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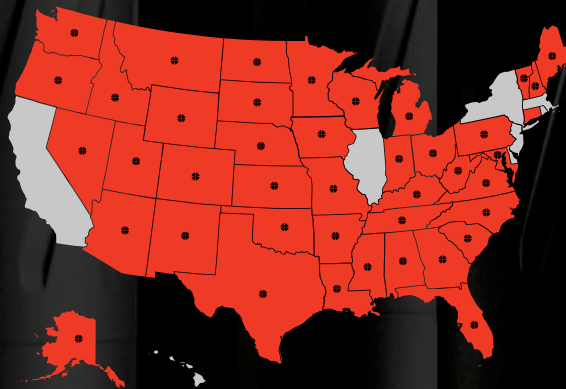
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December 2024

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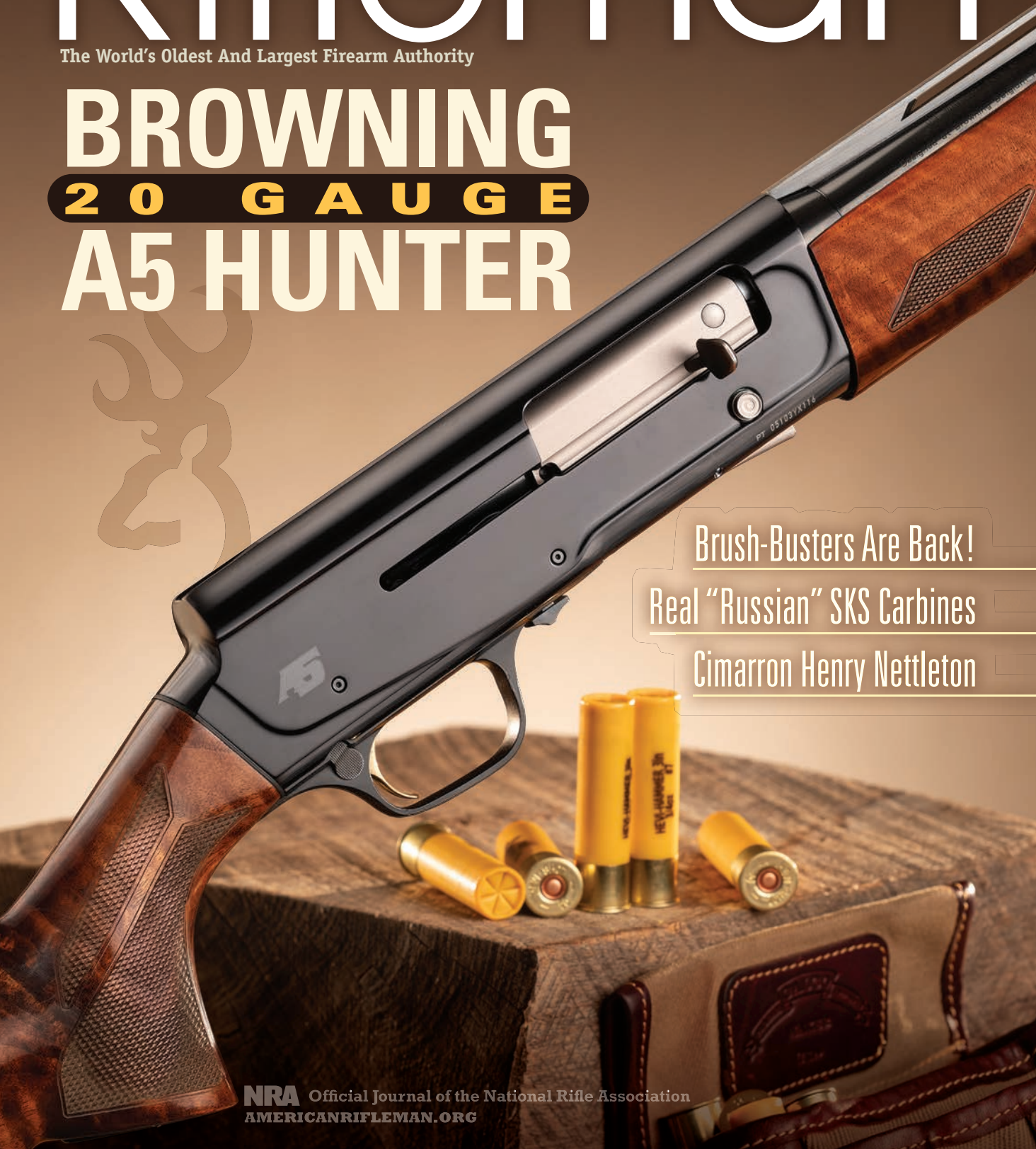
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The SKS was a highly sought-after bring-back for our troops returning from Vietnam, but many of the rifles believed at the time to be the genuine Russian article have since been discovered to actually be licensed copies from other countries. Can you tell the difference?

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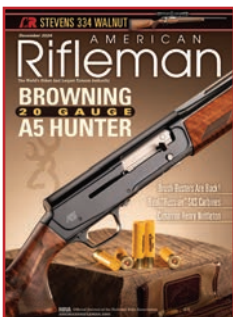
AMERICAN  RIFLEMAN
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 138th Year of Publication

DECEMBER 2024
 VOLUME 172,
 No. 12

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

features

- One Last Biden Executive Order On Guns. 18**
 Randy Kozuch No matter the result of this election, we need to continue to stand together to defend our fundamental rights. Those who seek to implement the false promises of gun control aren’t giving up, and neither can we.
- A Lightweight Hammer: Browning’s A5 Hunter 20 Gauge.. . . . 32**
 Mark A. Keefe, IV A new rendition of the modern A5 shrinks the bore to 20 gauge but manages to deliver the finest-swinging and softest-shooting gun in a new generation of Brownings.
- Brush-Busters Are Back! 36**
 Craig Boddington Some hunters still need hard-hitting, close-range cartridges, and the recent introductions outlined here validate the existence of several favorite old-timers.
- Will The Real Russian SKS Please Stand Up? 42**
 George Layman During the Vietnam War, many SKS carbines were recorded as being “Russian” in origin, but recent research by archivists and collectors has proven that licensed copies of the SKS from other countries were also brought into North Vietnam.



THE COVER: Editorial Director Mark Keefe is a big fan of both the Browning A5 Hunter and the 20 gauge. Turn to p. 32 to read his impressions after several trips to the range with this modern inertia-powered semi-automatic chambered for his favorite gauge, shown here with Hevi-Shot’s 3”, No. 7 Hevi-Hammer Dove load.



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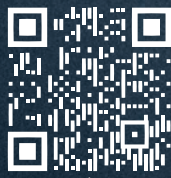
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americanrifleman.org/ww2trophies

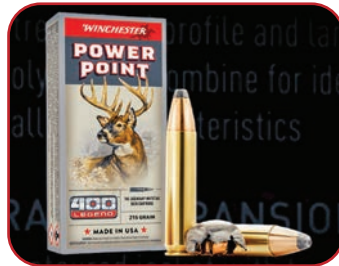


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December 11

Hornady Cartridge Development; Taurus Model 605 Executive Series In .357 Mag.;
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December 18

Making Winchester's 400 Legend; Rock River Arms Production M1911 In .45 ACP;
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On a recent trip to Tucson, we spoke with fourth generation turquoise traders who explained that less than five percent of turquoise mined worldwide can be set into jewelry and only about twenty mines in the Southwest supply gem-quality turquoise. Once a thriving industry, many Southwest mines have run dry and are now closed.

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THE RIFLEMAN REPORT



BROWNING A5 HUNTER 20 GAUGE

No doubt many shooters, especially new ones, find cartridge designations confusing. After all, a variety of means have been used through the years to establish them, including, but not limited to: projectile diameter in inches or millimeters; grain weight of blackpowder charge; year of introduction; and, in some cases, arbitrary marketing jargon. Add to those the gauge numbers assigned to shotguns, which are derived from an antiquated and seemingly arcane formula in which the larger number, counterintuitively, indicates the smaller bore size.

For instance, 12 gauge—the most popular shotshell size in America by far, thanks to its capacious hull and versatile loadings, and despite its reputation for rather stout recoil—is called that in reference to the number of balls that could be formed for its 0.729"-diameter bore from 1 lb. of lead.

With that methodology in mind, it's easy to understand why the 20-ga. shotshell is not only smaller, with a bore size of 0.615", but less capable of holding as large a payload as a 12-ga. shell of equal length. The upside is that the 20 gauge, though trailing in range and on-target performance, produces less recoil even when propelled at the same velocity as that of its larger brother—no insignificant factor in its claim as the second-best-selling shotshell size in America.

Bearing all that in mind, and deliberately avoiding the near-limitless topic of choke constrictions, it's perhaps not surprising that several references to the popular 20 gauge have coalesced in this issue.

In "A Lightweight Hammer: Browning's A5 Hunter 20 Gauge" (p. 32), Editorial Director Mark Keefe evaluates the newest rendition of that company's modern "Humpback," which visually harks to John M. Browning's original 12-ga. Auto 5. However, the new scattergun incorporates an entirely different operating mechanism that allows it to handle today's wide variety of shells without swapping out components and still managing to deliver, in his words, "the finest-swinging and softest-shooting gun in a new generation of Brownings."

Other nods to the 20 gauge can be found in this month's Questions & Answers (p. 30) and Handloads (p. 48) departments. And while the former confirms that the 20 gauge does have its payload limitations, the latter reminds us that it is more than capable of getting the job done, especially when recoil-sensitive shooters are learning to hunt upland game. So, while the 20-ga. shell may be second place in sales, it's by no means second-class and is likely to be with us for many years to come.

In "Brush-Busters Are Back!" (p. 36) big-game hunter and *American Rifleman* contributor Craig Boddington applies his decades of field experience to explaining the practical benefits of classic and newcomer straight-wall cartridges and what they bring to the table in a market seemingly overrun by high-velocity, long-range chamberings. Challenging the traditional notion that such cartridges "buck" brush, he nonetheless recognizes their value in hitting hard and putting down game on the spot.

Then, in "Will The Real Russian SKS Please Stand Up?" (p. 42), author George Layman explains that, during the Vietnam War, many of the SKS carbines chambered in 7.62x39 mm—a cartridge so designated for its bullet diameter and case length—were incorrectly recorded as being Russian in origin. He then relays how recent research by archivists and collectors has proven that other licensed copies of the SKS—including examples from Romania and East Germany—were also brought into North Vietnam.

Whether for new shooters or lifetime gun aficionados, learning about the nuances of cartridges and firearms and what makes them unique is a worthwhile and interesting endeavor that can increase our enjoyment of, and appreciation for, America's rich Second Amendment heritage. Just be careful—it just might become a passion.

—BRIAN C. SHEETZ, EDITOR IN CHIEF



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Three teenagers set up a hunting blind and decoys early in the morning on Sept. 21 in St. Germain, Wis. As dawn broke, one of the teens thought he saw a deer coming near, but the animal turned out to be a wolf. That wolf was still about 40 yards away, but the teens quickly spotted another one very close behind them, and they realized they were surrounded by a pack. The oldest teen, a 19-year-old, got his gun ready and, when a wolf continued to approach and was 8-10 yards away, fired once and killed it. The wolf that had been behind the teens then circled around and dragged off the carcass. The teens immediately reported the incident to the Department of Natural Resources. Another hunter who'd been positioned in the area confirmed he'd seen at least nine wolves surrounding the teens. (wjfw.com, Rhinelander, Wis., 9/24/24)

On Aug. 31, a 59-year-old man in Waiānae, Hawaii, began ramming a front-end loader into multiple vehicles at a residence where a family gathering was taking place, then shot at several people who were in the carport, killing three women and injuring two others. The man—a neighbor who'd had disagreements with the family—also reportedly shot rounds into four 55-gallon drums of fuel he had on the front-end loader. A 42-year-old resident in the home retrieved his own gun and shot and killed the assailant. The armed citizen was briefly detained but charges against him were soon dropped. (kpua.net, Hilo, Hawaii, 9/20/24)

After visiting a casino, a woman in Abington, Pa., returned to her home around 1 a.m. on Sept. 24. An unknown man, who had apparently followed her knowing she had cash from the casino, allegedly forced his way into her home, pushing her down and pointing a gun at her. The woman's cries woke her adult son, who grabbed his firearm and ran to her aid. The son shot the suspect in the arm and torso, whereupon he attempted to flee but collapsed on the home's lawn. Police sent the suspect to the hospital and then arrested him on charges of robbery, aggravated assault, burglary and carrying a firearm without a license. One officer told reporters he believed the woman was targeted. "I would say if you are at a casino and you win money, take some precautions. ... There are bad guys who put a lot of work into this." (cbsnews.com, Philadelphia, Pa., 9/24/24)

In Nashville, Tenn., around 7:45 p.m. on Oct. 1, an armed robber allegedly approached a man and told him to remove his clothing. The man began to comply, but when the suspect became distracted, the victim instead drew a firearm and shot the purported assailant twice. The suspect was

transported to the hospital with non-life-threatening injuries. (wkrn.com, Nashville, Tenn., 10/2/24)

Two men allegedly broke into a home in Camden County, Mo., around 3 a.m. on Oct. 2. A resident in the home shot one of the burglars—a 44-year-old man—killing him; the other suspect fled in a dark vehicle and was still being sought by law enforcement. An officer told reporters that no charges were expected to be filed against the armed citizen: "Essentially, what the Castle Doctrine says, is that if you're in fear for your life, you do have the right to protect yourself. And I'll let the attorneys get into the weeds on that. But that's the long and the short of it and in this situation, I think that we're going to find it." (ozarksfirst.com, Springfield, Mo., 10/7/24)

On Oct. 5 in Columbus, Ohio, a 32-year-old man allegedly tried to run over three people who were standing on their lawn because he was enraged about an unspecified argument they'd had. One of the people was armed, however, and managed to shoot the suspect before anyone was struck by the vehicle. The suspect was treated at a nearby hospital and charged with three counts of felonious assault. (dispatch.com, Columbus, Ohio, 10/6/24)

A 58-year-old man in Houston, Texas, was in a business parking lot just before 7 a.m. on Oct. 10 when he was apparently approached by a man who allegedly attempted to rob him at gunpoint. The victim, however, was also armed and shot the suspect, killing him. The armed citizen was not wounded. However, an investigation into the incident was still ongoing at press time. (cityofhouston.news, Houston, Texas, 10/11/24)



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By Doug Hamlin
NRA Executive
Vice President & CEO

The NRA Comeback

As this magazine goes to the printer, Election Day is right before us, but by the time the U.S. Postal Service will have delivered it to your mailbox, all the votes should have been counted. This gives me the chance to step back for a moment to tell you something that needs to be said.

First, I hope you know you are the backbone of this association. You are a member. That is no small thing. You're standing up for our freedom. A large and active membership is what makes the NRA formidable. Our members are why politicians listen to us. The NRA's millions of members impact elections and how politicians vote when they are in office, as they know we are watching and that there are a lot of us.

With that said, as we reach the end of 2024, it is important to remember that NRA membership also comes with a lot of benefits and opportunities but also some responsibilities. And, as you're a member, you need to know the state of our programs and services and about changes to parts of this association as we revamp and reorganize into the NRA 2.0.

To keep up with legislative and legal battles, you should be checking into nraila.org often. Also, if you haven't, sign up for Grassroots Alerts (nraila.org/grassroots-alerts) to be emailed to you. To find events near you to enjoy and support, go to nrailafrontlines.com/calendar. This team has stayed strong through COVID and other challenges as the legislative and legal attacks on our freedom intensified during the Biden administration. There are too many success stories and ongoing battles to detail here, but please know that because of your support, we are on Capitol Hill and in state legislatures across the country looking out for you.

For a time, the pandemic halted most NRA competitions, but we are back and growing again. Go to competitions.nra.org for details on NRA National Matches, the NRA World Shoot, Collegiate Championships, details on how to register a tournament, new competitions and so much more. Go to yhec.nra.org for details on the NRA's Youth Hunter Education Challenge. Go to NRA Shooting Sports USA's website (ssusa.org) to find competitions in various shooting disciplines, to keep up with competitors in your favorite shooting sports and more.

The pandemic certainly impacted our shows, but that is behind us. Go to nraam.org for details on the NRA's Annual Meetings & Exhibits. In 2025, the show will be in Atlanta, Ga., from April 24-27. This show has great music, major speakers, gun manufacturers and more showcasing their products and many associated NRA events. Go to explore.nra.org/interests/events-and-entertainment to see many of the shows and exhibits in one place. You can find details on the Great American Outdoor

Show (February 1-9) in Harrisburg, Pa., at greatamericanoutdoorshow.org. Our shows have had record attendances and too many attractions to begin to list here.

Like many public gatherings, Friends of NRA was massively affected by COVID, but these fun dinners and auctions are back and going strong. Go to friendsofnra.org for details on events near you or to sponsor or begin your own event. With more than 600 of these events each year across the nation, Friends of NRA events are a major way the NRA Foundation raises money for local and national grants for youth programs, gun ranges and so much more. Plus, they bring freedom-loving Americans together and often include silent auctions and other attractions.

The number of NRA-supported clubs and ranges has fallen in recent years. The pandemic was hard on their events—but here, too, we have turned the corner. Go to explore.nra.org/programs/clubs for details on affiliated clubs and ranges to join or help. The NRA Clubs & Associations Department provides services and assistance to a network of more than 8,500 NRA affiliated clubs, associations and businesses. Meanwhile, NRA Range Services (rangeservices.nra.org) offers resources to public and private ranges across the country, including on-site assistance, educational seminars and grants.

With more than 3,000 guns on display in 15 galleries and 85 exhibit cases, NRA's National Firearms Museum at NRA HQ in Fairfax, Va., tells the story of more than 700 years of gun history. At the Bass Pro Shops in Springfield, Mo., is NRA's National Sporting Arms Museum, which includes a "Timeline of American Sporting Arms." Check nramuseum.org for hours and dates. Both are worth a visit.

To help people get started in the shooting sports, hunting or self-defense, check out nrafamily.org. It has great articles, videos and other resources to help. Indeed, all of NRA Media's properties (a1f.com, americanhunter.org, americanrifleman.org, nrawomen.com and shootingillustrated.com) have deep wells of gun reviews, how-to advice, video interviews and more that are just a click away.

With this list of NRA resources—all thanks to your support—I have jumped over a lot, as there is just too much to mention. I encourage you to explore all the resources mentioned here and linked in these websites. It is too easy for us to get busy and overlook all the opportunities that membership in this association brings. It can also be too easy to forget the responsibility we have to invite non-members to the range or to tell them about this critical part of our freedom.

So, take another look at all the NRA has to offer and share the great news that we are back and growing again!



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This 16" full tang stainless steel blade is not for the faint of heart —now **ONLY \$99!**

In the blockbuster film, when a strapping Australian crocodile hunter and a lovely American journalist were getting robbed at knife point by a couple of young thugs in New York, the tough Aussie pulls out his dagger and says "That's not a knife, THIS is a knife!" Of course, the thugs scattered and he continued on to win the reporter's heart.

Our Aussie friend would approve of our rendition of his "knife." Forged of high grade 420 surgical stainless steel, this knife is an impressive 16" from pommel to point. And, the blade is full tang, meaning it runs the entirety of the knife, even though part of it is under wraps in the natural bone and wood handle.

Secured in a tooled leather sheath, this is one impressive knife, with an equally impressive price.

This fusion of substance and style can garner a high price tag out in the marketplace. In fact, we found full tang, stainless steel blades with bone handles in excess of \$2,000. Well, that won't cut it around here. We have mastered the hunt for the best deal, and in turn pass the spoils on to our customers.

