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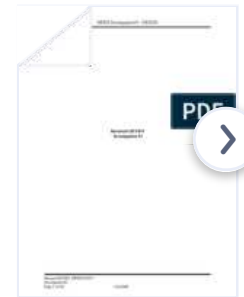
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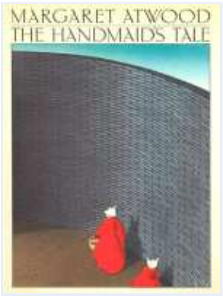
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



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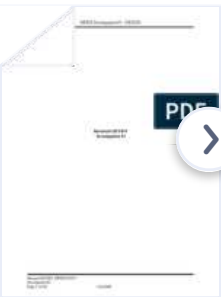
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
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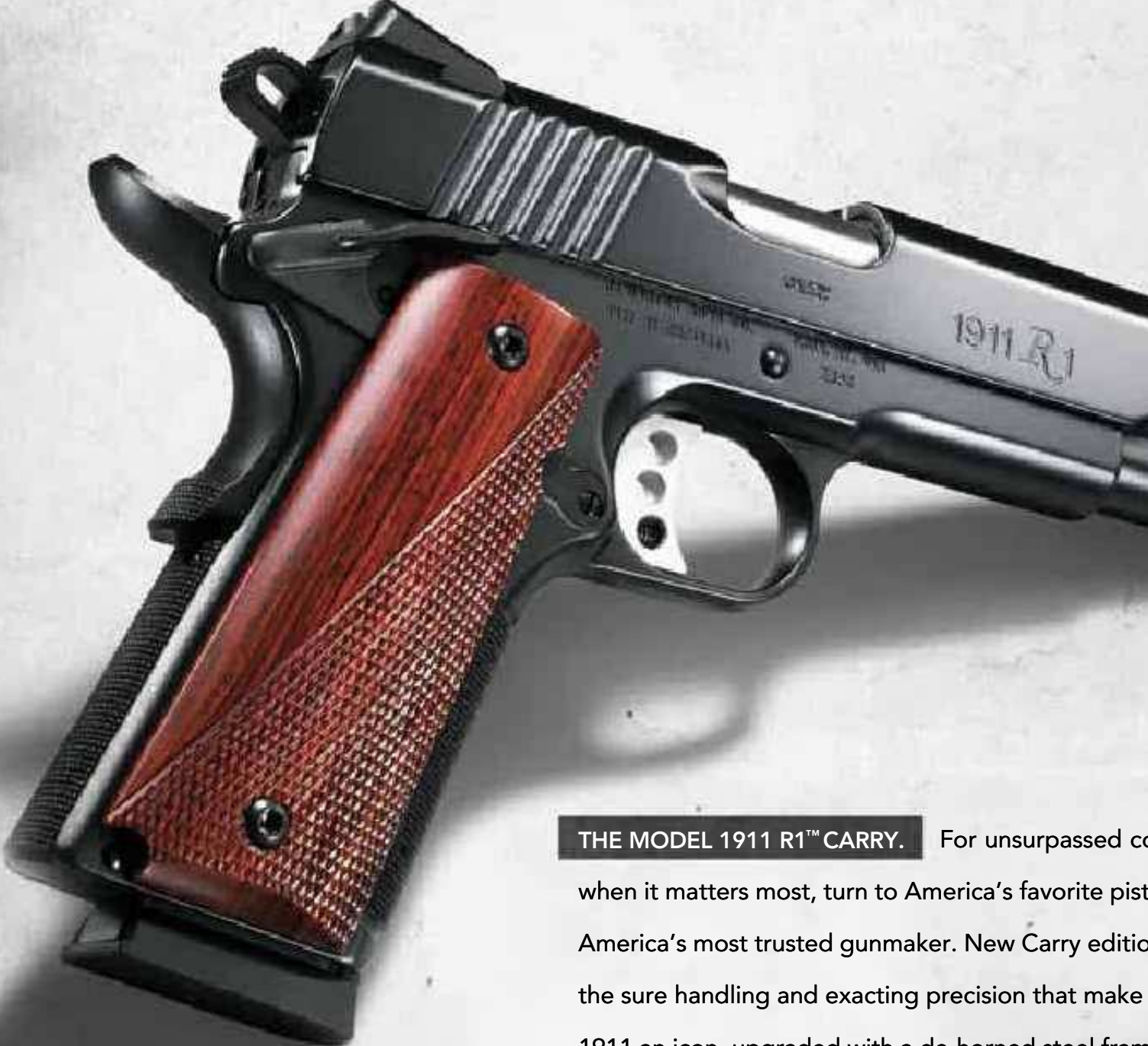


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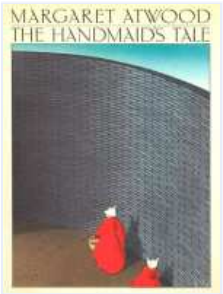
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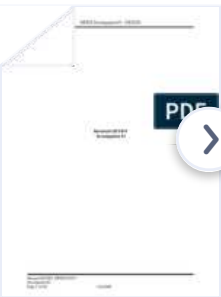
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



YOU ARE NOT SICK!

»»“PEOPLE WHO OWN GUNS ARE ESSENTIALLY A SICKNESS ON OUR SOUL.”

- Colorado State Senate President John Morse, D-Colorado Springs

This quote is about you. It’s about me. More alarming, however, is the fact that this quote came from a “public servant” who swore to defend the Constitution on behalf of his constituents, not trample on it. Sadly, we live in a time where many politicians and lawmakers feel that their ignorant, uninformed fears and prejudices have more gravity than facts, principle, and the United States Constitution.

While statements like Senator Morse’s drive me crazy, they also present unique opportunities for patriotic Americans like you and me to step up to the plate and show the nation what we’re made of. As polarizing as this quote is, it resulted in one of the coolest outcomes I’ve seen in a long time: A coup d’état. Well, at least in the hyperbolic sense.

Colorado State Senate President John Morse is being recalled by voters. That’s right. This man, who helped push through bad gun laws this spring, is being recalled by more constituents than actually even voted in his election! An election to replace him should take

victory in the war we’re fighting for our rights, but it is a keystone event that I believe will inspire countless patriots to take similar action in their home states. For the first time in a long time, it feels like the voice of the people is starting to be heard.

If you’ve been tracking with the US-CCA for any amount of time, you have probably seen how passionate we are about this issue. Likewise, you’ve probably heard us challenge our entire community of like-minded Americans to take action in this war of values, just like the people of Colorado have. We may sound like a broken record to you at this point, but you can’t argue with the facts: when people stand up for what they believe, change is possible. Colorado is proof of that. And while it’s inspiring to see, it is only the first in a long line of victories we will see if people like you and me will take action and stand up for what we believe.

But there’s a catch. Victory is not a guarantee. You see, taking back ground in the battle for our fundamental rights doesn’t happen “out there, with some

fear-mongering liars sh tion of our population where we no longer live rights and values upon tion was founded. But if upon our principles and educated, unified voice, able to stop us.

Remember, this issue because owning guns h your right. Nor is it im you can have a hobby. because we have the w sibility to protect innoc sue is about families an being able to protect th those who prey on the and defenseless. Pas politicians to strip us of man right at any level r ishes us as individuals, the well being of our lov

My hope for you is th inspiration in what the k Colorado have done. Ev a state that seems impo you need to know that y ters, so long as you are it. Don’t let the political es of a few liars drown ou demand for life and liber

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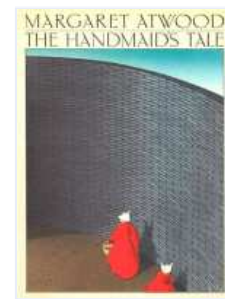


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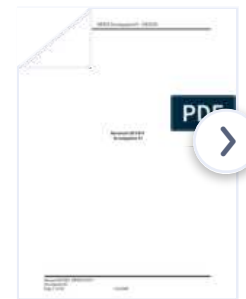
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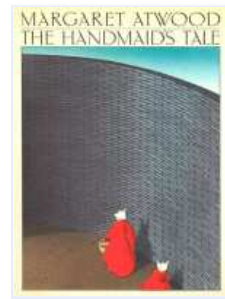
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# IF YOU ARE ALWAYS READY YOU NEVER HAVE TO GET READY

» **WHAT MAKES YOU** think you are ready to handle anything that comes your way? Is it that gun on your hip or in your purse? Think again. Preparedness is not just about having a gun. Training is about repetition. Being ready is about believing it can happen to you and taking the steps needed to act properly when things go off the rails.

I heard a story recently that generated a big laugh for everyone but me. A friend was telling us about a relative who was jogging along a country road. The woman came over a small rise and there in the roadway were some sheep. One of the animals decided to charge at our fitness-conscious heroine and before the woman knew it the full force of a 200-pound animal slammed into her hip, throwing her off balance and to the ground. The woman yelled at the ram, kicked and flailed her arms, but the ram hit her again before stepping away. According to the storyteller, the woman waited for the ram to turn its back, then jumped to her feet and sprinted a couple hundred yards until she thought she was safe. She then admitted, "I had pepper spray the entire time and never thought to use it."

The reason she never thought to use it

bought it, hung it on her jogging shorts and went running, very likely thinking to herself, "If I ever need this, I'll just pull it out and spray it."

Wrong! Wrong! Wrong!

Under stress you will only do what you have practiced doing.

How often do you practice drawing your pistol from concealment? My guess is most people hang a gun on the belt and go about their daily business.

How many of you run scenarios through your head at least sometimes during the day? In my work as a police officer I have thankfully never been involved in a deadly force incident. Yet, I regularly run "what if" scenarios through my head. What if the driver during the next traffic stop decides to come out shooting? I roll each step through my head, from exiting my vehicle for better cover to the radio transmissions I would

Where is your cell phone? Where would you draw your gun? What elements through BEF comes and you will give a defensive advantage.

I'm not asking you to be paranoid, just prepared. It is not bad things happen. It is not things often happen unless you are ready for them. Caught off guard. Take steps and set up some dry practice. Your pistol and move all different room. Now, practice your pistol from concealment off line, verbalizing and practicing a shot. Do it again and are out and about, look at cover and escape routes. Who and what is near you so you will react instinctively that something happens.

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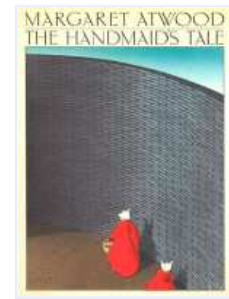


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# HOW TO CHOOSE A HOLST

What is the best concealed holster for my SIG Sauer SP 2022? I also want to attach a laser and light to the rail. Is there a holster that would accommodate that?

Andrew M., Houston, Texas

Andrew, since the SP 2022 is a very popular handgun, you'll find no problem picking up a holster from a variety of manufacturers. But, add a laser or light to the rail, and your options are reduced significantly. For concealment without the light and/or laser attached, one of the most popular concealment holsters at the USCCA headquarters is the "SuperTuck Deluxe" from Crossbreed Holsters ([www.CrossBreedHolsters.com](http://www.CrossBreedHolsters.com)). The SuperTuck has two widely placed clips positioned on a large piece of leather. This spreads the weight and contour of the handgun over a wide area, allowing you to comfortably carry the gun all day long. At just \$69.95, this leather/kydex combination would be at the top of my list. Now if you'd like to add an attachment to the rail and carry the SP 2022 in that configuration, I'd suggest you investigate the "Patriot Gun Holster with Light" from Bravo Concealment ([www.BravoConcealment.com](http://www.BravoConcealment.com)). This all kydex holster has just about the widest configuration I've seen (and worn) on a kydex rig, and unlike other holster manufacturers, Bravo Concealment has options for more than a dozen light manufacturers, including the most

Rashad, your question is timely, because in our July issue and in this issue, I've explored a variety of topics concerning the legal use of force, including the rules governing the use of deadly force in the "Instructor's Corner" department. In those articles, I've explained in detail what the law says about the topic, and the types of questions that prosecutors will want answered before deciding whether to charge you with a crime or send you on your way if you've claimed "self-defense" after using your firearm in any capacity. In the July issue, I explained how prosecutors will use what's known as the "reasonable person test." That means they'll weigh whether they believe a "reasonable person" would have believed the same things you believed to be true and would have reacted the same way you reacted in the same situation. But here's the catch: "reasonable person" doesn't mean your friends, your family, the gang at the local shooting club, or other permit holders. It means 12 average jurors picked from the community. Because of that test, a use of force on your part must carry such seriousness attached to it that it's a fair question to ask, "Is this situation worth going to jail over?" or, "Is this situation worth dying over?" If the answer is "Yes," then you'll need to be prepared to live with the results. If the answer is "No," then you'll need to work hard to remove yourself from the situation (quickly!) be-

that back to your question. The answer from a legal perspective is much simpler. If you find a situation that you didn't start and couldn't avoid, and you have no other choice but to use your firearm, then you've done what you can do. Beyond that, you need to convince a prosecutor or possibly a jury that you were in a reasonable assessment of the situation.

How safe is carrying a handgun? David

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TO SUBMIT A QUESTION TO ASK THE USCCA  
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center of the round, as is the case with centerfire firearms. With no soft brass round to stop the firing pin on rimfire firearms, the pin would instead strike the harder edge of the chamber, which can damage or destroy the firing pin, and even damage the face of the barrel chamber over time. Regardless of whether you're training with a centerfire or rimfire, my suggestion is to pick up a set of "snap caps" (dummy rounds specifically designed to provide the proper impact resistance to a firing pin) and get started on your dry firing exercises.

Just recently I was open carrying my Springfield XD(M) and was at the park with my kids. An 8- or 9-year-old comes up to me and asks, "Is that real?" I say "yes," and his eyes get really wide and he stares for a second then runs off. So my question is, what's the best advice for carrying around kids and dealing with their parents if there's a problem? Nick B.

Nick, I'm assuming that you're from one of the many great states that allows open carrying, so my advice on how you might deal with those sorts of situations is to consider yourself a diplomat. But let's

Americans who haven't formed an opinion on guns or concealed carry rights, or who simply don't know much about the topics. Let's use an example of where attitudes have been changed—in most areas of the country, the days are long gone where your situation would have resulted in a "man with a gun" call, and your local SWAT team arriving with guns drawn. That's because most local law enforcement has become so familiar with permit holders that when a call comes in to 911, it might go something like this: "So you see a man with a gun in a holster at the park. What exactly is he doing? He's playing with his kids? Thanks for the call, and have a nice day." What you can do as an openly carrying permit holder is to help other, less informed Americans understand the same thing that law enforcement has come to understand—that permit holders are good people, and are in fact more responsible than the average citizen. Let's say that the child's parents approach you at the park, and they ask you about your handgun. Your answer could be as simple as, "Oh that? I decided to get trained a few years back, and decided to get my permit to carry. When people ask me why I have a permit, I tell them that I do it for the same reason I have life or medical insurance. If something bad ever happened and I hadn't done everything I could do to protect my family, I wouldn't consider myself much of a husband or a parent." Beyond that, my advice is to answer any questions they have, but don't push the topic any further. Instead, just get into a normal conversation that you'd strike up with any stranger, as if the topic of

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» GREAT CHANGES TO SHIELD

Tim, this is great news. For years I looked for some sort of comfort financially if the last resort happened. Heck, I even emailed you a time or two asking. Now we have it. Not only that but the magazine has also gotten better. For a while there was no advertisement. Now I see some. I feel it is extremely important to have advertisement in the magazine for two reasons. One is for financial support, but the other is this is where I see all the new and improved stuff. So my vote would be for more. There have been a lot of people that have gone away from USCCA that I don't understand. They truly don't know what they are missing.

Kevin Johnson, Fergus Falls MN

Thanks Kevin,  
We are very proud of the recent changes to the Shield insurance program and we are happy to see that the majority of our members appear to love the enhanced coverage and benefits as well. The insurance, the magazine, the weekly Concealed Carry Report and the emails we send are all here to serve our members and the goals Delta Defense has set forth. We wish to keep our members Educated, Trained, Equipped and Insured. Thanks again for the kind note.  
Stay safe,  
Kevin Michalowski  
Editor, Concealed Carry Magazine

» A VOTE FOR STEEL

I found the recent edition on polymer pistols (Feb, 2013) interesting, but a little off. The new plastic modern guns have their place, but I like a gun that is solid steel. I like the way they are balanced and they look 10 times better.  
I have been around guns for 40 years. I know that most of the new guns are popular, but give it 20 or 40 years. Plastic and polymer can crack and warp. The new cars have plastic intake manifolds that seem to get brittle, crack and warp. The old cars don't.

David, the beauty of this entire industry is that as long as there is a demand, someone will fill that need. Some people like steel. Some like polymer. We have revolver shooters and pistol shooters. I welcome you all and will never say your choice is wrong. The only mistake would be not to carry a gun.  
Kevin Michalowski  
Editor, Concealed Carry Magazine

» MY JOURNEY WITH THE USCCA

My journey with USCCA really started about five years ago with a spinal cord

Realizing now that I've ty where I can no longer way out of a bad situati was time to get a permit arm. I decided that I wa be a billboard for anyone easy score. One day a lit ago I was surfing the Inte happenstance I ran across sent Tim Schmidt, the CE plaining my situation. I t was reading about his ma really interesting. Thinki would never even land ( alone be answered, I went  
The next day, to my am call from a guy from USCC and the member Services standing to work with. Th me out even though I am never even met. That shov  
I am now a member have never met people people are not in it to ge it because they believe v ing makes a difference. I I receive at least three tin information I get is pricel wait by the mailbox for because I read them from Their reviews on firearms the true stories of where saved lives are all so inter not least is the insurance you're a member of USCC in the position where you but to use your firearm, yo or the bad guy or his fami in your house.  
With that being said, I be someday I can meet the other guy to thank th helpful.  
Best regards to everyon

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The new magazine garishly screams GUN! The outsized photos may be pretty, but are indistinguishable from the ads. Unless used to illustrate a detail contained in the text, their confusing disproportion when 'larger than actual size' serves only to obscure. Their very size is equivalent to SHOUTING ON THE INTERNET.

I saw a similar change go on with the BMW Motorcycle Owners of America. The magazine got glossier and more professionally designed, with a huge emphasis on pushing product. After membership since 1985, I'm dropping it because I can't relate to what new junk they think is cool.

Maybe this is a generation gap. Remember the early days of mish-mashed bad Photoshop? We've now arrived at a state of overly slick hype, and the triumph of overdesign over content. Fifty percent of the new magazine is in-your-face illustrations, as if you distrust us to be literate. I've heard of this described as 'gun porn'.

End rant.

Curtis Choy, Via email

Curtis,

I had to chuckle a bit at your note because you are the first person in nearly 20 years who has ever complained that my magazine is TOO professional and asked for a return to "bad Photoshop."

Yes, we have changed the production values and the design parameters. Yes, they are vastly different than before. But we here at the USCCA take great pride in improving and advancing our product and, quite frankly, the numbers don't lie. We are growing faster than ever before. In fact, we are growing faster than any other firearms magazine I am familiar with. Top that off with a recent reader survey that shows nearly 90 percent of the readers view our changes favorably and I have to think we

creating compelling designs on the pages. And I will say this without equivocation: We strive for the best, most varied, most comprehensive editorial content in the business. The stories in our magazine continue to be top-notch and we will never change that.

The media team has a saying at Delta Defense: The next edition will be even better.

Our goal is to constantly improve. We can't please everyone. But we can focus on excellence.

Thanks for reading.

Kevin Michalowski

Editor, Concealed Carry Magazine

» ANOTHER HAPPY CUSTOMER

Amen, Brother Tim...

You are the man. I just joined USCCA in May and I am very excited to receive my first issue of your publication. Your dedication and commitment are a real encouragement to me and those just like me who view this current administration as a "Confederacy of Dunces" who collectively couldn't pour sand out of a boot with directions printed on the heel. Add to that the fact that they wouldn't know the truth if it hit them in the face and you have a recipe for the moral and economic crash of our way of life.

If the Russians concluded that they could not overthrow America many years ago because the American public was so well armed, what makes the Feds think they can do it now? If they try it, you will see the biggest display of civil disobedience since we sent the British packing. I believe my grandfather had it right 40 years ago when he said it is time to take all the politicians, give them a sandwich and a glass of water, drop them in the ocean and let them swim either way never to set foot on American

» A NEWBIE WITH A QUESTION

As you'll quickly be able to tell, I'm a "newbie" to the CCW discussion. I received USCCA correspondence less than a month ago. But based on all the times I've heard or read about being arrested for "carrying a weapon" it seems to me there should be more space devoted to discussing the "whether-to" instead of all the space being devoted to the "how-to."

In other words, I've been told that in order for the average citizen to carry a loaded, concealed weapon, they must have a permit to do so. But nowhere have I found information regarding how one gets such a permit, or whether one issued by a municipal government is valid outside the jurisdiction. Or whether one has to have what is considered to be a "good reason" to consider to be a "good reason" to carry a permit; such as carrying large amounts of cash, etc.

I'm just a little bit confused by the possibility that—since I don't have information about how to go about getting a permit to carry a concealed weapon—you may be assuming (intentionally or not) that there is no right to bear arms, or that there is no right to bear them in a concealed manner.

I look forward to your response. Mac McWethy, Via email

Mac,

Jumping right to the heart of the question, the answer rests with the Department of Justice or similar federal agency. Each state has its own process for obtaining a weapons permit. A simple search should get you all the information you need.



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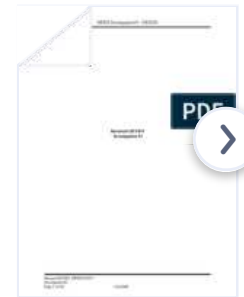
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
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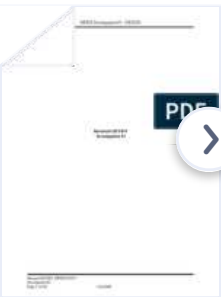
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» FLORIDA MAN STOPS ROBBERY

» MISSOURI WOMAN DEFENDS HOME, PUTS INVADERS TO FLEE

When she heard a rattling at her front door, then her City woman took up the her husband had bought to the apparent threat j cussed. When the intruder rear door, she fired through causing them to return fire in hurry. Three men were taken to a local hospital when the for a gun-shot wound to by one of the trio. All three attempted first-degree burglary use of a weapon. KCTV.com Channel 5 News, Kansas

» TEXAS MAN SURVIVES UNPROVOKED CONFRONTATION

A downtown Houston home from a nightclub he was accosted and fired on by two men. Fortunately, the victim reached for his concealed pistol and though unable to return fire, killing another and putting himself in the hospital. The wounded suspect was taken to a hospital. Charges have been filed against the suspect. KHOU.com, Houston, Texas


» MICHIGAN WOMAN SURVIVES KNIFE ATTACK, ROUTS INVADERS, CONCEALED GUN


A 26-year old Castleton woman was feeding her horses when she was confronted by a man who put a knife to her throat. She cautioned her to not do anything, then she reached for her concealed handgun and fired, wounding the man. The man was taken to a hospital. The woman was not injured. The incident occurred in Castleton, Vermont. WFSB.com, Castleton, Vermont


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» **WASHINGTON  
FIGHTS OFF AR**

A Kent jewelry store owner who was the victim of an armed robbery attempt, drew his legal pistol and a brief exchange of gunfire ensued that led to the robbery attempt. Police are conducting an investigation. No charges have been filed against the man who was defending his store.

» **ARMED ALABAMA  
FOILS 4 A.M. HE**

A Talladega County homeowner heard noises in her home. Invading her kitchen. Her screams alerted her neighbors and she fired two shots, wounding the burglar, who had a record for a previous incident. The homeowner was not charged since he was defending his home.



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ON THE COVER



X

**FINISH** MATTE  
**FRAME** STAINLESS STEEL  
GLASS BEADED  
**GRIP** NEOPRENE  
**BARREL LENGTH** 2.2"  
**CAPACITY** 6-SHOT  
**CALIBER** 9MM  
**HAMMER** SPURRED  
**WEIGHT** 22 OZ.  
**MSRP** \$465

CHARTER ARMS

PIT BULL



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» ILLINOIS ENACTS NATION'S FINAL CONCEALED C

The last holdout on allowing the public possession of concealed guns, Illinois joined the rest of the nation as lawmakers raced to beat a federal court deadline in adopting a carry law over Gov. Pat Quinn's objections.

Massive majorities in the House and Senate voted to override changes the Democratic governor made in an amendatory veto.

Some lawmakers feared failure to pass something would mean virtually unregulated weapons in Chicago, which has endured severe gun violence in recent months — including more than 70 shootings, at least 12 of them fatal, during the Independence Day weekend.

"This is a historic, significant day for law-abiding gun owners," said Rep. Brandon Harris, a southern Illinois Democrat who, in 10 years in the House, has continued work on concealed carry begun by his uncle, ex-Rep. David Phelps, who began serving in the mid-1980s. "They finally get to exercise their Second Amendment rights."

The Senate voted 41-17 in favor of the override after a House tally of 77-31, margins that met the three-fifths threshold needed to set aside the amendatory veto. Quinn had used his veto authority to suggest changes, including prohibiting guns in restaurants that serve alcohol and limiting gun-toting citizens to one firearm at a time.

Quinn had predicted a "showdown in Springfield" after a week of Chicago appearances to drum up support for the changes he made in the amendatory veto. The Chicago Democrat faces a tough re-election fight next year and has already drawn a primary challenge from former White House Chief of Staff Bill

validated and none would take its place.

"If we do not vote to override, there are no restrictions upon people who want to carry handguns in the public way," said Sen. Kwame Raoul, a Chicago Democrat who negotiated the legislation with House sponsors.

Despite the setback for Quinn, he remained resolute when he spoke to reporters.

"It's very, very important that we protect the people," he said. "The legislation today does not do that. It has shortcomings that will lead to tragedies."

The law that took effect permits anyone with a Firearm Owner's Identification card who has passed a background check and undergone gun-safety training of 16 hours — longest of any state — to obtain a concealed carry permit for \$150.

The Illinois State Police has six months to set up a system to start accepting applications. Spokeswoman Monique Bond said police expect 300,000 applications in the first year.

For years, powerful Chicago Democrats had tamped down agitation by gun owners to adopt concealed carry. So gun activists took the issue to court.

Gun-control advocates saw the handwriting on the wall after the December ruling. But Mark Walsh, director of the Illinois Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, remained hopeful future legislation could continue to shape the concealed carry law, and he pointed to other gun-restriction victories in the spring legislative session. They include required background checks on gun buyers in private sales and mandatory reporting of lost or stolen guns.

Quinn had urged Democratic Attorney General Lisa Madigan to appeal the

fect. Gun supporters meant with no law session, any type of carried anywhere, a supporting stricter gun communities would set up tough restricti

With the negotiat advocates got the p wanted, instead of a l that gives law enfor wide discretion over In exchange, Chica pulsed by gun viole of places deemed of cluding schools, libra transit buses and trai

But one part of th to do with establishrcohol. The law will al weapons into restau tablishments where l more than 50 percent of the main provisior datory veto was to n alcohol is served.

He also wanted t carrying one gun at a completely concealed" as the initiati fers banning guns fr unless an owner puts guns — the reverse c law — and would gi power to prohibit gu

Sen. Jacqueline C said Quinn's change voted to sustain the v

"It's a position that respect for the moth who've lost children olence," Collins said.

As a nod to Quirr

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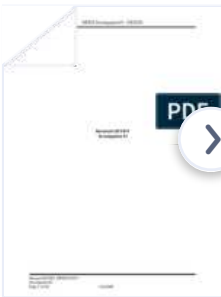
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» **COLORADO SHERIFFS SEEK TO STOP NEW MAGAZINE LIMITS**

New limits on ammunition magazines will continue in Colorado while sheriffs seek to overturn the law in court after attorneys in the case said they had agreed on some technical fixes in the meantime.

Attorneys for the sheriffs were in court seeking a preliminary injunction on the law that bans magazines that hold more than 15 rounds. But a federal judge in Denver said there was nothing for her to rule on because attorneys for the state and the sheriffs had hammered out an agreement.

“That being the case, there is nothing for this court to enjoin,” said U.S. District Court Judge Marcia Krieger in a swift hearing that lacked the intensity that has underscored the gun-control debate for almost a year here.

The law, passed after mass shootings in Colorado and Connecticut, went into effect July 1, along with expanded background checks to include online and private firearm sales. The laws were major victories for Colorado Democrats, who rallied majorities in the House and Senate this spring to pass it without Republican support.

Sheriffs in 55 of Colorado’s 64 counties filed a lawsuit in May, saying the law violates Second Amendment rights to keep and bear arms. Most of the sheriffs behind the lawsuit represent rural, gun-friendly parts of the state.

Both sides agreed that magazines that have removable baseplates won’t be considered part of ban and won’t be seen as being adaptable to hold more rounds than what the law allows. The agreement means both sides could focus on the larger issues of the lawsuit, attorneys said.

*From The Huffington Post (Denver)*  
– 10 July 2013

isolation was illegally passed in April without proper public input, time for adequate review by members of the General Assembly, or a statement of facts explaining why lawmakers needed to bypass the usual legislative process.

“There was no emergency and so there’s no statement of facts as to why this is an emergency,” Lawrence G. Keane, the foundation’s senior vice president and general counsel, told The Associated Press, arguing the public’s federal and state constitutional due process rights were therefore violated. “There was truly no emergency other than a political one.”

Keane said the foundation wants a U.S. District Court judge to strike down the law as invalid, prohibiting it from being enforced. Many parts of the legislation have already taken effect, such as an expanded ban on guns considered to be assault weapons and a ban on large-capacity ammunition magazines.

“The correct, legally required process was not followed,” Keane said.

Susan Kinsman, a spokeswoman for Attor-

ney General George Jepsen had not yet been served and therefore could not comment.

In March, a group of organizations that supports gun permit holders and gun sellers claiming, among other things, that weapons and large-capacity magazines violate their rights to bear arms, filed for protection under the law. A New London resident filed a lawsuit on behalf of the Disabled Americans for the Equality, arguing the new law infringes on the rights of people with disabilities.

Jepsen said in March that he believes the legislation, considered the strictest in the nation, is unconstitutional. His office was prepared to defend the law in court challenges.

*From The Daily Reporter*

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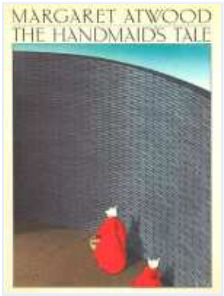
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EMBER PROFILE



USCCA MEMBERS  
WILL & TERRI PARKER  
MEMBERS SINCE 2008

**PROFESSION:** Will - Retired Navy officer, sales representative, firearms manufacturer, firearms dealer (Freddie Meyer's Glock Werks). Terri - Retail store manager, licensed esthetician and firearms dealer (Guns and Glamour).

