent that the January 2015 Open Letter implied or has been construed to hold that incidental, sporadic, or situational 'use' of an arm-brace (in its original approved configuration)

equipped firearm from a firing position at or near the shoulder was sufficient to constitute 'redesign,' such interpretations are incorrect and not consistent with ATF's interpretation of the statute or the manner in which it has historically been enforced.""

Then in 2019, rumors were flying that ATF was once more on a reversal tear. This latest development seems to confirm the concerns were well-founded.

So, what's the issue this time around?

"Unbeknownst to the general public, ATF has ordained in private determination letters that it considers 'any firearm with a length of pull over 13-1/2 inches to be designed to be fired from the shoulder,' thereby making it a short-barreled rifle," the Gaetz letter observes. "However, ATF has also privately proclaimed that even firearms under this length of pull can be classified as a short-barreled rifle, if ATF identifies other (and often unspecified) applicable 'indicators.""

And the upshot of that?

"Even more troubling are reports that these non-

The Gaetz letter noted, "ATF initially welcomed the advent of pistol arm braces. In 2012, ATF correctly determined that the attachment of arm braces to large pistol platforms does not constitute the manufacture of a short-barreled rifle...subject to registration requirements under the National Firearms Act..."

In 2014, as Guns and Ammo reported, ATF advised a Colorado Police Department that had asked if "firing an AR-15 type pistol from the shoulder, specifically, if doing so would cause the pistol to be reclassified as a Short Barreled Rifle (SBR)."

"[W]e have determined that firing a pistol from the shoulder would **not** cause the pistol to be reclassified

public standards are being used to criminally prosecute unsuspecting gun owners. Given ATF's refusal to explain these standards, it is impossible for the public to comply with ATF's ever-changing body of secret law," Gaetz and company note. "To criminally charge an individual or threaten a company based on one ATF employee's opinion of whether an arm brace shares enough unpublished 'design features' with a shoulder stock is an appalling abuse of power and shows a blatant disregard for due process." Yeah, it's what they do. This business of conflicting rules is no surprise to those of us who have been

watching such things over the years.

In 2005, the Congressional Research Service published a memorandum regarding ATF firearms testing procedures. Among other things, it revealed that the ATF has "over 300 cubic feet of classification letters stored in file cabinets." The Bureau hasn't scanned any of these documents into a searchable database to assure consistency of interpretation, to identify and resolve regulatory conflicts. The extent to which this inconsistency has grown and compounded in intervening years is unknown and unknowable without a major organization and review effort.

The damn thing probably looks like the warehouse in *Indiana Jones* by now.

And it's not just the rules that are a crap shoot, so is the punishment for running afoul of them. We've seen Adverse Actions in the past where ATF was violating dealer license revocation rules in defiance of policy and law. That the situation was ultimately "happily" resolved had less to do with fixing internal problems than they picked a target (Brinks) with the resources, will and legal savvy to defend itself. Good luck to the little guy.

"[E]ven during very conservative administrations, like President Trump's, some do 'try to make it more difficult to acquire things that shooters need and gun owners need, for safety and for the unique circumstances that an individual may have," Gaetz continues. He's being unduly generous.

The president is who gave the green light to the "bump stock" ban (talk about legal, then illegal, then legal and now illegal again!), which has since been used to produce a court finding equating semiautos with machineguns. His "take the guns first, due process later" kneejerk raised red flags none of us who voted for him had counted on. He appointed gun ban-supporting William Barr as attorney general. He nominated former National Fraternal Order of Police President Kenneth Canterbury, a supporter of Eric Holder and Sonia Sotomayor, to be director of ATF. It's increasingly hard to champion a man who at times seems set on blowing it "bigly" and the only thing keeping some of us going is the prospect of Joe Biden and all that implies.

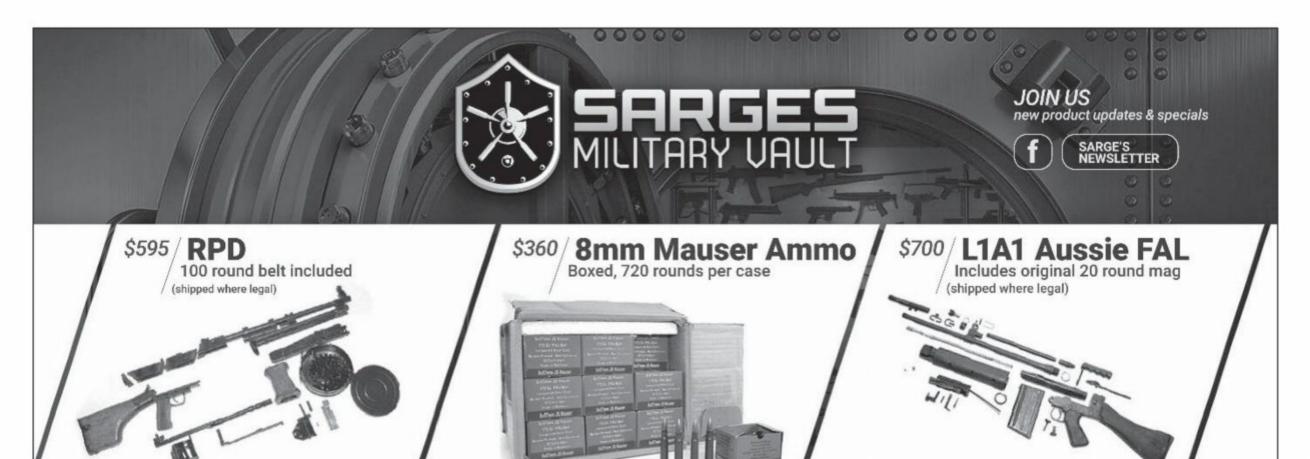
What would be very helpful to have at this point would be copies of the private letters Gaetz mentions, and to that end, *Firearms News* has contacted his office via email because those answering the phone are caught up in the COVID-19 shutdown. "What I am looking for are the 'private letters' listing 'objective design features," I wrote to the congressman's aide. "Realizing that recipients may not want their names made public, I'm wondering if you could provide copies with names and other identifiers redacted so that the firearms community could be informed of the specifics, and of who they came from. I would also be very interested in any for-the-record quote from the congressman in addition to what was stated in the letter and release."

