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Citizens Association for Responsible Gun Ownership = CARGO

[www.cargogunclub.org](http://www.cargogunclub.org)

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Hello Fellow CARGO Members,

The next meeting will be held at Napoli's on **Thursday, August 17th.**

We will meet at Napoli's in Wylie.

Napoli's  
701 N Highway 78 # A  
Wylie, TX 75098

For the dinner portion of the meeting, we will be in the meeting room between 5:45 and 7:00 for food and fellowship. The meeting will begin at 7:00 PM and run until about 9:00.

Under the new Texas Open Carry Law, you could be committing an offense if you remove your pistol from its holster while open carrying. While at Napoli's DO NOT remove your pistol from its holster unless it is an emergency.

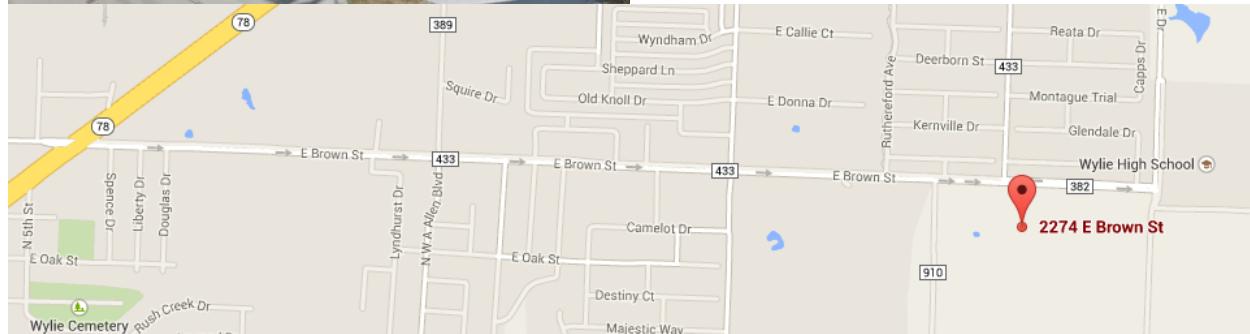
Member Don Bridges has volunteered his shop for the meeting. There are a very limited number of chairs at the shop, so please bring a camp chair for the meeting. We will meet there from 7:00 (ish) until 9:00 (ish)

The address is:

2274 EAST Brown Street in Wylie

While heading east on Brown Street, it is 1/2 mile past stop sign that's at the intersection of Brown Street and Kreymer Lane on the right hand side.

The shop is behind a small white house with a picket fence around the front yard.



Meeting gun topics:

- For show and tell, if you have any firearms manufactured by the following:
- **IZHMASH** - Izhmash was founded in 1807 in the town of Izhevsk by the Russian Tsar Alexander I and has produced a variety of weapons under various names. - Its most famous product is the AK series of rifles, the first of which was the AK-47, the latest being the AK-74 and the 100 series. It was developed in 1947 by Soviet Lt Gen Mikhail Kalashnikov, and soon became one of the most widespread weapons of the modern era.
- **Izhevsk Mechanical Plant - IZHMEKH** (ИЖМЕХ) was a major firearms manufacturer founded in Izhevsk in 1942 for manufacturing small arms. After the end of World War II it continued producing firearms, both for military and hunting applications, and later high-tech weapons and civilian machinery. After the Dissolution of the Soviet Union the range of civilian products was greatly expanded, but firearms were still its major production. Baikal firearms can still be bought from Remington under the name Ranger. - On August 13, 2013, Izhmash and Izhevsk Mechanical Plant were merged and formally renamed Kalashnikov Concern.
- **RCBS, Inc.** was founded by Fred Huntington in 1943 in Oroville, California and later became one of the world's largest manufacturers of reloading equipment. The name RCBS is derived from the name of the dies the company was founded to produce: "Rock Chuck Bullet Swage."
- **Inland Manufacturing** - The Inland Manufacturing Division of General Motors was organized in 1922 and manufactured wood wrapped steering wheels. - M1 Carbine and M1A1 Paratrooper models that were built by the original Inland Division of General Motors from 1941 to 1945.
- **Weatherby, Inc.** is an American gun manufacturer founded in 1945 by Roy Weatherby.
- **HECKLER & KOCH** - The company was founded in Oberndorf, Germany, by Edmund Heckler and Theodor Koch in 1948 and is therefore free of associations with the Nazi regime.
- **ISRAEL MILITARY INDUSTRIES** - Makers of the Uzi submachine gun, which was invented in 1948 by Maj Uziel Gal.
- Have anything non-firearms related to share? Got a great knife that you just picked up, an air-rifle or Pistol, a new tactical flash light or red-dot scope? The club always enjoys seeing this as well.

If you have any suggestions for future speakers or topics please send your feedback to [CARGO@att.net](mailto:CARGO@att.net). When was the last time you visited our web site? Please take some time to go to the CARGO website at [www.cargogunclub.org](http://www.cargogunclub.org)

<https://www.omahaoutdoors.com/blog/sig-sauer-p320-fails-drop-test/>

## Sig Sauer P320 Fails Drop Test

Posted by [Andrew Tuohy](#) in [Handguns](#), [P320](#), [Public Announcements](#), [Sig Sauer](#)  
August 7, 2017

When Omaha Outdoors set out to review firearms, we wanted to provide top notch and very thorough reviews in every aspect, from detailed testing to outstanding video and audio production quality. We had something of an ulterior motive in doing so – by putting out good reviews, we attract people to our website, thereby selling more stuff. This doesn't negate the fact that all of us truly wanted to provide honest reviews and tell the truth about the products we sell so our customers can make the right decisions.

When we heard the rumors on the internet that the Sig Sauer P320 would fire when dropped, we decided it would be worthwhile for us to test the matter ourselves. If the rumor was false, we would be reassuring ourselves and our customers that we sell only reliable and safe products which can be depended upon in the gravest of situations. If the rumor was true, we needed to know immediately because we do not have a desire to sell unsafe products.

***Before we get to the testing, please note:*** *we did not use live rounds for this drop fire testing. In accordance with drop testing protocols from every known organization and our own common sense, we pulled bullets from factory ammunition, leaving us with primed cases which were safe to use for these purposes. Still, you shouldn't try this at home, even with primed cases.*

I had four P320s on hand for the test: a P320 TACOPS 9mm, a P320 X-Five 9mm and two P320 Compacts in 45 ACP – one black and one FDE. All but the P320 Compact 45 in factory FDE had been previously torture tested.

My initial investigation consisted of refreshing my memory about what drop testing entails, as I had conducted some a long time ago but not thought about it much since. The first drop test we engaged in with our assortment of four Sig P320 pistols was structured on the California DOJ drop test, conducted at one meter and one centimeter above a concrete pad with the pistol dropped precisely at six different angles, all of which require the bore to be parallel to or perpendicular to the ground. All of our P320 pistols passed this test, which matches neatly with statements from Sig on the matter.



However, I decided to continue testing using other protocols, which call for drops from 1.5 meters, or approximately 5 feet. In doing so, I accidentally dropped the P320 Compact 45ACP at an incorrect angle. As the pistol fell, I thought to myself, "What a waste, we're going to ding this pistol up again for nothing." When it hit the ground, a loud POP echoed through the building, and the muzzle flashed as the primer exploded. We were surprised.

This was a bone stock and meticulously cleaned P320 that had seen some abuse, but was by all appearances serviceable and fully functional. We followed this up with a drop of a P320 Full Size TACOPS in 9mm at the same angle. It, too, fired the primed case in the chamber. This was followed up with similar drop tests of the P320 X-Five in 9mm which did not yield any uncommanded detonations.

At this point, we had enough information to contact Sig with our findings, but unfortunately these discussions did not yield any useful technical information, and the company reps we spoke with told us this was the first they were hearing of any such issues. Since we had already dropped the guns and did not have anything else to do, it seemed only logical to continue dropping them. It was at this point that the third P320, a compact 45 in FDE which had not seen previous torture testing, failed the drop test and regularly fired primed cases upon contact with the ground at the correct angle.

I discovered that these uncommanded discharges would occur even if the pistol was dropped from below waist height, even as low as 30" off the ground. They occurred whether we used duty (Federal HST), practice (PMC Bronze), or match (Federal Gold Medal Match) primed cases. They occurred in 9mm as well as 45 and they occurred in firearms which had been torture tested as well as a firearm which had not been torture tested.



The only differentiating factor we were able to identify between those pistols which would fire and the pistol which would not was that the latter had a lighter trigger than the other pistols – not in terms of pull weight, but the physical mass of the trigger. When we swapped that lighter trigger into one of the P320s which would regularly fire when dropped, the incidences of uncommanded discharges were drastically reduced. When we went a step farther and reduced the weight of a stock, standard P320 trigger by 30% and shifted its center of gravity towards the center of the pistol, we observed no discharges in over 50 drops. This would appear to be one potential solution to the P320 drop fire issue.

Another solution would be to replace the standard P320 trigger with the other trigger introduced by Sig when the P320 was brand new – a trigger which featured an integrated trigger safety. Listed as optional at the time of the pistol's introduction and shown on pistols displayed at SHOT 2014, we have not seen this trigger in the wild. The addition of this trigger safety would block the trigger from, in effect, pulling itself when the pistol impacts the ground at the right (wrong) angle. Best of all, this tool is already in their toolbox, preventing Sig from spending unnecessary time figuring out a revised trigger weight as suggested in the previous paragraph.

While there are several possible solutions for this problem, there is only one possible course of action for Omaha Outdoors: we are immediately suspending the sale of all [P320 pistols](#) until this issue is adequately addressed by Sig.

<http://www.thetruthaboutguns.com/2017/08/jeremy-s/breaking-ttag-tests-show-p320-striker-fired-pistols-are-not-drop-safe/>

## BREAKING: TTAG Test Shows [P320](#) Striker-Fired Pistols Are *Not* Drop-Safe

[Jeremy S.](#) August 8, 2017

Last Friday we ran a post, “[SIG SAUER: P320 Striker-Fired Pistols Are Drop Safe.](#)” The post contained a SIG press release issued after the Dallas Police Department temporarily withdrew their approval for officers to carry the [P320](#) on duty. The DPD had heard rumors that the gun wasn’t drop safe. SIG determined that those rumors of “safety issues” were greatly exaggerated, noting that the DPD *had not* experienced any unintentional discharges.

SIG told TTAG that [the P320](#) has been *extensively* drop-tested, both in-house and by literally dozens of state, military, and other government entities, in multiple countries. No issues were found. With hundreds of thousands of guns sold commercially, they’d received *zero reports* of a gun firing when dropped.

TTAG had also been in contact with online firearms retailer [Omaha Outdoors](#) and Andrew Tuohy who does their testing and evaluations. Omaha and Mr. Tuohy drop-tested four [SIG SAUER](#) P320 pistols and [released their video yesterday](#). According to their tests which we reported, when a P320 is dropped from approximately four feet onto a hard surface in a very specific orientation — on the back of the slide behind the [rear sight](#) — it can fire.

During our discussions with Omaha we discovered that some of the SIGs used in their drop-testing — both 9mm and .45 ACP — had undergone the full California DOJ drop test protocols (which they passed) *before* being dropped at the angle described above. And before that, they’d launched at least one of the tested pistols fifty or more feet in the air (via trebuchet, no less) and torture-tested them in dirt and mud.

So while three of their tested guns had fired when dropped, it was reasonable to question whether Omaha Outdoors’ tests were meaningful or fair given what the guns had previously endured. With those questions surrounding Omaha’s results in mind, we decided to test a brand new [P320](#) for ourselves.

We purchased a box-fresh [SIG SAUER](#) P320 Compact from our local gun store, [Sportsman’s Finest](#). Jon Wayne Taylor set to work pulling bullets from 9mm cartridges. Soon we had a pile of primed, but otherwise empty [9mm cases](#) and were ready to go.



We were concerned that that we might have to construct a fancy jig to get the [P320C](#) to fall in the Omaha Outdoors-identified orientation. As it turned out, when the pistol is held by the forward corner of the trigger guard, with the normal weight of an inserted magazine, the [P320C](#) balanced in the exact way necessary to land on the top rear of the slide when dropped.

Just to be clear about safety during our testing, for each drop a primed, empty case was chambered. The top round in the magazine was a [snap cap](#). The rest of the magazine was loaded with normal 9mm rounds so the gun would have the appropriate weight.

Then we started our tests. We dropped the P320C from a height of 4-4.5 feet onto a concrete floor.

**Drop #1:** The gun fell a little off-kilter. It didn't hit squarely on the back of the slide and did not fire.

**Drop #2:** The gun fell right on the intended spot. *And it fired.* Full-on, striker-induced primer dent and an ignited primer.



**Drop #3:** Another good drop. And it fired again. Three drops, two discharges.

We dropped the gun another seven times and the [P320C](#) fired on impact once more. It should be noted that after the third drop, the slide would occasionally pop off of the front slide rails. We re-mounted it and the pistol still seems fully functional.



After our discussions with SIG and Omaha Outdoors, we did our test fully expecting to debunk the claim that the [P320](#) isn't drop safe. As you can see in the video above, we couldn't have been more surprised when it fired.

When we reported our findings to [SIG SAUER](#) they were no less shocked. They reiterated that the P320 platform had been tested six ways from Sunday and had *never* previously failed to pass a drop safety test.

How these and other findings may affect the Army's decision on the Modular Handgun Program (if at all) can't be predicted.

I'm in New Hampshire with Jon Wayne Taylor this morning. We're visiting SIG HQ to learn how the company will be handling this situation. We'll have much more detailed information on the response from [SIG SAUER](#) soon. Stay tuned.

<http://www.thetruthaboutguns.com/2017/08/daniel-zimmerman/breaking-sig-sauer-offers-voluntary-trigger-upgrade-p320-pistols/>

## **BREAKING: SIG SAUER Offers Voluntary Trigger Upgrade for [P320](#) Pistols**

[Dan Zimmerman](#) August 8, 2017



In response to a variety of [reports of SIG SAUER P320 pistols discharging when dropped](#), the company announced today that it “developed a number of enhancements in function, reliability and overall safety including drop performance.” SIG is offering these upgrades to all [P320](#) owners.

The M17 pistol selected by the US Army as its new sidearm of choice is not covered by this offer, because it already has all of the following:

- Reduced-mass fire control components (trigger, sear, and striker)
- New sear housing (reduces sensation of “double click” during trigger pull)
- Trigger disconnect (disengages the trigger bar if the slide is not fully in battery)

The SIG [P320](#) trigger that passed myriad safety testing protocols — the trigger SIG submitted for the Army’s Modular Handgun System (MHS) testing — is the same as the trigger currently in commercially-available P320s.

These upgrades were engineered *subsequently*, based on feedback on the trigger pull feel and requirements of certain contracts, then rolled into the M17s that are now shipping. SIG says they will appear as standard in future commercial P320s.

For owners of current, commercial P320s, SIG’s offering what they’re calling “voluntary upgrades.” The company claims the aforementioned changes greatly mitigate the specific drop safety vulnerability identified in recent non-standard drop safety tests. SIG says it will provide further details on the program next week.

For now, here’s SIG’s press release:

**SIG SAUER Issues Voluntary Upgrade of [P320](#) Pistol**

*P320 pistol meets requirements for industry and government safety standards; performance enhancements optimize function, safety, and reliability.*

**Newington, NH (August 8, 2017)** – The P320 meets U.S. standards for safety, including the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) / Sporting Arms Ammunition Manufacturers' Institute, Inc. (SAAMI®), National Institute of Justice (NIJ), as well as rigorous testing protocols for global military and law enforcement agencies.

The design of the [SIG SAUER P320](#) overcomes the most significant safety concern in striker-fired pistols today: the practice of pressing the trigger for disassembly. This can be performed with a round in the chamber which has resulted in numerous incidents of property damage, physical injury, and death. The disassembly process of the P320, however, uses a take-down lever rather than pressing the trigger, eliminating the possibility of discharge during the disassembly process.

Recent events indicate that dropping the P320 beyond U.S. standards for safety may cause an unintentional discharge.

As a result of input from law enforcement, government and military customers, SIG has developed a number of enhancements in function, reliability, and overall safety including drop performance. SIG SAUER is offering these enhancements to its customers. Details of this program will be available at [sigusaer.com](#) on Monday, August 14, 2017.

The M17 variant of the P320, selected by the U.S. government as the U.S. Army's Modular Handgun System (MHS), is not affected by the Voluntary Upgrade.

“SIG SAUER is committed to our approach on innovation, optimization, and performance, ensuring we produce the finest possible products,” said Ron Cohen, President and CEO of SIG SAUER. “Durability, reliability and safety, as well as end-user confidence in the SIG SAUER brand are the priorities for our team.”

For more information on SIG SAUER, please visit us at [sigusaer.com](#).

<http://soldiersystems.net/2017/08/08/sig-sauer-acknowledges-p320-trigger-issues-with-30deg-drop-m17-mhs-unaffected-announces-voluntary-p320-upgrade/>

## SIG SAUER Acknowledges P320 Trigger Issues With -30deg Drop, M17 MHS Unaffected, Announces Voluntary P320 Upgrade

In response to recent internet reporting on the safety of the SIG SAUER P320, the company invited us, and other members of the gun media, to their facility in New Hampshire to address the issues. Because the US Army's new M17/18 Modular Handgun System is based on the commercial SIG P320, I wanted to find out if the M17 is safe for use by service members.



**Bottom Line Up Front** – SIG acknowledges that the commercial P320, used by armed citizens and members of Law Enforcement, may unintentionally discharge if dropped at a -30deg angle. Consequently, they will be offering a voluntary upgrade. SIG is hiring additional customer service reps to work on this. As I will discuss below, this issue does **NOT** affect the M17/18 Modular Handgun System.

