

# LMI Newsletter

Freedom Survival Homesteading

November/December 2007

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The Star Model PD

Revolvers For Survival

Pattern Your Shotgun

Target Shooting From

Your Armchair

And Much More!

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Cover photo: Slash fires on Potlatch land in the Hoodoo Range

# LMI Notes



The year has worn on fast and we are now at the end of 2007. Where on Earth does the time go to? The end of the year is a time of reflection for many. Most will be thinking back on what has been accomplished during the past year. At LMI we aren't looking back. There is still much to do and we need to be driving forward. Hopefully, you have taken advantage of our information and begun to your quest toward a more self-sufficient lifestyle and have acquired essential survival skills and gear. Gear will come out of your paycheck or perhaps you have acquired the skills to make some of your own. Skills are harder to acquire. We all have different talents that allow us to successfully focus our efforts on certain projects that we have a liking for. Some of us may like to build furniture, others may like blacksmithing, others have fun just by raising a flock of chickens and keeping a cow or two. All of these become hobbies for many people. Hobbies build our skills and give us a reservoir of crafted objects and skills to fall back on. This can eventually lead to our own businesses, a means of barter as the economy falls further into the tank, greater self-sufficiency and/or survival for yourself and loved ones.

Instead of looking back this November and December, look ahead. Look forward to the skills and knowledge you will be acquiring in the coming year. Those seed catalogs will be here in January. Since you will be ordering seeds and growing a garden anyway, why not order heirlooms plants and seeds and learn to save the seeds from those in the autumn? Like tying flies or making your own fishing lures? See if your local sporting good shop will sell some on consignment for you or see what you might get in trade. As long as you are doing something you like, acquiring the extra money or bartered items will seem effortless. You get the idea. Turn your skills, hobbies or what you like to do into a way to make your living or add to your income or gear. LMI will continue to address all of the subjects that survivalists, homesteaders and free Americans will need in the coming years.

In acquiring skills, there is one skill that all Americans must acquire and practice to maintain. The shooting skills are very important today and becoming more so. At one point in our history, most Americans owned firearms and knew how to handle them. Over the past 3/4 of a century socialistic assaults on our freedoms has eroded our Rights to own, carry and practice with our firearms. Increasing population and loss of public lands as well as more and more rules and regulations has closed a good deal of land to shooters and plinkers. As a result of socialist attack and loss of shooting lands, Americans are becoming less familiar with their firearms. We at LMI Newsletter wish to reverse this trend. Therefore, we are dedicating this issue to the shooting

skills.

In a reprint from Popular Mechanics of 1968, Dick Kirkpatrick shows us how *Target Shooting From Your Armchair* used to be done. There are still some great tips here. Details on how to build a bullet trap and to save on ammunition with wax bullets is more relevant today than when this article was first written. The cost of ammunition and loss of shooting lands will force many Americans to look for alternatives in the practice of their firearms handling skills. This article will tell you all about how to do it from the privacy of your own home.

A shotgun is an essential piece of equipment in any survivalist or homesteader battery. The shotgun is an all around firearm useful in taking big game with slugs, small game with birdshot and defense with both the rounds above as well as buckshot. Since you may need to rely on your shotgun to take small game for the table, it's best to determine how well your shotgun is functioning and to know the tricks to make it perform better. In another reprint from Popular Mechanics 1968, Clyde Lammey clues us in *For Better Hunting, Pattern Your Shotgun*. This article goes beyond the basics of patterning your shotgun and tells you what your shotgun's pattern means and the modifications and fixes can be made to your shotgun so it will perform better.

What firearms you carry determines the type of shooting you can perform. There is a firearm type that is easy to carry, compact and can take a wide variety of game as well as execute defensive duties. *Revolvers For Survival* will inform you as to the revolver's amazing versatility and how you can make that work for you in a survival situation.

*The Star Model PD* was once a very popular handgun in America. Made in Spain, the Star's light weight and compact 1911 design combined with the .45 ACP cartridge made for a tremendous carry weapon whether concealed or on the hip. The 1911 design made the weapon already familiar to Americans and the PD found a ready market while in production. Now out of production, can the Star Model PD still stand up to defensive carry duty for Americans? This article and *Star Model PD Takedown* will answer this question and let you know how this sidearm stacks up for you.

Pug Mahone's column, *Twilight*, has begun it's quest in educating readers as to what needs to be done to restore our Constitutional Republic. This is the first entry in this direction and starts with the basics. Are you up to these simple first tasks? More to come in this area.

Of course, there is much more to read here. Have a safe holiday season and keep your powder dry.

Coming December 1 to The Independent American website at <http://theindependentamerican.freeyellow.com>: A brand new issue of Green Mountain/Upriver Journal, the free online homesteading journal and The News Box, links to under reported news and information. Also look for new products and survival gear at North Woods Traders.