» **WHY DO YOU CHOOSE TO CARRY A CONCEALED FIREARM?**

It is a sense of responsibility of my family and myself. No one else was ready and willing to protect my family and me. Like a warning siren while driving on the highway, I would rather have it and not need it. I pray I never have to use it.

» **WHAT DO YOU TELL PEOPLE WHO ARE CONCERNED ABOUT IT?**





It is a tremendous responsibility and they should take it seriously. I want to promote CCW and recommend them having the right attitude.



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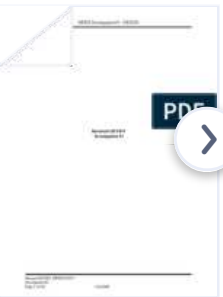
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& FIREARMS  
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# ONE NON

» **THERE'S A LOT** OF TALK ABOUT BACKUP GUNS AROUND THESE PAGES AT THE MOMENT. THE "BACKUP GUN" TEND TO INVOKE IMAGES OF SNUG .38 REVOLVERS IN ANKLE HOLSTERS OR SLIM .32 OR .380 PISTOLS TUCKED INTO A POCKET. BUT I WANT TO TALK ABOUT A DIFFERENT KIND OF BACKUP GUN IN THIS CONTEXT.

When I switched from carrying a Government Model 1911 to carrying a Smith & Wesson M&P 9 a couple years ago, pretty much the second thing for which I went shopping (after a good holster) was a second M&P 9. Not a Compact and not a long-slide version, but the exact same gun.

The reason I did this is not because I enjoy collecting identical examples of generic plastic service pistols, but because there are few things that will make a body sadder than driving halfway across the state or flying halfway across the country to attend a pistol match or a shooting school and have your gun break on day one.

"Oh!" you exclaim, "I use a quality name-brand handgun and it has never broken!"

That's because it's lulling you into a false sense of security. At the last gun store at which I worked, I kept a "Shelf of Shame" in the gunsmithing shack. On that shelf were broken parts from handguns by

and the instructor noticed two identical cases in my range bag. "Don't have any 1911s?" he asked.

"Only lonely guns break," I replied. It wasn't meant in jest, my prediction was true. I was shooting ran through the course, I bobbled, but if it had broken? Well, I was counting on that eventuality.

I wouldn't have needed to borrow a gun to get used to unfamiliar sights and controls, or to hope that the borrowed gun was clean. If the ammunition I'd brought to the class had broken, I'd have pulled out a backup gun that used the same ammunition, holster, magazine, control manipulations, and drive cycle.


There are other, more serious situations where you might need an identical backup pistol. You might have to use your CCW gun in an actual self-defense incident that results in it being held for evidence.





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BALISTIC BASICS

BRUCE N. EIMER, PH.D.  
LEGALLY ARMED CITIZEN

SAVE THE  
SECOND

JOIN THOSE WHO SUPPORT FREED

IT'S JUST THE LAW | REAL WORLD CARRY GE

» Bruce Eimer, Ph.D.  
spoke at the Save  
the Second Rally in

On the 50th anniversary  
of the Second Amendment





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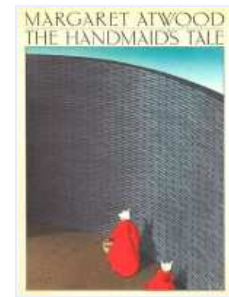


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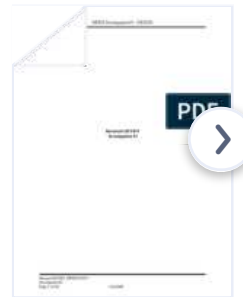
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» **WHAT FOLLOWS IS** the text of a speech given by the author, May 25, 2013 at the “Save the Second” Rally at Independence Plaza in Philadelphia. During the rally, organizers gathered and placed 40 signatures on a copy of the U.S. Constitution just as the founders of the United States did more than two centuries ago.

*Self-preservation is the first law of nature. The first order of business in life is to keep safe from peril or from harm. Those who fail at this first order business of survival are not likely to pass on their genes.*

*Therefore, it is natural that people want to feel safe. But, many people delude themselves into thinking they are safe when in fact they are not. Fact is it's more important to actually be safe than to feel safe. And it is necessary to keep safe in order to be safe. When you keep safe, you are more likely to feel safe.*

*The United States Congress convened in New York City on Wednesday, March 4, 1789, and expressed a desire to pass a measure designed to prevent abuse of its powers. Therefore, Congress added a set of amendments designed to provide a legitimate basis for the public to have confidence in their government. To keep safe, to be safe, to feel safe, and to stay safe forever more.*

*These first 10 amendments to the Constitution of the United States were passed by both the Senate and the House of Representatives and have forever more been known as the Bill of Rights.*

*The First Amendment. Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peace-*

*ably to assemble, and to petition the government for the redress of grievances. To be safe.*

*The Second Amendment. A well-regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed. To keep safe.*

*The Fifth Amendment. No person shall be held to answer in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation. To be safe.*

*The Tenth Amendment. The powers not delegated to the United States by the constitution, nor prohibited to the states, are reserved to the states or to the people. To stay safe!*

*These 10 amendments were ratified in 1791, and form what is known as the Bill of Rights.*

*Our founding fathers wrote the constitution in order to guarantee the right to protect the second amendment in order to stay safe!*

*In the days of our founding fathers, in every man had weapons—just as it is in Switzerland. Colonial America needed to call up reserves to fight the British who presented a common threat to the colonies. They could not do this—that is, call up militia. The individual's right to keep and bear arms was protected and kept safe.*

*For the love of god, the second amendment is about hunting! It is about self-defense. That, in America, the natural god-given right of self-defense will be respected. Our founding fathers was essential to assure that freedom was ringing for every free citizen, or guest, in our country. As Dr. King said, “Let freedom ring.”*



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*Fact is that America is still the greatest country in the world. Unfortunately, there are places in America where law-abiding men and women have been relieved of their basic human right to be in control of their own personal safety—to make the choice of whether or not they want to carry protection with them wherever they go. That is what the word “disarmed” means. It is not far from the word “disabled.”*

*And what victim disarmament guarantees is that the smaller and the weaker are less able to stand up for their right to pursue life, liberty and happiness when stronger, bigger predators are lurking everywhere.*

*Too much crime? Too many guns on the street? Just follow New Jersey and outlaw constitutional concealed carry. Gee. That works. Look at Camden. Look at Trenton. Look at Atlantic City. Look at Jersey City. Hmm... that really works.*

*Fact is that the naked human being is not born with the same natural defensive capabilities as are many animals and plants—things like fangs, sharp teeth, claws, body armor, thorns, deadly poisons, and so forth. But God gave us the gift of the superior human brain, which has allowed the human race to develop tools; and weapons are tools.*

*God created humans but Sam Colt made humans equal. Diamonds are not a girl's best*

*friend! A concealed handgun is a girl's best friend. Only a gun that a girl knows how to use can give her a fighting chance against a 280-pound male predator. Those who would limit the number of rounds that legally armed citizens can carry in their firearm would limit that woman's ability to defend herself against that 280-pound predator. Five or six bullets may not be enough to stop that predator from murdering her.*

*If you go hiking in the wilderness where there are big predators, or if you hunt big game, do you take a five-shot .38 special? Or do you prepare with a .308 Win Mag or .338 Win Mag? Who should have the right to limit her ability to stay alive?*

*For a long time, I have thought of liberal thinking as being in some ways like a psychiatric thought disorder. For example:*

**Problem:** Government run out of money?  
**Solution:** Just spend more money on non-essential projects such as road construction and cut the numbers of police, as opposed to conserving funds and allocating it to essential concerns such as hiring more police to fight crime.

**Problem:** An unacceptable level of violent crime committed by violent criminals with guns?  
**Solution:** Just blame the problem on the result—more guns in the possession of violent criminals—and punish law-abiding citizens by grabbing their guns.

*End result? Fewer crime gridlock. Larger numbers of citizens with less ability to keep pence on government. street. More gun crime. Ge*

*Where are we? In “bizarro logic” rules? Where of logic manifests as a sup of anything logical? Where anything good or right? V nals are rewarded by early and easier pickings amor zens? “Bizarro” is the use of is the opposite of reality an*

*A common sense gun l such a thing?*

*Welcome to the city w dence was declared on July*

*Welcome to the city w fathers convened to plan i independence from Britain*

*America is the country v all corners of the earth ha live free to pursue their bas beings; to live a free life—pursue life, liberty and ha and protected.*

*George Washington fo and when he won the wa come a king. He became a a patriot.*



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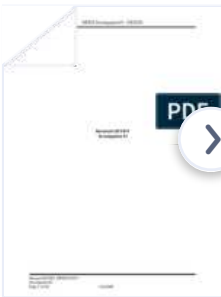
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*President Abraham Lincoln was born in humble beginnings. He was self-educated, self-motivated, intelligent, strong, and tough, and he became president. He was a patriot.*

*NYC police commissioner Theodore Roosevelt, an adventurer, knew the American West. Like Abraham Lincoln and George Washington, president Theodore Roosevelt was a patriot. He was not afraid to fight for America. He was a patriot.*

*He said, "Speak softly but carry a big stick." That is a lesson we all need to remember. Carry a big enough stick.*

*Thomas Jefferson wasn't afraid to fight for America. He was a patriot. President Thomas Jefferson said: "A strong body makes the mind strong. As to the species of exercise, I advise the gun. Let your gun therefore be the constant companion of your walks."*

*Despite our differences, America is still the best place on earth, made of the best stuff on the planet, and that's why people from all over the planet want to come here!*

*The Pledge of Allegiance to America envisions "one nation, under god, with liberty and justice for all." This is what our founding fathers envisioned. They were patriots.*

*The license to carry firearms is a license to be responsible for one's personal safety and the personal safety of those under the mantle of one's protection.*

*Our founding fathers were both "oath makers" and "oath keepers." The first thing to be taken away from free men and women in totalitarian regimes is their right to keep and bear arms. Slaves were not allowed to own firearms!*

*Those who hold political office take an oath to protect the U.S. Constitution before they are sworn into office. Those who want to eliminate private gun ownership in America are therefore "oath breakers."*

*If we are to remain free, we must never allow anyone to take away our God-given rights. But, keep in mind, when you exercise your rights, you have the responsibility of not infringing on the rights of others.*

*Gun-phobic people say, "The world would be better without guns in it." Problem is, when guns are grabbed, only the law-abiding lose them. So...more guns, more crime.*

*Legally armed citizens are seldom perpetrators of violent criminal acts.*

*It is a moral crime, and a violation of the Constitution, to use the rule of law enforced by the gun to violate the U.S. Constitution by forcing responsible, law-abiding people to settle for less firepower than bad people have.*

*Fact is that guns give weaker people who are innocent and law-abiding a fighting chance to avoid being gravely harmed by stronger and more dangerous, evil people.*

*Law-abiding citizens n right to keep and bear arms they do, they risk losing i The stakes are high. There police around to save you We are all on our own.*

*When you only have se minutes away.*

*It is a big mistake to freedoms for anyone. Wh up one snippet of your fr you will be asked to give snippets until you have ne*

*Guns in responsible ha guns. More lives saved.*

*The "law of dominan when one emotion comes stronger emotion, the str ly takes precedence. Thus one feeling, or even a rea thought, have against a s a big chance.*

*So, there is a time for fe time for thinking. Think r can behave rationally, ar feel safe.*

*Be resolute. Be tough. And stay safe.*

*Think rationally, comm be an "oath keeper."*









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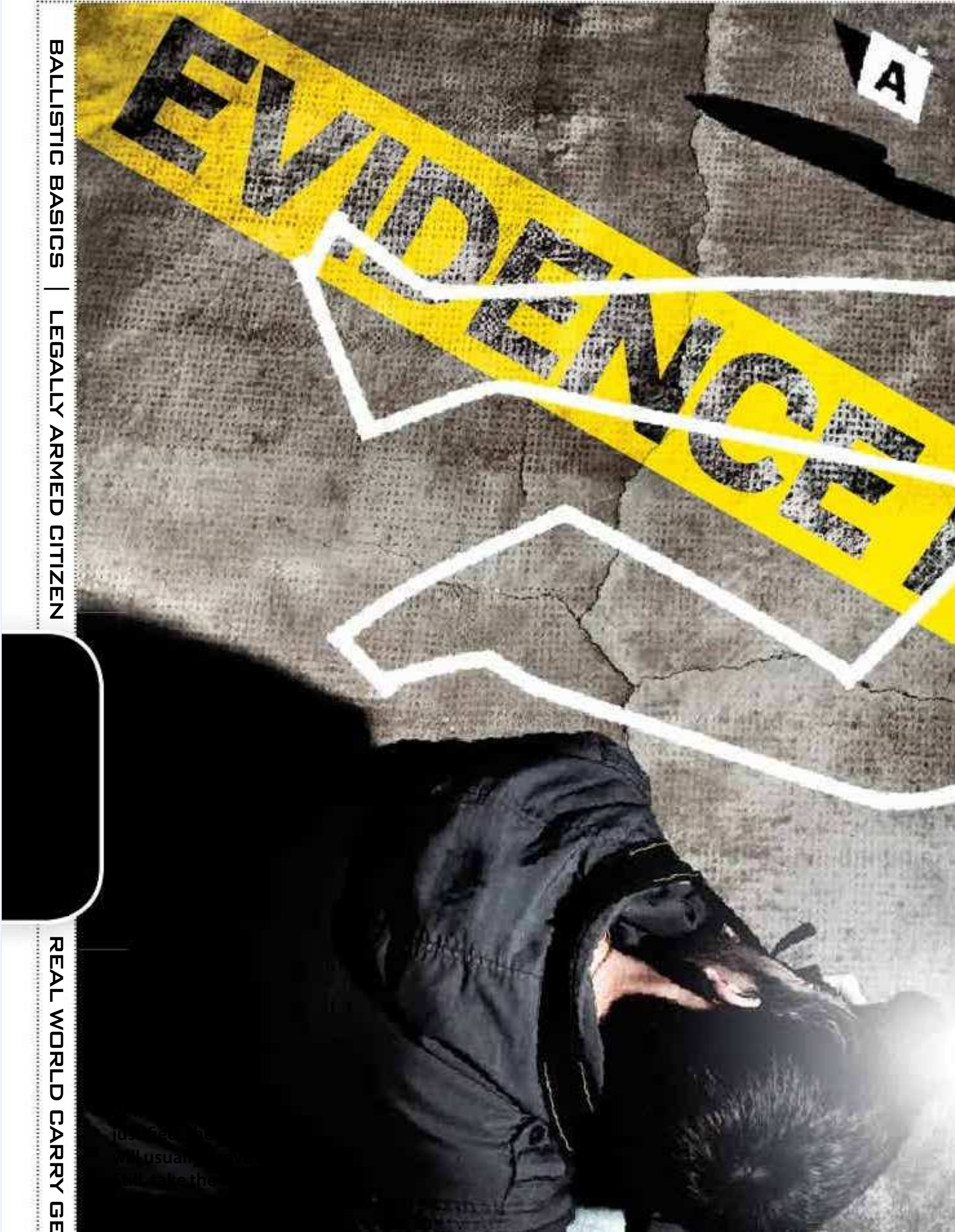
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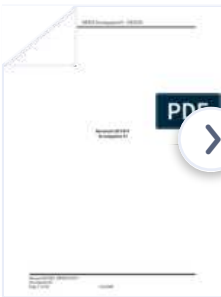
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» Evidence comes in all shapes and sizes. By the time it gets to the trial it is tagged and bagged and reviewed by the prosecution and the defense. The best time to preserve evidence is at the scene. Point out everything you think could be used as evidence.

One of the dying victims of the St. Valentine’s Day Massacre was asked by responding police, “Who shot you?” “Nobody shot me,” was the instinctive response. A criminal may die in the midst of a rape/robbery/murder and believe that he had done nothing wrong, because in his world he had not. Bystanders may believe the criminal had done nothing wrong and claim that they had heard a dying declaration to that effect. Keeping the line open to 911 and on speaker has the advantage of recording any dying declaration, which is likely to be less cherubic than the criminal’s family would like.<sup>1</sup>

Evidence consists of the facts of a case. Lawyers may spin the facts, and I have seen them lie about them, but if a shooting is in self-defense the evidence should support the defense. Some people insist on complicating the facts.

A concealed carry instructor in St. Louis insisted on teaching that following a shooting, one should check for witnesses, pick up the cartridge cases and disappear.<sup>2</sup> When the police find that evidence has been removed, it encourages attention rather than discourages it. They look for other evidence: the bullets in



the body, hair, fiber more. One fleeing car into a snowdrift, impression of his licer such evidence, the police looking at traffic camera security cameras and it will be a resource as well every person they identified student lies to the intent they know who did the shooting. People are often told that someone outside, they should and put a kitchen knife in his hand. take a forensic genius to see a outside and drag marks across. When the police find a kitchen

scene (and they will treat this like a crime scene the nearest kitchen. If they find a steak knife from house in the hands of a body at the front of the comes to mind: throwdown! The police intervene and they know it means that the shooting is not suspect has lied to the police nothing they have them. If a suspect is a liar he is a murderer too.

Friends may also be tempted to “improve” the evidence less of who tampers with the evidence, it will be defendant. A man in Kansas City pursued a thief him with a gun. The citizen shot first, shot best, a telephone. The neighbors descended on the scene criminal’s gun, stole his loot, and would have stolen if the police had not arrived. With no gun on the was charged with killing an unarmed man. Pa about moving things around to get their gurney Jeffery MacDonald was first suspected of murdering Bragg North Carolina when investigators found a serenely upright amidst the debris of his living room red that the scene had been staged. They later found ics had moved the flowerpot when removing it once he was a suspect, it proved impossible to and Dr. MacDonald continues to serve multiple lifetimes proclaiming innocence.

Animals have gotten into shooting scenes, attracting Tracking blood around confuses the dynamics of what essential to protect the shooting scene.

If a shooting is kosher, then evidence will prove follows that evidence must be pointed out to the When police have a shooter and a gun in hand the ination will be limited. In one case a citizen fired intruder. Six rounds struck the intruder. Confront





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pattern. Cases are light, they roll, they are blown by wind and traffic, they are caught in shoe treads and carried away, but prosecutors file based on where they are found.

It is often necessary to bring in experts or investigators. In a couple of cases there were disputes over where bullets landed. In one, the defendant claimed they were warning shots, and the complaining thugs spun imaginative stories about hearing the whistle of bullets or having dirt kicked on them by the impact of bullets. Private investigators with metal detectors found the bullets exactly where the defendant said they would be. They were specifically instructed to cover the entire area, and all uncovered bits of metal were displayed for the jury in clear evidence bags to prevent claims of planted evidence.<sup>6</sup>

In another case, the trajectory of the bullet was fixed by sheriff's deputies by tacking a string to the bullet hole left in a wall and stretching a string; a useless exercise.<sup>7</sup> High school geometry teaches that two points make a line. John Cayton of Access Forensic Laboratory determined a proper trajectory.<sup>8</sup> A wooden dowel rod was inserted into the hole and a string run from an eyelet screwed into one end. This allowed a more accurate trajectory later confirmed with lasers.<sup>9</sup> An accurate trajectory showed where the dead man and the shooter stood. This confirmed the defendant's statement and he was acquitted.

The entrance and exit wounds must be clearly identified. Powder burns around the wound and bruising indicate entrance wounds. Exit wounds are typically, but not always, larger than entrance wounds. This is a matter for expert testimony after considering all factors. One must get a real expert. A mid-Missouri man killed a burglar, the round entering the chest and exiting the back. The burglar's family sued, claiming that the back wound was the entry on the testimony of a paramedic, who had seen a bullet wound before, over that of a forensic examiner who had done over 2,000 gunshot autopsies. A fragment of the burglar's T-shirt was found lodged in the back of the

prosecutor did not change his position.

The size of the powder burn around the wound can prove how far away the criminal was when shot. However, this varies with the brand of ammunition, as the various companies use different formulas for their gunpowder. It may vary with lot number as companies change their formula. The solution is to load a defensive firearm out of a single box of ammunition; leave a half-dozen cartridges in the box. Record the date and gun loaded on the box and lock it in the gun safe. If the worst possible thing happens the ballistics can be replicated with exactly the ammunition used in self-defense.

Outside objects may affect the size of the powder burn, absorbing or dissipating the powder before the bullet strikes. Sometimes there is just a mystery. The autopsy on Senator Robert F. Kennedy found gunpowder residue that was not consistent with the reported distance the assassin was from the Senator. Either tests were done with the wrong type of ammunition, the assassin tampered with one of his rounds, there was a second assassin or there was some still-unknown factor.<sup>10</sup>

Having evidence is not enough. Making people believe evidence is critical.

**Kevin L. Jamison** is an attorney in the Kansas City Missouri area concentrating in the area of weapons and self-defense.

Please send questions to Kevin L. Jamison 2614 NE 56th Ter Gladstone Missouri 64119-2311 [KLJamisonLaw@earthlink.net](mailto:KLJamisonLaw@earthlink.net). Individual answers are not usually possible but may be addressed in future columns.

This information is for legal information purposes and does not constitute legal advice. For specific questions you should consult a qualified attorney.

1Enhanced 911 tapes of the Zimmerman incident appear to be working in his favor. 2He was an idiot on many levels. Any instructor giving this advice is worse than stupid; get your money back and walk out. 3 This has come from police officers and lawyers who should know better. 4 The defendant's mother cleaned up afterwards. 5 I once had a small AMT .45 that threw cartridge cases straight ahead of the muzzle, but only after they bounced off my forehead. 6 The prosecutor made that claim any-





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DUANE A. DAIKER  
REAL WORLD CARRY GE

# Flip it Light it Load it

» **THIS COLUMN REVIEWS** A WIDE VARIETY OF HIGH-QUALITY PERSONAL-SAFETY, SELF-DEFENSE AND CONCEALED CARRY RELATED GEAR. EACH PRODUCT IS THOROUGHLY EVALUATED UNDER REAL WORLD CONDITIONS.

## BENCHMADE 300 AXIS FLIPPER

Any discussion of high-quality production knives has to include Benchmade. No other knife company offers such a large and diverse range of high-quality cutting tools. And yet, Benchmade somehow continues to crank out new and interesting knife designs every year.

What makes this particular Benchmade 300 folding knife so special? How about a combination of Benchmade's proprietary AXIS lock and a flipper? For those unfamiliar with the term, a "flipper" is a protrusion on the blade that extends from the back (or spine) side of a folding knife. A flipper knife can be opened very quickly by pushing on the flipper to get the blade mov-

opening knife. It is also very simple to maintain with fewer parts—and it won't accidentally open in your pocket.

The Benchmade AXIS lock is my favorite type of lock system. It is very strong, and easy to operate. The lock button has to be slid to the rear against spring pressure, and is extremely unlikely to disengage accidentally. The knife can also be closed one-handed with just a little practice.

The 300 is a very sturdy knife. At nearly five ounces and .59 inches thick, the knife feels hefty for its size. The thick blade and stainless steel liners add



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The textured G-10 handles are sand or earth colored, and are reminiscent of desert camouflage colors. The handles have generous finger grooves that allow a great grip on the knife, even with large hands. I find this knife very easy to grasp in a standard grip or reverse grip. The flipper mechanism actually acts as a blade guard to keep the hand from slipping up onto the blade in vigorous use.

The included pocket clip is designed for deep pocket carry, and can be flipped for left-handed carry. The clip, however, is designed only for tip-up carry.

This new AXIS-lock folder would be a great everyday carry knife. The knife is actually not too threatening in appearance, even for its large size. Earth colors are just not as tactical looking as black. While the 300 is not the lightest knife around, it is hard to image an everyday cutting task it could not handle. This is plenty of knife for the average person—and then some.

The 300 AXIS Flipper is part of Benchmade's "Blue" class of knives, and retails for \$175. While the knife is not inexpensive—the quality is obvious. Of course, Benchmade stands behind all its knives with a lifetime warranty and the excellent LifeSharp program.

If you are looking for a capable knife that is built like a tank, you should consider the Benchmade 300 AXIS flipper. You can read more about this knife and other Benchmade products at [www.benchmade.com](http://www.benchmade.com).

SMITH & WESSON MP4 TACTICAL FLASHLIGHT

Smith & Wesson is one of my favorite gun manufacturers. However, I have noticed, in the past, a tendency for them to license their name to accessory products that were not the highest quality. I never paid much attention to the S&W-branded flashlights until I saw some of their latest offerings at a trade show.

setting—which is an output level only recently light of this size. The beam is estimated to throw ters, and I believe it. A bright center beam is su large halo of useful light. The light output is just

When you don't need such a blindingly bright has a lower power mode that provides 33 lun light. This is great for reading maps, finding yo number of other "non-tactical" uses.

The S&W light has what I consider to be th switching for a tactical flashlight of this size. Th vated with a push button on the tail cap. The sv momentary and constant-on functionality, dep how far you depress the button. A quick "doul switch activates the low power mode. However always defaults to the high output mode, whic want in a tactical flashlight that might have to quickly in a defensive situation.

The MP4 runs on two Lithium A123 cells, as y pect in a light of this type. The batteries are ex over two hours at full illumination, and will last f power mode.

S&W packs the MP4 in a very nice presentatic cludes all the accessories you might want—a rer et clip, a lanyard, and a nylon belt case. I am i would use the nylon belt case, but I do appreci to add a lanyard to any tactical light. The flashl features a nicely engraved S&W logo that is un professional in appearance.

The MP4 is available from a variety of onl around \$60. Be careful that you are buying the ' there are older models that look the same but dc the same specifications. Those lights may be go but be sure you know what you are buying.



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MAGHOLDER HORIZONTAL MAGAZINE CARRIER

Everyone needs a magazine carrier. If you carry a semi-auto pistol, you should be carrying a spare magazine. One obvious reason, of course, is to have more ammo. But the truth is that most auto-pistol malfunctions are magazine or ammunition related. The best way to get a malfunctioning pistol running again may be swapping for a fresh magazine. Of course, you have to have one on your person if you expect to do this in a gunfight.

Most magazine carriers are made by holster-makers as an accessory. I'm only aware of one company that makes magazine carriers their main line of business—MagHolder.

The staple of MagHolder's product line is the horizontal magazine holder. If you are like me, you may have trained solely with magazine carriers that hold the magazine in a vertical orientation. However, the idea of carrying in a horizontal position has been gaining a lot of popularity lately.

Horizontal carriers are very concealable and very comfortable. The magazine rides in about the same width as your gunbelt, so a long cover garment isn't required. Even better, horizontal carriers will not dig into your side when you bend over or sit down.

The MagHolder is very well designed. Perhaps the most ingenious feature is the retention mechanism. The MagHolder retains the magazine with a small tab that locks into the recess on the magazine tube for the pistol's magazine catch lever. Rather than just using pure friction to retain the magazine like most magazine carriers, this one actually locks the magazine into place. And yet, there is no extra step to release the magazine—it comes out with a brisk pull. This idea is so simple, but so effective. This is brilliant design.

The MagHolder attaches to your belt with a simple belt clip molded into the carrier. It is not a belt loop, so you can put on or take off the MagHolder without removing your belt. I like this commonsense feature too. The clip



Sauer, Springfield XD and XDS, S&W M&P, and 1911 pistols, and sell for \$25 each. You can purchase direct from MagHolder at [www.magholder.com](http://www.magholder.com), or from a number of authorized dealers.

If you are ready to try a horizontal magazine holder, I am not sure you can do any better than MagHolder. The company is committed to the satisfaction of its customers and fully stands behind its products. If you don't like your MagHolder product, you can return it for a replacement or a refund—so there's no risk in giving MagHolder a try.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Duane A. Daiker is a writer and columnist for CCM and a regular guy—not much. Duane has been a lifelong armorer and somewhat opinionated. He can be contacted through his website [alworldcarrygear.com](http://alworldcarrygear.com), or on page on Facebook, and via email for comments and suggestions for





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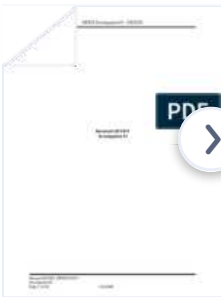
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# “BIG BROTHER” IS GETTING BIGG

»THE EMERGING SCANDALS surrounding the abuse of power by a growing number of government agencies should send chills down the spine of every gun owner in America. After all, if there is any group at risk of having their rights restricted, it would be gun owners. And gun ownership is soaring. Gregory Gwyn-Williams at CNS News noted the surge in gun background checks:

There have been 73,441,399 background checks for gun purchases since President Obama took office, according to data released by the FBI. The [sic] background checks that have been completed under Barack Obama’s presidency account for 43 percent of the 170,639,292 completed since 1998.

With millions of Americans buying up guns and ammunition, many of them first-time gun owners, a renewed push by Obama and the Democrats for onerous Federal “gun registration” is more likely than ever. Once that happens, it won’t be long until they use government agencies like the BATFE to collect all sorts of information on law-abiding citizens. But do we really know that they aren’t doing it already?

Even though only a handful of states actually have gun registration, every time any of us wants to purchase a firearm, whether a long gun or handgun, our name is run through a NICS check. This immediately flags us as a “gun owner” and while the background check does not include the specific firearm we have purchased, the NICS check does note whether we have purchased a “long gun” or a handgun. And since handguns are right up there with “assault weapons” in the

tion to envision some min worker bee scrolling thou names of gun owners that gram has linked with othe like “Tea Party” or “Patriot,” Think of all the other wa er” can now collect data a haviors. Your phone recor ds and credit card histo page. The Internet sites yc the GPS in your phone o

used for a variety of data gathering schemes ware that provides the means of correlatin obtained with other databases and records i pability exponentially.

You don’t need to be a conspiracy theoris tial for more widespread abuse by overzea agencies, especially when it comes to tho labeled as “gun owners” and thus worthy o tion. And if these agencies are concerned a in general, just imagine how much more inte those of us who actually carry guns in publi

Almost everyone has a driver’s license w Now combine data collection methods wi phisticated facial recognition technology a growth of public surveillance cameras. It wo a camera catches your face walking down th you as a carry permit holder, and begins to you as you go about your day. Strictly in the safety,” you understand.

But the more immediate possibility is th







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firearms, particularly “military style” weapons. An AP report highlights what happened when Arizona gun rights groups challenged the authority of the administration regarding a recent demand by the BATFE:

*WASHINGTON (AP) May 31, 2013 – A federal appeals court panel unanimously upheld an Obama administration requirement that dealers in southwestern border states report when customers buy multiple high-powered rifles...two or more semi-automatic weapons capable of accepting a detachable magazine and with a caliber greater than .22. The ATF says the requirement is needed to help stop the flow of guns to Mexican drug cartels.*

*Judge Karen LeCraft Henderson, writing for the three-judge appeals panel, said the agency was within its legal authority when it issued the demand letter. She said that the Gun Control Act of 1968 “unambiguously authorizes the demand letter.”*

*Congress annually passes legislation banning the ATF from establishing a national firearms registry, but Henderson rejected arguments from the challengers that the requirement unlawfully created one.*

*Because ATF sent the demand letter to only 7 percent of federally licensed gun dealers and required information on only a small number of transactions, “the July 2011 demand letter does not come close to creating a ‘national firearms registry,’” she wrote.*

So, apparently the good judge has decided that if a law burdens “only a small number” of citizens, that’s OK with her. Since carry permit holders represent only a relatively small percentage of the citizens in most states, one can only wonder how easy it would be to apply her “reasoning” to us.