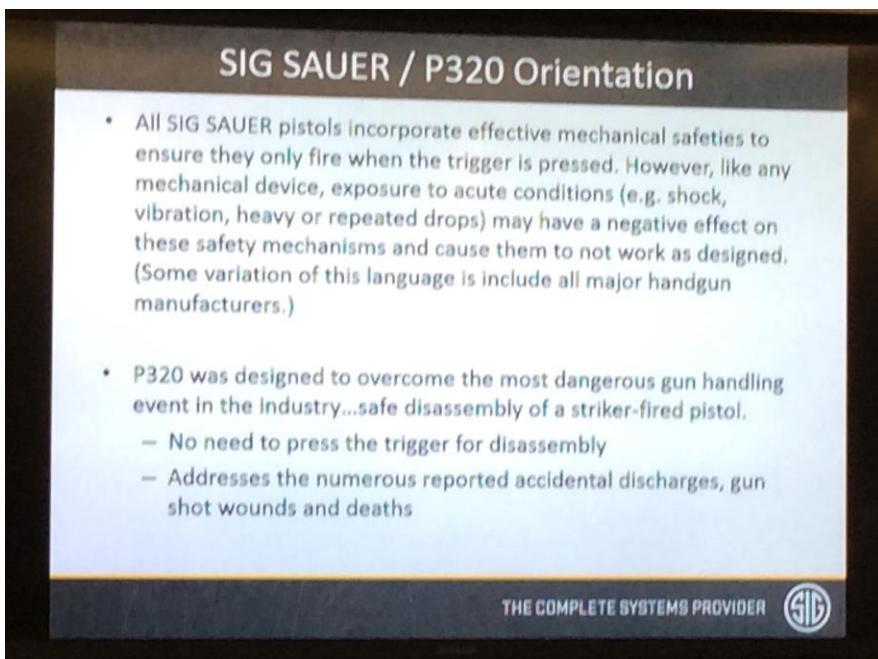
Initially, the group met with CEO, Ron Cohen. He was very direct and got right at the heart of the matter. Cohen began by stating, “SIG spends a lot of money on developing and producing products.” He went on, “We spend more on product development and testing than anyone else in industry. Most companies spend between 1.1-1.3%, but we spend 4% of our budget on product development.”

“Our customers make us who we are. They constantly drive us to make ourselves better.”

Ron Cohen

“The conversation of safety is complex,” said Cohen, “It has many layers.” For years, Ron Cohen didn’t want to develop a striker fired pistol. He worried about safety in disassembly as well as accidental discharges and didn’t

want to disassemble the handgun by pulling the trigger. Consequently, it took 10 years to design and build a striker fired pistol. Instead, they relied on their tried and true SA/DA architecture.

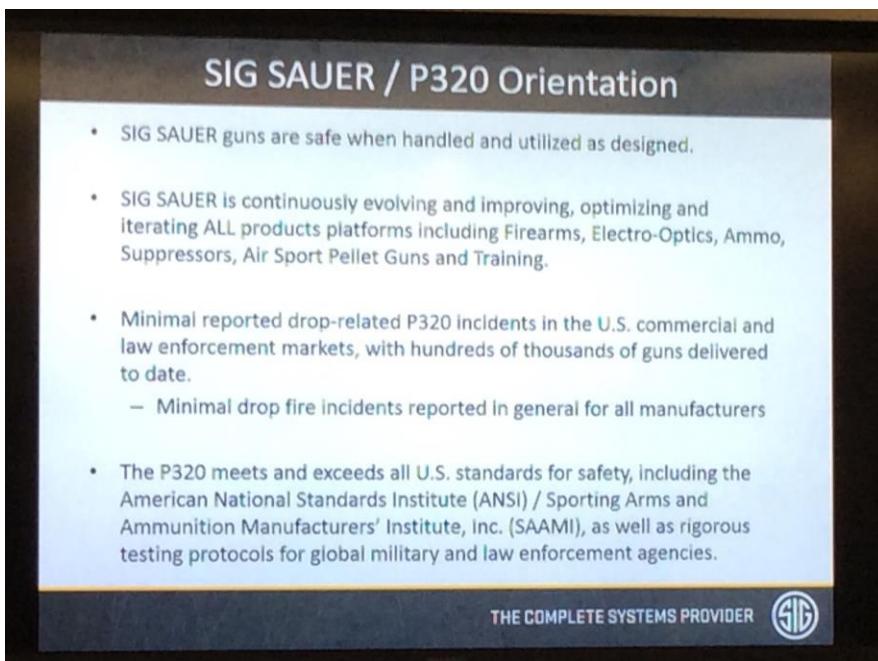


SIG SAUER / P320 Orientation

- All SIG SAUER pistols incorporate effective mechanical safeties to ensure they only fire when the trigger is pressed. However, like any mechanical device, exposure to acute conditions (e.g. shock, vibration, heavy or repeated drops) may have a negative effect on these safety mechanisms and cause them to not work as designed. (Some variation of this language is include all major handgun manufacturers.)
- P320 was designed to overcome the most dangerous gun handling event in the industry...safe disassembly of a striker-fired pistol.
  - No need to press the trigger for disassembly
  - Addresses the numerous reported accidental discharges, gun shot wounds and deaths

THE COMPLETE SYSTEMS PROVIDER 

“Drop safe,” Cohen explained, “Those two words don’t exist together. No gun is drop safe. It’s a function of angle, height and surface. If you build it completely drop safe, you legitimize mishandling. Inherently guns are not meant to be dropped, and are unsafe when dropped.”

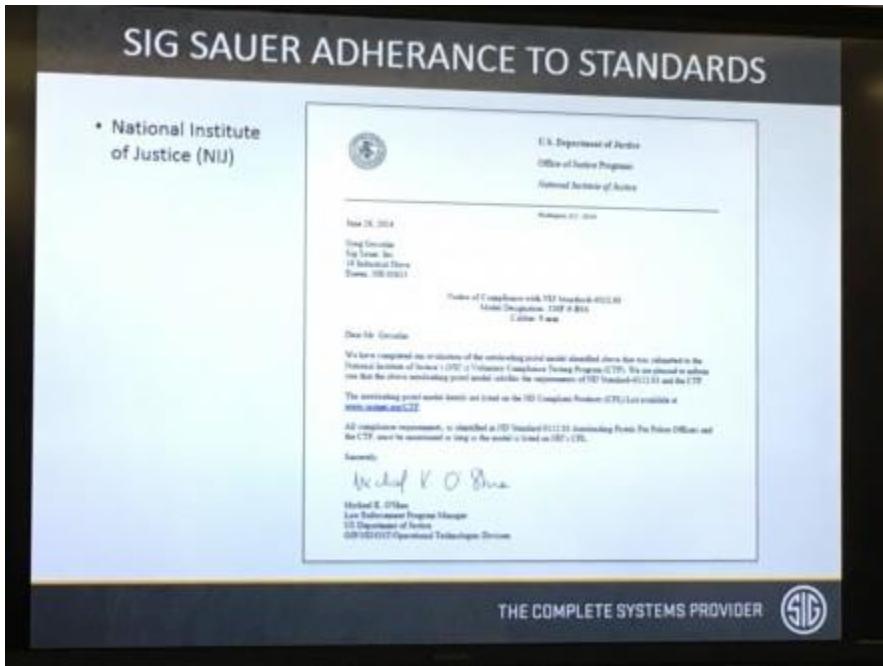


SIG SAUER / P320 Orientation

- SIG SAUER guns are safe when handled and utilized as designed.
- SIG SAUER is continuously evolving and improving, optimizing and iterating ALL products platforms including Firearms, Electro-Optics, Ammo, Suppressors, Air Sport Pellet Guns and Training.
- Minimal reported drop-related P320 incidents in the U.S. commercial and law enforcement markets, with hundreds of thousands of guns delivered to date.
  - Minimal drop fire incidents reported in general for all manufacturers
- The P320 meets and exceeds all U.S. standards for safety, including the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) / Sporting Arms and Ammunition Manufacturers’ Institute, Inc. (SAAMI), as well as rigorous testing protocols for global military and law enforcement agencies.

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All SIG pistols, including the P320 are tested to the following industry and government standards: ANSI/SAAMI, NIJ, FBI/DOJ, TOP, Massachusetts, and California DOJ as well as various others. They are very specific tests, most of which are conducted by outside labs. The P320 has passed all of those tests. Unfortunately, they don’t test the pistol’s performance when dropped at a -30deg unto concrete. They could drop test a pistol in every conceivable combination of angles on three axes, but that’s 46,000,000 different ways. Consequently, manufacturers build to a standard.



When asked if the existing testing protocols were good enough, Tom Taylor, Executive Vice President of Commercial Sales replied, “not for us.”

# SIG Drop Test Results

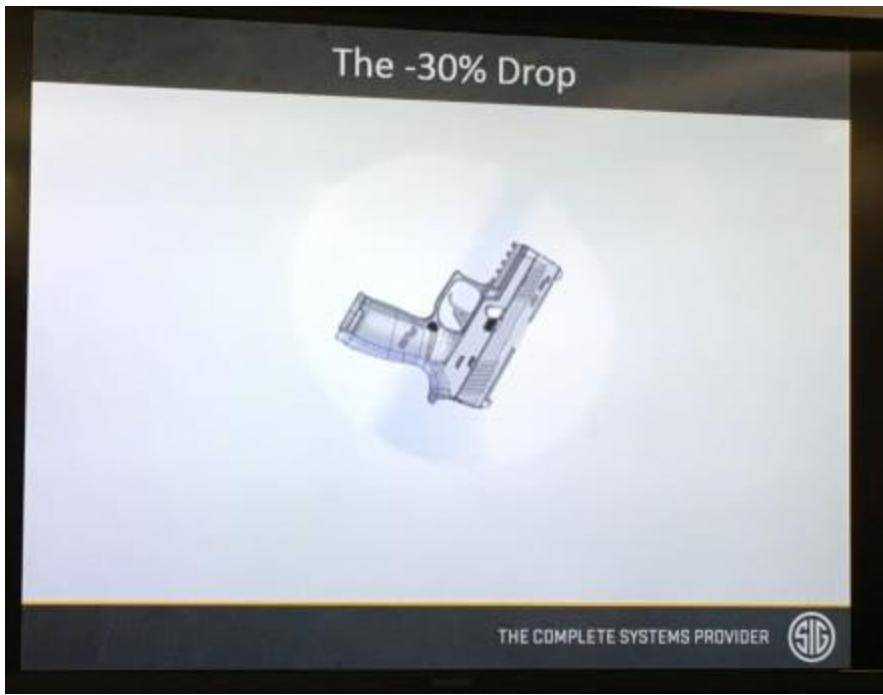
- Testing since 8-4-17
- 2,200 Drops (Far exceeding standards)
- Only 1 Ignition from a specific gun that was dropped more than 130+ times
  - (320 Full Size - 21rd mag)

F100 Gun Test Performance - Monthly Cumulative										
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2
Initial Failure	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Initial Failure / Re-worked	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Re-worked Fails	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Re-worked Fails / Re-worked	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Fails	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Re-worked Fails / Initial Fails	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Initial Fails / Total Fails	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Initial Fails / Total Fails / Re-worked Fails	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Initial Fails / Total Fails / Re-worked Fails / Re-worked Fails / Initial Fails	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

\*Testing for failure over cumulative 4 year completion of 2,200

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To that end, SIG engineers spent the weekend conducting 2,200 drops using 11 pistols across three different test protocols. They included dropping the pistol at a -30deg angle. Interestingly, they learned that a beavertail doesn't completely mitigate the danger of an unintentional discharge but it does help by absorbing some of the impact.



We were able to examine the test apparatus and demonstrated three drops each with three compact P320s equipped with the Enhanced Trigger. There were zero unintentional discharges.



While the MHS passed DoD's TOP 3-2-045 test with the trigger currently in the commercial P320, SIG proposed an enhanced trigger via Engineering Change Request E0005. As it didn't result in additional cost to the government and only improved the firearm's performance, M17s currently being delivered to the US Army have this trigger. Additionally, this trigger also eliminates the "double click" felt during P320 trigger pull.



Although SIG was already working toward introducing the MHS-inspired Enhanced Trigger to the P320, this -30deg drop issue has hastened their effort. They have lightened the Trigger, Striker and Sear by about 30% overall and added a Disconnect (commercial only, not MHS). The trigger pull weight is unaffected, but rather the trigger part actually weighs less. The reason they lightened those parts is to mitigate the momentum gained by the heavier parts during a drop.

Taylor laid it out, "There is a vulnerability with the P320 at the -30deg drop." They plan to incorporate the trigger enhancements for the M17 into the P320. They'd been working on them, but implementation wasn't imminent. Based on what they've found, that has been accelerated. Details on their voluntary upgrade program will follow soon.

I want to put this perspective. Since it's introduction in 2014, they've sold around 500,000 P320s. There are three recorded cases of unintended discharges in LE channels . There is one additional commercial incident which I am familiar with but was not formally reported to SIG. That's four known incidents from 500,000 weapons, many of which are used on a daily basis. Additionally, those incidents have all been within the last year.



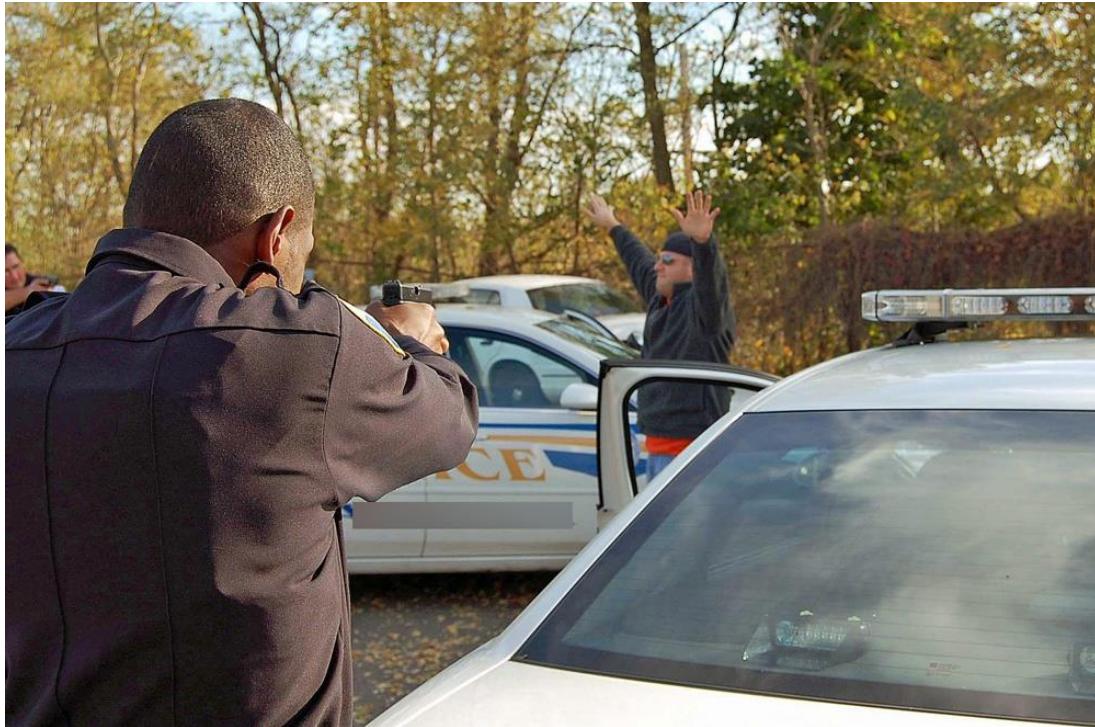
Tom Taylor finished up with this statement, "We believe it's the safest striker fired pistol on the market. We built it to address the most dangerous scenario."

My take is that despite building their pistols to industry standards, SIG has acknowledged the issue and is taking steps to fix it. They didn't waste any time. They've stopped commercial production of the P320 and are concentrating on the upgrade. It's going to be more than just swapping parts. The slide and frame will need some work as well so the pistol will need to go back to SIG. Details will soon follow on how to participate in the voluntary upgrade program.

[https://gundigest.com/handguns/concealed-carry/communicating-with-police-armed?utm\\_source=wir&utm\\_campaign=gd-dwb-wir-170629-Concealed&utm\\_content=953723\\_EDT\\_CC170629&utm\\_medium=email](https://gundigest.com/handguns/concealed-carry/communicating-with-police-armed?utm_source=wir&utm_campaign=gd-dwb-wir-170629-Concealed&utm_content=953723_EDT_CC170629&utm_medium=email)

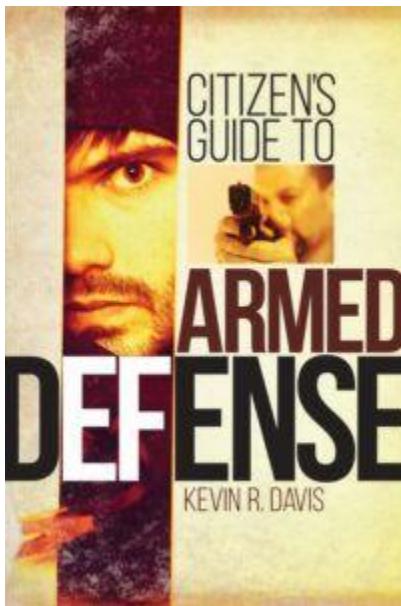
## Tips For Communicating With Police After Shootings

By [Kevin Davis](#) June 20, 2017



**Properly communicating with police after an incident that involved lethal force will save you trouble in the long run.**

Massad Ayoob clearly makes the case for communicating with police early on post incident. His excellent book [\*Gun Digest Book of Concealed Carry: 2nd Edition\*](#) clearly indicates that oftentimes the first person to call the police is construed as the victim. I could not agree more. Further, police often respond to fight calls or incidents where both parties involved claim innocence and insist the other side started it.



Arm yourself with the knowledge to carry with confidence with [Citizen's Guide to Armed Defense](#).

If the other party has friends or witnesses and you don't, expect them to all point the finger at you regardless of your assailant's guilt. If you have witnesses as well, police will take statements from both sides, but unless there was a bus full of nuns who witnessed the incident, you will likely be treated as a suspect until your innocence is proven by investigators.

You have to understand that police have a very jaundiced eye and that everyone claims innocence. Even suspects with guns or dope found in their pockets exclaim, "Those ain't my pants!" or "That's not my gun!" Because of this, uniformed responding officers treat everyone in a shooting as a suspect at first. It is in their vital interest to secure and stabilize the scene.

You need to respectfully articulate, "I am the victim! That man tried to rob me!" or whatever the crime may be. As Mas Ayoob points out stating, "I will sign charges!" is a good thing because many police deal with uncooperative "victims" (usually bad guys themselves) who refuse to prosecute their assailants.

Avoid statements such as, "I didn't mean to shoot him" or, "The gun just went off..." These types of statements indicate the shooting was not intentional or was accidental, which destroys an intentional self-defense claim later. These types of statements are made by law-abiding citizens [who are not used to violence](#). What they really meant to say was, "I didn't want to have to shoot him. He left me no choice." These spontaneous utterances will be recorded by officers in their Action Taken reports or addendums to the investigator's report and can hurt you later if/when you make an official statement.



