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SDS ARMS MAC 1014 & MAC 2

NRA Official Journal of the National Rifle Association
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KEVIN O'LEARY

Media Personality/Investor & Advisor/Actor/Author

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OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

139th Year of Publication

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In September 1814, armed American citizens—including a squad of teenage volunteers—successfully halted the British advance on Plattsburgh, N.Y., ultimately saving Albany and New York City.



JANUARY 2025
VOLUME 173,
No. 1

The NRA, the foremost guardian of the traditional American right to “keep and bear arms,” believes every law-abiding citizen is entitled to the ownership and legal use of firearms, and that every reputable gun owner should be an NRA Member.

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THE COVER: Benelli’s M4/M1014 platform is highly regarded but quite costly. SDS Arms’ Military Armament Corp. brand offers a line of faithful clones, including the MAC 1014 Marine Pistol Grip, shown with a Sightmark MTS Mini Solar red-dot, none of which has an MSRP higher than \$420. Read the full story starting on p. 36.

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American Rifleman (ISSN 0003-083X, Vol. 173, No. 1) is published monthly by the National Rifle Association of America, 11250 Waples Mill Road, Fairfax, VA 22030-9400, (703) 267-1000, for the benefit of its members. Membership dues (U.S. and possessions) \$45 a year, \$100 for 3 years, \$150 for 5 years. \$3.75 per year is designated for a magazine subscription. For foreign postage add \$5 a year in Canada and \$10 elsewhere. For membership inquiries only, call (877) 672-2000. Copyright 2024, the National Rifle Association of America. All rights reserved except where expressly waived. Periodicals Postage paid at Fairfax, VA, and at additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to *American Rifleman*, c/o National Rifle Association, P.O. Box 420648, Palm Coast, FL 32142-0648.

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Assessing The M1 Carbine In Combat

With more than 6 million made, the M1 carbine was the most widely produced small arm of World War II. But how did it actually perform in combat? Here are the accounts from the men who used it.

americanrifleman.org/m1carbine



I Defend The 2nd: Royce Gracie

Royce Gracie is one of the most successful and influential mixed martial arts fighters of all time. He's also one of the biggest supporters of the Second Amendment and our right to keep and bear arms.

americanrifleman.org/roycegracie



Review: Tippmann Arms M4-22 LTE

For fans of the AR-15, the Tippmann Arms M4-22 LTE offers an affordable way to train and shoot with .22 Long Rifle ammunition.

americanrifleman.org/m422lte

Tune in Wednesday nights to the Outdoor Channel for the best firearm show on television. Now in its 23rd year, "American Rifleman Television" brings you a Feature, a "Rifleman Review" and an "I Have This Old Gun" segment in each show. Schedule may be subject to change. To view past episodes, visit americanrifleman.org/artv.



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THE RIFLEMAN REPORT

When it comes to the three major firearm types—rifle, shotgun and handgun—along with the ammunition and accessories they require, we strive to cover each as best we can. In this issue, in typical fashion, we include all three. And even though any of them could be pressed into sporting or defensive use, all are only as useful as they are available to responsible citizens.

That is exactly why the NRA vows to protect and cultivate the Second Amendment guarantee of Americans to “keep and bear arms.” It is an enumerated right that presupposes a viable arms industry and unhindered legal trade between companies and individuals. Which types of arms, or particular models, each man or woman chooses to purchase and enjoy in order to address his or her requirements should only be dictated by personal preferences and budgets.

In scatterguns, Field Editor Aaron Carter, an active competitive clays shooter, wrings out two of SDS Arms’ latest inexpensive iterations of well-established designs. “Solid Values: MAC 1014 & MAC 2” (p. 36) goes inside new models intended for harsh conditions—self-defense and 3-Gun competition, respectively. The pair comes to market through SDS Arms in Knoxville, Tenn., which has rapidly expanded since its 2017 launch to include the MAC, Tisas, Inglis, Tokarev and Spandau brands.

Of course, all firearms require ammunition, so in “Hornady’s 22 ARC Strikes A Chord” (p. 46), Field Editor Frank Melloni tests that company’s latest flat-shooting Advanced Rifle Cartridge, which is tailor-made for AR-15s and short-action bolt guns. Fresh off a multi-day coyote hunt shooting the 62-grain load, he ran it and a second, 75-grain, match load through testing with each leaving the muzzle at around 3,000 feet per second and producing minute-of-angle accuracy. The results confirmed why the new cartridge is resonating with shooters and that it is truly deserving of the title “good medicine for bad dogs.”

When it comes to handguns, polymer-frame semi-automatics

have ruled the roost for quite some time, but just 40 years ago, the revolver still held sway in law-enforcement circles and among many civilians. So, since the staff reminded me that it’s been too long since we published one of our classic Exploded View guides to a well-known firearm, I decided to take on updating one that first appeared in these pages in the 1970s at the launch of a then-new double-action wheelgun. In “Exploded View: Ruger ‘Six’ Series Revolvers” (p. 58) I build on that early coverage of the Security-Six, Police Service-Six and Speed-Six and suggest why they are still so well-regarded even today.

And when it comes to what has long been viewed as the predominant battlefield small arm, the rifle, we have included a history piece titled “Boys To Riflemen: Aiken’s Volunteers During The British Attack On Plattsburgh” (p. 52) by contributor Tom Laemlein. In it, he recounts how, in September 1814, a small group of Americans once again stood against the might of the British military, just as their forefathers had done during the Revolution. Only this time it was teenage boys who proved themselves in the face of a British attack—and they were eventually rewarded with a then quite modern presentation rifle for their efforts.

Finally, even though it is the hardware—firearms, ammunition and accessories—that makes shooting possible, it is armed citizens, through resolve and, often, valor who must use them as the tools to secure and sustain freedom.

Today, we are less likely to be rewarded even for properly considered decisions to use firearms in defense of life, but that fact does nothing to diminish the necessity of such actions—or the nobility of the intentions from which they spring.

—BRIAN C. SHEETZ, EDITOR IN CHIEF





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Studies indicate that firearms are used more than 2 million times a year for personal protection, and that the presence of a firearm, without a shot being fired, prevents crime in many instances. Shooting usually can be justified only where crime constitutes an immediate, imminent threat to life, limb, or, in some cases, property. Anyone is free to quote or reproduce these accounts.

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

A young driver was following a friend in another vehicle in Port Orange, Fla., near 8 p.m. on Oct 26, when they found themselves being followed by an irate man in a truck, who was swerving toward their vehicles. One of the young drivers called his father to tell him he was being followed, so when they got back to the house and the irate man pulled in and began yelling and threatening them, the father came outside armed with a rifle. He told the suspect to leave, whereupon he reversed his truck for a moment, but he then sped forward toward the father and another person standing nearby. The father fired several shots into the truck as it raced toward them, striking the assailant and killing him. A Rottweiler dog in the truck was also struck, unfortunately, but was expected to recover. Home-security camera footage reportedly backs up the armed citizen's account of events, but the investigation remained open. (volusiaSheriff.gov, DeLand, Fla., 10/27/24)

On Oct. 22 just after 8 p.m., two young women were walking together when a car stopped near them and the vehicle's male passenger started trying to talk to them. One woman tried to pull her friend away, but she still approached the car, whereupon the passenger exited and confronted her with a gun. The woman tried to push the man away from her, but he pulled the trigger and grazed her with the shot. The woman who'd tried to dissuade her friend from approaching ran from the scene, but security footage shows the other woman still fighting the assailant, then pulling her own firearm and shooting him in the chest as she retreated. The man later died of his wounds. The friend returned and she and another woman helped the woman who'd been attacked. She was in stable condition at the time of reporting. Reports did not indicate whether the vehicle's driver had been apprehended. (timesreporter.com, New Philadelphia, Ohio,

Just after 5 a.m. on Oct. 25, a 19-year-old man broke into a residence in Herrick, Ill., and threatened the occupants. One of the residents armed themselves and ordered the suspect to stop, but he ignored them and continued advancing. The resident then shot the intruder, who later died of his wounds. The suspect was well-known to police for "prior involvements," including an open criminal case and previous incidents of aggravated fleeing from an officer and possessing a firearm without a FOID card. (effinghamdailynews.com, Effingham, Ill., 10/25/24)

At 5 p.m. on Oct. 27, a 21-year-old man allegedly attempted rob a Duck N Go convenience store in Eugene, Ore. According to police, the suspect entered the store, drew a gun, and pointed it at the

store clerk while demanding money. The clerk, fearing for his life, shot the suspect, who was treated for injuries and charged with robbery in the second degree. No other charges are expected in the case. (kpic.com, Roseburg, Ore., 10/31/24)

Shortly after midnight on Oct. 30, a 35-year-old man allegedly attempted to break into a home in Fort Worth, Texas, but was shot twice. He was taken to the hospital with non-life-threatening injuries and arrested on suspicion of burglary of a habitation. The investigation was still ongoing. (star-telegram.com, Fort Worth, Texas, 10/30/24)

On Halloween near dinnertime, a 47-year-old man allegedly broke into a home in Iberia Parish, La., and stabbed one person inside, then went to the house next door and stabbed another person. In the second house, however, the homeowner shot the suspect in the chest, ending the attack. Both stabbing victims and the alleged intruder were taken to the hospital for treatment and the investigation was ongoing. The suspect faces two counts of home invasion and two counts of first-degree murder charges. (klfy.com, Lafayette, La., 11/1/24)

At 7 a.m. on Nov. 7 in Hewitt, Texas, a 37-year-old man allegedly blocked another man into a parking space and fired several shots at him with a rifle. The would-be victim, however, was also armed and returned fire, wounding his attacker. That suspect drove himself to the hospital to have his wounds treated. Police arrested him there and charged him with aggravated assault with a deadly weapon; the armed citizen was not facing charges. (fox4news.com, Woodway, Texas, 11/7/24)

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By Doug Hamlin
NRA Executive
Vice President & CEO

NRA Members Were The Difference

The NRA endorsed Donald J. Trump (R) three times for the presidency. He was on the cover of every NRA member magazine for this past election. The choice could not have been clearer. The Second Amendment, our very freedom, was on the ballot and NRA members stepped up and delivered a victory for freedom.

Now, after four years of the Biden-Harris administration, we will no longer have a Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives being used to wage war against our neighborhood gun stores and the manufacturers who make our firearms. We will not have a Federal Bureau of Investigation playing politics with crime data. We won't have a U.S. Department of Health and Human Services attempting to use health mandates to try to reduce our freedoms amid a pandemic. And we won't have an administration that pretends law-abiding gun owners are somehow behind rises in crime rates.

American government agencies are not supposed to be weaponized against lawfully armed citizens. Government is supposed to respect each citizen's rights as it uses the limited power we give it to serve and protect us.

Stopping this misuse of power is part of the return to normalcy President Trump promised us.

As is the case in each election cycle, getting back here required your active participation in the political process. This is how it must be. An active citizenry has always been a needed catalyst for American renewal. Note I am not referring to people who behave as activists for the simple excitement of rebelling. Nor am I referring to people who want change for change's sake. Rather, I am referring to responsible citizens who understand what must be refurbished, not burned to ashes. Making sure the United States of America continues to be the light of the world requires an awake and educated citizenry. It takes people with homes and families and bills to pay who comprehend all of the responsibility that freedom brings. It takes a strong NRA.

This is why, during one of Trump's many speeches to NRA members, he looked out at the tens of thousands of freedom-cherishing citizens in attendance at the NRA Annual Meetings & Exhibits and said, "These are good people." Indeed, we are the people who help our neighbors, protect our loved ones, understand our hard-won freedom and vote accordingly.

And it is why, as this election neared, I heard from so many NRA members saying they were praying for Donald Trump's safety and his success, as he carries with him the promise, as he did before, that he'll preserve and protect our individual rights.

So, as we look back for a moment, if some elections feel bigger, as if all the chips are on the table, it is because some are. In this case, calling the 2024 election one of the most important ever was not hyperbole. Nations do fail; throughout time, all the greatest have. But, as the saying goes, Rome didn't fall in a day. It takes a rot deep in its core principles to bring a nation down. In this election, the American electorate—with NRA members being a key factor—voted to stop the destruction of our core principles, especially our First and Second Amendment rights.

As a result, this month, because of, in part, a strategy planned and executed by NRA-ILA Executive Director Randy Kozuch and his staff, Sen. Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.), a politician who detests our freedom, is being fired as U.S. Senate Majority Leader and a solid pro-Second Amendment majority is being sworn into the U.S. Senate.

By stopping the Biden-Harris-Walz radical anti-gun agenda, anti-Second Amendment justices are now unlikely to be seated on the U.S. Supreme Court in the next four years and the federal government will not be weaponized against law-abiding gun owners. Through his U.S. Supreme Court nominations, Trump strengthened a court that recognized, in the NRA-backed case *New York State Rifle & Pistol Association v. Bruen* (2022), that the Second Amendment applies inside and outside our homes, and we can now expect more constitutional rulings.

Still, there is a lot of work to do. Refurbishing the American system of freedom and justice means staying engaged. Being an active member of this association is one critical step, as the more of us there are standing together for our freedom, the more politicians must listen to us. I also encourage you to join one or more of the thousands of NRA-affiliated clubs and associations. You can find them at explore.nra.org/programs/clubs.

As we move forward into 2025 and beyond, you'll be hearing a lot more from me and from others here at the NRA. For now, though, celebrate. As Ecclesiastes 3 says, there is a time for everything, and this is certainly the time to appreciate what we can do when we stand together and, as Trump said, "fight, fight, fight" for our liberty.

We congratulate our 45th—and now our 47th—President of the United States and NRA Life Member, Donald J. Trump.



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By **Bob Barr**
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Make Your Voice Heard: Vote For Your Board Of Directors

Happy New Year! With the 2024 presidential and congressional elections now in the rearview mirror, it's vitally important that all of us remain focused on our guiding issue—protecting the Second Amendment and all aspects thereof. In this regard, one of the most important things each of us can do to ensure our voices are heard as we move forward into 2025 is to vote for the NRA Board of Directors.

As a quick reminder, the NRA Board of Directors is made up of 76 members, 75 of which are elected to staggered, three-year terms by eligible voting members of the NRA during the annual board election. Each elected director holds office from the adjournment of the Annual Meeting of Members at which their election is announced until the adjournment of the third Annual Meeting of Members next following such election or until their successor is elected and qualified.

One director, the "76th Director," is elected annually by participants at the Annual Meeting of Members and holds the office until the next Annual Meeting. The bottom line is that members voting in this year's board election will elect or reelect 25 directors who will serve on the board for the next three years.

The Board of Directors formulates policies, governs and has general oversight over the affairs and property of the association. Equally important, the board is responsible for electing, from the pool of board members, the officers to lead the NRA, including the president, two vice presidents, the executive vice president, the secretary and the treasurer, along with members of the executive committee.

The Board of Directors convenes for three regular meetings a year, where members get together to govern the affairs of the association. If necessary, a special meeting can be held at any time at the call of the president.

Given the critical role the Board of Directors plays in our association's present and future, one would think that NRA members would be very interested in participating in the annual Board election and helping elect the candidates they believe will best lead us into the future. Unfortunately, that hasn't been the case of late.

According to NRA Secretary John Frazer, voter turnout in the Board of Directors election has been dismal over the past decade, with only about 3% to 8% of members casting a vote in the annual election.

Friends, we've just got to do better than that.

After all, how do you get your voice heard if you don't participate in one of the best ways to be heard?

I sometimes hear members complain that they wish they could have more input into the direction our association is going and the way it is being led. Many are unaware that they can have more input through the annual Board of Directors election. If you don't vote, you have very little say in the future of our association.

GIVEN THE CRITICAL ROLE THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS PLAYS, ONE WOULD THINK NRA MEMBERS WOULD BE VERY INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING ... BUT VOTER TURNOUT HAS BEEN DISMAL OVER THE LAST DECADE.

That's why I am urging every eligible NRA member to vote in this year's election. Ballots will be included in the February issue of all Official Journals, but I believe this topic is so important that I want to urge members to start thinking about the Board elections now so they don't accidentally miss the opportunity to participate next month. Directions for voting are straightforward, and casting your vote is simple—just fill out your ballot marking the requisite number of names and mail it in. It couldn't be easier!

A strong and involved NRA membership is the very best defense we can have against the gun-control forces we constantly face, and it also is the very best way we can ensure that our education, training, competition and advocacy programs meet and exceed the expectations of our millions of members.

So, please, do your part to keep the NRA at the forefront of our God-given and constitutionally guaranteed right to keep and bear arms by voting your choices for our Board of Directors!

Thank you.

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By Randy Kozuch
Executive Director,
NRA-ILA

YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE NOT ENOUGH.

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You Have My Thanks

Freedom prevailed in the recent election thanks to the tireless work of NRA members, staff and volunteers. Because of that work, we sent Donald Trump back to the White House to be the 47th President of the United States. With this victory, NRA members have once again led the fight to defend liberty for generations to come.

I am always amazed at the unwavering dedication of the people who make up our association. Every election, committed NRA members knock on doors, make phone calls, send text messages and, most importantly, vote. They also act as incredible advocates for all gun owners by helping to persuade others to turn out and vote for pro-gun candidates across the country. And, for all that hard work, I am eternally grateful.

Thanks to NRA members, we fired Chuck Schumer as senate majority leader, and we will have a pro-gun majority in the U.S. Senate. The value of a pro-gun U.S. Senate cannot be overstated. The Senate will play a critical role in staffing the next government by providing "advice and consent" for senior executive-branch positions. By helping to win the Senate, NRA members have helped President Trump fill the executive branch with those who will defend liberty, rather than attack it, and that will be a much-needed respite.

For the last four years, we have dealt with repeated attacks on our right to keep and bear arms. The Biden administration pushed out rules that threatened the owners of pistols with stabilizing braces with conviction of a felony, that redefined the term "firearm" in federal law to attack hobbyist firearm-makers, that redefined when a person was a firearms dealer and thus needed a federal firearms license just to sell a gun to a family member and that put firearms dealer after firearms dealer out of business for minor paperwork violations in the name of so-called "zero tolerance."

Thanks to NRA members, all of that is over. We're sending President Donald Trump to the White House for another four years, and instead of relentless attacks on our rights, we'll have a president and administration that respects the Second Amendment. With President Trump in the White House, we'll have the opportunity to roll-back the Biden administration's rules and to implement positive regulations for gun owners. No longer will we have to brace for new assaults on our rights at every press conference or executive order announcement; instead, we can rest assured that the Trump administration will be seeking to protect and expand the right to keep and bear arms.

Thanks to NRA members, President Trump

will be able to continue his work reshaping the federal judiciary to guarantee protection of our constitutional freedoms. In his first term, Trump's commitment to nominating and elevating judges and justices who respect the right to keep and bear arms was, without a doubt, his most-important contribution to the future of the Second Amendment.