Not surprisingly, The National Shooting Sports Foundation and two Arizona dealers, who brought the suit, disagreed with the decision:

*“There is no rational law enforcement connection between the problem ATF sought to address — illegal firearms trafficking from the United States to Mexico — and merely conducting*

All Americans should challenge intrusions by into our privacy. And while gun registration per s  
essary for government to be a threat to us, we s  
ously oppose it on all fronts. Because while be  
a gun owner is bad enough, having our entire  
firearms catalogued in some government datab  
ing less than an invitation to abuse.

Imagine if the IRS were provided with a compl  
ery gun you own. Or worse, suppose the list of y  
is given to Homeland Security. Now they know  
only own an AR-15, you are also a member of a l  
ty group, the NRA, or a subscriber to USCCA m  
you’re also a combat veteran? Red flags.

We should vigorously oppose all intrusions on  
and especially any gun registration initiatives, w  
or Federal, that would make the collection of p  
about us easier. And our position is supported b  
there is ample evidence that registering firearm  
pact in terms of reducing crime.

The major news organizations continue to foc  
handful of violent shootings that are committed  
deranged perpetrators like the “Sandy Hook” sl  
do everything possible to convince the public th  
law-abiding gun owners to register their guns w  
prevent the next psychotic killer from obtaini  
won’t of course, any more than background che  
reason is simple: the people who commit most vi  
with guns do not buy them legally, and will cer  
register them.

The Force Science Research Institute at the l  
Minnesota at Mankato State noted as much in  
study with the FBI, investigating 800 inciden  
shootouts with police, including how and whe  
got their guns:

*“...all but one were obtained illegally, usually in  
actions or in thefts. In contrast to media myth, no  
firearms in the study was obtained from gun show.*

Even more telling was this observation:

*“...none of the attackers interviewed was hinc  
law--federal, state or local--that has ever been es  
prevent gun ownership. They just laughed at gun*

Facts have never deterred the anti-gun zealc  
never will. Regardless, we still must fight them a  
Think about the fact that a scant few years ag  
that wholesale spying on Americans by multi

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# FAST?

## ARE YOU FAST?

» **MAYBE I SHOULD ASK,** “Do you FAST?” Either way, it’s not what you think in regards to defensive shooting. We are not asking you if you are quick from the holster or quick on the trigger and we are certainly not asking you to stop eating for some stretch of time before or after a gunfight. The root word of gunfight is fight, not gun. Keep that in mind as you defend yourself. You will be fighting. Ready yourself mentally and physically to win.

FAST is an acronym to remind you of the steps you should take during a deadly force encounter.

**FIGHT:** This is the shooting part of the gunfight. You have identified a threat and have moved to neutralize it. To fight effectively you must move, aim and fire. Those are lessons that require separate training. This drill incorporates all the elements of the fight.

**ASSESS:** After you have fired, take a look and see if you need to fight some more. Your rounds may not have been effective. You may have missed. Assess the situation. If you need to fight more, damn it, fight more.

**SCAN:** The immediate threat is down and out of the fight. Now you need to look for other threats, escape routes or better cover. Remember: never move from cover unless doing so gives you better cover or a tactical advantage. Don’t just turn your head; look at things. Turn almost fully around to scan left, right and behind you, but also remember to keep an eye on

you drop the magazine from the magazine well and insert the new magazine and lock the slide. Here some people will argue that you should. Some people will say, “But you’re not going to get a round on the ground!”

Maybe you are dumping the magazine on the ground. What you are doing is losing a live round into the cover. You may have run the pistol dry and you’re not looking back to the rear? Could you get a round to extract on the last round? The magazine upon your top off ensures you’re not looking down the pipe and you are ready to fire.

Running the FAST training drill assumes you know a lot of things. It assumes you know how to effectively draw, move toward cover, align the sights, and identify an armed threat. It further assumes you will be in a defensive low ready position for the assessment and you will maintain muzzle discipline as you scan. It assumes that you know how to arrange your magazine, how to reload and operate your pistol effectively during a gunfight.

This is a perfect opportunity to talk about realistic training. You can learn a lot from a book, but you cannot consider yourself trained until you are out of your comfort zone and learning by doing under the guidance of a competent professional.





The FAST sequence is something every self-defense should know and employ, but it’s not enough. The need for training to start as a foundation for building blocks are the individual skills and the




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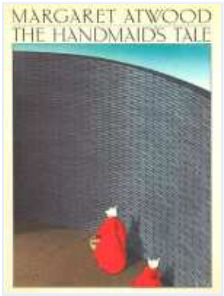
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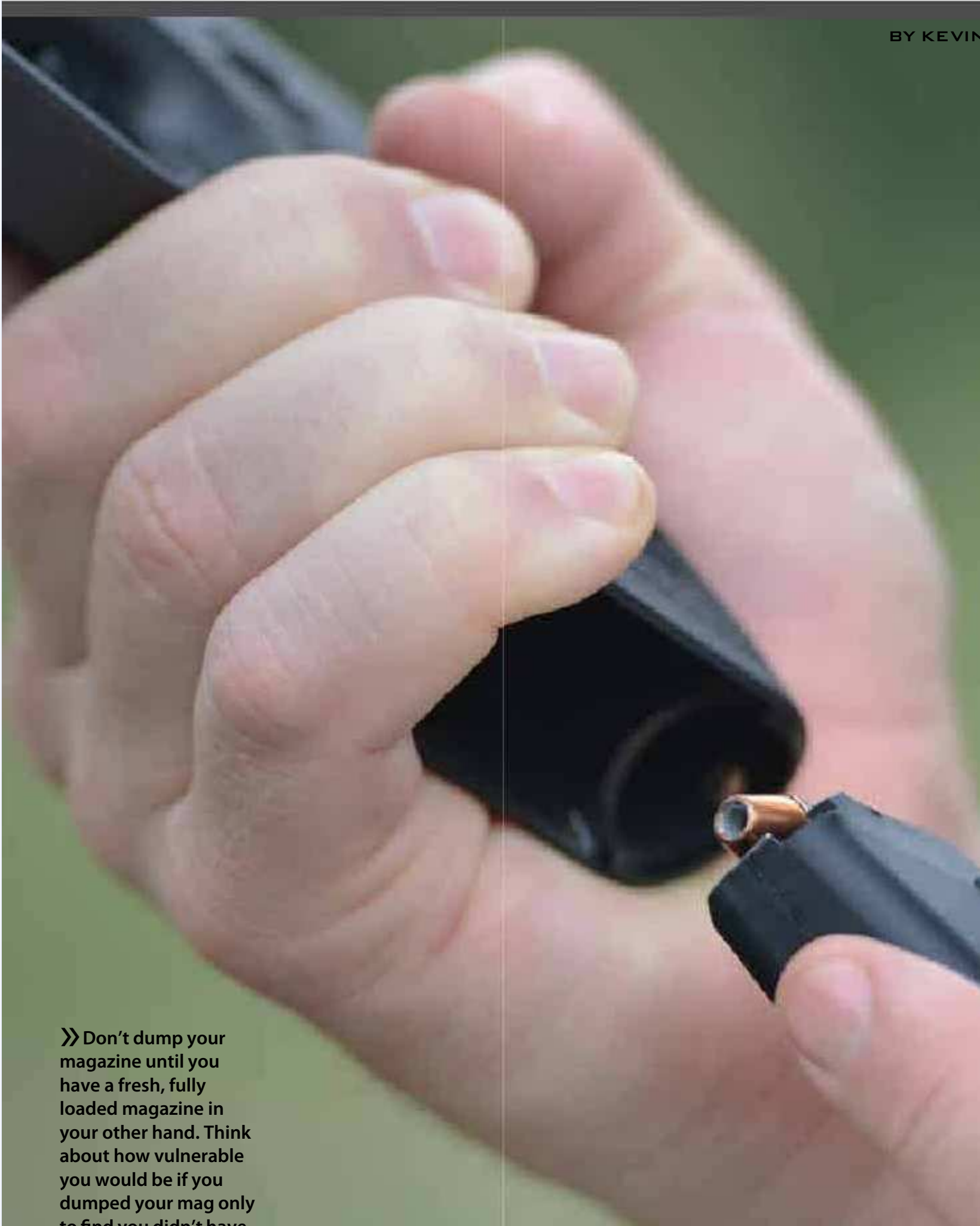
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2» 5.11 Holster Shirt

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**MSRP: \$25**

4» Hunter Holster

This well-built leather holster will provide years of service and is especially well-suited for use on the trail or for other outdoor pursuits. Something for just about every model is available. **MSRP: \$85**, depending on model. [www.huntercompany.com](http://www.huntercompany.com)

5» MTM Pistol Case

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**MSRP: \$10**

6» Versa Case Holster

Slim and lightweight minimalist IWB holster for concealment to carry a variety of handguns. Made from tough, durable material designed for street carry. Carries nearly any handgun with minimal bulk. [www.versacase.com](http://www.versacase.com)  
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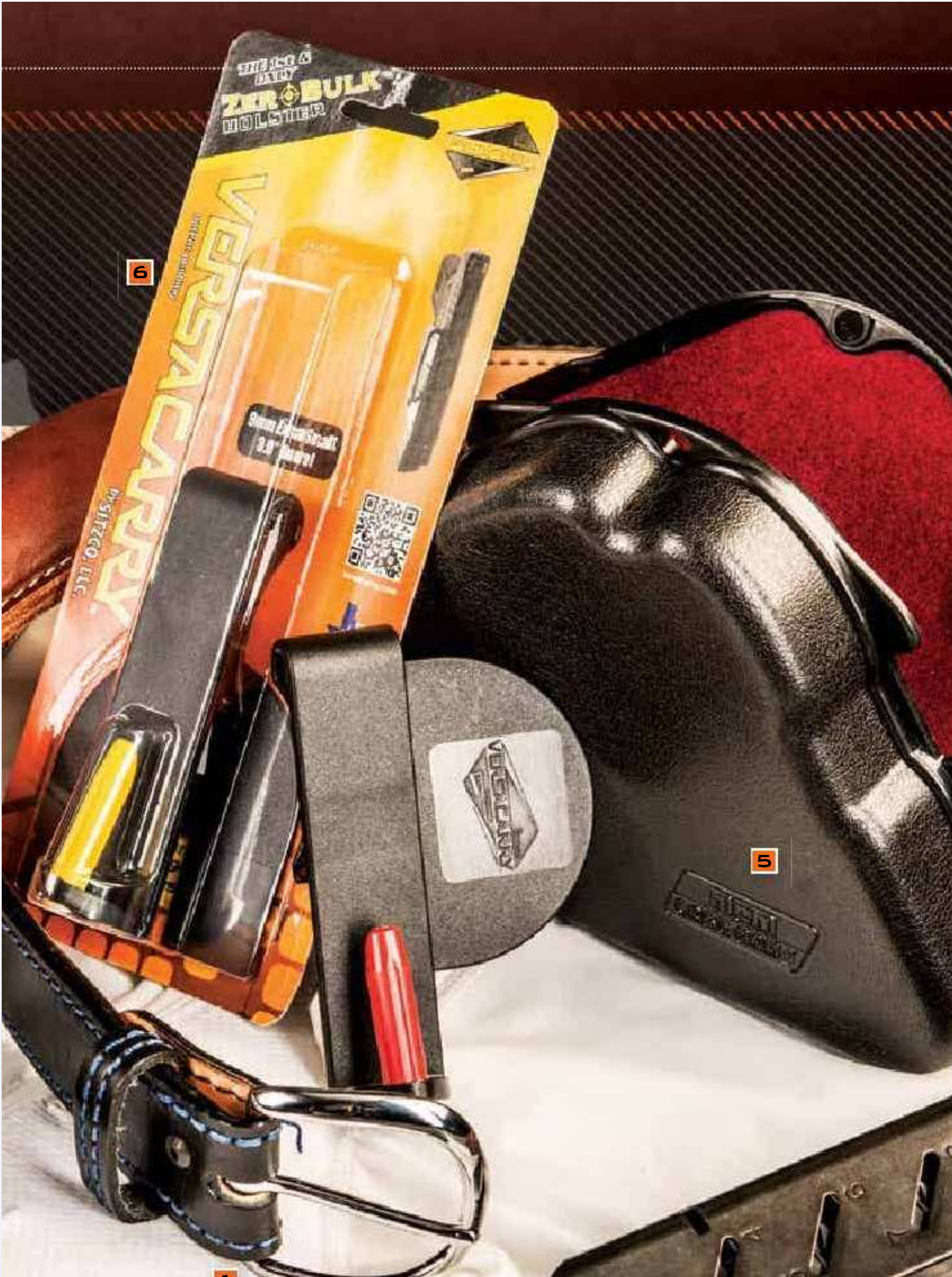
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This durable Kydex holster Model K5019P carries most double-stack magazines and tactical lights. If you need a gun, you will likely need a light. [www.front-line.co.il/english-----Kydex.html](http://www.front-line.co.il/english-----Kydex.html)  
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**MSRP: \$399.95**

## 5» Uncle Mike's Reflex Holster

This solid CCW holster uses Integrated Retention Technology to automatically lock the pistol in place, but still allow for a rapid draw. The injection molded impact-modified polymer construction makes it tough as nails, and it includes a paddle attachment. [www.unclemikes.com](http://www.unclemikes.com)  
**MSRP: \$35.**

## 6» Sneaky Pete Holster

This good-looking total concealment holster appears to contain no electronic device. Made of top-grain leather, it is available as a belt clip or belt loop. [www.sneakypete.com](http://www.sneakypete.com)  
**MSRP: \$54.95**







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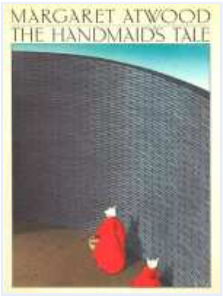
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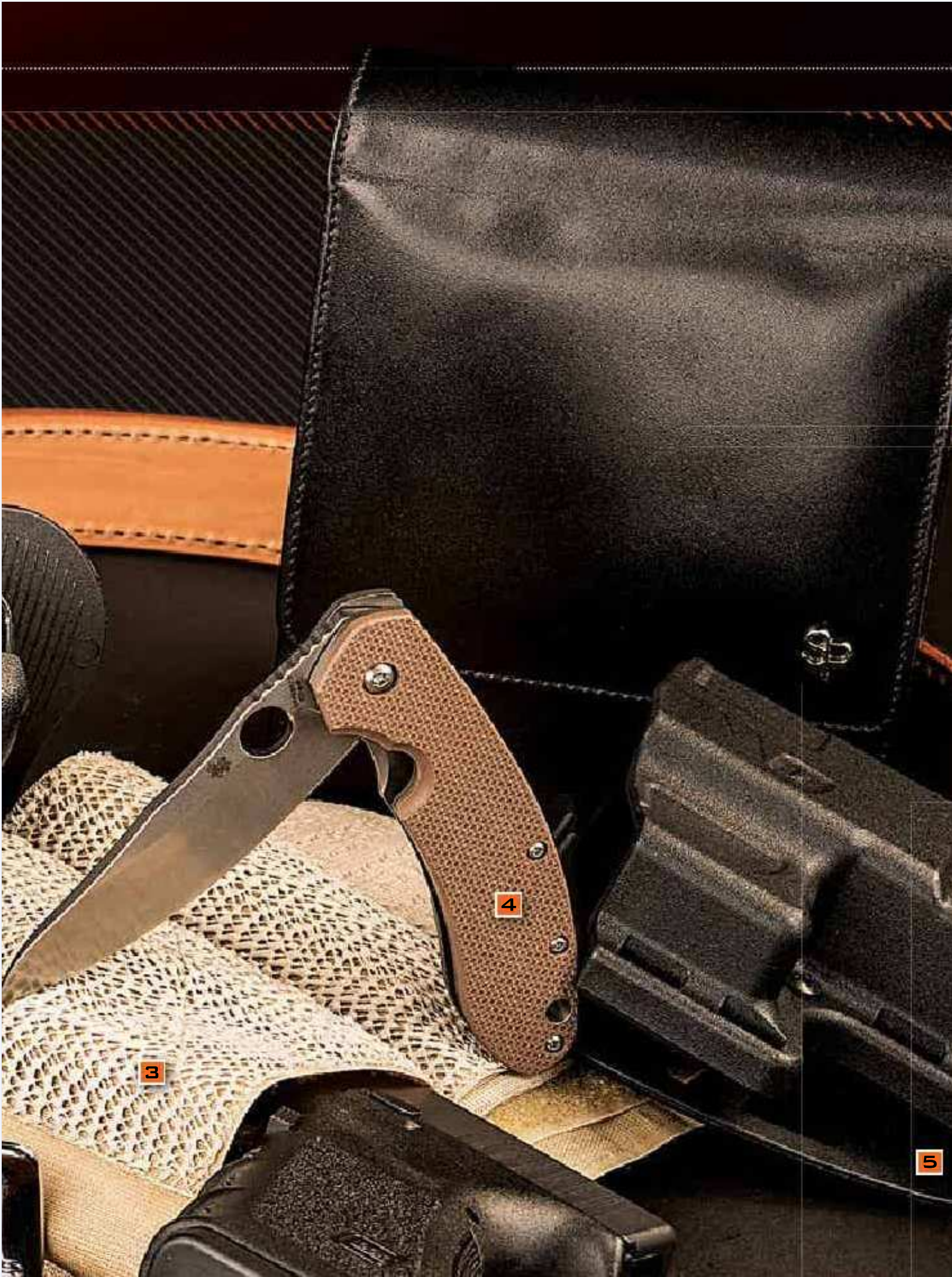
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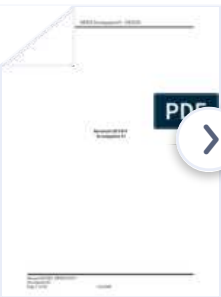
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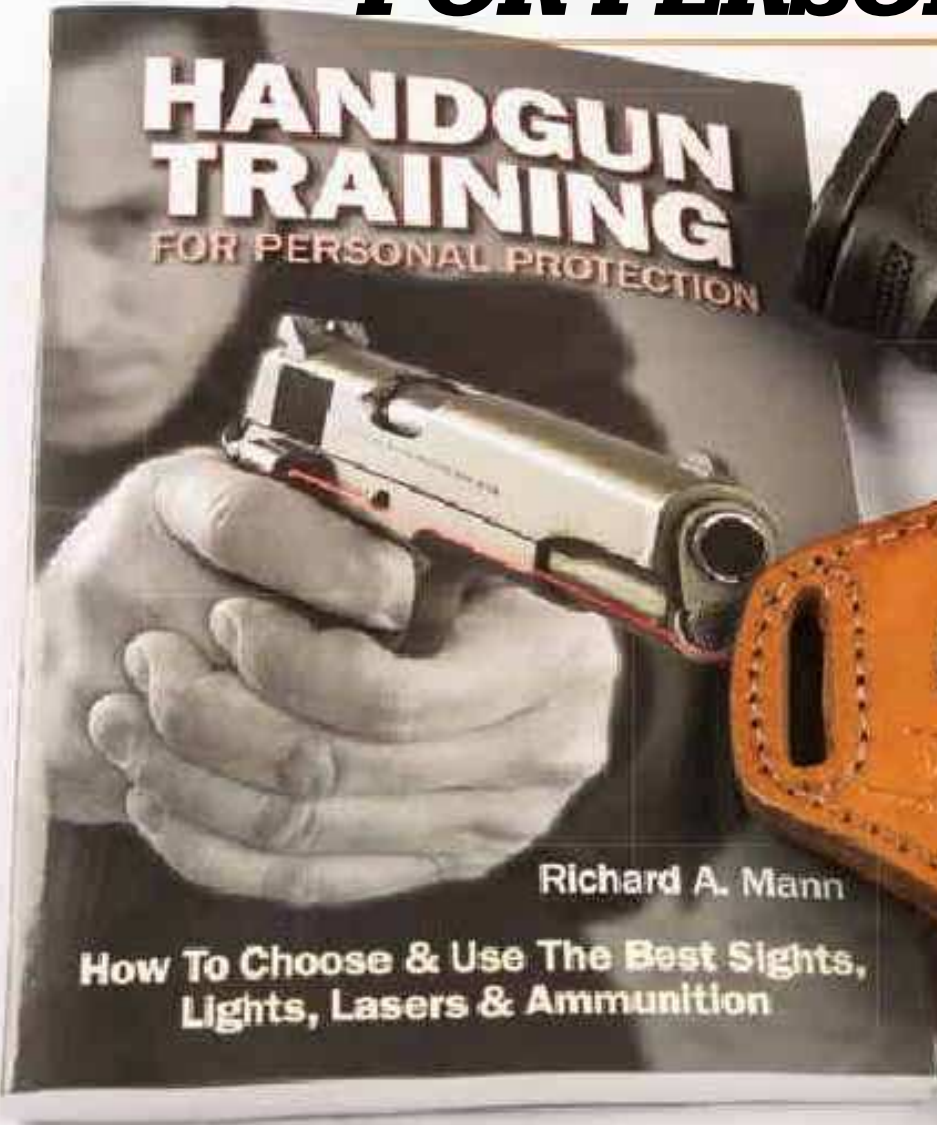
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# REVIEW OF HANDGUN TRAINING FOR PERSONAL PROTECTION

BY RICHARD A. MANN



**Spoiler alert:** being the last page of the business we here at "Corruption" the author are not necessarily with the for the time. Mann so to most a true group sidearm fence would be a garm, but a companion deep do the one a dire emer This is t and I say t has been p and work v

## » "NONE OF THIS IS ROCKET SCIENCE."

As a professional educator, firearms instructor, concealed carrier, and oft-frustrated reader of gun media, I cannot express how happy I was to see those words in the opening of this book. As modern combat was once explained to me by a man in the know, "Fighting's a lot like farming:


hitters. This book is a guide to fundamental through all ammunition properties and selection, optics, flashlight options and techniques, lights and their application, and pretty much anything else you could imagine being in the line of duty. It's a book that's going to keep you and yours out of a lethal fight as successfully as possible. Mann covers, in thorough detail





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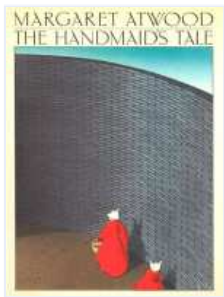


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On that note, though, I would never be so bold as to speak for someone of Mann’s accomplishments; I think he might feel a slight sting at the thought of me calling his book a beginner’s guide. I must stress, however, that I use that term with the highest regard. In these days of internet experts and mall ninjas it can be difficult for many to ask the fundamental questions at risk of sounding unworldly, and the invaluable knowledge contained within these pages cuts through all of the noise one so often encounters.

This book also proves its worth with a pedigree of names like Mann himself, an experienced instructor and law enforcement officer, and Jeff Cooper – who is central in the dedication – as well as other names worthy of serious respect like Sheriff Jim Wilson, NYPD Stakeout Squad veteran officer Jim Cirillo, and too many others to list here. Though he covers the basics to an extent I rarely see in an advanced text, Mann also

This book proves its worth with a pedigree of names like Mann himself, an experienced instructor and law enforcement officer, and Jeff Cooper, who is central in the dedication as well as other names worthy of serious respect...

teaches a lot of the best dirt tricks. From how to pre-revolver when under duress to how to train for a Mozart Drill to why the .327 Fe will hit a goblin harder than JHPs, reading this book feels a lot like cheating.

That said, as a person who lives within the reality of lethal encounters, I will have to paraphrase of mine (and I’m sure many know demand that everyone about cheat their tails off when li

Before you buy a laser or before you buy a set of aftermarket sights or the nefffic ammo, before you spend three days at a gunning school...read this book.

But then go to the school, too...ain’t nobody can’t use it.

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Proper Grip





Place the pistol firmly into your hand like you are making a fist. Your hand should be firm on the back strap. A loose grip will cause the second knuckle to line up directly in front of the guard.




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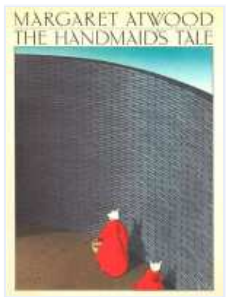
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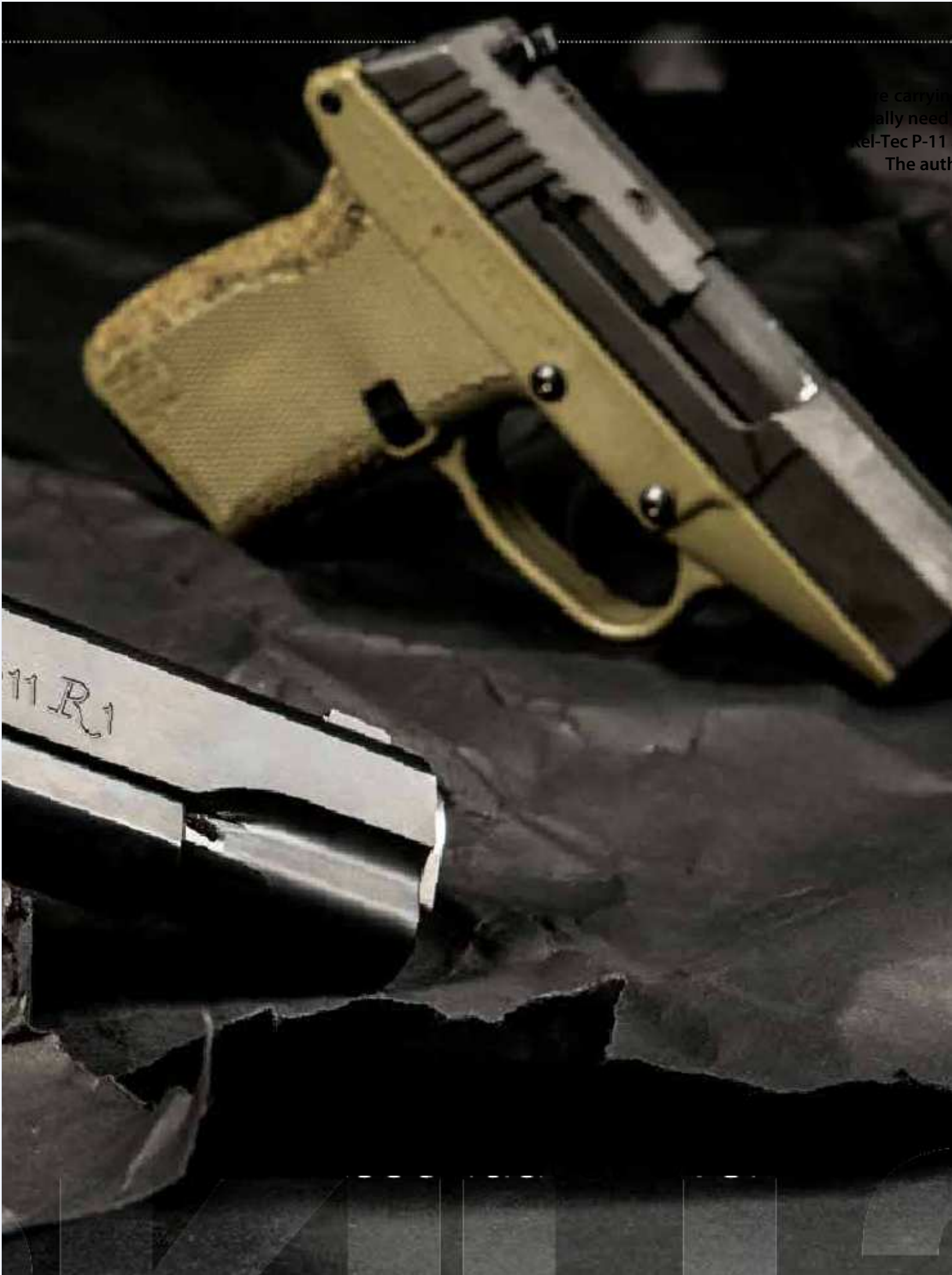


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»**OF THE MANY THINGS** that renowned firearms trainer Clint Smith has said, one of his most important statements is related to equipment. “One is none, and two is one” covers any piece of essential equipment that we may rely upon for the preservation of ourselves and our loved ones.

It covers flashlights, knives, intermediate weapons, and of course firearms. The message is that anything can and will fail, and having only one of these essential tools is as good as having none at all. As a cop, I’ve carried a backup gun for most of my 33-year career; the only time I didn’t was while I worked undercover. If I was working a UC assignment today, I likely would carry a second since there are so many great mini-gun choices available. I actually started carrying a backup gun when I worked full time as a patrolman for the City of Reynoldsburg in 1984. Since I am well past the statute of limitations, I can tell you this. For the first couple of years there, I carried my backup gun secretly since the chief of police there had banned the carry of backup guns. Why? Because one of my fellow officers had been careless with his backup gun. He was clearing out his cruiser at the end of his shift and his backup gun slipped from wherever he was carrying it, ending up on the floor of his car. The next shift officer who took his cruiser discovered it and properly reported it. As was typical of the agency at that time (as it is with many agencies still to this day), instead of punishing the officer who had made this mistake with an unpaid vacation, the chief took the easy way out and punished everyone. We were all banned from carrying backup guns.

As someone who was and is fairly astute on officer survival training and tactics, I figured it was more important to stay on the right side of the grass by violating this unreasonable department order than complying and ending up on the wrong side. A number of officers had the same outlook. This was

could be reloaded from, with the same ammunition (Winchester’s 158-grain +P LS-WCHP). I carefully carried it in an ankle holster undetected. I wish I still had that beauty.

Throughout the 20 years I spent next at the Union County Sheriff’s Office, and the last three I have spent with the Village of Baltimore, I have continued to carry a revolver as a backup gun, despite the fact that my duty sidearm has been a progression of semi-automatic firearms of various makes and calibers.

I hadn’t given a whole lot of thought (until I was assigned this article) to whether there was any need for concealed carry permit holders to carry backup guns. If I did have any thoughts about it, it was that one wasn’t needed. After all, the average citizen isn’t going to encounter as many high-threat situations as I would in the course of a work shift—or would they? Likely not, I figured. But then it hit me. As a cop, I have pointed my duty guns at a goodly number of folks over my career. Fortunately, I have never had to actually shoot anyone, although in a few instances it was within ounces of occurring. Since I have never been in an exchange of gunfire in all that time and during all those calls, if I used the same rationale I applied to civilian permit holders, I didn’t need a backup gun either. Does this analysis mean that I am going to stop carrying my backup gun? No, not hardly, because my assumptions about civilian backup gun use was, well, wrong.

