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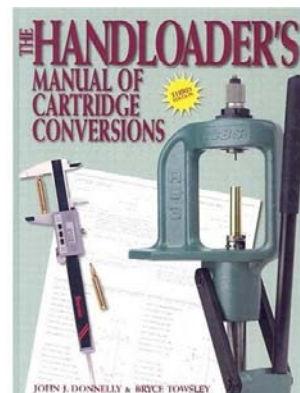
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LMI Notes

Notes, Observations and Introductions from the Editors



We're late! Very late! Let me open this issue with an apology. The reason we are late is completely the fault of me, Corcceigh Green. I am the lay out editor of *LMI Newsletter*. We had the material and the articles, I didn't have the time. None of us at *LMI Newsletter* or *The Independent American* web site are independently wealthy. In order to cover the costs of running a web site and publishing a print newsletter, those of us involved with these projects must work at a day job and make a living. In addition, I run a working homestead in the mountains of north Idaho. This requires a good deal of time and effort in itself. Summer and spring (what we have of those seasons in my part of the country) are short seasons that homesteaders must take advantage of to prepare for winter. That's where I fell behind. I have been working 16 hour days to keep things running.

So much for excuses. We aren't here to offer excuses. We are here to deliver the best newsletter covering survival, homesteading and freedom available anywhere and that's exactly what we intend to do. We are in the planning stages to make certain that no more publishing delays will occur. I am currently setting up interviews to hire an assistant web master for *The Independent American* web site. In the future, should we continue to grow, we will add writers and staff. This delay has strengthened our resolve to work harder until our small, quality publication and projects become wide spread, quality publications and projects.

As we continue our operations in the years to come, you can expect to see more in depth articles covering the hands on, how-to do it aspects of survival, building and running your homestead and preserving your freedoms. Look for more resources on *The Independent American* web site as we continue publishing the free online homesteading journal, *Green Mountain/Upriver Journal*. We have plans to publish *The News Box* at the web site which will bring news that is ignored or covered up by the main stream media. Look for more survival products and tools for

homesteading at *North Woods Traders*, as well. We will bring you the information to survive, run a homestead to become self sufficient and live free and offer you the tools to do so as well.

So much for what we will do. Here is what we are bringing you now. With this issue, we are bringing you information on reloading. There is a big movement in Congress to disarm the American people. They have attempted to resurrect the Clinton assault weapons ban and are currently re-writing OSHA regulations to shut down ammunition manufacturing plants and to interfere with the shipping of ammunition and reloading components on the roads. You should be concerned whether your supply of ammunition will hold out in your lifetime or your children's lifetime.

We are sending out the alarm that you need to obtain and store ammunition now! Beyond this, you need to obtain reloading equipment and components Now! The time to prepare for an America where freedoms and ammunition are outlawed is rapidly running out. Our ammunition will either be taxed out of existence, regulated to the point that it is too hard to obtain or be outright banned. We are giving fair warning to this now, so that you can still have ammo in the future.

One way to help extend your ammunition supply is through reloading. We have packed this issue with some very informative articles on why you should start reloading, what equipment you need and where to look for that equipment and information to build a support system for your reloading needs.

In our first article, *LMI Editor*, Douglas Paul Bell takes a look at *Survival Reloading Tricks With Cases*. This article tells you how to make cases from other expended cases that you don't shoot into cases for cartridges that you do shoot. This is a valuable skill should you be able to pick up brass from a battlefield that is not of a cartridge that you can use. Doug tells you how to convert that brass into other cartridges. One of which you may need.

Survivalists and self-sufficiency advocates consider the hobby of reloading from a viewpoint of ensuring one's ability to shoot after the ammunition has run out or been banned. With this view in mind, we present the article, *The Future Of Reloading?*. This article considers why you should consider reloading and directs you to think about reloading if you could not count on supplies arriving at your doorstep with a phone call and a credit card. This article will have you thinking about your stocks and preparations in a whole new way.

You need a support system if you are just jumping into the hobby of reloading. You need to obtain the equipment, components and knowledge. Even if you are a seasoned reloader, you may be realizing that you are lacking in some supplies when you consider that you may no longer be able to order supplies in the future. Are you ready to face the future with what you have now? *Reloading Gear, Supplies And Support* gives you some contact information on companies and outlets that could be important to you while these products and components are still 'legal'. Take advantage of this support system while you can and stock up like this support system could disappear tomorrow.

Speaking of logistics and a support system for your ability to reload, powders are an important component. Depending on how many cartridges you fire, you may find the need to stockpile more powders than is necessary. *LMI Editor*, Douglas Paul Bell, gives some advice on *Limiting Reloading Powders For Rifles and Handguns*. Can you work up some loads for your various firearms using the same powders? Which powders work best for this? You can learn this from

Doug's article.

The object of loading ammunition into a firearm is to throw slugs of lead downrange. Slugs or bullets are an important component in reloading your own ammunition and we just can't produce a newsletter theme based on reloading without offering an article about bullets. Especially cast bullets. Cast bullets may be very important in the future. If ammunition disappears due to anti-American activity in Congress, the Executive branch or due to bureaucratic interference, you will be casting your own if you want bullets. We have a good friend and writer that worked with us on *The Independent American* project named Glenn Boman. Glenn contributes to *LMI Newsletter* with his article, *Casting the Big Slugs*. Glenn has a few favorite bullet designs and loads he shares with us.

There is more as well. Don't forget to look in the *Media Mix* and *Northeast Notes* columns. These columns include some important reviews covering information necessary to reloaders, shooters and survivalists. You may also note the May/June date on this issue. It is correct. We are not going to skip an issue even though we are very late. You can expect a July/August issue on the heels of this one after which, we expect to resume a normal schedule. Thank you for hanging in there with us.

The Independent American The Web Site For Freedom And Survival

The Independent American is a web site dedicated to bringing you information and gear for survival, homesteading and retaining your freedoms. We are continually adding gear and products for sale on our shopping section. There are books, reports and CD ROMs bringing you information on how to survive any situation and live free in an increasingly controlled society.

We will be adding gear and blacksmith worked supplies very soon.

The Independent American Web Site hosts:

Green Mountain/Upriver Journal The free online journal of homesteading in the mountains of the great Northwest.

North Woods Traders
online store featuring survival gear, books, informational CD ROMs, Americana and Old Time
Radio Shows

The News Box
Under-reported news stories

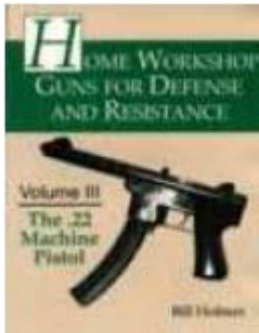
The Shooting Show re-runs
Replays of Johnny Rowland's *The Shooting Show* television programs

<http://theindependentamerican.freeyellow.com>

Media Mix

With Douglas Paul Bell

Books



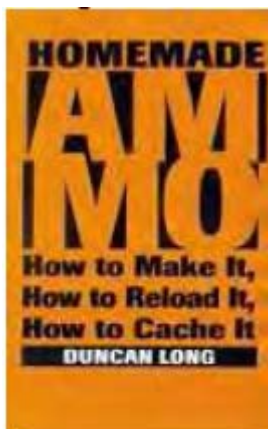
Home Workshop Guns: The .22 Machine Pistol Reviewed by Douglas P. Bell

“Home Workshop Guns For Defense And Resistance - Volume III - The .22 Machine Pistol” by Bill Holmes (Paladin Press, POB 1307, Boulder, CO 80306. 1995. 8 1/2” x 11”. 70 pages) is an excellent book that everyone who is worried about the government coming in and taking their guns should have on the shelves.

OK. there are a few problems with the book, the drawings could be better, a problem with the entire series, and there are eight blank pages. and this isn’t a “file and hacksaw” gun, at least in it’s current, legal form. Naturally there is the standard disclaimer that if you try this, you are on your own, and Bill and everyone else takes absolutely no responsibility for your actions, which is as it should be.

Bill lists the machines he has in his shop, a new Chinese made 12” x 36” geared head lathe with cam-lock spindle and 1 5/8” spindle hole. A Taiwan-made floor mounted milling machine with 30” table. He also bought a 4” x 6” metal-cutting band saw but wishes he had bought a larger model now. A heli-arc welder and oxy-acetylene torch set. Why the list here? Because it will take approximately two to four hours of mill work, and about the same in lathe work, and maybe 30 minutes of welding to make the gun listed here. It will, of course, take longer if you are using a file. hammer and hacksaw to do it all.

If you are worried by the Marines being questioned if they would shoot their fellow Americans so they could take our arms away from us (something like 36% said they either didn’t care one way or another or thought it would be wonderful to try at least!), then I recommend you buy all the books in the “Home Workshop” series, at least while they are still legal to buy and own.



Homemade Ammo reviewed by Douglas P. Bell

“Homemade Ammo — how to make it, how to reload it, how to cache it” by Duncan Long (Paladin Press, POB 1307, Boulder, CO 80306, 1995, 92 pages, 5 1/2” x 8 1/2”) is, how to put this, vintage Duncan crap. It does not cover how to “make” ammo in any meaningful way (it doesn’t cover the manufacture of brass at all except to say “the task is next to impossible”), barely is on the legal side of “reloading”, and the caching section is laughable.

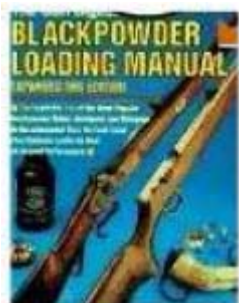
While reading this book, the “Duncanisms”, stupid stuff that Duncan either makes up, is the only person to have heard of it, or obviously is

having his leg pulled by those who do know what they are talking about but Duncan has no clue about, is legion. There is also a new batch of cartridges that only Duncan has heard of, just like in his other books.

Speaking of his other books, Duncan does so endlessly in this one. Barely a page goes by where he doesn't mention at least one of his other books, which gets tiresome in a hurry. The only possible reason anyone would want to buy this book is as fire starter, as there is no other use for it, at least none that come to mind.

Black Powder Loading Manual

reviewed by Douglas P. Bell

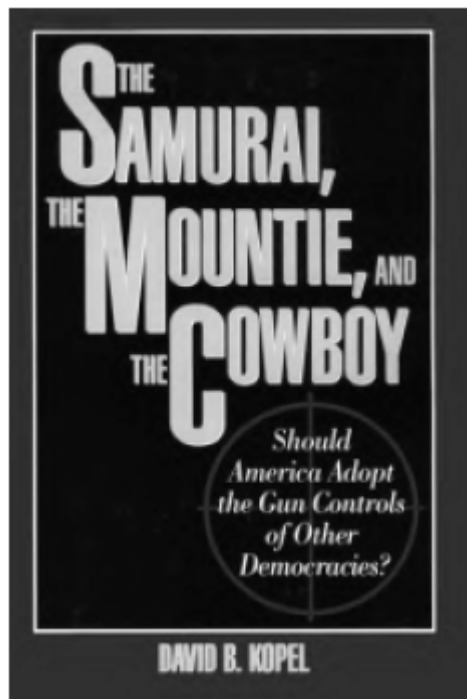


“The Gun Digest BLACK POWDER LOADING MANUAL revised and expanded edition” by Sam Fadala (DBI Books, 1991, 8 1/4” x 10 5/8”, 320 pages) is an excellent book for the black powder shooter or anyone who wishes to learn more about black powder guns and shooting. It has 15 chapters and the contents are also broken down into loading data by make and model of gun, such as the various muzzle—loading rifles, handguns, shotguns and blackpowder metallics. An interesting note is the book also uses black powder as two words and blackpowder as one word in various places, so either spelling should be correct.