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Sneaky Ways Cities Are Trying To Stop Constitutional Carry

Constitutional—or, in today’s parlance, “permitless”—carry has taken the country by storm in recent years, with 29 states no longer requiring lawful gun owners to ask the government’s permission (and have to pay a fee, of course) in order to exercise their Second Amendment-protected right to bear arms in public for self-defense.

While this is good news, it is at the same time shameful that it takes legislation and governors’ signatures for law-abiding citizens to be able to do what the Founders meant when placing that guarantee front and center in the Bill of Rights.

Considering the pervasive gun-control mentality that has come to infect many big cities across the country, however, it is not surprising that some are engaged in sneaky maneuvers to undercut state constitutional-carry laws. Take “The Big Easy,” New Orleans, La.

Louisiana’s governor, Jeff Landry, signed the state’s constitutional-carry law into effect on March 5. Barely four months later, in July, the New Orleans police superintendent designated a police station in the French Quarter as a “school,” resulting in a 1,000-foot “gun-free” zone that banned carry in the immediate area, which just happened to include a stretch of popular Bourbon Street. Thankfully, this underhanded ploy was thwarted following a meeting the police chief had with Louisiana Attorney General Liz Murrill.

A similar situation popped up shortly afterward in Lafayette, La. The University of Louisiana Lafayette Science Museum in downtown Lafayette was designated as a “school” and carry was banned, despite Murrill declaring that the museum was not a school under state law. Regardless, the city’s mayor deferred to the University of Louisiana Lafayette’s declaration that the museum, owned by the City of Lafayette, is part of its campus and thus a firearm-free zone.

Louisiana State Sen. Blake Miguez, author of Louisiana’s constitutional-carry legislation, has publicly pushed back against this blatant civil-rights infringement and has requested that Murrill craft an official opinion on the definition of “school property.”

We’ll see what happens with that, but it is not only cities in Louisiana that are involved in sneaky schemes to curtail carry rights in jurisdictions that have passed constitutional-carry laws.

In September, Montgomery, Ala., Mayor Steven Reed signed a gun-control ordinance requiring a valid photo identification to carry

a concealed firearm in a vehicle or on one’s person in the city. Alabama Attorney General Steve Marshall quickly released a statement saying: “This egregious local gun control measure runs directly counter to the state’s firearm preemption statute and is an attempt at an end-around constitutional carry.”

Meanwhile, back in July, city leaders in Memphis, Tenn., approved several anti-gun measures to appear on the ballot—including one that would require a permit to carry in Memphis—in an attempt to amend the city charter. Despite the state election commission announcing it would not place the questions on the ballot because they violated several state laws, a judge ruled on September 11 that the gun-control questions could appear on the November ballot because they were just “proposals” and had not yet amended the city’s charter. So much for “the Rule of Law.”

Notably, Alabama, Louisiana and Tennessee all have strong firearms-preemption laws ensuring that municipalities cannot pass gun laws more restrictive than those passed by the state legislature—but that is exactly what all of these cities, under their liberal local leadership, are attempting to do.

We all are aware that some states and cities are blatantly anti-gun and proud of it, where political leaders are always looking for more ways to further infringe firearms ownership and use. Other jurisdictions, like those noted above, try to be a little sneakier. They’ll change a definition here or expand a definition there, trying to limit their citizens’ rights without drawing a lot of attention to what they’re doing.

Thankfully, the NRA Institute for Legislative Action (NRA-ILA) works tirelessly to stay abreast of the gun-ban movement at all levels of government. But it is important to remind ourselves that all of us have a shared responsibility to protect our cherished right to keep and bear arms.

After all, it is not only presidents, senators, congressmen and federal judges who can limit or deprive us of those God-given rights; mayors and city council members in communities across the country have shown a willingness to do the very same thing. Vigilance of government officials at all levels is our best defense to retain our right to keep and bear arms for future generations.



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By Randy Kozuch
Executive Director,
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What Will 2025 Bring?

This is one of those curious articles where, as I write it, I do not know the outcome of the 2024 Elections; as you read it, however, we all do. So, rather than discuss what we might expect in the coming year as far as legislative and executive branches of government go, let me talk about the judicial branch.

I try not to predict what any court will do when it comes to handling cases that revolve around firearms and the Second Amendment. That, quite simply, is a fool's game. But I can look at what has happened in the recent past—both victories and defeats—and talk about what some decisions mean, as well as what they should mean going forward.

There were a few decisions that came out of the U.S. Supreme Court in 2024 that were significant to the NRA, its members, and those who cherish the Second Amendment. Not all were Second Amendment-specific, but they were all important.

Perhaps the most-important decision to NRA as a gun-rights organization was the unanimous verdict handed down in *NRA v. Vullo*. I've written at great length about it before, but in that case, NRA argued that former New York State Department of Financial Services (DFS) Superintendent Maria T. Vullo, at the behest of former New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo (D), abused the power of her office to coerce institutions subject to DFS regulation to cut ties with NRA in an attempt to "financially blacklist" NRA to suppress our 2A advocacy.

The Court held NRA's argument had merit, reversing a lower court's dismissal of NRA's challenge and remanding the case back to that court for further litigation. That was a unanimous decision, with the opinion being authored by Justice Sonia Sotomayor—a Barack Obama nominee who, historically, has been opposed to our right to keep and bear arms.

Besides that critical ruling in support of the First Amendment and the NRA, we also saw the Supreme Court strike down the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives' (ATF) reclassification of bump stocks as machine guns.

The Court held that the ATF exceeded its authority with the 2018 reclassification, and further held that the definition of "machinegun" under the National Firearms Act (NFA) clearly does not cover bump stocks. The 6-3 decision in *Garland v. Cargill* was specific to the ATF and bump stocks, while another ruling—this time 6-2 in *Loper Bright Enterprises v. Raimondo*—targeted overly broad federal regulations as a whole. These two cases will be pivotal to our future

challenges to ATF's regulations when they go beyond the scope of their authority.

These cases, along with the previous landmark rulings in the Second Amendment cases of *D.C. v. Heller*, *McDonald v. Chicago*, and *NYSRPA v. Bruen* should pay dividends for years—if not decades—in challenges to laws and regulations designed to undermine or eradicate the rights of law-abiding gun owners.

And, with the exception of the *Heller* and *McDonald* cases, these and numerous other judicial victories that have upheld the Second Amendment would likely not have come to be without the first term of President Donald Trump. His appointments to the federal courts during that term were historic. Some might even call them legendary; I know I do.

There are a litany of other challenges working their way through the legal system, and Trump's hundreds of judicial appointments after winning the 2016 election will likely serve to deal many more Second Amendment victories. That's irrespective of whatever has happened on Nov. 5. I know the NRA did everything in its power to secure a second Trump presidency.

Based on what I have seen out of the courts over the last several years, I anticipate we will see far more victories than losses.

Outcomes of court cases can be hard to predict, however, and the same is true of elections—especially considering how stacked the deck was against a Trump victory. Whether it is anti-freedom billionaires funneling unprecedented amounts of money into propping up Kamala Harris, an unabashedly biased legacy media doing the same with its pro-Harris "news" coverage, or the shockingly undemocratic machinations exhibited when the soft coup kicked Joe Biden off the top of the Democrat ticket and replaced him with Harris—a candidate who has never won a single presidential primary contest.

Cautiously optimistic was the atmosphere at the NRA leading up to Nov. 5. I'll let you know what it is now in a later column.

Nonetheless, I'm looking forward to facing the challenges that the NRA and the Second Amendment will face in the coming year. I know we all will rise to meet any challenge, and I hope, as you are reading this, you know we will have an ally fighting alongside us from the Oval Office. Even if that is not the case, the groundwork for future success was already laid by Trump when he won in 2016. For that, he has our gratitude.

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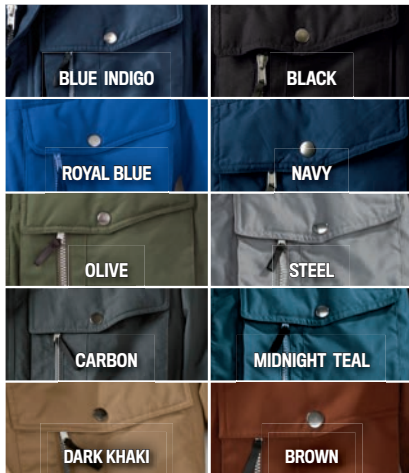
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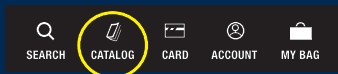
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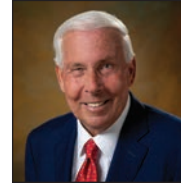
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By Randy Kozuch
Executive Director,
NRA-ILA



One Last Biden Executive Order On Guns

As I sit down to write this article, it is still early October, and we do not yet know the outcome of the 2024 presidential election. But, by the time you read this, the election will have been decided, and with it, the direction the Second Amendment takes for the next four years.

Regardless of the outcome, Second Amendment supporters will have our work cut out for us in the coming four years. Whether that work is helping the Trump administration eliminate damage already done by the Biden-Harris administration or fighting back against further encroachments on our rights by Harris and Walz, it is work that needs to be, and must be, done.

What is clear going into this election is that the threats to our rights will not be going away. In September, gun owners received a stark reminder of this problem when Biden and Harris announced new executive orders targeting gun owners.

At the ceremony where Biden and Harris announced these measures, the vice president claimed “the right to be safe is a civil right,” as is the “right ... to live ... without fear of violence, including gun violence.” This statement underscores the false promise of gun control: superficially appealing; useless in practice; and contrary to American law and history, in which rights function mainly to restrain illegitimate government action rather than to “guarantee” outcomes the government cannot deliver.

Fortunately, the orders themselves were, in this case, long on election-year rhetoric and short on substance. One created an interagency task force to study and report on strategies to “stop the proliferation of machinegun conversion devices,” and another required a report to “address the emerging threat related to 3D-printed firearms.”

A White House press release accompanying the orders made it clear that the government will be tasked with creating a taxpayer-funded report to be used to push lawmakers to increase the power and resources of the federal bureaucracy, noting, “The report will include any additional authorities or funding the federal agencies need from Congress in order to complete this work.”

Given the Biden-Harris administration’s anti-gun record, Americans have every reason to believe that the order will be used to attack Second Amendment rights. However, certain aspects of the order suggest the administration is also seeking to undermine the First Amendment right to freedom of speech.

Since before the Founding, Americans have enjoyed the right to make their own firearms without government interference. Barring state law to the contrary, this practice remains lawful today. The method of manufacture, whether it be a home workshop with a drill press or a home office with a 3D printer, does not change the underlying federal law.

Biden’s executive order targets modern manufacturing processes in ways that create serious implications for Americans’ First Amendment rights.

The order stated that the “task force” report shall include:

(iii) an assessment of existing authorities, including export and import laws, that regulate software or technology used for 3D printing firearms, including undetectable firearms;

(iv) an assessment of the technological feasibility of 3D printers proactively blocking the functional capacities of software used to 3D print undetectable firearms;

...

(vi) an interagency plan for effective coordination between the Department of Justice and the Department of Commerce to limit the illegal export or import of software or technology on the internet that can be readily





President Joe Biden with Vice President Kamala Harris and others are shown at an event in the White House on Sept. 26 where he signed an executive order targeting gun owners in the United States.

used to illegally 3D print firearms, including unserialized or undetectable firearms.

Note the order emphasized assessing plans to restrict software and its capabilities to target 3D-printed firearms. Any restriction on Americans' ability to create and share this information potentially violates the First Amendment. (Under current law, software or computer code is generally treated as speech.)

In 1999, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit addressed this matter in the case *Bernstein v. U.S. Department of Justice*. The case concerned encryption software, which the government said could not be posted on the internet because such software was categorized as a munition, subject to severe export control regulations.

The court held that the encryption software at issue was protected speech. Further, the court held that as speech, the software was "entitled to the protections of the prior restraint doctrine." The prior-restraint doctrine makes clear that the government cannot preemptively restrict the publication of speech in almost all circumstances.

To give a classic example of a prior restraint, in 17th century Britain, printing presses were licensed. An item summarizing the British regime explained,

The ordinance prohibited the printing, binding, or sale of books except by persons licensed under authority of Parliament and made the Stationers the agent of Parliament for the purpose of licensing printers. Anonymous publications were banned, as were the reprinting or importation of previously printed works. The ordinance authorized the Stationers to conduct searches and seizures of unlicensed publications, destroy unlicensed printing machinery, and to arrest those suspected of printing without a license.

The First Amendment rejects this type of regime and imposes the utmost skepticism on any other type of prior restraint on speech. As the U.S. Supreme Court explained in *Bantam Books, Inc. v. Sullivan* (1963), "Any system of prior restraints of expression comes to this Court bearing a heavy presumption against its constitutional validity."

At present, Biden's executive order only requires his government "task force" to assess options to curtail software capable of assisting in the creation of 3D-printed firearms. As the "task force" includes the attorney general, one could naively hope that the group would be apprised of First Amendment jurisprudence. However, given this

administration's relentless attacks on the Second Amendment, and its willingness to undermine the First Amendment in pursuit of its goals, gun owners and other Bill of Rights supporters should view Biden's executive order with the utmost suspicion.

At the same ceremony where it announced the executive orders, the Biden-Harris administration celebrated the one-year anniversary of the White House Office of Gun Violence Prevention, which happens to be led by none other than Kamala Harris. As NRA-ILA explained when the office was launched, this effort funnels taxpayer funds to career firearm-prohibition activists. Their job is to create an anti-gun culture within all branches of the federal bureaucracy and to dream up more ways to suppress Second Amendment rights. The administration's celebration included a "Year One Progress Report" detailing the office's efforts over the past twelve months.

One of the more substantive functions of the office has been to require accountability of other components of the bureaucracy for implementation of the misnamed Bipartisan Safer Communities Act (BSCA), a sprawling package of anti-gun legislation that Joe Biden signed into law in 2022. Its main provisions focused on longstanding and generic items of the anti-gun agenda, including expanding groups categorically prohibited from possessing guns, promoting state firearm seizure laws and giving the government ever more leverage over the lawful firearms industry.

Among the administration's most radical steps to implement the BSCA was a far-reaching administrative rule released in April to ban various categories of personal firearm transfers between law-abiding people for lawful purposes. Even some of the BSCA's main supporters countered that such a rule was well beyond anything contemplated by the act. The rule itself has been mired in legal challenges, including one by the NRA, but it remains a monument to how broadly and aggressively an anti-gun administration will interpret and leverage any authority to persecute America's gun culture.

Another project of Harris' anti-gun office has been promoting "red-flag" firearm-seizure laws within the states, both by highlighting provisions within the BSCA that can fund such efforts and by creating a "clearinghouse" within the Department of Justice to encourage states' use of the policy. These laws continue to deprive Americans of their

Second Amendment rights with little or no due process, and Harris' office continues to push more and more states to adopt them.

The office also noted "progress" in leveraging the vast scope and reach of the U.S. government to spread anti-gun messages throughout the bureaucracy and to amplify these themes with various "state and local partners." Chief among these is the administration's emphasis on what it calls "safe firearm storage." This seemingly harmless catchphrase is actually rooted in a culture that considers the presence of a lawfully possessed firearm within a home as a per se danger to occupants and visitors of the residence. The safest course of action, under this way of thinking, is simply to forgo firearm ownership entirely. Short of that, however, gun owners are encouraged to always keep their firearms in an unusable state. According to them, only when the gun is actually being used should it be operable or loaded.

Of course, Kamala Harris herself sees a more-nefarious role for "safe firearm storage." Recently resurfaced video shows her opining that a "safe-storage" mandate enacted by San Francisco in 2007 empowered city officials to violate the "sanctity" of a "locked home" to ensure lawful gun owners were in compliance with the city's firearm-storage requirements. This interpretation, however, violates clearly established Fourth Amendment protections, to say nothing of the Second Amendment.

Despite Harris' rhetoric at the ceremony announcing the orders about the right to be and feel safe, the orders included a disclaimer that they were "not intended to, and [do] not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the United States, its departments, agencies, or entities, its officers, employees, or agents, or any other person." In other words, if the government ignores its own orders, it can't be held to them.

That, perhaps, is the best summation of gun control in general. Gun control promises much but doesn't deliver. And if it should disappoint you, take heart. There's always more gun control where that came from. That's why, no matter the result of this election, we need to continue to stand together to defend our fundamental rights. Those who seek to implement the false promises of gun control aren't giving up, and neither can we. 🦋

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READERS WRITE



Clarification On Colt's New Lightning

The "I Have This Old Gun ..." on the Colt New Lightning Magazine Rifle (October 2024, p. 72) contains some glaring errors with respect to the discussion of the San Francisco Police models. These rifles were "purchased" in 1889 according to the article. This may be true, but they were delivered to the Colt agency in San Francisco in 1898, so I doubt it took nine years for Colt to fulfill the order. There were not 401 rifles delivered; they were numbered 1 to 401, meaning the order was for 400. The rifles were not marked SFP "on the stocks" but on the tang with the appropriate number from 1-401 following. According to Colt records, these were engraved at the factory rather than being stamped by the police department. I respectfully refer Mr. Hacker to an article I authored in the Spring 2020 edition of *The Rampant Colt* as a member of the Colt Collectors Ass'n for further information and history on these police models.

—JONATHAN JONES

Mr. Jones' three comments are correct, and I am responsible for the misinformation: First, the "1889" date was an unintentional typographical transposition of numbers—it should have read 1898. Second, the "401" number has been bandied about for years in books and reference materials, and I picked it up without analyzing the actual numbers. It should be noted, however, that these were SFP rack numbers, not the Lightning's serial numbers. The actual production serial numbers ranged from 82088-83998, with the 400 SFP guns falling within this range. Third, I had written "lower tang" in my original draft, and after a re-write and running it through my spell checker, it changed to "stock," and I never caught it.

—RICK HACKER, FIELD EDITOR

Hits And Misses

In the article "Hitting The Mark: Wilson Combat's .300 HAM'R" (October 2024, p. 44), the box showing results at 100 yards lists the primers as CCI large pistol magnum primers. Being a longtime reloader of the HAM'R, I know large primers will not work. It is a small rifle primer cartridge like it says in the body of your article. I know the .300 HAM'R to be a great and highly accurate cartridge.

—GALEN A. BETTAC

Mr. Bettac:

You are correct in that .300 HAM'R cases do take small rifle primers. Such attention to detail is exactly what is needed at the reloading bench and what we endeavor to provide at the editorial desk but sometimes miss.

—THE EDS.

Dishing On Dies

I read Frank Melloni's Handloads piece (September 2024, p. 57) on the 7.62x39 mm cartridge in which he mentioned a Hornady die set with an expander that helps seating with flat-base bullets. Lee also makes a Universal Expander Die that I just ordered to help with my Hornady 123-grain SP and SST bullets. Thanks for an interesting and informative article.

—JOE SOLIMANDO

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



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Heckler & Koch Marks 75th Anniversary

Out of the rubble of World War II and from the minds of displaced Mauser engineers came one of the most recognizable firearm brands of the modern era. Heckler & Koch, founded in December 1949 by Edmund Heckler, Theodor Koch and Alex Seidel, is celebrating 75 years in business this year.

Established initially as a machine parts company under the “Heckler & Co.” name, the men salvaged what they could from the shattered *Waffenfabrik* Mauser factory in Oberndorf, Germany, and began making tools, bicycle components, sewing machine parts and other products. By the mid-1950s,



the company, newly named “Heckler & Koch GmbH,” was positioned to respond to the *Bundeswehr’s* request for a new infantry rifle. In conjunction with the Spanish firm CETME, H&K developed what became known as the G3, which was officially adopted by the German military in 1959.