Because of that effort, the Supreme Court is now firmly committed to enforcing the Constitution and Bill of Rights against state and local governments that ignore the right to keep and bear arms. Our victory in *NYSRPA v. Bruen* would not have been possible without Trump's three appointments to the high court: Justices Neil Gorsuch, Brett Kavanaugh and Amy Coney Barrett. Without the *Bruen* decision, our right to bear arms would be hollowed out to not include the right to legally carry a firearm for self-defense outside the home. Likewise, the Court's decision last summer to limit federal agencies' authority to create new law would never have happened without Trump's appointments.

EVERY ELECTION, COMMITTED NRA MEMBERS KNOCK ON DOORS, MAKE PHONE CALLS, SEND TEXT MESSAGES AND, MOST IMPORTANTLY, VOTE.

But it isn't just in the Supreme Court where we see the benefits of a Trump judiciary on our Second Amendment rights. Shortly before this column went to print, Judge Stephen P. McGlynn, a Trump appointee to the United States District Court for the Southern District of Illinois, struck down Illinois' ban on so-called "assault weapons" and "high-capacity" magazines. That NRA-supported case will now make its way to the Seventh Circuit and hopefully to the Supreme Court, where we can put an end to these types of bans once and for all.

While we're already seeing these benefits from President Trump's first term of appointments, with four more years of appointments, we will have helped solidify our right to keep and bear arms for generations to come.

So, once again, I'd like to reiterate my thanks to all NRA members who support our great Association and helped deliver another incredible result for freedom in the 2024 elections. Our work protecting the Second Amendment remains far from over, but, with this win, we've taken a huge step in the right direction for the right to keep and bear arms.

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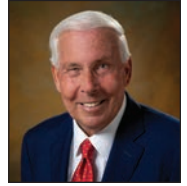
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By Randy Kozuch
Executive Director,
NRA-ILA



An Unlikely Hero

The NRA Exists To Oppose Arbitrary And Overreaching Authority

Donald Trump, with NRA members' support, scored a monumental political comeback in November. Not only did he retake the White House, but he will also preside over pro-gun majorities in both chambers (likely at the time of this writing) of Congress. I discuss elsewhere in these pages how President Trump's win can directly benefit gun owners.

Here, however, I would like to focus on a story that emerged in the closing days of the election as a parable of what was at stake.

The contest had already been one of the most turbulent in American history. The Democrat Party had tried to demonize, impoverish and disqualify Donald Trump with a coordinated campaign of unbridled propaganda and lawfare. The Biden-Harris regime sought to censor and discredit its critics by collaborating with sympathetic technology platforms and the state-directed mass media. Multiple would-be assassins made attempts on Donald Trump's life; in Butler, Penn., a fortuitous turn of the head caused a bullet aimed for his brain to graze his ear instead. The establishment's non-stop libel of Trump as a dictator even encompassed his supporters, whom President Joe Biden (D) himself publicly characterized as "garbage."

And yet, after all this, it was the execution of an eastern gray squirrel at the hands of pitiless government functionaries waving the flag of "public health" that provided a final impetus for a disgusted and determined public to revolt against the political status quo. This story and the outrage it provoked reminded me that NRA exists to oppose arbitrary and overreaching authority and to support leaders who respect our rights.

The squirrel's name was Peanut (aka P'Nut). He was an orphan. His mother was killed by a car in

New York City. Mark Longo, a Connecticut engineer, saw what happened and took Peanut into his care, hoping to find an animal shelter to accommodate him.

Unsuccessful at that, Longo cared for and bottle-fed the baby squirrel for eight months, intending eventually to release him back into the wild. But the attempted repatriation failed. Peanut returned to Longo's porch a day and half later, injured and afraid. Longo realized at that point Peanut's "wildlife career" was finished. The squirrel instead joined the home Longo shared with his wife, Daniela, and a cat named Chloe.

The couple began recording videos of their adopted pet and his high-spirited hijinks around their house. Peanut's humorous acrobatics, his fondness for waffles, his miniature headgear and his habit of holding little signs to express his thoughts eventually led to millions of social media followers across several different platforms. In the economy of the modern Internet, this generated enough income for the couple to move from Connecticut to upstate New York to establish a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization called P'Nuts Freedom Farm Animal Sanctuary in April 2023.

Half the income from Peanut's online presence was donated toward the needs of the sanctuary, which aimed to give other abandoned or vulnerable animals a second chance. By November 2024, according to the Longos, the sanctuary was caring for some 300 animals, including horses, alpacas, cows, various fowl and a pot-bellied pig.

Peanut's seven-year odyssey with the Longos was a classic, feel-good American story. He brought moments of joy and lighthearted laughter to his followers, which included many children. His caretakers leveraged the fruits of his celebrity to aid other animals that otherwise would have shared the same misfortune Peanut himself had escaped.



Peanut, in turn, became a cherished member of the Longo family and helped them find purpose, community and their version of the American dream.

But not everyone celebrated Peanut's success. An anonymous complainant, so the story goes, became concerned about the Longos having undomesticated animals living in their home and reported the matter to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). This is the point at which Peanut's story took a dark turn.

On Oct. 30, a convoy of vehicles containing some 12 officers from multiple agencies, including the DEC and the Chemung County Department of Health, descended upon the Longos' home in rural Pine City with a search warrant for a squirrel and a raccoon.

As Longo described the scene to the media, "They treated me like I was a terrorist. They treated this raid as if I was a drug dealer. They ransacked my house for five hours." He continued, "They asked my wife, who is of German descent, what her immigration status was. They asked if I had cameras in my house. They wouldn't allow me to go to the bathroom without a police escort, who then checked the back of the toilet to see if I was hiding anything there." Longo also said he was prevented from feeding and watering the sanctuary's other animals during the lengthy ordeal.

Eventually, Peanut and a raccoon named Fred were seized. During the agonizing hours that followed, the Longos had no information about the status of their beloved animals.

Finally, on Nov. 1, a combined agency press release described in dry bureaucratic language the government's version of events:

On Oct. 30, DEC seized a raccoon and squirrel sharing a residence with humans, creating the potential for human exposure to rabies. In addition, a person involved with the investigation was bitten by the squirrel. To test for rabies, both animals were euthanized. The animals are being tested for rabies and anyone who has been in contact with these animals is strongly encouraged to consult their physician.

A distraught Longo disputed the government's account. He said that the officers who entered the house wore heavy gloves, like those used for training raptors, and that he never saw

anyone get bitten by his docile critters. He also said he had extensive contact with the animals over a lengthy period with no ill effects. "Peanut and Fred did not have rabies or I wouldn't be here talking to you right now," he told a New York newspaper. "I've been around them long enough, played with them, cared for them and I didn't foam at the mouth."

HOW OFTEN HAVE WE SEEN HARMLESS VIOLATIONS OF BUREAUCRATIC REQUIREMENTS [...] ESCALATED TO THE POINT WHERE LIVELIHOODS, FREEDOM OR EVEN LIVES WERE UNNECESSARILY LOST?

Longo does not deny it was technically illegal to have the two animals living in his house without a permit, but he claims he was in the process of having Peanut certified as an educational animal when the raid occurred. He also questioned the government's heavy-handed tactics and priorities. "Why was there so much force brought to my house for a raccoon and a squirrel?" he asked, adding that the government "can't even fix the problems we have in daily human life." Questions also remain about why euthanasia was used to check for rabies, rather than quarantine.

Peanut's saga quickly gained worldwide attention and was even mentioned in the closing days of the campaign by vice presidential candidate JD Vance and leading Trump advocate Elon Musk. According to Vance, Trump himself was incredulous and "fired up" over the incident.

To be sure, we have documented more serious and consequential abuses of authority in the pages of this magazine, some involving human fatalities. Gun owners and squirrels, which admittedly are often at odds with one another, might seem like an unlikely coalition.

But Peanut's story contains the echoes of the many government

abuses that have affected the pro-gun community. How often have we seen similarly technical, harmless violations of bureaucratic requirements that could have been resolved with this or that license, permit or remedial measure instead escalated to the point where livelihoods, freedom or even lives were unnecessarily lost? In the eyes of implacable bureaucracy, we are Peanut, and Peanut is us.

We are Peanut when a complainant's animosity or grievance leads armed officers to our doors to serve "red-flag" firearm-seizure orders, before we've even had a chance to tell our side of the story.

We are Peanut when we cross the unknowable, shifting line that separates lawful sales of personally owned guns with "unlawful dealing in firearms," a distinction the government cannot meaningfully describe but claims to recognize when they see it.


We are Peanut when our lawfully acquired guns and magazines are retroactively banned and subjected to mandatory "buyback" orders, the refusal of which would place us in felony possession of contraband subject to forceful confiscation.

We are Peanut when a gun dealer's paperwork error triggers a "zero-tolerance" license revocation that deprives a family of its livelihood and the community of a trusted place to exercise its constitutional rights.

We are Peanut when shadowy bureaucrats coerce or collude with private businesses to silence our constitutionally protected speech, terminate our lawful commerce, or spy upon our legal purchases of guns and ammunition.

Peanut's sad story moved voters and motivated them to seek reform. And while that story may have helped deliver a result for freedom in these elections, the problems that led to Peanut's death won't end with a single election: The self-interested, ideologically driven bureaucratic class is simply too vast and entrenched for any one executive or legislative body to reign in all its abuses.

Thus, the NRA's work continues, come what may.

To those who oppose us, we are all like Peanut: disposable and inconsequential. But in reality, we are millions strong, standing tall for what is right. 



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READERS WRITE

An Out-Of-Sync Revolver?

The Readers Write letter about “Python Nightmares” (November 2024, p. 22) in which the writer reported “failures to fire” while slow-firing during an incident jogged my memory. I was a police supervisor, tasked with investigating an incident in which one officer also had a double failure to fire with his S&W .357 Mag. Model 66. Examination of the cartridges disclosed that two had firing-pin indents that were off-center. The cartridges that were originally in the gun were disassembled, and no defects were observed with the powder. Those cartridge cases were then loaded into the gun. All primers went off when it was fired, and all firing-pin indents were in the center of the primer. It was found that when the officer “fired” his wheelgun, he pulled the trigger and the cylinder began to rotate. The officer then paused and allowed the trigger to reset. When he then pulled the trigger, the cylinder was out-of-sync and the firing pin struck the side of the primer rather than the center. I think this is a more plausible explanation of the misfire, rather than a defect in a “race-tuned gun.”

—DAN SHAPIRO

Skeptical Of The “Tactical” Lever-Action

I read “Full Swing: Smith & Wesson’s Model 1854 Lever-Action” (September 2024, p. 32) with interest, being a fan of S&W since my days as a USAF Security Police Law Enforcement Specialist 71-77. I carried one on duty. My go-to gun for home protection is a S&W 686 in .357 Mag., even though I have two .45 ACP semi-automatics.



The company’s history with lever-actions and with Winchester is interesting, but one thing sticks in my mind. I keep thinking of the old adage, “Just because you can, doesn’t mean you should.” When I see lever-actions, I think cowboys and the Wild west or deer and bear hunting. I have a Marlin 336 that I treated myself to the day I signed onto Social Security. My point is that some companies seem to be attempting to turn the historic lever-action into an urban self-defense arm. I see threaded barrels and Picatinny rails and even holographic or red-dot scopes. I find myself wondering how this will fare in the market against the AR or AK platforms.

It reminds me of my time selling woodworking machinery. I saw bells and whistles that were more for marketing than functionality or application. I expect the venture to be of limited success. And though I love Smith & Wesson to bits, and wish I had a Model 629 in .44 Mag., I had to just smile at this new entry. I do, however, wish them all the best of luck.

—DARRELL FELDMANN

Trench Guns Get To The Point

Please accept the following observation in reference to Bruce N. Canfield’s article “Uncle Sam’s Last Trench Gun: Winchester Model 1200” (July 2024, p. 54). When I was teaching shotgun repair at Aberdeen Proving Ground in the 1990s, I was told that the choice to retain the M1917 bayonet on the M1200 shotgun was based on usage, not logistics. Bayonets are rarely used in combat, but they are scary, and therefore are practical for riots and prisoner control. At 17”, the M1917 bayonet is the scariest one around.

—KARL HAYHURST

“Readers Write” affords members an opportunity to comment on material published in *American Rifleman*. Single-topic letters are preferred and may be edited for brevity. Send letters to: Readers Write, NRA Publications, 11250 Waples Mill Road, Fairfax, VA 22030-9400 or email us at publications@nrahq.org.

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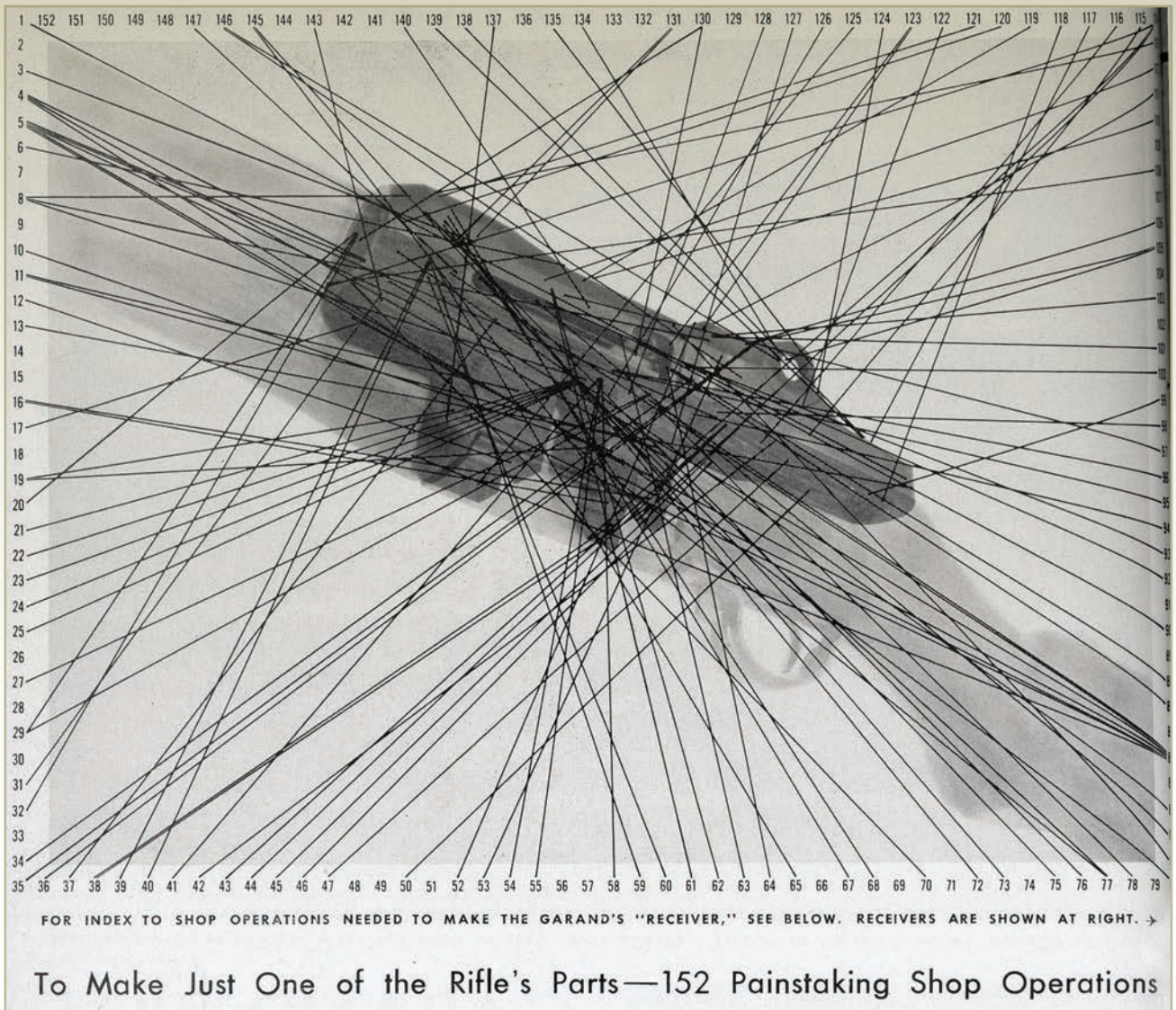
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Making The M1 Garand At International Harvester

At the dawn of the Atomic Age, the U.S. government implemented a policy of geographic dispersion for its small arms manufacturing. This policy, intended to limit the impact of a nuclear attack on domestic small arms manufacturing, led the government to approach International Harvester, a farm equipment producer based in Evansville, Ind., which was located more than 800 miles away from the traditional armsmaking hubs at Springfield, Mass., and New Haven, Conn.

In June 1951, International Harvester was given a contract for 100,000 M1 rifles, with deliveries scheduled to begin in December 1952. Problems plagued the manufacturing process, with International Harvester having to source components from subcontractors and requiring expert help from Springfield

Armory to work through manufacturing problems. One of the biggest obstacles in making the M1 Garand was the intricate machining work required to create the receiver.

An article from the Spring 1954 issue of *International Harvester Today*, the company's internal magazine, illustrated just how challenging it was to produce this central component. No fewer than 152 machining operations went into the creation of one receiver. Supporting text in the article outlines the "ordeal of the Garand," in which completed rifles underwent testing at a nearby 100-yard range. Twenty-four rounds were fired for function, then eight rounds were fired for accuracy. All eight shots inside of a 5" circle was a passing grade.

To read the full list of machine operations keyed to the image above, go to: americanriflemans.org/m1machining.



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Barrett Secures International Contract For MRADEL R

BARRETT

Early in 2024, Barrett Firearms introduced its MRADEL R, an extreme-long-range variant of its Multi-Role Adaptive Design bolt-action rifle platform. Now, the company says it has garnered its first military contract for the platform. Few details on the contract's specifics are forthcoming, but Barrett clarified that the order is for a U.S.-allied nation and will be fulfilled within the coming year.

At the heart of the MRADEL R design is a readily adaptable receiver that can accommodate multiple chamberings with a simple swap of the barrel, bolt head and firing pin. At launch, the gun was chambered only in .416 Barrett. The design is notable for its capabilities at range; in 2023, the MRADEL R was used to engage targets during the "King of 2 Miles" competition at distances out to 3,526 yards. barrett.net

MidwayUSA Expands With New Administration Building, Distribution Center



MidwayUSA's "500 Year Campus" continues to grow with the addition of its Roosevelt Administration Building, which will be completed in late 2025. The 61,000-sq.-ft. building will house more than 200 employees and is the final phase of current expansion plans for the outdoor retailer, following the completion of the new 400,000-sq.-ft. Washington Distribution Center.

These projects complete the latest expansion plans for one of the world's largest online retailers of firearm and sporting accessories. Having started in 1977 with a 1,536-sq.-ft. building, Larry and Brenda Potterfield built MidwayUSA into an outdoor industry giant, expanding into ever-larger properties. In 2006, the company purchased 192 acres of land in Columbia, Mo., a tract intended to be enough space for the company to grow for the next 500 years.