Keep your mouth shut except for the following. Officers frequently get in trouble when they shoot their mouth off or make statements indicating anger. It is completely understandable why you might be fairly well upset about a man who just tried to kill you or your family but making statements such as, “F\*ck you! You got what you deserved! I hope you f\*ing die!” indicate anger to most witnesses. Verbal parting shots as the suspect is wheeled away on a paramedic gurney such as, “See you later sucker!” or similar will not go over well with a possible jury later.

Limit what you say to uniformed police on the scene or to investigators who show up. You do want to clearly state:

- You are the victim
- Where any evidence might be located such as empty casings
- You also want to indicate where you were, where they were and in which direction you and he fired
- Ask for a “victim advocate”

Most cities have victim advocacy programs that actually help victims of crime. They can provide emergency housing, advise you on the legal process and even provide funds for new deadbolts or a new door, for instance, if you cannot afford them. Victim advocates will “hold your hand” during the trial of your suspect and the involved legal process.

Victim Assistance has been a long supported charity of my wife and mine, because they really help the victims of crime. That said some may be anti-gun, so they may elect not to aid you after a shooting.

Remember that everything you say will be recorded, and anticipate that everything will be captured on video tape as well.

***Editor's Note:*** This article is an excerpt from [Citizen's Guide to Armed Defense](#).

<http://www.popularmechanics.com/technology/gear/a25302/three-years-prison-3d-printed-guns/>

## Man Gets Three Years In Prison for Selling CNC Milled Gun Parts

**'Dr. Death' gets a three year prison sentence for selling CNC milled parts for an AR-15 assault rifle.**



By [David Grossman](#)

Feb 20, 2017

A California man has been sentenced to three and a half years in prison for unlawfully manufacturing and dealing in CNC milled firearms and possession of an unregistered machine gun.

Daniel Crowninshield of Sacramento was [arrested in 2014](#) for work at C&G Tool, a metal shop in North Sacramento. Marketing himself as 'Dr. Death,' Crowninshield made lower receivers for AR-15s and other firearms. The lower receiver holds mechanical parts like the hammer, bolt, and firing mechanism that combine with a trigger, firing pin, and other parts to make up a firearm, and can cost anywhere from [\\$50](#) to [\\$300](#). Customers would give Crowninshield a metal casting known as a blank, and he would then use a CNC mill to turn that casting into a fully-functioning lower receiver.

CNC mills have gone down significantly in price over the last few years, thanks to [various Kickstarter projects](#) and general market competition. While CNC mills and 3D printers often [accept the same file formats](#), the machines are very different. Mills use a subtractive method, starting with a block of solid materials like Crowninshield's blanks and removing all the parts that are not needed.

It is legal to build your own gun, and [modding out AR-15s](#) is popular. But in order to sell one, you are required to have a license from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF) and all guns must have a serial number. Crowninshield had no license, and his lower receivers had no serial numbers. In order to give the pretext that customers were building their own guns, Crowninshield would have customers place their hands on various buttons on the CNC mill so they could claim to be making it themselves.

But CNC mills are complex machines, taking far more than the push of a button to make something as complex as working gun parts. To properly make them, one would need to know how to program in G-code, utilize a

post processor to convert a CAD/CAM drawing to cut a path, or at the least be able edit a generic cut path routine. Crowninshield would advertise his technical expertise and the Dr. Death brand on gun forums, where he also received positive reviews.

An undercover(UC) agent [busted](#) Crowninshield. On May 3, 2013, the agent

...took one of the blanks and assembled a jig around the blank. Crowninshield then directed the UC to place the blank into a CNC machine, owned by Crowninshield at C&G Tool and used to mill out machine parts. Crowninshield then directed the UC to close the safety door on the CNC machine and to hit a specific button to start the machine. During this time, the UC observed another customer that appeared to be doing the same thing at another machine. The UC overheard Crowninshield and another employee discussing a customer purchasing blanks. These blanks were known colloquially as blanks because they purportedly constituted 80 percent of a completed firearm and could be milled out at machine shops into completed firearms. The UC inquired if Crowninshield sold such blanks. Crowninshield showed the UC an inventory of such blanks for sale. The UC purchased a blank for \$260, a gray blank for \$180, and an aluminum blank for \$160, all from Crowninshield.

The agent ultimately paid Crowninshield a total of \$920 for those two blanks and for the service of milling the four lowers. Crowninshield never asked the agent to fill out any purchasing paperwork or about completing a background check. These component also had no serial numbers.

In sentencing, U.S. District Judge Troy L. Nunley referred to Crowninshield's actions as a "brazen attempt to circumvent the law."

"The unregulated manufacture and sale of high-capacity firearms is a serious threat to public safety," said U.S Attorney Phillip A. Talbert. "We will continue to investigate and prosecute unlicensed gun dealers who circumvent the law." Crowninshield's attorney did not respond to multiple attempts for comment.

Source: [Department of Justice](#) via [Ars](#)

*CORRECTION: An earlier version of this article incorrectly stated that Crowninshield was using 3D printing to make his gun parts. He was using a CNC mill.*

[https://www.gunsamerica.com/blog/nine-critical-concealed-carry-lessons-ep-1-stop-nonsense/?utm\\_source=email&utm\\_medium=20170628\\_SpecPub\\_01&utm\\_campaign=/blog/nine-critical-concealed-carry-lessons-ep-1-stop-nonsense/](https://www.gunsamerica.com/blog/nine-critical-concealed-carry-lessons-ep-1-stop-nonsense/?utm_source=email&utm_medium=20170628_SpecPub_01&utm_campaign=/blog/nine-critical-concealed-carry-lessons-ep-1-stop-nonsense/)

## 9 Critical Concealed Carry Lessons: Ep. 1 Stop The Nonsense!

by Clay Martin on June 27, 2017

It seems like every day in my inbox there are four items that are the new mandatory concealed-carry hotness. And every semi-famous gun dude that has ever been interviewed makes sure to include a glossy spread of the 15 pieces of kit he won't leave the house without. This constant bombardment of "must-have" products must be overwhelming to new concealed carriers as well as hard on their wallets.

But I have some good news for you; it's all nonsense! Some of these gun dorks are rolling heavier than actual commandos working in third world combat zones, doing the ultimate level of "concealed carry." Usually in an *Adidos* or *Puna* track suit (Yes, the spelling is intentional. Not all knockoffs are good knockoffs).

### Check out all the episodes in this series:

- [9 Critical Concealed Carry Lessons: Ep. 1 Stop The Nonsense!](#)
- [9 Critical Concealed Carry Lessons: Ep. 2 Revolver or Pistol for CCW?](#)
- [9 Critical Concealed Carry Lessons: Ep. 3 Fighting with Edged Weapons](#)
- [9 Critical Concealed Carry Lessons: Ep. 4 Lights and Lasers!](#)
- [9 Critical Concealed Carry Lessons: Ep. 5 Holster Selection & Where to Carry](#)

The barrier to entry for a reliable, functional, concealed carry setup is not that high. At no point will you need a thousand dollar ninja star. There are a few things you can buy to make your life easier, but most of what you see as the new latest and greatest is unnecessary — or worse, it's junk that just gets in the way.



You probably don't need a street-legal SAW ([FN's M249 S Para](#)) in your carry arsenal.

The same goes for the people teaching concealed carry concepts. I see things preached as gospel all the time that leave me shaking my head. There are very few people on earth I would trust to teach practical gunfighting skills and the first question I always ask is, “Has this person done this in an environment that matters?”

Pretty much anyone with real ground truth on these matters is going to fall into one of three categories: undercover cops, agents, and operators. Anyone else has most likely been playing dress up. And even in those categories, I would want to see a couple of gray hairs.

I’ve done this for real and my gear situation is nowhere near sexy enough to make a good Instagram post. I have four “Levels of Carry” and that has been enough for every environment I have ever been in. Maybe substitute a machine gun and grenade launchers in the trunk of the car for Level 4, but that is about the only change I’d make going from a civilian world to an actual combat zone.

## Level 1

[Springfield XD-S](#) in a leather holster. That’s it. I like the XD-S because it fits my hands well. But substitute a [Smith & Wesson Shield](#), [Ruger LCP](#), or [Glock 43](#) as needed. No reload, no pocket full of loose rounds, no nunchucks! This is the ice cream at midnight loadout. It fits in my pajama pants if I need it to and for most problems it is going to be enough. Eight rounds total.

**Level 1A**— Same gun, and a spare magazine or [a Spartan fixed blade](#) in place of the magazine. It’s usually the fixed blade, only because I live in a state where that is legal. Total round count: 15.

## Level 2

This is for occasions where I’m going somewhere potentially sketchy and I feel like the possibility of a gunfight is elevated, but still unlikely. If it was likely, I would take a rifle and some see-in-the-dark goggles. [Glock 23](#), spare magazine. Total rounds 28. The spare magazine is a full-size 15 rounder. If it goes that pear shaped, I want a big boy mag!

## Level 3



Click on the image above to check out some awesome deals and promotions from Crimson Trace®.

Also known as the protection duty setup. [Glock 34](#), multiple reloads, fixed blade, and a [flashlight](#). If someone has hired you as a bodyguard at the wages professionals charge, they may very well have a real abnormal threat matrix. This calls for the potential of an above average response. If you are protecting a celebrity or a billionaire or someone that wrote something bad about Islam, you might face ambushes, kidnapping attempts, bomb threats

among other unpleasantries. If you are lucky enough to survive long enough to get your gun out, it might be time to hide behind the wall of lead.

This is also the only place I carry a flashlight, and I actually carry two. If my gun is going to be outside the waistband, it might as well have a [flashlight](#) on it. I might also need to do trauma management in the dark, probably best to use a flashlight not attached to the gun. This is a borderline absurd level of stuff to carry on a normal basis and not what I need for a 7/11 run. At least not yet. I haven't been to U.C. Berkeley recently. Total rounds: north of 60.

## Level 4

This is the loadout where most people should stay home, including me. But we are also freedom-loving Americans, so if we want to go spectate during a riot, that is our God-given right. This is also a good choice for post-disaster neighborhood patrols if you live in a region prone to looting. This is hard armor, a rifle, and all the stuff from level 3. It's stretching the limits of what we consider concealed, but with the rifle stuffed in the passenger footwell of your truck, you could still hide it all. Total rounds, a lot!

## Conclusion

The point here is you don't need a pile of hardware to carry concealed in your daily life. Gunfighting is a lot like fist fighting, when it comes to training. You can train hard, without a lot of flashy stuff, and learn how to do it well. Or you can spend your time and money on a flashy G.I. and learn to break boards. In my experience, when the chips are down, the results are just what you would think.

[https://www.gunsamerica.com/blog/50-bmg-everyone-serbus-lightweight-single-shot-rn-50-full-review/?utm\\_source=email&utm\\_medium=20170731\\_BlogDigest\\_235&utm\\_campaign=/blog/50-bmg-everyone-serbus-lightweight-single-shot-rn-50-full-review/](https://www.gunsamerica.com/blog/50-bmg-everyone-serbus-lightweight-single-shot-rn-50-full-review/?utm_source=email&utm_medium=20170731_BlogDigest_235&utm_campaign=/blog/50-bmg-everyone-serbus-lightweight-single-shot-rn-50-full-review/)

## A .50 BMG for Everyone: Serbu's Lightweight, Single-Shot RN-50 — Full Review

by Clay Martin on July 26, 2017

This week, I drew the assignment of shooting a light weight .50 BMG. For those who aren't familiar with this powerhouse cartridge — the .50 BMG and light do not belong in the same sentence — certainly if you also include single-shot or bolt-action.



The RN-50 is a unique design from Serbu Firearms, Inc. It is a modified break action rifle with a threaded breech. *Photo Courtesy: Serbu Firearms, Inc.*

### SPECS



The author found the muzzlebrake effective during testing.

- **Type:** Modified break-action with a threaded breech
- **Chambering:** .50 BMG (tested); .50 DTS
- **Barrel Length:** 29.5 in.
- **Overall Length:** 39 in.
- **Trigger:** 8 lbs. (tested)

- **Weight:** 17 lbs.
- **Sights:** None
- **Finish:** Magnesium phosphate and hard-coat anodized
- **Capacity:** 1 rd.
- **MSRP:** \$1,199
- **Manufacturer:** Serbu Firearms, Inc.

## Background Information



The author's test rifle was chambered in .50 BMG. However, Serbu Firearms also offers models in .50 DTC.

The .50 caliber in question was the [RN-50](#) from Serbu Firearms, Inc. This Tampa, Florida based company is one that I have a great deal of respect for. The founder Mark Serbu is a mechanical engineer that is best known for producing the BFG-50: a .50 BMG caliber, single-shot rifle. Serbu Firearms has always strived to produce high-quality firearms that are either: cool, unique affordable and specifically engineered to stick-it-to-the-man. The RN-50 accomplishes all four.

My guess is that the development of the RN-50 is the belief that everyone should be able to afford a .50 if they want one. The market is never wrong, and this is America damn it. If such a thing exists, the local citizenry should be able to buy it. We tossed off the yolk of monarchy if Uncle Sugar can have something, by God, we all should be able to have it. The big problem with .50-caliber rifles is that they're typically cost prohibitive.

### Article Continues Below

The pressures produced by John Moses Browning's greatest gift are enormous, and there are some places you just can't shortcut the process. Even a traditional bolt action needs some "beefing up" to handle this monster of a cartridge, and that means more machining time.



Serbu Firearms offers a variety of barrel lengths. *Photo Courtesy: Serbu Firearms, Inc.*



The RN-50 is a 17-pound, .50 BMG single-shot with an MSRP of \$1,200.

## Enter the RN-50

Serbu looked at this problem and solved it in a brilliant way. The RN-50 is a single shot that you load through a breech plug. Obviously, this is not the quickest reload but gets the job done. An extremely large thread pitch ensures enough metal is present to handle the pressure of the .50 firing. The trigger group is mostly AR-15, with an oversized hammer to reach the firing pin that is embedded within the breech plug. The buttstock is attached with an AR-15 castle nut and is interchangeable with your favorite AR parts. There is so much metal removed, there is nothing over the top of the trigger group. The barrel looks suspiciously like the same contour as an M2 machine gun, but there's nothing wrong with that. If it isn't broke, don't fix it. Sgt. Carlos "White Feather" Hathcock set the longest kill of the Vietnam War and made his famous 1-mile shot with a scope mounted on an M2. They are nothing if not accurate, and they will take all the abuse you can throw at them. At the end of the RN-50 barrel sits a simple but effective muzzlebrake. It comes standard with a 29½-inch alloy steel barrel with 18-inch, 22-inch and a 36-inch heavy barrels as options. The RN-50 features a 1:15-inch button rifling and the

chassis is a heat treated steel and aluminum construction. With an MSRP of a little less than \$1,200, it's a hard option to beat for those looking to get into the .50 caliber market.



The RN-50 features a unique breech loading design.



The author found the RN-50 to fire reliably and mounted a Steiner M5xi Military 3-15x50mm. The Steiner M5Xi Military held up to the punishing recoil of the .50 BMG, and the RN-50 produced 1-MOA groups at 100 yards.

It's a classic Serbu, that can be had throughout the United States. Our test model was chambered in .50 BMG, but for those living in the Peoples Republic of California, it is also available in .50 DTC. What is .50 DTC exactly? In layman's terms, the .50 DTC is a round specifically made to get around the red tape of places that have banned .50 BMG. The .50 BMG (Browning Machine Gun) or 12.7x99mm NATO was developed in the late 1910s for the Browning .50 caliber machine gun. The .510 DTC, also known as the .510 DTC EUROP was a French rifle cartridge that was developed to comply with firearms legislation in Europe that regulated .50

BMG. When the .510 DTC was brought over to the U.S., it was modified to the .50 DTC. The .50 DTC is nearly identical to the .50 BMG but you cannot fire them in the same chamber.



The Hornady 750-grain .50 BMG A-MAX bullets fired reliably and printed a 1-inch group at 100 yards.

## Range Performance

I am not going to lie to you, this gun has punishing recoil in a light package and is not the most fun to shoot. At 17 pounds, it is a full 10 pounds lighter than a McMillan TAC 50. It is the lightest .50 single shot that I have ever fired. Without the muzzlebrake, I don't think you could fire this thing without body damage resulting. I have burned up some magnum rifle ammo in my day, so this isn't new guy jitters. During testing, I shot less than 40 rounds, which is not a lot. Still, it performed like it said it would. My three-round post-zero group was exactly 1 inch, so it meets a 1 MOA standard. I am actually amazed by that, considering how hard I was flinching after the first two rounds. This is not something you want to shoot on a daily basis. But if you are in need of a .50, and you don't have a lot of money to spend, it gets the job done. Given the price tag attached, I am extremely impressed.

This rifle is a testament to American ingenuity, and I give it 5 stars, but please don't make me shoot it again.

For more information about the Serbu RN-50, click <https://serbu.com/products/rn-50>.

To watch Clay's interview with Mark Serbu at SHOT 2017, click <https://www.gunsamerica.com/blog/serbu-cqb-50-cal-super-shorty-mossberg-bunch-cool-shit-shot-show-2017/>.

For more information about Steiner scopes, click <http://www.steiner-optics.com/riflescopes/military/m5xi-military-3-15x50>.

For more information about Hornady ammunition, click <https://www.hornady.com/ammunition/rifle/50-bmg-750-gr-a-max-match#/!>.

To purchase a Steiner scope on GunsAmerica,  
click <https://www.gunsamerica.com/Search.aspx?Keyword=steiner>.

[https://gundigest.com/gear-ammo/ak-upgrades-trick-kalashnikov?utm\\_source=wir&utm\\_campaign=gd-dwb-wir-170731&utm\\_content=959965\\_EDT\\_GD170731&utm\\_medium=email](https://gundigest.com/gear-ammo/ak-upgrades-trick-kalashnikov?utm_source=wir&utm_campaign=gd-dwb-wir-170731&utm_content=959965_EDT_GD170731&utm_medium=email)

## AK Upgrades To Trick Out Your Kalashnikov

By Drew Warden - July 21, 2017



Photo courtesy Magpul Industries.

### Take your Kalashnikov rifle to the next level with these functional and ergonomic AK upgrades.

The AR is to many the definition of a fully customizable, modular weapon platform. Stocks, grips, triggers, safeties, charging handles, handguards or even entire uppers — pretty much any part on the rifle — can be swapped out or exchanged with relative ease, and manufacturers produce an abundance of aftermarket parts to do just that.

Customizing the AK-47 and its variants, on the other hand, can be a bit more challenging. The aftermarket for AK upgrades and parts has been more limited in the past, and the AK's design is less conducive to customization, with the original rifle being designed in an era in which iron sights were good enough for the average soldier and a wood stock and furniture were all that were needed.