To celebrate this milestone, H&K has released several limited-edition firearms. A 75th Anniversary Pistol Set is comprised of two VP9 pistols finished in the Flecktarn and Tropentarn camouflage patterns, respectively, and is limited to just 1,000 pairs. Two similarly finished 75th anniversary rifles, an MR556A1 and an MR762A1, are also available in limited quantities. hk-usa.com

REPORTS | NEWS & NOTES

Silencer Central Makes Inc. 5000 List

Silencer Central has, once again, been recognized by *Inc.* magazine as one of the fastest-growing companies in the United States. This year, Silencer Central placed 87th in the consumer products category and ranks No. 2 in the state of South Dakota.

“It is an incredible honor to be recognized on the *Inc. 5000* list, especially as one of the top companies in South Dakota and Sioux Falls,” said Brandon Maddox, CEO of Silencer Central. “This achievement is a testament to the dedication and hard work of our entire team, as well as the unwavering support of our customers. We are committed to continuing our growth and delivering innovative products that meet the needs of our customers across the country.”

Silencer Central also made the 2022 *Inc. 5000* list, ranking No. 1,309 on the list of America’s top companies at the time. silencercentral.com



**SILENCER
CENTRAL.**

NRA Museum Provides Update On Its Collection



In an NRA Media video, NRA Museums Director Phil Schreier dispelled all rumors of any guns being sold from the NRA Museums collections and highlighted that the museum is open to visitors and has several new galleries to view.

“The museum is thriving and surviving here in Virginia,” Schreier said. “Nothing from our collection has literally been sold ever during my watch, and I’ve been here 35 years.”

Schreier noted that some guns on loan to the museum have been returned to their owners, who then decided to sell them, but he reassured viewers that the NRA Museums collection is fully intact for members to enjoy seeing on display. To view the full statement, go to americanrifleman.org/museumupdate.



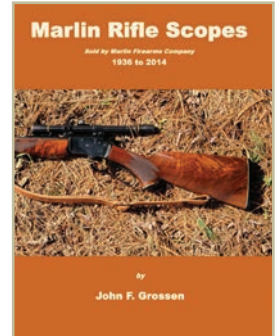
Savage AXIS 2

Savage Arms has refreshed its AXIS rifle line, and the new AXIS 2 offers several new features while still remaining affordably priced. A re-designed polymer stock provides a pistol grip with mirrored palm-swells on either side to accommodate both left- and right-handed shooters. The grip and fore-end have been aggressively textured for improved purchase. Savage also re-designed the bolt handle, producing

an angular, ovoid knob the company says aids in controlling the bolt during adverse conditions. A detachable polymer magazine makes reloading easy, and the guns are all equipped with Savage's user-adjustable AccuTrigger. Models are available in compact, right- and left-hand configurations and are available in most popular hunting chamberings. Price: \$489. Contact: Savage Arms; (800) 370-0708; savagearms.com.

Marlin Rifle Scopes: 1936 To 2014

As an avid Marlin rifle collector and member of the Marlin Firearms Collectors Ass'n, author John F. Grossen has thoroughly explored a niche of the Marlin world that few others have, and the result is a definitive work of riflescopes, mounting systems and accessories. *Marlin Rifle Scopes: 1936 To 2014* gives readers detailed specs and a comprehensive listing of optics sold by the Marlin Firearms Co., beginning with the No. 1 and No. 2 produced in the mid-1930s by Wollensak Optical of Rochester, N.Y., and ending with Chinese-produced optics sold with Marlin rifles up to 2014. Beyond the association with Marlin Firearms, the book is a richly illustrated glimpse into the history of riflescope production throughout the 20th century and early 21st century. Price: \$35. Available on Amazon.



Athlon Midas TSP1

One of only a few examples of an unmagnified (1X) prismatic scope available on the contemporary optic market, which is unfortunate, as it's a concept that certainly has worth, the Midas TSP1 from Athlon Optics features an etched-glass reticle and a nitrogen-purged, one-piece aluminum chassis. Functioning practically much like a red-dot—but with the added benefit of a crisper reticle that continues to be useful even after its battery has been fully drained—the reticle's illumination can be toggled between red and green, each of which can be cycled through 10 brightness settings. Calibrated for the .223 Rem. and 5.56 NATO cartridges, the reticle also incorporates holdover points for targets out to 500 yards and can be used to range a man-size target out to 300 yards. Price: \$299. Contact: Athlon Optics; (855) 913-5678; athlonoptics.com.

1791 Gunleather M3 Tanker Holster

Issued during World War II to tank crews and aviators, the U.S. military's M3 holster proved to be a simple, efficient design, suspending an M1911 pistol under the off-hand arm for unhindered crossbody draw even when a soldier was seated in cramped conditions. The M3 Tanker from 1791 Gunleather is a respectful, handcrafted homage that employs premium, heavy American steerhide sewn with reinforced stitching, a period-correct "US" embossment and an authentic "Lift The Dot" fastener on the pistol retention strap. The over-the-shoulder strap is adjustable from 48" to 54", and a snap-fastened strap at the holster's base can be attached to the belt for even greater security. The 1791 M3 Tanker is available in brown or black leather for a variety of brands and configurations of modern M1911 and High Power pistols. Price: \$100. Contact: 1791 Gunleather; (800) 407-1791; 1791gunleather.com.

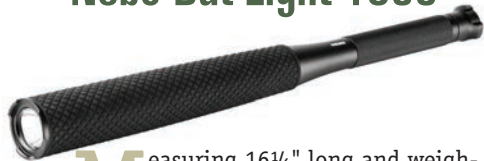


Warne Shotgun Rib Reflex Mount

Warne engineers have devised a clever way to fit popular red-dot optics atop scatterguns without drilled-and-tapped receivers. Designed and made in the United States, this anodized-aluminum mount sports a black anodized finish and installs onto a ventilated rib via side clamps and six (three on each side) Torx bolts. The mount will accommodate 6 to 10 mm ribs and fits most red-dot optic footprints. Price: \$62. Contact: Warne Scope Mounts; warnescopemounts.com.



Nebo Bat Light 1500



Measuring 16¼" long and weighing approximately 1 lb., the baton-shaped Bat Light 1500 from Nebo is a tactical flashlight that, in a pinch, can serve as a self-defense tool in and of itself. Made from impact-resistant anodized aluminum with a textured grip, the LED light features three brightness options that can be cycled through by activating a push-button control located in its pommel—a 1,500-lumen high setting, a 150-lumen low setting and a disorienting strobe mode. The water-resistant Bat Light 1500 runs on six AA batteries and has a 10-hour max runtime on high. Price: \$50. Contact: Nebo; (800) 255-6061; nebo.acgbrands.com.

U.S. Arms M-905 Talon

The M-905 Talon is an uncommonly long and weighty muzzle brake offered as an aftermarket accessory and as standard equipment on some of U.S. Arms Co.'s higher-tier AR-15 models, but the device is also supremely effective with up to 94 percent recoil reduction across all chamberings tested, according to the company. Measuring 4"x1.63"x0.63" and weighing more than some suppressors (9.05 ozs.), the M-905's eight chambers have internal radiuses designed to initially slow and hold ignition gases for as long as possible before then tapering at the port to accelerate the pressure rearward and upward as it leaves the unit. Both .223-cal. (threaded 1/2x28 TPI) and .30-cal. (5/8x24 TPI) versions of the brake are available, and a shim kit is included to ensure proper timing. Price: \$280. Contact: U.S. Arms Co.; (478) 239-4720; usarmsco.com.



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Delta 14 AR 15 Takedown Pin Set

The design of AR-15 receiver sets is such that most exhibit some degree of looseness when fit together using typical captured-detent takedown pins. Delta 14 has addressed that issue with a completely different pin design claimed to improve accuracy of the host platform by eliminating such “play.” Precision machined in the United States from 303 stainless steel, the three-section pins feature angled surfaces that shift radially when their machine screws are tightened. A wide slot in the pins’ screw heads allows for tightening and takedown using a 5.56 NATO cartridge case rim, and the pins’ design eliminates the need for factory detents and springs in the lower. The Delta 14 AR 15 pins, which are not compatible with AR-10 receivers, come with a lifetime guarantee. Price: \$80. Contact: Delta 14 Chassis, Inc.; (248) 495-4624; delta14chassis.com.

Volquartsen Mark IV Competition Bolt

Volquartsen Firearms specializes in rimfire precision and performance, offering both its own complete firearms and enhanced components that customers can use to soup-up other companies’ designs, and the Competition Bolt for Ruger’s Mark IV pistol is a prime example of the latter. Incorporating a number of improvements over the factory bolt, the CNC-machined Competition Bolt includes Volquartsen’s Exact Edge Extractor, SureStrike Firing Pin and Recoil Rod (with three

recoil springs included to fine-tune to a specific load) for worry-free reliability, and the integrally machined Extended Bolt Racker ensures no more pinched fingers. The bolt has also been given a glossy black DLC finish that not only looks great but increases hardness and lubricity while reducing stresses and friction as it cycles—and a gold-colored version with a titanium nitride finish is also offered. Price: \$305. Contact: Volquartsen Firearms; (712) 792-4238; volquartsen.com.



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Frankford Arsenal Wet/Dry Media Separator

Anyone who cleans brass knows how much of a mess it can be to separate brass from walnut shells or stainless-steel pins. Frankford Arsenal has the perfect tool in its Wet/Dry Media Separator, which features a molded plastic shell in which sits a rotating, perforated sifter made from polymer. Holes on either side of the tub provide room for two sifting handles, and a rubber latch keeps the system closed, even with heavy loads of brass and media. Price: \$60. Contact: Frankford Arsenal; (833) 784-5524; frankfordarsenal.com.

Real Avid Blades Rav-5

From the firearm toolmaker Real Avid comes a sharp new subset within the company portfolio, the Rav series of liner-lock knives. Forged from 8Cr13MoV steel and featuring a drop-point design, the 3.4" blade of the Rav-5 is finished with titanium, contains a section of jimping up top for control and a sharpening choil below. The everyday-carry blade offers spring-assisted



operation, which is completed with a subtle, snag-free flipper. The aluminum handle features recessed carbon-fiber scales and a reversible pocket clip. Also, a lanyard loop is found at the butt. Price: \$45. Contact: Real Avid; (800) 286-0567; realavid.com.

Strike Industries NGSW Wire Management Kit

Selected by the U.S. Army for specific use with the XM157 optic aboard its Next Generation Squad Weapon competition winners (the M7 and M250 rifles), to unobtrusively secure the former's potentially bothersome cables out of the way, the Strike Industries Wire Management Kit is nonetheless versatile enough to be used in countless other wired applications. Capable of accommodating cords up to 0.14" (3.5 mm) in diameter—and allowing them to be routed in 90-degree, across, alongside, U-shape and Z-shape configurations—the kit includes two short and one long M-Lok-compatible cable-management covers and one Picatinny rail-mounted cable-management cover. Price: \$38. Contact: Strike Industries; strikeindustries.com.



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QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

00 Buckshot In 20 Gauge?

Q I've been asking my local retailers for 20-ga. 00 buck shotshells. Their response is "good luck finding that." Were these shells ever made available by any company?

A Major shotshell manufacturers do not load 00 buckshot in 20 gauge for the simple reason that so few of the large pellets can be loaded into a 20-ga. hull. They do, however, offer 20-ga., 2¾" loads that contain enough No. 3 buckshot—20 pellets on average—to provide sufficient energy for lethal hits.

A 2¾" 12-ga. hull will hold only nine 00 pellets, which illustrates how few a 20-ga. shell of similar length would be able to hold.

JOHN M. TAYLOR, CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

00 BUCKSHOT



PELLET DIAMETER0.33" (8.38 mm)

No. 3 BUCKSHOT



PELLET DIAMETER0.25" (6.35 mm)



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

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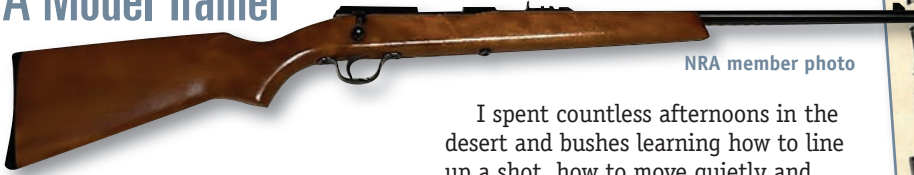
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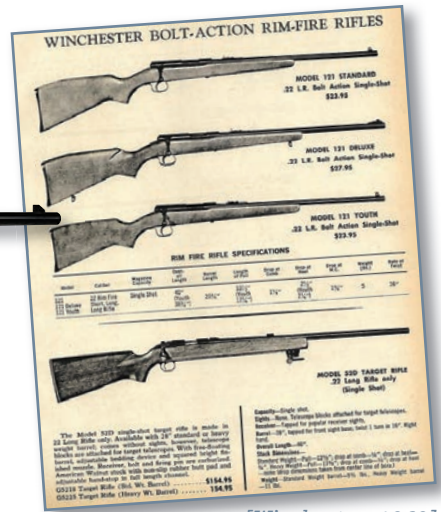
NRA member photo

The first time I held the single-shot Sears Model 1 (a house brand version of the Winchester 121) in my hands, I was 8 years old. My dad handed it to me, his rough hands steady as he passed me the gun with a smile. "Take care of this," he said. "It's yours now."

That was almost 60 years ago, but I still remember the weight of it, the cool metal against my skin and the pride that filled me knowing it was mine. I didn't need much more than that little .22—it could fire Short, Long or Long Rifle cartridges—perfect for an eager boy learning the ropes of hunting.

I spent countless afternoons in the desert and bushes learning how to line up a shot, how to move quietly and how to respect the land and the animals that I hunted. Rabbits and quail were my usual quarry, and I was a good shot—too good sometimes. My dad would chuckle and say, "The way you put bullets through that rifle, I'm glad I didn't get you a semi-automatic."

Over the years, that Sears Model 1 became more than just a tool; it was a bridge between me and my dad, and later, between me and my children. When the time came, I used it to teach them the same lessons about shooting and safety that I had learned. We spent hours together, just like I had



American Rifleman archives

[Winchester, 1969]

with dad, passing down not just skill, but respect—for the weapon, for the process and for each other.

Now, I hope to do the same with my grandchildren, if they desire. This gun, old and worn but still reliable, holds more than just memories. It holds the stories of three generations—each connected through its simple, single shot.

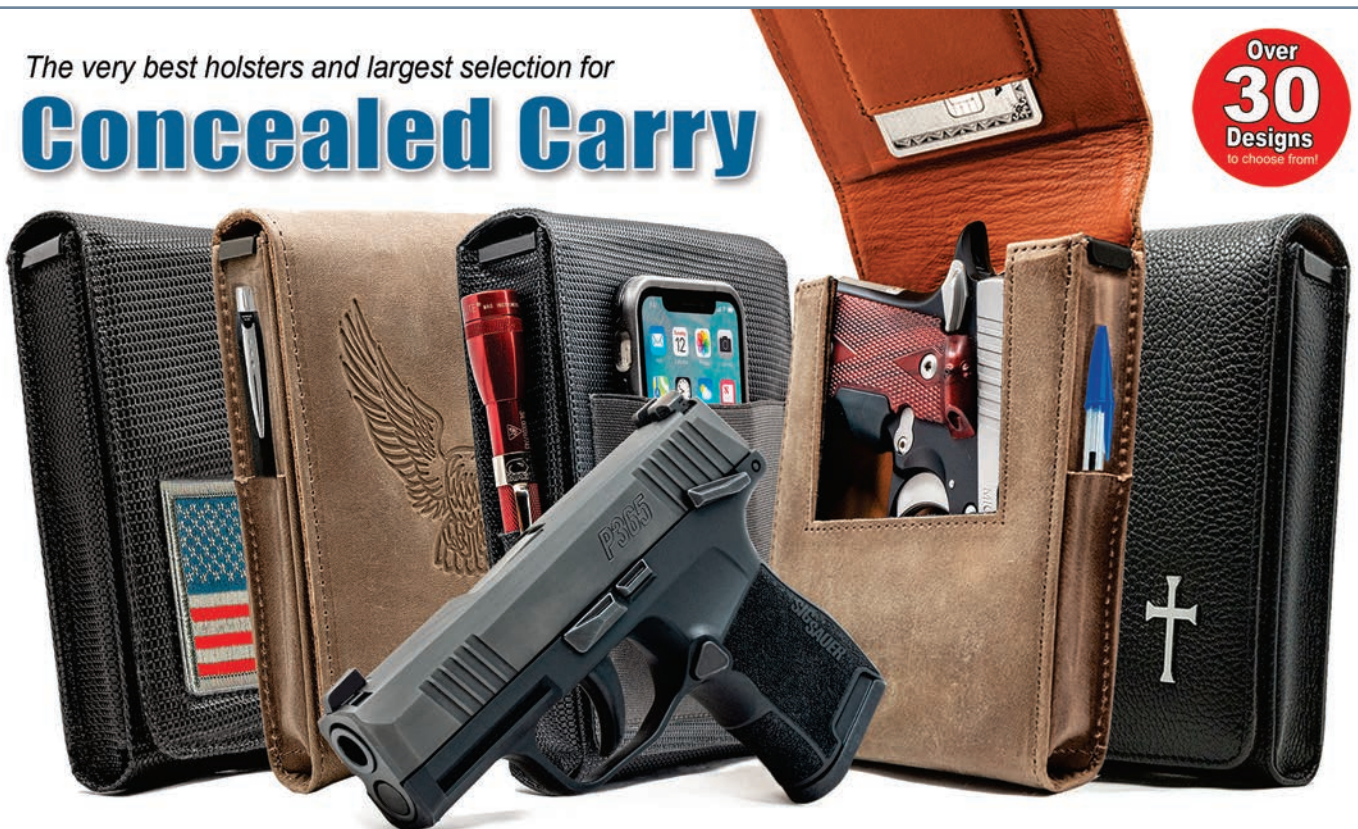
—BILL COLLINS

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

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A LIGHTWEIGHT HAMMER

Browning's A5



“This thing really hammers the ducks,” wrote an NRA member in one of our first “Favorite Firearms” columns about the Browning Auto-5. But the reply from a hunting buddy was, “I’m sure it does, but how do you get them to hold it?” On ducks, and duck hunters, the Auto-5 could pack a wallop. The same cannot be said of the gun reviewed here, the Browning A5 Hunter in 20 gauge. I don’t mean to reduce the original Browning Auto-5 to a mere punchline; it is the product of the genius of John Moses Browning, after all, and was the first semi-automatic shotgun offered for sale, ever. Today, the “aristocrat of shotguns” is still champion when it comes to the longest continuously manufactured scattergun.

Browning filed his patent for a recoil-operated gun in May 1899. Winchester would not give the great man the deal he wanted, and the president of Remington literally expired while Browning waited to show him the gun. So, Browning went to *Fabrique Nationale* in Herstal, Belgium—FN was already making a handy little pistol of his design. By mid-1902, FN and Browning had a deal—and the first

gun was shipped to Utah the following year. Its production ran from 1903 to 1999 across two factories and two continents. Add in Remington and Savage guns made on Browning’s patents (FN only had European rights for a time), and you can up that to four factories and three continents. But it wasn’t until 1958 that the original Auto-5 became available in 20 gauge.

The Auto-5 is often referred to as the “Humpback,” because of the distinctive shape at the upper rear of its receiver, and while the new gun has a similar appearance, it does not share the same method of operation as its namesake. I’m not trying to pick a fight with anyone, but the long-recoil-operated Auto-5 hits pretty hard on both ends—especially if your buffer is cooked or missing. The whole barrel moved rearward, pushing the bolt back the length of a shell, thus it had to have that distinctive shape. There was no recoil mitigation to be had from the hard plastic buttplates of those days, either.