In addition to building their company, the Potterfields have also focused on supporting the National Rifle Association, implementing the "Friends of NRA" program that has raised more than \$1 billion since its founding in 1992. midwayusa.com

REPORTS | PRODUCTS & PROJECTS

Glock 28

Despite having offered the pistol elsewhere around the world, Glock never made its G28 available to consumers in the United States, due to its inability to be imported under the points system codified by the 1968 Gun Control Act. However, TALO Distributors worked with Glock to produce the gun stateside, and it is now available as a limited distributor exclusive. Sized similarly to the Glock 26, the G28 is chambered for the .380 ACP cartridge instead of 9 mm Luger and has a flush-fit magazine capacity of 10 rounds, with 12- and 17-round extended magazines also available. Glock manufactures the G28 in a Gen3 configuration, which maintains finger grooves on the frontstrap, and the design is compatible with all G17/19/26 holsters. Price: \$599. Contact: TALO Distributors; talo.com.



Full Forge Gear Shooter's Cut Armor Plates

Maker of durable backpacks, range bags and gun cases—Full Forge Gear recently leveraged its knowledge of heavy-duty materials to leap into the personal-armor market with the introduction of the Shelter plate carrier and two different lightweight plate options compatible with it. Both offered in a shooter's cut, which provides a greater coverage area than swimmer's cut plates but grants the arms less range of motion, the Extreme Lite plates are Level IIIA (rated to stop handgun bullets up to .44 Mag.) by the National Institute of Justice, while the Feather Weight plates meet NIJ's Level IV standard and are thus capable of countering even many high-velocity rifle cartridges. Incredibly light for their respective ratings, Extreme Lite plates weigh only 1 lb., 5 ozs., each and the Feather Weights run 6 lbs., 11 ozs., apiece. Price: Shelter, \$180; Extreme Lite (Level IIIA), \$136; Feather Weight (Level IV), \$216. Contact: Full Forge Gear; (877) 425-4867; fullforgegear.com.



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G9 Defense 9 mm +P Woodsman

Employing a turned, solid-copper bullet weighing 124 grains, the G9 Defense 9 mm +P Woodsman load is promoted by the maker for hunting use and as “Ideal Wilderness Protection”—no mean feat considering it can be fired from compact, carry-size handguns. With a claimed muzzle velocity of 1,125 f.p.s. the Woodsman’s bullet leverages the company’s patented “Shape Charge” technology, tapering to a 0.290"-diameter meplat that parabolically transitions to a distinct point, all of which is designed to facilitate deep, straight-line travel within its target. In fact, both company and independent testing of the U.S.-made ammunition has demonstrated up to 38" of penetration in ballistic gelatin. Price: \$37 (20-count box). *Contact: G9 Defense; (208) 758-0727; g9defense.com.*



Southern Trapper OWB/IWB Alligator Trim Holster

Add a touch of the exotic to your concealed-carry kit with the OWB/IWB Alligator Trim Holster by Southern Trapper, a combination inside/outside-the-waistband holster made principally from black cow hide, but with a reinforcing trim piece of wild-caught alligator hide that keeps the holster’s mouth from collapsing once your gun has been drawn. An OWB design with installable IWB clips, a 15-degree forward cant and a prominent sweat guard, each of the holsters is hand-tanned, -sanded, -wet-molded, -sewn and -boned at the company’s South Carolina location—which allows it to be formed specifically to accommodate the user’s specific red-dot, weapon light and/or muzzle accessory models. The alligator trim piece is available in eight colors. Price: \$285. *Contact: Southern Trapper; (843) 630-6939; thesoutherntrapper.com.*

Magpul DAKA Rifle Soft Cases

Slim, densely padded and volumetrically efficient, Magpul’s DAKA Soft Case series for rifles—comprised of the SC35, SR44 and SLR53 models—is constructed from the company’s proprietary DAKA Grit 600-denier material, which is lightweight, flexible, durable and weather-resistant. The SR44 measures 44"x12"x3" and, like its stablemates, features RF-welded seams and YKK Aquaguard zippers to seal off its contents from the environment. Laser-cut slots in the interior are MOLLE-compatible and five DAKA Gear Straps are included to secure a long gun. The lid’s interior integrates four mesh pockets sized to hold up to eight Gen M3 PMAGs, along with another pocket for small items and a zippered pocket for documents. Exterior features include an RF-welded ID card slot, dot matrix labeling grid, built-in carry handles and stowable attachment points for connection



to an optional rifle sling using push-button sling swivels, Paraclips or MASH Hooks. Price: Starting at \$160. *Contact: Magpul; (877) 462-4785; magpul.com.*



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The Light-Mounted Compensator from Vantage Point Armory is a clever idea because the machined-aluminum muzzle device attaches directly to the Streamlight or SureFire weapon light of the shooter’s choosing using the light’s existing hardware. Then the compensator and light attach to your handgun as a unit via the pistol’s accessory rail where it can quickly and easily be removed by hand whenever the two accessories aren’t needed. When installed, expect a recoil reduction of 20 percent or more, in addition to noticeably less muzzle flip for faster, more accurate shots on target. Available for select Archon, Beretta, Glock, SIG and Taurus models. Price: \$150. *Contact: Vantage Point Armory; (260) 478-8722; vparmory.com.*

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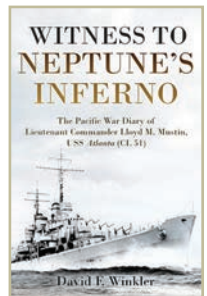
Taurus Fixed Blade Knife



One standout in firearm maker Taurus' accessory line is this branded fixed-blade knife by Fox Edge. This general workhorse of a knife has a 4.6" blade of D2 steel hardened to 58-60 Rockwell and featuring a drop-point profile with a slight spear point beveled in. Black G10 scales have a knapped flint texture for a secure grip, while jimping along the blade's spine adds user control for finer work and a lanyard cutout in the butt adds security. A leather sheath complements the blade, which is designed to be belt-carried either horizontally or vertically. Price: \$100. Contact: Taurus; (800) 327-3776; shoptaurus.com.

Witness To Neptune's Inferno

Lloyd M. Mustin has the distinct honor of having served the United States in several roles. Later in life, from 1977-1979, Mustin served as president of the National Rifle Association and was also on the U.S.



Olympic committee for shooting sports. Earlier in life, though, Mustin served as lieutenant commander of the light cruiser *U.S.S. Atlanta* in the Pacific during World War II. *Witness To Neptune's Inferno* by David F. Winkler is a tantalizing window into Mustin's experiences during the early years of the conflict, with vivid details captured by Mustin's war diary and his personal recollections of the Battle of Guadalcanal from a naval perspective. Price: \$35. Contact: Casemate Publishers; (610) 853-9131; casematepublishers.com.



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“Right & Wrong” Drill

A simple 15-shot learning exercise, the aptly named Right & Wrong Drill consists of two strings of fire focused on technically correct execution of the fundamentals for maximum accuracy and two that encourage the shooter to explore how much he or she can get away with technique-wise and still get an acceptable hit.

The target is a standard 8.5"x11" piece of paper folded in half and then halved again for a roughly 4"x5" rectangle. The shooter places the target 3 yards away for the first few strings. To begin, the shooter fires—as nearly as possible—a perfectly centered shot, focusing on feeling the trigger move straight rearward and the sear release. The next two shots are now placed as nearly as possible into the first shot’s bullet hole, keeping in mind that the point of aim will have to compensate for the height of the sights or optic over the bore.

Now the hard toggle to “wrong,” staying at the same distance. Fire four individual shots while aimed for the center of the target but “whacking” the trigger hard. The



object is to see if your firing grasp is sufficiently placed and firm to resist the crashing of the trigger and keep the impacts in the small target. It will feel as if you are breaking the rules, but you may be surprised at the results.

The next three shots explore poor sight alignment. Intentionally misalign the front sight so that it is barely inside the rear notch to the left, high and right while pointing toward the center of the target. With an optic, place the red dot just outside the window where it is no longer visible to the same vectors. Break each of these shots with a correct press to isolate the variables. Surprisingly, impacts will typically be well within the target.

With the knowledge of how much one can get away with, place the target at 12 yards. Finish by doing things “right”—fire a careful five-shot group with diligent application of sight alignment/picture, trigger control and follow-through. The goal is to keep all hits on the paper.

—JUSTIN DYAL, FIELD EDITOR

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QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

“Black” Colt M1911s

Q In my collection, I have a unique Colt Model of 1911 marked “U.S. ARMY.” Its condition is about 70 to 75 percent, though, its finish is incredibly dark—nearly black compared to the traditional blued finish I’ve seen elsewhere. Do I have a unique specimen?

A In 1918, Colt was shipping the Model 1911 in batches of 6,000 and then increased that to 8,000. Toward the end of the year, the company shipped a huge batch of 347,000 units. Your gun was in this last batch with serial numbers running 233601 through 580600. So, your pistol, Serial No. 435XXX, may have departed for World War I in late 1918.

The reason for the remarkable increase in the speed of production was a considerable reduction in construction and finishing time. The most notable difference, at first glance, is the lack of fine polishing of the metal and the dull finish.



These shortcuts become visible starting around Serial No. 312000. Some call this finish “Black Colt.”

Another indication of a “Black” pistol will be the repositioning of the “Rampant Colt” logo. Around Serial No. 275000, it was moved from the rear of the slide to the center just behind the patent dates. This change occurred before the Black finish, so some high-finish Colts will have the Rampant Colt in the new position, while all Black Colts have it there in the center for the slide. The Black finish started in May 1918, and the war ended in November 1918, so a great many of the Black Colts did not make it overseas.

—MICHAEL F. CARRICK, CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

“Questions & Answers” is compiled by staff, Field and Contributing Editors from the inquiries about guns, ammunition and their use received by *American Rifleman*. Direct answers to technical and historical questions are provided only to NRA members. Submit letters to: Dope Bag, NRA Publications, 11250 Waples Mill Road, Fairfax, VA 22030-9400 or to: americanrifleman@nrahq.org. Include your membership number or current copy of an NRA magazine mailing label or membership card and a self-addressed, stamped, business-size envelope. Please limit each letter to one specific question. Technical or historical questions cannot be answered by telephone, and even approximate values on guns or other equipment cannot be provided. Please allow 6 to 8 weeks for replies.

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FAVORITE FIREARMS

A Marlin 39 Legacy

I am standing here with my twin 17-year-old great-grandsons. Tyler, on the right, is holding a Marlin 39A rifle I bought as a 16-year-old in 1948 and have, at his request, gifted it to him. It is in excellent condition, retaining its original accuracy, with the stocks refinished by Turnbull. Matteo, on the left, is holding his 39A, which is in like-new condition. I gifted him this rifle as purchased at a gun show. I am holding a new, unfired 39A that, as fortune would have it, was manufactured in the same year as the one I purchased in 1948.

Both of these young men, as well as my two sons, have been brought up learning to shoot with my original 39A and have chosen the same model for their own .22 rimfires. We live on sufficient land to have rifle, pistol and



NRA member photo

trap ranges. Our family is a shooting family—sons, grandchildren and great-grandchildren all shoot if older than 6 years old.

My old 39A, with thousands of rounds through it, has served as early training and then recreational

equipment, including hunting. I was a very proud teenager when I bought this rifle 77 years ago, and I expect (hope?) Tyler will get a chance to hand it down to his great-grandchild after another 77 years.

—DONALD E. BRANDT

Nearly every shooter has a favorite firearm. If you would like to share the experience of owning yours with other *American Rifleman* readers, or on americanrifleman.org, send a sharp color photograph of the gun, accompanied by its story in fewer than 400 words, with your name, address and daytime telephone number to: Favorite Firearms, *American Rifleman*, National Rifle Association, 11250 Waples Mill Road, Fairfax, VA 22030-9400, or email it to americanrifleman@nrahq.org. Photos and submissions cannot be returned and may be edited for clarity and brevity.

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While some decry anything other than an original, the reality is that well-made copies of popular, proven firearms are often just as capable but significantly less costly. Among the best are two models from SDS Arms' MAC brand.

BY AARON CARTER, Field Editor

VALUES

MAC 1014 & MAC 2



Certain firearm designs and models are timeless and highly coveted, with a couple of obvious examples being the Heckler & Koch (H&K) *Maschinenpistole 5* (MP5) and Benelli's M4/M1014. Oftentimes these guns were—and in some cases, still are—employed by law-enforcement agencies and/or the military, and thus private ownership is limited due to one or more features that run afoul of gun-control legislation. Modified, civilian-legal variants are normally also introduced by the maker, however, these are usually costly and, at times, difficult to obtain. Fortunately, once patents expire, other manufacturers meet the demand with less costly clones. One such company is SDS Arms' Military Armament Corp. (MAC).

Located in Knoxville, Tenn., SDS Arms is an importer that made its debut in 2017. Peruse the company's website under its MAC brand and you'll immediately notice a

trend; only popular, time-tested models are offered. For instance, there are two semi-automatic-only handgun variants of the MP5 submachine gun, as well as the MAC 1911 JSOC 45, MAC 1911-9 Double Stack (February 2024, p. 54), and copies of the Benelli M4/M1014 and M2. I will focus on the latter two shotguns here.

Why did MAC replicate the Benelli M4/M1014 and M2? "The popularity of those two models has never gone away," explained Neil Sanders, vice president of marketing for SDS Arms. "The wave of clones grew large, but MAC wanted to step back and make sure we did it right. We found the right manufacturer—Özerbas in Beysehir, located in the Konya region of Turkey—to work with us on creating a one-for-one clone to get it as close to the original iconic shotguns in not only fit but also in function. [Additionally], we are building brands based on quality and affordability with the features American consumers seek."

MAC SHOTGUNS

MAC 1014

The origins of the MAC 1014 are found in the U.S. Army's May 4, 1998, solicitation for submissions for a combat-ready, semi-automatic, 12-ga. shotgun. As a result, *Benelli Armi SpA* of Urbino, Italy, submitted its new M4 Super 90, which was the company's first gas-operated shotgun. The innovative scattergun won the competition and was subsequently designated the M1014. The first batch was delivered to the Marine Corps in 1999. In the years since, the M1014's use across the various branches of the military has increased markedly. So, too, has civilian interest. So, it's understandable that MAC would reproduce the Benelli M4/M1014, which, depending on configuration, starts at \$2,300 for an authentic gun.

Outwardly, the 3"-chambered, 12-ga., semi-automatic MAC 1014 Pistol Grip and Marine Pistol Grip visually replicate the Benelli M4 Tactical, while the MAC 1014 Breacher more closely resembles the current Benelli M1014. And then there is the MAC 1014 Wood, a standalone. Consistent with the Benelli, the Pistol Grip and Marine Pistol Grip feature a fixed, black synthetic buttstock with bilateral sling mounting points. Capping the buttstock is a squishy recoil pad measuring upward of 7/8" thick. The pliable pistol grip, replete with grooves, enhances purchase. A protruding lip on the bottom of the grip prevents the hand from slipping.

If you're clamoring for the multi-position buttstock of the military Benelli M4, forget about it. Due to import laws, it has been replaced on the Breacher variant with a fixed stock similar in appearance; the pistol grip differs, too. The MAC 1014 Wood features a furniture set crafted from Turkish walnut that does not include the pistol grip. It's worth noting here that the MAC 1014 is compatible with most Benelli M4 aftermarket parts.

The 1014's fore-end consists of two halves with a mid-length swell that cover its gas-operation system. These are secured by retaining bands; one is located on the front of the receiver, while the other projects downward from the barrel. Tension is provided by the snugged magazine lock nut.

Other than the requisite serial number and model designation, the MAC 1014's aluminum receiver has only the MAC logo on the right, rear side—a fitting, all-business appearance. Topping the receiver is a windage- and elevation-adjustable ghost-ring rear sight featuring a 0.195"-diameter aperture with white dots at the 3- and 9-o'clock positions.



The MAC 1014's action mimics Benelli's fast and reliable A.R.G.O. system, a short-stroke, dual-piston design wherein the pistons themselves, rather than action bars or other linkages, interact directly against the bolt to cycle the gun.

An aluminum, 5.25"-long Picatinny rail, secured with five M4 screws, is forward of the sight.

The bolt release, which is located on the front, right side of the receiver, is the only control not contained within the unitized, detachable fire-control group. These include: a carrier-drop lever; a triangular, crossbolt-style safety; and the single-stage trigger. Concerning the latter, on the sample provided, it broke at an average pull weight of 7 lbs., 15 ozs. There was noticeable creep, though it was smooth, and the reset was exceptionally short.

The heart of the MAC 1014 mimics that of the original. Coined "Auto-Regulating Gas-Operated" (A.R.G.O.) by Benelli, the unique system features a short-stroke, dual-piston design in which the pistons interact directly against the bolt, thereby speeding operation. The absence of action bars or linkages saves weight, too. Moreover, the dual ports fueling operation are located immediately forward of the chamber, rather than at some distance down the barrel. Why? Purportedly, this is due to the combination of gases being hotter and cleaner, thereby resulting in less fouling and enhanced reliability. Given the stellar reputation of the M4/M1014, that should be taken as gospel.

After the pistons interact with the bolt, the bolt head rotates out of lockup and begins its rearward movement, with the spring-loaded extractor removing the hull from the chamber. As the bolt carrier assembly moves to the rear of the receiver, it compresses the recoil spring contained within the buttstock. A spring-loaded ejector on the left receiver wall clears the hull at this time. As the rebounding recoil spring forces the bolt carrier assembly forward, the shell on the raised carrier is pushed into the chamber and

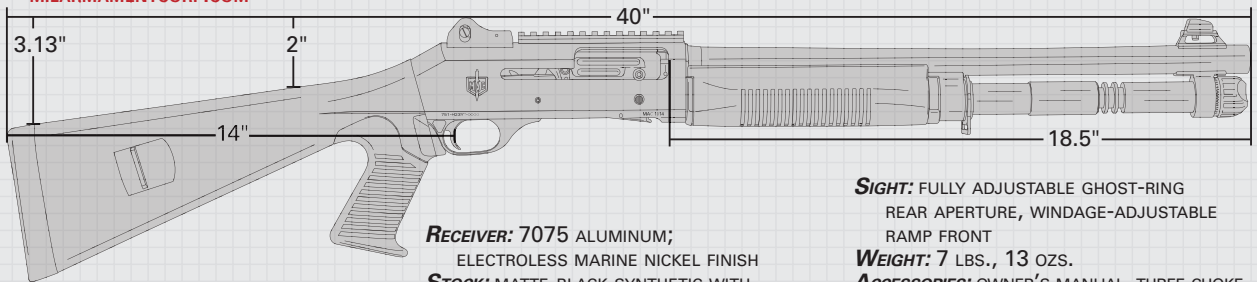
Sights on the MAC 1014 consist of a ghost-ring rear aperture and a front ramp; a section of Picatinny rail atop the receiver facilitates the use of an optic.



The MAC 1014 is a faithful clone of Benelli's M4/M1014, and most M4 aftermarket products are compatible with the much-less-expensive gun.