MERRY CHRISTMAS  
AND  
HAPPY NEW YEAR

From LMI Newsletter

# Media Mix

with Douglas Paul Bell

## Patriotic DVDs

Hollywood, for the most part, has produced gaggles of slickly produced propaganda pieces pandering toward the collectivist/socialist/communist agenda. Movies have nearly always portrayed survivalists and pro-freedom/constitutionalists as crazy cultists bent on violence, mayhem and domination. For the greater masses whose closest encounter with a survival situation has been to lock the car doors during a quick jaunt through gang territory such media portrayals has substituted this perception for reality in their minds. Those of us who are pro-American freedom and in the survival field know about Hollywood's anti-American slant, but every once in a blue moon something rare and very uncharacteristic comes out of Hollywood. A movie that portrays an American who desires to live free and prepare to survive bad situations in a way that doesn't cast dispersions on such people is released for public viewing. These are rare gems indeed and deserve recognition. We would like to spread the word about a few of these gems here. Some of these, you may have heard nothing about. They can be difficult to find, but are worth the effort and money to add to your library, as they can be used in home schooling classes and to help educate others in presenting pro-American view points to counter what is usually presented in public schools and the nightly news.

## Harry's War



Our first review is a vintage film from 1986. *Harry's War* (Comedy, 1 hour 38 minutes, Color, 1986, PG, Starring Edward Hermann, Geraldine Page, David Ogden Stiers and Karen Grassel. Directed by Kieth Merrill. Independent Film.)

In the days of Ronald Reagan, when conservatives were for limited government, less regulation and more freedom, a movement was afoot to expose the IRS as the criminal organization they are and that they have no actual authority to tax anyone. This film follows that principal as it follows the experiences of Harry, played by Edward Hermann, after his aunt, played by Geraldine Page, asks him for help in defending her property from an overzealous legal suit brought by the IRS. Harry is a mild-mannered average American who is unprepared for the viciousness, lack of due process and broad scope of unconstitutional powers of the IRS.

After a proceeding in 'tax court', Harry's aunt suffers a heart attack and dies. The aunt leaves all of the properties that the IRS covets to Harry. When Harry discovers that there are no legal options to fighting the IRS in their courts, he declares war on national television and fortifies the property with land mines and booby traps. Though this movie precedes the Waco mass murders by 11 years, government's murderous modis operandi was well known from incidents like that of

Gordon Kohl. The IRS attempts to control the media, lies to reporters and calls in the national guard to surround the property and keep the media at bay. The siege ends with a conflagration and the property is burned to the ground, but not before some surprising revelations are made live on camera about the IRS. Keep watching, however, as the burning of this property isn't the end of the film.

This movie was filmed as a comedy and has some funny moments, but reflects real life very well. The film has some sound bites and scenes that just shouldn't be missed. No patriot's life or film library is complete without seeing this film. Run out and buy this today. Buy many copies and give them away as Christmas gifts. However you are able to view this movie, do so! A must have!

### **The Last Chase**

Our second review is another vintage film from 1980. The Last Chase (Science fiction, 1 hour 46 minutes, Color, Starring Lee Majors, Chris Makepeace and Burgess Meredith, Directed by Martyn Burke, Gene Slott Productions.)

The time is the near future. America has suffered a series of disasters. A global pandemic of unknown origin and cause has decimated much of the population. At the same time, oil production appears to have come to an end and an energy crisis ensues. America's civil institutions collapse. Marshal law is declared and America collapses into an oppressive socialist order. Cars are outlawed and ordered to be turned in. Freedom is a thing of the past and thousands of laws are created. The violation of the smallest of these laws (like being late for work) can send you to a re-education center or jail.

All of this is told through the eyes of Frank Hart, played by Lee Majors. Frank Hart was a race car driver before the crisis. He is shanghaied into a bureaucracy where he becomes a spokesman for a mass transit system and is having a hard time adjusting to the new order. He is under review from the local bureaucracy for being late for work and makes matters worse by voicing his real opinions in a speech he gives to a class of school children. His review quickly turns into a criminal investigation and he is to be arrested. His outburst, however, reaches one of the school children, played by Chris Makepeace, who is a chemistry and electronics genius.

A breath of hope is offered from an illegal broadcast from resistors in California. The broadcast announces that the people in California are returning to the land and re-instituting American freedoms. They are rebuilding and living free without interference from the new American socialist system and are inviting others to join them. Hart quickly makes plans to escape to California in a 917-10 Porsche race car that he had buried under his garage. He is joined by Chris Makepeace's character who is also being hunted by police for scrambling the electronics of the bureaucracy's surveillance system. Together, they evade police who have no hope of matching the race car's speed due to a lack of vehicles and helicopters. They break out of the city and head across country toward California.