Additionally, many AK owners simply prefer the rifle with its traditional wood furniture and iron sights, with some purists going so far as to mock those choosing to modify their AK. Memes even exist that strongly dismiss the notion of upgrading or customizing the AK-47 in any way and have made the rounds online in blogs and forums.

Thankfully, not everyone feels this way, and manufacturers offer an assortment of products that help shooters take the AK to the next level. While the AK certainly doesn't have the same degree of modularity as the AR or as large of an aftermarket parts selection, there are still plenty of accessory options and AK upgrades for owners to choose from, and the choices are only continuing to grow each year.

Take a look at this list of accessories and ways to improve performance and functionality from your AK-style rifle. It's by no means comprehensive, but should be plenty to pique an AK owner's interest.

#### AK Upgrades:

- 1. Triggers
- 2. Grips
- 3. Stocks
- 4. Handguards/Forends
- 5. Muzzle Devices
- 6. Magazines
- 7. Other Accessories

***Editor's Note:*** This roundup does not cover optics mounts. For info on the various side rail optics mounts available for AK-pattern rifles, check out Jim Grant's [article on optics mounting options for the AK](#).

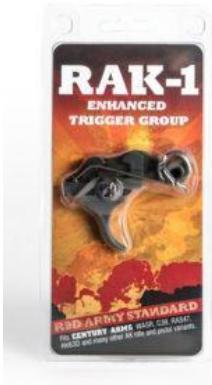
#### 1. Triggers

One of the best ways to upgrade any rifle and increase accuracy is to install a better trigger, and the AK is no exception. While the AK-47 and its variants have never been known for astounding accuracy, some of the factory-installed triggers that come standard don't do them any favors. Several manufacturers offer improved trigger groups for the AK platform that will help you get more hits on target.



### ***TAPCO INTRAFUSE AK G2 Trigger Group***

The G2 Trigger Groups available from TAPCO offer an improved trigger pull between 3-4 pounds and eliminate the uncomfortable trigger slap common with other designs. A “no fumble” trigger sleeve allows for assembling the group outside of the rifle and simply dropping it in as one piece. Trigger groups are available in single- or double-hook options and are manufactured using heat-treated, 4140 tool-grade carbon steel. (\$32.99; [TAPCO.com](http://TAPCO.com))



### ***Century Arms RAK-1 Enhanced Trigger Group***

Century Arms’ RAK-1 Enhanced Trigger Groups are available for WASR, C39, RAS47, AK63DS and many other standard AK-style rifles and pistol variants, as well as for N-PAP, O-PAP, M90 NP, M92 PV and other Yugo AK variants. The trigger is 100 percent American made and has passed a 15,000-round endurance test. Each group includes a hammer, trigger and disconnector, and, thus, constitutes three U.S. 922r compliant parts. (\$39.99; [CenturyArms.com](http://CenturyArms.com))

## **2. Grips**

While less critical than a good trigger, a grip that is comfortable and conforms to your hand well is important. Some feel that the standard factory grip on many AKs just isn’t the right fit. Luckily, grips are a common upgrade for the AK platform, and plenty of manufacturers offer different grip options.



### ***Hogue AK-47/AK-74 Rubber Grip***

Hogue is well known for its handgun grips, but the company also produces grips for tactical rifles like the AK. This OverMolded grip uses Hogue’s famed orthopedic handshape with compound swells and naturally proportioned finger grooves and has the manufacturer’s Cobblestone texture for a non-slip, non-irritating grip. The grip is impervious to oils and solvents and has a compartment for storage. The 922r-compliant part is available for Chinese, Russian and Yugoslavian AKs. (\$26.95-\$39.95; [HogueInc.com](http://HogueInc.com))



#### ***TAPCO INTRAFUSE AK SAW Style Pistol Grip***

This pistol grip from TAPCO offers AK users a more ergonomic, angled grip similar to that found on the military's M249 SAW light machine gun. The grip's more severe angle and increased width provide the shooter with improved comfort and control when firing the rifle. It is made of a high-strength composite and houses a storage compartment for spare tools and cleaning supplies. (\$19.99; [TAPCO.com](http://TAPCO.com))

#### **3. Stocks**

Replacing the stock on your AK is another easy way to improve ergonomics, and tons of manufacturers produce stocks for the rifle. Abundant stock options range from synthetic or wood fixed to metallic folding and adjustable, polymer. Add in adapters that allow your AK to accept any AR-type stock that fits a standard AR buffer tube and the options are nearly endless.



#### ***TimberSmith Premium Wooden Stocks***

For those who want a new stock to replace an old, possibly damaged factory one but who want to keep the AK's classic look, TimberSmith has several wooden furniture options for Romanian AKs. The stock sets are quite stylish, offering a "like-new" appearance without moving away from the traditional look. Color options include Black Laminate, Brown Laminate, Hardwood and an elegant Red Laminate.

(\$145-\$160; [TimberSmithUSA.com](http://TimberSmithUSA.com))



#### ***TAPCO INTRAFUSE AK Folding Stock***

This stock is made from a high-strength composite and folds to the right, allowing you to reduce the overall length of the firearm when needed for storage or close quarter engagements. The AK Folding Stock incorporates a sling attachment point in the knuckle and has a 15-inch length of pull. It fits standard, single-tang, stamped receivers only. (\$39.99; [TAPCO.com](http://TAPCO.com))



#### ***Command Arms AK47SFSP Stock Tube***

This stock tube from Command Arms allows you to take advantage of the vast number of AR-15/M4 buffer tube type stocks on the market. Capable of attaching to most AK-style rifles with Saiga stamped receivers, the AK47SFSP (Side-Folding, Six-Position) Stock Tube allows for any standard commercial AR-style stock to be added to your AK. The stock tube is ambidextrous, easy to operate and quick to install, making it a great option for any shooter. (\$124.99; [CommandArms.com](http://CommandArms.com))



### ***Magpul Zhukov-S Stock***

This innovative polymer, folding, collapsible stock comes with QD sling mounts, modular cheek risers and a shock-absorbing rubber buttpad. It has five positions for length of pull adjustment and folds to the right. Users can still charge and fire the rifle when the stock is folded, and positive detents prevent unwanted movement. The Zhukov-S fits common stamped-receiver AKs, and a Yugo variant model is also available. Magpul's MOE is another good option, if you prefer a fixed stock. (\$99.95; [Magpul.com](http://Magpul.com))

### **4. Handguards/Forends**

While it might not be as easy to swap out a handguard or forend on an AK as it is on an AR, and some fitting may be required, it's certainly a worthwhile upgrade for those who do so. Most stock AK forends do not have attachment points for accessories or optics. The majority of aftermarket AK handguards and forends do, either in the form of Picatinny rail sections or KeyMod or M-Lok attachment points. This gives users tons of customization options — far more than would be possible otherwise. Additionally, some aftermarket handguards/forends just feel better than those that come standard. For either reason, an upgraded handguard is a good choice if you're looking to trick out your rifle.



### ***Krebs Custom UFM KeyMod System***

Marc Krebs has been doing some really innovative things with the AK platform for a number of years, and the company's UFM KeyMod System represents one such product. With models available for the different AK variants, this system offers a lightweight handguard with ample mounting possibilities that is durable and

maintains zero. Manufactured from 6061 T6 aluminum, it features a Picatinny rail up top and KeyMod slots on the side and bottom. (\$159.99-\$264.99; [KrebsCustom.com](http://KrebsCustom.com))



### ***Hogue AK-47/AK-74 Handguard***

This handguard features an OverMolded lower piece with metal shield for secure and comfortable grip and protection from heat during extended firing sessions. It comes with two upper handguard pieces — one with a top rail and one without. Available for Chinese, Russian and Yugoslavian AKs, the Hogue handguard also includes three Picatinny rail sections for additional options. Both this handguard and Hogue's AK pistol grip are available in a combo kit. Color options are Black, OD Green, FDE and Ghillie Green. (\$49.95 for the Handguard, \$59.95 for the kit; [HogueInc.com](http://HogueInc.com))



### ***Troy Industries AK-47 Battlerails***

Troy has expanded its AK-47 Battlerails line in the last couple years to include KeyMod and M-Lok options. The new KeyMod and M-Lok Battlerails are machined from hardened aircraft aluminum with stainless steel components and finished with a Mil-Spec hardcoat anodizing for increased ruggedness. Short (10-inch) and Long (13.5-inch) versions are available, as is a 5-inch Top Rail for optics. (\$124.95-\$149.95; [TroyInd.com](http://TroyInd.com))



### ***Command Arms Picatinny Hand Guard Rails System***

This handguard system from CAA is designed specifically for the AK74M and AK100 series of rifles and provides four railed sections for mounting accessories, including both Picatinny and KeyMod solutions. Plus, it fits AKM and AKMS rifles. And its sturdy design maintains zero, allowing for easy field strip and maintenance. (\$350; [CommandArms.com](http://CommandArms.com))

### **5. Muzzle Devices**

One of the easiest upgrades you can make to your AK is a new muzzle device. Many manufacturers offer brakes and other devices that are compatible with AK-style rifles, so there is plenty to choose from that will enhance the capabilities of your AK.



### ***Troy Industries Claymore AK Muzzle Brake***

Instead of directing muzzle blast and sound to the sides, as with most brakes, the Claymore pushes the blast and sound forward and away from the shooter, while retaining muzzle brake properties such as increased control. The brake has a very low dust signature and, with its durable, heat-treated ordnance steel construction, can be used as a breaching device if necessary. (\$64; [TroyInd.com](http://TroyInd.com))



### ***Krebs Custom 4 Prong Flash Suppressor***

With a design thoroughly researched for effectively eliminating muzzle flash, the 4 Prong Flash Suppressor with 14x1mm left-hand threads is made from 4140 steel, is heat-treated and is designed for AKM/AK-74 pattern rifles and Saiga and VEPR rifles with threaded barrels. It weighs 2.3 ounces and has a black oxide finish. (\$70; [KrebsCustom.com](http://KrebsCustom.com))

### **6. Magazines**

Another great way to improve functionality and make your AK look good in the process is to use different magazines. There are a ton of options out there for the AK platform. Many of these AK-47/AK-74 mags are produced overseas, but for those looking to buy American, there are still ample choices.



### ***Magpul PMAG 30 AK/AKM Gen 3***

Magpul's PMAGs have a very high reputation among those in the firearm industry, and for good reason. They are lightweight, durable and highly reliable. The new Gen 3 version of the PMAG 30 AK/AKM mag features steel-reinforced locking lugs; a removable floorplate; an anti-tilt, self-lubricating, low-friction follower; and an impact- and crush-resistant polymer body with ribbed gripping surface and aggressive front and rear texture for positive grip. (\$26.95; [Magpul.com](http://Magpul.com))



### ***US Palm AK 30 Magazine***

The AK 30 magazine from US Palm is constructed of proprietary aerospace polymers but sets itself apart from many other polymer magazines with several unique features, including the lack of a removable floor plate. It also has stainless steel reinforced weapon locking interfaces and a low-friction self-cleaning polymer follower. Cleaning is as simple as placing the mag in hot, soapy water, rinsing and inverting to drain. (\$19.95; [USPalm.com](http://USPalm.com))



### ***Command Arms AK MAG***

This lightweight polymer magazine features a no-tilt, smooth action that incorporates a fluorescent orange follower. It has clear windows on both sides that indicate remaining round count with 10-, 20- and 30-round markings. The mags are Mil-Spec heat-treated and utilize a mildly textured surface on both sides for positive grip. (\$27; [CommandArms.com](http://CommandArms.com))



### ***Century Arms Romanian AK Drum Magazine***

For those range trips where 30 rounds just isn't enough (trust me, they do exist) Century Arms has the Romanian AK Drum Magazine. Sporting a capacity of 75 rounds, this product works with all 7.62x39mm AK-style rifles and pistols that accept high-capacity mags. It weighs 2.25 pounds unloaded and 5.05 pounds loaded. (\$94.99; [CenturyArms.com](http://CenturyArms.com))

### **7. Other Accessories**

There are some other less obvious parts and accessories for owners of an AK-style rifle to consider. Two of these are an enhanced safety lever and a retaining plate, or trigger pin retaining plate. Enhanced safety levers provide added functionality and ease of use over the AK's standard safety lever, which some shooters find awkward to engage and disengage. A retaining plate, on the other hand, permits easier installation of fire control groups and better retains those pins.



### ***TAPCO AK Retaining Plate***

This AK Retaining Plate installs in seconds, quickly securing pins in the correct position to keep the trigger group in place. The plate works in almost all AKs, including the Tantal version, and is finished in a phosphate coating for durability. (\$5.99; [TAPCO.com](http://TAPCO.com))



#### ***Krebs Custom Trigger Pin Retaining Plate***

This retaining plate is precision-manufactured from heat-treated steel alloy. It is far superior to the typical “shepherds hook” for retaining fire control parts. Krebs also has a version for Saiga-style shotguns. (\$10.50; [KrebsCustom.com](http://KrebsCustom.com))



#### ***Krebs Custom Mk VII Enhanced Safety Lever***

The Mk VII Enhanced Safety Lever allows for ambidextrous use and permits activation without removing the hand from the firing position. Lefties engage and disengage the safety using their thumb, while right-handed shooters use their index finger. The device will work on both machined- and stamped-receiver rifles and requires no modification. It will not, however, fit Yugoslavian AKs. (\$65; [KrebsCustom.com](http://KrebsCustom.com))

***Editor's Note:*** This article is an excerpt from the May 2016 issue of [Gun Digest the Magazine](http://GunDigest.com).



<https://www.gunsamerica.com/blog/shocker-can-hack-smart-guns-magnets/>

## Shocker! You Can Hack Smart Guns-With Magnets!

by Max Slowik on July 27, 2017

The Armatix IP1 is the world's first commercially produced "smart gun," an electronically controlled pistol. And surprise, surprise, it can be hacked. Actually, you might be impressed on how easily one hacker was able to overcome the pistol's lockout systems.

A smart gun is a personalized firearm. Without the right authorization, the gun won't fire. In the case of the IP1, the gun only works when the shooter is wearing a special wristwatch. Unless you hack it, of course.

One of the ways smart guns authenticate known users is with wireless electronics. These electronics vary in quality from simple RFID systems like the ones used in security tags to more robust rolling code remotes similar to car alarms.

Critics of these systems have frequently pointed out that wireless systems can be pretty easily interfered with. That's exactly where hacker "Plore" started with the IP1.

After locating the broadcasting system built into the the IP1, Plore was able to pinpoint the broadcasting frequency of the gun's watch detection system. With about \$20 in parts, he was able to copy and boost the signal out to over 10 feet away, well outside the watch's personal range.

Plore also succeeded at completely jamming the watch with simple breadboard electronics. He created a transmitter that runs at the same frequency as the watch and pistol which completely broke the gun and watch.

Ultimately he was able to completely bypass the security system with a few magnets. After studying the pistol's locking mechanism Plore discovered what appears to be a simple firing pin safety.

"So essentially with \$15 worth of magnets, I cracked the \$1.500 smart gun." By using magnets he was able to disengage the safety and shoot the IP1 without the watch or any other electronics.

The microcontroller inside the grip frame of the pistol controls the firing pin safety with an electromagnet. "When we squeeze the grip and pull the trigger halfway," Plore said, "the magnet is activated."

"However, when you take a really big external magnet that can stand in for the electrical magnet, it doesn't matter if the gun is authorized to fire. It doesn't even matter if the gun has batteries in it," he added.

It would be even simpler to take out the firing pin safety altogether, forever removing the complicated electronic security system.

Safeties like these can always be messed with, altered and completely circumvented. It's not that the quality of the electronics is in question. There isn't a foundation for this type of security to stand on.

Still, we expect to see companies continue to promote this sort of technology as a proxy for gun control. If that's enough to keep companies like Armatix in business, there will always be new smart guns to buy — and to hack.

<https://www.buckeyefirearms.org/arrest-mayor-frank-jacksons-grandson-exposes-impotence-cleveland-gun-control-laws>

## Arrest of Mayor Frank Jackson's grandson exposes impotence of Cleveland gun control laws

by Chad D. Baus

7:00am Monday, July 31, 2017

The *Cleveland Plain Dealer* reported recently that the grandson of Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson has been indicted on two felony weapons-related charges.

What *Plain Dealer* journalist Cory Shaffer didn't bother to note is that Major Jackson is a long-time gun control extremist. The article also failed to mention that Jackson's grandson is not being charged with violating any of his grandfather's impotent local gun control laws.

From the [article](#):

Frank Q. Jackson Jr., 20, was charged in an indictment handed up Friday with carrying a concealed weapon and improperly handling firearms in a motor vehicle, both fourth-degree felonies.

...

Jackson was the passenger of a Ford pick-up truck that was blocking traffic on Green Court near East 40th Street about 4:30 p.m. June 9, according to court records. The 17-year-old driver did not have a valid license, court records say.

Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority officers pulled up behind the truck and Jackson jumped, according to court records. Officers reported finding a .40-caliber bullet and loose marijuana on the floor behind where Jackson was sitting, court records say.

Jackson told the officers he had a clip in his pocket, records say, and officers found a .40-caliber Glock in the center console of the car, according to court records.

In a statement released following the indictment, Mayor Jackson said "Frank is my grandson and as any parent or grandparent who has raised children in a challenging environment knows, there is a constant worry about their wellbeing."

Major Jackson's repeated efforts to violate the Second Amendment rights of residents of this "challenging environment" have been found by courts to be unconstitutional (see [here](#) and [here](#)).

Just a few months ago, the Ohio Eighth District Court of Appeals found that all but two laws contained in the latest package of Mayor Jackson's gun control laws were unconstitutional. What's more, the only reason those two measures were allowed to stand by the courts was *because they mirror existing laws established by the legislature*. In other words, the only two provisions of Jackson's most recent gun control laws which remain are two that address things *which are already illegal under state law*.

Buckeye Firearms Association has fought Jackson's efforts for many years. We have repeatedly exposed the fact that the local gun control policies he supports are rarely used to prosecute crimes because, as municipal statutes, they can only be enforced as misdemeanors, whereas when crimes are committed involving firearms, state laws

have been violated that carry felony penalties are involved. Given the choice, prosecutors will naturally chose to pursue charges on the higher penalty.

When Mayor Jackson took office in January of 2006, the City of Cleveland was enforcing a so-called "assault" weapons ban. With passage of HB 347 late that same year, the ban was rendered unenforceable. Jackson immediately set about to complain that he could no longer prosecute people for crimes committed with these guns, and that the loss of that tool had directly resulted in Cleveland's increasing violent crime problem. The mayor even staged press conferences behind a table of scary-looking guns, implying that they had been confiscated through the now-defunct ban.