But, before you rush out and buy a backup gun, I want you to think about a couple of concerns that are also applicable to law

at all costs. You lose training first) gun (like the office hurt the image of CCW. You could even cause tensions to rain down on to address the “problem your personal popularity I don’t know of any curriculum that prohibits a permit holder a second gun. Don’t be statement being changed

Here is another big concerning second guns. I every cop everywhere civilian (or even fellow citizenment rights as I am. Be in-depth questioning all officers if you have to revolve ons to them in order to ance. While there are so think you are a wannabe looking for trouble, and time about it, never lie having that second gun you are sure to lose your and may be subject to ing you these things to carrying a backup gun, so you can be prepared for

Let me propose a concept you may want to consider perhaps cause you less issues I raised and that you better protected by Here’s the concept. Having doesn’t always mean guns physically on your Carrying a second gun a cop is easy. The priority the open in your security gun has numerous hidden uniform, places that may in civilian dress. On the ian carrier or plainclothes their primary gun, mea



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where so many people seem to have taken leave of their senses, and where pure evil causes some to slaughter innocent first grade children, the PRIMARY law enforcement off-duty firearm is (or should be) an AR-15 or shotgun stowed in the trunk (with plenty of ammo). That means that the handgun carried on the body becomes your secondary firearm, and is there to protect you if you are too far from your rifle to bring it to bear on the situation. I have carried an AR secured in my vehicle ever since I was on SWAT, kept inside a soft case in a LOKSAK bag to protect it from humidity changes. Because of the current nature of my work, the secondary gun actually on my person is usually a deeper concealment gun, most often my five-shot Smith & Wesson 642 .38 Special revolver bearing Crimson Trace Lasergrips and a total of fifteen rounds on my person. The excellent Boberg 9mm semi-automatic pistol is also a contender for that position. But there is always a bigger handgun available to me, carried off-body in my personal favorite sling pack—the excellent Maxpedition Sitka Gearslinger. In the concealed handgun compartment is the primary handgun that I would reach for if needed, my department issued WWII box stock military 1911-A1 Springfield Armory .45, with two eight-round Wilson Combat magazines loaded with our department issued duty ammo. That .45 is my go to off-duty handgun for use in case of emergency. If I have that bag, I am going for that gun. If I don't have the bag or can't get to it or the rifle, then I would go for the Model 642 or the Boberg 9mm. I can carry either gun on my person in an ankle, belly band, belt rig, pocket holster or fanny pack all day long without discomfort. And both are chambered for calibers that have proven that they can get the job done. The great thing is that as you decide upon your options, there is a huge array of effective

as a civilian permit holder you may want to forgo carrying a rifle in your vehicle and jumping out on an active shooter scene such as a law enforcement officer would. There have been school shooters stopped cold by armed civilians, and if you are the only thing standing between the would-be killer and the death of innocents, you may decide to take action. Just remember it may be easy to be misidentified as the bad guy. Hopefully taking such action would only result in some temporary discomfort for you, and not in your demise. And, along these same lines, as much as I like the AK-47 because of its outstanding combat capabilities, it is NOT the gun I pack for intervention into LE situations when I am off-duty or in plainclothes, which is a shame. Sadly, the media and pop culture have done too much of a number on it by identifying it as the "bad guys' gun" to make it a safe choice as an intervention tool by off-duty cops or civilians. Defending your home and property with an AK is different than taking action with one in public. With some practice, a

pistol like the fine FN Five ty rounds of 5.7x28mm aazine can make an accept By sticking with a pair off-body and one on--f carry defense, you are less misidentification issue re think you are also less lil ject of perhaps unreason law enforcement officer you want to travel with dition to any handgun consider a shotgun as y with rifled slugs availabl ly certain you know the and any states you may k with your firearms. You law views additional firea person differently than t on your body. You must Finally, remember if you officers while thusly ar follow their commands, cause "friendly fire" is nev





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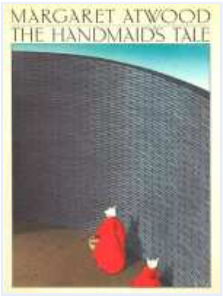
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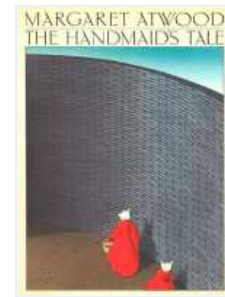


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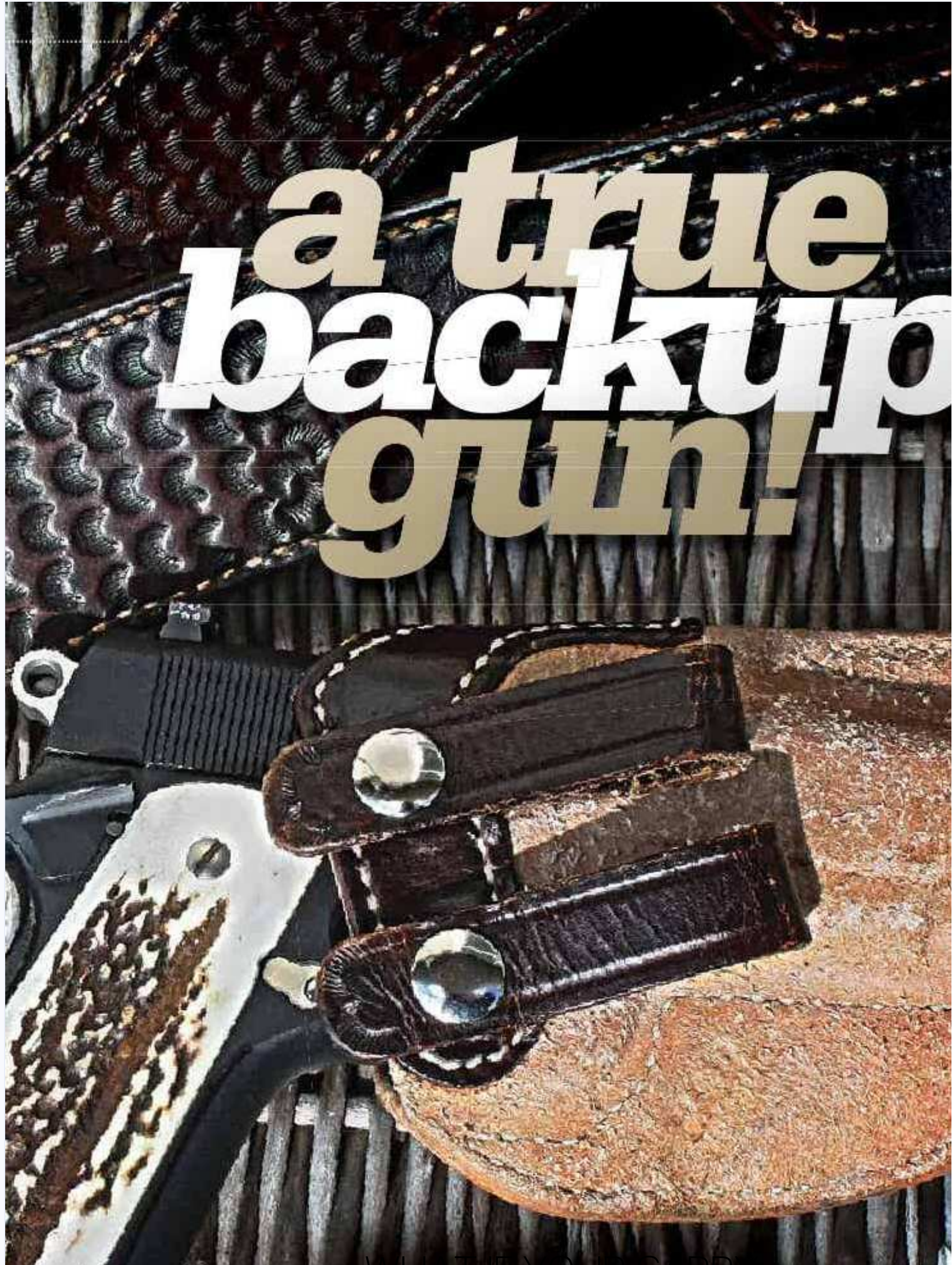


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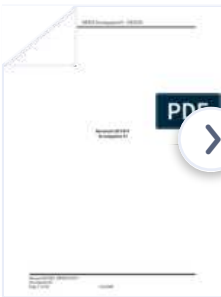
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»FORGET, AT LEAST FOR A MOMENT, about a spare gun on your ankle or one in a bellyband in the event your primary defensive handgun

What about a replacement primary gun in the event something happens to your trusted sidearm?

Handguns — despite modern engineering and design — can break down. Parts might crack. Sights might fall off. I've seen that happen during matches, which are typically conducted on weekends, thus leaving the shooter with a disabled piece at least until Monday, and that may mean he cannot finish the match, and just might mean he has no other operating firearm at all.

We all know that most people consider a "backup" gun to be a smaller piece that you carry as an adjunct to your primary defensive sidearm, and there is nothing wrong with that thinking. But smart shooters are prepared shooters who hope for the best but prepare for the worst. Fortunately, in most cases, the "worst" is a disabled or lost pistol, not one involved in a life-or-death confrontation.

I know competition shooters who always show up at matches with two nearly identical pistols, in case one breaks down. I have done that. If it's smart for a competitor, why would it be any less intelligent for the average armed citizen to have the same resource available?

Handguns can fall just might get stolen. I ever wind up in an event of a self-defense case, the possibility because the defensive tools primarily of an eventuality.

THEN WHAT?

It is never a bad idea handgun, especially the in case." The likelihood vate citizen will be in a is not nearly as great as go wrong with your p Having a second gun of and design as your primary a crime, and it makes as ing more than one fire same brand and with the your house and garage.

If your significant know what that's all about not register well if you s more than one pair of s who has three laptop nearly identical. How more than two cars?


Let's say for the sake you are involved in a self and shots are fired. You even taken downtown tors believe it to be a j The police have your chain of evidence, and vided that the crazy m plugged in your living brother and two cousins payback. You have you defend. That scenario r comfortable questions, unless defensive handgun.




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two-tone center-puncher that functions with every kind of ammunition I put into it. The other is a two-tone Springfield Armory 1911A1 that is equally reliable and accurate. Both have double-diamond checkered grip panels, beavertail grip safeties and strips of skateboard tape along the front strap. Translation: They have virtually the same feel.

Incidentally, trigger break on both guns is set at 4.5 pounds, not too heavy and not too light, so as to discourage any notion that they have “hair triggers.”

My primary carry piece these days is a Colt Combat Commander, the all-steel version, tricked out with Trijicon tritium three-dot sights, a Wilson Combat beavertail, short trigger and stag grips. It shoots to point of aim at 25 yards so well I can bounce tin cans with it consistently.

I recently took delivery of a lightweight Commander with Ed Brown beavertail grip safety, Trijicon three-dot night sights, short trigger, and I slapped on a spare set of stag grip panels.

The new gun was put together by Tim McCullough, a retired gunsmith pal of mine who did it as something of a “project gun” out of components he acquired over the years and finally decided to tinker with. The finished product is so dead-on accurate, even with 230-grain ball, that it might just take over as my primary defensive pistol because of the weight factor. My original steel Commander then becomes my primary “backup gun.”

Both guns have — you guessed it — a 4.5 pound trigger let-off.

WHAT’S ALL THIS ABOUT?

Ultimately, it is about personal defense and being instinctively comfortable with the gun on your hip that may find itself in your hand in an emergency. Practice, of course, is essential with any defensive pistol, but there’s something about the feel of



The same principle can be applied, presumably, to people—particularly police detectives—who used to practice the “New York reload” habit of carrying two Colt Detective Specials or a pair of S&W Model 36 Chief Specials. There was nothing involved in that habit beyond five or six fast additional shots. Both revolvers feel the same and operate the same. Under pressure, that tiny tactical advantage made a world of difference in more than one confrontation back in the day of stakeout squads and revolvers.

There are other advantages to having

« A true backup gun isquires no additional traexisting holsters nicelygo to work when you nebackup gun will also firammo in order to avoid

two of the same pistolprimary defensive carry.same ammunition andin the case of a semi-aurmagazines. They may same holster(s). Most imtrols will be the same onwhere the revolvers wilike one another. So, if ythe fritz, you have a bac same type and caliber t up immediately and mee

I would never suggerrush right out and buy dhandguns, but this is aation that armed citizenis hardly foolish, and it ju day in more ways than o

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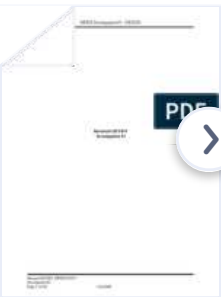
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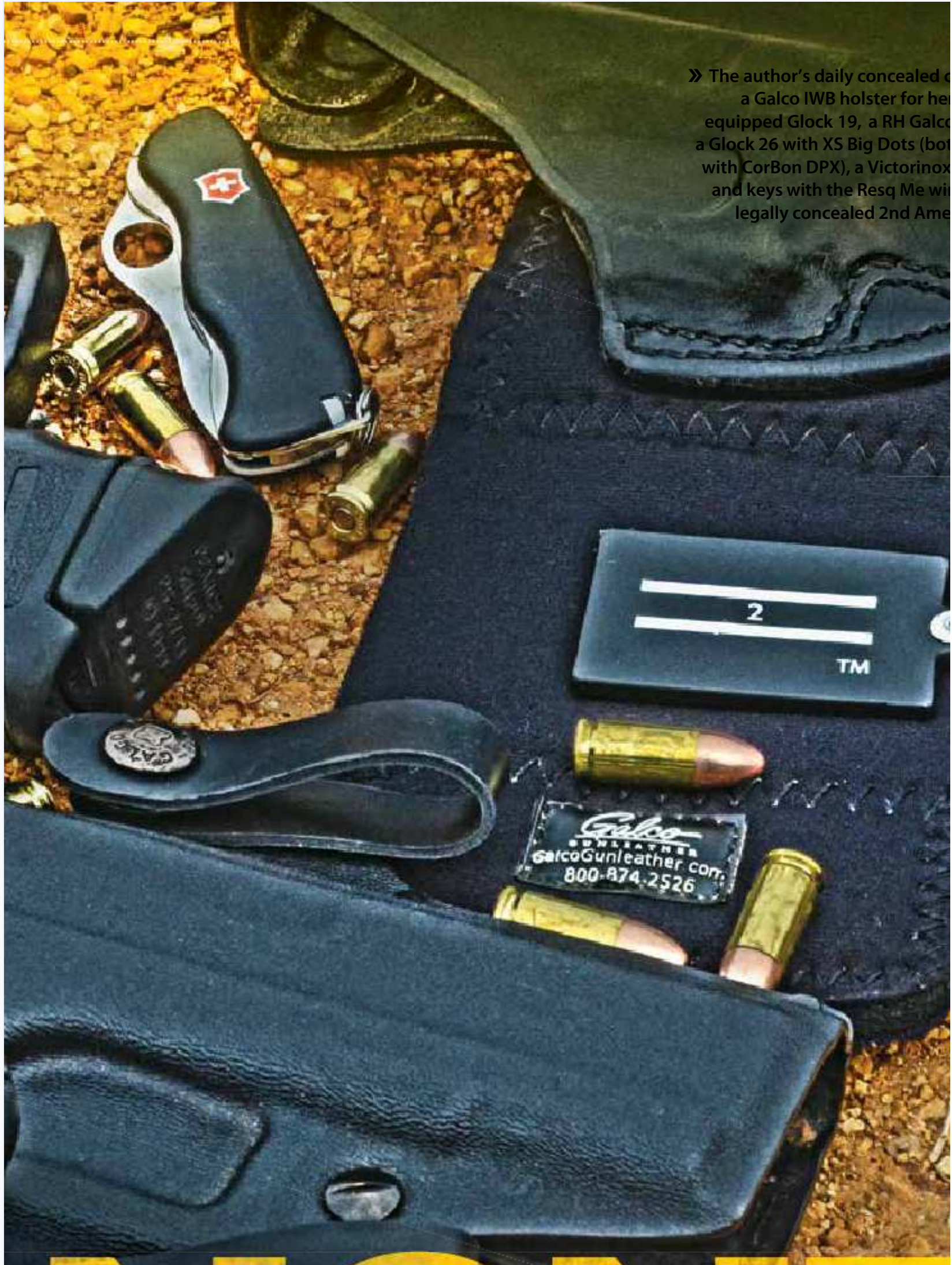
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MARGARET ATWOOD  
THE HANDMAIDS TALE



A stylized graphic of a document with a ruler, a pencil, and a magnifying glass over a PDF icon.

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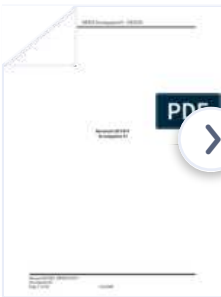
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»**DO YOU CARRY A FIREARM DAILY?** Do you carry a backup gun? Should you? The answer to all three questions should be, “Yes.” Someone new to concealed carry may ask why? If a person has one gun why would she need two? The backup gun became popular during the days when law enforcement officers carried revolvers. During a gunfight, it was easier and faster to draw a backup gun than to reload. This was commonly referred to as the “New York reload.” So how does this relate to the average armed citizen? It means being prepared for every situation.

The main reason for carrying a backup gun is the possibility of a catastrophic failure of your primary weapon. That could mean your primary going down because of a malfunction that cannot be fixed with a tap-rack motion. Other things that could force you to reach for a backup gun include bad ammo, internal malfunctions, or operator error under stress. Even the most reliable handguns malfunction. Another factor is limited ammo capacity. If the primary gun has no ammo, it is useless—and few citizens carry more than one additional magazine as part of their normal everyday carry (EDC).

Depending on the situation, a backup gun may also be easier to reach than your primary gun. Consider sitting in your vehicle. Reaching down and drawing from an ankle holster is much easier than fighting with the seat belt and drawing from the hip

or appendix, or in some cases a purse. Additionally, in a close-quarter confrontation, it is completely feasible that you could be disarmed during the struggle. This holds true especially for women. Having a backup gun to draw gives you the upper hand.

Arming another individual is the most overlooked reason to carry a backup gun. Having the ability to arm a spouse, older child, or friend can increase your odds of survival and stopping an imminent threat. That would hold especially true in an active shooter type of situation. Backup guns are just as important as your primary gun.


I can’t remember if it was Jeff Cooper or Clint Smith who said, “Carrying a gun is meant to be comforting, not comfortable.” If you are serious about carrying a gun, you know it is not totally comfortable. Carrying a backup gun is no different. Some concealment options for the backup gun

for men include the appendix/hip. Right-handmally wear the ankle h of the left ankle and le will wear it on the insid However, consider wea on the opposite leg ar with your off hand in ca has been injured and weapon. One downsic is slower draw time ar ankle holster is farther hand; additionally, dra or walking will be impo

Small pocket holste smaller caliber handgu ferred mode of carry | holster will fit easily ir pocket with minimal p ster reduces the amour your clothing and redu getting holes. If that i you choose, avoid putt that pocket and use a the trigger.

Carrying your primar dix position and your b hip is also a viable op backup gun. Left-hand place the holster on the and right-handed shoo holster to the right-sid en will have to be care appendix method, as v jeans makes it more modate an appendix h would be placed to eit Avoid wearing a gun i back. Although it’s port and may “look cool,” it ous. Falling on the wea gle could cause permar Again, carrying is no comfortable—but it is pos primary gun on your h in the appendix or sir The advantages of carr

www.RonsHolsters.com



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- You can move around



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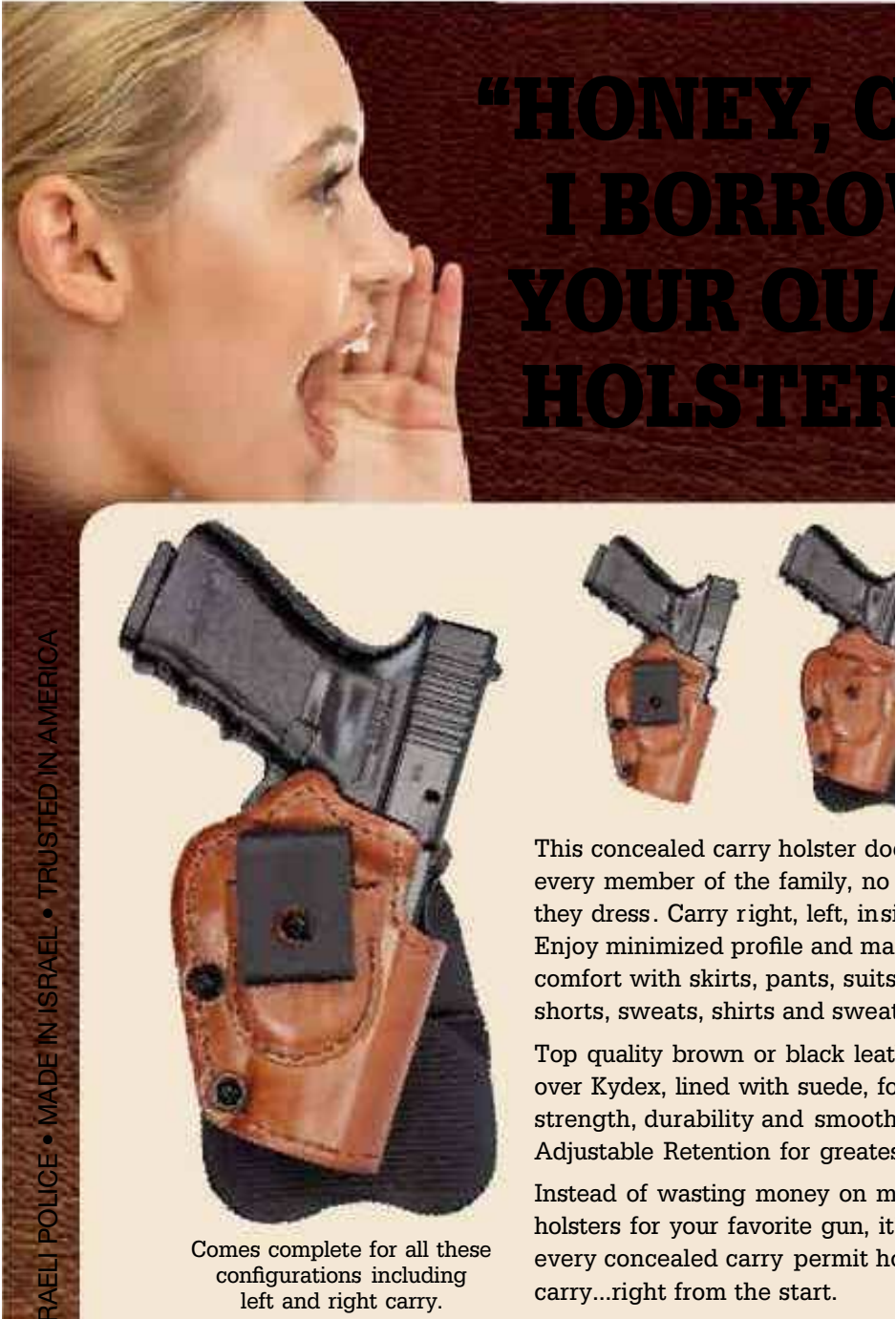
thigh, or bra holsters. As with the pocket holster, the gun should be holstered and in a designated pocket inside the purse. Once you have decided how you plan to carry your backup, spend the money and purchase a good holster. Some of the knock-off cheap holsters are just that...cheap. You invested money to purchase a gun, a belt, and training. Now invest the money to purchase a quality holster that will provide support yet also be somewhat comfortable to wear. Galco makes excellent holsters that accommodate several different models and modes of carry. New shooters will find that buying all the items needed to effectively carry is expensive. You are investing in your life, though, so how much is it worth to you?

Choosing a backup will depend on shooter preference, functionality, and carry options. Although I don't recommend a revolver as a primary weapon due to limited round count and increased reloading times, it does make a great backup gun. Various revolvers are small and light—and concealment in pocket holsters works well, especially during summer. Additionally, Kahr, Ruger, and Smith and Wesson all have small subcompact pistols that work well in pocket or ankle holsters. Glock has smaller compact options (referred to as baby Glocks) that work well as backups to the larger guns. The actual benefits of the guns are in the handling. Glocks are built similarly in the grip and how they function. If your primary gun is a Glock 19 and you are proficient, using a Glock 26 as a backup gun will keep that familiarity—and handling the gun will be much easier. Smith & Wesson also provides that same ability with the M&P 9mm and Shield 9mm.

The most important aspect of choosing a backup is how it suits your needs. Choosing the caliber of the gun also comes into play. While there are some subcompacts in larger calibers, smaller framed guns are more difficult to control and handle with

watch and correct issues as they arise and assist you with any difficulties you may encounter. If you carry a firearm you should seek training with that firearm. If you carry a backup, you should practice using your primary gun first until it is empty and then transition to your backup. Seek out training companies that include training with backup guns as part of their curriculum. It is important to train and practice using both your primary gun and your backup gun. Practice with an unloaded gun or non-firing training gun until transitioning

between the two become and the motions are fluid. Unarmed citizens will your decision to carry or two. Understand that it is paranoid, just more prepared made the decision to carry two because you have invested time and that you and those you love live in today's violent society, armed with every advantage available. It will become one more necessary



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
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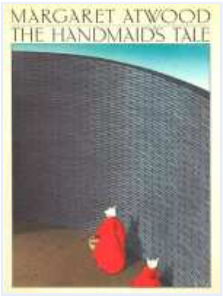


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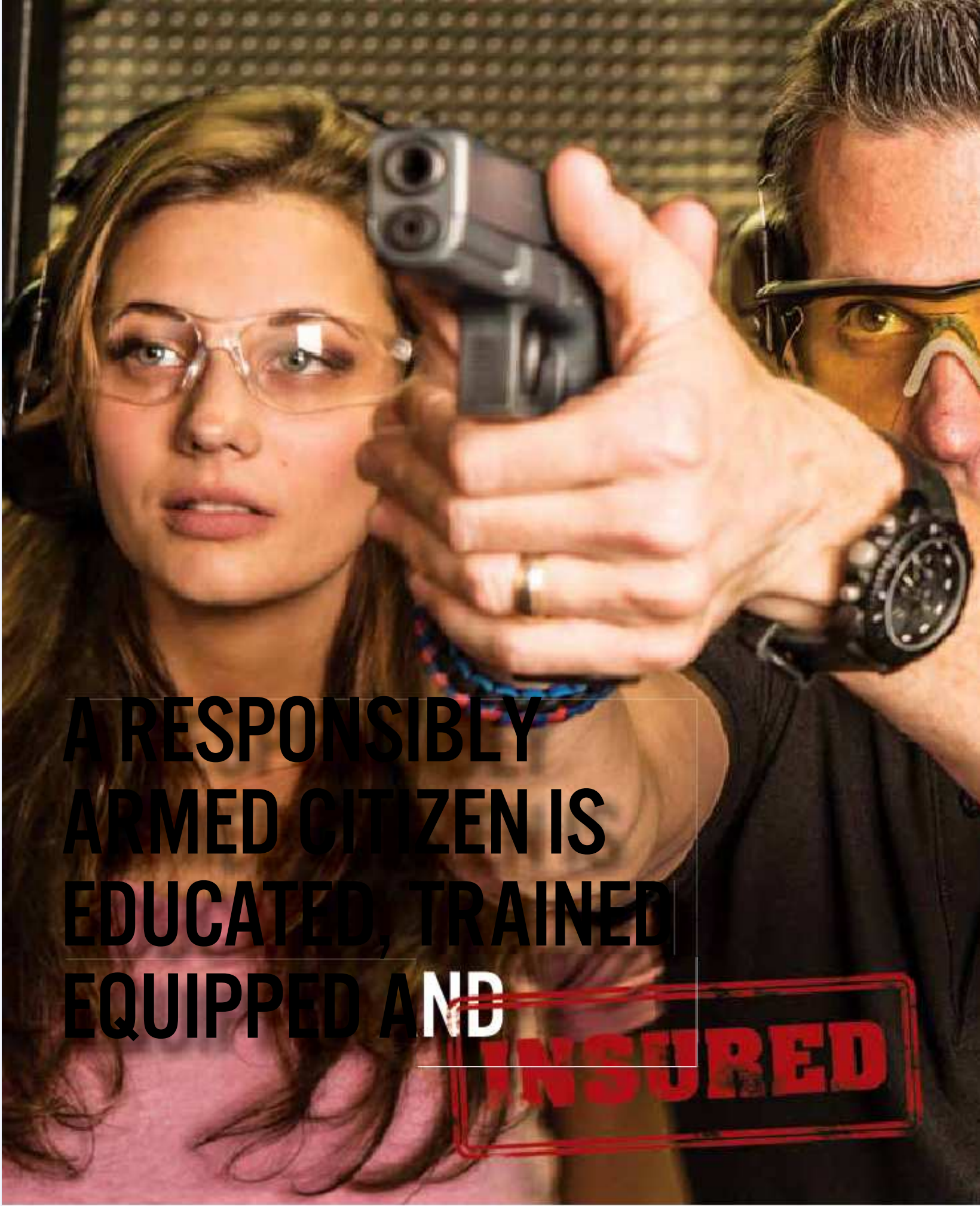
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**WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW IS THIS:** Every year, the personal and professional reputations of law-abiding Americans are destroyed by criminal charges resulting from a justifiable use of a firearm in self-defense. If you are forced to use your



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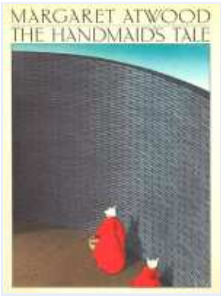
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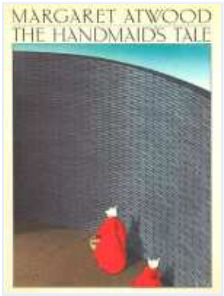
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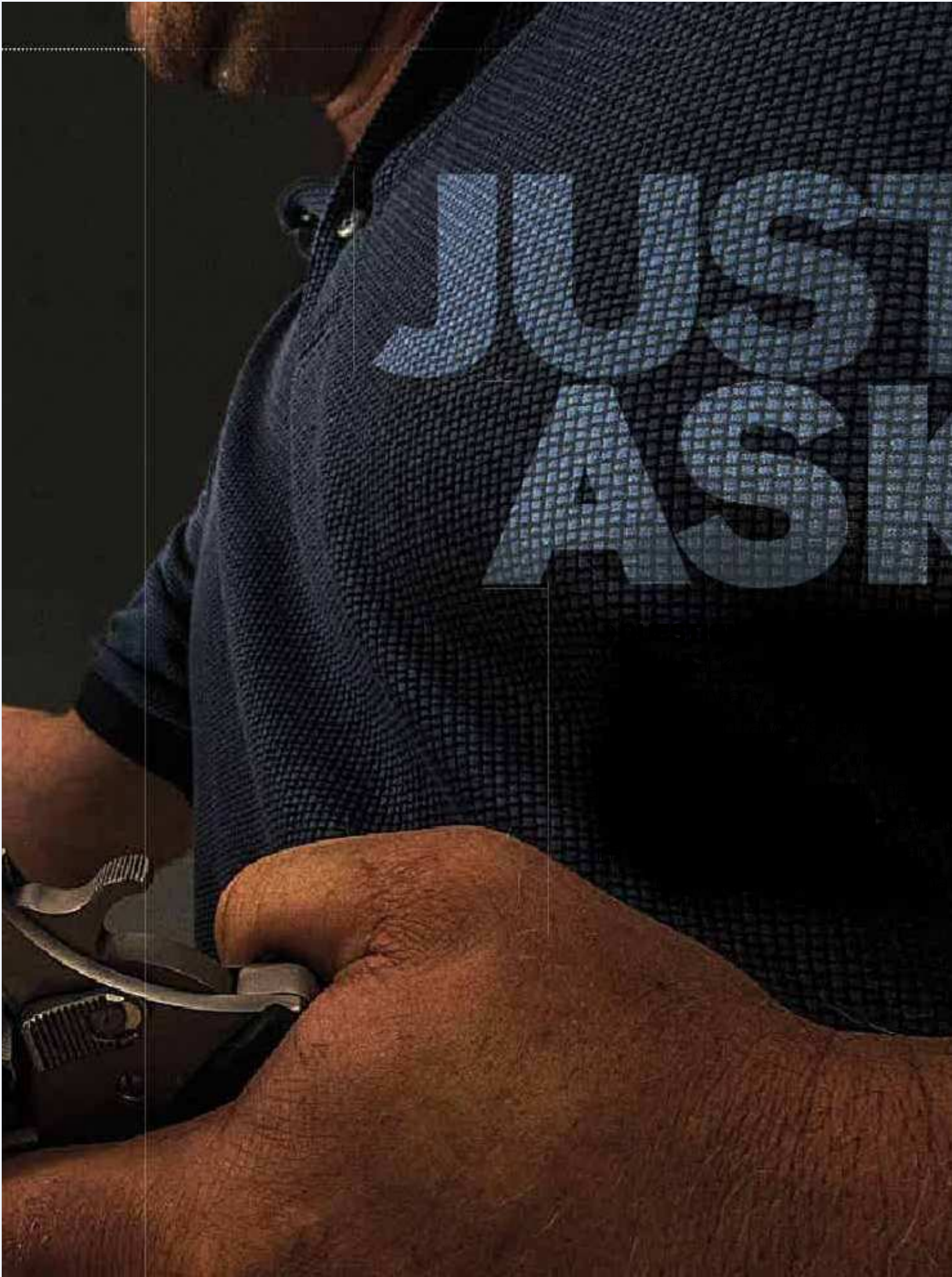
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»**ANSWER:** You have asked one of the most challenging questions that I have had in a long time. There are so many “depends on” situations that it will be hard—if not impossible—to cover them all.