That was a few days ago, and no response has been received at this writing.

About David Codrea:

David Codrea is the winner of multiple journalist awards for investigating / defending the RKBA and a long-time gun owner rights advocate who defiantly challenges the folly of citizen disarmament. In addition to being a regular featured contributor for *Firearms News* and AmmoLand Shooting Sports News, he blogs at "The War on Guns: Notes from the Resistance," and posts onTwitter: @dcodrea and Facebook.

CONGRESSMEN QUESTION ATF



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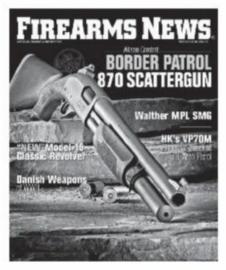
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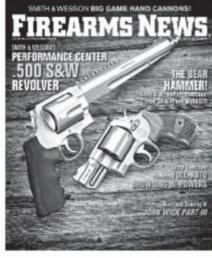
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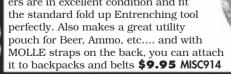






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\$8.95 M14117		AR10 Barrel Blank 22" 6.5 Creedmoor 1-8, contoured, T
6. M14 Handguard w/retaining clip, Fiberglass	DUTTZ Darrer Diami 20.0 .00 Car 4140 1 10 1.200 und.	Hub, thread, chamber
G.I\$12.50 M14005	\$49.95	AR15 Barre Blank 22" .224 Valkyrie 1-7 4140 TM,
7. M14 Handguard w/o retaining clip, Fiberglass		Contoured hub, thread, chamber
\$9.95 HNGD13	BB114 10/22 Barrel 18" 22Mag 1-16, SS .920 dia	3137 AR15 Barrel Blank 20" 450 Bushmaster 1-24, 4140 hub,
8. M14 Handguard, Walnut \$24.95 M14120		thread, chamber
9. M14 Op rod spring guide \$19.95 M14051	.920 dia	
10. M14 Recoil Spring, TRW Orig GI		AR15 Barrel Blank 24" 5.56 1-7 SS, Bull, hub, thread,
5/ \$29.95	BB118 Barrel Blank 9" 12 GA, Smooth bore, SS, 1.312 dia.	chamber, crowned
10/ \$49.95 M14052		AR15 Barrel Blank 8.5" 5.7x28 1-7 SS
11. M14 Rear Sight Aperture, .052 NM	Buile Blain 20.0 22 Cur I II, IIIO "O contource Blain	3140 AR15 Barrel Blank 12" OTD, SS, Legend 1-12\$
\$ 41.50 M14127	\$49.95	
12. M14 Rear Sight Aperture, .059 NM	BB121 Barrel Blank 24.5" 22 RF 1-16 4140, 1. dia\$49.95	
	New (Demol Display)	
	New 'Barrel Blanks'	I.30 CAL BARREL BLA
CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR A FULL	3 new 'barrel blanks' ready for your next project. Steel barrels, unfinished, with an O.I	Cutoff front ends with @9"+/- 1". Bore is n
LISTING OF M14 & M1	white and in 3 different calibers:	lands and success. Derfact for firearm proj
GARAND PARTS & ACCESSORIES!	Barrel Blank, 17 Cal., 23" long	
dimento di necessories.	Barrel Blank, 30 Cal., 18" long	\$35.95 BB0/8 3 for\$23.9
		<u> </u>