MAC 1014 MARINE PISTOL GRIP

IMPORTER: MILITARY ARMAMENT CORP. (DEPT. AR), 114 SHERLOCK LANE, SUITE 18, KNOXVILLE, TN, 37922; (865) 604-6894;
MILARMAMENTCORP.COM



ACTION TYPE: GAS-OPERATED,
SEMI-AUTOMATIC SHOTGUN
GAUGE: 12; 3"

RECEIVER: 7075 ALUMINUM;
ELECTROLESS MARINE NICKEL FINISH
STOCK: MATTE-BLACK SYNTHETIC WITH
PISTOL GRIP
MAGAZINE: TUBULAR; FIVE-ROUND
TRIGGER: SINGLE-STAGE; 7-LB., 15-OZ. PULL

SIGHT: FULLY ADJUSTABLE GHOST-RING
REAR APERTURE, WINDAGE-ADJUSTABLE
RAMP FRONT
WEIGHT: 7 LBS., 13 OZS.
ACCESSORIES: OWNER'S MANUAL, THREE CHOKE
TUBES, CHOKE TUBE WRENCH AND CASE,
SIGHT-ADJUSTMENT TOOLS, SLING, LOCK
MSRP: \$420



Controls integrated into the fire-control group include (front to rear) the carrier-drop lever, single-stage trigger and triangular crossbolt safety.

lockup completed. A nice feature of the MAC 1014 is that the bolt carrier assembly can be retracted—via the charging handle—slightly for a chamber check and will return to battery, even if eased forward.

Feeding the MAC 1014 is a tubular, five-round magazine that is secured to the barrel in two locations. The follower is red anodized aluminum.

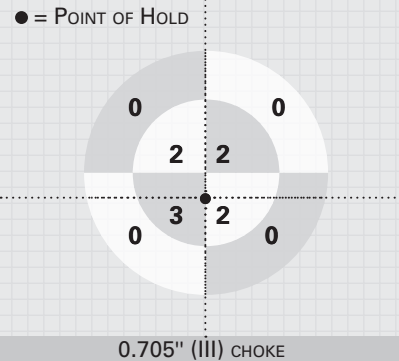
Chambered in 3" 12 gauge, the MAC 1014's chrome-lined, 4140 steel 18.5" barrel is threaded to accept omnipresent Beretta-Benelli Mobil choke tubes. Accompanying the shotgun are three unmarked, flush-fitting choke tubes. The constrictions are as follows: 0.682" (I); 0.705" (III); and 0.720" (IIII)—all "tighter" than the number of notches would typically represent. The latter comes pre-installed. A post, winged front sight is mounted atop a raised platform. It is adjustable for windage and has a single white dot. Tools are provided to aid with front and rear sight adjustment, while a basic choke tube wrench



A steel sling fitting on the MAC 1014's magazine tube accepts a 1½" sling and complements the slotted fitting integrated into the side of the buttstock.

SHOOTING RESULTS MAC 1014 (25 YARDS)

REMINGTON ULTIMATE DEFENSE
12-GA., 2¾", 00 BUCKSHOT
 AVERAGE PELLET COUNT: 9
 LISTED VELOCITY: 1,325 F.P.S.
 AVERAGE OF 10 PATTERNS



21" INNER CIRCLE:	9	(100%)
30" OUTER RING:	0	(0%)
TOTAL HITS:	9	(100%)



The bolt-release button is located on the right side of the receiver beneath the ejection port—through which the shotgun's left-side ejector can be seen.

accompanies the shotgun to facilitate choke changes.

The barrel, magazine tube and receiver of the MAC 1014 Marine Pistol Grip tested had an electroless, marine nickel finish, while the other variants have a black-anodized receiver with a black chromate coating on the barrel. The forward sling mounting point is rearward of the faux magazine extension.

MAC 2

MAC's second shotgun series, the MAC 2, traces its lineage to another Benelli product, the semi-automatic M2, which debuted in the 1980s. Most firearm enthusiasts, and shotgunners in particular, are familiar with the popular M2; after all, the line has been sold in vast quantities for decades and remains a mainstay product for the Italian maker.

As with the original M2s, the 3"-chambered, 12-ga. MAC 2-series shotguns employ "inertia operation" developed by the Italian maker in 1967, which, since then, has earned a stellar reputation for reliability. The step-by-step actions of the inertia-operating system have been covered ad nauseam in these pages and thus won't be detailed here. The design's benefits, however, include: fewer parts; ease of cleaning and maintenance; longevity; and load diversity (without changing pistons, such as on some gas-operated shotguns).

MAC SHOTGUNS



The MAC 2's bolt assembly features the rotating head with attached extractor, a heavy spring between it and the lightened body and a tail that contacts the recoil spring located in the buttstock.

The foundation of the inertia operating system is the simplistic bolt assembly, which consists of three primary parts: a rotating bolt head; an inertia spring; and the bolt body. Interestingly, removing the bolt assembly of the sample MAC 2 3-Gun model revealed its bolt body to be machined differently than the original, as it has multiple deep, long channels to cut weight while increasing speed. Operation is unchanged. The other MAC 2 variants—Tactical Marine, Tactical Marine Wood and Tactical Wood—don't have this modification to the bolt. That being said, all have an oversized, cylindrical charging handle. This was one feature I disliked, as the handle rotated freely. A user with compromised hand strength could potentially lose purchase when retracting the bolt, causing it to slam forward prematurely. Beneath the handle is the bolt-release button that, although larger than the one on the MAC 1014, is smooth across the face.

As with the MAC 1014, the fire controls of the MAC 2 are contained within a single unit and are identical. On the sample, the single-stage trigger broke at an average of 5 lbs., 15 ozs. The trigger exhibited significant creep, but it was smooth, and the reset was quite short.

The matte black-anodized 7075 aluminum receiver of the MAC 2 3-Gun is relatively unadorned; in fact, like its MAC 1014 counterpart, it only has the serial number, importer name and location, country of origin and MAC logo. Outside of a cutout and a series of long grooves to reduce glare, the top of the 3-Gun's receiver is bare. Those on the other MAC 2 variants mimic the configurations of the MAC 1014, featuring a ghost-ring rear sight and Picatinny rail. There is a significant change to the 3-Gun's receiver that's only obvious to the discerning eye. Look beneath it and you'll see an enlarged loading port that's designed to hasten loading during competition and when wearing gloves. There is also a notch forward of the trigger guard to further guide shells into the loading port.

Affixed to the front of the MAC 2 3-Gun's receiver is a



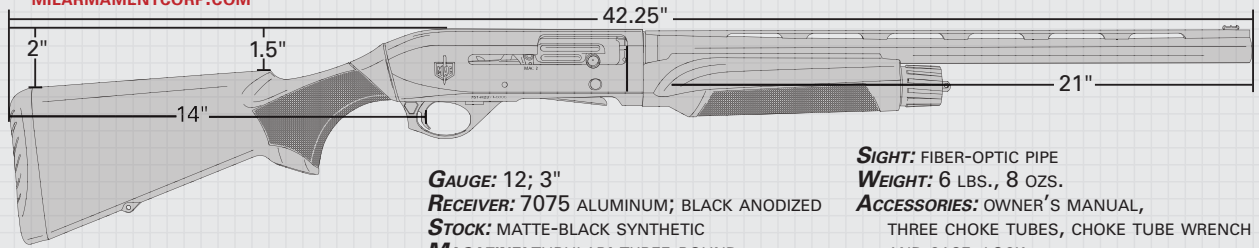
The predominately black, and competition-minded, MAC M2 3-Gun comes with a red fiber-optic front sight (l.) and an orange plastic magazine follower (r.).



Fieldstripping the MAC 2 is straightforward and reveals the shotgun's familiar construction. Note the QD stud on the magazine cap (inset, l.), which complements a molded fitting in the buttstock.

MAC M2 3-GUN

IMPORTER: MILITARY ARMAMENT CORP. (DEPT. AR), 114 SHERLOCK LANE, SUITE 18, KNOXVILLE, TN, 37922; (865) 604-6894;
MILARMAMENTCORP.COM



ACTION TYPE: INERTIA-OPERATED, SEMI-AUTOMATIC SHOTGUN

GAUGE: 12; 3"
RECEIVER: 7075 ALUMINUM; BLACK ANODIZED
STOCK: MATTE-BLACK SYNTHETIC
MAGAZINE: TUBULAR; THREE-ROUND
TRIGGER: SINGLE-STAGE; 5-LB., 15-OZ. PULL

SIGHT: FIBER-OPTIC PIPE
WEIGHT: 6 LBS., 8 OZS.
ACCESSORIES: OWNER'S MANUAL, THREE CHOKE TUBES, CHOKE TUBE WRENCH AND CASE, LOCK
MSRP: \$380



Controls on the right side of the MAC 2's receiver (front to rear) are: a bolt-release button, an oversize charging handle, a carrier-drop lever and a crossbolt safety button.

TESTING

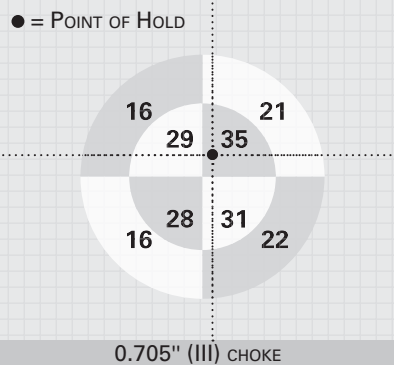
It's always prudent to read the owner's manual before heading to the range. Why? For starters, page one of the MAC 1014's manual suggests firing: "One hundred rounds of 1,350+ f.p.s. ammo for a break-in period. Your shotgun will cycle lighter loads after completing the proper break-in period." What's more, it was suggested that, at a minimum, 1 $\frac{1}{8}$ -oz. loads are used, and 1,350 f.p.s. was the lowest suggested velocity. So the search for a suitable load began.

What I discovered was, other than the odd buckshot and slug loads, as well as shells fit for waterfowling, few shells meet the aforementioned criteria for payload and velocity. And those that do are costly. Take heed. So, I opted for handloading. According to Hodgdon Powder Company's website, I could attain 1,365 f.p.s. using the following recipe: Remington Gun Club 12-ga., 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ " hull; Winchester 209 primer; 28.5 grains of Winchester WSF propellant; a Winchester WAA12 (or clone) wad; and 1 $\frac{1}{8}$ ozs. of lead-alloy shot. Since I was breaking in the MAC 1014 Marine Pistol Grip on a combined handgun/shotgun range, I opted to use up some excess magnum No. 5 shot. I loaded 100 shells. Being an inertia-operated gun, the MAC 2 3-Gun shotgun doesn't have a break-in process. After a quick cleaning/lubrication of the guns (including removing the chokes, which had no anti-seize or grease), I headed out to the range.

Obviously, one should adhere to the suggested break-in

SHOOTING RESULTS MAC 2 3-GUN (40 YARDS)

GAMEBORE ROSE GOLD PRO COMP
12-GA., 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ ", 1 OZ., No 7 $\frac{1}{2}$
AVERAGE PELLET COUNT: 329
LISTED VELOCITY: 1,200 F.P.S.
AVERAGE OF 10 PATTERNS



21" INNER CIRCLE:	123	(37%)
30" OUTER RING:	75	(23%)
TOTAL HITS:	198	(60%)

process, but I'm also not naïve and thus realize some consumers won't do so (at least initially), so I wanted to first evaluate functioning of the MAC 1014 with lighter loads before starting the "official" break-in procedures. The assortment of 12-ga., 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ " shells, which featured 7/8 oz. (1,350 f.p.s.) to 1 oz. (1,200 to 1,290 f.p.s.) of lead-alloy shot, all functioned flawlessly. This is not to suggest that one should disregard the maker's recommendations, as gremlins tend to appear at the most inopportune times, but it was a good sign.

Through the 100-round, load-and-dump fest, the sample MAC 1014 exhibited no malfunctions, and that continued afterward, when it was fed a steady diet of randomness, ranging from 3", 2-oz. turkey loads to 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ " shells with slugs or brimming with birdshot and buckshot at a variety of velocities. There were no issues whatsoever—again, a testament to the Benelli M4/M1014 design and MAC's fidelity in duplicating it. The recoil

generated by the magnum loads was offset somewhat by the gun's near-8-lb. weight, gas operation and the pistol grip, which aided control.

Finally, with the III-notch choke tube inserted, I commenced pattern testing at 25 yards. The load I selected was Remington's Ultimate Defense 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ " 00 Buck, which featured nine pellets. The pattern results can be found on p. 39. Despite patterning several inches high—remember, the sights can be adjusted—pellet distribution was fairly uniform.

I evaluated the MAC 2 3-Gun with a variety of shells as well, fluctuating from Fiocchi's Shooting Dynamics 12-ga., 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ " shell propelling 7/8 oz. of No. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ s to 1,350 f.p.s. to Migra's 3" 1/3 Stack Load Steel Shot, which attains 1,515 f.p.s. with 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ ozs. of shot. Most target-type shells used were those that'd pull double-duty for upland hunting, but I tried a host of slugs and buckshot, too. The result? No issues whatsoever. The sample 3-Gun fed, fired, extracted and ejected without problems throughout the function-testing phase. Weighing 6 lbs., 8 ozs., recoil generated by hard-hitting loads—particularly those designed for waterfowling and speedy slugs—was jarring, yet not intolerable, thanks to the recoil pad and a firm hold.

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U.S. Army photo by Master Sgt. Michel Sauret

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MAC SHOTGUNS

As for patterning, I opted to use Gamebore's Rose Gold Pro Comp 2¾" loads featuring 1 oz. of No. 7½ shot at 1,200 f.p.s.—a premium, dual-use competition and upland shell—paired with the III-notch choke tube. The full pattern results are found nearby. It's worth mentioning here that, although the aforementioned shell is considered "one ounce," the actual payload weighed around 426 to 427 grains, and thus contained about eight or so pellets less than a comparable 1-oz. shell. Since Gamebore produces 28-gram (432-grain) loads for markets outside the U.S., this isn't surprising.

With patterning and function testing completed, I then transitioned to conducting loading and shooting drills from multiple positions on cardboard targets at distances ranging from 7 to 25 yards. Thanks to its lighter weight, the MAC 2 3-Gun was easy and fast to maneuver when "running and gunning," as was loading; in fact, the tubular magazine could quickly be filled to capacity without looking. I cannot speak highly enough of the improved loading port. But, as much as I enjoyed engaging targets with the Mac 2 3-Gun, I preferred the heavier, gas-operated MAC 1014. I found it more controllable and comfortable to shoot, and when engaging multiple targets while moving—forward, backward and sideways—at a steady pace or working around barriers, the gun was rock solid and seamlessly moved between the paper-made "threats." I now understand the reasons for the M4/M1014's popularity. Was its trigger heavy? Sure, but it didn't affect the results on the range.

As the famed entrepreneur Elon Musk once said, "Great companies are built on great products." SDS Arms and its Military Armament Corp. brand seems to have taken that maxim to heart, as it focuses on cloning only established and looked-for firearms, such as Benelli's M4/M1014 and M2. And, to its credit, MAC has improved upon them while offering these credible new guns at prices that quash excuses. Now that's a recipe for success! 



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AMMUNITION

Hornady's latest flat-shooting Advanced Rifle Cartridge and its 62-grain .22-cal. bullet are tailor-made for AR-15s and short-action bolt guns—and the author also found them to be “good medicine for bad dogs.”

BY FRANK MELLONI, Field Editor



Illustration by David Labrozzi
“Coyote Skull” (<https://skfb.ly/onppo>) by RISD Nature Lab is licensed under Creative Commons

HORNADY'S 22 ARC

Oftentimes, we can trace fundamental changes in cartridge composition to a single component. If we go back to the mid-1800s, we observed the transition from paper-wrapped “cartridges” that were little more than consumable speedloaders to the metallic-cased, self-contained rounds that were more like what we use today. Fast-forward a few years, and the invention of modern primers spun us away from larger rimfires and toward the centerfire model that most of us associate with today’s rifle rounds. From here, the next largest change is undeniably the switch from blackpowder to smokeless propellant. As smokeless powder can generate higher pressures with lighter charges, cartridges started to shorten in length, shrink in width and their bore diameters gradually tightened. Considering the notable cartridges that have been around for the past 100 years or so, we seemed to have the self-contained cartridge concept down. Except one component has yet to reach its zenith: the bullet.

Until recently, bullet design has generally been reactionary. So, long guns are capable of better accuracy? Better make a projectile that can keep up. Powder now pushes it so fast that the lead smears? Go ahead and add a copper jacket. Most modern cartridge designs were developed largely in this fashion, as reaching a target velocity or skirting a hunting or match rule was often the driving development criteria. Once those were hit, most manufacturers would just look to their existing bullet library and pick what fit the final product best.

With the working part of the cartridge being an afterthought for so long, Hornady decided it was time to flip the script and work from the “tip of the spear,” as it were. Not too long after the turn of the 21st century, the company started working with “long ogive” designs. By making

bullets longer and sleeker, higher ballistic coefficients could be achieved, but with two major problems: stability and feeding. Streamlining a bullet at the expense of bearing surface means a longer overall cartridge length, often requiring more bolt travel or the larger version of a given platform to fit magazines. This puts riflemakers in a position where smaller guns with shorter actions are more desirable. The second problem is that these designs require a faster twist rate to stabilize, so if existing rifle barrels had too slow of a barrel, all the shooting public would get are expensive musket balls, as far as accuracy was concerned.

Lines like the ELD Match, ELD-X and A-Tip were Hornady’s proverbial toe-dip in the water, as they stretched things out, yet still performed superbly in existing firearms. Based on the success of these designs, the Nebraska-based manufacturer determined that consumers would respond well to a cartridge made explicitly for a projectile. The result of that determination is the 22 ARC with its 62-grain ELD-VT bullet.

That’s a lot of alphabet soup to digest, so let’s begin there. The “ARC” stands for Advanced Rifle Cartridge, joining the 6 mm ARC released just a few years ago. That mid-velocity 6 mm cartridge fulfilled a request by the U.S. Dept. of Defense and went on to become extremely popular in long-range shooting sports. Derived from the 6.5 mm Grendel, the 22 ARC shares the same parent case and, therefore, also carries over the 0.441” bolt head. As with bullets in similar families, the “ELD” stands for Extremely Low Drag, with the “VT” standing for Varmint Target. Built for coyotes and game of comparable size, this sleek, polymer-tipped bullet features a thin copper jacket and an enlarged internal cavity to help it fragment the



Three 22 ARC loads were introduced at launch, but five are now being offered: a 62-grain V-Match; a 70-grain CX; a 75-grain ELD Match; an 80-grain Precision Hunter; and an 88-grain ELD Match.

STRIKES A CHORD

HORNADY 22 ARC



Prior to his range testing of Hornady's new cartridge, the author put its 62-grain ELD-VT load to good use during a predator hunt in Wyoming, eliminating coyotes out to 206 yards.

moment it encounters resistance. This is done by positioning the lead core to the rear of the bullet, balancing it in the process. In its 0.224" incarnation, it reaches a G1 BC of 0.395, putting it on par with the heavier 75-grain hollow-point match bullet of the same diameter. Designing the VT primarily as a varmint bullet, the company knew that driving it to speeds rivaling the .22-250 Remington would help hunters realize its full terminal potential, while the flattened trajectories will make it alluring to competitors engaging unknown-distance targets.