We challenged the media to investigate whether or not Jackson's claims were true. Getting the answer would be easy for a responsible journalist to do - if the city was having troubles prosecuting offenses in the absence of the ban, that would show through a significant *drop* in convictions related to those offenses. No one at the *Cleveland Plain Dealer*, or any other news organization, for that matter, took it upon themselves to investigate. So we did.

Public records requests by Buckeye Firearms Association [revealed](#) that in all of 2006, Jackson's first year in office, there was not one single person charged with a violation of Cleveland's assault weapons ban. That's right, not even one.

In 2007 (before HB 347 took effect), there was one person prosecuted for a violation of Cleveland's bans. The case never made it to trial because the Grand Jury returned a "no bill", meaning they didn't even find the enough evidence of a crime for the case to move forward to a trial.

**In the mayor's entire tenure, not only had the City of Cleveland not convicted a single person under their so-called assault weapons ban; they never even took one case to trial!**

Even going back to 2005, we found only two people charged with violating Cleveland's ban. They either pled, or were found guilty. Obviously, the (not so) big drop in convictions for this now-defunct law had nothing to do with Cleveland's crime problem. That's because the City of Cleveland has rarely used its gun control laws against criminals before, and they won't now. (In fact, our investigation revealed far more about an administration that is soft on gun crime than about inanimate objects causing their woes. Not only did the city fail to enforce their ordinances, but they [let bad guys go](#).)

When a mayor and city council stand up and publicly announce that they are plotting to openly refuse to follow the law, they are behaving exactly like the criminals they claim to be seeking to bring to justice.

When a mayor and city council refuse to do things that are proven to reduce crime, and instead commit their city to spending time, money, and resources on things that can't possibly reduce crime and/or are illegal, it is gross negligence.

It's no surprise that crime is up in a "challenging environment" like Cleveland. What else would anyone expect when the city "leaders" are part of the problem instead of part of the solution?

As for the mayor's grandson, should he be concerned he'll get jail time? Not likely. [According to an investigation by Cleveland's Fox affiliate](#) in 2015, in the cases they checked that involved similar charges, about half of those facing charges got probation. Only about a third got locked up, and some only got time served for a few days spent in jail while under investigation.

*Chad D. Baus is the Buckeye Firearms Association Secretary, BFA PAC Vice Chairman, and a NRA-certified firearms instructor. He is the editor of BuckeyeFirearms.org, which received the Outdoor Writers of Ohio 2013 Supporting Member Award for Best Website.*

## Rotary Turns 180 Degrees on Restrictive Firearm Policies

7:00am Thursday, July 27, 2017

In March, [we reported](#) on a series of restrictive policies governing firearms that had been approved by the governing body of the well-known networking and service club, Rotary International. This week came a welcome turn of events, as the club's board of directors announced that the rules, which had been set to take effect July 1, have undergone substantial "clarification."

The policies as originally announced in January had banned any Rotary entity – including clubs and districts – from selling, raffling, or transferring firearms. It also banned these entities from participating in activities where any sort of firearm raffle or other transfer occurs, whether or not Rotary is the owner of the items. Rotary entities were additionally prohibited from sponsoring or conducting gun shows or other exhibitions involving guns and even from "accept[ing] sponsorship from any entity whose primary business is the sale or manufacturer of guns, weapons or other armaments.

Rotary's board of directors had cited "financial and reputational risk" as justification for the rules.

A number of Rotary's American members, however, spoke out in opposition to the new rules. Fortunately, their voices were heard, and Rotary announced changes to the rules this week.

Under the revised guidelines, Rotary entities are expressly authorized to "participate in activities involving the sale, give-away or transfer, including raffles, of guns, weapons or other armaments ...." The entity, however, must not "take ownership of the item(s)" and any transfer of ownership of a firearm must be "handled by a licensed third party in compliance with all applicable laws."

Entities engaging in activities that involve firearms, including sport shooting activities, are further required "to consult with legal and/or insurance professionals to ensure that they are adequately protected."

The ban on sponsorship of Rotary activities by firearm-related companies was also lifted.

An email announcing the changes said they were made "in response to comments from our members ...."

The NRA is very pleased that Rotary has reconsidered its position and will continue to allow its entities to conduct these popular events. It speaks well of the club that it was willing to chart a more moderate path in response to member concerns.

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[https://gundigest.com/reviews/shotguns/10-classic-shotguns?utm\\_source=wir&utm\\_campaign=gd-dwb-wir-170731&utm\\_content=959965\\_EDT\\_GD170731&utm\\_medium=email](https://gundigest.com/reviews/shotguns/10-classic-shotguns?utm_source=wir&utm_campaign=gd-dwb-wir-170731&utm_content=959965_EDT_GD170731&utm_medium=email)

## Winchester Model 97



Yeah, the Model 97 took its fair share of game in its 60 years of production, but that's not why it's remembered. U.S. doughboys thinning the German ranks in World War I with the "Trench Gun" or "Trench Broom" is what etched this John Browning design into history. The Model 97 was apparently so effective at its job during the Great War, the Germans [filed a diplomatic protest](#) over the weapon, claiming the shotgun was illegal per the Hague Convention due to it causing unnecessary suffering. Crocodile tears for the purveyors of poison gas and inventors of the modern flamethrower. The 97 was essentially the evolution of another Browning shotgun design, the Model 1893, strengthened to handle new-for-the-time smokeless powders.

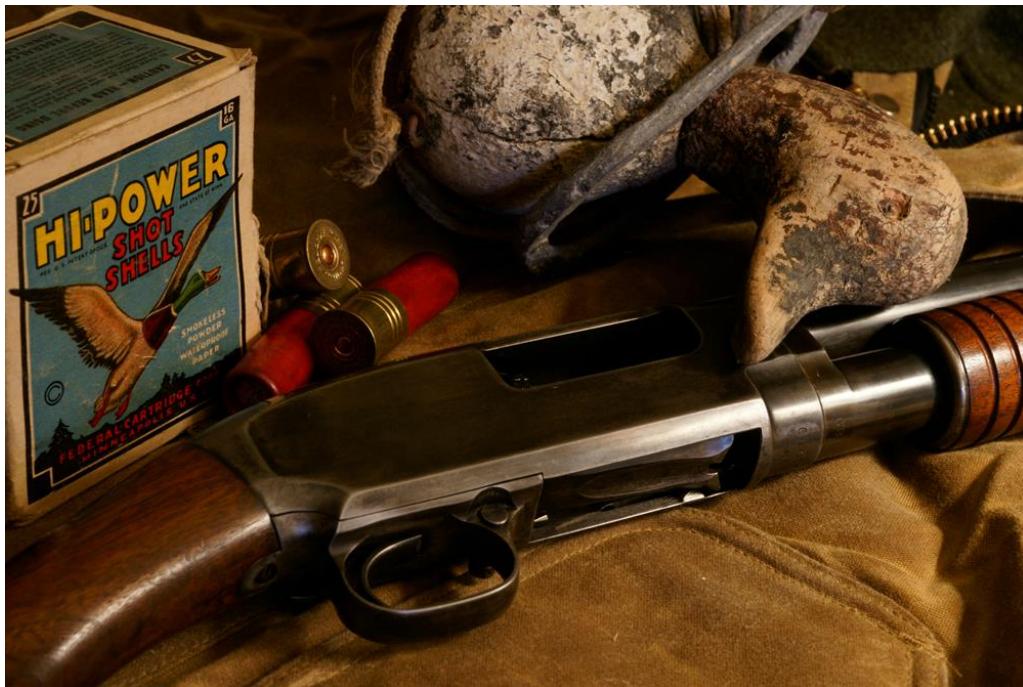
## Browning Automatic-5



Introduced in 1903, the iconic "Humpback" was perhaps one of the most successful sporting arms ever conceived. It's no wonder, as it was a product of the legendary John M. Browning's mind. This classic was one of the most flexible autoloaders of its day, able to shoot a wide variety of loads, thanks to Browning's ingenious [reversible friction ring](#). Before this point, most autoloaders were only capable of cycling specific loads. To boot,

the Auto-5 would chew through shells rain, shine or choked with duck marsh mud. Despite Browning ceasing the production of the original A5 in 1999, they can still be found at a reasonable price, for shotgunners willing to do some digging for this true classic. A few years back, Browning also reintroduced a version of this classic using a short-recoil operated system it has dubbed Kinematic Drive.

## Winchester Model 12



Known as “The Perfect Repeater,” for the better part of the 20th Century this was the shotgun by which all other pump actions were measured. The Model 12 was Thomas C. Johnson’s improvement of John Browning’s Model 1897, the primary modification being the internalized hammer. In addition to giving the shotgun cleaner lines, this change also did away with any visual obstructions between shots, thus making it faster for a hunter to bag a coveted double. The Model 12 struck a cord with the shooting public upon its release in 1912, with 100,000 initially sold its first two years of production. In particular, the shotgun’s ability to really reach out — 60 yards or better — made it among the most popular fowling pieces to ever come down the pike. Winchester would go on to produce more than 2 million of the fast shooting and deadly accurate smoothbores. And it was [the only shotgun](#) to ever be offered in more than 100 different variations and configurations during its lifetime.

## Browning Superposed



Like nearly all of John Browning's designs, his last gun truly shifted the sands of the shooting world. The firearms genius did not come up with the over/under shotgun concept — [Boss & Co.](#) introduced its design in 1909. Instead, Browning came up with a design that could be mass-produced — what became known as the Superposed. In turn, the moderately priced double became the classic field gun for bird hunters of all stripes, particularly in America. It's no wonder. Not only is the Superposed a shooter, it's also a looker. Though not all the credit of this absolute classic should go to Browning himself. He died before the firearm was finished. His son Val Browning saw his father's final work through to production. And every wing and clay shooter today owes a debt of gratitude to this son's dedication.

### **Remington Model 31**



In some circles, there was no finer pump action ever produced. But there was a very good reason for this — there was a lot of sweat equity invested in this Remington. The silky-smooth action coveted by bird hunters and competitive shooters alike was due to hand fitting of its parts. This, and the Model 31's extensive machining, not only made for a superior shooting experience, it also sowed the seed of its demise. As time wore on, it became less and less profitable for Remington to produce its first side-ejecting pump action. On the bright side, the C.C. Loomis and John Pedersen design would provide the foundation of another truly classic Remington shotgun — the 870. (Photo: [Rock Island Auction Company](#))

### **Ithaca Model 37**



Being the longest produced pump-action shotgun should tell you a little bit about the tough-as-nails Model 37. Like many of the other classics, the shotgun not only saw action afield but also in war, serving in U.S. operations from World War II to Vietnam. It was also a widespread choice of police departments. One of the Model 37's great advantages was its bottom load/ejection port, which made it a truly ambidextrous firearm. Ithaca engineer Harry Howland did the final refinements on the Model 37 before its release in 1937. And if its design seems familiar, it should. The shotgun's roots are in another legendary smoothbore, the John Browning and John Pederson designed Remington Model 17. The Model 37 is [essentially the Model 17](#). Ithaca waited out the patent limits on the Model 17 to produce a pump action that could compete with the then-ubiquitous Winchester Model 12.

## **Remington Model 870**



Today, if you say shotgun, it's likely one model comes to mind — the 870. Why not? The pump action is as common as dust mites, with more than 11 million produced since it was introduced in 1950. The heir apparent of the Remington Model 31, the Model 870 carried on a number of the elder smoothbore's desirable features, but in a much more easy to manufacture package. What made the pump action so appealing — aside from its affordability — was its reliability and wide spectrum of configurations. Its first year alone, there were 15 different variations to choose from. In its time, the 870 has filled every conceivable role that could be demanded of a smoothbore, tackling every size and shape of game, reporting for duty with various military forces around the world and cleaning up the streets in the hands of law enforcement. A wide variety of models are still being produced today.

## **Mossberg 500**



Rugged as they come, it's no wonder why more than 10 million Mossberg 500s have been produced. Introduced in 1960, and from the branch of the Remington 31 in the shotgun family tree, the pump action was designed by Mossberg lead engineer Carl Benson. But it had its hiccups to start, with the early model's single action bar known to bend and sometimes break. Not exactly a desirable trait. Mossberg weathered the problems then added another bar to remedy the issue once Remington's patent on twin action bars ran out in 1970. The Mossberg 500 offered shooters, military and law enforcement a reliable pump action ready for any kind of duty. It also did so on the cheap, as one of the most affordable smoothbores around. Like the 870, there are many different variations of the 500 in current production.

## Remington Model 1100



Wayne Leek made a bold statement when he introduced the new semi-auto to the Remington executives: “[I]t’s going to revolutionize shotgun shooting.” But it was a boast that had legs. The 1100 arguably ushered in the age of gas-operated shotguns for the masses. The 1100 wasn’t the first gas-operated smoothbore to come down the pike, but it was the first truly reliable variation, and one that didn’t kick like a mule. This made it a dynamite option for high-volume shooters, whether they were busting up blue rock or downing doves by the dozens. On top of that, the 1100 was proportioned just right so that even new shooters could intuitively shoulder the shotgun. The secret was its narrow comb. The semi-automatic is still a favorite today and is an excellent choice for those looking for an autoloader that won’t break the bank.

### **Benelli Super Black Eagle**



Gas-operated shotguns, for a spell, seemed to put their recoil-driven counterparts on their heels, until the eagle landed. With its ingeniously simple inertia action and excellent handling, the Super Black Eagle became a staple of duck blinds and goose pits up and down flyways. Similar to Browning's Auto-5, the Eagle was as reliable as the march of time, giving waterfowlers — and other hunters — peace of mind they'd knock birds out of the sky, no matter how deep into the cattails they ventured. Add in its ability to really reach out, and, well, it became a classic nearly the moment it was introduced in 1991. The captivating aspect of the shotgun is its innovative action, designed by Bruno Civolani in 1967. He tried to unsuccessfully sell it to a number of gunmakers, until he happened upon Benelli — then better known as a motorcycle maker. And dedicated wing shooters have reaped the benefits ever since.

## The Nazi Hi-Power: How the Germans Stole the Finest Combat Pistol of World War 2

John Moses Browning was a Mormon gun designer born five years before the American Civil War. Browning ultimately died of heart failure sitting at his work-bench in Liege, Belgium. At the time of his death the man held 128 patents. There has never been another gun designer that even came close to his genius.

The path that took Browning from Utah to Belgium is fascinating. Browning's earliest ventures were with [Winchester](#). His familiar [lever action rifles](#) and [slide action shotguns](#) made Winchester a great deal of money. However, in his Auto-5 Browning knew he had something special.

The [hump-backed Auto-5](#) was Browning's favorite design and ultimately became the world's first successful [autoloading shotgun](#). When he presented the gun to Winchester, however, they balked at his terms. In frustration Browning took the gun to [Remington](#) only to have the CEO of Remington suffer a sudden heart attack before negotiations were complete. In frustration Browning took his design to [Fabrique Nationale](#) in Belgium.



The Pistole 640(b) was the German designation for Belgian Hi-Power pistols pressed into Nazi service. Sporting a high-capacity magazine, crisp single action trigger, and splendid ergonomics, the Hi-Power was the finest combat pistol of the war.

# Handgun Excellence

Most of us red-blooded American gunmen would view the [classic 1911](#) as John Browning's masterwork. Designed specifically to kill the radical Muslim terrorists of the day, the 1911 fired a bullet that weighed fully twice what the European-standard [115-grain 9mm](#) did. For all of its justifiable merits, however, the 1911 has a few shortcomings.

The [single-stack 7-round magazine](#) was designed to improve upon the contemporary 6-shot revolver. Additionally, the swinging-link barrel locking mechanism could be simpler. FN needed a pistol to answer a French call for a new service sidearm. As Colt held the patents on his 1911, Browning had to design this new gun from scratch. The result was the most capable combat handgun in the world.

Browning died before he could complete the P35 Grande Puissance or Hi-Power. A Belgian colleague at FN named Dieudonne Saive finished the project. The Hi-Power action went on to drive most of the world's combat handguns. Interestingly, the French ultimately rejected the Browning design.

The Hi-Power sports a pivoting single action trigger utterly unlike that of the 1911 though offering a comparably crisp character. The magazine holds 13 rounds was designed by Saive and paved the way for today's high-capacity [autoloading handguns](#). In place of the swinging link on the 1911 the Hi-Power employs a remarkably effective cam-locking system. If you have never seen one just crack open your favorite [Glock](#), [Smith and Wesson](#), [HK](#), or [Ruger](#) pistol. They all run on Browning's Hi-Power action.



The Hi-Power handily bested the Walther P38 and P08 Parabellum, the two most common German service handguns of the day.

## An Unfortunate Turn of Events

[FN](#) launched the Hi-Power in 1935. In 1939 the Germans debuted Blitzkrieg to an unsuspecting planet and overran mainland Europe in fairly short order. By 1940 they occupied Belgium. The Germans needed weapons in massive quantities with which to prosecute their ongoing military expeditions. Domestic German production was woefully inadequate to feed the monster that was total war so the Nazis turned to their occupied territories for additional armaments.

The Hi-Power's inimitable single action trigger handily bests that of the Walther P38 and the P08 Parabellum. The P08 sports a single action trigger as well and should have given the Hi-Power a run for its money. However, the trigger on Georg Luger's masterpiece is inexplicably spongy. Combine the Hi-Power trigger with its rugged reliable action and a greater magazine capacity than any other handgun then in service and you get a

desirable sidearm for elite Nazi formations. These guns were subsequently designated the Pistole 640(b) and went preferentially to the Fallschirmjägers as well as the Waffen SS.

The Fallschirmjägers were the German paratroop arm and they answered to the Luftwaffe or German Air Force. The Schutzstaffel or SS spawned from Hitler's personal bodyguard and represented some of the most committed warriors fielded by any combatant of the war. That the SS also became synonymous with atrocities and death camps has forever tainted their reputation and justifiably overshadowed their conventional battlefield prowess.



German Waffenamts designate wartime Hi-Powers as accepted for German military service.

## Range Time

The Hi-Power holds its own on the range against pistol designs 80 years younger. Recoil is a joy, the trigger is indeed divine, and the 13-round box keeps the gun running long after lesser pistols would have packed it in. Additionally, the magazine release is easily accessed while the magazines drop away cleanly, making for rapid magazine changes. The sights are too small but everybody's sights were too small.