The Samurai, the Mountie, and the Cowboy

reviewed by Douglas P. Bell

“The Samurai, the Mountie, and the Cowboy — should America adopt the gun control of other democracies?” by David B. Kopel



(Prometheus Books, 59 John Glenn Dr., Buffalo, NY 14228, 1992, 6 3/8” x 9 3/8” 470 pages) is a book I recommend everyone reading this review heckle their local public library into buying! This book deserves the widest possible distribution it can get and the public library is generally the best way of getting books out to the public.

While this book is at least half foot notes and has a wonderful index, the title is misleading. There are NO other democracies in the world and this country is a Republic, not a democracy. There is NO country in the world where the opposition is not outlawed, or if legal, is not kept small and helpless, including this one.

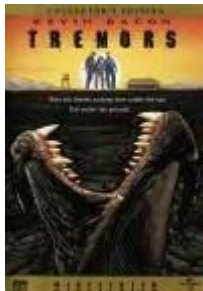
Don't believe it? Look at Arkansas where vote tampering is a way of life that makes Chicago, famous for it's vote frauds, look like kindergartners at lunch.

Many other states either have laws in place to keep out any but the Democrats and Republicans or the leading candidate who is not part of the local power structure loses at the last moment, as happened in Iowa, no vote counts allowed. Still don't believe it? Read "Votescam" (Victoria House Press, 67 Wall St, Suite 2411, New York, NY 10005) for more vote fraud cases in Florida and around the country.

This book, "The Samurai, the Mountie, and the Cowboy", gets two thumbs up, four stars, etc., etc. I recommend it highly and feel every library in the country should have a copy! Do your part and make sure they buy a copy. Do it today.

Movies

Tremors



1990, PG-13, Universal Studios, directed by Ron Underwood, starring; Kevin Bacon, Fred Ward, Michael Gross, Finn Carter, Reba McIntyre.

Now, here is a movie that will entertain anyone in the survival, freedom and/or self sufficiency movements. The best way to describe this movie's genre is 'good, old fashioned monster movie.' This movie takes it's cue from the monster movies of the 1950's, then adds a whole lot of fun and action.

The characters are very well developed with common-man, blue color personalities that I could swear I've shaken hands with many a time. In essence everyone on screen was believable and down home in their roles. Special effects worked very well considering that many times the monsters were off screen and looked like large bags of potatoes with big mauls. Believe me, the appearance of the monsters were in no way a disappointment. The monster attacks were exciting and realistic looking.

The plot begins with the mysterious deaths of some of Perfection Valley's residents. Perfection's remaining residents take precautions. As what is left of the bodies are discovered, the survivor's hole-up and the two heroes played by Kevin Bacon and Fred Ward ride for help. While our heroes' trip is cut short, they discover and kill a monster they term as a 'graboid' and find that the creatures actually travel by tunneling under the ground. As the residents of Perfection do not know this, our heroes run back into town to warn the people, evading the other graboids in some tense and humorous moments. While the survivors are besieged on the town's rooftops some of the most exciting scenes of the movie take place. The town survivalists aptly played by Michael Gross and Reba McIntyre as Heather and Burt Gummer drive into their home and begin inadvertently attracting the monsters. The other survivors try to warn the pair to no avail and the monsters break into the survivalists' reloading/rec-room. In a battle that is the highlight of the movie, a monster is killed, the survivalist couple successfully defend themselves and Perfection's residents declare that, "I guess we can't make fun of Burt's lifestyle anymore." While the part of Burt Gummer, the survivalist, is written as a somewhat stereotypical Hollywood incarnation of a survivalist, Michael Gross makes the part work well without insulting real survivalists and adds humor and a good reflection to the movement.

In summary; watch this movie! Climb down into your rec-room, dump a handful of spent shells into your brass tumbler, load your 600 Nitro-Express double rifle, Shove a DVD of Tremors into your DVD player and kick back for the funnest, rip-roaringest, shoot 'em up time since John Wayne took reins in teeth, a Winchester in the right hand and Colt Peace Maker in the left and road straight at the outlaw gang in True Grit!

Survival Reloading Tricks With Cases

written by Douglas P. Bell

In various articles on reloading I've mentioned the various things that can be done with the cartridge case, such as shortening the case to make other cartridges, or even using the case for bullets, and this article will expand on that.

I have talked about the various cases that could be made from the .30-06 such as the 8mm Mauser, .308 Winchester, etc. In handguns I listed the .45 ACP (either use .308 brass or open up the extractor groove) and the Auto-Mag line of cartridges. However, you can make .44 Magnum brass from .30-06 and similar head sized cases.



In a pinch, cartridges may be re-worked to develop other cartridges that are chambered for your gun.

To make .44 brass from .30-06 cases, you need to resize the case head down to the base (rim) from .470" to .457" and that means a .44 Mag (or .44 Special) resizing die. First you cut off the .30-06 (or .308, 8mm Mauser, 7mm Mauser, 7.65 Belgium

Mauser, etc.) case to a length of 1.285 inch with a tubing cutter or if you have a cut off die you can use a hacksaw. Next you need to resize the case down to the rim with the reloading die in either a heavy duty press or vise. Always use a good resizing lube to do this to both make it easier and to keep from sticking the case in the die.

Since the case will be all the way into the die, you can't use a shell holder, but the use of a primer pocket swaging button will keep the case centered and help push the case in when used in a press.

When using a vise you won't have to worry about keeping the case centered on the ram, but still take it slow and careful. Now take a steel rod and punch the case out of the die.

Next check the case in the chamber of the gun. If the case is still too tight, you can take a file and while spinning the case with a case spinner kit (you don't want to buy one, you can make your own with a wooden rod that is a fairly tight fit on the case by putting the rod in a drill and dropping the case over the rod) file a tiny amount off the head just ahead of the extractor groove and check the fit.

Now that the case fits in the chamber, check the headspace. Since the .30-06 rim is .049" inch (the .308 rim is .054" so it is a slightly closer fit) and the .44 Magnum is .060" inch you might have a few misfires. To cure this put the case in a die to support it and take a punch to lightly punch a lip forward in two or three places. If you get too much lip, put the case in the chamber (either remove the cylinder from the gun or support it carefully) and lightly tap the case until you get it where you want it.

Next ream the inside of the case with a case trimmer and inside the neck reamer to .427" inch. Use a good cutting lube or oil to keep from wrecking the reamer. Forster sells both the case trimmer and reamers if you don't already have one. Wash the case with any mild soap, resize and you are ready to reload. Because the case capacity is reduced, cut the top loads down at least 15%-20% and check for pressure signs.

In one article I said you could even use the cartridge case for bullets after they have a loose primer pocket or are too short to be used for anything else anymore. So how to do that? Well measure over the base just in front of the extractor groove and find a caliber that fits that diameter. For example, the .30-06 will measure .469" (the .308 Win. is .470"), so if you can expand the case just in front of the web (the solid brass head) you can use the case to make .475 Nitro bullets. Actually .45 ACP cases are already the proper .476" so they work better for this.

The .25 ACP will make .277" bullets for the .270 Win. while the .32 ACP will make .338" bullets for the .338 Winchester, but you will need to turn off the semi-rim which is .358". The .32 S&W and .32 Colt New Police/S&W Long will also make .338" bullets after turning off the rim. At .457", the .44 Spec/Mag base is .005" too big to use in the .45 ACP or post war .45 Colts, while the .303 British is .455", but you should be able to swage them down to work after turning off the rims.

The .17 Rem/.222 Rem/.222 Rem Mag and .223 Rem will make .375" bullet; just fine, as will the .38 S&W/.38 Super/.38 Spec/.357 Mag after the rim is turned off and they are resized from .379"-.380" to .375". The .30 MI Carbine can be made into .25 caliber bullets for your .35 Rem. or .358 Win. At .438" the 7.62x39 is .011" too big to be used in the .44 Spec/Mag; but it could be done if you had to. Turn the rim (.440") off and swage the head to size.

After figuring out what cases can be made into what diameter bullets, you need to cut the cases off to the desired length and then push them through a sizing die of the proper diameter. If you don't have dies of the proper size, you can make a simple swaging die by drilling a hole through a heavy (half inch or heavier) steel plate slightly smaller than the finished diameter. Either ream or polish the hole smooth and use a resizing lube to make it easier to force the case through with a vise.

Next fill the case with molten lead. If you want too; you can flux the insides of the case and then heat the case up enough to melt the lead, which will lock them together. Next seat a cast or jacketed bullet of whatever size will fit the case to provide a bullet nose and shoot. Or if you want them to look like "real" bullets, you can make a nose punch by drilling a small hole in a steel rod the same diameter as the finished bullet and opening it up with a counter sink or slightly larger drills run into the rod so as to make a slightly stepped hole. Polish smooth and you are ready to go. Put the bullet in the swage drop the nose punch over the bullet nose and drive the punch down until the bullet is swaged to the proper shape.

If you get into reloading and especially wildcatting (making cases otherwise not offered by the factories), you will run across times when there is no proper die or set of dies to do what you want.

Let's say you want to make 7mm-08 brass out of .30-06 cases but you don't have any reforming dies. The solution? Make your own neck sizing dies.

To do this, go to your local hardware store or machine shop and get a 7/8" steel rod and have it threaded to 7/8"x 14, which is the standard reloading die thread size. Then drill a 3/16" hole through it and cut it into short lengths, say two or three inches. All you really need is to have it long enough to go through the reloading press head and have some

way to screw it in and out. When you have a case necking job to do, drill the hole out to just under the diameter you need and polish it until it is the proper size. This can be done by getting a long wooden rod with a slit in one end and mounting the rod in a drill. Put some emery cloth in the slit, and polish the hole smooth. Use a countersink or pipe reamer to cut a shoulder angle in the die as close to the angle of the cartridge as you can. Polish this angle as smooth as you can, and polish the neck/shoulder joint (where the die neck meets the shoulder) to a slight radius as well.

For the example listed above, the 7mm-08 from .30-06 cases, first drill the neck die out to about .302" (N letter drill) or use a 5/16" drill (.312") and polish out to .315" (neck diameter of the 7mm-08) and cut a 20 degree shoulder (or as close as you can get) to resize the case neck from .340" OD to .315" OD and set the shoulder back. Trim the case to the proper length and keep setting the shoulder back until the case will just fit in the chamber with a slight crush fit. Firing the gun will form the case to the chamber perfectly and you can use the neck die to neck size the cases.

Because you may not be able to get either powder or primers in the near future, you had better stock up, and you might like to make yourself a powder magazine to store the powder in. What this is, is a wooden box with at least 1" (3/4" plywood will also work) sides. Because smokeless powder burns rather than explodes when unconfined (not allowed to build up pressure, black powder however, is an explosive) the wooden box will protect the powder from heat for a fair amount of time and won't blow up like a metal military ammo can might. Wooden powder magazines are easy to build or you can simply buy a tightly fitted military crate with rope handles to make it easier to move around.

Primers, unlike smokeless powder, are explosive, so don't be bumping them around or dumping large numbers of them out anywhere. Keep the primers in the original boxes or packing and don't dump them into jars or cans, they may blow up! If you intend to keep a large amount of primers on hand. I'd build a separate wooden magazine to store them in as well and keep the two magazines separate as well.

A good way to store large amounts of powder and primers (illegal in many areas) is if you own your own home and have a dry basement is to cut a hole in the basement floor slightly bigger than the wooden magazine and store the powder and primers in separate pits. Put an asbestos board over this and then a 3/4" or 1" board over that. A rug would hide the holes from casual view.

Another good storage area is just an old refrigerator or freezer that doesn't work any more. No one would question your having one in the corner and many have locks to keep out the curious.

Airsoft Fast Magazine Loader. 5.25" Overall, Make loading easy and less time consuming. It can be used with all airsoft guns we sell.