Of course, the bureaucracy isn't going to take this lying down. They refurbish an old F-86 Saber Jet and re-activate an old veteran fighter jockey from the Korean Conflict, played by Burgess Meredith, to hunt the car down and destroy it. The race is on. There are some plot twists with the fighter pilot becoming a wild card and the bureaucracy holding an ace in its sleeve in the form of an automated laser weapon. Will Hart win a round for freedom? Will the totalitarian government quash another attempt to live free? Watch this movie. It is entertaining and there are

some great sound bites representing a bureaucracy's frustration with freedom.

There are some flaws in this movie. One being that Hart's escape takes place 20 years after the last car has been rounded up and the fuel supply is cut off. While the movie shows that he is able to access gasoline with a hand pump from the bottom of gas station tanks, the gas would have degraded into varnish in this amount of time. Other than the obvious miscalculations, this movie is worth the watch and is highly entertaining. Buy yourself a copy, you'll want to watch it again and show it to friends.

## Shooter



Our last movie review for this issue is a new (2007) movie just released on DVD. Shooter (Action adventure, 2 hours 5 minutes, Color, Starring Mark Wahlberg, Danny Glover and Ned Beatty, Directed by Antoine Fuqua, Paramount Pictures)

Here is one action packed adventure movie! The main character is Bob Lee Swagger, played by Mark Wahlberg. As the movie opens, Swagger is on a mission in a hostile African country. He is a Marine Force Recon sniper who, along with his spotter, is assigned to cover the retreat of 'friendly forces' egressing from hostile territory. Swagger accomplishes his mission and his spotter is killed in the process. After engaging hostiles, the alphabet soup agency that is controlling the mission abandons Swagger behind lines, leaving him to escape and evade on his own.

The film skips ahead and Swagger is disillusioned with the government and suspicious of its intentions. He is living in the remote mountains of Wyoming with only his dog. He keeps check on what's going on in the world via the internet. There is a great scene where he picks up a copy of a book on 9/11 and checks the internet while saying to his dog, "Let's see what lies they're telling us today."

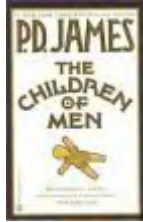
The plot thickens as the alphabet soup agency develops a scheme to assassinate a political leader. They recruit Swagger as a patsy by telling him they are aware of a plot to assassinate the president and need his help to plan out how a terrorist might get a shot at him. Swagger agrees to help them and develops a scenario that a terrorist might use to shoot the president. The alphabet soup agency hijacks the scenario and arranges for Swagger to be present at the scene. Not being paranoid enough, Swagger falls for this deception and discovers he is set up only when a corrupt local cop puts two bullets in him. Some very good, intense chase scenes and action sequences follows as Swagger escapes authorities and a nation wide manhunt to find refuge at his former spotter's wife's place. He is patched up and recovers as he hears the news that the alphabet agency has set him up by planting evidence and shooting his dog. Another great scene ensues as he declares to his spotter's wife that 'they' don't know what they've started here. They shot my dog. Swagger is off to war with the alphabet agency and unravels a plot that involves Swagger's mission in hostile territory to cover the egress of what he was told was friendly forces.

This movie has it all. An out of control government agency. Plots reminiscent of Lee Harvey Oswald and Timothy McVeigh, sniper tactics, chases, explosions, pro-freedom beliefs and wonderful revenge. If this movie has one flaw, it is the hero's habit of killing the bad guys with head shots. The bad guys were so sleazy, I would have preferred gut shooting the buggers and finishing the job at my leisure with a claw hammer. This is another keeper. Buy this movie.

**Books**

**The Children Of Men**

reviewed by Douglas P. Bell

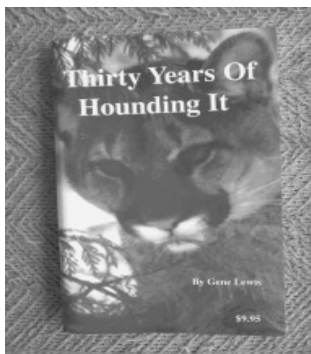


The Children Of Men by P.D. James (Alfred A. Knopf, 1992, 7"x 6", 241 pages), is an English novel about how human sperm, worldwide, goes sterile all at once in 1995, although the book is set in 2021. Fresh squeezed, frozen or from concentrate, it all goes bad all at once. Great Britain is taken over by an obvious Churchill clone who becomes dictator, the Warden of England. The main character in the book is Theodore Faron, the Warden's cousin, and a totally ineffectual person. Possibly this is why the book bounces between the first person and the third person through out the book, the "hero" is such a loser even the writer couldn't keep him in mind.