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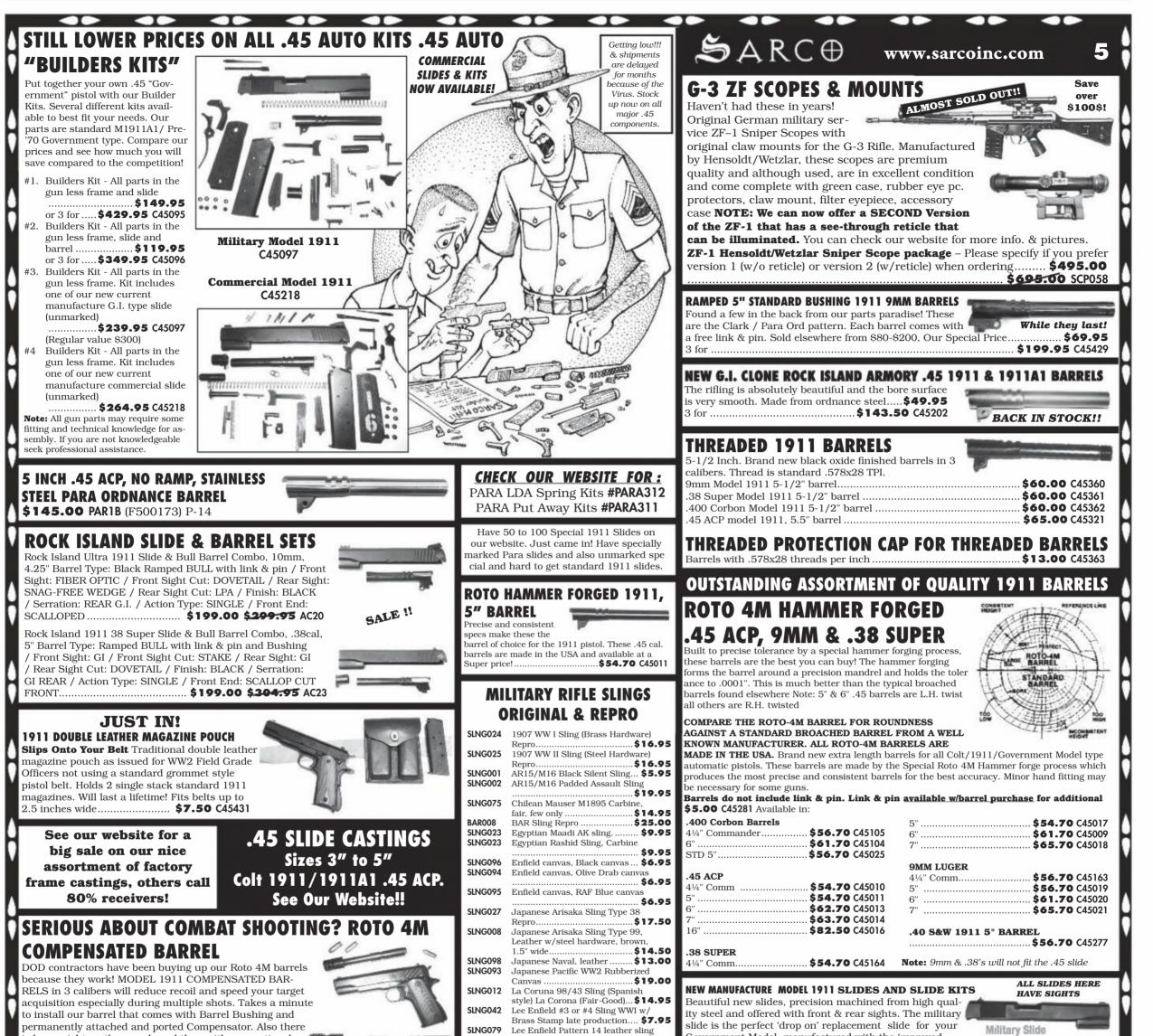
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	worn out drill rifle or regular Garand stock	 	\$59 . 95,
٦	3 for 20 for	 	\$169.95
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GARAND PARTS	GRD082 Clip Latch Pin			OIL016	Oiler, plastic & throng set, used, exc.	GRD375	Stock Ferrule Assembly, New
GRD330 Barrel G.I. Orig WWII Dated, poor bore & some	GRD083 Clip Latch Spring		\$20.00 Gage GI barrel diameter-gas cylinder .5991,		Operating rod G.I		Stock Ferrule Stripped\$
rust \$49.95 GRD002 Barrel "Clunker Grade" \$20.00	GRD214 Danish contract Garand oiler \$3.70 ,		\$75.00 Hammer\$24.95	GRD088	Op rod catch assy \$30.00 Rear Sight Aperture \$10.00		Stock Ferrule Swivel Stock Ferrule Swivel Screw
GRD071 Bolt (Complete) This Month Only! \$62.95 \$89.95	3 for		Hammer Pin		Rear Sight Assembly Late \$64.95 Rear Sight Base \$25.00	GRD027	Stock U.S. / G.I. Average, Used Condition
GRD070 Bolt (Stripped Used) This Month Only!	GRD077 Ejector Spring	GRD014	Hammer Spring Plunger \$4.00		Rear Sight Base National Match		Cracks \$4
\$41.95 \$59.95	GRD078 Ejector w/ Spring			GRD093	\$46.50 Rear Sight Cover	GRD024	Stock U.S. / G.I. Select, Used Cond
See our website for a complete	GRD363 Elevating Pinion Assy, Meter graduations	GRD032	Handguard, Rear walnut w/o metal, good	GRD017	Safety	GRD323	Trigger forging, orig G.I. new
offering of Collector Garand bolts	GRD075 Extractor-current production\$15.95		\$20.00 Handguard, Front walnut w/ metal, good	GRD011	Sear\$6.00		Trigger & Sear Assembly\$
CLN172 Bronze bore brush 30 cal	GRD310 Extractor G.I. \$24.95 GRD079 Extractor Spring w/ Plunger \$3.45		\$25.00 Handguard Spacer Front	GRD114	Front & Rear Sight protective cover with muzzle can		Trigger Guard Milled\$ Trigger Guard Stamped\$
10/\$9.95 100/\$69.95	GRD074 Firing Pin orig G.I\$19.95	GRD089	Hooded Rear Sight Aperture National Match	SLNG024	4 Sling Repro WWI Leather, brass hook		Trigger Housing Assembly
GRD198 Bullet Guide, milled, New\$15.00	GRD186 Flash hider lock bracket G.I. M2 \$25.00 GRD111 Flashider T-37 (Pronged) \$34.50		\$39.95 Lower Band\$15.00	SLNG02	5 Sling Repro WWII Leather, steel hook	GRD022	Trigger Housing Stripped\$
GRD065 Bullet Guide, stamped, New	GRD062 Follower Arm\$24.95	GRD038	Lower Band Pin \$1.00		\$16.95		Trigger Housing, Win. Reparked Stripped
GRD220Butt Switch\$24.95	GRD064 Follower Arm Pin \$2.45 GRD068 Follower assy \$24.95				Stacking Swivel	GRD008	Trigger Pin
GRD043Buttplate Screw Bottom (Long)\$2.95GRD044Buttplate Screw Upper (Small)\$2.00	GRD061 Follower Rod \$7.00		3 for\$20.00 M84 Sniper Scope Cover, Orig\$59.95	CPD028	5/ \$11.95 Garand stock for .308 NATO cal gun, new	GRD092	Windage Knob early original
GRD115 Carrying Case\$14.95	GRD066 Follower Slide \$12.00 GRD109 Front Sight \$12.00	OIL035	Oiler, late plastic WWII, new\$13.95		\$49.95		Windage Knob (Late Style)\$
GRD021 Clip Ejector	GRD110 Front Sight Screw \$1.25 GRD101 Gas Cylinder Lock w/Hump \$26.00		Oiler, brass & throng set, exc \$35.00	GRD048	Stock Ferrule, new GI In the grease	GRD212	G.I. winter trigger in orig. pkg
	, <u>,</u>						