Price: \$9.95

Item #: bns-asmagldr

Shipping: \$4.00



To order, send check or money order with item # to:
North Woods Traders
P.O. Box 211
Fernwood, Idaho 83830

The Future Of Reloading?

by Corcceigh Green

When we stock back supplies for our future survival we are speculating about the scenarios we will or could face. If we speculate that we might become lost in the woods while enjoying our favorite outdoor activities, we pack some “just in case items” in our pockets or pack. We might want some matches, a fire starter, a compass, a light weight rain poncho, a knife and some twine to build a shelter. As we begin to speculate how long an emergency may last, we begin to add other items. A hatchet, trail food, a hunting firearm and ammunition, a mess kit, water filter, canteen and canteen cup.



Thinking about survival during a natural or man-made disaster leads to the same stockpiling of supplies. If a hurricane cuts power and supplies to your area for a couple of months, you will want a few months supply of food, water filters, an alternative method to cook, a generator with fuel, batteries, flashlights, radios, candles, lanterns and protection items like firearms suitable for self defense and a lot of ammunition.

We can carry this a step forward by considering what may happen if society were to break down due to nuclear war or if government became so tyrannical that civil disobedience or war broke out. What if America's infrastructure wasn't there to bring your favorite grocery store its supply of food and goods anymore? What if everything you depended on to keep your business, homestead or home running wasn't going to come to your doorstep or distribution center anymore? No more food, fuel, electricity or ammunition to run or defend your retreat. Everything you have right now is everything you will ever have that will be supplied from the outside. Most of what we've mentioned can be provided by individuals for themselves, if the individual in question has the knowledge and skills. Food can be grown and harvested yearly. Fuel can be alcohol, bio-diesel, or hydro, all of which can be manufactured by individuals. Many people have lived without electricity for years. Until relatively recently, people have lived their entire lives without electricity and have accomplished the tasks of growing food, making a comfortable living and saving years' worth of food storage.

For individuals, however, the only supply of ammunition has been from the outside. No individual has had the capacity to manufacture ammo. While primers and bullets are the easiest components to make and supplies to do so may never run out, it is far harder to produce modern powders and cases.

Cases made from brass are malleable and able to take the stress of being fired, resized and reloaded several times. They do wear out eventually, however. Cases will be nicked, cracked, split, bulged or the case heads or rims damaged. Damaged cases will have to be discarded. When your last case is damaged, where are you going to get more cases? It takes special tooling to manufacture cases. Do you have the funds to purchase this tooling? It costs millions. Better stock up on cases for all of your calibers now. On average a case may be reloaded 10 or twelve times. Ten thousand cases can yield approximately one hundred thousand rounds assuming you have powder, primers and bullets.

Smokeless powders can be manufactured by communities. This takes an industrial base. It can be accomplished through several cottage industries and small amounts of powders can be produced and blended to create a sufficient quantity of the end product. Many base components can be manufactured and used in differing formulae to produce smokeless powders for pistols, shotguns and rifles. I went into this in depth while *The Independent American* was in production online. The manufacture of these powders is complicated and very dangerous. I will not go into the manufacture of smokeless powders here other than to say, unless your community is prepared and has the means of manufacturing smokeless powder, you will not produce any more powders once you have fired your last round.



If you are storing powder for a future where ammunition has been banned or taxed out of existence, store a lot!

Smokeless powder is difficult and dangerous to produce. If you are thinking about making your own, you'll need a community support base.

Black powder is easy to manufacture, requires very little equipment and does not require a community. An individual can easily manufacture black powder as necessary. There is only one formula for black powder. Firing black powder in rifles, shotguns or handguns is only a matter of adjusting grain size, not a matter adjusting many different components in the formula. The drawbacks to black powder is that it will not produce enough pressure to operate a semi-automatic firearm. If your firearms battery includes firearms with a semi-automatic action, they will be out of service if you depend on manufacturing black powder. The visual signature (smoke) of black powder can give away your position more easily. Black powder is very corrosive and if you are unable to clean your weapon very soon after discharging a black powder round in it, the weapon will corrode.

Considering that the average survivalist might find him or herself in the position of needing to manufacture his or her own ammunition and reloading to extend his or her ammunition supply, it is a good idea to acquire equipment now to allow us to do so. What equipment would that be?

Let's begin with your firearms battery. Even if you are capable of storing a great many pounds of

primers, powders and cases, your supplies could run out, be captured or stolen. Purchase the type of firearms you are most comfortable with, but have a backup. That backup should be of a type that will take into consideration your possible lack of modern smokeless powders in the future. For a sidearm, the obvious choice for your backup is the revolver. This is because any individual knowledgeable with the manufacture of black powder will be able to keep his or her revolver loaded as long as the cases last.

A revolver's action relies on the squeeze of the trigger or cocking of the hammer to operate it's



Revolvers are especially suited for the manufacture of your own black powder or even smokeless powder ammunition. Every survivalist contemplating making his/her own ammunition should have at least one revolver.

repeating mechanism, not the gas pressure or recoil of the expended round. This means that black powder's lack of pressure is not a factor in operating the firearm. You do not need to rely only on the "cowboy" style SAAs. Any

revolver built for use of modern smokeless powders will take the pressure of any black powder load, so you can have an operable, quickly reloadable repeating sidearm if you can make black powder. Carry a modern double action revolver loaded with black powder rounds and extra rounds on speedloaders and you'll have a very serviceable weapon when most others have run out of ammo.

Shotguns can be viewed the same way as revolvers when it comes to acquiring a backup for use with black powder. Semi-automatic actions are out. Pumps, break actions, bolts and lever guns will work as their actions rely on the shooter to mechanically operate it. A good defense/hunting backup shotgun would utilize a pump action with a changeable barrel. One barrel would be a short cylinder bore for defense. This would fire loads using buckshot or slugs. The other barrel would be a 22 or 24 inch changeable choke barrel with extra chokes for modified and full chokes. This setup will allow you to defend the homestead and bag some game from doves and turkey to deer and elk.

Rifles are also limited to actions other than semi or full auto. Your bolt guns, pumps, lever actions and break actions will work as with shotguns. Straight wall cases work best typified by the .45-70 or .405 Winchester, but bottle neck cartridges will work as well.

In discussing whether brass cartridge cases will be available in the future, one might consider muzzle loading rifles, shotguns and cap and ball style revolvers. These firearms make use of loose, but measured, powder poured into their chambers (revolvers or revolving rifles) or into their breech from the muzzle (muzzle loading rifles, pistols and shotguns), then packed relatively tightly with patch and ball or bullet. In the case of cap and ball revolvers and some muzzle loading rifles and shotguns, a cap is used to initiate ignition of the powder. In other muzzle loading weapons a flint and steel striker is used to throw a spark into the frizzen pan. Cap and ball revolvers and cap lock muzzle loaders are the best way to go. The ignition of the firearm's charge is more sure. You may be able to easily find and cut flint rock for your flintlocks, but in this day and age, it is just as easy to produce caps from metal cans and the tools to do so are widely

available.

You should consider muzzle loading and cap and ball firearms as backups for your backup. If you have used the lives up on all of your cases and cases are no longer to be found, you will still be in business with these firearms. You will not be able to reload your weapon as quickly when defending yourself, but some models of cap and ball revolvers lend themselves more easily to this than others. Columnist and *Cybertek Magazine* publisher, Tom of New England, LMI Editor Douglas Paul Bell and myself were talking one night about the Clint Eastwood movie, *Pale Rider*. In this movie, Clint quickly reloaded a Remington New Army cap and ball revolver by switching the revolver's spent cylinder with a freshly loaded one. I asked Doug, (Doug is a certified gunsmith and runs D&D Arms), how feasible this would be. Doug said that this wouldn't be feasible with a Colt or similar open top revolver, but with the Remington New Army and similar revolvers with a top strap, this was not only feasible, but historically accurate. With the right cap and ball revolver and extra accessories like additional cylinders you may still produce your own black powder and cast lead balls and have the means for nominal self defense in a future without ammunition.

Whether you have plenty of smokeless powder stored or have the ability to help in manufacturing smokeless powder, bullet design and cartridge limitation will be important to you. Let me put it this way: You carry a 9mm due to the light recoil and higher capacity magazine. The cartridge has a history of being rather anemic when you must put your life on the line, but modern bullet designs have helped the cartridge accomplish its job in the field. Now, you can stockpile bullets, too, but these will run out. When they are gone, you are back to casting bullets. You will now have to work up a load using cast lead round nose (LRN) bullets. No more super-expanding hollow points. Your fancy 9mm with its modern designed technological help just became a pea shooter.

Choosing a weapon that fires a cartridge that will maintain stopping power with any bullet design will ensure that you will have a viable weapon when you have to cast your own bullets. Many firearms/cartridge combinations in the past (before modern bullet designs) achieved as reliable stopping power as the modern cartridge loads. The .357 Magnum load favored by the highway patrol in many States used a 158 grain (gr.) cast lead semi-wadcutter (SWC) bullet to achieve an 86% one shot stop statistic. Elmer Keith designed his famous .44 Magnum loads around modified SWC bullets of his own design and casting.

Again, revolvers have the advantage in a future world where ammunition has been banned or taxed out of existence. Because revolvers utilize a revolving cylinder possessing multiple chambers, bullet designs like the cast lead SWC will not cause malfunctions by hanging up on feed ramps and not chambering like they often do in semi-automatic pistols. If, however, you are confident that you will be able to maintain a community base that can manufacture smokeless powders, there are semi-automatic pistol/cartridge combinations that will be effective with LRN bullets.

The Browning designed 1911 semi-auto pistol is one of the most favored pistol designs in America. Chambered in .45 ACP, the pistol is a proven stopper even with full metal jacket (FMJ) bullets. FMJ bullets are not known for expanding. Rather, in the 9mm cartridge, the hard bullets will just drill small holes through a body leaving the recipient to slowly leak to death. This also gives the assailant time to press home an attack. A lot about what you read concerning small diameter, high speed bullets (especially of the non-expanding FMJ design) is based on figuring the bullet's energy on paper. The mathematical formula is simple. Speed times mass equals

energy. These high speed bullets actually do possess the amount of energy that your paper figuring states. The problem is, for that amount of energy to be effective, it must be transferred into the body it hits. Since the energy in question is kinetic (or motion) the bullet must come to a complete stop within the body before 100% of the bullet's energy is transferred to it's target. Because FMJs are non-expansive, they tend to loose very little energy in a body and zip right through. Of all of that energy on paper, very little is actually imparted into the assailant. This is why modern law enforcement and defensive bullet designs utilize hollow points for quickly expansive ability. The bullet expands when it hits the target and as it penetrates. This presents a greater area presented toward the direction of travel and slows the bullet much more efficiently. As the bullet slows faster, it imparts more kinetic energy into the target and the expanded size of the bullet makes a larger hole creating greater wound ballistics.

What you will be using is a compromise. Since we are theorizing that ammo will be banned, it is not likely that you will be able to buy bullets. This will leave out modern hollow point designs. Cast Bullets like those mentioned in earlier paragraphs will not expand as greatly as modern hollow point designs, but will deform. These bullets will deform where they strike the target, which is on their point. They deform by flattening at the point and expanding, though not to the extent of a hollow point. When topping off a cartridge that is a proven stopper, cast bullets are heavier than the modern design such as the 158 gr SWC in the .357 Magnum or 240 gr SWC in the .44 Magnum. These heavier bullets containing more mass will slow down quicker when striking an assailant's body and impart more energy into it than a zippy FMJ or light cast LRN.

Equipment selection for bullets should include some good bullet moulds for each of your cartridges. I have had good results with Lee bullet moulds. Moulds are made for rifles and sidearms as well as for shotgun slugs. I recommend you buy moulds for each cartridge in rifles and sidearms you have and do not forget your shotgun. For bird pellets and buckshot, you'll need a drop tower. Molten lead is poured into the drop tower which allows a specific amount of lead to drop through. This lead cools as it falls through the empty air in the tower into a spherical shape before it plunges into a vat of water which cushions the lead sphere so that it is not deformed when it hits the ground.