I think the best comparison for the new A5, which we tested more than a decade ago in 12 gauge (May 2012, p. 42),

A new rendition of the modern A5 shrinks the bore to 20 gauge but manages to deliver the finest-swinging and softest-shooting gun in a new generation of Brownings.

BY MARK A. KEEFE, IV, Editorial Director

Hunter 20 Gauge



Photo by Christopher Olsen

as well as the Sweet Sixteen (February 2017, p. 80) and now the 20-ga. Hunter, is to liken them in concept to the “new” Ford Mustang. These new A5s have the lines, the ethos and some of the soul of the original, but absolutely nothing is the same under the hood. And rightly so, as we have learned a lot about how to make semi-automatic shotguns run well with a wide variety of loads in the past 125 years.

Let’s start with the “hood” itself, and that is the A5 20’s aluminum receiver (original Auto-5 receivers were steel). It is the same size employed on the Sweet Sixteen—9¾" long and 2.55" high at the front to 2.75" high at the rear—and has some of the nicest gloss-black anodizing I have seen. Its lines are only spoiled on the left by the two takedown pins for the trigger group and the two screws retaining a steel bar that hold the plunging, spring-loaded ejector in the receiver’s left interior. It plunges due to the different shell lengths the gun can chamber. It also strengthens the receiver for most of the length of the bolt’s travel. There is a bolt release with annular rings on the receiver’s right front under the ejection port. The grooves along the receiver’s top flow into the grooves on the

Jon Draper, senior executive editor for NRA’s American Hunter, rests the Browning A5 Hunter 20-ga. shotgun at his side during a dove hunt along Maryland’s Eastern Shore. Weighing just 5 lbs., 11 ozs., the new model is one of the lightest options in the Browning line, making it exceptionally handy in the field.

barrel’s vented rib. More on that later.

A quick note on the trigger assembly pins. The new A5 is very easily disassembled and reassembled. If you read the manual, you should have no issue. I strongly recommend against disassembly of the original Auto-5. If you get it back together without the aid of a gunsmith, there will likely be profanity involved. (Coincidentally, the only human I know who enjoys doing this is the senior art director of this magazine.)

BROWNING A5 HUNTER 20 GAUGE

Under the hood, it's obvious that the 1900-1905 patents protecting Swede Carl Sjögren and Benelli's SL-80 Model 21 are expired. The generic term for such operation is inertia-operated (even though I think it might be classed as a form of hybrid delayed blowback). The brand-specific execution of an inertia gun by Browning is called Kinematic Drive.

Here's how it works, regardless of what you call it. You start with a two-piece bolt with a heavy body and a rotating head that locks into a barrel extension with a seriously heavy spring between them. When the gun fires, the bolt wants to remain at rest and the moving gun puts the bolt into full lock-up (it usually already is), but as the gun moves farther, once pressures have dropped to a safe level, the spring decompresses, unlocking the head, moving it on its cam pin and driving both parts to the rear. As it moves rearward, it extracts the shell and is returned to battery by a recoil spring in the buttstock worked by a tail at the assembly's rear. With the Browning, you get four lugs on the polished chrome bolt head instead of two.

There are some serious benefits to the system: The receiver can be of lightweight aluminum, and, unlike the original Auto-5, regardless of chambering, this gun will handle pretty much everything from all but the lightest target loads all the way to the heaviest of magnums. The original design had two friction rings—one each for heavy or light loads—that you had to decide when to swap. Also, unlike with gas-operated guns, the new design means there is no heat or gas deposited inside the action; it all goes out the muzzle.

The A5 Hunter 20 Gauge is assembled by Browning Viana in Portugal, but its hammer-forged barrel (with a chrome-lined chamber) is made by FN in Belgium. Like



Located just forward of the trigger guard, the shotgun's bolt latch allows the bolt to be locked back on an empty magazine and also releases a shell from the magazine to be loaded into the chamber.

all of today's Brownings, the 20-ga. A5 Hunter's barrel is backbored. It measures 0.627" (nominal for 20 gauge is 0.615") and the forcing cone is lengthened out to around 5 $\frac{1}{8}$ "; this has been a company hallmark for a very long time. Browning says it delivers better patterns, and many other companies agree and often do the same while calling it something else. The gun comes with three Invector DS (for Double Seal) choke tubes—improved cylinder, modified and full—all of which measured between 0.001" and 0.002" of the constriction recommended for those chokes.

This little gun has Browning's "Speed Feed" feature. When the bolt is locked back, if you push a round into the magazine tube, the two-piece carrier will grab it, pull the cartridge up into the feedway and then the bolt will go forward. It's handy. There is a bolt hold-open on the underside of the receiver, with classic Browning lines (a little nostalgia again), and it can be used to lock the bolt back on an empty chamber at any time. Simply press it forward then shuck the bolt handle.

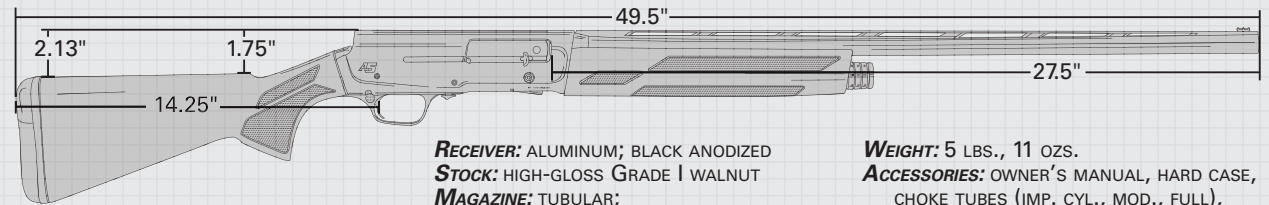
Other companies have tried to deal with the lack of recoil reduction in inertia, I mean Kinematic, shotguns. But this one does a very good job due to its Inflex recoil pad—even with the heaviest 20-ga. loads. It's soft but not sticky, with a wide footprint to spread the energy out, and it is constructed internally to direct recoil back and downward, away from the face. A complaint with my Auto-5 was the stock had too much drop and punched me in the face every time I shot it.

Unlike the original long-recoil-operated Auto-5, Browning's new breed of A5s cycle by way of an inertia-actuated Kinematic Drive system featuring a four-lug, rotating bolt head (L.) that locks into the barrel, which allows for a receiver of lightweight aluminum.



BROWNING A5 HUNTER 20 GAUGE

IMPORTER: BROWNING ARMS CO. (DEPT. AR), ONE BROWNING PLACE, MORGAN, UT 84050; (800) 333-3288; BROWNING.COM



MANUFACTURER: BROWNING VIANA (PORTUGAL)
ACTION TYPE: INERTIA-OPERATED, SEMI-AUTOMATIC SHOTGUN
GAUGE: 20; 3"

RECEIVER: ALUMINUM; BLACK ANODIZED
STOCK: HIGH-GLOSS GRADE I WALNUT
MAGAZINE: TUBULAR; FOUR-ROUND (2¾") CAPACITY
TRIGGER: SINGLE-STAGE; 5-LB., 6-OZ. PULL
SIGHTS: MID-RIB WHITE BEAD, FRONT RED FIBER-OPTIC

WEIGHT: 5 LBS., 11 OZS.
ACCESSORIES: OWNER'S MANUAL, HARD CASE, CHOKE TUBES (IMP. CYL., MOD., FULL), CHOKE TUBE WRENCH, TWO STOCK SPACERS, LOCK
MSRP: \$1,979



Cut checkering (18 l.p.i.) on the fore-end and the stock's wrist both looks good and aids in control of the gun under recoil.

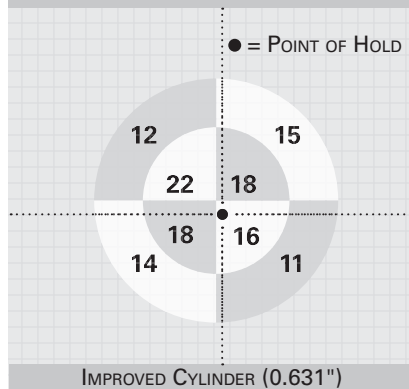
The new gun's stock aids in not only pointing but also in reducing perceived recoil. It has a fairly straight comb but has a modern pistol grip; the radius of the top is quite thin, but it then expands into a generous palm swell. That is combined with an almost minimalist fore-end. Both are of high-gloss Grade I walnut with panels of 18-l.p.i. cut checkering where the hand interacts with the furniture.

The 20 gauge's chamber can handle up to 3" shells, and the underbarrel magazine tube can accept three of them with the plug removed; four 2¾" shells will fit the same space.

My test 20-ga. A5 Hunter was patterned with Hevi-Shot Hevi-Hammer Dove loads. The 20-ga., 3", 3/4-oz. load delivers a mixed payload of bismuth and steel No. 7 shot at 1,325 f.p.s., and the results can be found in the accompanying table. Patterns would put the target on top of your bead. When you look at that table, realize we had an improved cylinder choke at 40 yards. I did not have the opportunity to hunt with it before this review, but one of my colleagues was able to get the gun to my favorite dove spot at Quaker Neck in Chestertown, Md., and he said it swung very well. A group then took it to Bull Run Shooting Center in Manassas, Va., for a few rounds of sporting clays. We fired a mix of 3" and 2¾" shells (sometimes loaded into the magazine at the same time) from makers including Federal, Fiocchi,

SHOOTING RESULTS (40 YARDS)

HEVI-SHOT HEVI-HAMMER DOVE
 20 GA., 3", 3/4 OZ., No. 7
 AVERAGE PELLET COUNT: 302
 LISTED VELOCITY: 1,350 F.P.S.
 AVERAGE OF 10 PATTERNS



21" INNER CIRCLE:	74	(25%)
30" OUTER RING:	52	(17%)
TOTAL HITS:	126	(42%)

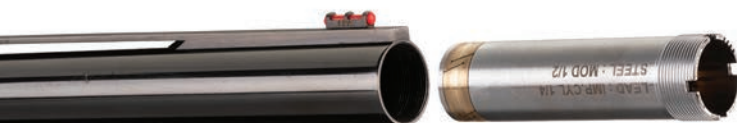
Remington and Winchester. We went the gamut from target to game loads, all in small shot sizes, of course. The Browning didn't care; no problems or malfunctions occurred throughout our testing.

One of the things that people liked about the original Auto-5 was you got "more sight radius." I really never thought about that much with my original; I was too busy trying not to have it punch me in the face. When I mount the new gun, though, the spot where my face should be in relation to the back of the receiver is clear: Its grooves lead me to the vented rib, then the mid-rib white bead and then the red LPA fiber-optic front.

I love that this trim, little gun has old-school Browning aesthetics. Everything is shiny. The trigger is gold-plated (my only complaint being that it was a bit squishy, but you're supposed to slap a shotgun trigger,

anyway), and a gold Buckmark tastefully adorns the trigger guard's aluminum bottom. Best of all, it weighs only 5 lbs., 11 ozs. But it was in the hands that this little gun really comes alive. That slight extra weight of the 16-ga.-size receiver moved the balance point toward the rear and between the hands. It was quick to the target from the shoulder or from a low-gun position. The sample with a 28" barrel made me wonder if I ever need a 26" barrel again.

Interestingly, there may be a role for this 20-ga. A5 fulfilled for years by the Franchi 48 AL, which, to my knowledge, was the last long-recoil-operated shotgun, having a run from 1950 to 2016. In blued steel and walnut, it was the choice for a lot of bobwhite quail hunters throughout the American South—often pulling very nicely into that arena and expanding into a whole lot more. Lightnings, Micro Medallions, Wicked Wings—a lot of things will be possible for my new best friend. 🦋



The 20-ga. A5 Hunter's hammer-forged barrel is threaded for use with Invector DS choke tubes—three of which (improved cylinder, modified and full) come with the shotgun.



Some hunters still need hard-hitting, close-range cartridges, and the recent introductions outlined here validate the existence of several favorite old-timers.

BY CRAIG BODDINGTON

BRUSH-BUSTE

Title aside, no projectiles are completely reliable at getting through brush and to a target. We used to think the answer was blunt-nosed, heavy-for-caliber, slow-moving bullets—but the reality is that anything can happen if you put a barricade of stalks and stems in front of a target. Often, you can get away with a bit of grass or a leafy screen, especially if it's close to the target. But back the obstruction off several feet and most bullets—blunt-nose or spitzer—will skew off course, often tumbling.

So, if “brush-busting” cartridges don’t get through brush much better than anything else, what good are they? Here are a few thoughts: They hit game hard and deliver high-energy payloads. I’ve gotten many letters and emails from hunters who want their deer down on the spot. Often, they hunt smaller properties or hard-hunted public land, so they need to be able to anchor their game. The new, old and resurrected brush-busters can do this. My sense is these cartridges are coming back, along with renewed interest in the all-American lever-action. Effective, yes, but limited in range.



This Shiras moose from Wyoming was taken in one shot with a .358 Win.-chambered Winchester M88 from about 60 yards. Never popular and no longer common, the author believes the .358 is nonetheless one of the most versatile of the older brush-busters.

RS ARE BACK!

RANGE & VELOCITY

In some circles, this is anathema. Long-range shooting is “in.” More accurate rifles, better optics, flatter-flying bullets and all manner of devices make it easier than ever to figure the shooting solution. I’m not against this; in open country, with the right equipment, my range envelope has expanded—but I don’t need range all the time. Of our two dozen Kansas deer stands, only one offers a possible 300-yard shot. The rest average less than 100. I’m lucky; I don’t have to worry about a buck crossing a fence line or being tagged by a stranger. However, in our thick forest, I’d rather not have a long

tracking job at dusk. I like my deer to be down.

Despite the current rage for range, many hunters don’t need the capability. Whitetail hunters often use the same familiar stands year after year, relying on known shooting distances. In thick stuff continent-wide, and for a variety of game, vegetation and terrain dictate closer shots. Millions of American hunters, by local law, must use shotguns for deer. Although better than ever, shotguns and slugs are still short-range tools. Shotgun hunters site their stands and plan their strategies knowing their range

BRUSH-BUSTERS

limitations, as do bowhunters. The traditional intent of the shotgun-only rule is to increase safety by limiting range.

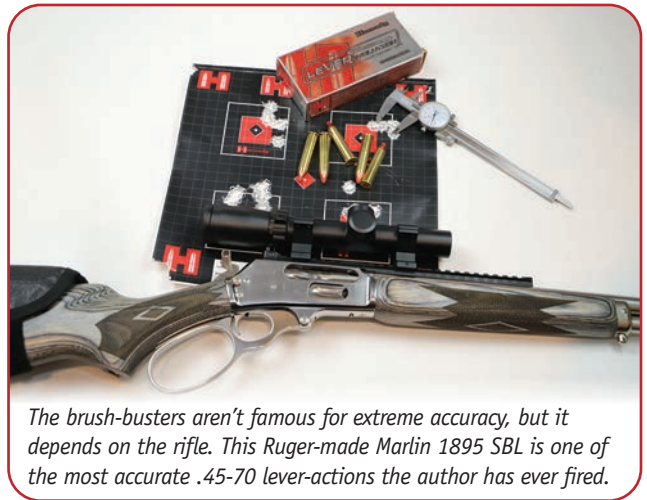
Shotgun-toting deer hunters bear some responsibility for the revival of the brush-busters. Five states now allow certain centerfire rifle cartridges (in lieu of shotguns) for big game in some areas and seasons. All have in common the overpopulation of whitetails, increasing road hazards and lots of small farms and villages. The idea was to increase hunting efficiency, and thus harvest, without increasing hazard. Criteria vary by state, including case length, caliber and performance limitations. We lump them together as “straight-wall” cartridges because straight (rather than bottlenecked) case design limits case capacity—and thus velocity and range—which is the goal.

Certain older brush-busters were “grandfathered” in, coincidentally meeting the criteria, but most do not. However, recent brush-busters were carefully designed to meet all criteria. Whether straight-wall-legal or not, classic brush-busters have one thing in common: They are slow. Many hover around 2,000 f.p.s., or just above blackpowder velocity. The fastest we might consider in the group run to 2,500 f.p.s. Hardly tortoises, but not in the same league with fast magnums. Not ideal for long range, not well-suited to big, open country—the brush-busters are for those of us who hunt brush, timber and swamp, where visibility limits shot distances.

HITTING POWER

I was a child of the first magnum craze (late 1950s and '60s), worshipping at the shrine of velocity. Also, I grew up a Western hunter, comfortable in open country with no knowledge of close-cover hunting. Heck, I was nearly 40 before I took a deer with a .30-30 Win. Our brush-busters can't plow through brush, but there is truth in their hard-hitting reputation. It took me years to properly appreciate this.

In deriving kinetic energy, expressed in foot-pounds (ft.-lbs.), velocity is squared. Bullet weight is not, so energy increases exponentially with velocity. Foot-pounds are our most common yardstick for cartridge comparison, so fast cartridges tend to win ballistic chart comparisons—bullet diameter usually doesn't enter into the equation. But the older I get, the more convinced I am: In performance on game, both bullet weight and frontal area matter. Larger-diameter bullets create larger wound channels and transfer more energy upon impact, dealing a heavier blow. Bullet construction matters greatly, but heavier bullets tend to penetrate more deeply.



The brush-busters aren't famous for extreme accuracy, but it depends on the rifle. This Ruger-made Marlin 1895 SBL is one of the most accurate .45-70 lever-actions the author has ever fired.

So, I'm convinced that the brush-busters, especially those of greater than .30 caliber, are more effective for close-cover hunting. Not because they bust brush, but because their larger-diameter (and often heavier) bullets hit harder and anchor game better.

Most traditional brush-busters were born in tubular-magazine rifles. Until Hornady's Flex-Tip eXpanding (FTX) bullet came along in 2007, all tubular magazines were limited to blunt-nosed bullets (to preclude detonation in the magazine). Such shapes mean that their aerodynamics are relatively terrible, with velocity and energy dropping quickly—reducing effective range and downrange performance. But there's another factor our granddads knew: As in larger calibers, blunt-nosed bullets transfer more energy on impact than spitzers, dealing a heavier initial blow. With some cartridges, we have choices between flat-nose and round-nose bullets. For sheer down-right-there impact, the blunter the better. To wring out every yard you can, Hornady's FTX and Mono-Flex spitzers, safe in tubular magazines, flatten trajectories and carry more energy farther downrange. But, on the other hand, if your hunting is up close and personal and you want maximum impact, give up a few yards of effective range and go old-school with traditional blunt-nosed bullets. Over time and with experience, you will see the difference.

NEW KIDS ON THE BLOCK

The .450 Bushmaster pre-dated straight-wall legislation but, with its short case, met all the criteria anyway. Recent cartridge developments have been designed to meet the legal restrictions: 350 Legend, 360 Buckhammer and now 400 Legend. I've heard some curmudgeonly grousing about why the industry has allowed straight-wall legislation to dictate cartridge design. Why not just bring back old hard-hitters like .35 Remington and .444 Marlin?

Like it or not, our industry is driven by new stuff. New stuff creates buzz; old stuff is old news. It doesn't always make sense to me, either. Currently, the five straight-wall states are: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan and Ohio. All

Several great close-cover cartridges are currently available, including (l. to r.): .30-30 Win.; the newer "straight-wall" 350 Legend, 360 Buckhammer and .450 Bushmaster; the venerable .45-70 Gov't; and the revolver chamberings .44 Mag. and .500 S&W Mag., which generate even more energy through a longer carbine barrel.