The old adage of, “It’s better to have it and not need it than to need it and not have it” comes to mind. Another is “Never put more irons in the fire than you can tend with both hands.”

One main reason for carrying a backup gun: it’s sort of an insurance policy just in case the primary gun breaks, runs out of ammunition, or is inadvertently lost in a scuffle.

All guns are mechanical devices subject to Murphy’s law. They can and will break at the most inopportune times, regardless of their previous track record.

Ammunition is another part of the equation that a lot of us tend to take for granted as functioning perfectly fresh out of the box. Unless you visually inspect and chamber check (barrel out of the gun please) every cartridge that you carry on you, you are betting your well-being on a manufacturer’s quality control that manufactures thousands—if not millions—of rounds a day. I’ll relay a personal case in point that thankfully happened on the range and not in a lethal force confrontation.

I was shooting factory fresh ammunition out of the box while testing a .45 ACP for function. Part of the way through a magazine the slide failed to close all the way, which operated the disconnecter, preventing further firing. After applying light pressure on the back of the slide without success in closing the action, I pulled back on the slide to eject the cartridge only to find it locked firmly in place. Ultimately the gun had to be disassembled to clear the problem, which was an over length case that came out of a fresh box of factory ammunition. Obviously there is no time for that in a gun fight.

Running out of ammunition is always a possibility. A recent post on one of the Law Enforcement blogs that I monitor recounted the story of a police officer’s encounter with one suspect that ended with 33 of the 37 rounds carried in his duty gun expended before the fight was over. The bad guy absorbed 14 rounds of .45 ACP premium ammunition—including two to the head—before he decided he needed to go to the hospital. With multiple assailants in the

equation, the outcome in the officer’s favor.

The officer involved was carrying a Glock 27 as a primary gun and a Glock 23 as a backup. The Glock 27, which will accept the Glock 23 magazine, is the primary gun breaks.

This leads to a third possibility: the primary gun is not guaranteed to be available to you. There is always the possibility of being disabled or injured. In a strong arm occupied or a physical struggle, these cases, a backup gun may be the difference between winning and losing.

Caliber and magazine compatibility are a consideration when contemplating a backup gun. In your case, a Glock 27 would be a good partner for your Glock 23. I have somewhere conveyed this information.

It is psychologically practical, to have the primary and backup gun in the same magazine. In the same magazines don’t interchange. It’s a “case factor” that has the potential for an unusual circumstance.

One thing worth mentioning is that considering a backup gun that is not a Glock due credit to is retention. It’s not just to protect your weapons from you, particularly in a physical struggle, but more than there is of you.

I have friends that carry multiple weapons, knives and guns in various situations. One time. In my humble opinion, bringing enough weapons to work with. You only have a limited number of weapons. At least six weapons are the minimum. It’s the taking, and to possibly losing them. It is similar to having more than you have hands.

A final thought is calling it a backup gun. In the past articles, a .22 rimfire was recommended. However, I recommend





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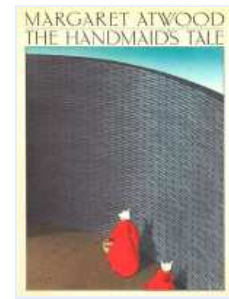


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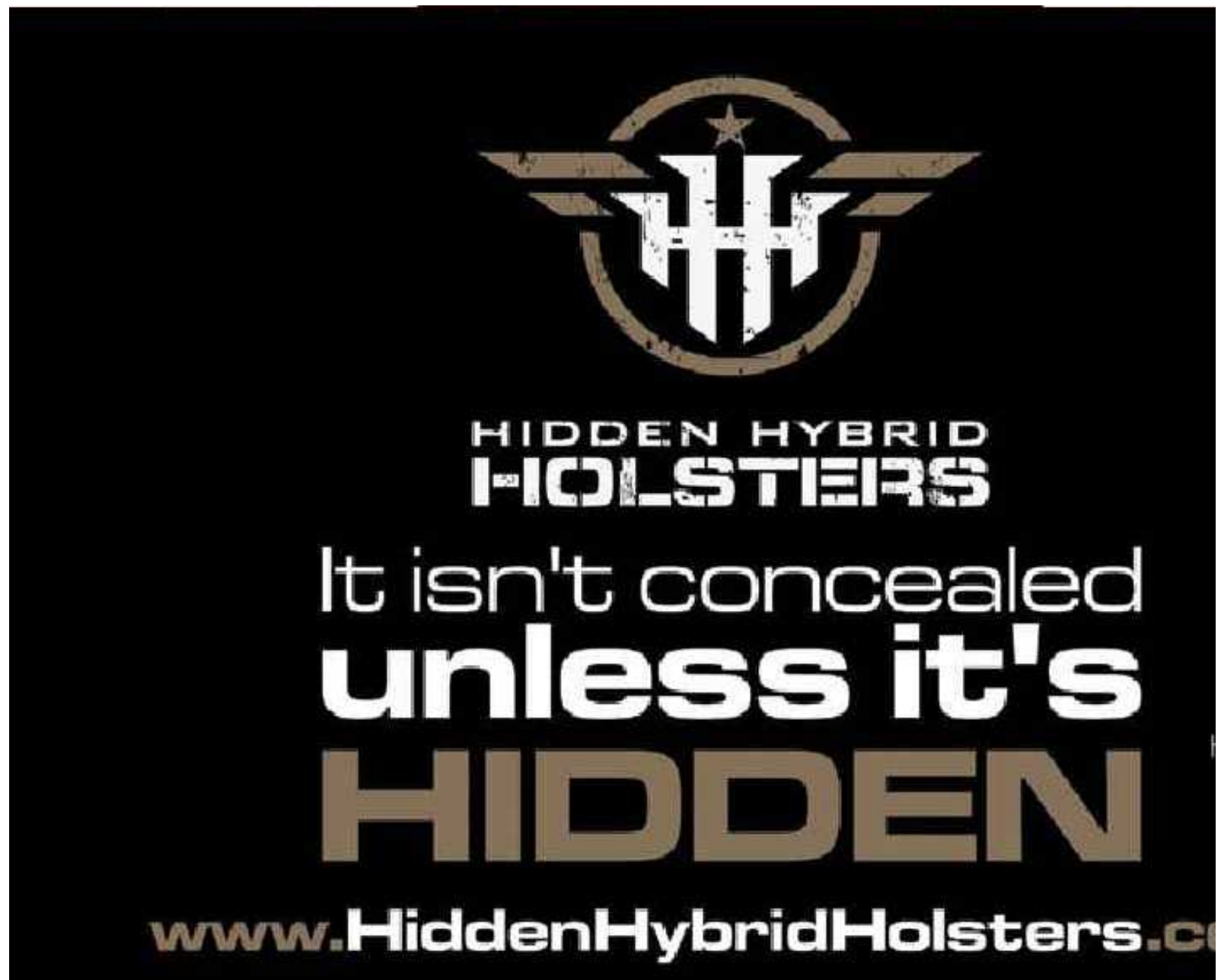


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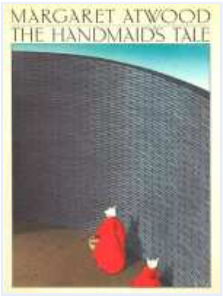
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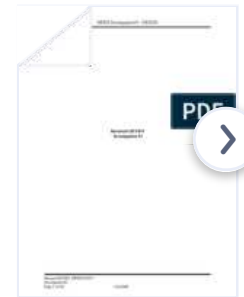
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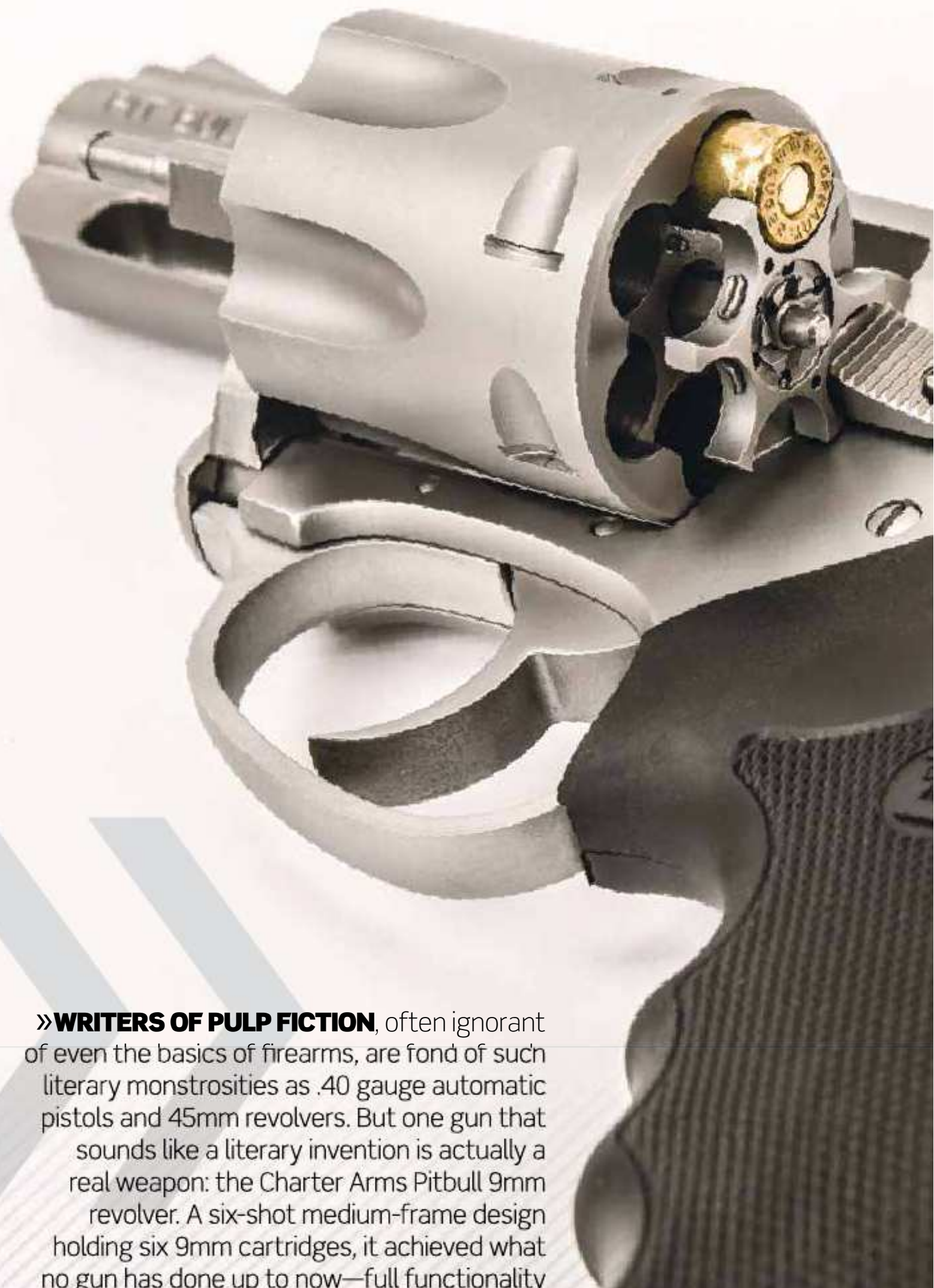


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» **WRITERS OF PULP FICTION**, often ignorant of even the basics of firearms, are fond of such literary monstrosities as .40 gauge automatic pistols and 45mm revolvers. But one gun that sounds like a literary invention is actually a real weapon: the Charter Arms Pitbull 9mm revolver. A six-shot medium-frame design holding six 9mm cartridges, it achieved what no gun has done up to now—full functionality



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The problem of extraction is solved by the use of spring-loaded extractor plates: they fit into the case groove and hold securely until the ejection rod is pushed back.

In the 111 years since its inception, the ubiquitous 9x19 Luger cartridge has been used in thousands of semi-auto pistols and submachine guns but only in a handful of revolvers. The main reason for that is the rimless case design: .25 ACP, .32 ACP, .38 ACP and Super all have rims for the revolver ejector as well as grooves for the semi-auto extractors. 9mm Luger and its parent cartridge 7.65mm Luger were meant as pure semi-automatic ammunition and stayed that way until well into the second half of the 20th Century.

From today's perspective, the appeal of revolvers in 9mm Luger or .40 S&W is easy to see. They are the most common rounds for self-defense and service handguns, so the ammunition is common, relatively inexpensive and well developed by a variety of companies. Designed from the start for use in short barrels, these rounds are also quite fast even out of snub-nosed revolvers. Developed for smokeless powder from the beginning, the 9mm also is more compact than the .38 Special or .357 Magnum.

Loading rimless ammunition into a revolver cylinder is simple: the cartridges headspace on the case

or required a tool for removing spent casings from the clip after firing. The clips also tended to get bent and cause the cylinder to bind when turning. Finally, the use of moon clips made topping off a cylinder after firing a shot or two impossible. None of these problems proved fatal but all combined to keep revolvers firing rimless ammo from achieving great popularity.

Enter the Pitbull 9mm (also available in .40 S&W). The problem of extraction is solved by the use of spring-loaded extractor plates: they fit into the case groove and hold securely until the ejection rod is pushed back. Thanks to the short case length of the 9mm Luger, the ejection rod pushes the case all the way out of the chamber even if pressed slowly. Built on the same frame as Charter's highly popular .44 Special Bulldog, it conveniently fits most of the same holsters. The Pitbull holds one round more than the .44 and has only a fraction of the felt recoil on firing. Ergonomic rubber grips and relatively light bullet weight add up to a very comfortable shooting experience. Like the .44 Bulldog, the 9mm Pitbull is available with Crimson Trace laser grips.

9mm Luger ammunition costs about 50 percent less than the comparable .38 Special +P and delivers similar performance. A nominal 2.2-inch barrel in a revolver is a close equivalent of a 3.8-inch autoloader barrel once the cylinder length is included. In a short-barreled gun, the reduced friction more than compensates for the gas escaping from the cylinder gap over the inch of freebore in front of the chamber. As a result, typical muzzle velocity with

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**CHARTER ARMS**  
**PITBULL**

**CALIBER** 9MM  
**CAPACITY** 6 ROUNDS  
**WEIGHT** 22 OUNCES  
**BARREL LENGTH** 2.2 INCHES  
**MSRP** \$465

speedloaders: the cartridges require a further push for the extractor plates to catch the grooves. So the revolver can be loaded with individual cartridges from a loose handful or from a rubber speed strip. Keeping in line with the theme of ammunition compatibility, it can also be comfortably loaded from semi-auto pistol magazines. The magazine acts almost like a candy dispenser, with the shooter's thumb guiding the top cartridge into the revolver chamber and pushing to lock it in. That makes this revolver a natural backup companion to any autoloader of the same caliber.

Thanks to the full-size grip, the trigger is easy to control. Double-action is fairly smooth and didn't cause any disturbance in sight alignment, while the single-action is nice and crisp. The greatest impediment to good accuracy seems to be the ramp

» Whether in a purse or on your hip, the Charter Arms Pitbull brings 9mm ammo to the revolver with an outstanding loading system for the rimless cases.

aiming tightened the groups slightly, suggesting that the fixed sights aren't ideally visible. With 115-grain ammunition, the gun shot to point of aim, and slightly higher with heavier loads.

For me, the extraction was very positive with either spent casings or unfired cartridges. While the left-side rubber grip can, in theory, trap the casing closest to it, I did not have that happen in practice. I suspect that the cylinder would have to be above the frame for that to happen, and that's not a natural reloading position.





In sum, the 9mm Pitbull is a smooth-shooting, reliable revolver that uses common, in-



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
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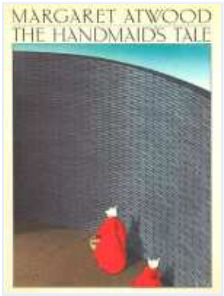


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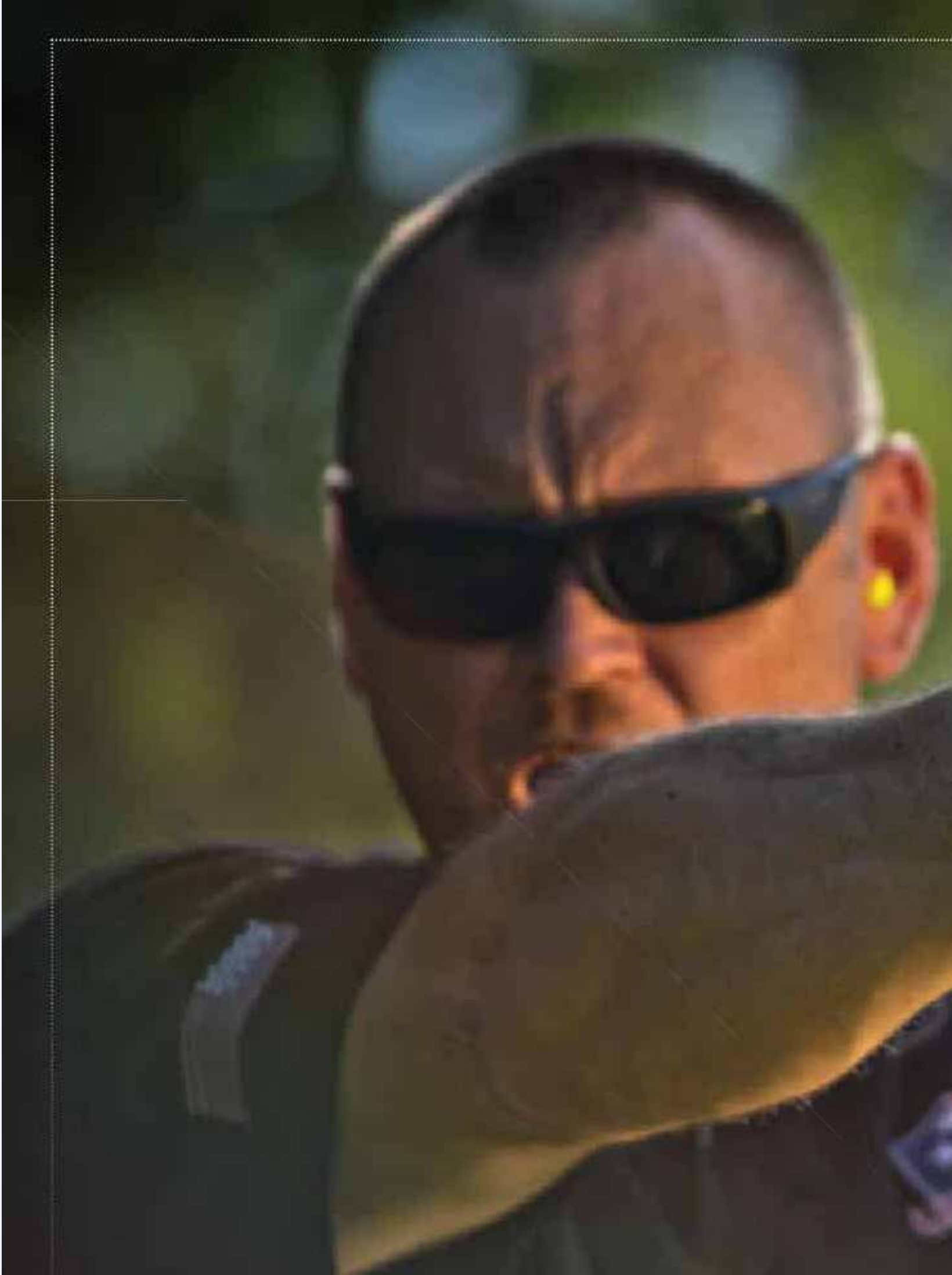
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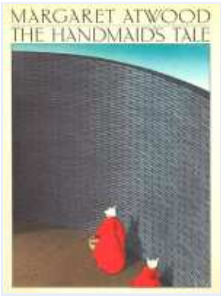
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I have spoken of my backup gun as the “always” gun because it is always with me. During my time as a cop, this was usually a snub-nosed .38 Special, although I deployed the .44 Special Bulldog and .40 Kahr at one time or another. A handgun roughly similar to the duty gun is more properly called the “second” gun, and the light hideout pistol or revolver is a “backup gun.” But now we are getting into semantics.

My circle of friends relies primarily upon the snub-nosed .38 Special. Those with experience in interpersonal combat are loath to carry any handgun less powerful than a .38 Special or 9mm. Those without the benefit of this experience may deploy a .32 ACP or a .380 ACP self-loader. Then there are the immensely popular .22 Magnum mini revolvers. Lightweight and well-made of good material, the .22 Magnum also possesses sufficient penetration—if not bullet diameter—for defensive use. Practically any handgun has some merit as a last-ditch lifesaver but we cannot rely upon hope. We must rely upon performance.

When choosing a backup handgun we must understand that there is a difference in performance from ammunition when it is fired in short barrels. If medium-burning powder is used there is an excellent chance not all the powder will burn inside the barrel. Powder igniting after it leaves the barrel will result in excess muzzle flash and offers no propulsion to the bullet. As a result, the combination of a short barrel and unburned powder ends in reduced velocity of the bullet. A bullet designed to expand properly at a certain velocity may not expand as well or at all at the lower velocity realized from a short barrel. Luckily for us, some ammo makers offer special short-barrel loads, or loads specifically designed for compact carry pistols. These loads use faster-burning powder or a bullet with a different alloy in order to achieve the desired performance.

To gain a better understanding of short-barrel ballistics we tested a number of representative loadings in popular backup gun calibers. We began with the .22 Long Rifle and continued to

the .45 ACP, firing these loads in handguns sp for concealed carry use. As an example, we di ment Model 1911 to test the .45 ACP but rathe P250. We tested the 9mm load in a Smith & used a 2-inch revolver to test the .38 Special l

Accuracy is dependent upon the user and how well they mesh together, but the loads accuracy. Since these are compact weapons limited to 10 yards. Even at this modest dista to secure a useful group with some of the cor should give concealed carry permit holders pa er the groups fired by experienced shooters. testing was your typical garden-variety 1-gall not entirely scientific, it provides a fertile gro tation and offers excellent repeatability. Ballis isn’t flesh and blood either – not to mention f ter works as well as any other media, and pro 10 percent of the penetration and expansion Penetration tests were recorded using wate inches thick. If a bullet passed completely thr ers, the penetration was judged to be 18 inch

When choosing a load for concealed carry, ant factor. As one example, we greatly respe 158-grain, .38 Special load. This loading jolts i to 1,000 fps from a 2-inch barrel. But it is to weight .38 and best reserved for the heavier The Buffalo Bore 125-grain short-barrel load i other hand, is just about right for an Airweigh 9mm load might be too much for a Kel-Tec PF? EXP is a good load that doesn’t run so hot.

Reliability is 10 times more important than load must feed, chamber, fire and eject reliab hot, slide velocity will outstrip the magazine’s the loads tested were reliable. As you will see do not exhibit the 12 inches of penetr. believe is needed for personal defense that fall short are the light calibers.

Make a choice based upon solid info it is your hide. If the test seems limite are in the midst of an ammunition cri: the matter is we were lucky to obtain tl spirit of the test in comparing one load matters.

If you carry a light caliber be certain offers enough penetration. If an expan offer enough of the depth you desire






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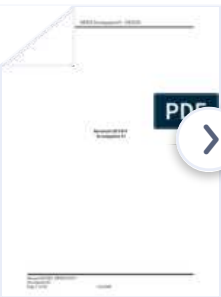
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TEST RESULTS FOR VARIOUS CALIBERS/BULLET WEIGHTS AND TEST FIREARM IS INDICATED BESIDE THE CALIBER.