Early American drop towers were made of brick and usually 70 plus feet high. They made use of a copper plate with holes drilled in as a sieve which was placed at the top of the tower. A lead melting furnace was also placed at the top of the tower. Molten lead was poured onto the copper plate where it dripped through the holes and fell into a vat of water at the bottom of the tower. A drop tower would be a considerable undertaking for an individual, especially if the individual wanted to hide the fact that he or she were manufacturing ammunition. Custom moulds can be made for slugs and buckshot and I suspect that custom birdshot moulds can be made expediently. There are also commercial centrifuge equipment one may purchase or make.



Besides moulds, you'll also want a lead melting furnace. Stock back any source of lead as well. Anti-Americans who ban firearms and ammo will want to ban reloading components as well and it will not go unnoticed that lead can be formed into bullets. Whether the excuse will be cleaning lead out of the environment or if the truth is told that the anti-Americans just want to take all means of defense out of the hands of the people, anything made of lead will become contraband. Collect wheel weights, plumber's solder, linotype and any other source of

lead now.

One last piece of equipment for casting your own lead bullets is a bullet sizer and luber. These are presses that force a lead cast bullet through a die which gives them the correct diameter and lubes or 'greases' the bullet to help protect the bore from leading.

Whether you still have smokeless powders stored back or if you are manufacturing your own black powder, you will need to measure the powder and pour it into the cases. Powder scales or measures are necessary to achieve the correct powder charge for your load. When you are loading cartridges, the more consistent the powder charge you place into the cartridge, the more consistent your accuracy and quality of load will be. You can't guess at this by eyeballing the powder level in the cartridge. You *must know* to the last grain the charge you are placing in the case. Powder measure or powder scales? Powder measures are generally tubes which allow a set measure of powder to be thrown. They are attached to a powder holder. The powder holder holds a quantity of powder, while the powder measure throws a set charge when it's knob is rotated. These are neat and fast, but only throw a set charge of powder and can't be set for any other charge. These will work only for one or two loads. Powder scales allow you to manually measure each charge to the fraction of a grain. You can work up any load with any powder for any firearm and achieve the best loads for your purposes with the scales. As you will change powders and loads in the future, it is best to go with the powder scales. The scales will give you an accurate weight regardless of the type of powder used and can be used with any load or cartridge.

A powder trickler is also of great use. This has a bowl at it's top where you pour your powder into. At the bottom of the bowl is a tube. When you turn the tube, small amounts of powder is forced out and onto your scales. This allows you to place small amounts of powder at a time onto the scales to work up an exact load.

Black powder isn't actually measured out by weight, but rather by volume. This can make loading black powder cartridges somewhat different. Most black powder loads call for filling the case nearly to the mouth and compressing the load by seating the bullet. Trust me, if you just fill the case and seat the bullet you will get no accuracy at all. As with smokeless powder, black powder loads should be as uniform as possible and like smokeless powder, each charge must be measured.

This is best accomplished with a drop tube. A drop tube affects the internal ballistics of a cartridge more beneficially than pouring the powder in from the scale's measuring pan. This probably has something to do with non-linear mathematic's 'butterfly effect'. Set your drop tube to the proper charge (which is measured in grains) as provided in your load data, place your cartridge into the shell holder and charge the case. Even if you do not fire black powder cartridges, it is best that you purchase a drop tube for future use anyway as you will want the best performance you can get should you need to manufacture black powder for your own use due to the lack of



ammo.



The heart of your reloading system is your reloading press. These are as simple or as fancy as you can afford. A simple reloading press will accommodate a single die at a time. You will manually place each cartridge into the shell holder and, depending on the die you have in place, will deprime, resize, bell the mouth, prime, seat the bullet or crimp each cartridge individually. The higher end models are known as progressive reloading presses. These presses accommodate more than one die and several shell holders. The reloader can run his or her cases through

the press as though it were an assembly line and cut down on the time it takes to reload. The progressive reloading presses can break a budget. Fortunately, you don't have to go high end to reload efficiently. The extra time it takes a single stage press to reload several boxes of ammo can be significant, but the extra time taken carefully measuring the powder charge will add to your cartridges' accuracy and quality. On the other hand, if you shoot more than several boxes of ammo a day, that extra time stacks up and a progressive reloading press becomes much more efficient. This piece of equipment depends on your budget, but most can get by with the simple, single stage presses.



All of this shooting, resizing and reloading of cases can change the cases' dimensions. Brass, being malleable, will stretch out adding length to the case.

When this happens, you need to trim the case. Case trimmers are available, again like the reloading presses, from the simple, hand-held trimming tool, to the motorized, fast and easy variety. At the low end, a simple hand-held tool is placed on the mouth of the case and turned by hand. This cuts small amounts of the brass from the stretched case. When you have removed enough brass to give the case it's correct length, turn the trimmer around and repeat the process for a couple of turns. These hand-held units have a de-burring tool on the opposite side of their trimming tool. Many brass trimmers operate like lathes. You fix the case on the case holder, then place the trimming tool in place on the mouth of the case and turn the case until a sufficient quantity of brass is removed. Some units are hand operated by turning a handle by hand which turns the case against the trimming tool. Others are motorized, using an electric motor to turn the case. I use a hand turned trimmer and have a hand-held, low end trimmer as back up. You never

know when the electricity is going out and you will need to operate your equipment, so I have not felt the need to purchase a model with an electric motor.

You have to know when your case is at the correct length. Case gauges accomplish this for you. There are case gauges that include notches at varying lengths along its spine. These notches correspond with the lengths of different cartridge cases. When trimming your cases, place them along the gauge to note if they are longer than the notch which indicates the correct length for the case. If it is, trim the case until it fits into the correct notch. These can be purchased in rifle or handgun sizes. There are other gauges for specific cartridge cases as well, but one can get by with only some dial calipers. In your load data, there are specifications for the dimensions of your cartridge case. By measuring your case with your calipers, you will know if it has stretched and needs to be trimmed. Since the calipers are more versatile for measuring a variety of dimensions from your case length to the how deep your bullet is seated, I advise to get a few good calipers. Don't buy anything that says made in China on it. Such calipers are worthless crap! You need something accurate and reliable. The Chicoms wouldn't know quality, accuracy or reliability unless someone else built it for them. Stay away from cheap, slave labor, Chinese crap.



Dies are extremely important to your reloading equipment. It is the dies that resize your cases, bells the mouth of the case to receive the bullet, seats the bullet, crimps the cartridge and even deprimed the case. These come in two or three die sets for individual cartridges and be of carbide or carbon steel construction. Carbide sets are made for straight wall cases which are more convenient as case lube is not required when resizing the cases. For carbon steel dies, case lube is necessary so that the inside of the die does not become damaged or worn.



You will want to purchase dies in all of the calibers you shoot. It is also a good idea to purchase dies for as many calibers as possible whether you shoot that caliber or not. You never know when or where you might run across a cache of ammo in trade or inheritance through self-defense. Since we are considering an uncertain future for America, you must also take into consideration that you may be picking up firearms and ammo from off a battlefield or off the bodies of some goon squads or jackbooted thugs. Dies of any caliber could be very handy in such a situation. You may also reload ammunition for friends, neighbors and allies with different calibers than yours or for barter.

How much powder should you put in each case? With which weight of bullet and what size primer? This is what load data is for. Loading data is written into reloading guides that are published by companies that manufacture

bullets or powder. Many powder manufacturers offer their reloading guides for free. Some guides like those from Alliant Powder and Vihtavouri, Lapua can be downloaded from the internet. If your favorite powder manufacturer produces a reloading guide, these guides are very informative. Pick up several reloading guides from the various powder manufacturers. This way, you will learn about the powders and their uses and their differences in loading the various calibers.

Bullet manufacturers and reloading supply manufacturers also publish reloading guides. These guides are not free and can cost in the \$30 to \$40 dollar range, but are quite worth the money. Reloading guides published by Lee, Sierra Bullets, Hornady, Speer Bullets, Nosler, Lyman and RCBS all give in depth load data for any cartridge available. These guides also give load data for many different powders, unlike those from powder manufacturers who only give data regarding their powders. Get all of the reloading guides available as the different manufacturers use different firearms in their load testing which gives differing results in ballistics, accuracy and pressure. By reading through the different guides, you can find a starting load that approximates the results you want for your firearm, then work up a load that your firearm likes the best.

Whether you are a beginner or seasoned reloader, A nice, how-to book on the art of reloading is helpful. The NRA produces a series of how-to books on gunsmithing and reloading. While the NRA is not the best gun owner's association out there and they have been known to unnecessarily compromise your right to keep and bear arms, they do produce a very informative *Beginner's Guide To Reloading* that should be on everyone's book shelves. This book will tell you how to reload and what equipment you will need, as well as the history and advantages.

This article addressed the need to prepare for a future America where ammunition will be in severely limited supply. In summarization of the preparations you need to make for this future; you need to obtain firearms that will operate using black powder cartridges. These firearms must utilize a cartridge with a proven stopping power with cast lead bullets. You must also have an understanding of how to make at least black powder. If you can form a community base, you may also obtain the knowledge and tools to manufacture smokeless powders. You must have a source of lead, a lead melting furnace and moulds to form bullets. You need cases capable of being reloaded. You must store either loaded ammo utilizing cases made of brass with boxer primer flash holes or the empty brass/boxer cases. You must also store plenty of primers for each type of weapons you own or may pick up. You may also manufacture primers and priming compounds easily.

You must maintain a stock of reloading supplies that will allow you to re-manufacture quality ammunition. You will need a reloading press and dies, case trimmer, powder scales, powder trickler, drop tube for black powder reloading, calipers, tons of powder, case gauges and reloading guides. Buy extras and cache them in a retreat area.

We all know that we, as a free people, face a hideous danger today and a bleak, dark future. We can either prepare for that future and possibly prevent it or lessen it's severity or we can give up and allow freedom to disappear and America to sink into slavery. It's time for Americans to secure their access to ammunition.

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Reloading Gear, Supplies And Support

by Corceigh Green



Whether you reload to ensure the best accuracy and load you can get for your firearms or to ensure that you can extend your ammunition supply when the balloon goes up or just to defray the high cost of ammunition, you need the right gear and support system to maintain your ability to reload. The following paragraphs will detail some of the gear necessary for the hobby of reloading and some companies and outlets where you can buy these supplies. Think of the following as a support system that is both logistical in supplying necessary gear as your budget allows and informative in bringing you the information necessary to teach you the tasks of reloading.

Complete reloading kits that will have your reloading room up and running as soon as you remove the items from their packages are available from several sources. Manufacturers like RCBS and Lee Precision, Inc. put together packages of their products that form everything you need to start reloading except the powder, bullets, primers and empty cases. If you want to set up shop quick, get one of these. They can be purchased online or mail order through the manufacturers or retail outlets.

For those who wish to assemble their own equipment for their own custom shop, all of the major reloading supply manufacturers and retail outlet shops sell the equipment separate. Some kits incorporate low end, single stage presses while others incorporate higher ends single stage presses. Some will offer turret presses. You will have a wide range to choose from. If you don't fancy the press that comes with a starter reloading kit or even higher end reloading kit, you can buy a progressive reloading press and purchase the other equipment separately. Many come with dies in your choice of caliber. Sometimes you will have to purchase the dies separately.

The manufacturers of reloading equipment like to make their products and information about the hobby available to interested people. This increases sales for them and respectability for the hobby. The major manufacturers have web pages that can be perused. You can shop at most of these web sites, request catalogs and read more information about reloading. Some web sites published by smokeless and black powder manufacturers even have reloading guides and load data that can be freely downloaded and printed out.

There is a wide range of reloading equipment you need to consider in order to produce a quality product. Therefore, some reloading outlet suppliers are necessary for reloaders to take advantage of for one stop shopping and finding all of the equipment for their needs.

Below are some contact points for what I consider the most important resources for reloading equipment and information.