S&W's big X-Frame revolvers are now available chambered in 350 Legend, but rifle cartridges lose velocity and energy through a shorter barrel. Conversely, various handgun cartridges are chambered in rifles and carbines, resulting in significant velocity gains.

five are important deer-hunting states. Michigan was early to the straight-wall party; Michigan hunters alone bought enough .450 Bushmaster rifles and ammo to make the entire industry take notice.

Most older cartridges have problems on two counts. First, few fit all the straight-wall criteria, which, again, vary by state. Second, whether because of rim or length, almost no older cartridges are AR-compatible, and manufacturers cannot ignore the popularity of the AR platform. The Bushmaster was conceived as a specialized military cartridge. Originally available only in ARs, Ruger saw amazing demand when it chambered it in the American Rifle. So, let's look briefly at it and our three brand-new brush-busters, the two Legends and the Buckhammer.

Because of AR action limits, the .450 Bushmaster cannot use bullets as heavy as the .45-70 Gov't. Part of the .45-70's resurgence is based on the "guide gun" concept: defense, primary or backup, for big bears. With its lighter-for-caliber bullets, the .450 Bushmaster doesn't play in this game. However, in the larger universes of deer, hog and black bear hunting, the Bushmaster is similar in performance to the .45-70, which is not damning it with faint praise; it is a hard-hitting and effective cartridge. I've used it for hogs and black bear; its big .45-cal. bullet makes a difference. Unfortunately, it also kicks like a .45-70—too much of a good thing for most youngsters and small-statured shooters.

To no small extent, this is why Winchester developed the 350 Legend. Introduced in 2019 in both ARs and bolt-actions, and now S&W's big X-Frame revolver, the 350 Legend meets all straight-wall criteria and offers solid 200-yard performance on deer with wonderfully mild recoil and report. I have used it on whitetails, hogs and black bear. It's a great deer cartridge, but, I'll be honest, in my experience, it's minimal for big hogs and black bears. In factory loads, bullets are light (and sharp-pointed), in part to maintain AR capability and to keep trajectory as flat as possible, maximizing effective range.

Enter its big younger brother, Winchester's 400 Legend. The first 400 Legend load uses a 215-grain bullet traveling at 2,250 f.p.s.—which is light for its caliber and short to

enable AR compatibility. However, it has greater frontal area, higher velocity and produces more energy than the 350 Legend, yet without teeth-jarring recoil. It will thump deer and offers a good option for hunters who also hunt hogs and black bears.

Unveiled at SHOT Show in 2022, Remington Ammunition's 360 Buckhammer is old-school. It uses a rimmed case with a traditional 0.358" rifle bullet. In fact, it is so retro that it was introduced in Henry's traditional tubular-magazine lever-action rifle. So why not just bring back the .35 Remington? Must I repeat myself? Buckhammer fits all straight-wall criteria in all states—the old .35 Rem. does not. Performance-wise, it is so similar to .35 Remington that initial loadings used the same Core-Lokts that gave the .35 Rem. its reputation. It is not dramatically more powerful than the 350 Legend, but it offers more velocity and energy with a heavier bullet. And, at close range, its traditional round-nose bullet is an advantage. I was able to use one of the first for both hogs and whitetails. It is not "better" than the .35 Rem., but it's new, available and straight-wall legal.

OLDIES BUT GOODIES

The .45-70 Gov't was almost gone when I was a kid. In 1967, Bill Ruger did a run of No. 1 single-shots in .45-70, the first new .45-70 since the 1930s. Many thought Ruger was nuts, but look at the old war horse now, one of our most popular centerfires. In later Remington production of Marlin lever-actions, the company's .45-70 Gov'ts significantly outsold its .30-30 rifles. So, naturally, the first Ruger-made Marlin was a .45-70. As I said, the short-barreled "guide gun," with modern sights and trimmings, has done much to revive interest in lever-actions and the .45-70 Gov't.



Older brush-busters include (l. to r.): .32 Win. Spl., .35 Rem., .356 Win., .348 Win., .375 Win. and .444 Marlin. All are good hunting cartridges, but they are no longer chambered. Some of these may be resurrected in the future, but certainly not all.

BRUSH-BUSTERS

Like the Bushmaster, the .45-70 has too much recoil for youngsters and new shooters. But, as a brush-buster, it has 150 years of impeccable credentials. It and its belted .450 Marlin brother are about the only two of the entire class that could sensibly be used for the largest bears. And, in strong, modern actions, can even be loaded up for Cape buffalo.

At the bottom of the brush-buster scale is .30-30 Win. Still not damning with faint praise; it has long been America's favorite deer cartridge, and for good reason. By today's standards, the .30-30 is neither fast nor flashy, but its popular 150-grain load delivers a solid ton of energy. Sure, it doesn't hold that number for very far, but who cares? If your deer stand offers 100-yard shots, the .30-30 is still all you need. With at least 10 million Marlin and Winchester .30-30 Win. lever-actions out there, it's not likely they'll quit loading it. Winchester is still cranking out Model 94s, Henry has numerous variations of its tubular-magazine .30-30 and Ruger has done an awesome job with its Marlin 336. Faithful, accurate and smooth, I got mine too late for last deer season but am planning to hunt whitetails with it this fall.

Unlike larger cartridges, the .30-30 Win. doesn't have greater frontal area, but it does have the advantage of a rich selection of loads, including some that are extra fast. For deer, that doesn't really matter; all .30-30 loads are good deer medicine. If you're hunting boars and black bears with your .30-30, and don't need the range, I'd ignore paper ballistics and use the heavier, blunter 170-grain bullet. It's slower, with less energy, but it hits harder and penetrates better.

Between .30-30 Win. and .45-70 Gov't, there are several other classic brush-busters—as effective today as they were yesterday, most with ammunition still loaded (occasionally). The oldest is 1902's .32 Winchester Special, on paper much like .30-30 but with a .321" bullet versus a .308" one. Its fans swear by it, but I can claim no experience. The 1906 .35 Rem. hits harder, especially with the 200-grain load, is rimless and suitable for a variety of actions. Marlin chambered it almost to the end and Henry has made a few. I'll bet we'll see this old-timer again—it's too good of a cartridge to go away.

Through the 1930s, the lever-action was America's darling, but bolt-actions were making inroads. Winchester apparently saw the writing on the wall, starting before World War II with faster cartridges intended to revive lever-action sales. First of these was the .348 Win., introduced in 1936 in the Winchester Model 71, the final iteration of John Browning's 1886 action. The powerful .348 is almost too versatile to be considered a brush-buster, but it was hampered by flat-nosed bullets. At the time, riflescopes were becoming more popular, and the expensive, top-eject Model 71 resisted conventional scope mounting, leading to lackluster sales. The .348 Win. was only chambered in the Model 71, which is not common, but it's one of my favorites, and Hornady now loads it with a 200-grain FTX spitzer.



Boddington took this black bear with a Mossberg Patriot in 350 Legend. The Legend is not dramatically powerful, but it's adequate for the close-range hunting of bucks, bears and boars.

In 1955, Winchester replaced the Model 71 with the box-magazine, "scopable" Model 88. One of its original chamberings was the .348's replacement, the rimless .358 Win., based on a necked-up .308 Win. case. Savage quickly adapted its great Model 99 to .358. By then, the magnum craze had started. Hard-hitting and mild in recoil, the .358 Win. is another great brush-buster, and it's also a favorite of mine, but it never achieved the popularity it deserved. Browning's BLR is the last factory rifle offered in .358, and it is also the only current rifle chambered for the .450 Marlin.

Winchester's efforts to increase lever-action sales weren't over. In 1978, it introduced the beefed-up Big Bore 94, chambered for .375 Winchester. Essentially an updated and faster version of the old .38-55, the .375 Win. is a fine brush-buster, but it just didn't take off. In 1982, Winchester tried a final time with the .307 and .356 Win., both based on the .308 case in semi-rimmed versions. Muzzle velocities came close to the .308 and .358 but, as usual, downrange performance was hampered by blunt-nosed bullets.

By this time, riflescopes were in almost universal use. It wasn't a problem for the side-eject Marlin (or the Savage 99 and Winchester 88), but it was a nightmare for Winchester's traditional top-eject rifles. Winchester solved this long-standing issue in 1983 with the angle-eject design on its Model 94, finally allowing conventional scope mounting low over the receiver.

Marlin chambered its Model 336 for both .356 Win. and .375 Win., but it also did its own thing. Working with Remington, it lengthened the .44 Mag. case to 2.225", modified the 336 action and introduced the .444 Marlin in 1964. In the strong Marlin action, a 240-grain bullet developed 2,330 f.p.s., yielding almost 3,000 ft.-lbs. of energy. With Ruger churning out high-quality Marlin lever-actions, the .444 could see a revival.




The author on the bench with one of the first Henry rifles chambered for Remington's 360 Buckhammer. The latest in a long line of .35-cal. brush-busters, one of the new cartridge's hallmarks is mild recoil with a hard-hitting effect on game.

Another cartridge ripe for revival is the .338 Marlin Express. It's not really a brush-buster, but it's probably the most versatile cartridge ever housed in a tubular magazine. A joint 2007 Hornady/Marlin project, the .338 Marlin Express was the debut of the FTX bullet, hard-hitting up close, yet offering genuine 300-yard capability. Sadly, it was manufactured only briefly. Maybe Ruger will give it another chance.

Carbines chambered for pistol cartridges have been seductive since the .44-40 Win. came along in 1873. Henry currently chambers long guns for the .327 Federal Mag., .357 Mag., .41 Mag. and .44 Mag., plus .44-40 Win. and .45 Colt. As always, velocity and energy increase significantly through longer barrels. All are straight-wall, and some shotgun states have already authorized certain handgun rounds for deer. The .44 Mag. is powerful in handguns, and it really comes alive in carbines. Big Horn Armory (BHA) produces magnificent lever-actions in the big .454 Casull and .460 and .500 S&W cartridges. I have a BHA rifle in .500 and flattened a good-size black bear with it in the spring of 2023. You bet it's a brush-buster.

I do a lot of hog hunting—a mix of stalking and shooting from stands. I could snipe them from afar, but I enjoy getting close. For me, black bear hunting is the same—except I can't imagine shooting a bear at some of the distances I read about. It's safer and more reliable to get in close.

These past few springs, I've hunted black bears over bait with the Mack family in northern Alberta. They site their stands unusually close to baits, so any stand can be used for bow or gun—so reach is not needed. With dense, forbidding forest all around, shot placement and performance are what's important. It's desirable to hit your bear well and hard, so it goes down on the spot. This won't always happen, but so far none of my bears have required tracking—thanks to hard-hitting, brush-buster cartridges. 

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WILL THE REAL RUSSIAN SKS PLEASE STAND UP?

During the Vietnam War, many SKS carbines were recorded as being “Russian” in origin, but recent research by archivists and collectors has proven that licensed copies of the SKS from other countries were also brought into North Vietnam.

BY GEORGE LAYMAN

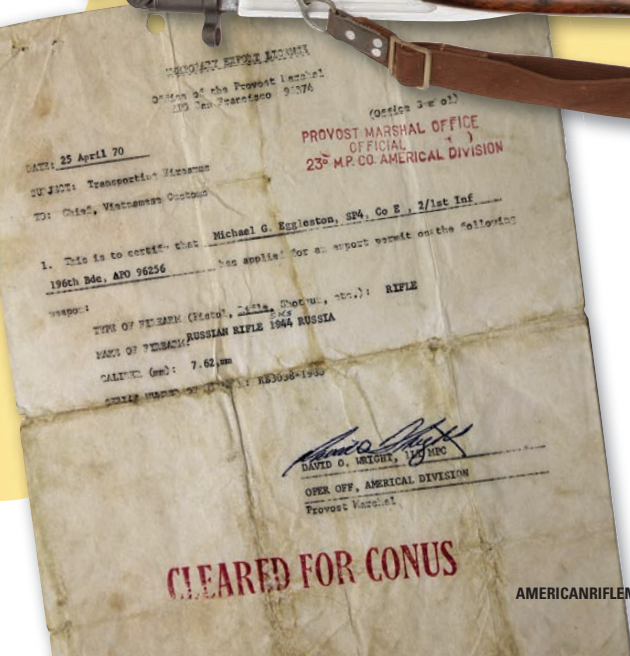
The Vietnam War was one of the final foreign conflicts where returning U.S. military members were allowed to come home with import-legal, semi-automatic military small arms as war trophies, with the required documentation. Though the Soviet-designed SKS carbine and its licensed clones were considered a prize, more than 50 years later, it was learned that two officially described variants unknowingly weren’t the real Russian deal! As a former U.S. Army intelligence analyst and technical equipment specialist for 22 years, my opportunity to examine, conduct live-fire exercises and provide instruction on Communist Bloc small arms was fortuitous. The 1970s was a time when United States military personnel were able to observe, first-hand, Soviet, Chinese and other indigenous Iron- and Bamboo-Curtain military ordnance, well before the American surplus collecting public had a chance to obtain such exotic arms. The People’s Republic of Vietnam, from 1959 until the end of U.S. involvement in South Vietnam in May 1975, continued receiving

foreign aid from several Eastern European countries, as well as various Soviet client states. However, without a shred of doubt, the People’s Republic of China was Hanoi’s greatest arms supplier. At the time, U.S. intelligence hardly realized the existence of other licensed variants of the Russian SKS, notably the Romanian Puska Type 56 and East Germany’s “Karabiner S.”

The Soviet Union indeed assisted North Vietnam in obtaining various ordnance, such as surface-to-air missiles and other weaponry that included small arms as well. Generally speaking, the Russian presence in North Vietnam was heavily veiled, despite 3,000 boots on the ground during the Vietnam War. Regarding Russia’s *Samozaryadny Karabina Sistemy Simonova* (Semi-Automatic Carbine System Simonova) or SKS, an unmistakable reality is that the majority of these carbines taken as “bring-backs,” or trophies of war, were more often Chinese-produced Type 56 SKS carbines. It was no secret that China supplied the lion’s share of these to North Vietnam beginning in 1959.



The Soviet version of the SKS shown here has more similarity to the Romanian Type 56 than to the East German Karabiner S, apart from its distinct markings. The Karabiner S, on the other hand, omitted a number of physical traits. Serial number prefixes on Russian guns (r., inset) can be in either Cyrillic or Latin letters.



This Romanian Type 56 is one of Nicolae Ceaușescu's contributions to the North Vietnamese communist cause. Brought back from Vietnam in 1970, this SKS (dated to 1960) was incorrectly recorded as originating from Russia, and its export license also had the same error. Whoever typed out the rifle's Form 603 noticed the error and rectified it through a line out. Its birch wood stocks and overall condition appear well-preserved in spite of Vietnam's humid tropical climate.



THE REAL RUSSIAN SKS

Between 1970 and 1972, I deployed on four temporary duty (TDY) missions to the Republic of South Vietnam, from my home unit in Okinawa, with the 1st Special Forces Group (SAFASIA). I personally noted the presence of some captured Russian SKS carbines—but at a far lower percentage than those of their Chinese-made counterparts. The SKS is, unquestionably, the best-known Communist Bloc semi-automatic carbine, and it is still in service in a number of countries today. It has been seen in several small wars of liberation in both Africa and areas of Latin America, and communist China retains it as a training arm for students, labor battalions or rural reserve units. In the Russian Federation, the SKS is still carried by honor guards lining Red Square on Victory Day, as well as by guards of the tombs of the unknown soldier in Moscow and St. Petersburg. Being a far more traditional rifle design, the SKS can be handled with the dexterity of a conventional rifle far better than the clumsier AK-47, in a practice similar to that of the U.S. Army's 3rd Infantry Regiment, "The Old Guard," that utilizes the well-balanced M14 in lieu of the M16 for precision drill movements at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Washington D.C. Interestingly, Bulgaria, Hungary and Romania also prefer the SKS for special ceremonies as well.

From a combat perspective, the 7.62x39 mm SKS carbine with a fixed 10-shot magazine and underfolder bayonet saw its most prolific hour of combat during the Vietnam War, along with users in Cambodia, Laos and elsewhere worldwide. In regards to battlefield pickups and their documentation, namely the DD Form 603-1 and South Vietnamese customs forms for export, it has been seen that not all annotated forms had been correctly recorded by both U.S. Army provost marshal officers and intelligence authorities. Primarily, this was attributable to so little information being available on numerous SKS variations. In reality, it wasn't until the late 1990s and early 2000s, the second "golden age" of military surplus arms, that a few previously unknown SKS carbines had been revealed for the first time. Namely, these were the Albanian and Romanian variants. In 1999, while employed by a U.S. government contractor, I had my own introduction to the Albanian "Tipi (Type) 56-1," observed during the destruction of several thousand small arms at a demilitarization point on the Kosovar-Albanian border. Firearms used by all sides during the Balkan War fell into this category following the dissolution of communist Yugoslavia. Fortunately, some

5,700 Albanian Type 56-1 SKS carbines were spared from the torch and imported into the United States. Another unknown SKS identified in the 2000s, that had actually slipped into American hands earlier on from Vietnam, was the Romanian *Pushka* Type 56.

In early spring of 1968, Romanian Premier Nicolae Ceaușescu stated he felt terrible that, "American imperialists were killing the peaceful communist Vietnamese people without compunction," and, subsequently, Romania supplied Hanoi with some 7,350 different small arms, of which 4,225 were the licensed version of the Romanian Type 56 SKS carbine. The neutral Swedish cargo ship, *Agnetha Halborg*, departed the Bulgarian port of Varna with Romania's ordnance on Aug. 9, 1968, bound for Haiphong, North Vietnam. What was confusing to U.S. intelligence regarding the Romanian SKS was its serial number, which used Latin alphabet prefixes before the number, followed by a production year that was anywhere from 1958 to 1960. Letters such as AA, EF, GH, FG, CD, CH and others were often used in conjunction with a production year. What should have alerted intelligence personnel to their origin as "other than Russian" was that all had Latin letter prefixes and none were found marked in Russian Cyrillic.

Adding to the confusion was the fact that, well after the Cold War subsided, certain Romanian defense officials in high places frequently denied the SKS was ever built or used by them. Indeed, they were, but the arms had been produced under a "forced licensing system" harshly imposed by the Soviets, due to Romania's fervor as a Third Reich ally—especially given the brutality with which Soviet subjects were treated by Romanian forces during World War II, particularly in Ukraine. By the time this small number of Romanian SKS carbines was imported in the early 2000s, though, the question was largely academic.

Another SKS version brought back from Vietnam mistakenly recorded as being of Russian origin, but in far smaller numbers compared to the Romanian version, was the East German *Karabiner S*, the German Democratic Republic's licensed variant. Unlike the Romanian Type 56, these had purposefully defaced markings in an attempt to hide their origin. One of my colleagues, Allo Junger, a former East German National *Volks Armee Stabsoberführer* (the equivalent of a chief warrant officer in the U.S. Army), located both post-German-unification and pre-1990 DDR ordnance documents at the old Dresden and Leipzig archival library.

This magnificently preserved East German Karabiner S displays obvious differences from all other SKS carbines of its genre, namely the classical German cut-out in the buttstock for a sling and the lack of provision for an external cleaning rod. The as-new gun was presented to Lt. Gen. Garrison H. Davidson, commanding general of the Seventh

Army, during his change of command upon his departure from West Germany. Present for the building of the Berlin Wall, it was one of three Karabiner S examples swiped near Potsdam during a conference and hid in a U.S. Army officer's vehicle trunk that was not subject to search. There were two East German military members involved





Howard Bearse Collection and photos

The front, left receiver flat of this bring-back East German Karabiner S (above, l. & r.) was heavily defaced to hide the East German defense ministry's MiFNV mark. Even in such rough condition, an example like this will draw prices from collectors in the high four figures—and even five figures at times. The forward portion of the Karabiner S (L.) lacks a cleaning rod mount among other subtle differences from Russian and Romanian models.