CALIBER / LOAD	VELOCITY	ENERGY	PENETRATION	EXPANSION
<b>.22 LONG RIFLE / TAURUS DAO .22</b>				
Winchester Wildcat	901 fps	72 ft lbs.	16.0 inches	.26
Winchester 37-grain HP	913 fps	68 ft lbs.	14.5 inches	.28
<b>.22 MAGNUM / NAA MINI REVOLVER WITH 1 5/8 INCH BARREL</b>				
Fiocchi 40-grain JSP	1,101 fps	108 ft lbs.	16.0 inches	.22
Hornady Critical Defense 45 gr.	966 fps	93 ft lbs.	12.5 inches	.40
<b>.25 ACP / TAURUS DAO .25</b>				
Fiocchi 50-grain FMJ	790 fps	70 ft lbs.	16.0 inches	.25
Hornady 35-grain XTP	930 fps	67 ft lbs.	8.5 inches	.32
<b>.32 ACP / KEL-TEC P-32</b>				
Hornady XTP 60-grain	930 fps	13 ft lbs.	10.0 inches	.38
Fiocchi 71-grain FMJ	990 fps	154 ft lbs.	22 inches	.308
<b>.32 SMITH &amp; WESSON LONG / .32 MAGNUM / HERITAGE REVOLVER 3-INCH BARREL</b>				
Buffalo Bore 115-grain FP	844 fps	182 ft lbs.	24 inches	.33
Black Hills 85-grain JHP	960 fps	174 ft lbs.	15.0 inches	.36
<b>.380 ACP / RUGER LCP</b>				
Black Hills 90-grain JHP	880 fps	154 ft lbs.	13.0 inches	.40
Hornady Critical Defense	866 fps	150 ft lbs.	11.5 inches	.42
<b>.38 SPECIAL / SMITH &amp; WESSON MODEL 60 2-INCH BARREL</b>				
Cor-Bon 110-grain DPX	1,042 fps	265 ft lbs.	14.0 inches	.66
Federal 135-grain Gold Dot	879 fps	232 ft lbs.	13.5 inches	.60
<b>9MM LUGER / SMITH &amp; WESSON M&amp;P SHIELD</b>				
Black Hills 115-grain EXP	1179 fps	354 ft lbs.	12.5 inches	.66
Winchester 124-grain JHP +P	1060 fps	309 ft lbs.	14.0 inches	.65
Speer Gold Dot 147 gr. Gold Dot	890 fps	259 ft lbs.	15.0 inches	.42
<b>.40 SMITH &amp; WESSON / GLOCK MODEL 27</b>				
Fiocchi 155-grain XTP	1040 fps	372 ft lbs.	18 inches	.65
Black Hills 165-grain JHP EXP	1070 fps	420 ft lbs.	16 inches	.69
<b>.45 ACP CALIBER / SIG P250 SUBCOMPACT</b>				
Buffalo Bore 160-grain JHP Low Recoil	920 fps	300 ft lbs.	16 inches	.66





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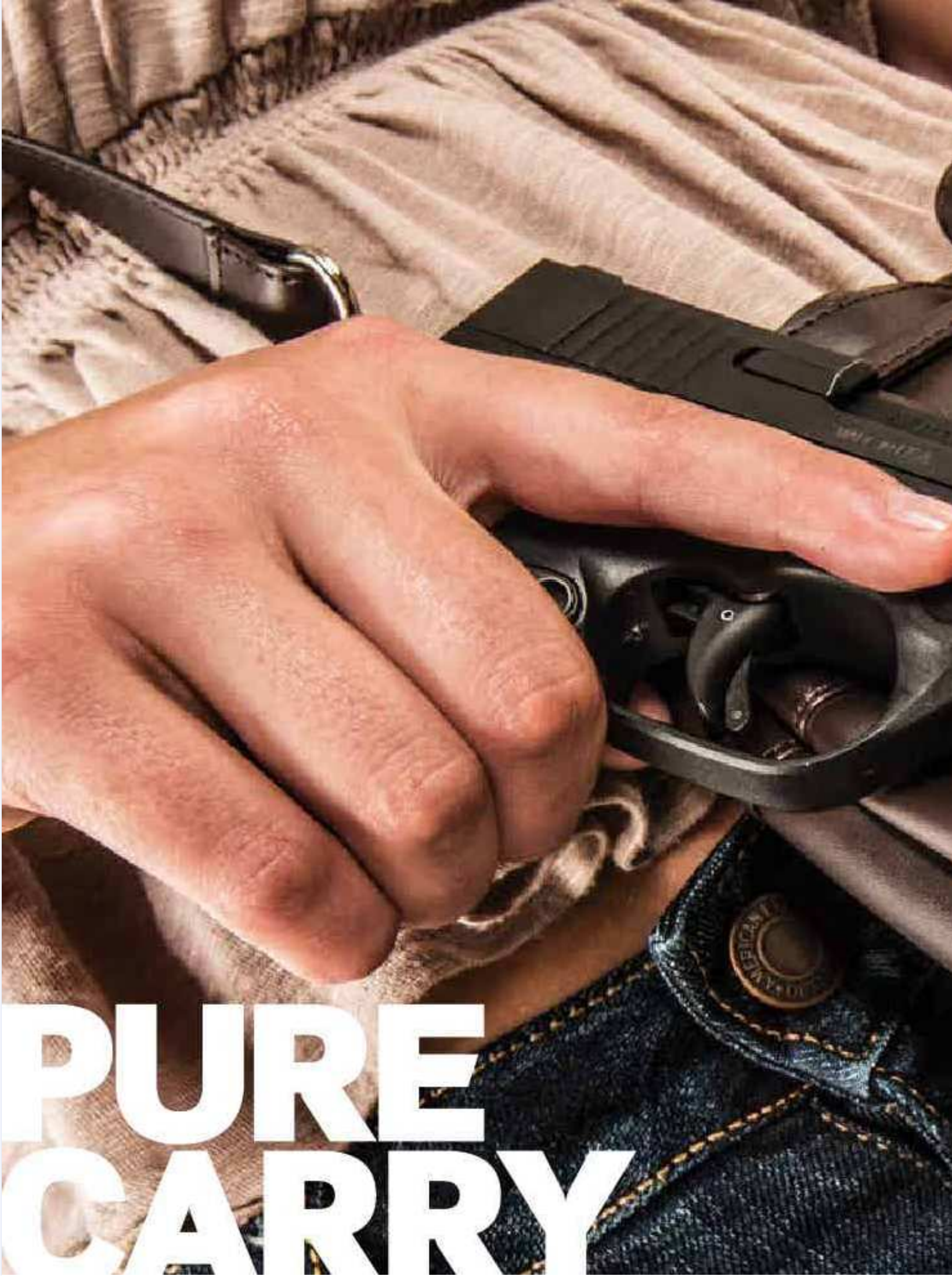
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





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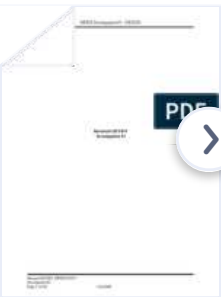
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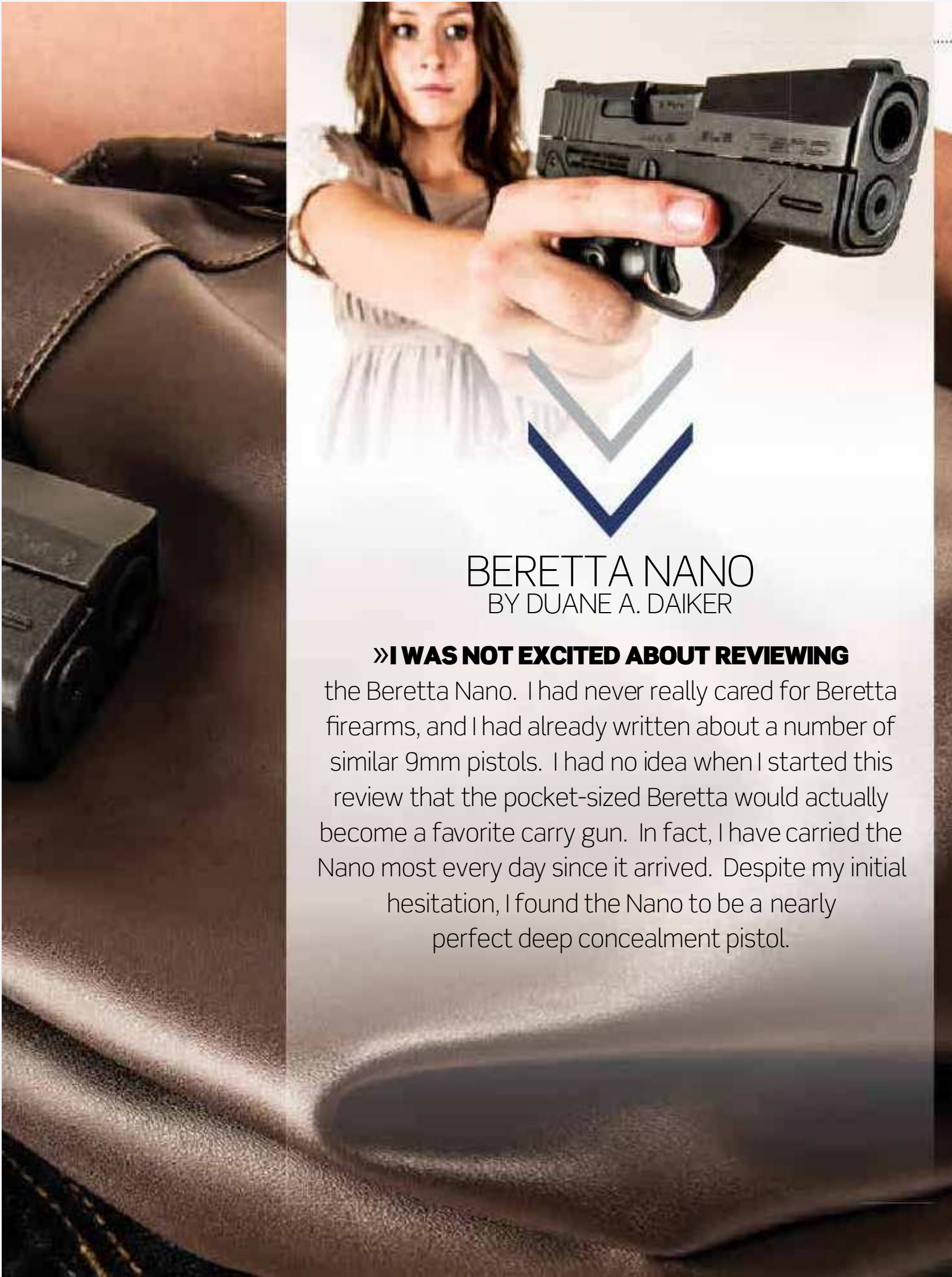


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The Nano is a typical micro-sized 9mm striker-fired semi-auto with a 3-inch barrel. What really sets the Nano apart from other small pistols though is the entirely smooth exterior design. Aside from the magazine release button, there are absolutely no external controls—no thumb safety, no slide release lever, and no takedown lever. This makes the Nano perfect for nearly any method of concealed carry. There is simply nothing to snag on your clothing or otherwise interfere with your draw from concealment. Similarly, there is nothing to poke or irritate you when the Nano is carried close to your body.

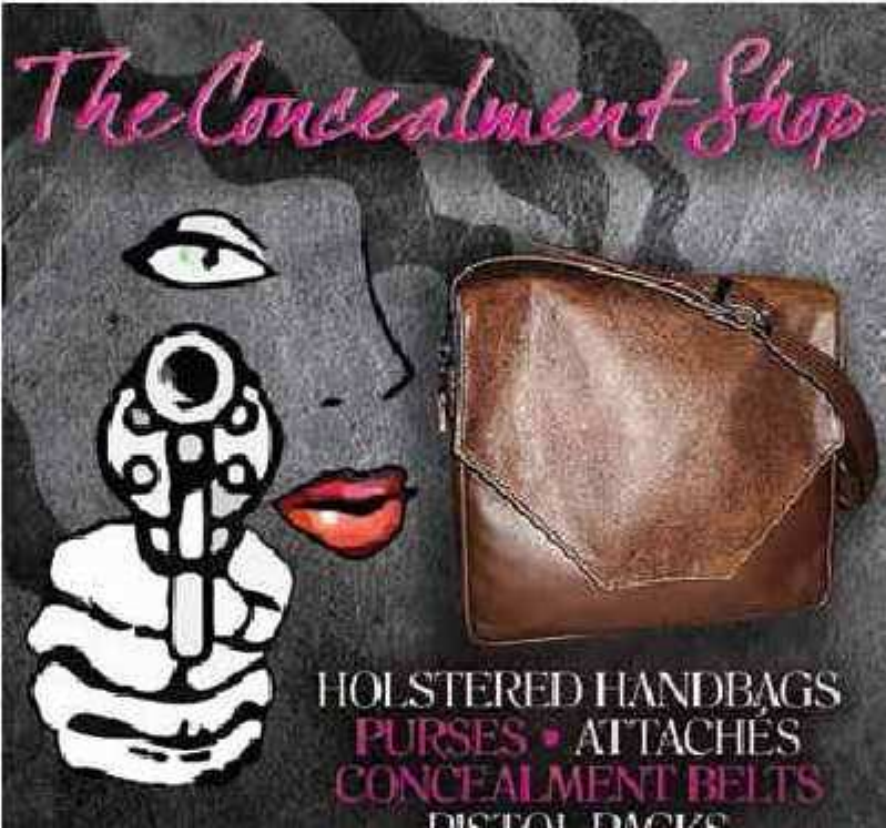
Interestingly, the lack of a slide release lever does not mean there is no slide lock feature. The slide locks open on an empty magazine, just as you would expect. When doing a slide-lock reload, you simply work the slide with the traditional “sling shot” method, and the slide will close on the loaded magazine. You don’t have the option of closing the slide with a manual slide release, but most shooting schools don’t recommend this technique anyway. If you are accustomed to using a slide release lever, you will need to spend some time retraining on the “sling shot” method. However, I think the minor trade-off in technique

is well worth the simplicity of the Nano’s sn. Nano’s well thought out design makes this pis bidextrous. The gun’s only external control—lease button—is reversible. This is a real ber or for anyone who wants to set this pistol up t a backup gun.

The 3-dot low profile sights are adjustable f is an unusual feature on a gun of this type. In fa easily removed, so upgrades are a snap. But u isn’t really necessary because the factory sight like the tiny nubs that pass for sights on some the Nano has genuinely useful factory sights.

The Nano has a Technopolymer (fiberglass) grip over a stainless steel sub-chassis that se frame. The grip and frame are modular, and t be removed from the pistol grip. This modular the serialized frame to be swapped into a dif may eventually offer a larger grip for the Nano- are available yet, nor have any been announce rently offer grips in a variety of colors, including Dark Earth, White and Rosa. So, changing grip you are in to such things.

I don’t love the modular frame concept. I do a lot of desire to swap grip sizes on my guns. did, Beretta’s implementation of this feature i ing the sub-chassis requires a properly sized patience. Detailing the process requires ten owner’s manual, and includes a lot of warnir am not the most mechanically inclined guy the instructions scared me out of attempting moval. Swapping the grip is certainly possibl







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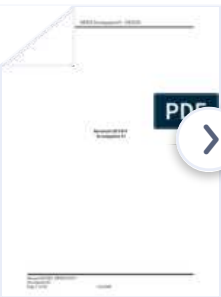
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**BERETTA**  
**NANO**

**CALIBER** 9MM  
**CAPACITY** 6+1 ROUNDS  
**ACTION TYPE** STRIKER-FIRED  
**LENGTH** 5.6 INCHES  
**HEIGHT** 4.2 INCHES  
**WEIGHT** 20 OUNCES  
**BARREL LENGTH** 3 INCHES  
**MSRP** \$445

realistic self-defense distances, the pistol has r  
ing fist-sized groups at a rapid pace. Even :  
silhouette target can be made with ease.

Generally speaking, the Nano ran ve  
the pistol did suffer a significant failure.  
dred rounds through the brand new pist  
guide rod broke. This is not the time to  
versus steel” debate on recoil rods—but th  
is plastic. When the guide rod broke, the gur  
and had to be returned to Beretta for warranty r

For the purposes of my review, I elected to f  
media channels and return the gun “anonym  
repair—like a regular retail customer would do  
simple, and after a single phone call I was sen  
and a pre-paid shipping label. A few days :  
pistol, I received a postcard from the warranty  
knowledging receipt and giving an estimated  
tion of the repairs. The warranty repair took o  
complete, and I was pleased with the overall wa

The Nano has performed flawlessly since the r  
initial recoil rod had some type of manufacturing c  
pretty quickly. The replacement rod has held up f  
more rounds, and shows no external signs of pre

Some shooters I know would immediately c  
experiences this type of failure. I tend to be m  
an initial failure, if t he problem can be fixed and  
All mechanical items can fail, and quality contro  
ly manifest themselves pretty quickly. My searc  
any similar Nano failures, so it appears that m  
not typical. I still believe in the pistol, and I ha  
where my mouth is—I carry the Nano every da

The Nano works very well for front pocket  
your pockets are large enough. I am a fairly k  
no problem carrying in cargo pants or even je  
pants, I find an inside the waistband holster to  
ever, nearly any carry method should work wit  
ed micro-9mm.

Beretta ships the Nano in a hard-sided case

» The Beretta Nano is nearly perfect for deep concealment, but also retains the power of a 9mm. It is supremely reliable and will carry well in either a pocket or a purse.

coin, or even the rim of a 9mm shell case. The slide assembly can be removed from the frame, and then the barrel, recoil rod and recoil spring can be removed from the slide.

Micro-sized 9mm pistols can be notoriously unpleasant to shoot. The Nano, however, is surprisingly mild. The slight heft of the Nano (about 20 ounces unloaded) and its advanced ergonomic design really help reduce the felt recoil. Shooting the Nano is not painful or unpleasant. Even recoil shy shooters should have



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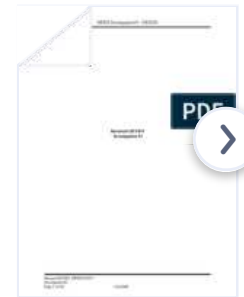
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» **A BACKUP GUN:** usually smaller in size and/or caliber and relegated to the role of—well, of backing up the main carry gun. Limited in role, limited in scope, limited in possibilities, limited in utility because it's limited in your thinking.

Forget that. Someone trying to kill you, the last thing you need is "limited."

Try this concept instead: A "Floating Gun," or a "Second Gun." (Anything but "backup.")

The idea of a Floating Gun comes from postings on the Warrior Talk Internet forum by a British expatriate, now Brazilian citizen, an inactive Royal Marine (I assume that, like our own seaborne infantry service, you can't speak of British Marines as 'retired' either). Brazil allows concealed carry but, like many South American nations, restricts caliber and type of handgun much more stringently than all but a handful of states in the U.S. If you want to carry a semi-auto handgun in Brazil, you can't go above a .380 in caliber. Revolvers are limited to .38 Special. If you're a member of a shooting club, you can have other guns and calibers, but cannot keep them in the home.

Eschewing the .380 round and its lower terminal performance, he chooses to carry revolvers loaded with .38 Special +P rounds for defensive use. Note that I say he carries revolvers, plural: that is not a misprint. He often carries a 7-shot and a 5-shot snub-nosed revolver together, plus reloads for each one. Obviously, the 5-shot gun is the backup to the larger revolver....

.... except when it's not.

You see, sometimes, the smaller-capacity gun is what he will start the fight with (assuming he has to fight). Sometimes, the 7-shot wheel-gun is going to be the backup for the

5-shot system. That's because the 5-shot revolver may be in his hand already. He may have moved it from the usual pocket into a shirt or jacket pocket when he saw something suspicious happening or was going to have to go through an area that might contain an attacker. He may have palmed it and be holding it out of sight of someone he's not sure of that's passing close or approaching him. He may just keep it in the usual pocket, but have a hand on it as he stands casually at a bus stop or as he waits somewhere for a friend. It may be the gun not just nearest to hand, but actually in his hand when the fight starts. Better, he would admit, to be starting a fight (if you have to fight at all) with more rounds up front. That's a given. Five rounds you can fire right there, right then, though, will nearly always equal, if not beat outright, seven rounds you still have to draw from the holster to get into play.

Don't think the bigger gun doesn't float too, though. It can come out of its holster to rest in the pocket of a car door, close to the right hand in the center console area of the car, or slipped under the thigh as you approach a danger area (or as a danger area approaches). There, it waits for the instant of need, at hand and faster and easier to access than in the holster on the waist. It could be held inside a folded newspaper or behind a book or magazine or inside the jacket or outside, but out of line of sight of anyone as he stands, waiting to see if something is about to happen.

Which one, which gun, then, is the primary one? Which, then, is the backup? Either? Neither? Both?

Or is it just a matter of two guns (or more) and to fit the situation and c

The concept of a "Second Gun" in all respects—came when I was preparing then involved in, the Su national Advanced Po ing Progressions course. Roger Phillips said to be would be used during attending at that time tional" snubbie in the a semi-auto on the belt one on their belt on tl close to their primary g an ankle holster.

I stepped up to the der my shirt at about G26 at about 10:30 or that would fit either gu I also stepped up to the work to allow me t and shoot equally we with either hand, one-or desired. (This last is to getting the greatest ing a second gun as a s just an emergency back that class, unless the sit erwise, alternating side with each iteration the pared to do it beforehar

What I discovered is t thought of having a "pri of "secondary" or "back became simply the gun if necessary the other c ply the first gun and th which one was first or s and did instantly chang shooting ran dry, I drev continued. Because of t the guns, I had the much faster than class got their p





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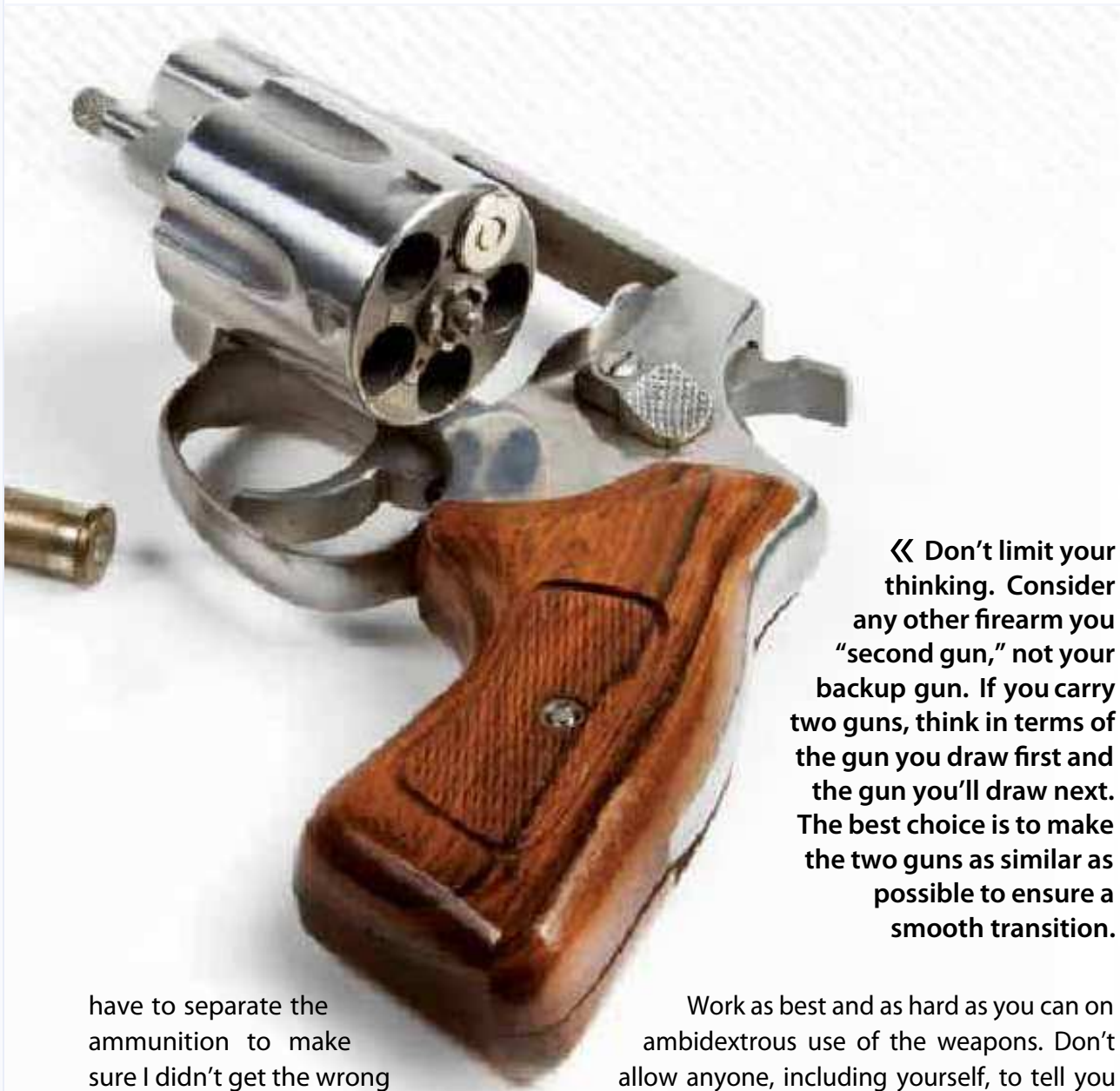


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« Don't limit your thinking. Consider any other firearm you "second gun," not your backup gun. If you carry two guns, think in terms of the gun you draw first and the gun you'll draw next. The best choice is to make the two guns as similar as possible to ensure a smooth transition.

have to separate the ammunition to make sure I didn't get the wrong reload. Because they operated the same way, I didn't slow down or make mistakes about manipulations of the guns at speed or under stress as might be the case with disparate arms. If one gun failed completely, everything I had would work in the other one. I could even, if I had the time and necessity, swap some of the parts between them. I could access the second gun more quickly than most others could access their "backups" and could reach it more easily from other-than-standing positions than others who carried their second guns in more traditional places.

Disadvantages? It was heavier overall and it took up more space around the belt. That is the worst thing I could say about it.

The only change I've made to the practice since then is to replace the G26 with another G19 whenever I decide to carry two pistols. I also run separate "floating" guns, mainly in the vehicle when I'm traveling. I adapted to the concept and the practice quickly and

Work as best and as hard as you can on ambidextrous use of the weapons. Don't allow anyone, including yourself, to tell you that you can't do it or that you will always be so much slower/worse/more awkward with the other hand. Just focus on getting as good as you can get and then a little better. Be able to draw, present, shoot, and manipulate either weapon with a single hand.

Additional holsters and carriers may be necessary for proper setup of a floating gun. Look at where you might want to place it beyond its usual position and get holsters or holders for those places.

Study and practice covert ready positions ahead of time for proper employment of the floater.

That's what I did, and that's what you can do. Begin by removing the idea of a "backup gun" from your mind. See where removing that idea takes you. Imagine, practice, experiment, work with the idea, get some training. Remove the limits, expand the capability, enhance your survivability. That's what this can do for you if you will do the work.





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DUAL VIEW  
GRASSI DAIKER

**OVER 10 YEARS AGO**, I had the chance to shoot a SIG Sauer P228, a mid-size version of the 9mm P226. Instead of the current capacity of 15 rounds, the P228 of the era held 13 rounds in the magazine and it had been the selection of a compact pistol for U.S. military service, known as the M11 pistol. Intended for tank crews, aviation and military police investigators, the gun featured the SIG standard double-action auto system – a long, heavy pull for the first shot, which cocked the pistol for subsequent rounds.

With an aluminum alloy frame, steel slide and barrel, the slightly shorter (in length and in height) pistol was considered ideal for plainclothes and concealed carry use. The sweeping popularity of the striker-fired pistol didn’t help the double-action hammer-fired auto in terms of sales, but the DA system still has its proponents.

In 2012, SIG Sauer issued the M11-A1 pistol—some refinements of the original military design and destined to be used to fill existing contracts for replacement M11s—to the non-military market. I quickly got in line for one.

M11-A1

Like the P228, the M11-A1 has a steel upper over an aluminum alloy frame. The M11-A1 has a stainless steel slide, nitron coated, with corrosion resistant internal parts and SIGLITE night sights. The magazines supplied with the M11-A1 are fifteen round magazines; the original P228 had 13 round 9mm magazines. Polymer stocks are standard and the SRT—“short reset trigger”—is likewise standard in the new issue. The 32 ounce autoloader has a “DA/SA” trigger. The first shot is fired by a long drag on a specified 10 pound trigger. During the cycle of operation, the slide cocks the hammer for subsequent shots with the lighter trigger pull specified at less than 4 ½ pounds. The barrel is 3.9” and the gun is only 5.4 inches high.

The MIL-STD UID label—a coded label with serial number—is on the left side of the frame on the dustcover. Atop the slide and just in front of the rear sight, a circular SIG graphic logo is engraved.

Everything about this gun is businesslike and very professionally rendered. I’d heard that SIG has had a few reliability problems over the past few years. My exposure to the P239, P290, P2022



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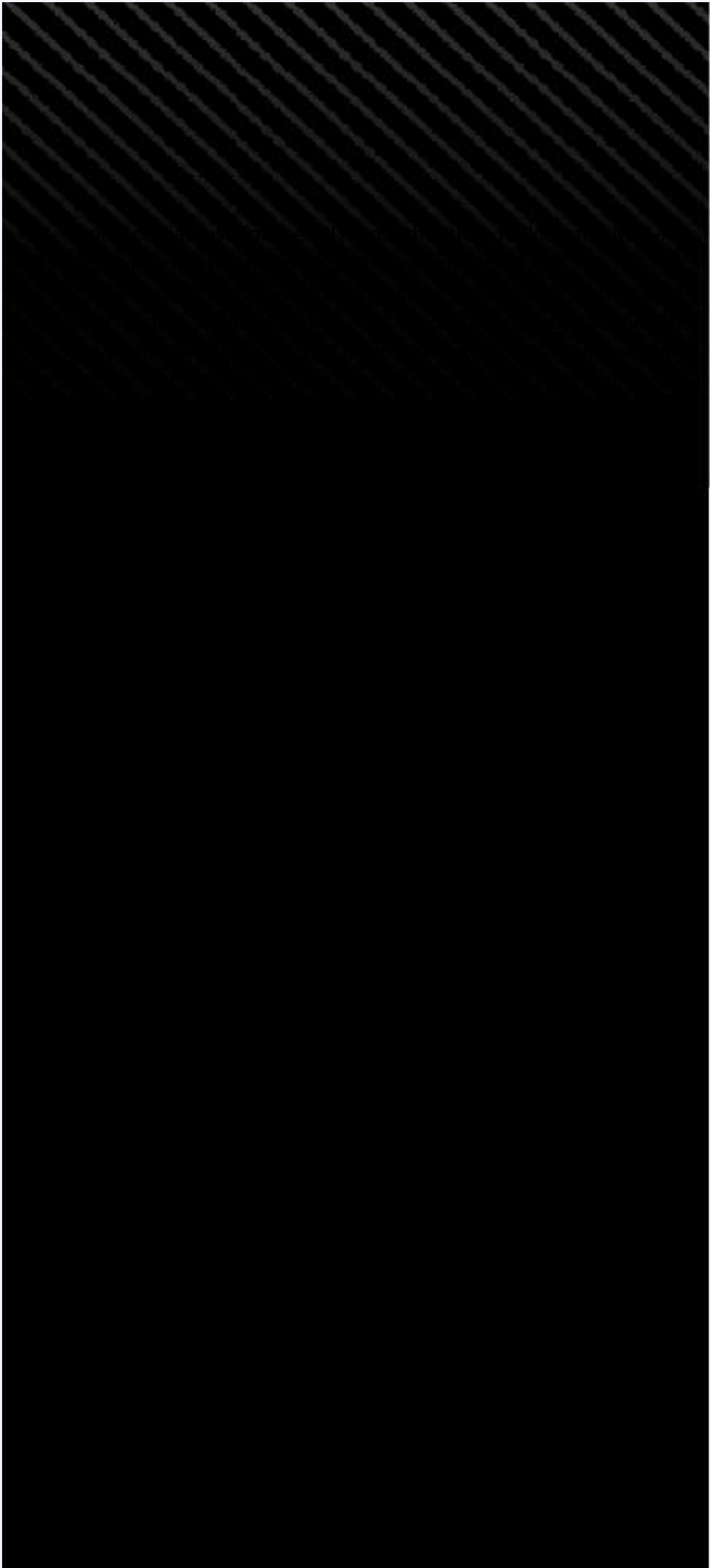
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### CARRY

The SIG M11-A1 is a delight to carry. Outside the waist, I used the DeSantis 01L, now called the "F.A.M.S. (with lock hole)" – my sample actually pre-dated the Air Marshal Security Deck Officer program for which the current version holster is standard issue for the Secret Service Law Enforcement agencies. The hole accepts a standard handcuff behind the trigger to permit a handcuffed but locked and safe sidearm, to prevent the officer or immature from removing and firing the gun.

The holster is a pancake style with a forward concealment. A thumb-break strap keeps the gun in place. I used the DeSantis snap-on A48 single magazine tension device to carry one of the two spare magazines with the M11-A1. For casual concealment and F.A.M.S. is a superb choice.

For more discreet carry, I often prefer an IWB. Tech Ultimate Concealment Holster. I've had this holster for years. The company has recently revised the UCH, making it better than the original. It is adjustable for forward (FBI) Carry. The belt loop is on a paddle attachment so you can carry it into the pants, completely concealing gun and magazine.

The reason I'm attached to the original UCH is my first foray into kydex carried IWB. I was ready to give up after a short time, but Blade-Tech showed me I was wrong. It was secure and quick—and very well hidden—thats what makes it standard for concealment holsters.



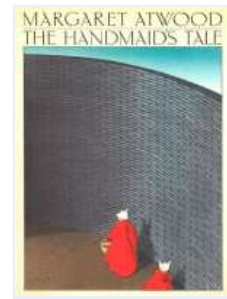
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**DUAL VIEW**  
GRASSI DAIKER

Table, Shooting Test – 25 yards seated, gun supported on bags. Five 5-shot groups, average shown. Velocity average of five shots, Chrony Beta 15 ft. from muzzle.

<b>Cor-Bon DPX 115gr. +P</b>	<b>1230 fps</b>	<b>2.75"</b>
<b>Black Hills 124gr. JHP +P</b>	<b>1225 fps</b>	<b>2.50"</b>
<b>Remington 124gr Golden Saber</b>	<b>1064 fps</b>	<b>2.50"</b>

The real test for a gun with two trigger pulls—the “double-action” first shot to the single-action second shot—is to fire pairs. I did this on the short FBI-QIT target. The cardboard backer, well and truly shot on other outings, was less than structurally sufficient and the prevailing southerly winds pushed the top half of the target back. This caused some elongated bullet holes in the paper; no real harm done, I just got to work on a moving target.