RCBS ~ RCBS Manufactures some of the finest reloading equipment on the market. Their line covers everything you'll need to get started, advance and keep going. For one stop reloading needs, RCBS certainly qualifies. Check out their web site at www.rcbs.com. Their web site is a great resource to reloaders. It is simple to navigate, you can buy gear from the site and has a free to read in-depth reloading how-to guide. On top of this you can download a catalog right from the site. For extra info or to get a print catalog their phone number is 1-800-533-5000.

THE best source for all of the equipment you'll need from every manufacturer from reloading equipment, bullets, brass, primers, powders, chronographs, plus accessories and holsters for your guns. Everything you need for shooting. This resource is Midway USA. If you haven't already heard of this outlet, then you haven't been around. Midway USA can be found online at www.midwayusa.com. Midway USA has so much to offer that web site navigation can be a bit overwhelming. You can request a print catalog online or by calling 1-800-243-3220. I highly advise requesting a master catalog. These are as thick as your yellow pages and you'll definitely find something in them that you'll need. If you can only rely on one source for your reloading supplies, this would be the one.

Dillon Precision Products Inc. is an entire supply resource itself. Though, not on the scale of Midway USA, Dillon Precision Products inc. sells all of the equipment you'll need to get started and keep up with your hobby. Dillon publishes a proprietary catalog covering a wide range of presses, called the Blue Press, The catalog covers the company's products and includes an article or two, as well as gear reviews. The company manufactures and sells all the reloading equipment you'll need. They have several models of high end, progressive presses and mid-range turret presses. These presses can be very elaborate, depending on the model, and will handle most phases of the reloading process for you with the pull of the handle. Everything else can be found here as well including calipers, scales and all of the accessories necessary to begin reloading.

Dillon Precision Inc.'s web page can be found at www.bluepress.com a catalog can be requested from the web and you can write to request at; Dillon Precision Products, Inc., 8009 E. Dillons Way, Scottsdale, AZ 85260. Or call (480) 948-8009.

Lee Precision, Inc. is a manufacturer of reloading equipment. They have made a reputation for manufacturing quality gear and selling at an affordable price. Lee Precision, Inc. sells reloading kits in differing configurations from starter kits with low end presses to high end progressive presses at very reasonable prices. Lee Precision, Inc.'s web page at www.leeprecision.com is easy to navigate, has an online catalog that is easy to peruse and view products. Shopping online is available and easy and instruction sheets for their products are online and downloadable. Call for a print catalog at 1-262-673-3075. Or write to: Lee Precision, Inc., 4275 HIGHWAY U, HARTFORD WISCONSIN 53027.

Lyman Products, www.lymanproducts.com, Lyman Products Corporation, 475 Smith Street, Middletown, CT 06457 ,Attn: Service Department, or call 1-800-225-9626 handles many

products and gear for shooting. You can find cleaning products, muzzleloaders and muzzle loading gear, grips and butt pads, traps and clay throwers, sights, 1911 accessories and more. The web site is not the easiest to navigate, but can be a good resource. Request a catalog online or at one of the contact points above.

Speer Bullets is a good resource for, of course, bullets. Speer also has other resources useful to reloaders. Updated reloading data for Speer's Reloading Guide can be downloaded from Speer Bullets' web page at www.speer-bullets.com. Educational material may also be read and downloaded at the site and a catalog may be requested online. For more information or to request a catalog by phone, call: 1-800-627-3640 or 208-746-2351.

Hornady MFG. Co. makes some great bullets. Most of my favorite handgun loads utilize Hornady XTP bullets. Hornady has expanded into loaded ammunition as well and publishes a reloading guide. All of Hornady's products are very useful to reloaders. Hornady's web site can be found at; www.hornady.com. The web site is very useful, not too hard to navigate, and offers shopping, news and downloadable reloading data as well as information about reloading. You can contact the company by phone at; 1-800-338-3220 or by mail at; Hornady MFG. Co., Box 1848, Grand Island, NE 68802-1848.

Nosler is also a bullet manufacturer and they, too, produce a type of bullet that is a favorite of mine. Nosler Partition bullets sit on top of my favorite rifle loads for hunting big game. These bullets perform extremely well and should be a first choice in a persons moose or elk hunting loads. Nosler's web site at www.nosler.com is not too hard to navigate, offers shopping, news and reloading data. You'll want to check this source out. You can call for information at; 1-800-285-3701.

Powders and propellants are necessary to your ability to reload. Having a source for smokeless powder, black powder, pyrodex and the other propellants is very useful to the reloader. Since many powders are becoming conglomerated under the same ownership, fewer sources are becoming available for information and outlet of propellants. There are a couple of very useful sources for obtaining information and load data for propellants, however, that reloaders should have on hand.

One such resource that I have found very useful is Hodgdon's web site at www.hodgdon.com/HomePage.php. This is the web site of Hodgdon Powders and is part of the family of Hodgdon Powders, IMR Powders (www.imrpowders.com/HomePage.php) and Winchester Smokeless Propellants (www.wwpowder.com/HomePage.php). If you like these powders, and I do, the above web sites will be a tremendous resource for you. There is information about the powders, updated load data, Safety information and lots more. While at these web sites, don't forget to order the free reloading guides. The IMR powders are my favorite rifle propellants. Hodgdon has some of the best resources for muzzle loading and black powder cartridge reloading. Winchester Powders offers some time tested pistol powders that are among the finest. You can contact any of the above family of powder and propellant manufacturers by telephone at (913) 362-9455.

Vihtavuori-Lapua offers extensive smokeless powders to the reloader. Beside a full array of powders from pistol powder to powders for reloading the .50 BMG, Vihtavuori-Lapua website offers some super resources for reloaders. The web site is www.vihtavuori-lapua.com. There, you can find information on the powders, about the company and about their products. Most informative of all, however, is that you can download their entire reloading guide for free in PDF

format. This is a proprietary guide featuring only those propellants offered by Vihtavuori-Lapua, but it is comprehensive on every aspect of their fine propellants. This guide gives burn rates and comparable statistics with other powders. The loading data is comprehensive and you could scarcely find a cartridge that is not listed. This site is worth the visit, if only to download the reloading guide.

ATK Advanced ammunition and space company is one of the conglomerates that has bought much of the reloading industries. ATK owns Federal Premium and Estate Cartridge ammunition, CCI, Speer, Lawman, and Blazer ammunition, Gunslick, Outers and Shooters Ridge gun care and shooting accessories, RCBS reloading equipment, Champion clay targets, Weaver mounting systems and Alliant Powder. Alliant Powder used to be Hercules and is a fine powder for handguns and shotguns.

Alliant Powder can be found on the web at www.alliantpowder.com. Here, you can get information on beginning and advanced reloading, news, load data updates and a reloading guide for the company's proprietary powders. This is another resource that reloaders will want. You can also call for more information at 1-800-276-9337, or write to, Alliant Powder, PO Box 6, Radford, VA 24143-0006

For more specialized purposes in the black powder reloading, I have found a neat little company that offers equipment made like the older cowboy shooting gear. Not that aesthetics are important, but under primitive reloading conditions, it wouldn't hurt to have gear proven to work under these conditions. The company that can provide these items is Sage brush Premium Shooting Products. The company is located at, The company covers products from black powder cartridge reloading supplies, shooting accessories, apparel, pet supplies, muzzle loading supplies, to gun cleaning supplies. Sagebrush Premium Shooting Products can be found at www.sageoutfitters.com or SageOutfitters, 1639 Industrial Ave., Sidney, NE 69162 or call 1-888-552-7376 Toll-Free.

While taking advantage of the above resources, don't forget to buy all of the manufacturers' reloading manuals. These are bound books containing load data and cartridge specifications. They will cost between \$30 and \$40. The manuals from Speer, Hornady, Lyman, and Sierra are particularly helpful.

The above resources are not by any length the only resources available, but they are very important to start building a support system for your reloading bench. Whether you are a beginner, just getting started in reloading or if you are an experienced reloader with many years under your belt, the above resources will be of value to you. Now that you know where to look and learn about reloading, have fun.

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Limited Reloading Powders For Rifles and Handguns

by Douglas P. Bell

If you read most of the "popular" gun rags and see an article on reloading, whether reloading for one cartridge or a bunch, the writer usually has anywhere from a dozen to thirty different powders listed for each cartridge. That's great of course, a perfect powder for every bullet weight, power level, bullet shape and barrel length, but at the current cost of powder, some where between \$17 and \$45 a pound at the local sporting goods store here, the investment in the various powders would be prohibitive for the average reloader. Of course the writer has to list every possible powder that has even the vaguest possible use, after all he has to keep all the current advertisers happy, not offend any possible future advertisers, plus please all the readers who will want to know why some powder, no matter how unsuitable it may be, wasn't included. However, not being rich and/or having an in with the powder companies so I can get sample cans of powder to try out, I have to buy my powder, primers, bullets and cases out of an ever shrinking stack of money. Therefore I use a limited number of powders for all my reloading needs, instead of having the perfect powder for each cartridge, bullet weight and power level.



However one problem, among others, with saying X-Y-Z powders are all you need, is some types of actions, usually gas operated rifles, such as the M1 Garand Rifle and M-14/M1A, are designed to work within a certain gas port pressure/time frame. Other rifles, such as the M-16/AR-15 have a gas tube system that will clog when the wrong type of powders are used, especially if the powder doesn't burn fully or leaves a lot of residue and soot. Use the wrong powder and the rifle won't work properly, or may even be damaged.

So what powders do you need to have on your reloading bench? While it would be very easy for me to say the powders I use are Winchester 231 and Alliant Unique for handguns, and IMR 4895 and Winchester 748 for rifles, are these the best powders for you? The answer is, of course, yes, no, probably, possibly, maybe, I have no idea, especially if you don't reload the same cartridges that I do. For example I don't load many magnum handgun cartridges, like the .357 Magnum, .41 Magnum or .44 Magnum, so I really don't need many magnum handgun powders like Alliant 2400 or Winchester 296. In any case, what magnum handgun loads I do load can usually be handled by Alliant Unique, although Alliant 2400 can be loaded to higher velocities with lower pressures. What handguns I usually load are 9mm Luger (Parabellum), .38 Special, .45 ACP. The rifle cartridges I load are .223 Remington, .308, .30-06. These aren't the only handgun and rifle cartridges I have or reload for of course, but they are the vast majority of what I load, so I don't need much in the way of magnum rifle powders either.

As I said, I use Winchester 231 for pretty much all my handgun loads. What Winchester 231 can't handle, Alliant Unique usually can, although Alliant Universal might actually be a better "all around" powder. If you load the various magnum handgun cartridges, Alliant 2400 and Winchester 296 are classic powder choices. In rifle powders, IMR 4064 (recommended by Corceigh Green) and IMR 4895 (IMR stands for "Improved Military Rifle" and SR stands for "Sporting Rifle", which are put out by the "new" IMR Powder Company, formerly DuPont) are something of a wonder powder, being useful from the .223/5.56x45 to .458 Winchester Magnum. While they may not be ideal for either extreme, they can hold their own quite well. As an added plus, IMR 4895 is also the powder the M1 Garand Rifle (.30-06) and M-14/M1A (7.62x51 NATO) were designed around. Other M1/M14 powders would include Accurate 2460 (slightly fast), AA2495, AA2520 (about ideal), AA4064 (slightly slow), and Hodgdon H4895 as well.

But are these the only powders that are useful for a wide variety of cartridges? Of course not! If you go to the Western Powders web site at www.ramshot.com (Western Powders puts out Ramshot powders and bought Accurate Arms which put out Accurate Smokeless Powders), they have a burning rate chart listing of some 153 different powders (the reloadbench.com web site lists 173 powders!) available in the US from such companies as Accurate, Alliant (formerly Hercules), Hodgdon, IMR (formerly DuPont), Norma, Scot, Winchester (now supplied by Hodgdon), Vihtavuori (also spelled Vihta Vuori), and of course, Ramshot, so there are going to be at least a few powders that can claim to be all around useful powders for light to moderate handgun, magnum handgun, small bore rifle, medium bore rifle and large bore rifle, and some powders that are so specialized they are designed for only a very few cartridges, such as the .50 BMG.