He was fortunate to have retrieved these prior to many such records being destroyed by the Merkel government.

In brief, the East German *Karabiner S* was, in reality, manufactured using Soviet-licensed Polish tooling and equipment that was purchased or bartered through the Warsaw Pact inter-member exchange program. In 1956, Poland's general staff voted against manufacture of the SKS, designated in Poland as the "karabin samopowtarzalny Simonowa" or "ksS." The reason simply being that it was felt the AK system could do anything the SKS could and having a detachable 30-round magazine and selective-fire capability was a plus. The East German *Karabiner S*, however, had a few features that differed from its Russian counterpart: a traditional Mauser-style stock, with a central sling cut in the buttstock; the omission of a cleaning rod, as the traditional German pull-through chain was preferred; and a subtle change to the bolt carrier. From 1959 to 1961, a total of 147,120 were produced at both the Ernst Thaelmann and Richard Sorge military manufacturing factories. Following a vote a year after the Fourth Congress, by the East German *Zentralkomitee*, it was in 1965 to 1966 that three shipments of East German military arms were shipped from Rostok to the port of Haiphong, North Vietnam, totaling 12,250 firearms. Among these were 8,250 of the *Karabiner S* semi-automatic SKS-type carbines. Interestingly, unlike Romania's shipments, the East Germans implemented a policy of "source restriction," or "quellenbeschränungsverfahren," meaning that certain markings indicating a gun's origins required defacing before shipment. Primarily, the sunburst marking on the left receiver flat of the *Karabiner S* and MiFNV,

Ministerium für Nationale Verteidigung (Ministry for National Defense) was blotted out with a series of "X" marks, most often seen on most EG *Karabiner S* carbines brought back from Vietnam, or even Latin America or Africa. Even though a form DD-603 was not available for inspection, two that I observed 48 years ago had the nation of origin listed as "Russia," simply because many arms-processing clerks in Vietnam often did not have highly detailed arms identification reference materials. The East German *Karabiner S* was known to U.S. Army intelligence personnel since 1963, as at least two were brought back from West Germany. However, neither the Romanian Type 56 nor the *Karabiner S*'s presence in North Vietnamese hands was known until years later.

Realistically speaking, at the time, any and all SKS war trophies observed by U.S. provost marshals or intelligence personnel to have Latin letter prefixes and markings during their registration were listed as "Russian." Today, with the SKS having become a highly specialized area of military arms collecting, the question has become one worth exploring. Comparing sheer numbers of various licensed SKS carbines, researchers have at last proven which is the real Russian SKS versus one of the design's many international clones. 🗡️

REFERENCES:

- PERSONAL NOTES OF ALEC ANTONESCU, CAPTAIN, ORDNANCE, FORMER ROMANIAN PEOPLE'S ARMY
- ALLO JUNGER, FORMER NATIONAL VOLKS ARMEE, STAFF WARRANT OFFICER, GDR
- THE COLLECTORS GUIDE TO THE SKS, GEORGE LAYMAN, MOWBRAY PUBLISHING 2023, WOONSOCKET, RI

in the theft, which saw them compensated well. The gun is one of the Holy Grails of SKS collecting, and none were ever imported. This detail of the German *Karabiner S* (inset, r.) illustrates the clarity of its markings—1960 was the banner year of production, with 1961 being the lowest year of manufacture.



Adrian Van Dyk Collection and photos



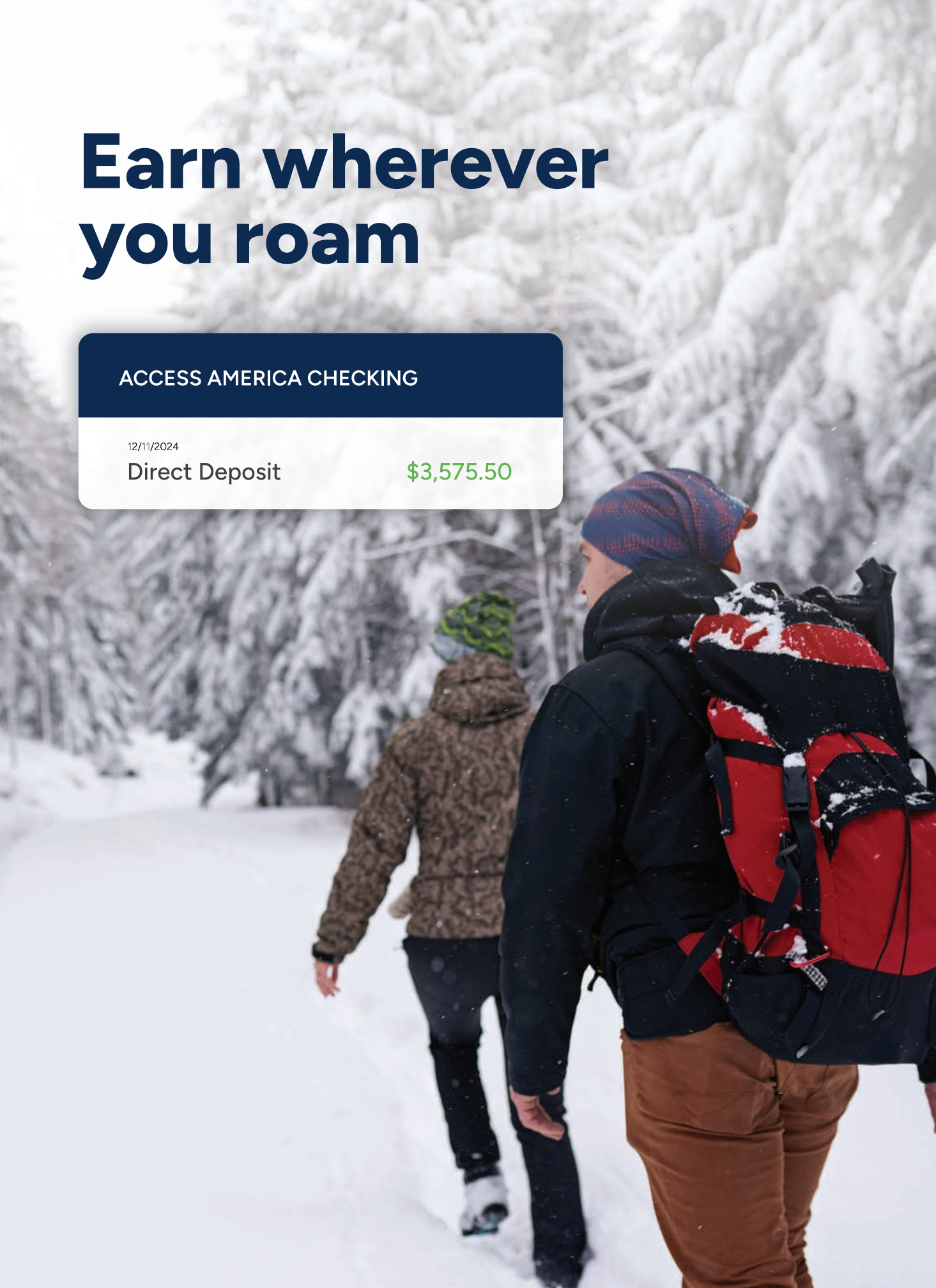
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A 20-Gauge Load For Beginner Bird Hunters

A good deal on a slightly used Winchester 1200 20-ga. pump-action shotgun showed up at a local sporting goods store just in time for my grandson to start practicing for bird hunting. Most of grandson John's shooting will be hand-thrown clay pigeons to prepare for grouse hunting along the edge of the forest.

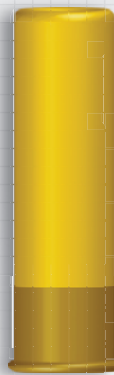
That shooting is easily handled with 7/8 oz. of lead No. 8s for targets and No. 7½s for hunting. A mild muzzle velocity of about 1,200 f.p.s. will help keep recoil light against John's skinny shoulder. Increasing velocity doesn't add all that much to pellet energy, anyway; a No. 7½ pellet fired at 1,330 f.p.s. carries only 0.32 ft.-lb. more energy at 20 yards than the same pellet starting out at 1,200 f.p.s. Switching to larger shot is the only appreciable way of increasing energy—a No. 6 packs nearly half again as much energy as a No. 7½ when both are fired at the same speed.

I picked Alliant 20/28 propellant for the recipe's load. It provided even velocities with a standard deviation of 6 f.p.s. across five shots. Many other propellants, though, perform just as well firing 7/8 oz. of shot in the 20 gauge. A few include Winchester Super Field and 572 and Hodgdon Universal and Longshot.

The Winchester's fixed full choke printed the recipe's load in a pattern diameter of 25" at 30 yards that was centered well on the point of aim. The 15" center circle of the patterns contained an average of 61 percent of the load's pellets. At 40 yards, 72 percent of the load's pellets landed within a 30" circle.

We'll see how John's shooting progresses. Perhaps a spreader insert in the shot will enlarge pattern diameter a bit to provide some aiming leeway—something both beginners like John and shooters with years under their belt can use to their benefit.

—JOHN HAVILAND, FIELD EDITOR



RECIPE

SHOT: 7/8 oz. No. 7½
PROPELLANT: ALLIANT 20/28
CHARGE: 15.5 GRAINS
PRIMER: W209
WAD: WA20
HULL: REMINGTON PREMIER STS
VELOCITY @ 5' (F.P.S.): 1,191*
PATTERN PERCENTAGE @ 40 YARDS: 72**
USES: BIRD HUNTING
NOTES: LOAD FIRED FROM THE 28" BARREL OF A WINCHESTER MODEL 1200 WITH A FULL CHOKE.
 * AVERAGE OF FIVE SHOTS.
 ** AVERAGE OF FOUR PATTERNS WITHIN A 30" CIRCLE.
TEMPERATURE: 42° F

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Stevens 334 Walnut

Hunting offers something unique for every individual who wanders afield. Many take it as an opportunity to deploy new gear or techniques, while others enjoy the simplicity of a cool autumn morning and don't see a need to invest beyond the basics. Firearms like the Stevens Model 334 were built for the latter camp, as it is the pure embodiment of the term "task-specific." It is a tool built to get the job done without unnecessary expenditure, because, realistically, it doesn't take the latest feature set to ethically harvest game, and this firearm proves that in spades.

Stevens, a division of Savage Arms, has its budget-friendly centerfire Model 334 bolt-action manufactured in Turkey. It feeds from a detachable box magazine, and two versions are being offered at launch: the 334 Synthetic and the 334 Walnut, the latter of which served as our test sample for this piece. Both variants are currently chambered in .243 Win., 6.5 mm Creedmoor and .308 Win., and our test gun for this evaluation was a .308 model with a 20" barrel.

A recoil lug integrated into the receiver nests within a bedding block affixed within the rifle's Turkish walnut stock.

Both the barrel and receiver are comprised of carbon steel and are threaded together before a non-reflective matte finish is applied. A pair of action screws, in conjunction with carbon-steel sleeves, sandwich the Turkish walnut stock between the synthetic "bottom metal" and the barreled action. An integrated recoil lug nests inside of a bedding block to mitigate fore and aft movement between the action and the stock.

Inside the receiver, a three-lug bolt facilitates a push-feed system that draws ammunition from the polymer three-round magazine. The nature of this design lends a short 60-degree bolt throw that most users are going to find faster to operate with far greater clearance between their hand and the ocular lens of a mounted optic. The box magazine is removed by pressing rearward on a lever forward of the magazine well. Checkering on the stock's fore-end and grip was adequate for secure purchase in dry conditions, although we question whether it would be coarse enough for use in



The 334 Walnut's full-diameter bolt and three-lug head facilitate a push-feed system with a short 60-degree bolt throw that is fast and conducive to use with an optic.

wet weather. A pair of swivel studs are screwed into the 334 Walnut's stock for the addition of a sling.

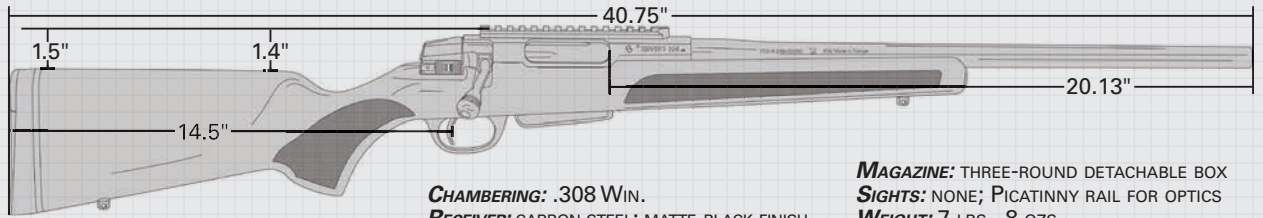
The 334 Walnut includes a one-piece Picatinny rail pre-mounted at the factory. This allows the user to easily affix an optic with just a set of scope rings. For testing, we chose a Riton 5 Primal 2-12X 44 mm, as it provides an ideal magnification range for this chambering; the lower power settings offer a wide field of view for shots within the brush, while the top end provides precision for longer-range engagements, say, across a field.

After affixing the scope, we chose appropriate hunting loads for



STEVENS 334 WALNUT

IMPORTER: SAVAGE ARMS (DEPT. AR), 100 SPRINGDALE ROAD, WESTFIELD, MA 01085; (800) 370-0708; SAVAGEARMS.COM



MANUFACTURER: ATA (TURKEY)

ACTION TYPE: BOLT-ACTION, CENTERFIRE, REPEATING RIFLE

CHAMBERING: .308 WIN.

RECEIVER: CARBON STEEL; MATTE-BLACK FINISH

STOCK: TURKISH WALNUT

BARREL: CARBON STEEL; FOUR-GROOVE, 1:11" RH TWIST

MAGAZINE: THREE-ROUND DETACHABLE BOX

SIGHTS: NONE; PICATINNY RAIL FOR OPTICS

WEIGHT: 7 LBS., 8 OZS.

TRIGGER: SINGLE-STAGE; 7-LB., 9-OZ. PULL

ACCESSORIES: OWNER'S MANUAL, LOCK

MSRP: \$509



The rifle has a forward-to-fire three-position manual safety at the right, rear of the receiver. A center setting blocks the trigger while allowing the bolt to cycle.

the average use case of this setup: Federal's 150-grain Power-Shoks; Hornady's 150-grain American Whitetails; and Berger's 168-grain Classic Hunters. Each tester described the bolt throw and travel as smooth and fluid, with few to no hang-ups.

We all appreciated the three-position safety at the rear, right of the receiver that offers an option to cycle the bolt while still blocking trigger movement. The only gripe with it was that it wasn't clear as to which position enabled the gun to fire, as both sides were marked with a red dot. Luckily, it was built around an intuitive push-to-fire mechanism.

Our Lyman Digital trigger gauge measured the average break at 7 lbs., 9 ozs., which many shooters will find to be excessive. Given that inexpensive rifles are often most attractive to newcomers, however, a heavy trigger does offer something of a safety margin. An extra pound or two of resistance might just be the saving grace if a rookie hunter accidentally rests a finger on it.

After breaking-in the barrel, a live-fire test revealed consistency well above its price tag, even if the trigger


SHOOTING RESULTS (100 YARDS)

.308 WIN. CARTRIDGE	VELOCITY (F.P.S.)	ENERGY (FT.-LBS.)	GROUP SIZE (INCHES)		
			SMALLEST	LARGEST	AVERAGE
BERGER CLASSIC HUNTER 168-GRAIN BTHP	2,462 Avg. 23 Sd	2,261	1.18	1.57	1.37
FEDERAL POWER-SHOK 150-GRAIN SP	2,710 Avg. 15 Sd	2,446	1.53	2.13	1.85
HORNADY AMERICAN WHITETAIL 150-GRAIN SP	2,663 Avg. 15 Sd	2,362	1.51	2.28	1.70
AVERAGE EXTREME SPREAD					1.64

NOTES: MEASURED AVERAGE VELOCITY FOR 10 SHOTS OVER A CALDWELL G2 CHRONOGRAPH AT 10 FEET. ACCURACY RESULTS FOR FIVE CONSECUTIVE, FIVE-SHOT GROUPS AT 100 YARDS FOR A BENCH REST. TEMPERATURE: 45° F. HUMIDITY: 25%. ABBREVIATIONS: BTHP (BOAT TAIL HOLLOW-POINT) Sd (STANDARD DEVIATION), SP (SOFT POINT).

needed to be gently massaged back to get it there. We attributed this to the button-rifled barrel, which is free-floated. The rifle's thick rubber recoil pad significantly reduced recoil. The relatively straight stock positions the eye directly in line with the scope, and no neck straining was experienced during the evaluation.

Overall, we found the Stevens 334 Walnut to be a capable rifle that is accurate beyond its requirements and that has an action that is refined beyond its cost. It is fairly heavy, though—enough that shooting from conventional field positions became

tiresome after a while—and the trigger pull is unquestionably heavy, so it may be best used by a hunter who expects to shoot primarily from a tree stand or some other well-supported position. 

Pulling back on a small lever just forward of the magazine well allows the Stevens 334 Walnut's polymer, three-round detachable box to be removed from the gun for a quick reload.



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

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

True to the original Single Action Army, the sights (opposite) consist of a rounded, fixed front blade and a receiver groove at the rear viewable only when the single-action hammer is cocked.



Cimarron U.S. Cavalry Model Henry Nettleton

While the Colt Single Action Army (SAA), which celebrated its 150th birthday in 2023, is still being made by the company that first brought it into existence, the popularity of the design and its connection with martial and frontier history has created a vibrant market for derivatives, many of which are produced in Italy. Cimarron Firearms imports more than a few SAA variants from Italy (more than 100, by our count), one of which harkens back to the early days of the military Colt. This review takes a closer look at the U.S. Cavalry Model Henry Nettleton, a martially marked variant of Cimarron's Model P, the company's trade name for its Single Action Army clones.

In keeping with the construction and appearance of the earliest generations of the military Single Action Army, the Cimarron is built on a traditional color-casehardened frame mated to a 7½" blued barrel. A blued, six-round, fluted cylinder sits within the frame, and the gun is, of course, chambered for .45 Colt. The trigger guard, trigger, backstrap and ejector-rod housing are also blued, and the hammer, complete with a checkered spur, is casehardened. A set of smooth

walnut stocks completes the classic martial appearance.

On this particular model, the key features are the various markings included to enhance its historical appeal. Original Nettleton-marked Colts are some of the most collectible of U.S. martial arms, as U.S. Principal Sub-Inspector Henry Nettleton examined some of the earliest Colt SAAs to see military service. As such, the Cimarron reproduction of these early guns includes the appropriate "H.N." stamp on the backstrap, cylinder, hammer and just forward of the trigger guard on the underside of the revolver. Additionally, the flowing, cursive initials of "HN" bounded within an oval border are stamped at the bottom of both stock panels. One further period-appropriate mark is the inclusion of the Colt patent dates located on the left side of the frame, just below the cylinder.

This being a modern-day, Italian-made replica, there are some additional markings, such as the CIP proof stamped on the cylinder, the necessary ".45 cal." caliber designation and, of course, the top of the barrel includes the address for Cimarron Firearms rather than Colt. Those small out-of-place elements aside,

from an appearance standpoint, the Cimarron Henry Nettleton certainly checks all the boxes for any historical arms enthusiast.

In terms of construction and utility, most of what you'd expect to find on an original Colt is here. Starting at the top of the gun, the Cimarron is outfitted with a period-appropriate SAA front sight blade with a "quarter-moon" appearance. The rear sight only appears once the hammer is cocked, revealing a long V-shaped groove in the topstrap.