One round fell under the “half-bottle,” the remainder staying in the scoring area. I split a few repetitions into failure drills, trying for the head box. As I’ve been the “striker-fired” kid for the past decade-plus, I pushed one down into the “neck.”

I was struck by the slick feel of the trigger and the action. I've fired a lot of guns over the past twenty years and few of them rival the feel of this SIG. The reset is shorter than the SIGs of my past and it's more easily felt—the SRT working for me, no doubt.

Even the initial double-action trigger pull is consistent, without any perceptible hitches or sticking. The trigger pull is light and crisp, and beneficial to the shooter's accuracy. The "Action Trigger" that makes quick follow-up shots

Comparing the compact M11-A1 to the full size M11-A2, the compact size is a great choice for the user who needs the compact size for almost any application. The compact size is small enough to obtain a full firing grip, and none of the stretch for anyone with at least average size hands. For concealed carry, the smaller size of the M11-A1 does not represent a significant compromise.

After carrying the M11-A1 and shooting rounds—I am very impressed. SIG seems to have the performance that can be obtained from a con-



**SIG SAUER**  
**M11-A1** 

**CALIBER** 9MM LUGER  
**CAPACITY** 15+1 ROUNDS

## FRAME ALLOY

## SLIDE STAINLESS STEEL

**FINISH** BLACK HARD COAT ANODIZED

**BARREL** 3.9 INCHES




ACTUAL SIZE  
1 1/2





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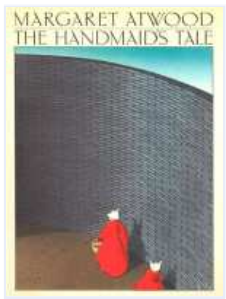
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sonable prices.  
As an evolut  
M11-A1 is an ex  
"militarization"  
a time-proven  
acknowledging the proud military heritage of the pistol as well. I  
am comfortable that our military personnel have an excellent pist  
ol in the M11—and now you can finally have one too.

*Duane A. Daiker*

When firing pairs, I habitually reset for the th  
didn't take. The improvement is remarkable.

The DA pull, running right at 10 pounds, is  
my career in the late 1970s, still the revolver e  
real concern.

The sights are SIGLITE night sights. Nothin  
be said about those. The tritium is bright, the s  
see and snag-free to the touch.

If you were ever a fan of the P228—or of the  
generally—this is clearly the gun for you. It's  
lope for the SIG brand. I've had extremely repu  
me the SIG P2022 is the real sleeper of the lir  
to shoot well and low cost. The P239, a bette  
than any SIG Classic, is still in production and,  
Gunsite during an event, has my strong recor

The M11-A1 version is not P228-lite. It's the  
uct improved P228—if that was possible.

The hammer-fired pistol has its advantages  
M11-A1 makes best use of all of them.

*Richard Grassi*

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



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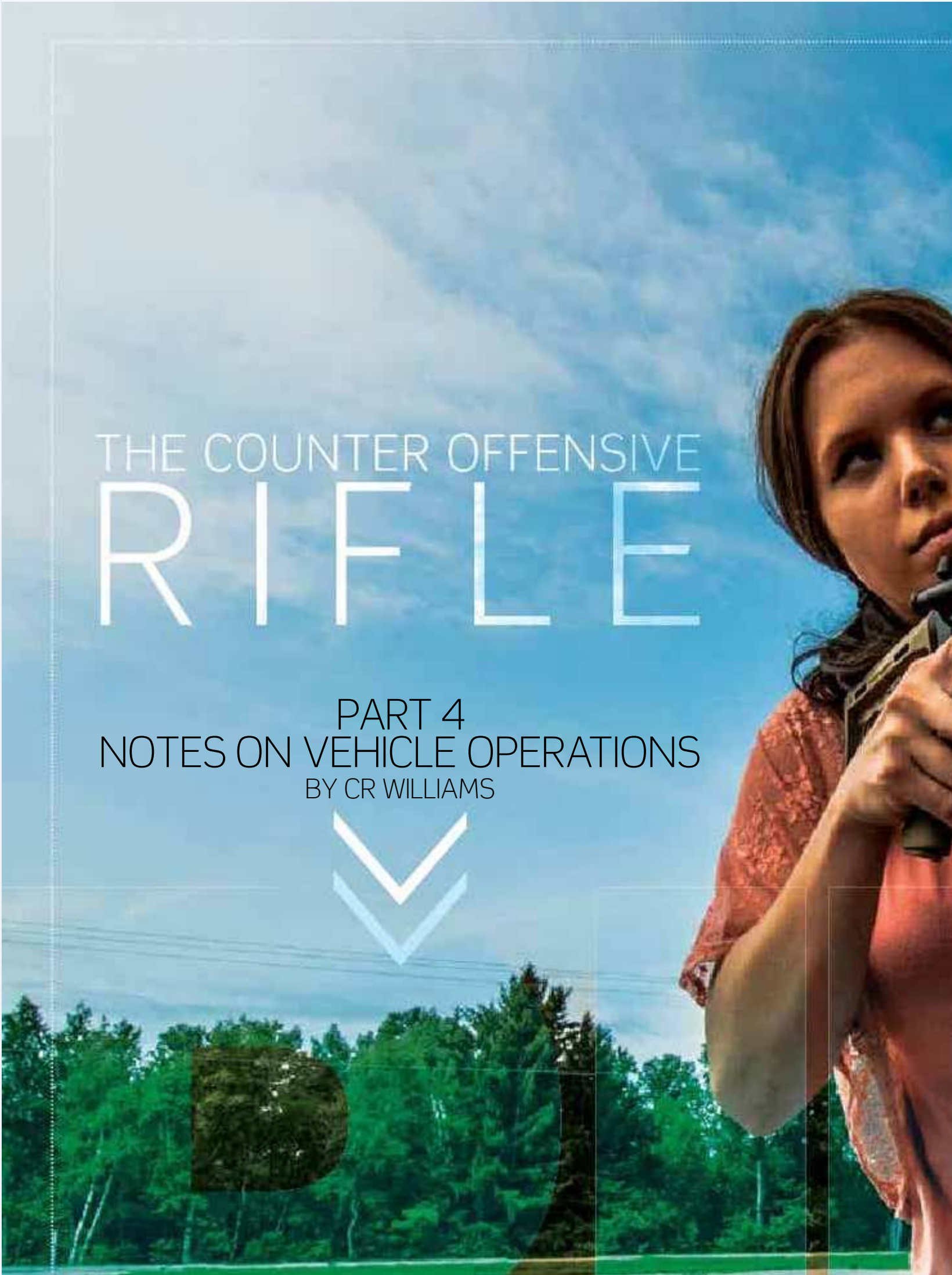


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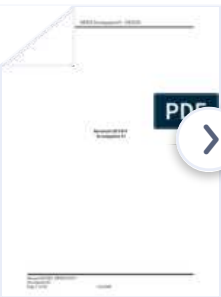
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« Good op  
on target  
the way y

»**NO REVIEW THIS TIME.** This is the last part and there’s too much to cover. Realistically, it’s more likely that you will have to stretch a pistol shot beyond the accepted “normal” range than it is that you will have a rifle in hand at the time you need to make a longer shot. Not to mention that engaging anyone at distance whether with pistol or rifle requires solid justification to avoid significant legal entanglements when the shooting is over with.

Low probability is not zero probability, however, so you should consider “going long” with all of your firearms. Besides, learning and practicing the long shot is a worthwhile challenge and a helpful addi-

trigger control, breathing the farther you need to need to have these in ha Magnification is not shooting, anyway. Upv even more, you don’t to get fight-stopping a me wrong; magnified c ful. You just don’t need What you need them f cation and location. A q lars or a monocular at t what or who might nee as the shot itself is cor tion is not necessary. Tl for shorter ranges, even if you have the fund instilled, allow you to c



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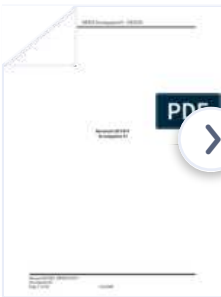
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position.) Now, while you have time, think like the sniper, think like the designated marksman, with one caveat--when you consider a shooting position, never forget that others can and will also consider the same position. It is going to be safest to assume that you will draw return fire (if you haven't already), so ask yourself where you would expect to be taking fire from if you were approaching your own area.

Don't stop thinking "move" just because you get to set up. Unless you can all but guarantee you have a single target that you have stopped with one or two shots (and even then, actually, they may have friends that haven't come into sight yet), you must plan to change position after you have fired not more than a few rounds. Someone you haven't disabled can and will shoot back. A group may not actually maneuver against you properly, but they will very likely at least return fire. Unless you have a screen, armed cover of your position, you must assume that your location will be quickly compromised and that accurate return fire will be coming. (Even if you do, you and your screen should have at least one fallback/displacement position established.) Have the second, third, fourth, backup, fallback, other position(s) and routes to them marked in your mind before you settle into the first one. Shoot and move, move and shoot, even when you have the time and space to set up.

Plan for patience. You may have to wait for the best shot. You may lose the line-up you had when you were moving to position or getting set and have to wait for another one. You may know where they're coming from and/or through but not when. You have to prepare to "hurry up and wait." That means a position you can maintain for a while; that means the ability to scan and screen yourself from other approach lines; that means protection from the elements, water, and maybe food to sustain a long watch. Think about it now before it makes

securable as a home or office area. You can harden the vehicle, you can make it easier to break into or steal someone else's vehicle than yours, but you can't secure it like you can your house. You need to take that into account and consider the worst-case scenario: a break-in or outright theft.

So the first question is, how much can you afford to lose whatever long gun (or handgun, for that matter) you put in that car? If you can't replace it if it's stolen, if you're going to take a serious financial hit if you lose it, consider some other weapon.

If possible, you want the "truck gun" to run and operate the same way as most of your other rifles. It is good to know how to operate many different weapons, yes, but you also want to simplify things that you may have to do in a fight as much as is practicable. At the point you realize you have to get out of the car and evade the mob on foot, you need to be thinking about escape routes, concealment and cover, not re-learning the control set on the gun you're carrying.

You perhaps can't recall the exact details of loss with commonality. It's fine. A perfect world it's not, but sure you work with the commonality that you can run it with emergency.

Next, consider storage support gear in the vehicle. Consider the elements to consider for accessibility.

Your estimation of the risks you'll be facing and the risks of the gun too accessible enough will be one factor. Storage and access matter. Another will be what is available in your area. Some people have loaded long guns to be accessible. Some places don't allow them. Keep loaded magazines accessible. Examine the regulations in your area. Some places to see if something is allowable. A handgun is allowable. A handgun has a bearing on what you can do it.





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» If possible and safe, get out and move to cover. Sling the rifle and prepare for the fight as you are moving toward cover. Remember to look for hard cover like wheel hubs or the engine block.

Acknowledge right now that you probably can't set up a rifle to get into action from inside a car or truck nearly as fast as you can access a pistol. Get that in your mind right now. That given, I see a reasonable goal as sixty seconds to shooting. No matter what the storage method, no matter what the locking or latching mechanism, no matter if ammunition has to be kept separate, practice to have the rifle in ready-to-shoot condition no more than one minute from the point you realize that you need it. Many of us will be able to do it faster, but I think all of us can manage it within one minute if we plan and practice it properly.

THE VEHICLE IS PART OF THE WEAPON SYSTEM

It is transport, shelter (not from gunfire--more on that later), speed, and striking power. Just because you have guns doesn't mean that's the only thing you can fight with. Even a small car with just a little speed on will hit with more force than anything you can shoot from it. And you can evade, escape, and change position (given terrain that allows it) faster in a vehicle than on foot. As long as it's running, be reluctant to ditch it. Make sure you have good reasons for leaving it behind and going off on foot.





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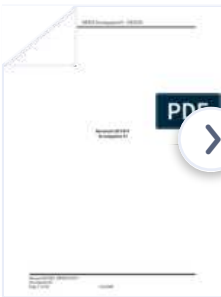
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FIGHTING FROM INSIDE

First: Best if the driver drives and shooters (armed passengers) shoot, and not have the twain meet. If you're by yourself, try to avoid having to do both at once. If you do have to do both at once, it's going to be easier with a pistol than a rifle. One-handing a standard rifle in a car or truck is going to be a little awkward to say the least. Bullpup rifles, because of the way they balance and their shorter overall length, will be easier to run from inside a vehicle whether one or two-handed. Maneuvering a pistol, much less a rifle, inside a vehicle is not just an adventure, it's a job. Start practicing now with both. Learn what it takes to access, to present, and to change direction of the weapon when you're inside the car. Take your time with this part. Don't try live-fire too soon. Understand what it means to fight within a limited and enclosed space. It's going to be loud, for one thing. If you can't get the muzzle out a window, whoever else is with you in the car will have to deal with both that and the expended cases bouncing around the interior when you shoot. (Or you will have to deal with all that when they shoot.) Find a way to try it in practice before you have to do it for real. You need to consider and practice changing directions with a rifle inside a car or truck (with some exceptions) before you try to do it at speed in a fight. You don't want to stay inside a vehicle that's not moving unless there is no other choice, either. The car body won't stop much of anything and you can't move to evade or to better cover or concealment. The car will become a bullet magnet and that's no place

to be if you don't want to attract bullets. Get more  
FIGHTING FROM OUTSIDE

Movies make you think a car or truck will stop a bullet. You probably die if you believe that. There are only a few vehicles that will stop even a pistol bullet, much less a rifle. Your best, maybe your only, cover on a vehicle is the door block and the wheel hubs. That's pretty much it. Unless it's the or you're taking fire, try to get away from it.

WRAPPING IT UP

All I've been able to suggest to you in this series is a few suggestions as to what I believe are the most important things to consider when looking at the employment of firearms in non-military hands. I have attempted to bring you what I don't see covered as much by others and avoid the hundreds of pages and hours of video already available. There is still at least one book's worth of material for my next large project--and I will be providing you with what has been written here on my website. All I can get you as far as training with the right instruction. This series with two questions: Are you really serious about learning to fight? Then why aren't you in class yet? You be safe out there. And if you can't be safe

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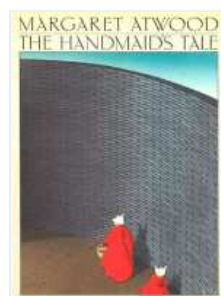


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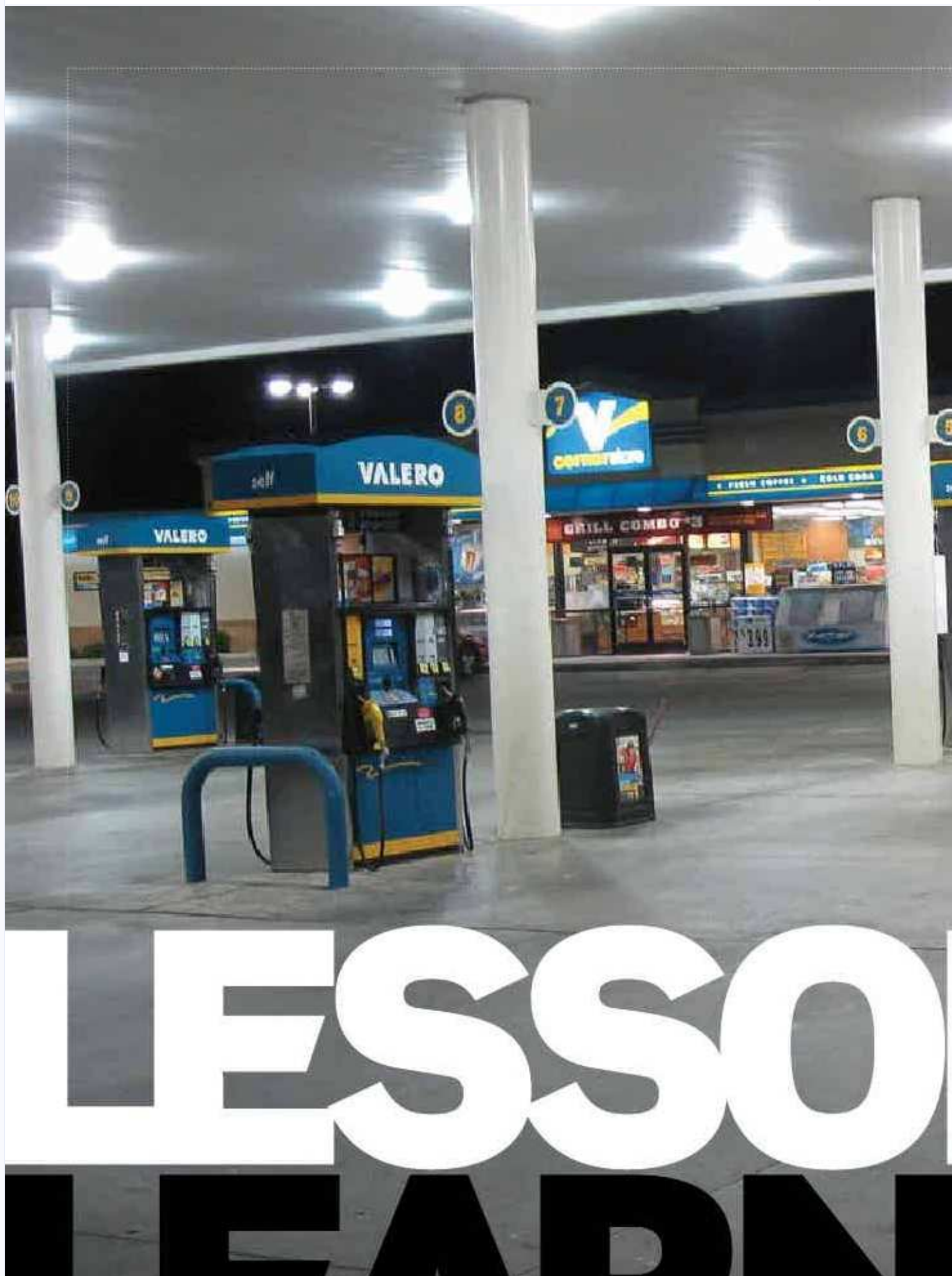
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SOMETIMES IT  
TAKES A CLOSE  
CALL TO REALLY  
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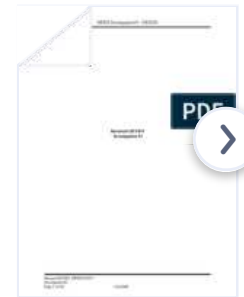
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» **IN JUNE OF 2008**, my wife and I were returning from a trip to Pensacola, FL to our home in Texas. On the day we were to return home, we got up very early and began driving back to the airport in New Orleans. We started early because we knew we would have to fuel and return the rental car and be ready to fly on the 6 a.m. flight. My carry gun at that time was a Kahr PM40, a single-stack six-shot auto-pistol. I usually carried a second magazine with an extra six shots, but on that morning I had packed the extra magazine in my locked TSA-approved container in preparation for our flight.

When my wife and I entered the metro New Orleans area, we began looking for a gas station where we could fuel up our rental car. It was just before 3:30 a.m. when we spotted a convenience store off the freeway. The store's exterior and gas pump area were brightly lit with high-powered lights. There were no people in or around the store at the time we pulled up except for the lone clerk inside. It appeared to be a safe and secure place to fuel the rental car.

from behind me say, "Hey man, I need some n No one could have covered the distance across concrete apron to the pump island without r especially, hearing their footsteps as they app around, I found myself about 15 feet from a male seated ON A BICYCLE. (Now you know w bikes—they are fast and silent.)

Because of prior training, I am aware of the many robbers where they approach th off by panhandling for money. If confror ment, they can claim they were just "ask In most places this is a misdemeanor or at best. During the "panhandling pha mark. If they feel they have the upper l a clean getaway, they instantly change handout" to a strong-arm or armed rok an eye the dynamic changes from "ask even armed violence. To survive, their v stantly adapt to a potential life-and-de convinced that this young adult, out at 3 night, hanging around the darkened p venience store supposedly trying to ge complete strangers, was not trying to o merit badge in good citizenship.

At the time, I was carrying my pistol back. I reached around and grasped n to draw if that proved necessary. I use sense tone in speaking to him and tri and nonverbally convey to him, "Leave

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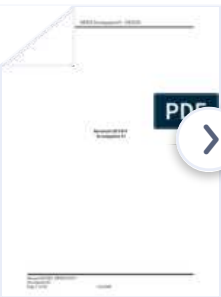
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the dark couldn't see them, and yet they could clearly see everything happening in the lot from their concealed position. Using gravity and their superior position high on the hill to build speed, they were able to quickly and silently surprise their prey (as they had done so effectively with me). The two bicyclists flanked the car that had just stopped in the parking lot and both juveniles moved in on the man who exited the vehicle. The young adult who had been pressing me for money moved over to assist his two comrades. I stayed with my wife until the car had been fueled. We then entered the convenience store and each used the restroom. When I opened the door from the men's restroom

Both are fine firearms, but the Glock on the right provides more in a package that is not all that much larger. Remember that self-defense situation will be one-on-one. You could very quickly find yourself facing a fairly large group of people. In that unpleasant reality you want to be completely prepared for anything that might come your way. No one who survived a gunfight has ever wished they had fewer rounds.

my wife was standing in front of the open door with her back pressed up against the hallway wall. Her hands were flat against the wall and her eyes were wide with fear. Her posture reminded me of someone trying to hide by melting into the wall. I asked her what was wrong and she said, "There are 10 of them!" I looked down the hallway toward the main part of the store and, sure enough, my wife was right. I could see an apparent gang—10 members with their 10 bicycles—parked in front of the store's glass front. I know for a fact if they were there, they wouldn't be surprised if I shot them. It was then my "panhandler" had moved to armed robber and I had with defensive fire I could have been facing NINE MORE members of the gang and SIX SHOTS available to do



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**LESSONS LEARNED:** Regardless of how good your skills, don't let your self-opinion blind you. There could be someone smarter than you, faster than you, who has set a cleverer trap for you than you anticipated. Prepare for the worst, realistic training, and when it happens, you will be ready. Life does go before a fall. An empty gun makes you feel even worse self-defense.



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**Glock Model 23**

**Pros:** With 13 rounds of .40 S&W, the Glock provides an extra level of firepower in the event you end up facing a group of attackers.

**Cons:** More gun and more ammo means more weight. If you get to the point where the gun and ammo combination is so heavy that it becomes uncomfortable, you may decide not to carry it. That would be a huge mistake. Even the best gun and the most expensive ammo will do you no good if you don't have it when you need it. Be realistic in your evaluation of your needs and what you will carry every day.

**WHICH WOULD YOU CHOOSE?**



**Pros:** This is a lightweight pistol small enough to carry comfortably. A pistol is very likely to be there because you will never worry about weight.

**Cons:** With just six rounds, you may be required to reload during a critical incident with more than one attacker. Reloading under stress takes training and is not something you want to be willing to put in the time needed to master. The smaller grip frame can make accurate shooting difficult. Again, training will help.

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PM45  
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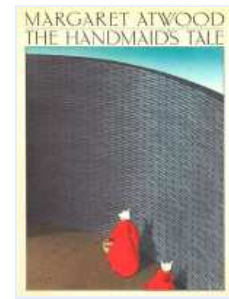


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they will not be accidentally struck by projectiles intended for you.

Not all criminals are stupid. Maintain situational awareness by watching for and anticipating the well-prepared trap.

Not every self-defense situation will be one-on-one; prepare for a potential disparity of force where the odds are stacked against you. Life isn't fair and that is especially true of situations requiring armed self-defense.

Following this incident I now regularly participate in several formal self-defense training events each year. I have switched from a single-stack pocket pistol to a full-sized double-stack defensive pistol. I carry a minimum of 26 rounds on me at all times. I now realize that luck was the major determining factor in us surviving this situation. If something like this were to ever happen again, I intend that preparation will make the difference rather than luck. Are you prepared?

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
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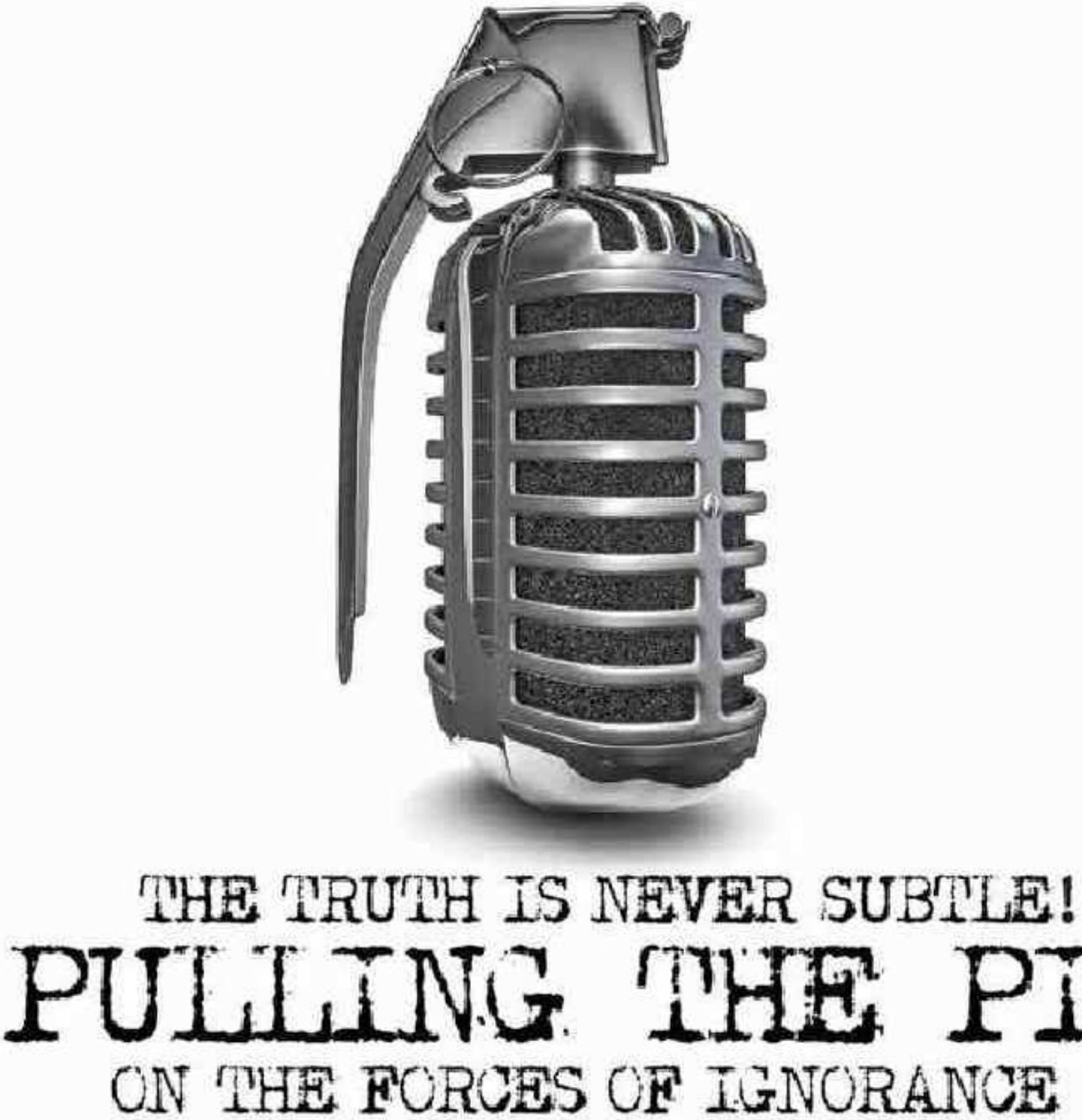
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»**YOUR SPOUSE DRAGGED YOU** to a performance of Shakespeare’s most annoying yet oddly popular play, “A Midsummer Night’s Dream.” You managed to stay awake, though with ribs bruised by an elbow each time you yawned. Still, the bottle of wine with friends afterward was enjoyable.

Now it’s almost midnight as you walk to your car, arm-in-arm with your spouse.

In the stairwell of the parking garage you suddenly hear footsteps pounding up the stairs. You turn to see two rough-looking young men. One of them is pointing a gun. You run. Your spouse runs.

Nothing like this has ever happened to you. You grab for your S&W Bodyguard .380 and open fire. But you’re moving and shaking, and so manage, with seven shots, to hit the cement wall and the exterior glass wall, even the metal hand-rail. You have an extra magazine, but you can’t seem to operate the latch. “Run!” you scream, but your spouse trips ...

You realize this is not going to end well.

THEORY OF THE BACKUP

The theory of the backup gun is different from that of general concealed carry.

A backup gun is extra life insurance. Like all insurance, it’s a pain until that once-in-a-lifetime moment when the F5 tornado strikes or the surgeon suggests that you gather the family prior to discussing test results.

The gun in your holster is a mechanical object. A spent round may stovepipe (fail to completely eject). The recoil spring may jam or break.

Although we all believe we are James Bond, cool under pressure, operator error causes most failures to perform. You may miss the target, even with 7, 10 or 12 shots. Then, without a backup gun, unless the cavalry arrives in rescue mode, you’re screwed.

Plus, there’s adrenaline. Mostly, there’s adrenaline.

Adrenaline is a damned tricky and powerful chemical. Consider this medical fact: “Endogenous plasma [normal blood] adrenaline concentrations in resting adults are normally

less than 10 ng/L [less than 10 nanograms per liter], but may increase with exercise and by fiftyfold during periods of stress.” Now, that’s significant, but it’s still less in volume than a shot of adrenaline.

When adrenaline drips down your face, your heart beats faster. Significant stress can make you fumble the easy-to-handle handgun safety latch or be unable to operate it in any case, takes time and effort.