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1911 Series 80 single stack, single action, full size pistol frames available in either ordnance grade steel or lightweight aluminum! These are finished frames except for several features that are unfinished to comply with BATF directives classifying these as Non-Firearms in their present condition. Slide rails, hammer & sear pin holes, mainspring housing retaining pin, and ejector leg holes remain to be applied. Grip screw holes are drilled and tapped. #500649 Extra Small Para Frame for 3" slide. Series 80, aluminum, Double stack, \$125.00 C45331 Single action. #500675 Para LDA Officers length grip frame in steel with checkered front grip strap. Accepts 4.25" or \$99.95 \$125.00 smaller slide. Single stack and Double action .. \$249.95 C45332 3 for #500678 'Agent' extra small steel frame with checkered front strap. Single stack, Double action, and fits \$99.95 \$125.00 3" slide ... 3 for .. \$249.95 C45333

NOT FOR SALE IN NJ - See new change in law. Not for sale in PA until further notice.

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SLNG006	M1/M2 Carbine Sling Khaki (Repro)	beve
		COM
SLNG005	M1/M2 Carbine Sling O.D. (Repro)	A co
		mod
M36032	Mas 36 & 36/51 Original, VG Cond,	slide
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	\$14 . 95,	Kit ii
	3 for\$34.95	C45
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		\$18
SLNG126	Yugoslavian K98, M48, M24 Rifle Sling	910