Odds are, you're now reading this and wondering, "Hasn't it been done before?" and thinking of Federal's .224 Valkyrie. While the two share a similar design concept, a closer look illustrates the differences. The Valkyrie was based on the 6.8 mm SPC case and, therefore, has less powder capacity than the 22 ARC. On average, the 22 ARC can safely hold about 5 additional grains of Hodgdon's CFE 223, a common powder used to load both. That might not sound like much, but it's enough to push a 62-grain projectile nearly 250 f.p.s. faster. Using Hornady's published data, we see a prospective safe maximum charge of 27.5 grains of this powder will take the Valkyrie to approximately 3,160 f.p.s., whereas 32.3 grains will boost the same bullet to around 3,400 f.p.s. in a 22 ARC. Interestingly, the 22 ARC manages to do this at a maximum average pressure (MAP) of 52,000 p.s.i., which is 3,000 p.s.i. lower than the .224 Valkyrie's MAP.

Hornady's creation also shares the benefit of the bullet and cartridge coming from the same hands, eliminating the probability of miscommunication in specifications when it's time to ramp up production and chamber rifles. One piece of history that they both share is that both were designed to fit in a standard AR-15 magazine, enabling shooters to send rapid follow-up shots, a benefit that can only truly be realized through the cartridges' low recoil.

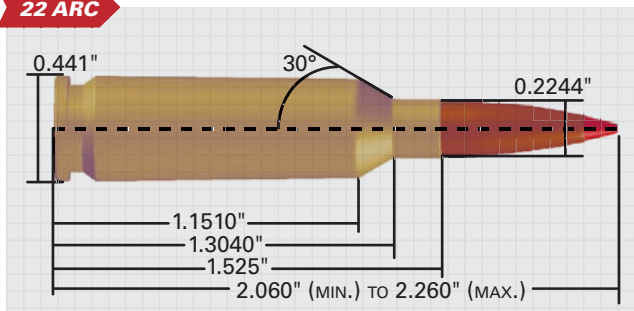
So, the claim is that the 22 ARC pulls .22-250 Rem.

performance out of the AR-15 platform. Some elements of that claim are true, but only if compared appropriately. In many ways, we're taking away from the 22 ARC by comparing it to the old varmint cartridge, so we need to be careful. If we tighten our view solely to velocity, it appears that the claim is false. Velocity on a 50-grain bullet from a traditional 26"-barreled bolt-action chambered for .22-250 will reach up to around 3,800 f.p.s. The same bullet fired from a 24"-barreled gas gun can only expect to travel at about 3,450 f.p.s., and a barrel of that length isn't exactly a fair representation of the average AR-15. The numbers are close but certainly different. However, when you consider 55 grains to be about the heaviest bullet you can expect to launch from a conventional 1:12"- or 1:14"-twist .22-250 Rem. barrel, the playing field starts to level out. Additionally, the longer cases of this legacy cartridge cannot be loaded with modern bullets like the ELD-VT, as they may not fit into a standard chamber or, at the very least, the magazine. When you start to factor in the reduction in drop and wind deflection, the 22 ARC, despite leaving the muzzle at a lower velocity, will actually beat the .22-250 at extended distances. As with most things in life, it's imperative to zoom out and take in the entire picture.

Although the 22 ARC was the vehicle for the launch of the ELD-VT bullet and the V-Match line of factory ammunition, it's still a formidable foundation for several existing projectiles. The 0.224"-diameter bullet is one of the most popular in America, and Hornady offers reloading data for bullets between 52 and 90 grains, extending the cartridge's role to deer and antelope use. For those not interested in rolling their own, Hornady has also released a load under its Black line topped with a 75-grain ELD-M (G1 BC of 0.467) as well as a Match line expansion loaded with the 88-grain ELD-M (G1 BC of 0.545). Long-range shooters used to fantasize about firing these from the AR-15, but until cartridges such as the 22 ARC hit the scene, it meant loading them singly, as they couldn't fit into a standard-length AR magazine.

With ammo demand as high as it is, I was only able to get the 75s to pair with my 62-grainers, but the duo would serve as an excellent base for my testing. Being that I could only throw them so hard, I recruited the help of an AR-15 made by Uintah Precision. Sold under its UP-15 line, this rifle is built with an 18" 416R stainless-steel barrel from Preferred and cut with a fast 1:7" twist rate. An ambidextrous charging handle ensures it plays nice with optics, while the 3-lb. Vitrum trigger helps to reduce the amount of shooter error that transfers into a group. To that end, Uintah offers a sub-m.o.a. guarantee with each of its rifles and even lists the ammunition it makes this claim with; as luck would have it, the 62-grain ELD-VT V-Match load was among them. I topped my rifle with a 1-6X Burris RT-6. Although on the low end, I felt this magnification range is more conducive to the medium-game hunting for

22 ARC





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HORNADY 22 ARC

SHOOTING RESULTS (100 YARDS)

22 ARC CARTRIDGE	VELOCITY (F.P.S.)	ENERGY (FT.-LBS.)	GROUP SIZE (INCHES)		
			SMALLEST	LARGEST	AVERAGE
HORNADY BLACK 75-GRAIN ELD MATCH	2,935 Avg. 22 Sd	1,434	1.12	1.41	1.27
HORNADY V-MATCH 62-GRAIN ELD-VT	3,145 Avg. 12 Sd	1,362	0.81	1.23	1.05
AVERAGE EXTREME SPREAD					1.16

NOTES: MEASURED AVERAGE VELOCITY FOR 10 SHOTS OVER A CALDWELL G2 CHRONOGRAPH AT 5 FEET. ACCURACY RESULTS FOR FIVE CONSECUTIVE, FIVE-SHOT GROUPS AT 100 YARDS. TEMPERATURE: 81° F HUMIDITY 60%. ABBREVIATIONS: ELD (EXTREMELY LOW DRAG), SD (STANDARD DEVIATION), VT (VARMINT TARGET).

which I feel the overall package would be best-suited. Setting it into one of Burris' PEPR mounts put it the perfect distance from my eye without having to tweak the stock to gain a proper cheek weld or eye relief. Uintah includes a 10-round Grendel magazine with the gun, which also feeds either ARC offering, as the cases are all close enough for reliable function.

I started my day by zeroing the optic at 100 yards and shooting groups to check consistency. As advertised, I was able to punch several consecutive sub-m.o.a. groups with the 62-grain V-Match load but failed to make it with the 75-grain ammunition. It was close enough on most occasions to not be a cause for concern, so I just kept on shooting, cleaning up my zero with each group. Recoil was light, on par with .223 Rem., but since the UP-15 is built with a Rifle+1 gas system, it's fair to say it's even lighter. I finished my close-range work with a few magazines in rapid-fire to confirm that the cartridge fed well. One of the ways Hornady ensures reliable feeding is through the use of a 30-degree shoulder; this angle strikes a balance between ballistic efficiency and reliability, so, as expected, the gun ran just fine.

At 300 yards, I found that, out of this shortened barrel, the 62s and the 75s dropped 7.5" and 9", respectively. This is about 3.5" more than a theoretical 50-grain V-Max (G1 BC of 0.242) fired at 3,800 f.p.s. out of a longer-barreled .22-250 Rem. bolt gun. However, even at this distance, it would be experiencing more than 25 percent more wind deflection. This is an important data point, as elevation is deterministic; as long as you know your conditions, correcting for drop is as simple as turning a dial. On the other hand, learning to read wind takes a lifetime, and even many professionals won't claim to do it well. Running the 14" gong out to 800 yards was truly eye-opening. At this distance, not only would the 50-grain

.22-250 Rem. bullets drop more than the 62-grain 22 ARC ones, they would also experience more than 40 percent more wind deflection. Additionally, at this distance, the 50-grain .22-250 only retained 165 ft.-lbs. of energy compared to the 62's 327 ft.-lbs. or the 75's 405 ft.-lbs. Adding this information up, the role of a bullet's ballistic coefficient becomes abundantly clear, as it has more value than weight and velocity in the decision-making process.

Summing up what I had learned on the range, the 22 ARC is a formidable addition to the cartridge landscape and the logical choice for somebody interested in what the .22-250. has established but doesn't yet own a rifle chambered for it. Even at lower velocities, the bullets that a 22 ARC rifle is capable of firing outperform the classics at extended distances. I also believe the new cartridge to make more sense in a bolt gun than the .224 Valkyrie or even the 6 mm ARC. Quite a bit of velocity is left on the table when we download to a delicate gas system and abbreviate the bullet's runway with a dwarfed barrel. Making these changes will fully bring it into its prairie-dog-popping glory. However, if you are on a more agile hunt, such as for coyote or antelope, a lightweight rifle like my test Uintah is where it's at.

I guess at the end of the day, that's why they make 64-gun safes. And the way Hornady is going, more and more of the rifles they contain are likely to be fed from boxes of ammunition adorned with a familiar family name in red. 🦋

Burris BTS35 v3

Previous to my range testing, I had the opportunity to join four other industry professionals for a coyote hunt that went well into the evening hours. As these dogs are equally active at night, we used the cover of darkness to put some fur on the ground. Burris' BTS35 v3 thermal riflescope proved to be an amazingly capable little unit, and I thoroughly enjoyed working with it on our multi-day pursuit.

I found the 400x300-pixel resolution to be more than adequate to identify coyotes at the distances we engaged them, and the internal battery life simply could not be beaten. Charging it up in the morning yielded



enough run time for several nights, which saved a few of us who had forgotten to plug them in. During our downtime, I scrolled through the settings and found navigation to be intuitive, as it revealed important features such as reticle selection and picture-in-picture zoom for tighter shots.

Being that thermal imaging presents a two-dimensional re-creation of a three-dimensional scenario, any feeling of depth perception is lost. Therefore, the flat-shooting nature of the 22 ARC was well-suited to this style of hunting. It



didn't matter if the dog was at 20 yards or 206—just putting the reticle in the vitals and pressing the trigger proved successful. If those numbers seem rather specific, it is because they were confirmed through real-world use. With an MSRP of \$3,000, Burris' relatively affordable thermal can be fit into the budget of many hunters. burrisoptics.com

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*They sung of the heroes whose valor has made us,
Sole nation on earth, independent and free,
And this will remain with kind heaven to aid us,
In spite of invaders by land and by sea.*

*New York, the Green Mountains, Macomb and Macdonough,
The Farmer, the Soldier, the Sailor, the Gunner,
Each party united have plighted their honor,
To conquer or die on the banks of Champlain.*

—“VERSES ON THE BATTLE OF PLATTSBURGH” BY CATHERINE MACOMB

As a nation, we often forget that there are some very practical reasons behind the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution. Not the least of these reasons is that the right to keep and bear arms and maintain a militia allows the average American citizen to defend his or her country, home and even the very concept of liberty. One of the greatest examples of this is the action of a group of teenage boys who helped defend their community of Plattsburgh, N.Y., during the British invasion of September 1814.

By September 1814, there had been multiple battles along New York’s northern border and across Lake Ontario. In early 1813, the British had invaded New York on the Niagara frontier, capturing Fort Niagara and ultimately burning the communities of Lewiston, Black Rock, Tuscarora and Buffalo. In the summer of 1814, British troops came ashore in Maryland, eventually pushing into Washington D.C., burning the Capitol and the White House and sending President Madison’s government into hiding. The British then attacked Baltimore, and the defense of that city resulted in an American victory, as well as a national anthem in “The Star-Spangled Banner.” But, no matter how dramatic, these raids on the eastern seaboard were simply a British diversion to draw American attention away from Plattsburgh, their prized target in the north, so deemed by British Secretary of War Henry Bathurst.

During the summer of 1814, the British had ended the

Napoleonic threat in Europe and were quickly re-allocating battle-hardened troops to Canada with the intent of finishing off the impudent Americans. Gathered above Plattsburgh were 14,000 British troops, the largest single fighting force of the entire war. The British were ready.

Why Plattsburgh? The town sits on the northwest shore of Lake Champlain in the northeastern corner of New York State. There is a fine harbor there, and the American naval squadron (under Commodore Thomas Macdonough) was assembled on Champlain waters to resist the British naval attack. Champlain is a thin sliver of a lake, pointing like a dagger toward Albany and, ultimately, New York City. The British planned to overwhelm the defenses at Plattsburgh with superior numbers of men on land and a large flotilla on the lake. With Plattsburgh captured, the British could move on Albany, cut off Boston, lay siege to New York City and take control of Lake Ontario. The battle lines were set.

The Brave Impetuosity Of Youth

The boys of Aiken’s Volunteers were students at the Plattsburgh Academy, occupied with their school lessons and youthful games. No doubt that many of them helped supplement their family diet by hunting game in the northern woods. During the last days of August 1814, the boys watched as many of their neighbors prepared to flee the village in anticipation of the invasion. The greatest army in the world was soon to be at the doorstep of the small northern village. The British were coming.

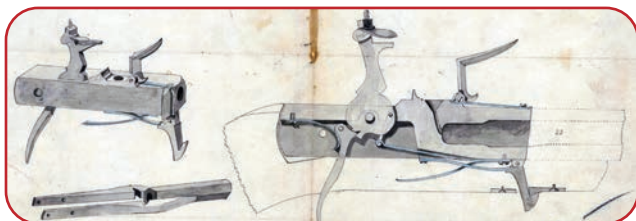


In September 1814, Americans once again stood against the might of the British military, as their forefathers had done during the Revolution. A small group of teen boys proved their valor in the face of a British attack and earned a special presentation rifle for their efforts.

BY TOM LAEMLEIN

RIFLEMEN

BRITISH ATTACK ON PLATTSBURGH



A drawing included in John Hall's original 1811 patent for what would become the M1819 Hall Rifle illustrates how the central breechblock is configured, having a chamber, hammer, frizzen, trigger, locking lever, trigger spring, mainspring and lever spring.

Collectively, the boys made an important adult decision: They resolved to stay and fight. None of them was more than 16 years old, so they could not legally enlist. They approached Gen. Alexander Macomb (in overall command of American land forces), and the general, in great need of any able-bodied troops, regardless of their age, instructed the boys to find a proper military sponsor and leader. Martin Aiken of the Essex County Militia took the assignment and was made captain of the little volunteer group. Aiken was just 21 years old. His lieutenant, Azariah Flagg (of the Clinton County Militia), was 20 years old. As the boys were not "legally" enlisted, their names would not appear on any official daily muster rolls, only those kept by their officers, Aiken and Flagg. Some of the boys brought rifles from home; other longarms were scrounged for those boys who had none. Quickly the group became known as "Aiken's Company" or "Aiken's Volunteers."

By September 4th, Aiken's Volunteers had marched out to battle, with no formalized training and certainly no combat experience. By the morning of the 6th, they were in combat. Passing through some retreating militia units, the boys met the British advance guard at nearby West

Illustration courtesy of
The Company of Military Historians



Chazy, and Aiken's volunteer riflemen "gave a good account of themselves by annoying the enemy by firing from behind stumps and fences, and disputed the ground with them all the way to Plattsburgh." While other militia units wavered along the Beekmantown Road, the boys stayed in the fight to delay the British regulars. General Macomb took notice; the boys had backbone.

The large British column continued to advance, swiftly at times, despite the harassing fire. Aiken's boys withdrew in good order and after crossing the Saranac River, reassembled at Winchel's Mill, which commanded the approaches of a relatively new bridge across the river in Plattsburgh. For the rest of the day, the little company of riflemen kept their fire hot against the British assembled on the far side of the Saranac River.

"No corps more useful and watchful ..."

General Macomb's intelligence officer, Eleazer Williams (a native American who developed the "Secret Corps of Observation" using Indian scouts throughout the north country), was particularly complimentary of Aiken's Volunteers: "There is no corps more useful and watchful than the one under the command of Captain Aikens [sic] and Lieutenant Flagg." General Macomb apparently agreed, assigning Aiken's boys to help the defenders of the blockhouse at Gravelly Point. Eleazer Williams later described the boy riflemen as "brave and daring in skirmishing with the enemy." September 9th was a clear and quiet day for Aiken's Volunteers, but also a painful one. They buried one of their own that afternoon, a boy named Peters, who had been killed the evening before.

Today, September 11th is a date that holds great meaning in this country due to several events. The first incidence of national significance concerning this date occurred on 9/11 of 1814. In the Plattsburgh harbor, young Commodore Macdonough delivered a stunning and complete defeat of the British naval squadron. On land, in a vain effort to force the bridgehead in Plattsburgh, the British splashed manpower in red-coated waves against American sharpshooters in their stone bastions.

In Benson J. Lossing's *Pictorial Fieldbook Of War Of 1812*," the author describes the boys' performance at the bridgehead: "The enemies [sic] light troops endeavored during the day to force a passage of the Saranac, but were each time repulsed by the guards at the bridge, and a small company known as Aiken's volunteers, of Plattsburgh, who were stationed in the stone mill. These young men ... behaved gallantly, and they garrisoned that mill-citadel most admirably."

A Promise From The General

The boy volunteers earned the thanks of Gen. Macomb, who praised them in his official report of the battle. Macomb claimed he "drew inspiration" from the under-aged warriors within his command. At the battle's end, the general promised each boy a U.S. Army rifle as "a reward for their gallant and meritorious conduct."

The general's promise of a rifle for each of the boy volunteers needed to be approved by the secretary of war, and

then the appropriation required a specific act of Congress. Unfortunately, Congress did not act on this until 1822, when a joint resolution passed the House of Representatives. However, the Senate postponed the resolution, and it was not finally enacted until May 20, 1826. Fifteen years after the battle, the Army held a presentation of the rifles at Plattsburgh in 1829, where only six of Aiken's Volunteers were available to receive their rifles. Sources vary, but apparently, most of the presentation rifles eventually found their way to the men who were to receive them.

There were 17 Model 1819 Hall breechloading rifles specifically made for Aiken's Volunteers. Each had a semi-circular silver plaque inset into the right side of the buttstock with the words "By Resolve of Congress" and "Presented to _____ for his gallantry at The Siege of Plattsburgh." Martin J. Aiken (misspelled "Aitkin" on the plaque) rifle exists today at the Clinton County, N.Y., Museum, one of the few longarms ever awarded by Congress for gallantry. The 17 young men awarded rifles were as follows:

Martin J. Aiken
Azariah C. Flagg
Ira Wood
Gustavus A. Bird
James Trowbridge
Hazen Mooers
Henry K. Averill
St. John B.L. Skinner
Frederick P. Allen
Hiram Walworth
Ethan Everest
Amos Soper
James Patten
Bartimeus Brooks
Smith Bateman
Melancthon W. Travis
Flavius Williams



Generation after generation, the myths and half-truths about the performance of the state militias during the War of 1812 have been repeated. Lazy historians cut and paste damning phrases time and again: The militia ran away. They refused to fight. They were inept and unable to effectively use their firearms. Clearly, those tales are

The Hall Rifle (r.) presented to Ethan Everest (misspelled Everist on the plaque) is on display in the NRA's National Firearms Museum at Fairfax, Va., along with numerous other awards for valor given to American heroes.