In some situations—when you’re injured—a backup can be a lifesaver or an unarmed friend. A backup gun takes the nerve to shoot it out of your hand, but it will be the difference between continuing to advance on two

RULE ONE

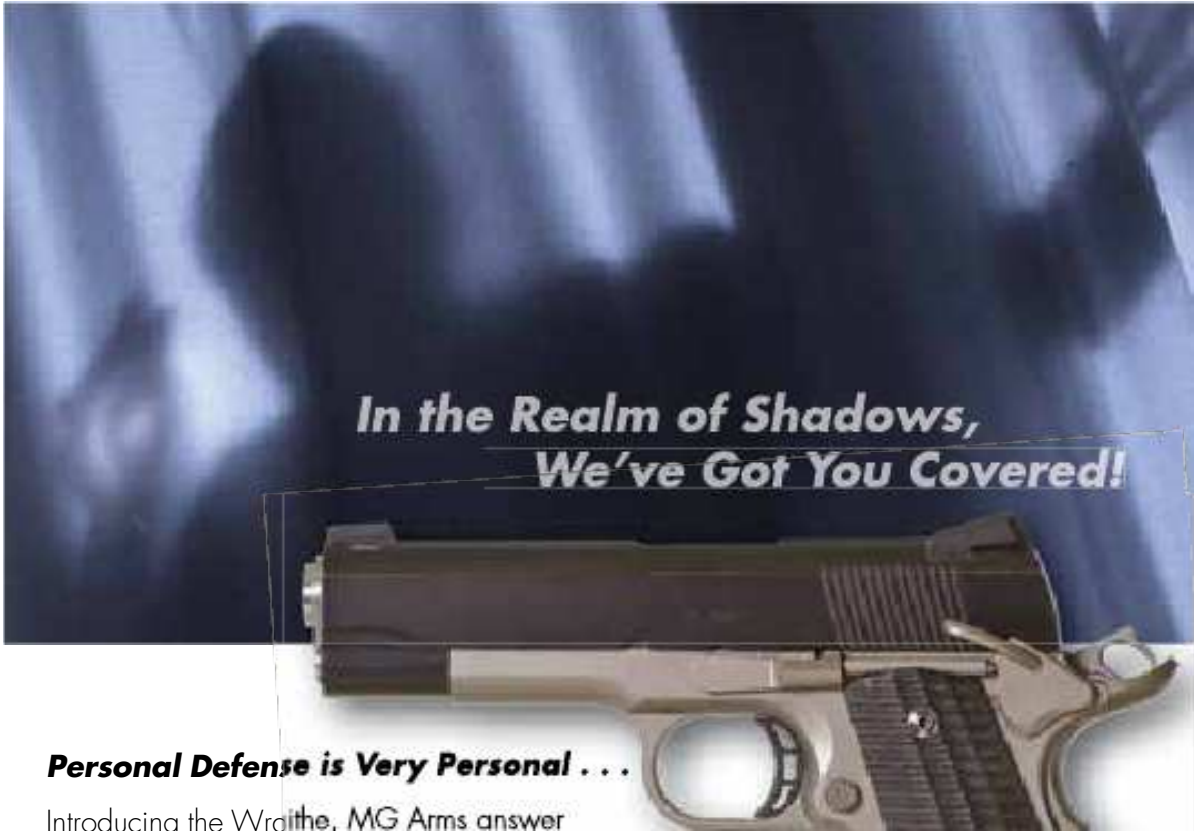
Should you buy a revolver? Whichever style you choose, Rule One: make it the style you’re most comfortable with. So different it’s almost impossible to compare them, a .357 Mag and a .45 S&W. Many unfortunate situations have to load and shoot to eliminate one of them in order to use a single caliber.

INDEPENDENT FACTORS

Handguns, both the revolver and the handgun, have come a long way. They are readily available in a range of small, lightweight, and powerful dozen effective calibers just right for a belly band, a purse or a belt clip. So, you make a good choice.

CARTRIDGE SIZE/STYLE

If cartridge size seems to be your choice of backup, Revolvers have enough room for anything short of a cannonball. You might prefer the .45 Mag from the S&W Custom



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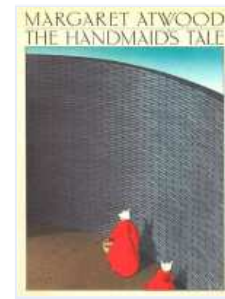


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plenty of firepower and stopping power with two 8+1 semis chambered in .45 ACP. There are plenty of new-fangled polymer pistols in large calibers like 9mm, .40 and .45. Pick one.

A 1.5-pound DAO like the Taurus CIA (6.5 inches long, 1.4 inches wide) makes an ideal backup revolver. Compact and lightweight, it has a fully enclosed hammer and low, smoothly rounded front sight so it won't hang-up in your pocket. The five-shot CIA is available in either .38 Special or .357 Magnum. Again, there are plenty of pocket revolvers available in everything from .32 Magnum through .357 Magnum. Again, pick one.

Backup advantage: draw.

### NUMBER OF ROUNDS/ PERFORMANCE POTENTIAL

A self-loader holds more bullets than a revolver. Period.

Glock's 30S chambered in .45 ACP has a 10-round magazine making it a 10+1 pistol. As a .45 it's not a tiny gun, especially when fully loaded, weighing 2 pounds. Super for concealed carry, especially if you're a large person or wearing bulky, winter-weight clothing, but for a backup, perhaps a bit on the large size at 7 inches OAL. Still, those extra shots could be lifesavers ... Heck, if you're big enough to carry a second full-size gun as a backup, try something like the 16-round S&W SW9VE Enhanced Sigma!

Some authorities argue that a .22 LR, effectively handled, is the best concealed carry caliber. A pistol like the Walther PPK/S.22 is 6 inches OAL, barely an inch wide and weighs 1.5 pounds empty. Not bad for a 10-round semi-auto. Evidence shows that an assailant, hit once, will often break off contact, so a compact, lightweight backup with lots of rounds may be better than a pistol with fewer rounds in a larger caliber, especially for a small person or someone who is tentative about firearms in the first place.

For revolvers, a good backup carry is the S&W 642 PowerPort. Weighing only 15 ounces unloaded, it's aluminum with a steel cylinder. Only a five-shot, the 642 is rated for .38 Special +P ammo which makes it, ballis-

### TRIGGER PULL

You don't think much about this normally, but in a tight situation when you need a backup and you're frightened, you don't want the backup to go off each time your hand shakes. A double-action only (DAO pistol – each pull of the trigger cocks and fires) has a longer, heavier trigger pull. Typically the pull will seem heavy, but in a self-defense situation, you will become strong very quickly and probably won't even notice the heavy trigger.

If a heavy trigger bothers you on the range, imagine a man lunging with a knife after you fumbled away your primary gun. In this case, you won't notice a long, heavy trigger pull. You'll grip the gun will all your might and rushing adrenaline will drown out small issues, but you won't shoot yourself in the leg, either. Consider a heavy pull a safety feature.

Backup advantage: draw.

### RELOADING

Reloading a semi-auto is normally much faster than reloading a revolver if the magazine is already full. But under stress you must press a latch and drop out the empty magazine, shove the fresh magazine into the grip (striking it to seat the rounds is optional), and then rack the slide to inject a bullet in the chamber.

Try reloading a revolver at night. Imagine you're huddled between cars in a dim parking garage. Someone is hunting you. You must open a hot cylinder, empty it quietly and place separate cartridges into round holes. Best practice this at home, making sure you keep your finger off the trigger. Even with speedloaders it takes longer to load a revolver than a semi-auto.

But you and a friend have gone to the movie. You strap on your primary concealed carry and then the backup. Are you also going to carry an extra magazine or a full speed loader or loose rounds? Not usually.

Backup advantage: semi-auto.

### OVERALL SIZE

You'll find that a semi-automatic pistol is

Browning is barely 4 inches high and weighs 10 ounces. It fires .25 ACP, arguably better than .38 S&W but delivering less than 100 foot-pounds of energy. The DAO 6+1 Glock is smaller than American Arms in .32 caliber but has a larger frame and weighs 1.5 pounds.

Backup advantage: semi-auto.

### TRAINING AND FAMILIARITY

Semi-automatic pistols require more training than revolvers. They have safeties, magazine release buttons or levers for disassembly. If you haven't trained regularly with a semi-auto, don't forget to thumb the safety before you shoot. Plus, semi-autos require more maintenance than revolvers. If not properly maintained, they can jam when shooting and they require more attention for being finicky with ammunition.

A revolver has three advantages: simplicity, reliability, and so easy to operate that a child can use it. You load cartridges into the cylinder, close it shut, point and pull the trigger.

Without training, anyone can operate a revolver. Pull the trigger without the possibility of a misfire. Okay, there is always a possibility a revolver is much simpler, but a semi-auto and a well-trained shooter with good ammo just work better. Also easy to clean and maintain in a situation with a burglar or a thief. You have to worry about safety with any other complexities. If you have a revolver is the best choice for a backup or won't dedicate the time and gun care.

But a revolver's ease of operation is also a disadvantage. If an untrained person has your revolver, they will be able to use it immediately. They won't be sloppily, magazine releases, and so on.

Backup advantage: revolver.

The results, based on the above, show the advantage going to the semi-auto.



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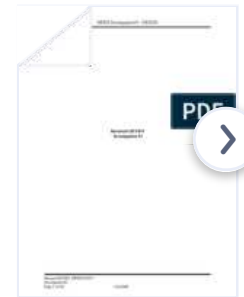
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» **SOME ARGUMENTS** may never be settled. The revolver vs automatic argument has been raging for a century and will not let up. The truth is, in some uses the revolver is the better choice.

The revolver seems better suited to the person who cannot quite get the practice they need. For many shooters economic reality and time make their options limited. The simplicity of the revolver is advantageous for these shooters. The double-action revolver is fairly simple to use. Manipulate the cylinder latch, open the cylinder, load or unload the revolver. Holster, draw and fire. The revolver may be checked visually or by feel to see if it is loaded. Reliability is the long suit of the revolver. While there are a number of self-loaders that are equally reliable and which may take more abuse than the revolver, the self-loader is vulnerable to shooter error. The revolver will fire even if not grasped correctly. You do not always get a perfect grip in a critical situation. An automatic pistol demands a certain power level for reliable function. Light loads may not function and heavy loads may batter the mechanism. A revolver will

fire light target loads and +P+ loads without concern for momentum. The revolver is brilliantly fast into action although this may depend much upon the means in which the revolver is deployed. The automatic tends to cling to the body, leaving little in the way of room for the hand to quickly acquire a firing grip when the piece is carried in deep cover. The revolver is more appealing to those who wish for a rapid presentation from inside the waistband or pocket carry. In a worst-case scenario the revolver may be fired from inside a pocket. The self-loader would jam after the first shot. The revolver may also be jammed into the adversary's body and be fired time and again without the danger of a jam. I have lost track of the instances in which individuals have fought off a bear or one of the big cats by using such a tactic. The self-loader just doesn't have this type of all around reliability under adverse conditions.

The revolver also i maintenance. A revolv but you do not have tazine springs and recoi hammer spring failing i it is quite rare. If ther board disadvantage to the fact that the big bo and heavy. It just isn't i tively conceal a .44 or although a few individu Guns and the like on a r in the hole for those pr er is the .357 Magnum Magnum may be chan compact, fast-handling these revolvers in partic to personal defense.

### ROSSI R46102

Since Rossi revolvers Taurus International ur significantly improvec technology is reflected volvers. The Rossi is am -shot .357 Magnum rev like many clones of Ame one isn't a copy but a Rossi isn't based upon & Wesson. The size is cl tective Special, among .38 Special revolvers. T pact frame size and a l the older revolvers and Smith & Wesson desig fluence of design to daily carry and The Rossi is a Magnum. The heavy barrel ti a special loc keeps the frame, a locks u and ti



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this allows the hammer to smack the transfer bar as the hammer falls. When the trigger is released the transfer bar drops and the hammer cannot touch the firing pin.

The grips are a marvel of design. In order to handle the recoil of the .357 Magnum, the rubber grips separate the hand from any metal. I have lost count of the thumbs I have seen injured at the joint from a hard kicking revolver's cylinder latch. The Rossi features a modern streamlined cylinder latch. Coupled with the ergonomically designed rubber grips, this is an amazingly comfortable handgun to fire. The action is as smooth as any modern double-action revolver, the sights are broad and easily acquired quickly, and the Rossi has a natural heft that most find pleasing. This is a holster gun, not a pocket gun. The Rossi has proven as accurate as most 4-inch barrel revolvers during our testing. As an all around defensive handgun for the go-anywhere, do-anything role, this revolver has great promise.

SHOTS FIRED

I teach students to dry fire the revolver every week. It is all about application. Press the trigger straight to the rear and allow it to reset with the same cadence given to each action: press, reset, press, reset, taking care to keep the sights on the target. On the range, much of the firing is accomplished with .38 Special target loads. At present, among the best buys is the Black Hills remanufactured 'Blue Box' line. The 158-grain SWC doesn't kick hard and is accurate enough for meaningful practice. This is the proven program for mastering the .357 Magnum. The cadence of fire isn't set by how quickly you are able to yank the trigger but by how quickly you are able to reacquire the sights after recoil. The ratio in practice of five .38s for every one Magnum works well. I believe that firing at small targets at known and

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« Strong and Rossi R461 service as a hols pocket revolver. gun well wor









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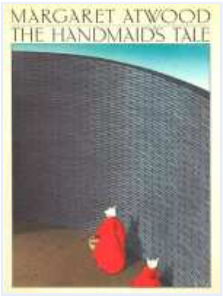
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### NO BULL WITH TAU

For those wishing for a compact revolver for pocket use or concealed carry, Glock offers the 605, also in .38 S&W. The revolver is built upon the proven Glock 85 action and frame. The hammer is a five-shot barrel and handguard. When the five-shot barrel was introduced, it was a powerful cartridge in a compact size. After a barrel change to .357, it became a cult to collectors and is considered one of the best ever put out.



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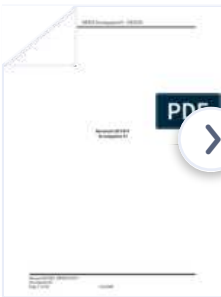
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necessary. The cadence of fire isn't as rapid as with a self-loader but the Magnum hits hard and this revolver carries light. With reasonable loads and the well-designed rubber grips, the 605 is controllable and comfortable to fire. The best choices are the medium velocity loads specifically designed for personal defense. Among these are the Hornady Critical Defense and the Remington Golden Saber. Loaded sensibly lighter than full power Magnum loads but stronger than the .38 Special +P, these are good personal defense loads with excellent wound potential.

« Try this with an auto-loader. Multiple rounds fired right through the pocket of jacket. Not much for accuracy, but at extreme close quarters this will get the job done.

The Taurus 605 isn't as easy to shoot well as its larger stable mate, but with concentration upon the sights, the 605 is accurate enough to strike a man-sized target in the X ring on demand. The action is the smoothest of any small revolver of any make. The spurless hammer makes for a snag-free drawn when the revolver is carried in a first class holster such as the Sideguard pocket holster. The 605 is an important part of my defensive battery. Whether carried when hiking in rural areas for defense against feral dogs and the big cats or for discreet carry in an urban environment, there are few handguns that offer such a desirable ratio of power per ounce.

These revolvers are light enough, reliable, accurate and chamber a fight-stopping cartridge. They are a new baseline in revolvers. Well made of good material and capable of performance unheard of a generation ago, they are well worth your time and effort to master.

« This holster from Three Speed puts the Taurus front and just off center, ready for instant action.





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



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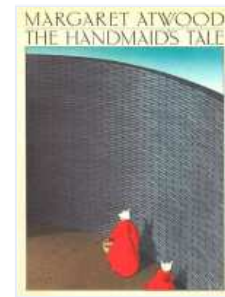


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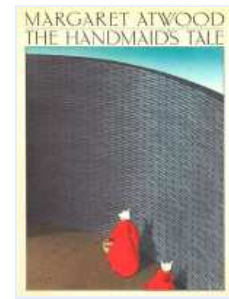
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# THE RULES GOVERNING THE USE OF DEADLY FORCE

» **IN THE LAST ISSUE**, I discussed several important legal concepts, including what the “reasonable person” test actually meant, and how prosecutors will typically review any case where deadly force has been used (and where the shooter is claiming self-defense). In that article, I referred to a common standard used by prosecutors when determining if a shooting was justifiable. That standard is:

*Deadly force may only be used when there is an immediate, and unavoidable danger of death or great/grave bodily harm to an innocent person, where no other option exists other than the use of deadly force.*

As I mentioned in that article, the statement above may sound relatively straightforward, but unfortunately, each state will provide further legal definitions for what each component of that statement means, including what it means to be “innocent,” what “immediate” means, and what “great” (or “grave”) bodily harm means. In this issue, I’m going to review what each of those definitions typically means and doesn’t mean. I’ll also spend some time discussing how the use of deadly force might be viewed differently when you are in a public place versus your own home, and I’ll close with a short discussion on how states typically view cases where force has been used to protect property.

## THE RULES GOVERNING THE USE OF DEADLY FORCE

While statutory and case law will vary from state to state, most states boil their deadly force laws down to four “rules” that

or great/grave bodily harm. Great or grave bodily harm is a significant or life-threatening injury.

- Must be an innocent party. You cannot be seen as the person who started or escalated the conflict.

- No lesser force is sufficient or available to stop the threat. If you can stop a threat with something less than deadly force, you are required to.

- Must have no reasonable means of retreat or escape. If you can retreat, you must. However, you are not required to place yourself or a loved one in greater danger by retreating.\*

\*The obligation to retreat has been removed in a number of states through enhanced “Castle Doctrine” laws; however, it is your obligation to understand your rights and obligations under your state’s laws.

Those of you who are fortunate enough to live in one of the 26 states that has passed enhanced “Castle Doctrine” or “Stand Your Ground” laws in the past decade are probably questioning why I included rule #4 in the list above, and the simple answer is that since not all states have eliminated this rule, I’ll

## WHAT IT USUALLY

- You must pass the test. The prosecutor felt that he or she was in immediate fear of death or great bodily harm in the same situation.

- This rule applies to yourself or another person.

- The threat must be imminent. The attacker must have the immediate opportunity to carry out the threat to injure or kill you.

- Great or grave bodily harm is a measurement that im-



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### WHAT IT USUALLY DOESN'T MEAN:

- It is not necessary that the attacker(s) have a weapon. Depending on the relative number, size and/or strength of the attacker(s) and the victim (what would be called a "disparity of force"), the measurement of great/grave bodily harm might be met even though the attacker is unarmed.
- Distance is not critical. If you cannot retreat, you are not required to wait until an attacker is close enough to injure or kill you before you are authorized to use deadly force.

**Rule #2:** *Must be an innocent party. You cannot be seen as the person who started or escalated the conflict.*

### WHAT IT USUALLY MEANS:

- In a deadly force situation, you cannot be seen as the aggressor. That is, you must not be the person who started or escalated the conflict.
- The prosecutor will not only analyze the timeline of the incident itself, he or she will also want to go back in time before the incident occurred to understand whether or not you knew the attacker, whether there was bad blood between you, and if there are any witnesses or evidence (prior arrests, etc.) to suggest that you're not as innocent as you claim to be.

### WHAT IT USUALLY DOESN'T MEAN:

- It doesn't mean that you are barred from everyday disagreements, but it does mean that if you see the situation escalating, you must disengage, allowing the situation to de-escalate.

### WHAT IT USUALLY MEANS:

- If you can stop a threat with something less than deadly force, you are required to. For example, if a reasonable person would have expected that you could have stopped an attack with your hands (or the pepper spray that you chose to carry), the prosecutor may not agree that deadly force was justifiable.
- You are required to stop using deadly force as soon as the threat of death or great bodily harm has ended. For example, if three bullets stop an attack, the fourth bullet could be considered a crime.
- Relative size and strength of the attacker(s) and/or victim matter. For example, a large man being attacked by an unarmed, much smaller woman, may have lesser-force alternatives rather than resorting to deadly force. In the reverse scenario, the disparity of force may mean that the smaller woman might have no alternative other than immediately resorting to deadly force.

### WHAT IT USUALLY DOESN'T MEAN:

- You are not required to try other methods before using deadly force; you are simply expected to consider alternatives, and to only use deadly force when no other option is sufficient.

**Rule #4:** *Must have no reasonable means of retreat or escape. If you can retreat, you must. However, you are not required to place yourself or a loved one in greater danger by retreating.*

### WHAT IT USUALLY MEANS:

- Many states' laws require that if you

the attacker has a firearm impossible to try to "out you are in a location whi to escape, such as a room is blocking the exit.

- The obligation to retr example, if you are able to such that it opens up escape safely, you must r

### WHAT IT USUALLY D

- The "escape" rule doe cannot have been travel direction at any point d (for example, it doesn't ba toward a person whom committed, or is about to although it's good practi that type of situation); it at the moment a threat still have an ability to es you should escape.

- You are not expecte bad situation to a worse if your only means of retr freeway, you are not expe in greater danger by retr

- You are not expect leave behind a companio situation. That is, if yc attacker, you are not exp means leaving a compani Before moving on, I'd like on the "obligation to retrea a number of states, throu Doctrine or "Stand Your G I applaud the state legisl these laws through, I alway



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retreat” argument—will simply rework their argument with something like, “Now as you know, the defendant had no legal obligation to retreat from the parking garage after he started the altercation with the victim, but he did have an obligation to be an innocent party. As you can see on the photos from the crime scene, the defendant was just steps away from a doorway exiting the garage, yet he chose not to take that exit, and instead, he decided to stay in the garage and continue the fight. That doesn’t sound to me as though the defendant was an innocent party, and based upon that fact, you must choose to convict.” As you’ll notice, a prosecutor could simply change their argument from rule #4 to rule #2 using the same facts. Bottom line, even if you live in a state where the obligation to retreat has been removed, don’t view this as a “get out of jail free” card if you are involved in an altercation in public. While it may not be a legal requirement in your state to retreat, it is good practical advice to remove yourself from a confrontation you’re able to do so safely.

USING DEADLY FORCE TO DEFEND YOUR HOME

State laws governing the use of deadly force in defense of our homes (or defense of ourselves or our families while in our homes) generally provide a lower threshold when

compared to the lawful use of deadly force outside the home. That difference is derived from the belief that “our home is our castle,” and laws making that distinction are often referred to as Castle Doctrine laws (which as mentioned, are being strengthened in a number of states). While the generally accepted rule for the use of deadly force outside the home is to prevent “death or great/grave bodily harm,” most state laws authorize a use of force deadly inside the home when the occupant is attempting to end or prevent a felony in the home. What exactly a “felony” is will vary from state to state, and of course, the prosecutor gets to apply his or her interpretation after the fact. Most states also make a distinction between inside and outside the home when it comes to the requirement to retreat. Outside the home, 24 states still require the potential victim to retreat if retreat is safe and practical; inside the home, that is generally not a requirement.

When it comes to the applicability of “defense of home” laws versus the general use of force laws, state laws also vary when it comes to defining exactly what the “home” is. Some states will only include the physical structure of your home or apartment, while other states may include detached buildings (such as garages or

storage sheds) and other locations where you may be, such as a hotel, motel, or vacation home. Because of the variety of laws, the “reasonable person” standard usually apply in any defense. I recommend that you consult with an attorney when defending your home.

- If an intruder is in the home, attempt to locate him by calling 911. Instead, barricade yourself in a safe location, call 911, and wait for the police to arrive. There is no time only that you should not be advancing through your home, a room or rooms, and the bad guy is between you and the door. Otherwise you should not expend energy on defending your home until the police arrive.
- If an intruder is outside the home, in your garage, in your driveway, or attempting to steal your car, call 911 and only use force to protect the lives of your family.

WHAT ABOUT USING DEADLY FORCE TO DEFEND PROPERTY?

While most states’ laws allow the use of deadly force to protect property (such as being stolen), they typically do not allow the use of deadly force. The law generally requires that you voluntarily step into a situation where you intend to use force to protect the situation escalates to the point where you are forced to use deadly force on yourself, the prosecutor will argue that you violated the “innocent person” rule. They could argue that you used force to protect the property (rather than your life (which is the intent of that, my recommendation is not to use force to protect property. I recommend that you get out of the house or stay in a safe location. I will illustrate the differences between a “defense of property” and a “defense of the person” analogy asks us, “What would





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# DENIED A CHANCE

» WHAT HAPPENS when government gets in your way.

Here are some quotes, including my own, from inside the cover of Nikki Goeser's newly released book, *Denied a Chance*.

*"Denied the ability to carry her gun for self-defense by the state when she and her husband needed it most, Nikki successfully fought to change the laws in Tennessee in the wake of her husband's brutal murder. Thank God for American Patriots and freedom fighters like Nikki Goeser."*

**Mark Walters**

*"Anti-gun laws and the restaurant no-carry laws that some states have created drive unintended consequences. What happened to Nikki Goeser should not have happened."*

**Dick Heller, Supreme Court victor of Heller v. DC,**

*"Denied a Chance is essential reading for anyone who objectively wishes to understand the concealed carry movement and the foremost of human rights, that of self-defense."*

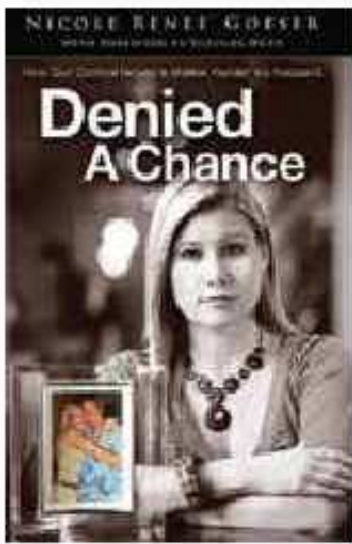
**Self-defense expert, Massad Ayoob**

There are more quotes from others including former Texas state legislator and survivor of the Luby's Cafeteria massacre, Suzanna Hupp, the NRA's Cam Edwards, NY Times bestselling author of *More Guns, Less Crime*, Dr. John Lott, etc. but you get the idea. Maybe you've heard of Ms. Goeser, maybe you haven't, but her story is one worth reading. One of the most asked questions we (myself and the USCCA customer service) receive via email is "What

gun would somehow magically jump out of its holster and attack fellow patrons simply because alcohol and food were together on the same menu. This type of feel-good, gun-free zone gets people killed.

At some point, one would think that some of the brain-challenged gun-haters would be forced to admit that criminals break the law. That's right you gun-hating zealots: Criminals break the law. (I will keep reminding you that virtually ALL gun-hating zealots identify with the Democratic party. Don't you just hate pesky inconvenient facts?) The problem being that admitting such would require intellectual honesty, something very hard to find in the mainstream, progressive, Democratic party these days when it comes to lots of things, particularly guns and gun control.

Nikki's tragic case is just one more example of gun-hating ideology getting in the way of your right to defend yourself and those you love. Nikki watched as her husband was brutally murdered, shot in the head inside a gun-free zone...by a criminal...who ignored the law...and took his gun...with criminal intent... to commit murder... into that gun-free zone. While the criminal was walking past the



of national and has crotic. She spe violence c steps and . Any opport she talks! that she no the halls of state house suggesting reading this self or hers tent, but th

of things you can do to hi freedom-haters and anti-g have dedicated themsel away your rights. Keep in r haters will never stop.





One of the most effect can do is write a letter, in y and send it to the editor o per every time you see an a hand-written letter is alwa desk and opened.) They m may not, but that is irreleva the anti-gun editor has re important. He or she now being watched and called . Keep writing every time yo stop there! Do the same thi state and federal representa ter that it might be Nancy l Schumer. Make them see y



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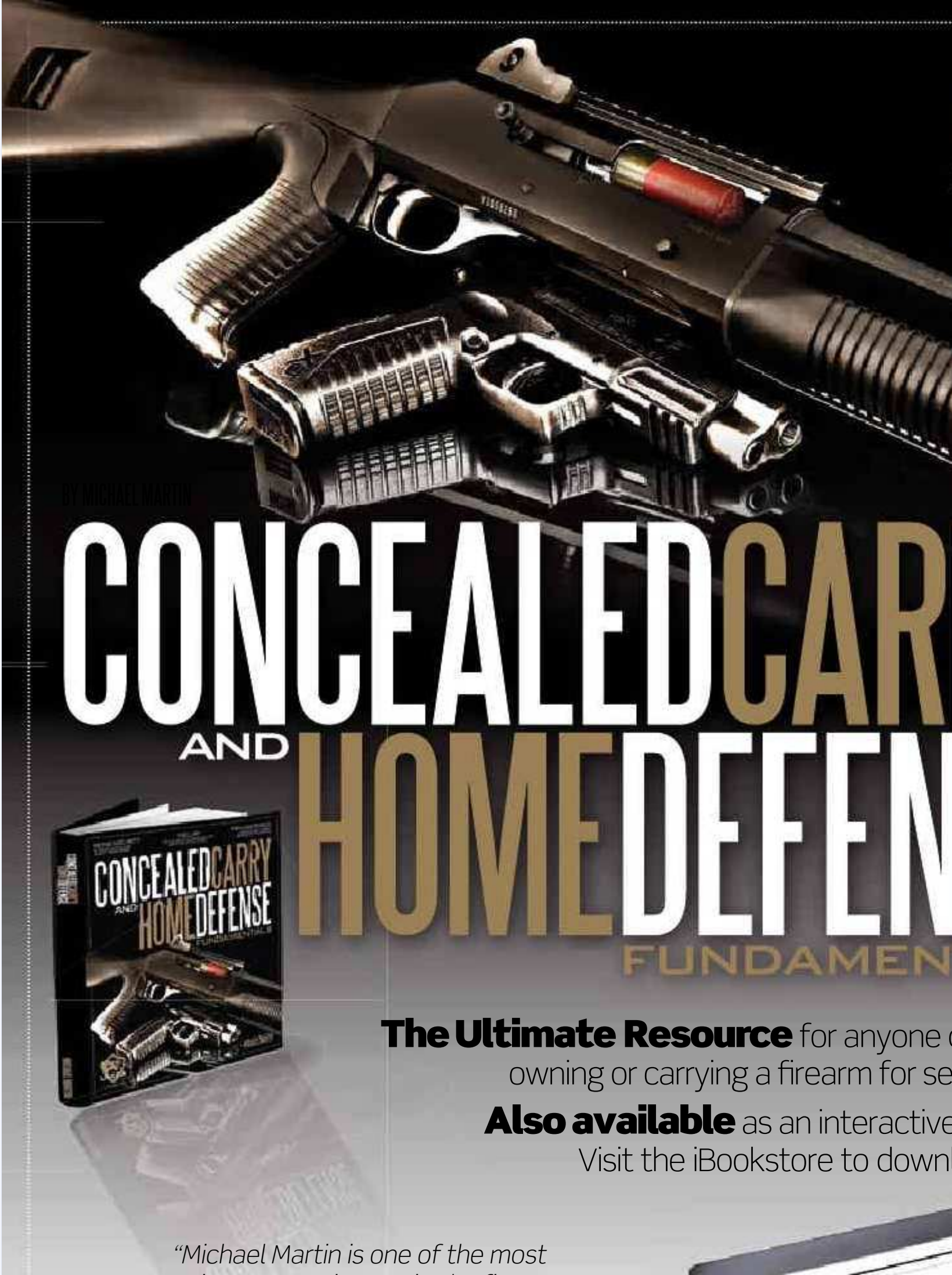
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BY MICHAEL MARTIN

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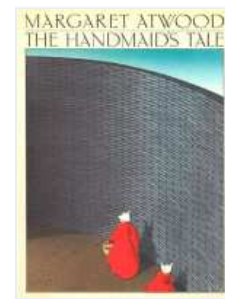


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