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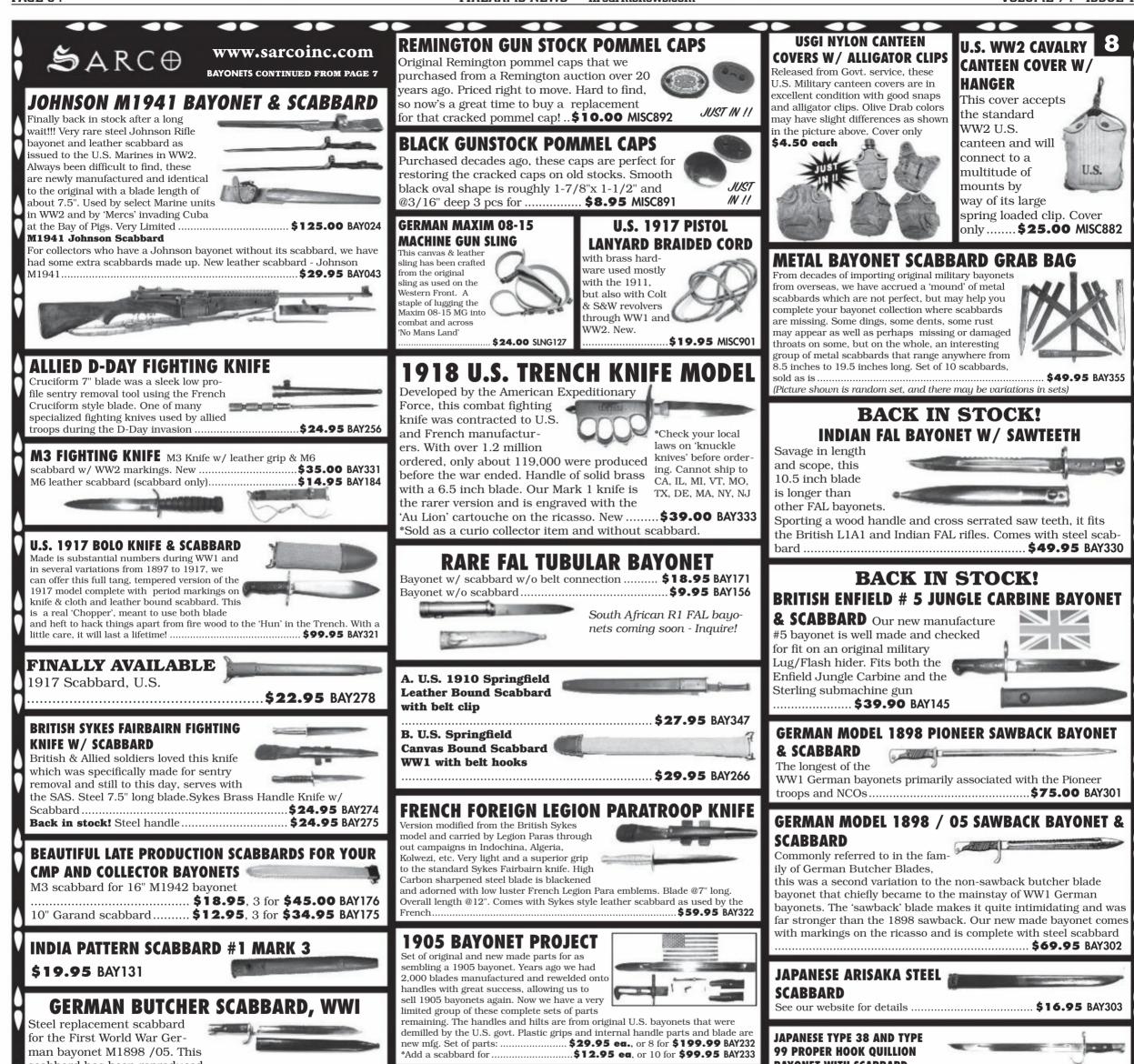
C45091	Auto Repair Parts Kit\$22.50	C45032 Front Sight A1 \$5.00	C45050	Main Spring Retainer \$1.00		NEW VARIATIONS OF OUR
	Barrel, 5" 1911 Colt .38 Super, new in	C45032 Front Signt A1		Main Spring, for Alum.Frame \$1.25	quickly. Avoids damage to your dropped	1911 .45 ACP MAGS - JUST
	the wrap\$135.00	These are for short rear tang frame. You	C45001		magazines. WWI Cavalry and vehicle crews	
C45010	Barrel, 4 1/4" Commander, Roto, .45	can fit them to Std. frame) \$16.50		Recoil Spring, Armscor \$4.95	would keep 2 or 3 mags on a lanyard for	IN THE DOOR
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C45017	Barrel, 5" Roto, .38 \$54.70	C45073 Grip Screw Bushing		Recoil Spring Guide \$4.65	combat purposes! Original mags came with	
C45024	Barrel, 5" Roto, .38, w/Compensator	GRP131 Grip Set, Plastic, GI, exc		Recoil Spring Plug \$4.00	hemp twine so you could tie them to the	\$14.95,
	\$101.95	GRP162 Grip Walnut, Diamond Style, new \$13,95		Recoil Spring Plug, Commander length -	lanyards individually. These magazines are	3 for \$40.00 RPM121
	Barrel, 5", Roto, .45 \$54.70	C45052 Hammer Pin \$1.00		FRESH OFF THE BOAT! \$5.00	made on the same automated machinery	
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N	\$101.95		C45126	Recoil Spring, High Speed \$3.95	<u> </u>	1911 .45 ACP 7rd MILITARY
	Barrel, 5" Roto, 400 Cor-Bon \$56.70			Reverse Recoil Spring Plug \$7.50	This is the mag to have if you want to be	MARKED MAGAZINES
	Barrel, 5" Roto, 9mm \$56.70			Safety Plunger \$1.45	serious about CQB firing and reloading	State of the second
	Barrel, 6" Roto, .38	in magazine, rerr rie ner er mariea		Safety Plunger Spring \$1.75	quickly. Very popular for modern combat	.45 ACP #1005-00-8694
	Barrel, 6", Roto, .45			Screw Driver & Take Down Tool \$4.95	pistol tournaments.	MFR8R320
	Barrel, 6" Roto, 9mm \$61.70			Sear	1	\$10.95,
	Barrel, 7" Roto, .38			Sear Pin	SPECIAL OFFER! 2 lanyard loop mags w/lan-	3 for \$29.95 RPM155
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	Barrel, 7" Roto, 9mm \$65.70		C45160	Slide, Military \$124.95	\$23.50 C45318	
	Barrel, 16" Roto \$82.50			Slide Kit, Military \$174.95		O DOUND AF MACATINE
	Barrel Bushing			Slide Stop Plunger		8 ROUND .45 MAGAZINE
	Barrel Bushing Wear Gauge \$19.95			Slide Stop, Standard		New, blued steel
	Barrel Bushing Wrench \$2.95		C45002	Spring Kit		magazine for all .45
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	Barrel Link, #13, NM		C4000	3 for\$36.50		
	.45 Cal. Bore Brush \$1.25		C45148	Trigger, medium steel non-adjustable		Model/M1911 type
	Colt 1911 Cleaning Rod M4 \$6.95		0-10 140	\$11.95		pistols. Base plate also acts as finger rest
	Disconnector		C45077	Tube Slide Stop & Safety Plunger		to improve your grip on the gun
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43000	Ljeetor					