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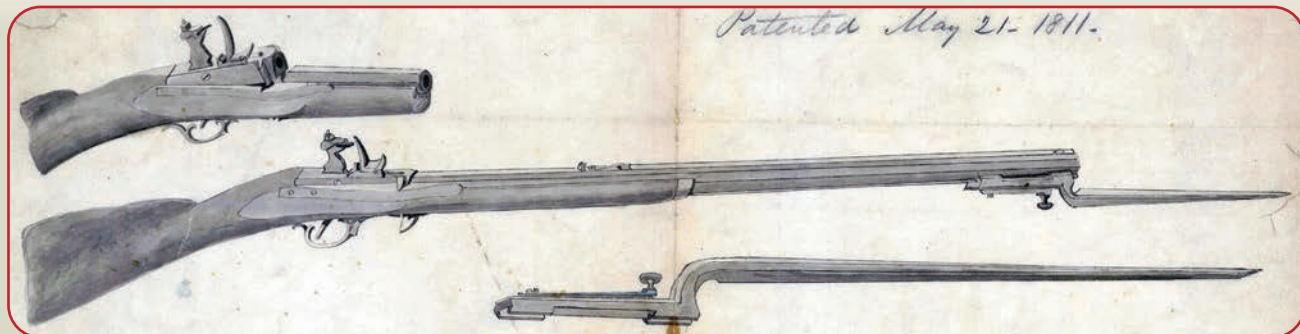
BOYS TO RIFLEMEN



not true, and the story of Aiken's Volunteers proves it. There is an inherent bravery in the citizens of this nation, and the Second Amendment grants them ability to step up when the situation demands it. Would you expect any less of any other man, regardless of where he lives in this world, if his country were invaded, his home and

loved ones threatened? The British army in 1814 may be viewed today as a gentlemanly foe, but, at the time, it was the dominant military force on the planet. A small group of American boys stood up to the British invasion during 1814 and did their part to keep America free. 

THE MODEL 1819 HALL RIFLE: AMERICA'S FIRST MILITARY BREECHLOADER



By the time Congress got around to awarding the promised rifles to "Aiken's Volunteers" on May 20, 1826, the U.S. Army had updated its hardware. When the Battle of Plattsburgh was fought, the official issue rifle of the U.S. military was the Model 1803 Harper's Ferry rifle, the first such arm in America's military arsenal. This was soon to be supplemented by the Model 1814 Common Rifle. Although superior to issue muskets in terms of accuracy and range, both were still muzzleloaders, requiring a slow, cumbersome process of manually loading powder, patch and ball from the muzzle. By the end of the decade, gunsmith and industrialist John Hall would develop and build upon a revolutionary concept for a new military rifle, one that would be awarded to the 17 volunteers under Capt. Martin Aiken.

Among the pantheon of American military arms, the Model 1819 Hall Rifle is one of the most unique designs. Initially developed by Hall in 1811, the rifle emerged as a standout concept in an era dominated by smoothbore muskets and, to a lesser degree, muzzleloading rifles. Its subsequent production would not only pave the way forward for firearm evolution, but it would also change the course of industrial history, as Hall's revolutionary Rifle Works would be the first true producer of interchangeable machine parts.

Unlike nearly all standard longarms of the age, typified by the Model 1816 Springfield that was then the issue martial musket of the U.S. military, Hall's design was a breechloading rifle. At the rear of the gun, a breechblock pivoted on a transverse pin running through two metal bars on either side of the action. This enabled the front face of the block to be lifted out of the line of the bore axis, exposing a cylindrical chamber where blackpowder and a round ball could be inserted. Once loaded, the block pivoted downward, where it was secured by a spring-loaded, spur-shaped catch that protruded from the bottom of the walnut stock.

A .52-cal. rifled arm, the Hall's pivoting breechblock enabled the user to more quickly load a projectile compared to the process of using a ramrod to drive a patched round ball down the full length of a rifled barrel. At the top of the pivoting breechblock was a flintlock priming mechanism, comprised of the hammer and frizzen, that was centrally mounted, necessitating that the open sights be slightly offset to the left of the bore line.

Hall was granted a patent for his breechloading design on May 21, 1811, a patent he shared with William Thornton, then the superintendent of the U.S. Patent Office. Thornton, who was known to have abused

his position, claimed he had also invented the same design, allegedly showing Hall a British-made Ferguson rifle as proof, and refused to issue Hall a patent unless Thornton was also named as inventor. After producing a limited number of breechloaders in both pistol and rifle form, Hall was given a military contract for 100 "patent rifles" in 1817.

During field trials, a 38-man company fired Hall rifles and standard-issue infantry muskets at a target 100 yards away for 10 minutes. With the musket, the men fired 845 shots, and 25 percent of those shots hit the target. When armed with the Hall rifle, the same company fired 1,198 shots and hit the target 36 percent of the time.

Despite its accuracy and rapidity of fire, the Hall design was not without its drawbacks. It was more complicated to produce than a military musket, and thus more expensive, while its breechloading mechanism allowed enough propellant gas to leak from the action to significantly reduce the muzzle velocity, thus the power, of a fired projectile. Despite this, tens of thousands of Halls were produced from the 1820s into the 1840s in both rifle and carbine form. Many were converted, as well as built exclusively, with a percussion priming mechanism and saw use in the American Civil War.

—EVAN BRUNE, EXECUTIVE EDITOR



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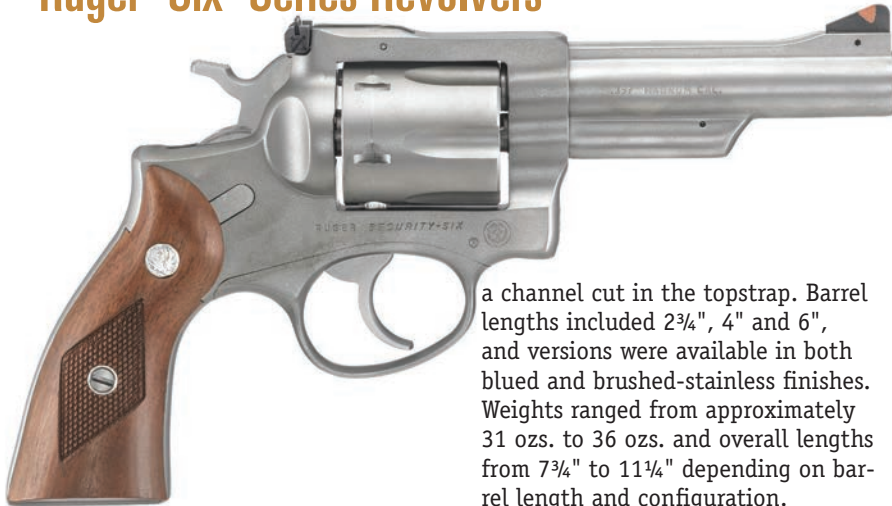


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Ruger "Six" Series Revolvers



The Ruger Security-Six, Police Service-Six and Speed-Six double-action revolvers, introduced in 1970 and produced through 1988, innovated in design and construction in such ways as to challenge that period's status quo regarding the modern wheelgun's strength and simplicity.

The company's first double-action swing-out-cylinder revolver design, the series made extensive use of chrome-moly and stainless-steel investment castings, employing a solid frame that allowed for easy fieldstripping since it dispensed with the more typical sideplate-style construction that persists to this day. The common six-shot frame size made for a series of revolver that were not only sturdy but trim.

Chamberings, depending on model, included .357 Mag., .38 Spl. and 9 mm Luger, being differentiated primarily by sight arrangement and butt shape—the Security-Six featuring a fully adjustable rear sight and "square" butt and the square-butt Service-Six and round-butt Speed-Six having a fixed rear sight consisting of

a channel cut in the topstrap. Barrel lengths included 2¾", 4" and 6", and versions were available in both blued and brushed-stainless finishes. Weights ranged from approximately 31 ozs. to 36 ozs. and overall lengths from 7¾" to 11¼" depending on barrel length and configuration.

The basic design is credited to Ruger engineer Harry Sefried working with company founder Bill Ruger, and it relied heavily on the latter's penchant for coil springs and his then young company's casting expertise. The frame, crane, hammer, trigger, trigger guard and several smaller parts were produced from chrome-moly castings with the barrel being machined from a forging that incorporated the raised sight rib and ejector rod housing.

Ruger literature on the Security-Six at its introduction stated: "It is a handsome, rugged holster revolver—compact in the overall, yet massive enough to properly be designated as a heavy-duty revolver for the rigors of police and military service." That final claim likely related to the series' unique facility for disassembly with nothing more than a cartridge rim or coin, which is why the screw that holds the stocks in place has a wide slot. Further, it is the only threaded fastener present in the gun except for windage and elevation screws in those models with the adjustable rear sight.

Disassembly Instructions

No special tools are required to fieldstrip the Security-Six revolver to component groups and parts shown. First, verify that it is unloaded and then close the cylinder. With a cartridge case rim or a screwdriver, unscrew stock panel screw (48) and remove both stocks, exposing the mainspring (44) (Fig. 1).

After removing disassembly pin

(43) from hollow stock panel dowel in frame, cock hammer (24), insert disassembly pin half its length into hole in mainspring strut (19), pull trigger and then lift mainspring assembly out of frame (Fig. 2).

While holding trigger back, push exposed end of hammer pivot pin (20) in left side of frame with

BY BRIAN C. SHEETZ, Editor In Chief

The fire-control mechanism featured a transfer-bar safety in which the hammer nose rested on the frame, and the transfer bar did not align with the firing pin until the trigger was fully to the rear. Also, the hammer could not be cocked when the cylinder had been swung out, and the cylinder could not be opened when the hammer was cocked.

The cylinder assembly was released to swing out to the left by depressing the cylinder-release button in the left recoil shield of the frame. The hammer spur of the Security-Six revolver was checkered sharply to provide good purchase, and examples of the Speed-Six have been encountered with "bobbed" hammers that either bore checkering at their top front, allowing for single-action fire, or that were smooth and allowed only double-action fire.

Lockup of the Security-Six and its stablemates was by way of an auxiliary spring-backed front latch in the barrel assembly that engages a detent in the front end of the ejector rod. Smartly pressing the ejector rod to the rear effected simultaneous ejection of fired cases or cartridges from the cylinder, and retraction of the ejector assembly into the cylinder was automatically accomplished by a spring when the ejector rod was released. The individual chambers did not have rim counterbores except in 9 mm Luger-chambered models.

American Rifleman Technical Editor M.D. Waite, in his original Dope Bag review (May 1971, p. 24), wrote: "Overall precision of this revolver is very good, and its general pointing

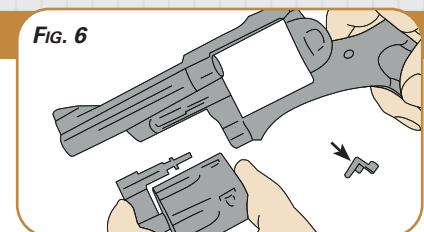
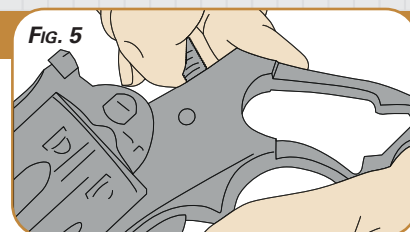
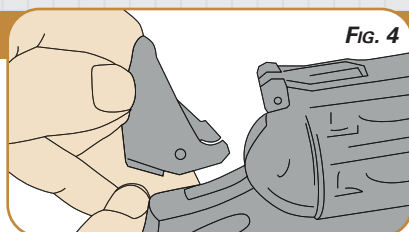
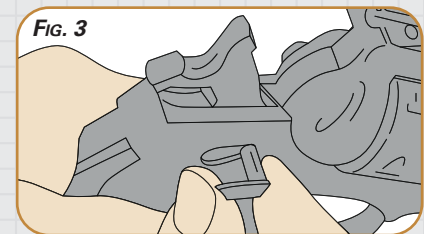
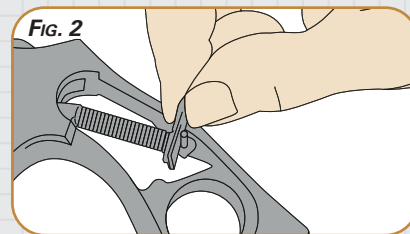
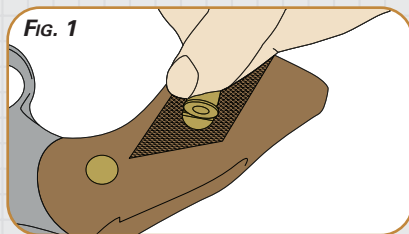
continued on p. 71

Parts Legend

1. FRONT SIGHT
2. FRONT SIGHT CROSS PIN
3. BARREL
4. FRONT LATCH CROSS PIN
5. FRONT LATCH SPRING
6. FRONT LATCH
7. REAR SIGHT BLADE
8. REAR SIGHT ELEVATION SCREW
9. REAR SIGHT PIVOT PIN
10. REAR SIGHT ELEVATION SPRING (2)
11. REAR SIGHT
12. REAR SIGHT WINDAGE SPRING
13. REAR SIGHT WINDAGE SCREW
14. RECOIL PLATE CROSS PIN
15. RECOIL PLATE
16. FIRING PIN REBOUND SPRING
17. FIRING PIN
18. HAMMER DOG PIVOT PIN
19. MAINSPRING STRUT
20. HAMMER PIVOT PIN
21. HAMMER DOG
22. HAMMER DOG SPRING PLUNGER
23. HAMMER DOG SPRING
24. HAMMER
25. EJECTOR ROD
26. CENTER PIN SPRING
27. CENTER PIN ROD
28. CRANE AND CRANE PIVOT ASSEMBLY
29. CYLINDER LATCH SPRING
30. CYLINDER LATCH PLUNGER
31. EJECTOR ROD WASHER
32. EJECTOR SPRING
33. CENTER PIN LOCK
34. CYLINDER
35. CRANE LATCH SPRING PLUNGER
36. CRANE LATCH SPRING
37. CRANE LATCH
38. CYLINDER LATCH
39. EJECTOR
40. CRANE LATCH PIVOT
41. FRAME

42. STOCK PANEL (LEFT) COMPLETE
43. DISASSEMBLY PIN
44. MAINSPRING
45. MAINSPRING SEAT
46. STOCK PANEL DOWEL
47. STOCK PANEL (RIGHT) COMPLETE
48. STOCK PANEL SCREW
49. TRANSFER BAR
50. TRIGGER SPRING
51. TRIGGER BUSHING
52. TRIGGER

53. TRIGGER PIVOT PIN
54. PAWL SPRING
55. PAWL PLUNGER
56. PAWL
57. TRIGGER GUARD
58. TRIGGER GUARD PLUNGER CROSS PIN
59. TRIGGER GUARD PLUNGER SPRING
60. TRIGGER GUARD PLUNGER
61. STOCK PANEL FERRULE (2)
62. MEDALLION
63. STOCK PANEL BOSS



To complete field disassembly, remove cylinder latch (38, arrow) from bottom of frame and withdraw cylinder assembly

forward and out of frame (Fig. 6). Further disassembly of the gun for routine maintenance is neither required

nor recommended. Reverse the above procedure to reassemble the revolver.



Century Arms Canik SFX Rival-S

Manufactured by Samsun Domestic Defense and Industry Corp. of Turkey, with Century Arms acting as the company's primary importer and distributor, Canik's polymer-frame 9 mm Luger-chambered semi-automatic pistols have enjoyed steady sales in the United States over the past few years. The company's catalog has expanded to include a broad selection of the original polymer-frame TP9 service pistols, the Mete subcompact carry models and the award-winning SFX Rival series of race guns. Canik is also collaborating with other companies to provide unique offerings, such as the TTI Combat model developed with Taran Butler, founder of Taran Tactical Innovations.

In 2023, Canik returned to its steel-frame pistol roots with the release of the competition-style SFX Rival-S. This model incorporates the popular features of the Rival series with the added stability that a weightier, all-steel frame provides. This is a feature-rich pistol, shipped with an expansive set of accessories, at a suggested retail price noticeably lower than that of competing models. This evaluation takes a closer look at the standard chrome-finished version that ships without a factory-installed M02 red-dot optic.

Like Canik's other striker-fired offerings, the SFX Rival-S's double-action-only, semi-automatic action employs a Browning-type tilting barrel. The configuration is based on that of the polymer-frame Rival. The barrel is forged for added durability, with a few refinements intended to appeal to competitive shooters. The steel frame noticeably increases the pistol's weight to 42.9 ozs. with an empty magazine.

The chromed-steel slide's surface features geometric bevels, ports, lightening cutouts and deep, wide canted serrations from the muzzle to the slide plate. These modifications are cosmetically appealing while reducing the slide's weight and providing plenty of purchase points for manually cycling the slide. The barrel's hood and the optics filler plate are finished and textured to match. A red fiber-optic pipe is housed in the dove-tailed metallic front sight. The fully adjustable square-notch rear sight assembly is mounted directly into the matching 0.3"-thick filler plate; this means that the rear sight is completely removed from the pistol when an optic is installed.

Canik's SFX Rival-S arrives with a total of five aluminum optics-mounting plates, along with a small tool and hardware

kit for mounting these plates. Together, these plates will accommodate the majority of the micro red-dot optics currently popular for use with pistols. Other slide features include an oversize extractor claw and a metallic, serrated slide plate ported for a red cocked-striker indicator.

The 5" barrel is milled with straight fluting and treated with the same chrome finish as the slide and frame. The bore is cut with traditional six-groove, 1:10" right-hand rifling suitable for use with jacketed or lead projectiles. The full-length steel guide rod supports a single captured flat-wire recoil spring.

A 1.75"-long, four-slot Picatinny rail on the frame's dustcover supports light or laser modules. The generously sized square-profile trigger guard has a checkered flat face, which serves as a finger rest, and it is undercut and beveled where it meets the grip for added comfort. Above the trigger housing on each side is a removable checkered plate that serves as a touch point for the tip of the trigger finger. Behind these plates is the takedown lever followed by extended bilateral slide-release levers.

The straight-profile aluminum competition trigger's integral safety lever is broad and flat with a finely checkered surface; for all intents and purposes, it is the trigger's face. The trigger's total arc of travel measures 0.35" with a 90-degree vertical stop. It exhibits a smooth, light take-up with a firm wall before breaking at 4 lbs., 3 ozs., of pressure. Reset is an exceptionally short 1/8" with a tactile and audible "click."

The top of the grip frame, behind the trigger guard, is deeply indented on both sides to better accommodate

Three polymer inserts allow the user to fine-tune the circumference of the pistol's grip; the smallest of the three comes installed on the gun.





The Canik's fully adjustable rear sight is mounted directly into its filler plate, so installing an optic will preclude its use.

the thumb and trigger finger. The aluminum, square-button magazine-release button is reversible for left- or right-handed operation; a total of three buttons of varying heights are provided, with the tallest installed at the factory. A removable, one-piece, textured-polymer insert that covers the backstrap and most of both sides of the grip frame is fitted to the frame by four screws. The small insert comes installed on the gun, but medium and large inserts are included with the pistol's accessories. Deep checkering on the frontstrap provides added purchase.