The FN Hi-Power was a coveted sidearm on both sides of the lines. The Canadians fielded the gun as well, and there were never enough to satisfy the Germans' voracious wartime appetite. Amidst their many well-documented examples of self-worshipping malevolence, the Nazis did indeed steal from Belgium the finest combat pistol of World War 2.



The Waffen SS consumed most of the Hi-Powers in German wartime service.



The Waffen SS consumed most of the Hi-Powers in German wartime service.

Special thanks to [www.worldwarsupply.com](http://www.worldwarsupply.com) for the cool replica gear used in the production of this article.

[https://www.gunsamerica.com/blog/snipers-best-friend-sig-kilo-2400abs/?utm\\_source=email&utm\\_medium=20170731\\_BlogDigest\\_235&utm\\_campaign=/blog/snipers-best-friend-sig-kilo-2400abs/](https://www.gunsamerica.com/blog/snipers-best-friend-sig-kilo-2400abs/?utm_source=email&utm_medium=20170731_BlogDigest_235&utm_campaign=/blog/snipers-best-friend-sig-kilo-2400abs/)

## A Sniper's Best Friend: SIG KILO 2400ABS

by Clay Martin on July 27, 2017

Once in a great while, a product comes along that is so good that it is actually hard to review. The new [SIG Kilo 2400ABS](#) is one such device. I could close, right now, just by saying: "It's perfect" and walk away leaving nothing on the table. Despite all the features and performance of the 2400ABS, I feel like this will be a shorter than normal editorial. The 2400ABS attains such high marks in all fields that to stretch words around it would degrade my opinions.



Undoubtedly, precision shooting is a gear-intense sport. The SIG Kilo2400ABS carries an array of atmospheric sensors and ballistic calculator.

## SPECS



The Kilo 2400 can store up to four different rifle/bullet profiles.

- **Power:** 7X
- **Objective:** 25mm
- **Ballistic Solver:** Applied Ballistics with custom curve library
- **Length:** 4.25 in.
- **Height:** 3 in.
- **Width:** 1.5 in.
- **Weight:** 7.5 oz.
- **MSRP:** \$1,800
- **Manufacturer:** SIG Sauer

## Range Finding Capability

Given its advertised capabilities, I was shocked by the small size of the Kilo 2400 unit. It is roughly the same size as the old golf range finders we've all bought when we were broke that were only usable out to 300 meters. The SIG has a range of 2 miles, and it delivers. The electronics on board this unit are so good, I actually wonder if SIG Sauer is losing money per unit just to gain market share. Inside of 1 mile, it blows the doors off anything else I've witnessed in terms of both speed and ease of acquisition. The scan mode delivers half meter corrections near instantly at 800-meter ranges and quite possibly beyond. I was effortlessly able to range targets at 1200 meters, free handing the unit. If you have ever spent time with a range finder, you know what that statement means. As a U.S. Army soldier in multiple sniper units, we developed and used all sorts of improvisations to make a range finder steady enough to get a reading. The Kilo made me feel like I could have a cup of coffee in the other hand, no big deal. Put this thing on a tripod, and it is absolutely impossible to not get an accurate range. Have I seen things that will out range it? Sure. But not since I left the army. Not to mention, those things are in the \$10,000 plus range. And there are zero requirements that they are eye safe. And there is no ITAR control. Without out running them side by side it's hard to determine, even if the military grade ones will range to over 10 kilometers, I am not sure they would beat the SIG inside 2 kilometers.

**Article Continues Below**



The Kilo2400ABS comes in a small nylon pouch that has everything long range shooters need, including the ability to mount it on a tripod.

How SIG achieved this and still made the housing small enough to fit in a shoulder pocket is beyond me. Even if this were just a range finder, it would be worth the price if you regularly shoot past 1,000 meters.

## Applied Ballistics



The app included with the SIG Kilo 2400ABS includes Applied Ballistics' bullet profiles and custom curve library.

In 2017, [Applied Ballistics](#) (AB) is probably the pre-eminent ballistic computer software on the market. Things change in technology, and there may be something else that usurps it in the future, but AB is pretty hard to beat at the moment. It is light years ahead of where we were 15 years ago, but that is a discussion for another day. It

is an awesome program, and with awesome usually comes a heavy price tag. SIG crammed it into the range finder and supporting phone app, and it's the full version. They took no shortcuts. You get all the goods, including the drop scale factor (DSF). You can true your own rifle into and past transonic ranges. Or you can just upload a custom curve from Applied Ballistics. And you get access to the entire library of Applied Ballistics bullets.

To put this in perspective, the Kestrel Wind Meter that has Applied Ballistics in it is over \$700. So not only do you get easy access via your phone to input date, with support, and a heads up display while you are shooting if you want, there is more. You don't need cell service to run the program, and you actually don't even need your phone. The Kilo 2400 will store up to 4 rifle profiles in the range finder. And after it ranges the target, on the same screen it will display the hold in mils for elevation with windage correction. The wind you can obviously screw up by inputting the wrong mph or direction, but this technology in such a small package is incredible. The range finder is also a Star Trek level DOPE book, for any 4 rifles/ bullets you happen to be carrying. And don't fret if you don't know how to use Applied Ballistics yet, there is a tutorial on the AB website specific to the Kilo 2400ABS.



The SIG Kilo 2400 comes with a wind meter that attaches to the user's cellphone.

## Weather Station

Did I mention it is also a weather station? The Kilo 2400 ABS does anything a Kestrel will do, aside from a wind meter. It does come with a wind meter, but it has to be attached to your cellphone. You don't need cellular service, just a Bluetooth link from your phone to the unit. SIG has consolidated three devices into one, giving you everything you need for a successful engagement. With your cellphone handy, you can also override any weather setting you like, should the need arise. This device is verging on science fiction.

## Bonus Round

Don't like Applied Ballistics? Cool. Turn it off. Need to know the angle you are shooting at? Good. It tells you that too. Need to range and spot at the same time? Glad you asked. There are options for the displayed reticle, including a mil-dot reticle. It's crude, in 5 mil increments, but don't laugh. How many of you have a spotting scope with a mil reticle in it? And for the boys playing away games, 5 mils is good enough to call in an indirect fire mission in a pinch. Runs off of a common battery? Check. This bad boy runs off of a CR2, available at any big box store. Useful, MOLLE attachable case? Check. Slap this on your battle belt or ruck, and off you go.

Even at full retail, with an MSRP of \$1,799, this is worth every penny. It is the kind of product you have to see to believe. It is as close to perfect as we are going to get while we are still using gunpowder-propelled bullets. Every military and police sniper in the country should have one of these: They deserve it. I actually believe that enough to call the senators from Idaho to demand it. The size is small enough to be an everyday carry item. I wouldn't change a thing about the Kilo 2400, though I do have one hope. The 7X magnification starts getting a little hard to spot with around the 1-mile range, but that is the price of being small. I hope this line of range finders expands to 12X or 15X in the future, just for us lazy retired guys that drive to work now.

For more information about SIG Sauer Kilo 2400AB, click <https://www.sigsauer.com/store/kilo2400abs.html>.

For more information about Applied Ballistics, click <http://appliedballisticsllc.com>.

To purchase a SIG Sauer Kilo 2400AB on GunsAmerica,  
click <https://www.gunsamerica.com/Search.aspx?Keyword=SIG%20Sauer%20Kilo>.

[https://gundigest.com/handguns/review-smith-wesson-model-629-revolver?utm\\_source=wir&utm\\_campaign=gd-dwb-wir-170731&utm\\_content=959965\\_EDT\\_GD170731&utm\\_medium=email](https://gundigest.com/handguns/review-smith-wesson-model-629-revolver?utm_source=wir&utm_campaign=gd-dwb-wir-170731&utm_content=959965_EDT_GD170731&utm_medium=email)

## Gun Review: Smith & Wesson Model 629 Revolver

By [Doug Larson](#) - July 27, 2017

**The Smith & Wesson Model 629 is a heavy duty .44 Magnum revolver that's the perfect protection for city and country.**

Smith & Wesson Model 629 Review Snapshot:

- A stainless steel .44 Magnum revolver, the Model 629 is based on the earlier Model 29
- The potent Model 629 offers users protection from bears and other predators
- The Model 629 produced adequate accuracy, with groups around 2 inches at 25 yards
- Rugged and dependable, the 629 provides what users need in a .44 Magnum revolver

For many years after its introduction in 1955, the .44 Magnum was often referred to as the most powerful handgun cartridge in the world. Several other handgun cartridges have exceeded its power since then, but it still remains a powerful round that is capable of taking most North American big game.

Smith & Wesson's Model 29 was the first production revolver [chambered for the .44 Magnum](#), and sales skyrocketed after Clint Eastwood's portrayal on the big screen of Inspector Harry Callahan, aka "Dirty Harry," who dispatched the bad guys with one. Stories still circulate about movie fans buying a Model 29 and a box of cartridges, then after shooting one cylinder full of six, selling the gun and the remaining cartridges because of the sobering recoil.



The Model 29 beget the Model 629, which is a stainless steel version of the gun. Both guns, the 29 and 629, have been in the S&W inventory for many years and continue to be excellent choices for the shooter who is seeking a recreational revolver that can also serve as protection against dangerous game, wild predators or humans intent on causing bodily harm or death. So, the Model 629 reviewed here is a versatile choice.

One feature that makes the Model 629 so versatile is that not only will it handle the most powerful .44 Magnum loads, it can also safely fire .44 Special cartridges because that round is less powerful, is .125 inches shorter than the Magnum and comfortably fits in the chamber. The .44 Special not only generates considerably less recoil, making it pleasant to shoot for fun or practice, it is also a popular self-defense round with ballistics about the same as those of the revered .45 ACP. And because it is less powerful than the .44 Magnum, it generates less muzzle rise, allowing the shooter to get back on target faster for follow-up shots.

Some people want that extra magnum power though for personal defense against human predators, and carry the Model 629 loaded with .44 Magnum rounds. Generally, the ammunition chosen is a hollow point design with a projectile weight of 180 to 240 grains. At the speeds generated by the magnum load, expansion and penetration both combine to deliver serious damage on the receiving end in order to stop felonious behavior.

But the 629 offers even more versatility. When loaded with heavy, hard-hitting, solid projectiles, it is an effective defense against bears and other wild predators. So why not use hollow point expanding projectiles against bears? The answer is lack of penetration.



Bears are big animals with thick hides that are much tougher than the human skin. Bears also have massive bone structures and tough muscles that work together to protect the animal and make it more difficult to reach vital organs. And doing damage to vital organs is necessary to stop a bear in the midst of a charge. A hard cast 300-grain or heavier bullet has the energy to penetrate hide, bone and muscle and do serious damage to internal organs, where a hollow point bullet is more likely to begin expanding on impact, which slows it down and reduces penetration, so it may not go deep enough to inflict charge-stopping damage.

“Penetration is key, so hard cast or solid bullets are recommended for bear defense,” says Il Ling New, professional hunting guide and Gunsite Instructor who teaches, among other classes, Predator Defense. She adds, “At Gunsite, we recommend that a charging bear be shot in the face—ideally between the eyes and nose—to stop a charge as soon as possible. Other shots may take too long to stop the bear before it can do damage.”

Many ammunition manufacturers produce .44 Magnum and .44 Special loads with a variety of bullets suitable for anything from punching paper to dropping big, tough game. So obtaining ammo is not difficult.

Ammunition is supplied by major manufactures and smaller specialty manufacturers who specialize in certain loads and cater to select clientele. And the S&W Model 629 will handle them all.



While the Model 629 is available in a variety of versions with different features, a 4-inch barreled standard version was evaluated for this article. The 629 is a large frame revolver built on S&W's N frame, which is well suited for the recoil and pressures associated with the .44 Magnum. The gun has a bright, polished stainless steel finish with the familiar Smith & Wesson logo on the left side just below the cylinder catch.

Up front, the gun sports a blued steel ramp sight with a bright orange insert that demands attention when aiming. The rear sight is also blued steel and is adjustable for both windage and elevation by turning adjustment screws. It has a white outline to aid in acquisition when in a hurry. Since the gun can accommodate so many different .44 Special and .44 Magnum loads, an adjustable sight is an excellent feature because changing loads invariably shifts the point of impact. And an accurate zero is necessary, especially if using the gun for self defense or defense against wild predators.



The underlug beneath the barrel extends about two thirds of the distance to the muzzle. The hammer and trigger appear to be made of carbon steel, and the hammer spur is aggressively checkered for good purchase if the shooter chooses to thumb cock the revolver. The trigger has a polished, wide face that encourages a smooth, consistent trigger press when shooting the revolver double action. The double-action trigger pull on the test gun measures 13.5 pounds, whereas the single action breaks crisply at just under 4 pounds with a bit of overtravel.

A fluted cylinder on a swing-out crane has a six-round capacity, and the cylinder catch is easily activated to release the cylinder by pushing it forward. Older versions of the Model 629 were equipped with one-piece synthetic grips featuring a stippled texture and distinct finger grooves to anchor the gun in the hand. However, the newest model has a slightly different grip with less pronounced finger grooves and a cushioned backstrap to help reduce the effects of the stout recoil that the .44 Magnum can generate with heavy loads.



Shooting the Model 629 can be a pleasant experience or, depending on the shooter's tolerance for recoil, a bit distressing. Because the gun weighs 41.5 ounces, which is about 2.5 pounds—more for those with longer barrels—most shooters can comfortably handle shooting light .44 Special loads. The traditional 240-grain .44 Magnum loads are manageable by many shooters unless a large number are fired in a single session. The heavy loads made for hunting or predator defense, those around 300 grains or more, generate what most shooters would call punishing recoil, and firing a few rounds in a session will satisfy them. Of course, there are shooters with a higher tolerance for recoil.

The Model 629 can be a very accurate gun in the right hands and is capable of delivering tight groups. The test gun delivered groups at 25 yards averaging just over 2 inches, and shooters with very sharp vision and the proper technique can probably get better results.

***Editor's Note:*** This article is an excerpt from the April 2017 issue of [Gun Digest the Magazine](#).

## 10 Must Have SHTF Guns

by Jeremy Hopper  
7:00am Friday, July 28, 2017

The perfect SHTF gun doesn't exist all in one weapon, here is a run-down of the features of some of the top-rated weapons available.

### ***1. S&W 686/586 357 Magnum***

It is made to endure heavy usage and designed with an L-frame, which Smith & Wesson created for durability. The trigger has been modified over the years to make it smoother and more reliable. Bench rest shooting accuracy is at 50 yards or longer. On the whole, this gun has stellar ergonomics and is easy to shoot under any conditions.



### ***2. Glock 19***

The Glock 19 is the chosen weapon of law enforcement. They like the Glock's balance of capacity and weight distribution. It was originally designed to accommodate the Austrian military, which designed it to have no more than 58 parts to it. This is why it only weighs 23.65 ounces. The cartridge tops the scales at .48 ounces. There is a total of 16 cartridges in the gun, the weight of the ammo with several spare magazines is 22.08 ounces alone, and the plastic frame is a technologically light-weight material called Polymer 2.

### **3. AK-47 (semi auto shotgun variants-Krebs, Mossberg, CAI, Kalashnikov, Saiga, etc.)**



As far as SHTF guns go, this weapon, specifically, the Kalashnikov design was created to be a “tool of the state.” The AK-47 and its variants is the preferred weapon of guerrillas and armies alike from Venezuela’s Hugo Chavez to the leftist guerrillas of the FMLN in North Korea. It is considered the modern warfare weapon. It is so powerful that the propellant releases more energy than what is actually needed to fire the bullet. So, the gas system of the AK-47 captures some of this energy so it will instead work to eject spent cartridges while loading new ones.



### **4. AR-15**

AR-15s are the most commonly used firearms in rifle training courses around the country. Here are the top two in this category:

- *Rock River Arms LAR-15 Entry Tactical*

In order to not sacrifice accuracy for this style of the AR-15, this version is designed with a Wylde chamber. With this chamber, the weapon can be shot with 5.56 NATO and .223 Remington. It also has chrome moly, 16” barrel that is treated for life durability. The pistol grip is an upgraded rubberized version by Hogue. It comes with a two-stage trigger the Rock River is known for.

- *Sig Sauer M400 SRP*

This is an optics-ready AR-15, but it does not come with iron sights so that you can put all your money into the rifle platform itself and not parts. You can use longer, heavier bullets with this AR-15 because of the barrel twist rate, (1:7). Finally, it has a Sig pistol grip instead of a standard mil-spec one.

### **5. Mossberg 935 Magnum**

The X-Factor ported choke and the pistol grip adds to the quality of the shoot on this weapon. It patterns well at 20, 35, and 50 yards. The standard stock puts the safety in just the right position. At the top of the 22" barrel, which is vented, is fiber optic sights, which are great in even extremely low lighting. The semi-automatic action works like gangbusters whether you are on the range or in the field.



### **6. Kel Tec Sub 2000**

This semi-automatic has the convenience of use in its design among all the 9mm or .40 caliber rifles today. It is the most portable at only 4.25 lbs. When completely folded, it is 16.25" in length. The carbine is one of the cheapest and gives a more stable platform for longer ranges. The ergonomics of the weapon are good, even for extended use at the range where it can take many types of 9mm ammo and not lose its quality. The stock of this weapon was re-designed with the ability of three lengths. A railed fore-end was also added with Picatinny rails at the 6 and 12 positions.



### **7. *Ruger 10/22***

This weapon is one of the most reliable of the guns featured. It has a capability of sending 200 or more rounds downrange before it needs any kind of maintenance. In terms of accuracy, it has optimal quality within the range of the load. Because it uses 22 ammo, it is preferred by many shooters; they get more bang for their buck because the per-round price of shooting is cheaper. It also is easy to modify or to repair because parts for this gun are readily available. The 10/22 version of this Ruger is the carbine model, which works really well for younger users or a carriage on a truck or ATV.

### **8. *Mossberg MVP***

This weapon has a benchrest stock's forend with a wide and flat bottom. It is considered to be a great gun for field shooting, or if you mount it on a bipod. It can be fed from an AR-15, AR-10- style, and M1A/M14 magazines. It also has an adjustable LBA trigger and pillar-bedded stock that contributes to its stellar accuracy. It has Weaver-style scope base, and fluted barrels.



### **9. *Remington 700***

This weapon has a 20" heavy barrel, and externally adjustable trigger, a Hogue over molded pillar-bedded stock, and a hinged floorplate magazine. It is considered an extremely maneuverable gun with a tactical-style barrel. The Hogue over moldings contributes to reliable handling while a semi-beavertail fore-end stabilize it when it is off a rest.