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D. E. F. G.	C. Late production 16" I D. Late production 10" I E. Original M5A1 bayon F. ALSOWe have RARE G. Original Korean Army between 6.5-7" length. The and we have found a hand Complete with original Kor		\$39.95 BA \$32.95 BA \$36.50 BA \$59.95 BA 1 KM5A1 \$59.95 BA 1e shortened to their requirement y by Arlington Ordnance years a \$49.95 BA	AY182 AY183 AY189 AY020 ent of ago, AY240 ARAND BLE.	GARAND A M1 10" B REPAIR KI See our v BLACK PLA	website for ASTIC BAYONET R U.S. 1943 10" 42 16"	SPRINGFIELD WOOD BAYONET GRIPS New production, new condition wood grips for the M 1905 pattern bayonet as used on the M1903 Springfield rifle. Fix up or up-grade your old bayonets with these beautiful new grips. Heavily grooved for better holding, just like some originals we found and sent to the wood workers to copy. Nut included. Ready to fit or 3 sets for	\$9.95 per set \$24.95 GRP143 f bought with grips
 BAYONET FROGS A. SWEDISH MAUSER original, fa B. JAPANESE ARISAKA late mfg, & Type 99 bayonets C. GERMAN K98 MAUSER late m K98 bayonets D. SWISS BAYONET FROG Swiss issued for the STGW 57 rifle bay with the K31bayonets and many style bayonets and scabbards 	\$5.95 MSR258 new, for Type 38 \$9.95 BAY115 nfg, new, fits WWII military frog as yonet. Also works y other similar	 E. ROMANIAN AK47 BAYONET FROG leather military frog in used/very g F. GERMAN 1898/05 WW1 FROG I of the German WW1 frog for bayon 'Butcher' and 'Pioneer' bayonets ar German markings	good condition \$7.95 AK060 Excellent new made version onets. Perfect for our and with WW1 \$14.95 BAY290 ike \$7.95 BAY334	B. C.	LE3083	Original Yugo '98 Ma 3 for Original grips for En Original new G.I. gri 4 for	IET GRIPS & SCREWS user bayonet grip sets field #1MKIII (1907) bayonet p screws for 1903 Springfield & WWII t for the British #7 bayonet for the #4	\$5.95, \$14.95 \$9.95 Garand bayonet \$3.95 eq., \$10.00

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scabbard has been reproduced from an original and fits both the plain and 'sawtooth' variety blades. Scabbard only......\$18.95 BAY273

WWI GERMAN 'PIONEER' BAYONET SCABBARD @23" Long. Scabbard only \$19.95 BAY276

M8A1 BAYONET SCABBARDS M8A1 Scabbards to fit the following bayonets!

M5 & M5A1 Garand, M3 Trench Knife,

M5 & M5A1 Garand, M3 Trench Knife,
M4 for M1 Carbine, M6 for M14 Rifle,
M7 for M16
New Military Contract \$19.95 ea BAY083
Excellent used military contract\$17.95 BAY191
We have a small quantity of U.S. G.I. M8A1 scabbards.
VG condition\$19.95 BAY040
(Call Cholly for bulk purchases on M8A1 scabbard BAY083)
Original G.I. new M8A1 scabbard. Just found a few in the
warehouse from the old days.
Has original USGI scabbard body\$24.95 BAY041

Add a scabbard for \$12.95 ea, or 10 for \$99.95 BAY233	BAYONET WI
MOSIN 91/30 BAYONET	\$4
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M16 BAYONETS	or 3 pcs. for
Sarco is pleased to offer a selection of original USGI, foreign military contract, and new mfg bayonets. (Fits Galil, too) A. U.A.E. (United Arab Emirates) Contract M16 bayonet with black synthetic scabbard. UAE emblem on handle and also on scabbard. New/unused\$39.95 BAY237	VARIOUS BAY043 Per- Joh fror
B. Econo M7 bayonet w/ scabbard – fits and looks like the M7	BAY304 189

\$39.50 BAY172

bayonet and scabbard. New condition...... \$19.95 BAY229

C. New G.I. M16 bayonet in original, G.I. packaging. Only A Few

Left!

TH SCABBARD 14.95 BAY178

M8 SCABBARD BODIES

h military wood Scabbard bodies as used cabbards for the M1, M14, Danish G3, & Nice wood grain with a hardening coat perfect replacement scabbard body for up-As scabbard from a plastic fiberglass body. is 7 inches long and unissued

	\$10.00 Each
3 pcs. for	 \$24.95 BAY356

COLLECTORS BAYONETS & ACCESSORIES fect reproduction leather scabbard for 1941 nnson rifle bayonet. Almost sold out – can't tell m original......**\$29.95** 91/M1938 Carcano Cavalry Carbine bayonet, original, steel......\$49.95 BAY251 1891/M1938 Carcano Cavalry Carbine bayonet, new