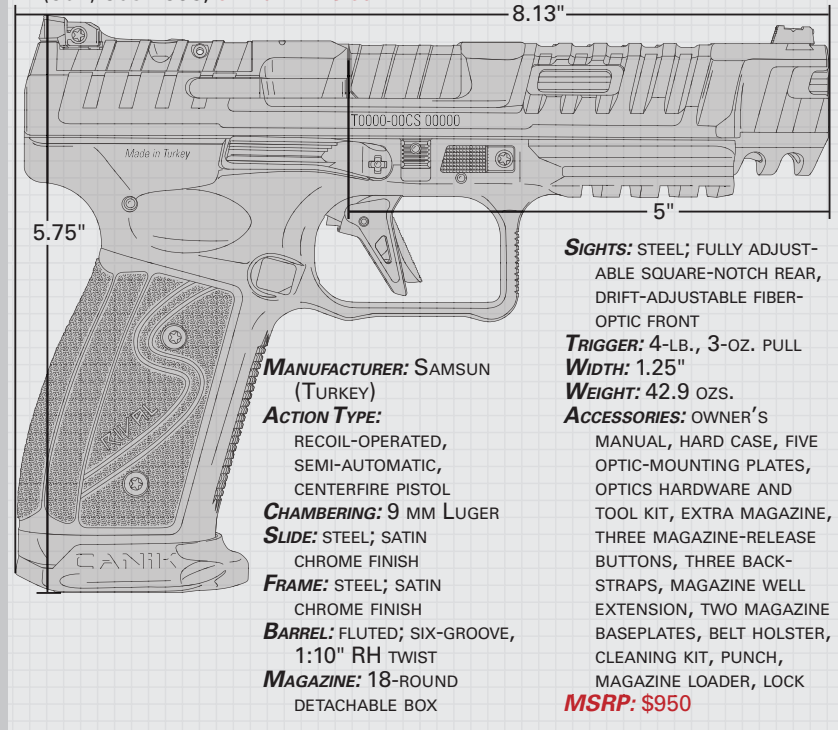
This pistol arrived with a pair of Canik's full-size, 18-round, blued-steel magazines with flat polymer baseplates. The magazine well is flared and beveled to aid in quick reloads, and a removable aluminum extension, along with a pair of slightly thicker aluminum baseplates to use with it, are also included. Other accessories provided include a lockable hard case, polymer belt holster, magazine loader, pin punch, bronze bore brush, patch handle and a trigger lock.

Our range evaluation of the SFx Rival-S was conducted using a Swampfox Sentinel II featuring a 3-m.o.a. green-dot aiming point. The pistol exhibited the handling characteristics that define the race gun segment of the 9 mm Luger pistol market. Its weight is properly distributed



CANIK SFx RIVAL-S

IMPORTER: CENTURY ARMS (DEPT. AR), 236 BRYCE BLVD., FAIRFAX, VT 05454; (561) 908-7993; CENTURYARMS.COM



MANUFACTURER: SAMSUN (TURKEY)

ACTION TYPE:

RECOIL-OPERATED, SEMI-AUTOMATIC, CENTERFIRE PISTOL

CHAMBERING: 9 MM LUGER

SLIDE: STEEL; SATIN CHROME FINISH

FRAME: STEEL; SATIN CHROME FINISH

BARREL: FLUTED; SIX-GROOVE, 1:10" RH TWIST

MAGAZINE: 18-ROUND DETACHABLE BOX

SIGHTS: STEEL; FULLY ADJUSTABLE SQUARE-NOTCH REAR, DRIFT-ADJUSTABLE FIBER-OPTIC FRONT

TRIGGER: 4-LB., 3-OZ. PULL
WIDTH: 1.25"

WEIGHT: 42.9 OZS.

ACCESSORIES: OWNER'S

MANUAL, HARD CASE, FIVE OPTIC-MOUNTING PLATES, OPTICS HARDWARE AND TOOL KIT, EXTRA MAGAZINE, THREE MAGAZINE-RELEASE BUTTONS, THREE BACKSTRAPS, MAGAZINE WELL EXTENSION, TWO MAGAZINE BASEPLATES, BELT HOLSTER, CLEANING KIT, PUNCH, MAGAZINE LOADER, LOCK

MSRP: \$950

SHOOTING RESULTS (25 YARDS)


9 MM LUGER CARTRIDGE	VELOCITY (F.P.S.)	ENERGY (FT.-LBS.)	GROUP SIZE (INCHES)		
			SMALLEST	LARGEST	AVERAGE
FEDERAL SAP 150-GRAIN TSJ	940 Avg. 6 Sd	294	1.82	2.15	1.99
HORNADY CUSTOM 124-GRAIN XTP	1,137 Avg. 17 Sd	356	2.15	2.54	2.34
WINCHESTER WIN/CLEAN 115-GRAIN BEB	1,222 Avg. 16 Sd	381	2.52	2.87	2.71
AVERAGE EXTREME SPREAD					2.35

NOTES: MEASURED AVERAGE VELOCITY FOR 10 SHOTS FIRED NEXT TO A GARMIN XERO C1 PRO CHRONOGRAPH AT THE MUZZLE. ACCURACY MEASURED FOR FIVE CONSECUTIVE, FIVE-SHOT GROUPS FIRED FROM A BENCH REST AT 25 YARDS. TEMPERATURE: 80° F. HUMIDITY: 49%. ABBREVIATIONS: BEB (BRASS ENCLOSED BASE), SAP (SYNTECH ACTION PISTOL), SD (STANDARD DEVIATION), TSJ (TOTAL SYNTHETIC JACKET), XTP (eXTREME TERMINAL PERFORMANCE).

for a handy, well-balanced feel that points quickly and naturally.

Operation of the controls and the slide-to-frame fit were smooth and clean right out of the box. The grip configuration is comfortable, with all four sides textured in a manner that is effective without being abrasive. The trigger is exceptionally good, especially for a more budget-friendly model. Using a total of five factory magazines, the pistol, magazines and tested ammunition loads all performed

reliably, resulting in no malfunctions throughout the course of testing. This model demonstrated top-shelf accuracy potential with five-shot group sizes in the 2" to 2.5" range.

Canik's SFx Rival-S is another example of the company's dedication to offering high-quality products that meet customers' needs at reasonable costs. Just like the polymer-frame models, this steel-frame competition pistol punches above its price bracket and does so with class. 

In addition to a drift-adjustable red fiber-optic front sight, the pistol's slide features deep and wide cocking serrations and numerous bevels, ports and lightening cuts that, in conjunction with the straight-fluted barrel, serve to keep the gun's weight manageable.



Iver Johnson MF20

Americans have long championed the shotgun as a premier self-defense tool, but the platform has traditionally suffered from limited capacity and a slow reloading process. These drawbacks often steer users toward the AR platform, which is known for its agility and rapid-deployment capabilities. In a country where compromise is often considered a bad word, it's no surprise that innovative designs like the Iver Johnson MF20 have emerged; by merging the best features of both shotguns and ARs, this firearm offers impressive—but controllable—firepower while mitigating the scattergun's usual shortcomings.

Manufactured by the Turkish company Izmir Armed, the MF20 is a gas-operated, semi-automatic 20 gauge. It features a pistol-grip configuration and a shrouded barrel, giving it a modern, tactical appearance. The shroud conceals a conventional gas system that channels propellant gas from a discharged shotshell through three ports. This pressure drives a piston rearward, unlocking the action and ejecting the spent hull.

A recoil spring then returns the action to battery, chambering a fresh round from the five-round detachable box magazine—the “MF” in the name meaning “magazine fed.” Options chambered for 12 ga. and

.410 bore are also offered.

Proper maintenance involves removing a large nut that secures the fore-end to the receiver. Once the fore-end is free, an included hook spanner is used to remove another nut that secures the barrel. Removing it allows the barrel and bolt assembly to be withdrawn. We found this process to be rather involved and not particularly intuitive, although it is well-explained in the owner's manual.

The MF20's receiver group is constructed from lightweight materials: polymer for the lower portion and aircraft-grade aluminum for the upper. This combination ensures durability without adding unnecessary weight, making it easier to handle and maneuver. On the left side, toward the rear, a familiar safety selector rotates clockwise to fire and can easily be actuated by the right thumb in a firing grip. An AR-style bolt stop locks the action open after the last shot. A takedown lever on the same side swings the feed ramp out of the way during disassembly. On the right side, there's a push-button magazine release and a reciprocating charging handle, both of which are intuitive and easy to use.

In a departure from traditional shotgun design, which typically features pronounced drop at the comb and heel, the MF20 retains



AR-style controls incorporated into the MF20 include a left-side safety selector and bolt-release lever for right-handed use.

the straight-line nature of the AR platform. This design choice improves recoil management and allows for a more comfortable shooting experience. The adjustable cheekpiece allows shooters to rest considerably above the bore, accommodating modern, tall optic mounts. The integrated Picatinny rail on the upper receiver facilitates easy attachment of optics, though the MF20 also includes flip-up aperture sights adjustable for both elevation and windage.

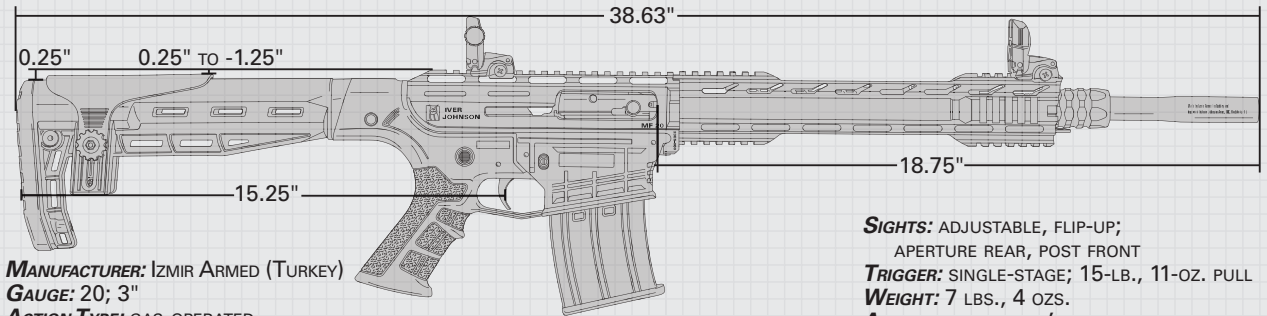
Before hitting the range, we selected Remington's Express 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ " No. 3 buckshot for pattern testing and Federal's 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ " Gold Medal No. 8 target load to gauge functionality. Although the MF20 can handle shells up to 3" in length, we chose lighter loads to ease recoil as well as challenge the firearm's gas system. Iver Johnson supplies the shotgun with three chokes—improved cylinder, modified and full—threaded to the Benelli Mobil pattern. For testing, we opted for the modified choke.

The MF20 comes from the company with a set of choke tubes of the Benelli Mobil pattern (imp. cyl., mod. and full), allowing it to serve in multiple shotgunning roles.



IVER JOHNSON MF20

IMPORTER: IVER JOHNSON ARMS INC. (DEPT. AR), P.O. BOX 561294, ROCKLEDGE, FL 32955; (321) 636-3377; IVERJOHNSONARMS.COM



MANUFACTURER: IZMIR ARMED (TURKEY)
GAUGE: 20; 3"
ACTION TYPE: GAS-OPERATED,
 SEMI-AUTOMATIC SHOTGUN
RECEIVER: ALUMINUM ALLOY UPPER;
 POLYMER LOWER

STOCK: POLYMER
BARREL: 4140 CHROME-MOLY STEEL
MAGAZINE: FIVE-ROUND DETACHABLE BOX

SIGHTS: ADJUSTABLE, FLIP-UP;
 APERTURE REAR, POST FRONT
TRIGGER: SINGLE-STAGE; 15-LB., 11-OZ. PULL
WEIGHT: 7 LBS., 4 OZS.
ACCESSORIES: OWNER'S MANUAL, THREE CHOKE
 TUBES (FULL, MOD., IMP. CYL.), CHOKE
 WRENCH, BARREL WRENCH, EXTRA MAGAZINE
MSRP: \$483

Those experienced with AR-15s had little difficulty acclimating to the controls, and even those with minimal exposure found the learning curve to be manageable. Magazine loading posed a minor challenge, as stacking rounds required careful alignment to prevent the rim of one shell from catching on the brass of the one below. Driving the bottom round deeply with a finger before inserting the next one proved to be the best solution.

Our initial shots revealed patterns slightly low and to the left, necessitating sight adjustments to achieve a proper zero. The trigger's 15-lb., 11-oz., break was excessive, although this is less vital in a close-quarters defensive shotgun. A heavier trigger pull can reduce the likelihood of accidental discharges under stress, adding an extra layer of safety. The ergonomics and minimal felt recoil received high praise from all testers, as the pistol grip and adjustable comb made the MF20 enjoyable to shoot.

We concluded our session by engaging an array of AR-500 Caldwell IPSC targets. The 20 gauge's rapid recovery and swift target transitions impressed all shooters. Some testers found it advantageous to flip down the rear



Right-side controls include a reciprocating charging handle and an AR-15-style push-button magazine release.

sight and use just the front sight, akin to a traditional bead, which sped up target acquisition considerably. This quick thinking helped to highlight the firearm's versatility, making it suitable for a wide range of shooting scenarios.

Throughout our testing, the MF20 functioned flawlessly and delivered consistent patterns. AR-15 enthusiasts and shotgun purists alike were satisfied with the MF20, recognizing its potential to bridge the gap between their preferred platforms. This firearm not only showcased the strengths of both designs but also demonstrated the viability of innovative hybrid approaches—while also proving, with the right ammunition, the capability of the 20 gauge as a defensive stopper.

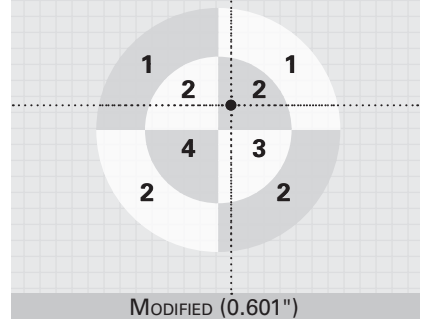
The American Rifleman has used the phrase "Dope Bag" since at least 1921, when Col. Townsend Whelen first titled his column with it. Even then, it had been in use for years, referring to a sack used by target shooters to hold ammunition and accessories on the firing line. "Sight dope" also was a traditional marksman's term for sight-adjustment information, while judging wind speed and direction was called "doping the wind."

WARNING: Technical data and information contained herein are intended to provide information based on the limited experience of individuals under specific conditions and circumstances. They do not detail the comprehensive training procedures, techniques and safety precautions absolutely necessary to properly carry on similar activity. Read the notice and disclaimer on the contents page. Always consult comprehensive reference manuals and bulletins for details of proper training requirements, procedures, techniques and safety precautions before attempting any similar activity.


SHOOTING RESULTS (40 YARDS)

REMINGTON EXPRESS BUCKSHOT
 20-GA., 2¾", NO. 3 BUCKSHOT
 AVERAGE PELLET COUNT: 20
 MEASURED VELOCITY @ 15 FT.: 1,158 F.P.S.
 AVERAGE OF 10 PATTERNS

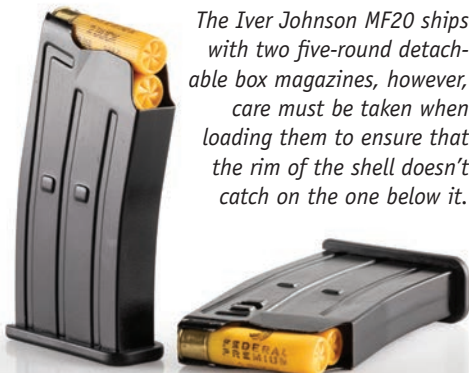
● = POINT OF HOLD



21" INNER CIRCLE:	11	(55%)
30" OUTER RING:	6	(30%)
TOTAL HITS:	17	(85%)

The Iver Johnson MF20 successfully blends tradition and modernity. Its semi-automatic operation, coupled with a detachable magazine, addresses the limitations of conventional shotguns while maintaining the familiar ergonomics of the AR platform. As a result, it's a highly adaptable firearm capable of excelling in various roles—offered at a very palatable price point. 

The Iver Johnson MF20 ships with two five-round detachable box magazines, however, care must be taken when loading them to ensure that the rim of the shell doesn't catch on the one below it.



HANDLOADS

A Tokarev Target Load

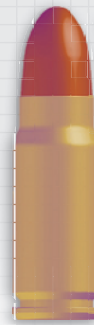
Finding surplus 7.62x25 mm Tokarev ammunition was easy 15 years ago. When it finally dried up, my Zastava M57 went to the very back of the safe. That was until I discovered that X-Treme makes an affordable 110-grain .308" copper-plated bullet. While this projectile is meant for bores that are slightly smaller than those of most 7.62x25 mm barrels, it can still be loaded for informal target use.

Handloading components for the 7.62x25 mm Tokarev are relatively easy to acquire. Lee is one of the last companies to make dies for this cartridge, but it includes a shell holder that holds the case more securely than some of the others used for assembling this cartridge. Starline brass is readily available, and the powder and primers for this cartridge are also very common. Federal Small Pistol primers and Vihtavuori N-110 are all that's required to build a moderately accurate round.

N-110 is made with super-short kernels and runs through a dispenser without many overthrows and even flows relatively smoothly out of a meter. A 10.1-grain charge weight fills the case to the neckline, and the bullet just touches the powder column when seated to an overall length of 1.360". The Lee dies size the neck down tightly enough to hold the .308-cal. bullet, and only minor flaring is needed to start it into the case. When setting up the seater, you only want a minimal amount of crimp, just enough to keep the bullet in place under recoil and while sliding up the feed ramp.

My testing showed an average velocity of 1,152 f.p.s. with an Sd of 42, which is a bit slower than typical 7.62x25 mm rounds, but it is about as fast as I like to drive a copper-plated bullet anyway. Moreover, it cycles the gun flawlessly and consistently puts it into slide lock after the last round. I found 25-yard accuracy to fall inside of 5"—on par with any surplus fodder that I've run through this pistol and well within the "A" zone of a standard IPSC target.

—FRANK MELLONI, FIELD EDITOR



RECIPE

BULLET: 0.308", 110-GRAIN
X-TREME CPRN

PROPELLANT: VIHTAVUORI N-110

CHARGE: 10.1 GRAINS

PRIMER: FEDERAL No. 100

SMALL PISTOL

CASE: STARLINE

CASE TRIM-TO LENGTH: 0.98"

CARTRIDGE OVERALL LENGTH: 1.36"

VELOCITY @ 10' (F.P.S.): 1,152*

ENERGY @ 10' (FT.-LBS.): 324

ACCURACY: 4.76"***

USES: INFORMAL TARGET SHOOTING

NOTES: LOADS FIRED FROM A ZASTAVA
M57 WITH A 4.6" BARREL.

* AVERAGE OF 10 SHOTS.