So what other powders are suitable for our various uses? Well here again I have to give a nod of thanks to Western Powders. In the Accurate Reloaders Guide 2005 (a free handout from the company, and already two years out of date! Where does the time go?!) they have a comparative powder chart listing their, in this case Accurate, powders and what other powders would be in the same ball park. For example, Winchester 231 is a ball pistol powder (ball powder simply means that the powder granules are round, while flake powder is a thin disc and extruded or stick powder is a cylinder) so other ball powders would be Accurate No. 2 Improved, Ramshot Zip, Hodgdon HP-38, and extruded would be Alliant Bullseye. Alliant Unique is an extruded powder and would be used pretty much as would IMR 800X, which is another extruded powder, or if you wanted ball powders as they are easier to feed through powder measures, Accurate No. 5 and Winchester 540 (no longer listed by Winchester). For magnum handguns, and some small rifle cartridges that use Alliant 2400 extruded powder, the comparative ball powders are Accurate No. 9, Winchester 296, Alliant Blue Dot, Hodgdon H-110, Vihtavuori N-11, VV N-105 and Ramshot Enforcer.. Comparative powders for ball Winchester 748 rifle powder would include the quite fast Accurate 2230, Hodgdon H-335, the slightly slower AA 2460, medium fast AA 4064, Hodgdon Varget, Hodgdon BL-C(2), IMR 3031, IMR 4064 and Ramshot TAC. When looking at extruded IMR 4895, other extruded powders would include Hodgdon H-4895, Accurate 2495, while ball powders are Hodgdon H-380 and Accurate 2520. Moving up to the various magnum rifle cartridges, if you like IMR 4320, Ramshot Big Game, Winchester 760 and Accurate 4350 should be right up your alley. IMR 4831 would be similar to Winchester 785, AA 3100 (a single based powder), AA MAGPRO (a double based powder) and Ramshot Magnum.

The final word from here is, if you have the time, money and inclination to experiment, then buy all the comparative powders in each group and have fun. When you find a powder you like, buy at least an eight pound keg, or an even larger one (some powders come in 10-12-20-25 pound kegs). For example, 5.2 grains of a powder that I find suitable for use in the 9mm, .38 Special, .45 ACP, IN MY GUNS, I am NOT recommending this to anyone else, would load 1346 cartridges, at 7000 grains to the pound. If you loaded 15 grains you'd get 466 loadings, 40 grains would get

you 175, 50 grains would be 140, 70 grains would be 100 loadings. Since powders are not getting cheaper and the demonrats have taken over CON-gress and might well ban ammunition, reloading supplies or simply tax them out of existence, there has never been a better time to buy as much ammunition, powder, primers, and cases as you can.

To give you and idea of how many powders you can try, I took the Alliant, Ramshot, Accurate, Hodgdon, IMR, Winchester and Vihtavuori manuals and looked at the cartridges I load for. The list is as follows:

Manufacturer	# of powders they make	powders listed for each cart.							
		9mm	38 Spec.	40 S&W	45	223	308	30-06	
Alliant	19	8	7	9	8	4	4	5	
Accurate	21	3	4	4	5	7	8	11	
Hodgdon	28	6	6	6	6	7	7	9	
IMR	17	5	5	5	5	5	4	5	
Ramshot	9	3	2	3	3	2	2	2	
Vihtavuori	23	8	4	7	4	6	7	8	
Winchester	6	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	
total	1231	35	30	36	33	32	34	42	

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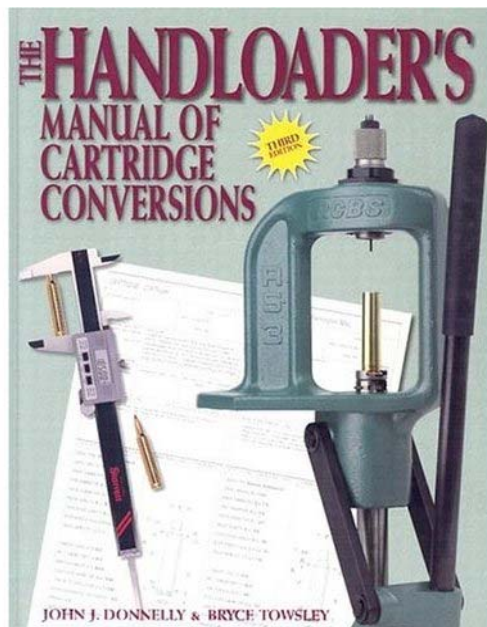
Northeast Notes



The Handloader's Manual of Cartridge Conversions

review by Tom from New England

Many survival experts suggest acquiring firearms in “common calibers”, and this is generally considered good advice for the beginner. There are several instances however, where that might not be possible or desirable. Beginning survivalists on a budget may not be able to



afford an AR-15, M1A, or FAL yet need something reliable and inexpensive. In such an instance it would be preferable to purchase a milsurp bolt action such as a Mauser or Enfield than a modern “sporting” rifle. In a similar vein, many pre-1898 “antique” guns available for purchase sans Big Brother paperwork are in “obsolete” calibers. If your group is lucky enough to have a designated marksman, he or she will most likely have a pet caliber they have been shooting for a long time, and have developed pet loads and ballistic data for it. In such an instance it would be foolhardy to make them switch to something else when they are already intimately familiar with their personal weapon and cartridge combination.

These are a only few situations which you may encounter, and The Handloader's Manual of Cartridge Conversions, by John J. Donnelly and Bryce Towsley is your guide for them.

The Handloader's Manual of Cartridge Conversions (HMCC), represents the type of survivalist knowledge that is commonly available now, but probably won't be when it'll be really needed. The time to acquire such knowledge and tools is now while you still can. The HMCC contains information on how to make rare cartridge cases from common brass, substitute smokeless powder for black powder, fabricate 100-year old ammo with modern technology, build and equip a handloading shop, and other knowledge you'd need to keep your “obsolete” boomsticks fed. To provide a few examples, one of my favorite cartridges, the 6.5x55mm Swedish Mauser, can be made from .270 Winchester cases. The 8mmx57 Mauser, the caliber

used in the Yugo and German Mausers that are coming into the country, can be made from either .30-06 or .270 Winchester brass. Have a 7.7mm Arisaka that your grandfather (or great-grandfather) brought back from World War II? You can make the brass from .30-06 cartridges. The HMCC contains conversion information on about a thousand cartridges. Along with the conversion information, it also has some basic loading data for each cartridge to get you started with developing your own handloads. The HMCC also contains a wealth of information on equipment, setting up your own handloading shop, and machining techniques for converting and making cartridges from brass stock. With the information provided in this manual you could set up a nice sideline business, or a post-TEOTWAWKI cottage industry.

The Handloader's Manual of Cartridge Conversions is a useful and fine addition to the gun enthusiast's book shelf. If you are a machinist-type, survivalist or aficionado of fine older firearms, then this book should be considered a must-have for your library. Even if ammunition were to be totally banned by jack-booted, Clinton-worshipping, UN flag-waving thugs intent on destroying the Republic and Constitution, you could take some tools, brass stock and the information in this book to help restore liberty. Knowledge is power, and this book has the knowledge.

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by John J. Donnelly and Bryce Towsley
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Twilight

Pug Mahone

Before the darkness of night becomes a pitch black, there are degrees of darkness that bring blacker shades as the face of the land loses it's source of light. When the sun sinks below the rim of the earth, a cold twilight comes over the land.

Guns have played an extremely important role in American culture and history. They are the tools that helped give birth to freedom, independence and liberty in the land. Not to mention American sovereignty. They have been the instruments that kept Americans safe on the frontier and defended freedom through several wars from the American Revolution to World War II when Japanese Admiral Isokoru Yamamoto declined to invade the open American west coast because he feared “a rifle behind every blade of grass”.

Other nations were not as fortunate as America. Governments like China had feared arms in the hands of their subjects. Without the Citizen with a rifle standing tall to defend his or her home, the Japanese with a powerful and modern (for the time) military was able to overpower those governments and conquer the people. If there is such a benefit to an armed Citizenry why do governments fear armed Citizens? It is simple. Governments do not want Citizens. They want subjects. In order to control ‘their’ people, governments have reserved to themselves the ability to bear arms for national defense and enforcing government policy upon their subjects.

In the days of our forefathers, this was recognized and actively resisted to the point of war. It was April 19, 1775 that the opening shot of the American Revolution was heard ‘round the world. The conflict began as a detachment of English marines were sent into the towns of Concord and Lexington to confiscate arms and ammunition from American colonists. They were met by American militia on Concord Green and the War For Independence began.

The price of freedom is eternal vigilance and the struggle to remain free continues today. As in the days of America’s beginnings, foes of self governance and freedom seek to disarm the populous they would make subjects. Vigilance takes the form of political pressure and public sentiment these days. In spite of the fact that America’s Bill Of Rights guarantees that the Right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed, the political enemies of freedom seek to confuse the clear meaning of the Second Amendment and trick Americans into looking toward government to keep them safe. In the process, Americans will give up all of their Natural Rights, freedoms and liberty.

One of the ways in which freedom’s enemies try to confuse the meaning of your Natural Right to keep and bear arms is the claim that the Constitution is a “living document open to interpretation.” This is a lie meant to trick you into looking to only those “officials” who are appointed to interpret the Constitution to declare the meaning of how government is supposed to operate, the limits placed on government and what Rights you ‘may’ exercise. It is the job of Americans who follow the true principals of American governance (the Constitution, Bill Of Rights and Declaration Of Independence) to counter the lies of America’s enemies in the political scene. The fact is that America’s founding fathers have written down what they meant when they created the Constitution. Throughout The Federalist Papers the founders made it clear that no interpretation of the Constitution was possible to grant authority to government to limit the arms of Americans. No local, town, County, State or federal ordinance carries any authority of law to

infringe upon your right to keep and bear arms.

The sad truth is that such unconstitutional ordinances do exist and are enforced. The sadder truth is that such ordinances are enforced because Americans no longer act like Citizens, but subjects. Citizens would have stormed into rat nests like Morton Grove's or New York's city council and shoved a few well sharpened bayonets up a few well rotund rumps and twisted until the rats cried "no more anti-American gun ordinances!" Well, I can dream (and sharpen my bayonets).

Face it. Americans are subjects today not Citizens. A Citizen can exercise his or her Natural Rights without permission. You can't do that today. You need permission to carry a weapon concealed in the form of a permit, when the Second Amendment guarantees your Right to bear arms any way you see fit without permission from anyone. We have "free speech zones" where you are "allowed" to protest out of the sight of what you are protesting against and out of the sight of the media. You can only exercise your Right to free speech in areas you have permission to do so. At one time in our history, government was very limited in its actions and we had freedom to exercise our individual Rights in this country. Today, government is unlimited in its power and individuals are limited in their freedoms.

Americans are about to be limited much further in those freedoms we are "allowed" to exercise. HR 1022 was introduced into Congress. This insidious, un-American legislative garbage is the Clinton assault weapons ban resurrected and made much worse. Introduced February 13, 2007 by Congressperson McCarthy (D-New York), this bill reinstates the Clinton so-called assault weapons bans and adds several other guns and reinstates the ban on full capacity magazines. With the democrats back in control of Congress, a slew of anti-American Rights bills pertaining to disarming the subjects of this government is being introduced.

People who commit crimes are criminals. Governments that commit crimes against its people are criminal governments. The current federal government in Washington, D.C. has committed acts violating the highest law of our land and violated the Natural Rights of American Citizens. We now have a criminal government bent on disarming what it considers its subjects. So far, the criminal government has focused on firearms. This can be fortunate for those of us wishing to remain free. There are plenty of guns out there. Even if the criminal government bans them, it will still be possible to acquire them. The black market and smuggling operations will fill any need where a profit can be found. The real problem will come when some anti-American scumsucker gets the bright idea of banning ammunition.