Unlike many SAA reproductions, Cimarron chose to retain the original appearance and construction of the Colt hammer. This, in particular, means the inclusion of a fixed firing pin, prominently seen when the hammer is cocked. The fixed firing pin led to the old adage of "load one, skip one," in which those who carried a loaded Colt would have five rounds, with the hammer resting on the empty sixth chamber. Thumbing the hammer back provides the classic sound of a Single Action Army; operating the action slowly provides four distinct clicks. The first is an archaic "safety" notch, which proved to be temperamental and untrustworthy, leading to the

Unlike many Single Action Army clones that employ modern transfer-bar systems, the Cimarron Henry Nettleton model features a fixed firing pin (l.) that requires one chamber to remain empty for safe carry. On the rear, right side of the frame, a hinged loading gate (r.) must be opened to insert fresh rounds or remove spent cartridge cases.



five-round carry method. The second click allows the cylinder to spin freely, enabling owners to load and unload the revolver. The third and fourth clicks happen nearly in unison, bringing the revolver to full cock.

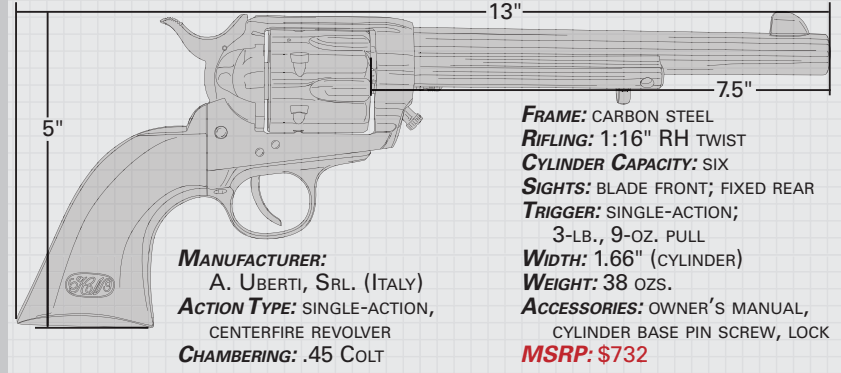
On the right side of the frame is the color-casehardened loading gate. With the hammer in its half-cock position, loading the revolver requires simply hinging the gate open, rotating the cylinder until an empty chamber appears and inserting a fresh round. Unloading requires the use of the ejector rod housed at the bottom-right of the barrel. The period-appropriate, round ejector-rod lever is pressed from the front to drive the ejector rod through the front of a chamber until it contacts the inside of a spent case. A slight push will drive the case from the chamber.

The Cimarron's trigger is conventional for a Colt SAA clone, but that's by no means a denigration of the design. These guns have crisp, clean triggers that make shooting a joy, thanks largely due to the single-action mechanism. Our sample gun's trigger broke with an average pull weight of 3 lbs., 9 ozs., and across 10 pulls, it never varied more than a few ounces. Thumbing the hammer back into position takes little effort, too, and that's largely thanks to the improved springs included in this particular reproduction.

One element of the Cimarron we found curious was the arrangement of the cylinder base pin screw. Our test sample arrived with its base pin screw in the correct location for these early 1st Gen Colts, at the front of the frame, but the screw itself protruded prominently from the frame and had a

CIMARRON U.S. CAVALRY MODEL HENRY NETTLETON

IMPORTER: CIMARRON FIREARMS (DEPT. AR), 105 WINDING OAK ROAD, FREDERICKSBURG, TX 78624; (830) 997-9090; CIMARRON-FIREARMS.COM



SHOOTING RESULTS (25 YARDS)


.45 COLT CARTRIDGE	VELOCITY (F.P.S.)	ENERGY (FT.-LBS.)	GROUP SIZE (INCHES)		
			SMALLEST	LARGEST	AVERAGE
FIOCCHI COWBOY ACTION 250-GRAIN LRNFP	750 Avg. 10 Sd	312	1.49	3.25	2.18
HORNADY 230-GRAIN XTP	825 Avg. 31 Sd	348	1.95	3.45	2.83
SIG SAUER 230-GRAIN JHP	852 Avg. 21 Sd	371	2.10	3.52	2.94
AVERAGE EXTREME SPREAD					2.65

NOTES: MEASURED AVERAGE VELOCITY FOR 10 SHOTS OVER AN OEHLER MODEL 36 CHRONOGRAPH AT 15 FEET. ACCURACY RESULTS FOR FIVE CONSECUTIVE, FIVE-SHOT GROUPS AT 25 YARDS FIRED FROM A SANDBAG REST. TEMPERATURE: 70° F. HUMIDITY: 72%. ABBREVIATIONS: JHP (JACKETED HOLLOW POINT), LRNFP (LEAD ROUND NOSE FLAT POINT), SD (STANDARD DEVIATION), XTP (eXtREME TERMINAL PERFORMANCE).

knurled texture. Communication with Cimarron indicated that these screws are included with the guns when they come in from Italy, but the company does include a period-correct flush screw with each gun that's much more aesthetically pleasing. The one benefit to retaining the protruding screw is that it makes removing the cylinder base pin somewhat easier for cleaning.

The range experience with the Cimarron Henry Nettleton was somewhat diminished by the lack of readily available .45 Colt ammunition. A somewhat meager, but sufficient, quantity was finally obtained, largely thanks to Fiocchi, which is one of a scant few makers currently producing quantities of .45 Colt. Given the dearth of ammo, most of the range shooting was limited to accuracy testing and chronographing, but such work aside, some rounds were left over for casual plinking, and that's where the Cimarron really shines. Few will buy a Single Action Army clone for anything other than

the pure enjoyment of shooting one of the iconic American firearm designs, and the Cimarron fully provides that. The plow-handle grip allows the gun to roll in the hand, which softens recoil, and the gun feels well-balanced and easy to control, particularly with such a clean trigger pull.

Original Henry Nettleton-marked Colts are highly prized and exceedingly valuable. A pristine example sold at Rock Island Auction for more than \$100,000 in 2018. Considering that the Cimarron clone can be purchased for right around \$700 and can be fired without any of the baggage or cost associated with shooting an original, highly collectible arm, it's certainly a great deal for the historical firearm enthusiast. 



From the factory, the Henry Nettleton is equipped with a prominent and historically incorrect cylinder base pin screw, but Cimarron also includes a period-appropriate replacement (arrow).



ATN X-Sight 5

The ATN X-Sight 5 is a digital riflescope that can be used in any lighting conditions. It operates via a quad-core sensor that captures the image transmitted through the objective lens and then processes and displays it on the 1280x960 DPI screen that is viewed through the ocular lens. The sensitive onboard computer optimizes the light particles entering the sight, allowing the shooter to cut through the night and engage targets as far as the ambient or accessory infrared lighting allows.

As the X-Sight is built on a conventional riflescope footprint, standard 30 mm scope rings are used to mount it to a rifle. The manufacturer includes a trio of options to help fit the scope to a plethora of firearms; there is even a scope ring that features a pair of Picatinny slots to allow the included IR illuminator to be attached. A Bear Creek BC-10 rifle chambered in .22-250 Rem. was chosen as our test firearm, and we found that the included rings provided excellent sight height and eye relief for use with this AR-10-type platform. Before taking it to the range, we charged the unit using the included USB-C cable and a common cell phone wall adapter; as the scope arrived completely drained, this process took approximately 6.5 hours.

We began our evaluation during the day, where we zeroed the optic for 100 yards. This process involves firing a group and then entering the menu to drift a secondary reticle to the actual point of impact. After hitting enter,

the scope records this correction and adjusts internally. We found that to do this, we needed to start at 15 yards to get on paper and then repeat the process at the final distance.

The X-Sight 5 offers multiple profiles that allow for zeroing at different distances or with different types of ammunition. Arguably, one can use this for multiple firearms, but doing so would require a quick-detach mount that faithfully returns to zero. After we completed sighting-in, testers evaluated the recoil-activated video setting, which continually records and deletes what is captured through the scope until it detects a shot has been fired. Once it does, it saves the user-selected amount of time prior to the shot and continues to record for up to 30 seconds after it—a feature we found to be convenient. There is also the option to capture this moment in slow motion at a rate of 240 frames per second or record at standard speed in 4K resolution. The fifth-generation X-Sight also has a calibration feature to ensure that lighter-recoiling firearms can be configured to activate this function.

Our night test took place under moonless conditions and required the use of the IR illuminator to see anything at all. In these conditions, users found the reticle's cant and pitch indicators to be particularly useful, as the absence of light made these hard to determine otherwise. With night mode selected, we found that we could easily resolve 2'x4' target boards out

ATN X-SIGHT 5

MANUFACTURER: AMERICAN TECHNOLOGIES NETWORK CORP. (DEPT. AR), 2400 N.W. 95 AVE., DORAL, FL 33172; (650) 989-5100; ATNCORP.COM

ZOOM: 3-15X; 38 SETTINGS

FIELD OF VIEW @ 100 YARDS: 51.5' (3X) TO 17.2' (15X)

EYE RELIEF: 3.5"

DISPLAY RESOLUTION: 1280x960 DPI

FRAME RATE: 120 Hz

BATTERY TYPE: ONBOARD LITHIUM-ION

LENGTH: 16.63" (WITH EYECUP), 13.4" (WITHOUT)


WEIGHT: 31 OZS.

ACCESSORIES: OWNER'S MANUAL, QUICK-START GUIDE, SOFT CASE, IR ILLUMINATOR (WITH BATTERY), BATTERY CHARGER, EYEPiece, SUNSHADE, USB-C CHARGING CABLE, MOUNTING RINGS, LENS CLOTH

MSRP: \$795

to 300 yards, but, as magnification increased, more visual distortion was encountered. Therefore, we determined that under these conditions, its useful hunting distance would be within 200 yards, as the display was still clean at 4X magnification and provided enough detail to place an ethical shot.

We confirmed this by engaging a 6" plate using the MRAD crosshair option to determine holdover. This replicates a first-focal-plane reticle and zooms with magnification; however, by overlaying it with a scaled target, we determined that each hashmark is closer to 1.5 mils. This makes it effective for bullet-drop estimation, but the user shouldn't use it to determine target distance or size.

Our overall impression of the ATN X-Sight 5 was quite favorable, particularly when the \$795 MSRP for the 3-15X model used in this review is taken into consideration. Shooters looking for more zoom are welcome to try the 5-25X version, but we feel that most will be satisfied with the less expensive, lower-magnification version. Both also offer the option for an integrated laser rangefinder, but at an added expense (\$1,095). As for functionality, those who had previous experience with ATN's menu system found the transition to be perfectly straightforward, while those who did not were brought up to speed in just a matter of minutes. Regardless of experience with scopes of this nature, all agreed that the X-Sight 5 is ATN's best performing night-vision series yet and helps to maintain a rifle's traditional profile. 



The ATN X-Sight 5 ships with an accessory infrared illuminator (battery included) and a USB-C cable for charging the digital optic.

Scientific Discovery Stuns Doctors

Biblical Bush Relieves Joint Discomfort in as Little as 5 Days

Legendary “special herb” gives new life to old joints without clobbering you. So safe you can take it every day without worry.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than 54 million Americans are suffering from joint discomfort.

This epidemic rise in aching joints has led to a search for alternative treatments—as many sufferers want relief without the harmful side effects of conventional “solutions.”

Leading the way from nature’s pharmacy is the new “King of Oils” that pioneering Florida MD and anti-aging specialist Dr. Al Sears calls “the most significant breakthrough I’ve ever found for easing joint discomfort.”

Biblical scholars treasured this “holy oil.” Ancient healers valued it more than gold for its medicinal properties. Marco Polo prized it as he blazed the Silk Road. And Ayurvedic practitioners, to this day, rely on it for healing and detoxification.

Yet what really caught Dr. Sears’ attention is how modern medical findings now prove this “King of Oils” can powerfully...

Deactivate 400 Agony-Causing Genes

If you want genuine, long-lasting relief for joint discomfort, you must address inflammation. Too much inflammation will wreak havoc on joints, break down cartilage and cause unending discomfort. This is why so many natural joint relief solutions try to stop one of the main inflammatory genes called COX-2.

But the truth is, there are hundreds of agony-causing genes like COX-2, 5-LOX, iNOS, TNK, Interleukin 1,6,8 and many more—and stopping just one of them won’t give you all the relief you need.

Doctors and scientists now confirm the “King of Oils”—Indian Frankincense—deactivates not one but 400 agony-causing genes. It does so by shutting down the inflammation command center called Nuclear Factor Kappa Beta.

NK-Kappa B is like a switch that can turn 400 inflammatory genes “on” or “off.” A study in *Journal of Food Lipids* reports that Indian Frankincense powerfully deactivates NF-Kappa B. This journal adds that Indian Frankincense is “so powerful it shuts down the pathway triggering aching joints.”

Relief That’s 10 Times Faster... and in Just 5 Days

Many joint sufferers prefer natural solutions but say they work too slowly. Take the best-seller glucosamine. Good as it is,



The active ingredient in Mobilify soothes aching joints in as little as 5 days

the National Institutes of Health reports that glucosamine takes as long as eight weeks to work.

Yet in a study published in the *International Journal of Medical Sciences*, 60 patients with stiff knees took 100 mg of Indian Frankincense or a placebo daily for 30 days. Remarkably, Indian Frankincense “significantly improved joint function and relieved discomfort in as early as five days.” That’s relief that is 10 times faster than glucosamine.

78% Better Relief Than the Most Popular Joint Solution

In another study, people suffering from discomfort took a formula containing Indian Frankincense and another natural substance or a popular man-made joint solution every day for 12 weeks.

The results? Stunning! At the end of the study, 64% of those taking the Indian Frankincense formula saw their joint discomfort go from moderate or severe to mild or no discomfort. Only 28% of those taking the placebo got the relief they wanted. So Indian Frankincense delivered relief at a 78% better clip than the popular man-made formula.

In addition, in a randomized, double blind, placebo controlled study, patients suffering from knee discomfort took Indian Frankincense or a placebo daily for eight weeks. Then the groups switched and got the opposite intervention. Every one of the patients taking Indian Frankincense got relief. That’s a 100% success rate—numbers unseen by typical solutions.

In addition, BMJ (formerly the *British Medical Journal*) reports that Indian Frankincense is safe for joint relief — so safe and

natural you can take it every day.

Because of clinically proven results like this, Dr. Sears has made Indian Frankincense the centerpiece of a new natural joint relief formula called **Mobilify**.

Great Results for Knees, Hips, Shoulders and Joints

Joni D. says, “**Mobilify** really helps with soreness, stiffness and mild temporary pain. The day after taking it, I was completely back to normal—so fast.” Shirley M. adds, “Two weeks after taking **Mobilify**, I had no knee discomfort and could go up and down the staircase.” Larry M. says, “After a week and a half of taking **Mobilify**, the discomfort, stiffness and minor aches went away... it’s almost like being reborn.” And avid golfer Dennis H. says, “I can attest to **Mobilify** easing discomfort to enable me to pursue my golfing days. Definitely one pill that works for me out of the many I have tried.”

How to Get Mobilify

To secure the hot, new **Mobilify** formula, buyers should contact the Sears Health Hotline at **1-800-463-0613** TODAY. “It’s not available in retail stores yet,” says Dr. Sears. “The Hotline allows us to ship directly to the customer.” Dr. Sears feels so strongly about **Mobilify**, all orders are backed by a 100% money-back guarantee. “Just send me back the bottle and any unused product within 90 days from purchase date, and I’ll send you all your money back.”

Use Promo Code **ARMB1124** when you call to secure your supply of **Mobilify**. Lines are frequently busy and due to heightened demand, supplies are limited. To secure your supply today, call **1-800-463-0613**.

LATEST
LEGISLATIVE
NEWS FROM
INSIDE THE NRA
INSTITUTE FOR
LEGISLATIVE
ACTION

Attacks On 2A Before Pivotal Elections

As the November elections were rapidly approaching, some states controlled by anti-gun extremists took the opportunity to push through last-minute attacks on the rights of law-abiding gun owners. Here is a rundown of what three states did while many pro-gun voters were distracted by being focused on one of the most critical elections for the preservation of the Second Amendment.

NEW YORK

In October, anti-gun legislators in Albany offered more proof that their gun-control schemes are about political theater rather than public safety. New York Gov. Kathy Hochul (D) signed Senate Bill 8479, months after it had passed both chambers and just weeks away from November's critical election.

SB 8479 mandates that payment processors assign firearm/ammunition specific merchant category codes (MCCs) in an effort to track these legal transactions. This intrusion lays the foundation for gun registries and is ripe for abuse.

In the Fall of 2022, the International Organization for Standardization (ISO)

approved a MCC for firearm retailers. MCCs are used by payment processors (like Visa and Mastercard) and other financial services companies to categorize transactions. MCCs enable payment processors and banks to identify, monitor and collect data on certain types of transactions. Before the ISO decision, firearm retailers fell under the MCC for sporting goods stores or miscellaneous retail.

As backlash against firearm-specific MCCs rose, many financial services paused the idea of implementing the wildly unpopular idea. Some states even passed laws prohibiting them. New York, obviously, went against freedom and chose to mandate the codes. This action is simply a continuation of anti-gun Democrats' attack on law-abiding gun owners and the Second Amendment.

MASSACHUSETTS

Massachusetts Gov. Maura Healey (D), one of the nation's most extreme anti-gun politicians, forced H. 4885 into law prior to its statutory start. Using an "emergency preamble," Gov. Healey's actions expedited

IN MEMORY NRA-ILA CONTRIBUTIONS

September 1-30, 2024

John "Jack" M. Campbell (from: James W. McFarland, Jr.); Gary Winkler, (from: St. Joseph Rifle and Pistol Club); Merle Wyant, Arkport, NY (from: Ann Stephens).

NRA-ILA

ILA Grassroots:

(800) 392-8683

NRA-ILA: (703) 267-1170

NRA-ILA website: nraila.org

California Gov. Gavin Newsom (D) has continued his crusade to erode Second Amendment rights in California by signing several anti-gun bills into law.

Cathy Images photo by Justin Sullivan

the implementation of one of the most extreme gun-control laws in the country, making it effective Oct. 2, 2024. This procedural move circumvented any opportunity for citizens to utilize the referendum process and put gun owners and sportsmen at risk, as many facets of the law lacked the systems and guidance in place for either understanding or complying with it.

This move was purely political; however, it provided the opportunity to expedite the impending legal challenges that NRA was working on. Randy Kozuch, executive director of the NRA-ILA, released the following statement:

“With the swipe of a pen, Governor Healey has shamelessly circumvented Massachusetts’ political process and expedited the effective date of her radical gun control law in the Commonwealth. This extreme law will not go unchecked, and the NRA will be launching a challenge to restore the rights guaranteed to Bay Staters by the U.S. Constitution.”

CALIFORNIA

On Sept. 24, Gov. Gavin Newsom (D) continued his crusade to erode Second Amendment rights in California by signing several anti-gun bills into law. NRA opposed these bills throughout the session and will continue to fight in the courts on behalf of all gun owners across the Golden State.

The following bills were signed into law:

Senate Bill 53 prohibits firearm possession in the home unless the firearms are stored in a firearm-safety device that is approved by the Department of Justice. SB 53 ignores the U.S. Supreme Court decision in *D.C. v. Heller*, which argued that storage requirements that prevent gun owners from easily accessing their firearms are unconstitutional. SB 53 will take effect on Jan. 1, 2026.

Assembly Bill 1252 codifies the Office of Gun Violence Prevention created by Attorney General Rob Bonta in 2022. While proponents claim the purpose is to conduct “research,” the Office of Gun Violence Prevention will only serve to advocate for gun-control policies using taxpayer dollars. AB 1252 requires the Office of Gun Violence Prevention to work with “gun violence prevention advocates” to identify new legislation and regulations that can be passed in California and issue a report outlining these new proposed restrictions on or before July 1, 2026.