** AVERAGE OF FIVE, FIVE-SHOT
GROUPS AT 25 YARDS.

TEMPERATURE: 85° F

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LATEST
LEGISLATIVE
NEWS FROM
INSIDE THE NRA
INSTITUTE FOR
LEGISLATIVE
ACTION

Illinois Gun and Magazine Ban Struck Down in Court

On Nov. 8, 2024, the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Illinois struck down provisions of the Protect Illinois Communities Act (PICA) that prohibit “assault weapons” and “large-capacity magazines” in an NRA-supported case, *Barnett v. Raoul*.

In a thorough, 168-page opinion, the district court applied the Supreme Court’s text-and-history test for Second Amendment challenges, as interpreted by the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals.

Starting with the text, because the Supreme Court has stated that “common” arms are protected by the Second Amendment, but “dangerous and unusual” arms are not, the district court defined those terms. A “dangerous” arm, the court determined, is one “that a typical operator cannot reasonably control to neutralize discrete, identified aggressors.” An “unusual” arm is “an arm deploying an atypical method to neutralize an opponent in confrontation or that deploys a neutralizing agent that is caustic, incendiary, noxious, poisonous, or radioactive.” And a “common” arm encompasses “any bearable rifle, shotgun, or pistol that is capable of semiautomatic fire and is or has been available for purchase, possession, and usage by law-abiding citizens for self-defense, provided that it is not otherwise ‘dangerous and unusual.’” Applying

these definitions, the court concluded that the banned “assault weapons” and “large-capacity magazines” are common arms covered by the Second Amendment.

Proceeding to its historical analysis, the court emphasized the importance of the right to keep and bear arms at the time of our nation’s Founding, and then considered traditional regulations on that right. Ultimately, the court found no historical regulations that could justify PICA’s restrictions.

In conclusion, the court denounced “those who seek to usher in a sort of post-Constitution era where the citizens’ individual rights are only as important as they are convenient to a ruling class,” and ruled that “the provisions of PICA criminalizing the knowing possession of specific semiautomatic rifles, shotguns, magazines, and attachments are unconstitutional under the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution as applied to the states by the Fourteenth Amendment.”

The court did issue a 30-day stay, however, to allow the government an opportunity to appeal.

Please stay tuned to nraila.org for future updates on NRA-ILA’s ongoing efforts to defend your constitutional rights, and please visit nraila.org and select “Legal & Legislation,” then “Current Litigation” in the menu to keep up with NRA-ILA’s ongoing litigation efforts.

IN MEMORY NRA-ILA CONTRIBUTIONS

October 1-31, 2024

James A. Mize, Alhambra, IL (from: James & Dawn Reagan, John Mize, and Rich & Julie Strasen).

NRA-ILA

ILA Grassroots:

(800) 392-8683

NRA-ILA: (703) 267-1170

NRA-ILA website: nraila.org



Getty Images photo by Scott Olson

NRA Files Official Protest to Bears Ears Shooting Closure

On Nov. 1, 2024, NRA-ILA and other sportsmen's groups filed a formal protest against the Biden-Harris administration's plan to close recreational shooting access to 1.3 million acres in the Bears Ears National Monument in Utah.

In October, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announced a final Resource Management Plan that directs the closure of 1.3 million acres to recreational shooting in the Bears Ears National Monument in Utah. NRA-ILA, joined by other members of the Hunting and Shooting Sports Roundtable, filed a formal protest against the management plan.

Such a sweeping closure throughout Bears Ears fails to comply with a 2019 law specifically written to head off such actions by the federal government. The John D. Dingell Jr. Conservation, Management and Recreation Act established a policy that the BLM and U.S. Forest Service consider hunting, fishing and recreational shooting opportunities as part of federal land, resource and travel management plans. The Dingell Act also requires recreational shooting closures apply to the "smallest area for the least amount of time that is required for public safety, administration, and compliance with applicable law."

"This management plan is in clear violation of the law," said Randy Kozuch, NRA-ILA executive director. "Time and again, we see the Biden-Harris administration restrict access to federal lands to gun owners, hunters, and recreational shooters. The NRA is proud to stand with other members of the sportsmen's community to protest this egregious action."

The Bears Ears closure was just the latest in a series of actions by the Biden-Harris administration to circumvent the law to punish recreational shooters and cut off access to federal lands. Earlier in 2024, nearly 99% of the Sonoran Desert National Monument's 485,791 acres were closed to recreational shooting. Additionally, the Biden-Harris administration attempted to cut federal funding for schools with archery and hunter-education programs, though that policy was quickly overturned by Congress.

All of this underscores the importance of Donald Trump's historic win on Election Day. With a dedicated defender of the Second Amendment and the rights of hunters in the White House, we are sure to see a dramatic change in both leadership at the BLM, and in how that executive branch department executes its duties as they relate to the Second Amendment and our ability to exercise those freedoms on the lands under BLM control. 🦋

Photo courtesy Ed Wall



Multi-platinum singer-songwriter Riley Green has captivated country music fans since his 2018 EP, with tracks such as the No. 1 platinum hit "There Was This Girl," the three-times-platinum-certified heart-tugger "I Wish Grandpas Never Died" and his chart-topping collaboration with Thomas Rhett, "Half of Me." Green was named the Academy of Country Music's 2020 New Male Artist of the Year, a former MusicRow Breakout Artist of the Year, a CMT "Listen Up Artist," and one of CRS' New Faces 2020. His third studio album, "Don't Mind If I Do," released on his birthday in October 2024, continues to showcase his signature style. NRA Country's Bob Jenkins recently had the opportunity to ask Green a few questions about what motivates his music.

BJ: You opened your Duck Blind bar in September, released the *Don't Mind If I Do* album in October, and the *Damn Country Music Tour* is kicking off in March. Can you share why it is important to you to hold onto your Alabama roots, hunting, fishing and dogs?

RG: All of the songs I write are inspired by where I grew up and the values I learned from my family. I was lucky to get to spend so much time with my grandparents as a kid and running around on the farm that I get to call home now.

BJ: We are incredibly excited to have an outdoors man such as yourself headlining the NRA Country concert at the Great American Outdoor Show. With halls dedicated to shooting sports, archery, fishing, boating, hunting outfitters and the outdoor lifestyle, what is on the top of your list to check out?

RG: This is truly a tough question for me. You're talking about all my favorite things under one roof. But if I had to pick, I'd say archery and hunting outfitters. We are on the road a lot, but I'm always thinking about what I want to do when I get some time off.

BJ: "Way Out Here" speaks to lots of people, but it will really strike a chord with many NRA members. Can you share with us your inspiration for the song?

RG: That song was originally released by Josh Thompson more than a decade ago, and I am such a big fan of his music. It has always stuck with me, and we were excited to make our version.

BJ: NRA Hunting has an R3 mission: Recruitment, Retention, and Reactivation. Can you share a story that might inspire people to get on or back out on the trail?

RG: There's nothing that tops the feeling of success that you get from a hard hunt or hunting season. The feeling of accomplishment, and oftentimes relief, is hard to top. It's hard to describe until you feel it yourself. So, I would just encourage all hunters to make a point to introduce somebody to their pursuit. If we don't pass it on, we lose it.

BJ: November was "Wild Game Meat Donation Month." One of the messages for that month is about sharing a wild game meal with a non-hunter. Can you share a time when you've been able to expose someone to wild game for their first time?

RG: I'm fortunate enough to be able to do this pretty frequently. There are a lot of misconceptions out there about the taste of wild game. Like anything, a bad cook can ruin some great ingredients, but I love seeing people blown away by how wild game can taste when done right.

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

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Questions? Email to refuse@nrahq.org or by calling (800) 861-1166.



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



29th Annual NRA National Gun Collectors Show

The 29th Annual NRA National Gun Collectors Show will be held in Las Vegas, Nev., on Jan. 24 and 25, 2025. This show is one part of the storied Las Vegas Antique Arms Show, which has been a favorite of firearms collectors and enthusiasts for more than 60 years, making it one of the longest-running shows in Vegas history.


What might you see at this event? Flintlocks and wheellocks, certainly. Perhaps an early Colt or Winchester

will catch your eye. You should also see international collectors' arms from all over the world and the greatest artistry in engraving. There won't just be firearms, either—you can enjoy perusing military and western collectibles, knives and samurai swords and much more, with over 1,300 tables hosted by dealers, craftsmen and organizations.

This is the only time that the NRA offers cash rewards for private gun collectors to come out and share their

hobby with the public and fellow collectors. The NRA and Morphy Auctions will co-sponsor more than \$10,000 in cash awards for the best exhibits.

To reserve display or sales tables, please contact Cheryl Goyda at 877-968-8880, extension 755, or via email at cheryl.goyda@morphyauctions.com.

See you at the Westgate Resort and Casino in Las Vegas on Jan. 24 and 25! The show is open to the public on Friday and Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 pm. 



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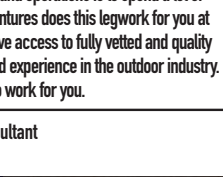
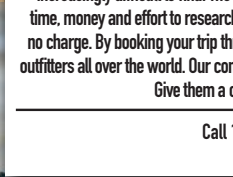
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EXPLODED VIEW

continued from p. 58

and handling qualities are excellent. As might be expected, this medium-weight gun is not pleasant to shoot with .357 Magnum service loads. However, despite the relatively small grip and arched backstrap, recoil is not unduly punishing provided the gun is gripped tightly to restrain its recoil. The high placement of the cylinder-release button makes it unlikely that it will strike the shooter's thumb as the gun recoils."

The following year, Associate Technical Editor Ludwig Olson summed up his Exploded View treatment of the Security-Six (June 1972, p. 60) with these words: "Handling and pointing qualities of this well-made, reliable revolver are excellent, and its overall precision is very good. Its double-action trigger pull is satisfactorily smooth, without excessive buildup of resistance when the trigger pressure is increased. The single-action pull weighs approximately 3 lbs., and has very little creep." Waite also had the foresight to observe: "Overall quality of machine work and finish of the Security-Six revolver furnished *The American Rifleman* Technical Staff are very good. It is a fair prediction that this gun will be well received in the marketplace."

While the Six series was, indeed, well-received, its lifespan overlapped that period of time when police departments began transitioning to semi-automatic pistols, which meant that its days as a service revolver were numbered. Superseded by the similar, but somewhat larger GP100, the Six series was nonetheless a staple in the Ruger catalog for nearly two decades and rode on the hips of law-enforcement officers and even some military users both domestically and abroad for years afterward.

In sum, the Sixes made their mark by being innovative, mechanically strong and aesthetically pleasing, and many owners still consider them to be unsurpassed for their unique combination of compactness, durability and utility, with rare military and commemorative examples commanding a premium on today's used market. 

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Hornady® Manufacturing Company is recalling ALL lots of item #81199, 350 Legend 150 gr. SP Hornady BLACK® ammunition. These lots were shipped between the dates of November 2, 2023, and August 19, 2024.

Hornady ballisticians have determined that cartridges from all lot #s: 3234613, 3241530, 3241634, 3241678, 3241990, 3241991, 3242096, 3242414, 3242590, 3242597, 3242597, 3242695, 3242868, 3242894, 3243421, 3243705, 3243974 may exhibit high pressure. Use of this product may result in firearm damage and/or personal injury.

DO NOT USE HORNADY® 350 LEGEND 150 GRAIN SPIRE POINT HORNADY BLACK® AMMUNITION.

THIS NOTICE ONLY APPLIES TO ITEM # 81199, ALL LOT #s 3234613, 3241530, 3241634, 3241678, 3241990, 3241991, 3242096, 3242414, 3242590, 3242597, 3242695, 3242868, 3242894, 3243421, 3243705, and 3243974. If you own any of the lot numbers listed above or have any questions regarding this recall, please call 800-338-3220. Hornady Mfg. Company will make all arrangements associated with this return and replacement of the product.


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GUN: "SELF PROTECTOR" KNIFE PISTOL
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CALIBER: .30
MANUFACTURED: C. 1860
CONDITION: NRA FINE (ANTIQUE GUN STANDARDS)
VALUE: \$2,950

RODGERS "SELF PROTECTOR" KNIFE PISTOL

The old saw "never bring a knife to a gun fight" is somewhat moot when one is armed with a Rodgers knife pistol—a clever percussion-fired defensive arm composed of both blades and barrel. To be sure, by the mid-19th century when this particular piece made its appearance, combination arms were nothing new. The concept harkened back at least 300 years when daggers, swords, shields, truncheons, axes and the like were offered with single or multiple barrels and matchlock or wheellock mechanisms designed to give the wielder an edge over his opponent.

How useful these contrivances were is questionable. Many surviving examples appear to fall more into the novelty category rather than actually being practical for serious combat. The subsequent development of the simpler flintlock and percussion systems changed this perception, however, allowing makers to develop smaller, more reliable, multiple-use arms.

One of the most successful and long-lived combos, a handy two-bladed percussion knife pistol, was the product of Unwin & Rodgers, a cutlery firm in Sheffield, England. This establishment had been founded by James Rodgers as James Rodgers & Co., likely in the 1810s. Shortly thereafter, he was joined by pen-knife maker Philip Unwin, and, by the late 1820s, the new firm of Unwin & Rodgers was advertising a line of small knives and assorted sundries.

Unfortunately, their association was short-lived, with Rodgers dying

in 1829. Undaunted, Unwin continued the business, moving into larger self-defense and hunting knives, considerable numbers of which were exported to the United States, where they found welcome employment on the American frontier and in the Civil War.

Unwin introduced a "Life and property Preserver" in 1839. This small percussion pistol incorporated a screw attachment that allowed it to be attached to a doorway, where it could be set up to discharge upon the entry of unwanted visitors, a practice that is wholly illegal today.

By the early 1840s, Unwin & Rodgers had expanded its line to include small and large knives, surgical instruments, spring knives and "pistol knives." The latter became one of the company's most popular offerings. Though they were available with a selection of embellishments, in general, the pistol, measuring some 6½" with blades folded, conformed to a particular pattern. Panels were commonly of plain horn, though checkered styles were also seen. The number of blades varied, though two, one measuring 3½" and the other 2½", was the most common format.

The top of the knife was mounted with a heavy 3⅞" German-silver-plated, octagon, steel, smoothbore barrel with a percussion cap nipple at the center, rear. A single, manually cocked hammer was positioned at the midpoint of the knife body, behind the barrel. Interestingly, the tumbler was not fitted with a half-cock safety. The knife/gun's trigger folded up out

of the way when not in use. Calibers ranged from .25 to .32.

A relatively capacious compartment with lid was added to the butt to hold percussion caps. It was flanked on one side with a tweezer and on the other a bullet mold, these accessories cunningly positioned out of the way in configured grooves beneath the panels.

Blades were either plain or etched with several designs or mottos, one of the most common being the one seen here, "Self Protector." Interestingly, Unwin, possibly as a tribute to his late partner, or perhaps for marketing purposes, only stamped Rodgers' name on the blade.

The Rodgers percussion knife pistol achieved considerable popularity in its heyday and was commonly seen on both sides of the Atlantic. The author must admit to never having encountered a period reference to one being used in anger, but they were obviously thought of well enough to become one of Unwin & Rodgers' most popular products. In fact, with the appearance of the self-contained cartridge, Unwin took advantage of this new technology and expanded the line by producing rimfire breechloading knife pistols.

The .30-cal. "Self Protector" shown here is in fine condition and exhibits little sign of hard use. Most of the blade etching is still clear, and the barrel retains most of its original plating. Both tools are present, and the horn panels are sound and unblemished. As such, it is worth \$2,950.

—GARRY JAMES, FIELD EDITOR

American Rifleman does NOT accept submissions for the I Have This Old Gun column. Topics are assigned to Field Editors in advance. Due to the volume of mail received, our writers are not able to answer individual questions. Please consider instead sending your correspondence and questions through our Dope Bag/Q&A service, which is available to all NRA members in good standing. Details appear in the Q&A section.

New Blood Flow Breakthrough Helps Men Enjoy Strong, Long-Lasting Intimacy – At Any Age

Men across America are raving about a newly enhanced performance supplement that helps achieve healthy blood flow on demand

After age 40, it's common knowledge that performance begins to decline in many men. However, a new, performance empowering pill is showing that any relatively healthy man can now enjoy long-lasting, and frequent intimacy – at any age.

This doctor-designed formula, created by leading anti-aging expert Dr. Al Sears, has already helped men overcome low and sinking libido -- and has recently undergone a potency-enhancing update – with remarkable new results.

When the first pill -- **Primal Max Black** -- was first released, it quickly became a top-selling men's performance helper, promoting intimacy across America.

It worked by supporting healthy testosterone levels. However, Dr. Sears soon realized that this isn't the only challenge men face with performance. That's when he turned his attention to blood flow.

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THIS PROVEN SOLUTION IS MORE MECHANICAL THAN HORMONAL

Truth is, once blood flow slows down for men, no matter how exciting it is, it won't be enough without the necessary amount...

So enjoying intimacy without healthy blood flow becomes difficult for most men.

Luckily, a Nobel prize-winning scientist discovered the simple answer to help support performance strength and confidence -- by boosting vital blood flow --

and enhancing this essential performance function.

Using this landmark Nobel Prize as its basis, **Primal Max Red** enhanced healthy blood flow for untold millions of men around the world with the use of strong nitric oxide boosters.

While **Primal Max Black** helped maintain optimal testosterone, **Primal Max Red** tackles a lesser-known challenge.

Director, Al Sears MD, who has authored over 500 scientific papers and has appeared on more than 50 media outlets including ABC News, CNN, ESPN, Discovery, Lifetime, and many more say, *"Less than optimal blood flow can be part of a huge problem that affects a lot of men. And it needed to be addressed once and for all, so men would not dwell on it. Then, once we optimized it and had a great deal of success, we set out to see if we could do even better."*

The former formula had excellent results. However, new research showed that for even faster, anytime, anywhere results, increasing the dose of a key compound was needed.

So, one of the three nitric oxide boosters in the new **Primal Max Red**, L-Citrulline, was clinically boosted to 9000 mg, and the results were astounding. Which is no surprise considering that 5000 mg is considered a "normal amount" -- giving the new version nearly doubled the blood flow boosting power.

Men who had previously been unsure about their power and stamina were overjoyed to be back to their old selves and to get and



A new discovery that increases nitric oxide availability was recently proven to boost blood flow 275% - resulting in improved performance.

maintain a healthy bloodflow when they needed it.

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Primal Max Red can effectively promote healthy blood flow that most men can use for maximum intimacy. This is leading to more greater capacity and satisfaction, coupled with long-lasting performance.

"There was a time when men had little control when it came to boosting their blood flow," Dr. Sears said. "But science has come a long way in recent years. And now, with the creation of nitric oxide-boosting **Primal Max Red**, men can perform better

than ever, and enjoy intimacy at any age."

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To secure free bottles of **Primal Max Black** and get the hot, new **Primal Max Red** formula, buyers should contact the Sears Health Hotline at **1-800-376-3191 TODAY**. "It's not available in retail stores yet," says Dr. Sears. "The Hotline allows us to ship directly to the customer." Dr. Sears feels so strongly about **Primal Max**, all orders are backed by a 100% money-back guarantee. "Just send me back the bottle and any unused product within 90 days from purchase date, and I'll send you all your money back."

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