Firearms without ammunition are useless. To perform their function of defending life and liberty, guns must make use of an abundance of ammunition. If you have bought guns for survival and to defend yourself, you must also store many thousands of rounds of ammunition for each gun you have. Think about it. A four minute gun battle will expend about a thousand aimed rounds of ammunition. Now, I'll be the first to admit that I'd rather avoid epic gun battles, but since none of us has a crystal ball and can see what the future holds for us, I want more than a few minutes of grab your backside, lay down the firepower, ammunition stockpile. I want to last more than four minutes and have ammunition to go hunting later.

The point is that you need a stockpile of ammunition to last you a life time. Ammunition is a commodity that is not easily manufactured by means of a survivalist group. I know someone who can make smokeless powder, but it is very difficult and beyond the means of most individuals. You need an entire group or a few communities. That is just the modern powder. Yes, primers are easier and can be made by individuals, but are only one part of the ammunition. Bullets can be

cast from lead wheel weights or linotype and, again, are only part of the components of ammunition. The brass case is next. Brass is the best metal to use as a case because it is malleable and can be reloaded numerous times. Brass cases are not easy to make and they require special tools and equipment to manufacture. Unless you own some industrial equipment and can buy industrial sized rolls of brass sheet, you will run out of ammunition.

There is a lot for Americans to prepare for. You need food, water and guns, but do not forget that you must also feed your guns. That's ammunition. As I've stated, you need a stockpile of ammunition to last you a lifetime. You can augment this supply by reloading. Stock back supplies of powder, lead wheel weights and/or linotype, other lead supplies, bullets and primers. Don't bother buying empty cases. Buy loaded ammunition and reload the cases after shooting those rounds. You need ammunition now, because the bad guys are trying to take it away from you.

Along with ammunition and reloading components, you will need some reloading tools if you haven't bought any yet. You'll need a reloading press with dies for all of your rifles and pistols and another reloading press for your shotguns. You'll need a case trimmer, case gauges, a priming tool, powder measures and a whole load of equipment. But first, Get yourself several reloading manuals. You'll need to know how to reload before you try it. Many manufacturers of reloading supplies, especially bullet manufacturers print reloading manuals. You should buy several reloading manuals and a beginner's reloading handbook. The NRA prints a Beginner's Guide To Reloading which is very helpful to beginners. It describes the equipment necessary, the techniques and how to set up.

The time is fast approaching when ammunition will be banned or taxed out of existence in this country. When that happens, you will be left with bayonets only unless you can stuff more powder, primers and bullets into your spent cases. Get into the hobby of reloading now and stock back supplies for later. You won't be disappointed. I can see some bad times coming in your lifetime! Fight those bad times now by buying enough ammo to shoot back!

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Casting the Big Slugs

by Glenn Boman

If you are interested in reloading you are or will be interested in casting your own slugs. By “slugs”, I mean bullets for the firearms that you use regularly. I’ll give you examples from what I use regularly, but not nearly so much in the last few years due to the press of time, job responsibilities, and other concerns.

I have used the factory made JHP and softpoint bullets from various manufacturers over the years with great success. One of the major problems that I’ve had with factory jacketed bullets has come from Remington’s “rosebud” .357 and .44 magnum soft-nosed JHP style bullets. These tend to deform when being seated in the resized cases due to the extreme softness of the lead nose of the bullet. For that reason, I have stopped using Remington bullets in those calibers. They are very effective slugs as they come factory loaded and they do expand with extreme mushrooms, but, as stated, for reloading, they are hard to seat without deforming the lead nose. I suppose one could have a machinist or custom die shop make a seating die punch that would exactly duplicate the shape of these bullets, but that would be going to an expense and trouble that is unwarranted since there are many other makes/brands of bullets that are available for loading your own.

I used to use Nosler JHP style bullets in the various calibers, but these, by contrast to the Remingtons, were more sturdily made. That is, they were not so soft as to deform upon seating, but their lead noses were less exposed and the seating die punch would contact the copper jacket of the bullet. Since I found the copper jacket of these bullets to be more thick than others, they loaded and shot well for me, but they did not expand nearly so readily as did the Remingtons with their larger frontal exposed area of lead. The Noslers were and are made to penetrate deeper before opening up, but in my experimentations, they never quite equaled the Remington bullets in that category. So, if you want to hunt elk with a .44 magnum handgun, go with the Nosler slugs.. hollowpoint or softpoint. . . it will make little difference to the elk! Still, if you want deeper penetration, go with the softpoint and maybe get another couple of inches if that is what you’re looking for.

What do I use now? I have pretty much settled on the Winchester line of copperjacketed hollowpoints for everything from the 9mm to the .44 magnum loads that I cook up in my reloading closet at home. Why? They are reliable, seat well without deformation, and have less exposed lead than the Remingtons and more than the Noslers. This *may* sound like compromise to you, but they work well in my guns, and I can buy them in bulk at a price much less than the 100 round boxes of the other brands mentioned. Too, the jackets are slightly scored so that the bullet will open up and perform its “mushrooming” function quite well. Now that the company’s aluminum jacketed “Silver Tip” bullets are available for reloading, you might want to explore these well reputed rounds for reliability and their reputation for opening up in the target rather quickly upon impact. Me? I’ll stay with the cheaper copper jacketed bullets that I have grown to trust and am more familiar with performance wise.

As for casting my own bullets, I use mostly wheelweights mixed with a small amount of antimony and tin as found in roll solder that is marked 95/5.. meaning 95% tin and 5% antimony. My “method” is not so formal.. I simply melt down the wheelweights, skim off the dross and steel clips as they float to the top of the Lyman furnace, and add about a 30 inch piece of the solder to the mixture which is fluxed well. I have NEI, Lyman, and Lee moulds (molds) and use

them all. The Lee is my preferred mould due to the lightweight of the aluminum blocks and the economy of purchasing them.. .about \$19 for a double cavity mould. I also have a six-cavity Lee “commercial” mould that makes casting much more productive than the double cavity models. At any rate, the metal mixture makes the slug fairly hard and will not lead most barrels up to and including some 1,200 FPS(+) loads. Keeping these slugs at or around the 1,000 FPS mark will never lead my gun barrels when the bullets are properly lubed with Alox, Rooster Red, Lyman’s Alox, or the beeswax based “orange” lube that I mostly use now. My bullets are sized no more than .001 inch over bore diameter and some I size the exact diameter of the gun’s bore. I have found that GENERALLY speaking, a bullet slightly oversize will perform better than one that is bore diameter sized or slightly undersized. In fact, some of my Ruger Blackhawks have digested the Lee 454-255 .454 inch diameter bullets with really good results even though their bores are .452 inch! As many of you know from having corresponded with me over the years, I prefer the heavy, flat-nosed, semi-wadcutter style bullets for most purposes. Yes, I know that the gnat-weight, hypervelocity JHP’s are all the rage in self defense circles these days, but I have faith in the great big old slugs.

These things will put some “umph” into their punch and for the most part will start out having a diameter larger than some lesser diameter calibers have when they expand. I simply love the great big heavy bullets in my revolvers. I also wish I’d been at the OK Corral... so there you have it! HA! I’m sold on the concept of a big, slower moving slug plowing its way through the target to get the job done. Sure, some of the hyper-velocity rounds will do it, too, but I personally believe that big bullets will plow on through when others may have their mushrooming or “performance” interfered with in some way... for example, by a very heavy winter coat, etc. Even with all this said, I DO use lighter weight, high velocity loads in some of my guns like the 9mm’s and .357 magnums. Some calibers like these two just make better use of the lighter bullets and can’t handle, nor were they ever made to handle, the heavier weights of bullets that some people try to cram into their cases.

For example, look at all the police agencies that thought the 147 grain 9mm bullets were the “answer” to stopping power problems against criminals.. .most of them have now gone back to the 124 or 115 grain jacketed hollowpoint rounds! Why? The 9mm was never meant to handle slow moving large bullets like the 147 grain slugs. But, for the .41, .45 (ACP and “Long” Colt), and the .44 magnum, these are ideal for heavy bullets at moderate velocities. Their cartridge cases almost demand that one load them with bricks!

My preferred weights in the .41 magnum are the 210 and 240 grain cast slugs; the .45 Colt as I’ve stated is the 255 grain SWC cast bullet; the .45 ACP cast 230 grain round-nosed bullet is hard to beat in so far as cast slugs go for this caliber and for the .44 magnum, I prefer the 240, 245, 255, and 300(+) grain weights for heavy loads. Some of my favorite loads for the .45 Colt (often called the “Long Colt”) are 6-7 grains of Red Dot powder behind a 255 grain SWC cast bullet for about 800 FPS or slightly less. For that extra punch, I simply switch to 9.5 grains of Unique but ONLY IN RUGER SINGLE ACTION REVOLVERS!!! Do not use that load in the heirloom Colt you inherited...instead, use only 7.5 grains of Unique powder or you’ll eventually be very sorry when the gun wears out!

For the .44 magnum, I like the 255 grain SWC cast bullet from Lee moulds sized .429 inch in diameter. That bullet can be pushed by 19-20 grains of H110 or Winchester 296 powder and you’ll have all the power you’ll need. Elmer Keith liked to use 22 grains of 2400 powder pushing a 245 grain Lyman cast SWC for well over 1,200 FPS in his favored four inch S&W revolvers! That was a very stiff load and hard on the shooter, but very accurate. I use the H-110 and the 296

powders with 19-20 grains to give about 1,100(+) FPS with much less pressure and milder recoil when using the 255 grain bullet.

For the .41 magnum, 10 grains of Unique and the 240 grain cast bullet from Lee moulds is all that one could desire if the .41 is your preferred magnum round. Easily handled, strong, and over 1,000 FPS in any four to six inch barreled handgun.

I might note here that with few exceptions, I prefer the Ruger single action revolvers for most of my heavy duty shooting. Why? They have a proven track record with me and are tough to break, fairly simple to repair if they do, and have more than enough strength to handle your “pushing the limit” experimental handloads. . .my opinion only. All the loads listed above can be effectively used in any good quality namebrand handgun with no fear of losing your hand, by the way! They are well under maximum pressure levels with this one exception.. .Elmer Keith’s load of 22 grains of 2400 powder.. **THIS LOAD IS MAXIMUM!** And, I might add, if you use jacketed bullets, reduce that load to no more than 20 grains of 2400 or even 19 grains. Why? The jacketed slugs are harder to push down the barrel and the pressure curve can dramatically rise with some chance that bad things I’d rather not mention might happen! Believe it or not, hard cast bullets can be pushed faster than jacketed bullets of the same weight with the same powder charge! Why? Due to the “less friction” of the cast bullet in the barrel.

I’m going to break out my old single actions and give them a good work out real soon. Maybe I’ll cast up a few thousand bullets and load up some of my all time favorite loads and just make a weekend of it. So, if you hear thunder coming from northwest Alabama, and if its on a weekend, it may just be me out at my favorite gravel pit playing with my guns! HA! Take care.