production\$30.00

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G-43 RECOIL SPRING SET, THE LONG AND SHORT Put one or more sets away for the future! Only\$8.95 a set, or 3 sets for\$23.95 G43073	in business at \$14.95/set, 2 sets for	 2 15 rd. magazines and slides onto the wood stock. New repro. With markings on front & back	them made from an original utiliz- ing strong leather, brass cover and correct fasteners, and markings. This was used by Cavalry, on motorcycles, jeeps, half-tracks etc. Originally made for the full stock M-1 Carbine, it also fits similar sized firearms like the Ruger® 10/22® with the Sarco stock. Originals can fetch \$400-\$700. Sarco brings this quality leather item to you	\$5.95 N/A N/A STC006 Rare 1896 Mannlicher \$24.95 \$59.95 STC020 Swedish Mauser - Back In Stock! N/A \$5.00 N/A STC024 SKS 10rd stripper clips \$2.00 \$1.50 \$9.95 STC037 Pack of 10 SKS 10rd stripper clips w/ pouch \$9.95 Note: all above stripper clips are original except 91/30 UNIVERSAL 9MM STRIPPER CLIPS
G-43 RIFLE PARTS 1. Extractor \$24.95 ea. G43003 2. Cleaning rod \$14.95 ea. CLN015 3. Recoil Spring, front \$5.95 ea. G43007 4. Recoil Spring, rear	G-43 Canvas Mag Pouch (repro) w/2 new Mags \$103.95 G43056 G-43 Canvas Pouch by itself\$12.95 G43002	 (pictured on Right) 4. COMBO A: 2 15 rd. Magazines and Stock Pouch w/dust covers	brings this quality leather item to you at the fabulous price of \$57.95 CRB189 M1 CARBINE G.I.	½" wide 3-¼" long holds 10 rds. Got a pile of 'em so cheap cheap! STC036 10 for
 \$5.95 ea. G43010 5. G43 frontsight hoods new	G-43 Leather Mag Pouch with 2 new 10rd mags \$103.95 G43061 G-43 10rd Magazine, New MFG – Well-made and tested, steel. Meticulously	 COMBO C: 4 30rd. Magazines and Banana Clip Pouch w/dust covers \$69.50 CRB193 *Follow State & Local laws when ordering magazines* 	COLLECTORS Check our website for G.I. M1 sorted collectors parts! We have sorted a lot of G.I. parts – Some are really rare!! Don't forget to visit	T.V. WATCH'IN PROJECT Same 9mm clips as above but some rust – easily cleanable: STC038 10 for \$5.95 500 for \$125.00 50 for \$19.95 1000 for \$195.00 100 for \$29.95
 Rare G 41 hammer spring few only these break	made identical to the original	CUBIA LINERAL CHURCH	www.SARCOINC.com for 1000's of Carbine Rifle items!	STYER HAHN 9MM AUTO STRIPPER CLIPS For the 1911/1912 \$8.95, 3 for \$24.95 STC011



Springfield Rifle running well. See our website for details! \$34.95 SPF389 1903A3 PIN & SPRING KITS All the pins & springs in a Springfield rifle	Check our website for list. All parts are used off of drill rifle. 1903 & A3 SPRINGFIELD BUTTPLATE COLLECTION	A perfect reproduction of the grenade launching rubber boot (slip on) for the Springfield and M1 Garand. Absolutely meticulously beautiful!!\$34.50 MISC088	Not for sale in PA until further notice 1903A3 SPRINGFIELD DRILL RIFLE BARRELS These were removed from drill rifles & have their	See our website for all M1 & M2 .22 Springfield parts.
- 03 & A3 included	See our website! 1903A3 TRIGGER GUARD ASSEMBLIES A brand new complete assembly – trigger guard + follower + spring + 2 screws -\$51	See our website for 1903 Springfield Drill Rifle Barrels SPF271	chambers welded or have a rod in the barrel with a small plug weld to hold it in. Front sight base not included\$12.50 ea, 10 for\$99.95, 50 for\$400.00 SPF270	1903 & 1903A3 SPRINGFIELD Includes:Upper band screwFront guard screw3 Small buttplate and
Absolutely beautiful repro of 1903 Springfield milled trigger guard. Can't really tell from original. Replace the stamped 'A3 guard in your rifle with one of these beauties. Finished in matte black, stripped (no floor-plate) \$49.95 ea. SPF117 , Complete assy – trigger guard with floorplate & catch assy \$69.50 SPF343	value \$39.50 SPF375 Complete assembly, used surplus - \$51.50 value \$39.50 SPF376 Trigger guard only, brand new \$31.50 SPF079		BRAND NEW 1903A3 SPRING- FIELD REAR SIGHTS ASSEMBLIES Forgot we had 'em\$29.95, 3 for\$84.95 SPF370	Large buttplate screw swivel screws Stacking swivel screw Cut off screw Lower band screw Note: the 1903 kit also includes the front sight screw (value \$23.00) SPF378 – screw set for 1903A3
SPRINGFIELD 1907 SLINGS, LEATHER – AS USED IN WWI & WWII 1. SLNG024 WWI Model 1907 Sling (w/ brass	SPRINGFIELD HANDGUARDS Original G.I. walnut handguards. M1903, New, unissued	these for 20 years. The G.I. screws only engages a few threads. \$3.95 ea, 3 for \$9.95 SPF360	Original G.I. A3 rear sight used VG \$40.00 SPF294 <i>Check our website for A3 Sight Parts</i> Have all parts	See our website for a full listing of our 1903 Springfield Rear Sight Parts
hardware and WWI date)\$16,05 ea. 3 for\$47.95 2. SING025 WWII Model 1907 Sling (w/ steel hardware and WWII date)\$16.95 ea. 3 for\$47.95		A put-away for the future all springs in the gun – bolt sleeve lock, main, cut-off, sear, floor plate catch, & magazine follow \$15.00	NEW GI SPRINGFIELD BARRELS M1903A3, New, G.I., 2 groove \$189.95 SPF080 M1903A3, New, G.I., 4 groove	SPRINGFIELD PUT AWAY KIT 1/2 PRICE!