AB 2917 expands upon California’s existing Gun Violence Protective Order to allow the court to also consider “threats” directed toward a group or location when deciding whether to issue the order. If issued, Gun Violence Protective Orders result in a five-year firearm prohibition, subject to indefinite renewals. These so-called “red-flag” orders deprive citizens of their fundamental rights and property without due-process safeguards and a clear evidentiary basis. AB 2917 will take effect on Jan. 1, 2025. 🏹

Will Jones is NRA COUNTRY

Photo courtesy Will Jones



Hailing from the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains, Will Jones has a sound deeply rooted in the country and bluegrass music he grew up picking. Will also has deep roots in the Second Amendment and the American outdoor life. NRA’s Bobby Jenkins got the opportunity to ask him a few questions. Follow Will on Facebook and X @willjonesband or on Instagram @willjonesofficial.

BJ: To give our NRA members a little insight, please tell us about your musical background and what inspires you.

WJ: I grew up in the Blue Ridge Mountains in Southwest Virginia. I grew up on bluegrass and American mountain music like the Carter family’s musical roots. As I got more into country music, it was Merle Haggard, George Jones and Keith Whitley. I also have a deep passion and love for bluegrass artists like Keith Whitley, Vince Gill, Marty Stuart and Ricky Skaggs. And I’m a guitar nerd; I love that hard-driving bluegrass guitar sound, like Tony Rice’s.

BJ: You’ve had an exciting year, playing with a lot of other great talents. Can you share with us what has been most memorable?

WJ: The best part has been making friendships with great people that I look up to. Being a part of Jon Pardi’s World Tour and playing my first arena has been a dream come true. Then, having the opportunity to tour with Ashley McBryde—she is the salt of the Earth, as good of a human as there is on Earth.

BJ: What can we look forward to from you in December?

WJ: “Hickory Heart” is releasing. It’s a song about tough love, about knowing someone with a calloused heart, someone who doesn’t let anyone in. It’s one of my favorites.

BJ: Christmas time is here. For me, that means passing on family traditions to my daughter, like baking. What is special about the Christmas season for you?

WJ: For me, Christmas is family. I am one of five children; I have four sisters. We’re all married with kids who are super close in age. I just love watching the babies enjoy the season, and I love Jesus Christ.

BJ: For decorating sugar cookies, which team are you, colored sugar or icing?

WJ: It has to be the colored sugar.

BJ: Favorite Christmas song?

WJ: My favorite Christmas song is Merle Haggard’s “If We Make It Through December.”

BJ: Will, I love that keeping Christ in Christmas was top of your mind. As a fellow man of faith, what would you offer to someone struggling with their faith or someone hoping for answers?

WJ: Everything happens for a reason; trust God; go with it. Trust in what He has for you. It is amazing what happens when you put your heart in the right place.

BJ: You jumped at the opportunity to be associated with the NRA. Can you tell us why?

WJ: The NRA, the Second Amendment, firearms, they’re part of my life. I’m an avid outdoorsman and a hunter. I’ve hunted my entire life. I’m committed to self-protection, and I believe the Second Amendment was given to the American people and we need to defend it.

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NRA Online Regional Report

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LAW ENFORCEMENT

le.nra.org

Public and private officers interested in becoming law enforcement firearm instructors should attend one of NRA's Law Enforcement Firearms Instructor Development Schools. NRA Police Pistol Combat competition is intended to be used as an extension of an officer's training.



FRIENDS OF NRA

friendsofnra.org

Friends of NRA events celebrate American values with fun, fellowship and fundraising for The NRA Foundation. To learn more about events in your area, visit friendsofnra.org, contact your local field representative or send an email to friends@nrahq.org.



GUN SHOWS

gunshows.nra.org

Dates and locations of gun shows are subject to change. Please contact the show before traveling. Discounted NRA memberships are sold through NRA recruiters. Some shows may offer free admission to people who sign up for new memberships or renewals.

To become an NRA Recruiter, contact NRA Recruiting Programs at recruiter@nrahq.org.



TRAINING

refuse.nra.org | nrainstructors.org

The NRA's Refuse To Be A Victim® program provides information on crime prevention and personal safety. To learn more about the program, visit refuse.nra.org. The most up-to-date seminar and instructor training schedule is available on the Internet by visiting nrainstructors.org, or online training is available at nraonlinetraining.org.

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



AREA SHOOTS

ssusa.org/coming-events

For more information, please contact the NRA Competitive Shooting Division at comphelp@nrahq.org.



STATE ASSOCIATIONS

stateassociations.nra.org

Joining NRA-affiliated state associations supports NRA's mission in your state. See clubs.nra.org for more information.

Member Information & Benefits

NRA.ORG

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The "NRA Regional Report," a service for NRA members, is an up-to-date listing of NRA conducted and/or sponsored events scheduled in your region for the current month. Call to verify event dates and locations before traveling.

154TH **NRA**
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ANNUAL MEETINGS & EXHIBITS

APRIL 24-27, 2025

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



NRA Board Votes On Litigation Committee

The following action is published in accordance with Article IV, Section 3(d) of the NRA Bylaws.

During the September 7, 2024 meeting of the NRA Board of Directors, the Board considered dissolving the Special Litigation Committee (SLC). This committee was previously created by the Board, and had been granted authority to manage certain litigation in which NRA executives had conflicts of interest.

A roll call vote was taken on the following motion:

■ **“To rescind the SLC.”**

Under Robert’s Rules of Order, Newly Revised (12th edition) Section 35, paragraph 35:2(7) (which governs procedures at NRA Board meetings under NRA Bylaws Article XIV, Section 2(a)), a motion to rescind a previous action, without prior notice of the motion, requires an affirmative vote that either is a

majority of the entire voting membership of the 76-member Board, which is 39, or is two thirds of the votes cast.

As published below, there were 60 votes cast, with 34 in the affirmative to rescind the Special Litigation Committee and 26 in the negative against rescinding it. Because previous notice of the motion had not been given and the number of votes in the affirmative was both less than 39 and less than two thirds of the votes cast, the motion was defeated.

<p>Voting in Favor of the Motion:</p> <p>Paul D. Babaz Bill Bachenberg Clel Baudler Ted W. Carter Anthony P. Colandro Rick Ector Todd R. Ellis Dennis Fusaro Craig Haggard Al Hammond Maria Heil Charles T. Hiltunen Phillip B. Journey Susannah Warner Kipke</p>	<p>Jeffrey A. Knox Willes K. Lee Robert E. Mansell Rocky Marshall Owen Buz Mills David Norcross Janet D. Nyce James W. Porter II David A. Raney Ronald L. Schmeits Steven C. Schreiner Leroy Sisco Amanda Suffecool Craig Swartz Mark E. Vaughan Linda L. Walker</p>	<p>James L. Wallace Bruce Widener Robert Wos Cathy S. Wright</p> <p>Voting Against the Motion:</p> <p>Joe M. Allbaugh Scott L. Bach Charles R. Beers III Donald J. Bradway J. William Carter Patricia A. Clark Charles L. Cotton David G. Coy Larry E. Craig Isaac Demarest</p>	<p>Steven W. Dulan Edie P. Fleeman Carol Frampton Joel Friedman Sandra S. Froman Curtis S. Jenkins Amy Heath Lovato Bill Miller Johnny Nugent Jay Printz Kim Rhode Barbara Rumpel Don Saba Danny Stowers Dwight D. Van Horn Eb Wilkinson</p>
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OFFICIAL NOTICE – Proposed Amendment To NRA Certificate Of Incorporation

At its meeting on May 20, 2024, the National Rifle Association Board of Directors recommended that the NRA’s voting members adopt an amendment to the NRA’s Certificate of Incorporation. The amendment would add a new section to the NRA’s corporate purposes as follows:

This corporation is formed to undertake exclusively those purposes that a non-charitable corporation may be organized

to take under section 201 (Purposes) of the New York Not-for-Profit Corporation Law. This corporation is a non-charitable corporation under section 201 of said law, as defined in subparagraph (9-a) of paragraph (a) of section 102 (Definitions) of said law, and it shall hereafter continue to be a non-charitable corporation.

The proposal is intended to protect the NRA’s rights to advocate for the Second Amendment by clarifying the

Association’s legal status in New York. It would not change the NRA’s federal nonprofit tax exemption—let alone its mission, its programs, or the rights and powers of NRA members.

Voting on this amendment will take place by mail. Eligible voting members should watch for their ballots on this issue, which will arrive in late January 2025 along with the ballots for election of directors. 🗳️

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Communications intended for any member of the NRA Board of Directors should be addressed to:

(Name of Board member), NRA Office of the Secretary, 11250 Waples Mill Road, Fairfax, VA 22030; or nrabad@nrahq.org; or (703) 267-1021. Please include your name, contact information and NRA membership I.D. number, as only communications from NRA members will be forwarded.

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PRODUCT WARNING AND RECALL NOTICE

WINCHESTER® 22 Long Rifle M-22 40 grain

Advertisement

Olin Winchester, LLC is recalling seven (7) lots of 22 Long Rifle 40 grain Round Nose Black Copper Plated M-22 Rimfire ammunition.

Symbol: S22LRT

Lot Numbers (last five characters): VA01M, VA90M, VB21M, VB31M, VC82L, VD01L, VD90L

Winchester has determined the above lots of 22 Long Rifle ammunition may contain incorrect powder charges. Ammunition with excessive powder charges may cause firearm damage, rendering the firearm inoperable and subjecting the shooter and bystanders to a risk of serious personal injury.

DO NOT USE WINCHESTER® 22 LONG RIFLE SYMBOL S22LRT THAT HAS A LOT NUMBER ENDING IN ANY OF THE ABOVE FIVE CHARACTERS. S22LRT is sold in 1000-round packs that contain two 500-round cartons. The ammunition Lot Number is stamped on the top of the 2000-round case and inside the 500-round carton's top right tuck flap as indicated here:



To determine if your ammunition is subject to this notice, review the Symbol and Lot Number. If it is Symbol S22LRT and any of the above seven (7) Lot Numbers, **immediately discontinue use** and contact Winchester toll-free at 844-653-8358 for free UPS pick-up of the recalled ammunition. Upon receipt of your recalled ammunition, Winchester will issue you a reimbursement check.

This notice applies only to Symbol S22LRT with the above Lot Numbers. Other Symbols or Lot Numbers are not subject to this recall.

If you have any questions concerning this 22 Long Rifle rimfire ammunition recall, please call toll-free 844-653-8358, write to Winchester (600 Powder Mill Road, East Alton, IL 62024 Attn: S22LRT Recall), or visit our website at www.winchester.com.

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PRODUCT RECALL NOTICE
HORNADY BLACK® 350 LEGEND 150 GR. SP

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

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

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

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

Any other lot numbers or item numbers are not subject to this recall and require no action.

Thank you for your attention. We apologize for this inconvenience.



The item number and lot number can be found printed on the box label.

ITEM # 81199

LOT # LOCATION

I HAVE THIS OLD GUN ...



NORINCO MODEL 320



GUN: MODEL 320
MANUFACTURER: CHINA NORTH INDUSTRIES CORP. (NORINCO)
CHAMBERING: 9 MM LUGER
MANUFACTURED: C. 1993
CONDITION: NRA NEW (MODERN GUN STANDARDS)
VALUE: \$1,500

The Uzi submachine gun is one of the most iconic and recognizable firearms of the 20th century. As a highly successful design with more than 10 million produced to date, it has spawned numerous copies, licensed and otherwise, and has been manufactured everywhere from Belgium to southeast Asia. One entry in the unlicensed column comes from China. Not an official service arm of the Chinese military, the Uzi facsimile was, like so many other Chinese firearms, made for export sales.

Just as Israel Military Industries (IMI) found an international civilian market for a semi-automatic carbine version of the famed submachine gun, the Chinese followed suit. Manufactured by China North Industries Corp. (Norinco), they were exported, with the model name "Officers 9" marked on the left rear of the receiver inside a seven-pointed star, and given the model designation "320."

The Norinco 320 is a semi-automatic, blowback-operated carbine with a 16" barrel, chambered for 9 mm Luger. The modifications that allowed it to be imported as a semi-automatic rifle are identical to those pioneered by IMI for its semi-automatic Uzi carbines. First, the action was modified to fire from a closed bolt, versus the original open-bolt design of the Uzi submachine gun. A blocking rail is welded into the receiver to prevent the use of a full-automatic bolt, with a corresponding cut in the semi-automatic bolt. The receiver also has a restrictor ring with an integrated feed ramp to prevent the use of a submachine gun barrel. The 320 has adjustable sights of the type used on the IMI Model B. Fit, as well as the gray phosphate finish, on the Model 320

is not up to the standard of IMI products, and sometimes tinkering is required to get a 320 to function reliably.

The earliest Chinese imports had a folding metal stock and the "Officers 9" marking (the manual supplied with later 320s show the carbine in this configuration). A small number were imported by Pacific Intl. before the 1989 non-sporting firearms import ban. Around 1993, a single batch of Model 320s was imported into this country by INTRAC of Knoxville, Tenn., and distributed by Action Arms of Philadelphia. Action Arms, the U.S. distributor of Israeli-made Uzi products, had not imported Uzi semi-automatic rifles since 1989. The company even designated the 320 the "Model B Sporter," the same name it had previously used for IMI carbines.

The pictured Model 320 is of this latter type. It features post-1989 "sporting" modifications, similar to Chinese-made AK-type rifles imported during this period of time. This includes fitting the rifle with a wood thumbhole stock that resembled the original Uzi wood buttstock with a connecting loop to a wood pistol grip. Additionally, the bayonet lug is removed, the barrel nut is welded to the receiver and the 32-round magazine is plugged to limit its capacity to 10 rounds. The "Officers 9" moniker was removed by milling the words off and refinishing that area of the receiver.

Sometimes, Model 320s with the thumbhole stock will be referred to as "pre-ban," as they were imported before the 1993 ban on all Chinese firearm imports. Approximately 10,000 Norinco 320s were imported into the country by this time. Chinese "Uzis" will often be found converted to the original folding or detachable wood stock configuration with Israeli-made parts.

The Model 320 pictured is brand new in the original box with original tags and all accessories, including sling, cleaning kit, sight-adjustment tool and manual. In this condition, it is worth \$1,500.

—JEREMIAH KNUPP, FIELD EDITOR

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

Popular CoQ10 Pills Leave Millions Suffering

Could this newly-discovered brain fuel solve America's worsening memory crisis?

PALM BEACH, FLORIDA — Millions of Americans take the supplement known as CoQ10. It's the coenzyme that supercharges the "energy factories" in your cells known as *mitochondria*. But there's a serious flaw that's leaving millions unsatisfied.

As you age, your mitochondria break down and fail to produce energy. In a revealing study, a team of researchers showed that 95 percent of the mitochondria in a 90-year-old man were damaged, compared to almost no damage in the mitochondria of a 5-year-old.

Taking CoQ10 alone is not enough to solve this problem. Because as powerful as CoQ10 is, there's one critical thing it fails to do: it can't create new mitochondria to replace the ones you lose.

And that's bad news for Americans all over the country. The loss of cellular energy is a problem for the memory concerns people face as they get older.

"We had no way of replacing lost mitochondria until a recent discovery changed everything," says Dr. Al Sears, founder and medical director of the Sears Institute for Anti-Aging Medicine in Palm Beach, Florida. "Researchers discovered the only nutrient known to modern science that has the power to trigger the growth of new mitochondria."

Why Taking CoQ10 is Not Enough

Dr. Sears explains, "This new discovery is so powerful, it can multiply your mitochondria by 55 percent in just a few weeks. That's the equivalent of restoring decades of lost brain power."

This exciting nutrient — called PQQ (*pyrroloquinoline quinone*) — is the driving force behind a revolution in aging. When paired with CoQ10, this dynamic duo has the power to reverse the age-related memory losses you may have thought were beyond your control.

Dr. Sears pioneered a new formula — called **Ultra Accel Q** — that combines both CoQ10 and PQQ to support maximum cellular energy and the normal growth of new mitochondria. **Ultra Accel Q** is the first of its kind to address both problems and is already creating huge demand.

In fact, demand has been so overwhelming that inventories repeatedly sell out. But a closer look at **Ultra Accel Q** reveals there are good reasons why sales are booming.

Science Confirms the Many Benefits of PQQ

The medical journal *Biochemical Pharmacology* reports that PQQ is up to

5,000 times more efficient in sustaining energy production than common antioxidants. With the ability to keep every cell in your body operating at full strength, **Ultra Accel Q** delivers more than just added brain power and a faster memory.

People feel more energetic, more alert, and don't need naps in the afternoon. The boost in cellular energy generates more power to your heart, lungs, muscles, and more.

"With the PQQ in Ultra Accel, I have energy I never thought possible at my age," says Colleen R., one of Dr. Sears's patients. "I'm in my 70s but feel 40 again. I think clearly, move with real energy and sleep like a baby."

The response has been overwhelmingly positive, and Dr. Sears receives countless emails from his patients and readers. "My patients tell me they feel better than they have in years. This is ideal for people who are feeling old and run down, or for those who feel more forgetful. It surprises many that you can add healthy and productive years to your life simply by taking **Ultra Accel Q** every day."

You may have seen Dr. Sears on television or read one of his 12 best-selling books. Or you may have seen him speak at the 2016 WPCF 25 Health and Wellness Festival in South Florida, featuring Dr. Oz and special guest Suzanne Somers. Thousands of people attended Dr. Sears's lecture on anti-aging breakthroughs and waited in line for hours during his book signing at the event.

Will Ultra Accel Q Multiply Your Energy?

Ultra Accel Q is turning everything we thought we knew about youthful energy on its head. Especially for people over age 50. In less than 30 seconds every morning, you can harness the power of this breakthrough discovery to restore peak energy and your "spark for life."

So, if you've noticed less energy as you've gotten older, and you want an easy way to reclaim your youthful edge, this new opportunity will feel like blessed relief.

The secret is the "energy multiplying" molecule that activates a dormant gene in your body that declines with age, which then instructs your cells to pump out fresh energy from the inside-out. This growth of new "energy factories" in your cells is called mitochondrial biogenesis.

Instead of falling victim to that afternoon



MEMORY-BUILDING SENSATION: Top doctors are now recommending new **Ultra Accel Q** because it restores decades of lost brain power without a doctor's visit.

slump, you enjoy sharp-as-a-tack focus, memory, and concentration from sunup to sundown. And you get more done in a day than most do in a week. Regardless of how exhausting the world is now.

Dr. Sears reports, "The most rewarding aspect of practicing medicine is watching my patients get the joy back in their lives. **Ultra Accel Q** sends a wake-up call to every cell in their bodies... And they actually feel young again."

And his patients agree. "I noticed a difference within a few days," says Jerry from Ft. Pierce, Florida. "My endurance has almost doubled, and I feel it mentally, too. There's a clarity and sense of well-being in my life that I've never experienced before."

How To Get Ultra Accel Q

This is the official nationwide release of **Ultra Accel Q** in the United States. And so, the company is offering a special discount supply to anyone who calls during the official launch.

An Order Hotline has been set up for local readers to call. This gives everyone an equal chance to try **Ultra Accel Q**. And your order is backed up by a no-hassle, 90-day money back guarantee. No questions asked.

Starting at 7:00 AM today, the discount offer will be available for a limited time only. All you have to do is call TOLL FREE **1-800-995-5747** right now and use promo code **ARUAQ1124** to secure your own supply.

Important: Due to **Ultra Accel Q** recent media exposure, phone lines are often busy. If you call and do not immediately get through, please be patient and call back.



1911

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