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HAND MADE SWORD
CARBON STEEL BLADE
WITH BLOOD CARVING LINE ON BLADE
ZINC ALUMINUM GUARD
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WITH BURNED WOOD SHEATH
WITH KITS

Description: These swords are made in very limited quantities by Mr. Sutokko at his small forge. This sword is not like the cheap imitations, it is the real thing! Katana has a razor sharp blade and can be used for tameshigiri (cutting exercises) and laido. The blade is traditionally hand forged and folded powdered steel that has been differentially tempered. The sword can be disassembled for cleaning, but since it is made to much higher standards than cheaper swords (blade fits *very* snug inside the handle)

Price: \$99.95 compare to other outlets selling this katana at \$208.00

Item #: bnsrealkatana

send check or money order with item number to: North Woods Traders, P.O. Box 211, Fernwood, Idaho 83830

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Full scale replica of an AK887 Silver and Black 9mm Beretta. Uses 6mm plastic BB's (included) and 6mm Paintballs (not included). Great for target practice, with the same look and feel of a real pistol. Complete with spring activated 10 round magazine and starter pack of BB's. Unit Weight: 7 oz

- Shoots Approximately 200 FPS
- Approximately 6.5" in Length
- Comes Gift Boxed

Order # vw-AK887 Price \$19.95 S&H \$4.00



AK997 9mm Airsoft Pellet Gun

Full scale replica of an AK997 9mm Pistol. Uses 6mm plastic BB's (included) and 6mm Paintballs (not included). Great for target practice, with the same look and feel of a real pistol. Complete with spring activated 10 round magazine and starter pack of BB's. Unit Weight: 7 oz

- Shoots Approximately 200 FPS
- Approximately 6.5" in Length
- Each Gun Comes Gift Boxed

Order # vw-AK997 Price \$19.95 S&H \$4.00



Pump Action Airsoft Shotgun w/ Laser

Pump action shot gun w/ red dot laser beam and mock scope. Comes with starter pack of pellets, safety glasses and 3 AG13 batteries for laser. Hard shooting gun, fires at approximately 230 FPS. Has a mock clip. Pellets load into top of gun. Holds about 30-40 rounds. Spring loaded, but will shoot as fast as you can pump to reload. 12 pcs per master case.

Please note this gun shoots very hard and very straight. Do not shoot at humans or animals. Comes with orange tip, as required by law. Measures approximately 24 inches in length. Comes gift boxed

While this gun comes with a small starter pack of pellets, we recommend adding our 1000 or 2000 bottle of pellets to your order.

While not advertised, depending on current stock, this gun may also come with a blue LED flashlight as pictured.

Order # vw-airstgn Price \$39.95 S&H \$6.00



M16A5 Airsoft Rifle w/ Collapsible Stock

Made by Well, this MR722 M16 airsoft rifle is full scale (1:1). Shoots both 6mm Pellets (included) and 6mm Paintballs (not included). Shoots approximately 240 FPS. Spring loaded (cock and shoot). Adjustable stock (from 30" - 34"). Includes starter pack of pellets

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1000 6mm Seamless AirSoft Pellets

1000 6mm Pellets designed to be used in all our AirSoft guns, these are top quality, seamless 6mm bb's that work in all our Airsoft guns. Comes in a speedloader with screw off cap and nozzle for easy loading into your Airsoft gun. Bottle can be refilled when empty. Pellet color may vary from picture.

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Yes, The Gun Rags Lie

by Douglas P. Bell

Every so often, if you read much of my stuff of course, you will note that I mention that most of the gun/survivalist rags will state they will not print anything bad about any piece of crap they are sent as it would offend that advertiser and then other companies would not send things for them to review because they might publish the truth about the junk the other companies are putting out too, and since they really don't give a rat's petooty about you, the subscriber, they feel free to print what ever they want. As the saying goes, you can't polish a turd, but you can plate one.

Usually at this point someone will jump up and say, "OH YEAH?! Just where did you get that information?! Huh? Huh?"

If I say all you have to do is

write the XYZ Company and request a copy of the writers guidelines and it states right there that they have a company policy that NOTHING will be published if it is less than fawning, or it was in a magazine they can look up. Of course this requires effort on the part of the person whining and that will never do. Well the current (as this is being written) MARCH/APRIL 2007 issue of AMERICAN HANDGUNNER has an article by Mike Venturino where he admits that this is not only true, but he does it too. Well sure Mike doesn't lie in print, per say, but if he can't write something that makes a plated turd sound wonderful, he doesn't write it up at all. As Mike puts it, "A question often asked by gun magazine readers is 'Why do you gun writers always give good marks to every gun tested?' That's a very good question and it has many answers. The answer most seen on Internet forums is that all gun writers are dirty, rotten liars who tell outrageous falsehoods..." and continues "...and sadly, there is some truth to the charge. I know for a fact that some of the gun tests I've seen printed in magazines are lies."

A side bar (called DOG POO with cute little cartoon dog) continues with "There are at least two other reasons gun tests are always positive. One is that in cases where the gun sent to a writer was a piece of crap, it was just sent back." He continues with a talk about the long discontinued (the ONLY type of gun the writers can tell the truth about because they no longer are endangering the almighty ad dollar) Colt 2000 he was sent, that was, to say the least, a turd. As Mike put it, rather than alert the subscribers of that magazine the gun was a turd (it is/was, which is why it died in the market place, although you can find any number of articles about how this is the best thing since sliced bread from other big name writers) "I packed it up and sent it back to the editor and



told him I wouldn't write it up" to alert the subscribers and let them know it was a turd. That is called a lie of omission. As in "At [American] Handgunner if you don't see an article about a gun, there's a good reason for it. Something to keep in mind." Yes, keep in mind American Handgunner won't tell you a gun is a turd and endanger the ad revenue.

Well sure, it isn't ALL the gun writers fault, as Mike states, "The other reason gun tests are so positive is many editors (our esteemed one here excluded) won't print even a single negative word about a potential advertiser's product." See, what have I been telling you?! If it might endanger the almighty ad dollar, as in "At Handgunner if you don't see an article about a gun...", it ain't gonna see print, or at least it won't in American Handgunner, Guns & Ammo, Shooting Times, Guns, Gun World, Small Arms Review, etc. Admittedly, they ARE getting better, after all the internet has spread a lot of light (and a HUGE amount of BS) on the subject, and the various rags are starting to figure out they had better admit at least SOME of the truth or lose subscribers. I mean even Guns & Ammo in a fairly recent issue admitted the Henry Arms AR-7, one of the least reliable and most jam prone guns designs to be put into production in history, had a few jams, but of course that was the fault of the magazines notch, not because the gun was a turd (as a side note, look for the up coming review of the Henry AR-7 in the LMI coming soon). Not to be out done, Gun World magazine in the March 2007 issue admitted the S&W 22 .45 ACP revolver they tried out wasn't shooting to point of aim (POA) but was shooting 2" to the side and 3" low!! GASP!! I hope you are sitting down, because they also admitted that the cylinder would lock up and not open! What next, some writer admitting he wrote articles claiming some gun was the greatest thing since sliced bread and then admitting he may have been....er....ah, wrong? Oh wait, Dwanne Thomas already did.

Well sure they have to fill those 40 pages with something resembling information, or the sheeple would quit buying the rag. What is that you say, the MARCH/APRIL 2007 issue of the AMERICAN HANDGUNNER is 124 pages, including covers? Well that is true, BUT....(if you read my stuff for long you will note there is generally a "but"), 52+ pages of the magazine are adverts, so right off 45% of it is ads (that is not too bad, some gun rags are up to 50% adverts), there is a two page index with lots of flash, photos, glitz, but amazingly, not a whole lot of info. Add in 10 beautiful full color photos with no information (nice to look at, but useless except for flash and glitter), 19 pages with one third (33%) or less print (article/information), and one page that has a whopping 35% of a page of print, well you are down to 40 pages of information, and quite a lot of that is taken up with cute but useless little cartoon icons, photos of the writers, titles of the column/article, flashy but useless photos of whatever they can cram in to fill space, etc, because, basically, they have nothing to say and lots of pages to fill.

Please don't think I am picking on American Handgunner, because I'm not. it is actually one of the better gun rags out there and will, at times and provided the writer is sufficiently PO'ed about some turd they made the mistake of buying with their own money and the factory won't repair, even after being returned to the factory a whopping FIVE times (this is nothing, I have a Lee LOADMASTER reloading press that has a warped ram because Lee cooled the rams too fast and warped them, which Lee admits, but refuses to stand behind/repair even though the press has been sent back a few dozen times) and telling the factory they are a big name gun writer and they had better make it right OR ELSE, print the truth about the turds being put out.

The problem is, why aren't the various gun rags putting out the truth every issue, instead of only when some gun writer gets burned and pressures the editor into publishing the truth about that one item? Well as I said, the almighty ad dollar is god and the subscriber is considered too stupid to know the difference between lies, damn lies and what they publish. Here at the LMI, we will tell you the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help me God, and THAT is the difference between us and them.

Back Page

OSHA Proposes Treating Ammunition and Components as Explosives

This alert was picked up from libertypost.org

XIII. Amendments to Standards

For the reasons set forth in the preamble, OSHA proposes to amend Part 1910 of Title 29 of the Code of Federal Regulations as follows:

PART 1910—[AMENDED]

Sec. 1910.109 Explosives.

(a) Scope. (1) This section applies to the manufacture, storage, sale, transportation, handling, and use of explosives, including blasting agents and pyrotechnics.

Explosive means any device, or liquid or solid chemical compound or mixture, the primary or common purpose of which is to function by explosion. (i) The term "explosive" includes all material included as a Class 1 explosive by DOT in accordance with 49 CFR chapter I. The term includes, but is not limited to, dynamite, black powder, pellet powders, detonators, blasting agents, initiating explosives, blasting caps, safety fuse, fuse lighters, fuse igniters, squibs, cordeau detonant fuse, instantaneous fuse, igniter cord, igniters, pyrotechnics, special industrial explosive materials, small arms ammunition, small arms ammunition primers, smokeless propellant

(Ammo and Smokeless powder are now upgraded in hazard designation to the same as real explosives like det' chord and dynamite)

(c) General provisions. (1) Explosives hazards. The employer shall ensure the following:

(ii) Only persons trained in accordance with paragraph (j) of this section handle or use explosives;

(This means the UPS guy can not transport them)

(3) Fire and Explosion Prevention. (i) The employer shall ensure

(C) No person carries firearms, ammunition, or similar articles in facilities containing explosives or blast sites except as required for work duties; and

(Bye-Bye indoor shooting range, in a gun shop it is impossible by this) (

[b] (iii) Explosives are not transferred from one vehicle to another without informing local fire and police departments. A competent person shall supervise the transfer of explosives. In the event of breakdown or collision, the local fire and police departments shall be promptly notified;

(UPS etc. cannot ship under these rules)

(2) Vehicles. (i) The employer shall ensure that any vehicle used to carry explosives: (A) Is able to safely carry the designated load; (B) Has close-fitting floors; and (C) Has wood or other non-sparking materials covering any exposed spark-producing metal on the inside of the vehicle body.

(That does not sound like a UPS truck)

(C) Except under emergency conditions, no vehicle containing explosives is parked before reaching its destination on any public street adjacent to or in close proximity to any place of employment;

(The UPS guy can not leave his truck to deliver other stuff)

(2) Small arms ammunition. The employer shall ensure that small arms ammunition is separated from flammable liquids, flammable solids, and oxidizing materials, by a fire barrier wall with at least a 1-hour rating or by a distance of at least 25 feet (7.6 m).

(A gun shop cannot do this)

(3) Smokeless propellants. (i) The employer shall ensure that: (A) All smokeless propellants are stored in shipping containers in accordance with DOT regulations at 49 CFR part 173 for smokeless propellants; and (B) No more than 20 pounds (9.1 kg) of smokeless propellants, in containers not to exceed 1 pound (.45 kg), are displayed in a commercial establishment. (ii) For commercial stocks of smokeless propellants, the employer shall ensure the following: (A) Quantities over 20 pounds (9.1 kg) and not exceeding 100 pounds (45.4 kg) are stored in portable wooden boxes having walls at least 1- inch (2.54 cm) thick;)

. (4) Small arms ammunition primers. (i) The employer shall ensure that: (A) Small arms ammunition primers are stored in shipping containers in accordance with the applicable regulations of DOT (49 CFR chapter I); (B) Small arms ammunition primers are separated from flammable liquids, flammable solids, and oxidizing materials by a fire barrier wall with at least a 1-hour rating or by a distance of at least 25 feet (7.6 m); and (C) No more than 10,000 small arms primers are displayed in a commercial establishment.

There is no way for anything but a special vehicle and aircraft to transport ammo under these regs.

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