## **10. Thompson Encore Rifle**

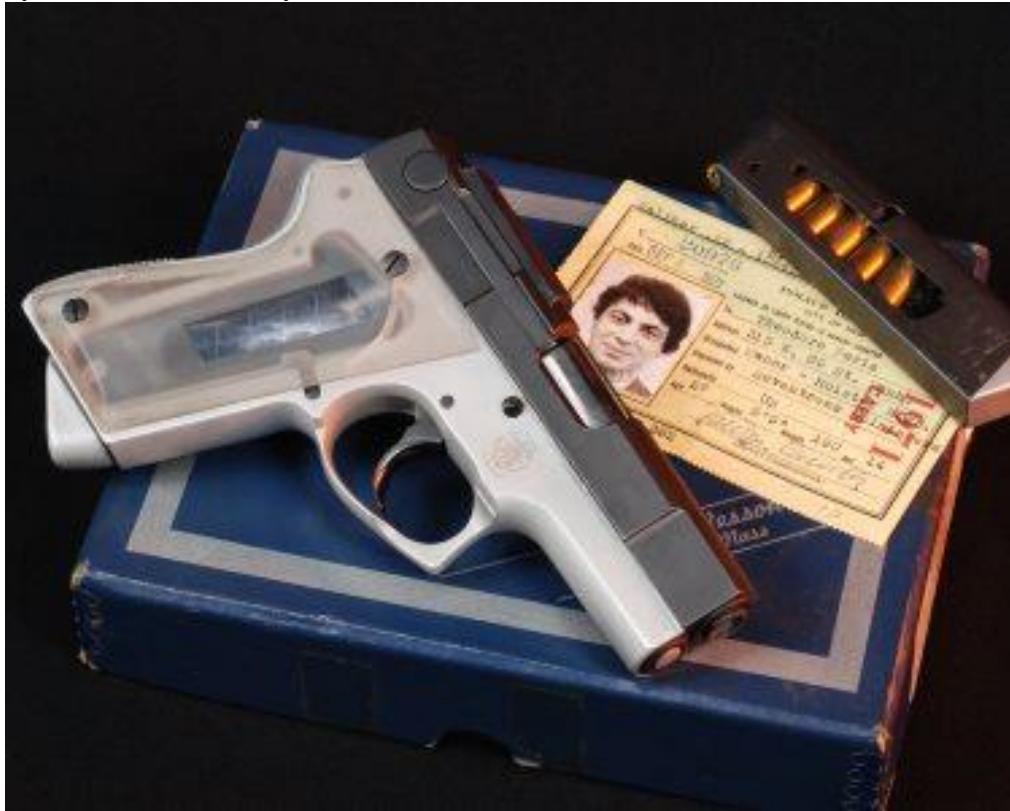
This is a sure and easy gun to use with a 26" stainless steel barrel that only has two screws in its black composite forearm for switching out the barrel between the 209X50 muzzleloader, to a Camo, or the stainless steel version. It also has adjustable fiber optic sights, a solid aluminum ramrod, fixed primer extractor, universal breech plug that removes with a socket and only weighs 9.5lbs with the scope. It is well built with a lot of metal and very balanced without any play to it, and hardly any travel right before the hammer snaps. Owning ten SHTF guns may not be in your budget or your interest, but choosing from a variety of weapons can help you decide which of the top-rated ones suit your overall needs.

*Jeremy Hopper is a home & safe defense specialist. He has chosen this career path to share his knowledge with other gun enthusiasts in order to help them stay safe and make the best choice when buying a firearm. He has a project called [BestHomeDefenseGun](#) that specializes in comprehensive gun reviews.*

[https://www.gunsamerica.com/blog/cold-war-mystery-pistol-story-revolutionary-9mm-asp/?utm\\_source=email&utm\\_medium=20170731\\_BlogDigest\\_235&utm\\_campaign=/blog/cold-war-mystery-pistol-story-revolutionary-9mm-asp/](https://www.gunsamerica.com/blog/cold-war-mystery-pistol-story-revolutionary-9mm-asp/?utm_source=email&utm_medium=20170731_BlogDigest_235&utm_campaign=/blog/cold-war-mystery-pistol-story-revolutionary-9mm-asp/)

## Cold War Mystery Pistol? The Story of the Revolutionary 9mm ASP

by Rob Garrett on July 27, 2017



The ASP pistol, based off the Smith & Wesson Model 39 9mm, was an extremely advanced compact defensive pistol. Images courtesy of the author.

It has been more than a quarter century since the Soviet Union collapsed and the Berlin Wall came down. However, between 1947 and 1991, NATO and the Soviet Union were on a continuous war footing. The world was a smaller place. The Cold War was hot, the threat was real, and the battles were fought on a daily basis from New York to Moscow. There was no internet or blogs and those who were in the know didn't share their knowledge with those that weren't. The term "dangerous men" was a compliment to those who lived and fought in the shadows. These men roamed the world armed with exotic weapons that were only discussed in closed circles. It was the time of the modern gunfighter and the birth of the ASP!

## Deepening Mystery

The story of the ASP reads like a Ludlum or Flynn novel. In 1966, a young Paris Theodore founded a custom holster company known as Seventrees Ltd. Located in New York City, on West 39th Street, Seventrees designed and produced "modern" concealment holsters for professionals. The company's clientele ranged from NYPD detectives to "spooks" from a variety of countries. Documents show that Seventrees was awarded several contracts from a variety of U.S. agencies including an order for handcuff cases from the United States Secret Service.

The holster business, while both legitimate and profitable, was only part of the story. Located in the back room behind a vault door, Seventrees' sister company, Armament Systems and Procedures (ASP), was a clandestine laboratory that worked with various government organizations designing and producing specialized weapons. In fact, Theodore designed an "experimental submachine gun," complete with a shoulder holster, a belt holster, and a unique sight.

However, the most lasting project from Armament Systems and Procedures was the ASP pistol. According to Theodore, the ASP was developed on behalf of a government agency who had a need for a concealable handgun chambered in a "major caliber." During the early development, numerous 1911s, Commanders, and the Browning P-35 Hi Power were cut down and reconfigured. In each case, the end result was found lacking.



The ASP was extremely compact, with rounded edges and an intriguing round-counter window cut into the grip panels.

## Solid Foundation

Theodore finally settled on the Smith & Wesson Model 39 as the base platform for the ASP. The Model 39 was introduced in 1954 to compete in the U.S. Army service pistol trials and was offered to the commercial market in 1955. The Model 39 featured an aluminum frame, 4-inch barrel, and a double-action, fire control system. It was chambered in 9mm with an eight-round magazine capacity. The most notable feature of the Model 39 was the one-piece, deeply curved back strap. To this day, the 39 fits my hand better than any pistol I have ever owned.



The trigger guard of the ASP was recut and welded to have a forward recurve, something that came strongly into vogue later in the 1980s.

The ASP was the result of some 212 modifications on the stock Model 39. The most dramatic modification was the reduction in the size of both the slide and frame. The slide and barrel were shortened by  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch while the butt of the frame was reduced by  $\frac{9}{16}$  of an inch. Both reductions required extensive internal modifications with regard to the barrel bushing, recoil spring and guide, the mainspring and back strap assembly. To lighten the slide, the muzzle end was tapered. To further reduce the size, the hammer spur was removed and the thumb safety was shaved. Each pistol came with three reduced-size magazines that featured a patented finger rest base plate.

One striking feature of the ASP was the uniquely shaped trigger guard. The standard trigger guard was cut and a hooked extension was heli-arc welded onto the pistol using a comparable alloy. The design was patented as a "forefinger pocket" and designed to aid in a finger forward, two hand grip. The forward half of the trigger guard was reduced in width by 50% to allow improved access. This reduction was tailored for either right- or left-handed shooters.



The Guttersnipe sight was a simple channel designed for rapid target acquisition under stress.

The ASP's sighting system was revolutionary. Theodore's patented sight, called the Guttersnipe, consisted of a machined block of steel with a tapered channel that ran longitudinally. The sides and bottom of the sight channel were painted yellow for high visibility. There was no front sight. The Guttersnipe required the shooter to subconsciously balance the yellow panels on the sides and bottom of the channel to align the ASP properly. In practice, the Guttersnipe was extremely fast to acquire and was "battle" accurate.

Theodore understood that it was rare for anyone involved in a violent encounter to keep track of the number of rounds that were expended. To that end, he cut a large witness window in both sides of the magazines and equipped the ASP with Plexiglas stocks. This allowed the user to visually observe how many rounds were in the magazine. It also added one more exotic touch to the pistol.

The entire design of the ASP was focused on the rapidly changing dynamic in a moving gunfight. To quote Theodore in a *Combat Handguns* article, "Our mission was to create a major-calibre weapon which was readily concealable yet could be brought into action with "the speed of an impulse." That was pretty shocking in 1970! Every edge was radiused and it was void of any textured gripping surfaces. Instead, the shape of the grip and trigger guard caused the pistol to seat in the hand during a panic draw.

## Rounding Out the Package

Seventrees produced a number of accouterments that complemented the design and function of the ASP. The DCL was an abbreviated double magazine pouch that utilized a magnet to retain the magazine. While offering both traditional and inside the waistband holsters, the most unique holster was the SMZ shoulder rig. The SMZ was a skeletal holster with a tri harness that carried the pistol in a muzzle up position. According to the Seventrees catalog, the SMZ was "restricted." The catalog also states, "These are shown, fitted and

demonstrated on a personal basis only to officers or operatives with verified credentials.” The portion of the photo that shows how the holster secures the pistol was actually cut out of the catalog page.



The ASP magazine carrier would hold two magazines that were retained with a magnet.

The ASP was specifically designed to engage and neutralize a threat. How effective was the design? According to several reliable sources, during a demonstration, an intelligence officer was able to draw the ASP from concealment and engage a target at 7-yards with 22 rounds including two reloads, in seven seconds. All shots could be covered by the palm of one hand!

The earliest article that I have been able to find was written by noted writer George Nonte in the February 1971 issue of *Guns*. The article covers the development of the pistol and goes into detail about ammunition selection to include Canadian 9mm subgun ammo as well as two loads from Super Vel. Nonte reported that the 112 gr. JSP load chronographed 1,223 fps and the hot 90 gr. JHP chronographed at 1,430 fps. The pistol shown in this article was a prototype. There was also a mention of chambering an ASP in a specially loaded .38 Super round.



The modified magazines also employed a proprietary magazine base.

In 1972, Nonte wrote a second article that appeared in *Popular Guns*. The article was notable in that it contained the first published photos that showed the unfinished modified components. The pistol Nonte is shown shooting is an early ASP that features a back slide, matte gray frame and cut down factory stocks. At the time of the article, anyone wanting an ASP was required to provide a serviceable Model 39. The fee for the conversion was \$225.00.

The fact that Nonte had access to the early guns was somewhat of a mystery until I discovered that Nonte was Theodore's partner in the ASP project. Documents show that Nonte not only aided in the development and testing of the ASP but was also directly involved in the manufacturing process. Correspondence between Theodore and Nonte lists each gun, by serial number, which was sent to Nonte for the conversion. It would appear that the two had a falling out and terminated the agreement in the early seventies.

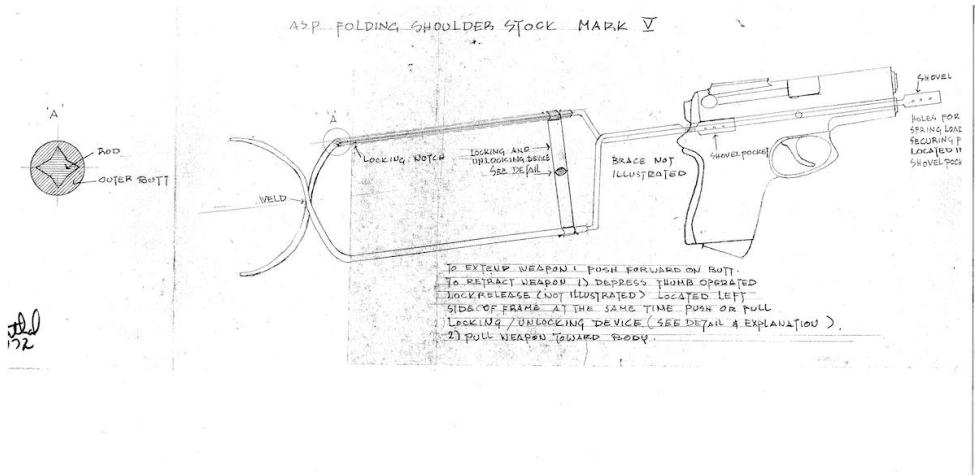
Theodore provided samples to various government agencies and the ASP became something of an enigma as well as a status symbol. While the articles had placed the pistol in the public's eye, the majority of end users were quiet professionals. Theodore wrote that the Commanding Officer of the American Embassy security detail in Saigon carried an ASP. He also mentioned that there were several full-automatic and low-signature versions in the hands of intelligence operatives. Company archives also show a line drawing of a detachable shoulder stock that was being considered.



The ASP was a custom pistol that featured 212 modifications to the basic Model 39 platform.

While Theodore was creative in his own right, sources report that his business practices were not always sound and he made substantial enemies. This, along with other issues, resulted in Seventrees and ASP closing their

doors in the mid to late seventies. The Seventrees line of holsters was purchased by [Ken Null](#). Ken still offers many of the original Seventrees-designed holsters to include the SMZ.



A shoulder stock was also in development for the ASP pistol.

## The Next Generation

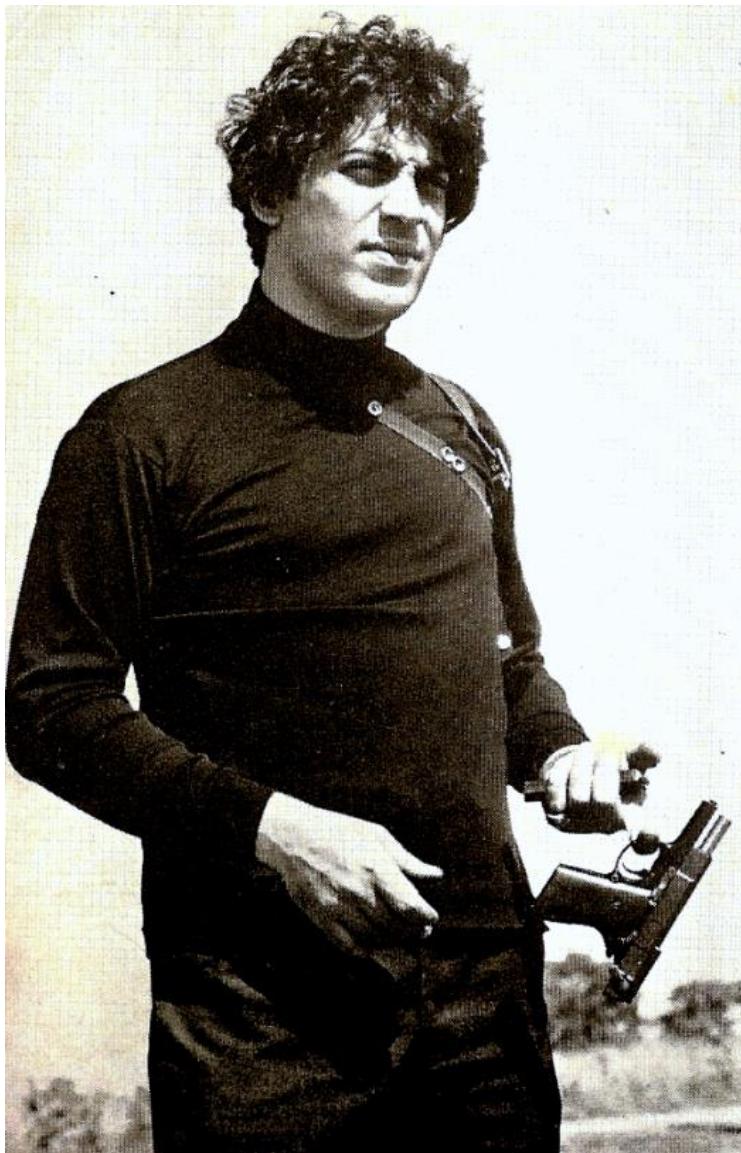
Kevin Parsons purchased Armament Systems and Procedures and produced the ASP pistol for several years. Parsons is attributed with taking the design and applying modern machining processes to the conversions. These second generation pistols were marked ASP, Appleton, WI, and were considerably cleaner than the NY guns. The most notable change involved making the Guttersnipe from injection molded polymer. The polymer sight was attached to the slide with an industrial strength adhesive.

Parris Theodore died on November 16, 2007, at the age of 63. His obituary, in the Wall Street Journal, described him as the "Real-Life Q" and describes Theodore's 1975 appearance before the U.S. Senate committee investigating the Central Intelligence Agency.

ASP pistols can still be found on the used market. The original New York guns are relatively rare and bring a premium. The Wisconsin guns are more prevalent and, depending on condition and accessories, can be found for under \$2,000.



The ASP was designed to be the ultimate covert 9mm pistol, even capable of being suppressed.



Shown is Theodore Paris with early prototype of the ASP pistol.

It is interesting that 43 years later, the ASP is still considered, by some, as “cutting edge.” Far from being an antique, many of the features found on the ASP are still relevant today. Some consider imitation as the sincerest form of flattery. Some of the ASP’s design features have been copied and applied to other pistols. However, in my opinion, no one has been able to copy the ergonomics and functionality that makes the ASP more than the sum of the parts. Well ahead of its time, and surrounded by mystery, the ASP continues to be an enigma that is representative of a simpler, but more dangerous time. It is the classic Cold War warrior.

To purchase a Smith & Wesson Model 39 on GunsAmerica.com, click this link:  
<https://www.gunsamerica.com/Search.aspx?Keyword=39%209mm%20smith%20wesson>.

[https://www.gunsamerica.com/blog/whats-ultimate-sht-hits-fan-pistol-custom-glock34-g3-full-review/?utm\\_source=email&utm\\_medium=20170731\\_BlogDigest\\_235&utm\\_campaign=/blog/whats-ultimate-sht-hits-fan-pistol-custom-glock34-g3-full-review/](https://www.gunsamerica.com/blog/whats-ultimate-sht-hits-fan-pistol-custom-glock34-g3-full-review/?utm_source=email&utm_medium=20170731_BlogDigest_235&utm_campaign=/blog/whats-ultimate-sht-hits-fan-pistol-custom-glock34-g3-full-review/)

## What's the Ultimate Sh\*t-Hits-the-Fan Pistol? Custom Glock34 G3 — Full Review

by Matt Kartozian on July 28, 2017

Mini red dot sights (RDS) on pistols are not a new thing. Arguably they're one of the fastest growing trends in the pistol shooting world, but they've been around for quite a while. I built my first USPSA Open gun from a Glock 22 in 1995 using a slide-mounted Firepoint mini RDS. Back then, however, the quality of mounts and sights was not ideal. The Firepoint mounted to a small sliver of steel that slid into the dovetail and was held with a tiny set screw. The sight screwed down to that little mount. The lens was plastic, and it had many marks and gouges from ejecting brass. Fast forward 22 years and things come full circle.