VARIOUS MODELS	SEE	OUR WEBSITE FOR THE FULL	MSR434	Bolt Stop Screw, new \$2.50	MSR141	Firing Pin Spring \$3.75	MSR161	Handguard K98 laminated,
1. Kar 88, 8x57, original used, with good	SELE	CTION OF '98 MAUSER PARTS		Bolt Stop Spring \$12.00		Floorplate (used) \$9.00		original. Good-VG \$34.95
	MSR104	Band Retaining Spring, front GEW 98	MSR404	Bolt stripped, straight handle	MSR142	Floorplate new orig, unnumbered	HNGD34	Handguard 1908 Brazilian long rifle
with hand pick bores .\$95.00 MSR097		\$4.00		\$43.50		\$19.95		\$35.00
2. Rare Argentine M1909 Engineers	MSR105	Band Retaining Spring, rear GEW 98	MSR123	Bolt, complete straight handle	MSR146	Follower (milled) \$8.00	MSR162	Low Scope Safety \$17.75
Carbine barrel – bores vary		\$4.00			MSR147	Follower (stamped, WWII)	MSR129	Lower sling swivel, detachable, 98
	MSR106	Band Spring (98K) \$7.00	MSR125	Buttplate (cupped) Israeli		\$17.50		WWI GEW \$8.50
3. 1908 Brazilian Barrrels:	MSR107	Barrel, 1908 Brazilian style				Follower Spring \$4.00	MSR193	Parade sling loop swivel, original 🛛 🖷
		7x57mm (30" large ring) \$60.00		Buttplate (flat) \$8.00		Front Sight \$4.00		98 WWI GEW \$4.00 [
Fair \$40.00 MSR659	MSR096	Barrel KAR88 Orig Used 8x57 17½"	MSR127	Buttplate Screw \$1.25	MSR153	Front Sight Hood, 98K \$6.50	MSR415	Combination of MSR129 &
Good\$60.00 MSR107		small ring\$75.00	CLN014	Cleaning Rod 12 ¹ / ₂ " M98/43	MSR155	Front Sight Protector VZ24		MSR193 \$9.95
Marine and the second s	MSR304	Barrel, Verguiero 8x57mm 23 ¾"		\$12.95		\$10.00	MSR175	
MISC. 98 MAUSER ITEMS		Small Ring, New \$75.00	CLN025	Cleaning Rod 15" GEW 98		Guard Screw Bushing		VZ24\$4.00
	MSR097	Barrel KAR88 Original (hand picked		\$12.50				0
1. Original Argentine SOM sniper scope w/base & leather case\$3495.00		bores) 8 x 57MM 17½" small ring	CLN018	Cleaning Rod 15" VZ24/G24(T)	MSR150			Safety \$4.25
2 Rare M98/43 La Coruna Spanish		\$95.00		\$13.50		\$4.00	MSR149	Screw, Front (commercial) New
muzzle cover	MSR114	Bolt (complete) turndown handle	CLN013	Cleaning Rod early 10"	MSR158	Guard Screw Set (commercial) New		\$3.50
3. VZ24 Mauser new original stock disc		\$84.95		\$12.00		\$6.95	SLNG010	
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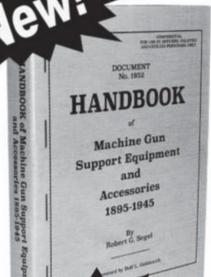


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"The right of the people to keep & bear arms has been recognized by the General Government; but the best security of that right after all is, the military spirit, that taste for martial exercises, which has always distinguished the free citizens of these States;.... Such men form the best barrier to the liberties of America." Gazette of the United States, October 14, 1789, 211, col. 2.



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"A strong body makes the mind strong. As to the species of exercises, I advise the gun. While this gives moderate exercise to the body, it gives boldness, enterprise and independence to the mind. Let your gun, therefore, be the constant companion of your walks." Thomas Jefferson, 1785.

"The supposed quietude of a good man allures the ruffian; while on the other hand, arms like laws discourage and keep the invader and the plunderer in awe, and preserve order in the world as well as property." I Writings of Thomas Paine.

"The supposed quietude of a good man allures the ruffian; while on the other hand, arms like laws discourage and keep the invader and the plunderer in awe, and preserve order in the world as well as property. The same balance would be preserved were all the world destitute of arms for all would be alike; but since some will not, others dare not lay them aside ... Horrid mischief would ensue were one half the world deprived of the use of them ... (T)he weak will become a prey to the strong." Thomas Painc, at 56 (1894).

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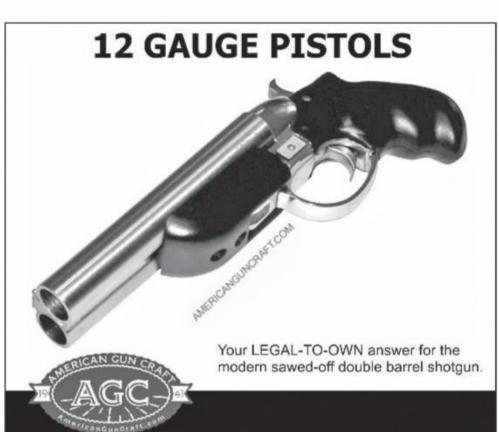
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