The author customized a stock Glock34 to make a dual purpose Carry Optics and SHTF pistol.

## SPECS

- **Type:** Semiautomatic; recoil-operated; lock breech pistol
- **Cartridge:** 9x19mm
- **Barrel Length:** 135mm
- **Overall Length:** 224mm
- **Weight:** 25.77 oz. (stock); 24.7 oz. (modified)
- **Grips:** Precut Skateboard tape
- **Sights:** Trijicon RM05 RMR (primary); CGR Clean (backup)
- **Finish:** Burnt Bronze Cerakote

- **Capacity:** 23+1 rds. with 140mm Basepad
- **MSRP:** \$2,500 (custom); \$675 (stock)

## Dual Purpose

I wanted to build a pistol that would work well for USPSA Carry Optics division, but I also wanted a full-sized pistol for a shit hits the fan scenario like when Russia invades and I join Jed and the Wolverines. As with anything, when you build a gun for two purposes you have to make compromises.

I used a box stock [Gen3 Glock 34](#) as my base. I prefer the Gen3 guns because of the guide rod system. I am not a fan of double spring systems in full-size guns even though they work well in the mini guns like the Glock 26 and Glock 43. I like to tune the spring weights on full-size guns to the load I am shooting, and you can't do that with a double spring system. The Gen4 interchangeable backstraps don't do much for me. I have been shooting Glocks since 1989 and I am used to the grip angle.

Carry Optics guns must be on the approved list for Production Division and I was already a fan of the G34 having used one in the Production division for years. The heart of any Carry Optics gun is the optic and its mount. I spent a fair amount of time researching optics and the various ways people mounted them to the slide.

## Optic Options



The Trijicon RM05 RMR proved ideal for Carry Optics division. Note the engraved dash to help line up secondary sights.

Glock Inc. offers the [G34 in a Modular Optic System \(MOS\)](#) model, which has the capacity to mount various optics from the factory. For simplicity and ease of installation, it's a solid option. Take off the slide cover; install the adapter plate for the optic; then screw the optic to the mount. The downsides are that the optic sits really high and it sits in front of the factory rear sight dovetail. Although various companies make adapter plates that fit in the factory dovetail. While they put the optic close to flush with the rear of the slide they sit even higher than an MOS gun. Both those options were a no go for me.

Many shops will machine your slide for an optic. Many put the optic in front of the rear dovetail which I hate and think is just dumb when custom machining a slide. Of the ones that remove the dovetail in machining, I didn't think they sat low enough and/or they used tiny screws. Tiny screws break more easily and the heads and tools strip out more easily as well.

Many people advocate the optic in front of the dovetail in conjunction with very tall suppressor sights co-witnessed to the dot. This idea is sold on the premise that you have a ready to use set of backup sights, not a bad thing, and using the iron sights helps you acquire the dot in the optic. They are selling, but I am not buying.

Backup sights are a fine idea, especially with many battery-powered optics on the market having issues. However, I was convinced I could find a better solution. Using the iron sights to find your dot is just plain dumb. Learn to shoot the dot, practice until you index the gun and see the dot. A lower mounted optic will help with this as well. Co-witnessed irons are a crutch for those who don't practice. If you want to shoot a dot, commit and shoot a dot! Don't half ass it. The other problem with this setup is that mini RDS have tiny lenses. Co-witnessed irons take up a huge chunk of your field of view through the lens. Putting your backup irons in front of the optic (muzzle end of the gun) is less distracting but still silly for the reasons stated above.

I started my company because there were mods and parts I wanted on my personal gun that nobody could or would do. I found myself in this position again with mounting the optic to my G34.

### **Article Continues Below**

Since this was to be a dual-purpose competition and bug-out pistol, I wanted a robust low maintenance optic. I settled on the [Trijicon RM05](#)Dual-Illuminated RMR with 9 MOA dot. A 9 MOA dot means it will roughly cover 9 inches of a target at 100 yards. As a primary or the only optic on a rifle that is too big for long shots, but this is a pistol that will only be used out to 50 yards and 95 percent of the time within 20 yards I wanted a big easy-to-see dot.

I went with the dual illuminated model since it does not use batteries. The dot is powered by fiber optics and tritium, and the dot brightness self-adjusts to ambient light. This is one of the compromises I mentioned above. In the even light, the dot is great, crisp clean and appropriately bright. The problem can show up when you and the optic are somewhere dark and the target is somewhere much brighter.

If you want an electronic sight, Trijicon makes the RMR in two other versions, a self-adjusting LED and a user adjustable LED. For a competition only gun, I would use the Adjustable LED RMR.

## **Cutting to the Chase**

With my optic selected it was time to cut the slide for it. I looked at various ideas, mounting locations and did a lot of measuring. Once I decided on the details, the guys at Predator Tactical put the slide into the CNC mill and cut the Glock slide.



The slide was machined to accept the primary sight: the Trijicon RM05 RMR.



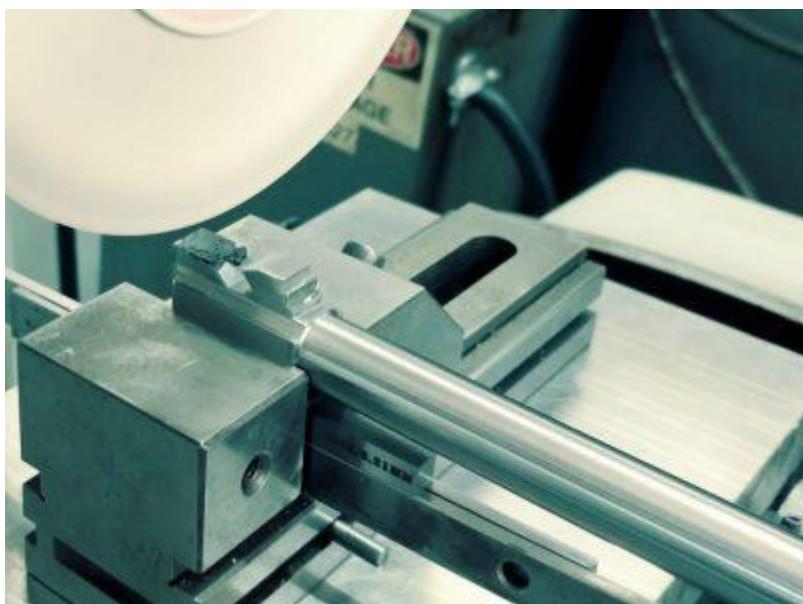
The front serrations were cut into the slide.

The end result is what I think is the best optic cut on the market. It sits lower in the slide. It is located at 4 points and uses the biggest mounting screws (8/32) on the market. A lower sight makes the dot easier to acquire, reduces parallax and lets you use shorter backup iron sights should you want them. The mounting screws have big, hard to strip threads and uses a big 3/32-inch hex wrench. Smaller screws use a 1/16-inch hex which strips screws or snaps easily. With the 3/32-inch you can apply more torque on the screws with less risk of breaking the tool or stripping the screw.

We still needed some sort of backup sights. I thought of running just a tritium front sight and using the base of the optic as a rear sight. During testing, it worked but was slow to line up. It needed a reference point. It hit me like a bolt of lightning. Laser engrave a vertical bar on the rear of the RMR! Now all you had to do was dot the I. I went tested it again and it worked great. The backups are reasonably fast and more importantly, there is no chunk of steel blocking half your field of view through the lens.

## Accurizing the G34

The next step was to tighten up the accuracy. The only way to improve the mechanical accuracy of a Glock is with a new barrel and tightening the slide to frame fit. Things like better sights and better triggers make the gun easier to shoot accurately, but they do not change the mechanical accuracy of the gun. Many companies make Glock barrels, and the large majority of them are drop in. Spending \$150 to \$300 for a new barrel and not fitting it to the gun is pretty much pointless. You end up keeping some if not all of the loose tolerances of the stock pistol.



The barrel is being shaved with a surface grinder.

When it comes to barrels, my first choice is an oversized Match Target barrel from Bar-Sto Precision. The barrels must be fit to the gun and when done right it also has the effect of tightening the slide/frame fit when locked up. Bar-Sto uses traditional rifling unlike the Glock polygonal rifling, so they are safe for shooting lead bullets. The length of twist is a bit longer than factory, 1:16-inch for the Bar-Sto versus 1:9.84-inch from the factory. The chambers are tighter and offer more case support than stock. If you like to reload your loads long, Bar-Sto will cut the chamber for you when you order. If you do that and load short, or use common factory ammo there will be a free gap the bullet has to travel before engaging the rifling and that will affect accuracy.

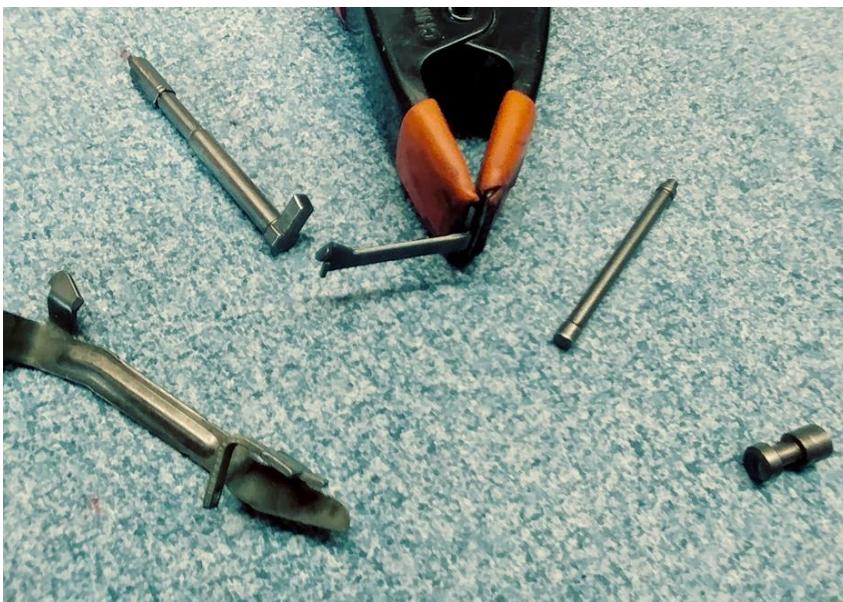
The barrels need to be fit in three places. The width of the hood must be fit to the breech face. The length of the hood and chamber must be fit to the chamber cut on the slide. Most importantly, the height of the locking lug needs to be properly fit. Next time you are at a gun shop ask to see a new Glock. With the slide closed, push down on the barrel, there will be some movement and play. That is lost accuracy. With the lug fit correctly, there will be no play and that taller lug pushes the slide up, so the frame rails ride on the bottom of the slide rails. It is not a true tightening of the slide/frame fit but it has a similar effect.



The barrel is being fit to the custom Glock34 Gen3 build.

For those not wanting to have a barrel fit to their gun, Bar-Sto also offers their barrels in a semi-fit spec that will drop into most guns, but much tighter than factory barrels.

## Trigger Time & Serrations



The trigger before the author fine tuned the parts.

In a normal competition Glock, I would set up the trigger at about 2 pounds. Since this is dual purpose I wanted something a little heavier. The pistol is a Gen3 but it comes with the latest Gen4 triggerbar. I swapped that for a Gen3 version as they break a little cleaner. I also swapped the stock 5-pound connector for a factory 3½-pound connector. All the trigger parts were deburred and fit, and then finally polished to a mirror finish. Using all factory parts the trigger was breaking at 3 pounds, 9.6 ounces. The reset was a little heavy, so I changed to a lighter firing pin spring which brought it down to 3 pounds on the nose.



The trigger after customization.

I removed the finger grooves first. I have big hands and they don't line up for me. I accomplished this with a belt sander. One slip and you just bricked a new frame. High gripping was next to take the hump off the trigger guard. It eliminates Glock Finger, which is the blister shooters get on their second finger knuckle. This also lets you get a higher grip on the pistol for more control.

Lastly, I relieved the frame around mag release. It makes the mag release easier to hit, especially if you have big thumbs. You could also go with a bigger extended mag button but it is easier to hit at the wrong time or to catch on clothing and such so I prefer a stock release with relief for carrying. Thankfully for companies like Predator Tactical helped add front slide serrations. I also wanted front slide serrations. The guys came up with the serrations you see on the finished gun.

After the slide was machined and barrel fit a lot of the metal was bare. Justin Ellis Cerakoted both the slide in Burnt Bronze and the barrel Black. The Bar-Sto barrel is stainless and did not need Cerakote, but the gun looks a lot cooler with the barrel black.

The last step was to change the guide rod and recoil spring. At the dawn of USPSA Production, I designed a full-length tungsten guide rod for the Glock 34 and 35 with THE Accessories. The rod extends into the hollow channel and is flush with the front of the slide. The rods have been out of production for a number of years but now Glockstore is making them and sent me one for the build. The rod weighs in at a little under 2 ounces and puts that extra weight right where you want it to tame recoil – up front and down low. I am a big fan of tungsten guide rods and use them in both my carry and competition Glocks. It's not a night and day difference but it does help and it's well worth the \$40 to \$60.



The author removed the finger grooves with a belt sander and then applied pre-cut skateboard tape.

Another advantage of an aftermarket guide rod is that you can tune the gun with recoil springs. I prefer the factory style flat wound recoil springs from Integrated Systems Management, Inc. (ISMI). With a 9mm gun, I typically start with an 11- or 13-pound spring and then experiment. The 13-pound was a little heavy and led to a couple of jams while shooting a match. After more testing, the 11-pound spring proved ideal.

Most factory guns are oversprung out of the box. The heavier the spring, the more work the shooter has to do to counter that spring. The lighter spring also transfers the recoil to the shooter over a shorter duration which makes it feel like it is recoiling less. If you are worried that a light spring will lead to frame battering on your Glock — don't. The plastic in front of the front frame rails will get slightly misshapen and then stop. I have a few Glocks in various calibers with 50,000 plus rounds through them, and it is simply not an issue.

## Range Time

With the gun finished it was time to shoot it! Hornady was kind enough to provide me with test ammo in a variety of flavors: Critical Duty 135-grain +P, Critical Duty 115-grain FTX, American Gunner 115-grain XTP and 9mm Luger 124-grain XTP.

Additionally, I tested three handloads I use in Glock Sports Shooting Foundation (GSSF). GSSF scoring values accuracy over time, so these loads were made to be accurate first and shoot soft second, but they still shoot pretty softly. All three loads use the same charge of Vihtavuori N320 powder and the same overall length, primer, and new Starline brass. From Hornady, I used the 115-grain and 125-grain Hornady Action Pistol (HAP) bullets. HAP bullets are based on the XTP bullet but without the cannelure and folds that help with expansion. Like the XTP they are a hollowpoint. The 115-grain HAP is a standard 9mm bullet with a .355 diameter. The 125-grain is .356 in diameter. Both work in 9mm firearms, and I wanted to see which size this pistol preferred. I also used a Montana Gold 124-grain JHP, which has a similar truncated cone shape to the HAP, XTP and FTX bullets.

I fired all rounds through my Pact chronograph with both the factory and Bar-Sto barrel.

Load	Weight	Stock FPS	Bar-Sto FPS
Hornady Critical Defense	115gr FTX	1204.8	1200.9
Hornady Critical Defense	135gr FTX +P	1145.0	1138.6
American Gunner	115gr XTP	1198.6	1168.2
Hornady	124GR XTP	1157.1	1179.2
Hornady	115gr HAP	1134.3	1124.3
Hornady	125gr HAP .356	1134.2	1089.6
Montana Gold	124gr JHP	1119.3	1085.3

I also shot all seven loads for accuracy with both barrels. I fired a six-round group (I typically have one self-induced flyer these days) with each load at 25 yards using my range bag as a rest for my arms. I measured the best 5 shots edge to edge then subtracted .355 (the bullet diameter) to get the group sizes below.

Load	Weight	Stock	Bar-Sto
Hornady Critical Defense	115gr FTX	2.9	1.6
Hornady Critical Defense	135gr FTX +P	2.7	1.8
American Gunner	115gr XTP	2.9	2.2
Hornady	124GR XTP	1.8	2.2
Hornady	115gr HAP	3.9	1.5
Hornady	125gr HAP .356	1.7	2.2
Montana Gold	124gr JHP	2.0	2.2

The Bar-Sto shrunk group sizes significantly in most cases. The 115-grain HAP was the overall champ of the day.

The last test for this gun was a match. Plenty of people compares Carry Optics type guns to iron sighted guns. I have also seen some people claim their Carry Optics gun was “basically an Open gun”. It is not. I wanted to do something different and put the CO gun head to head against my Open Steel gun in a match with the same ammo. The Open gun is based off a Glock 17 and is a proper Open gun with a frame mounted optic and a compensator.

I shot the entire match with the Open pistol first then the CO pistol, which gave the CO gun a slight advantage. The first thing you notice shooting them side by side is that it is much easier to track the dot through recoil with a frame mounted optic. Before dropping the spring weight on the CO tracking the dot was much harder. You also notice that the Open gun has less muzzle flip, due to the comp. On the stages where I shot clean with both guns, the times were close but as expected the Open gun prevailed. Longer stages led to a bigger margin of victory for the Open gun. See the video for some footage of both guns on the same stages.

Overall, I am very pleased with how this new build turned out. Both how it shoots and how it looks. For the time being, I will continue to shoot it here and there in matches.

For more information about Hornady ammunition, click <https://www.hornady.com>.

For more information about Bar-Sto Precision, click <https://www.barsto.com>.

For more information about Trijicon optics, [click https://www.trijicon.com/na\\_en/index.php](click https://www.trijicon.com/na_en/index.php).

For more information about ISMI, click <https://www.ismi-gunsprings.com>.

To purchase a Glock 34 on GunsAmerica,  
click <https://www.gunsamerica.com/Search.aspx?Keyword=Glock%2034>.

Thank you,  
Paul Curtis  
President - CARGO  
[www.cargogunclub.org](http://www.cargogunclub.org)

"If you can read this, thank a teacher. For the fact that it is in English, thank a Veteran."

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