Anyway, the "hero" is contacted by five ineffectual "revolutionaries" who want to change things, for five different reasons of course. As it turns out, one of the two women of the group is pregnant and that would be the first child born in 26 years, the other, as luck would have it, is a midwife. One of them is caught, the group flees, the "leader" of the group, who wants to become dictator himself, turns the group into the Warden of England, the "hero" shoots the Warden of England and everyone just rolls over and accepts him as the new leader. End of story.

This book, aside from being incredibly boring, has nothing to do with survival/survivalism and was recommended on a survivalist group on the internet, but why is another matter. In any case, this book gallops along with all the speed and power of a snail with a bad limp. Not recommended.

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# Star Model PD

by Corceigh Green



Quite often when one gets older and set in his ways, he tends to stick with what is comfortable. Take me. As a lifelong survivalist and outdoorsman, I am quite content with a well made revolver on my hip. Revolvers do a lot for me in the backwoods and on my homestead. I would have been content to carry a revolver for the rest of my life, but I now find myself carrying a Star Model PD pistol in .45 ACP with me close to 24/7. Why would a die hard revolver guy switch to a semi-auto pistol? Did I find something better?

Not really. I haven't switched my preference, but, as many of us, I belong to something with a larger view. A survival group needs to knit together and have some things like ammunition and equipment type in common. Others think of a nice large bore revolver as a macho relic of Dirty Harry movies. While I disagree with this premise, I was outvoted by my little group nonetheless. Our little group's sidearms are viewed as defensive items. They need to have ammunition in common and the basic type should be based on the Colt 1911 design. This combination gives us ample stopping power and a familiar design that every member of the group can operate without forethought.

This combination also had me in the market for a new sidearm. My first choice in this category was the Para-Ordinance 14.45 LDA. Unfortunately, this sidearm's price tag tops a thousand dollars. Firearms based on the 1911 design abound with many high quality pieces being found for under five hundred dollars. Work in the blue collar field doesn't exactly leave a person wealthy, so I opted to find a high quality sidearm based on the 1911 design with an affordable price tag.

As chances had it, I knew right where to find one.

My boss had returned from out of State earlier in the spring with a trunk load of firearms from a gunsmith's estate sale. He had run across a nice collection of longarms and sidearms, a couple of which he was willing to part with. One of those sidearms he was willing to sell just happened to be a Star Model PD. Since I was able to work-barter for the firearm, it was a natural choice for me.

The Star Model PD was manufactured by Star Bonifacio Echevaerria, SA of Eibar, Spain from 1975 to 1983. It is chambered for the .45 ACP cartridge. The Star Model PD was very popular in America during its manufacture. The .45 ACP cartridge made the compact Star PD viable in its intended defensive role. The Star Model PD is basically a 1911 design semi-auto pistol. It sports a 3 1/2 inch barrel similar to the Colt Commander. One major difference that differentiates the Star from the Colt designs right away is the lack of a grip safety. The barrel bushing on the Star is unlike the barrel bushing of most 1911 designs in that it incorporates a guide rod bushing in one piece unlike the Colt design which utilizes a recoil spring plug and is not one piece with the barrel bushing.

The feel of the Star PD, while quite similar in ergonomics to other 1911 designs, differs in a lighter, quicker feel. This is due to an aluminum alloy frame. This makes the Star lighter. Most feel a lighter firearm is more comfortable to carry. Being used to the big revolvers and after carrying the Star for several weeks, the difference in weight is quite remarkable. When carrying a revolver I like to carry two or three speed loaders and a knife on my other hip to balance the weight. With the Star you can simply slip it onto your belt, holster or inside the pants carry and you may just forget it's there. Balance aside, however, I always recommend carrying extra loaded magazines with you when carrying any firearm.

The aluminum alloy frame can also be a liability. Star used a plastic recoil buffer which is inferior to recoil buffers made of other materials. This put extra stress on the aluminum alloy frame. Aluminum alloy is weaker than steel and the frames do not last as long. After many frames had worn out in the course of firing the Star PDs, the Star gained the reputation as a great carry gun, but only for occasional duty. Should you acquire a Star Model PD for IPSC competition, you'll wear the gun out within the year. A lot of Americans carrying the Star PD would buy two. One for practice and one for carry, or a person would carry the Star for comfort and practice with an all steel 1911 design.

The Star PD will stand up well to practice with target loads and occasional practice with defense loads. As long as you avoid epic practice sessions with defense loads on the scale of an IPSC competitor the Star should hold up well. Practice can also be supplemented with other sidearms. For instance, I can train my eye to use my sights and hit what I'm aiming at through the use of my revolvers or other concealed carry pistols. I can train my muscle memory through changing magazines and dry fire practice and through the use of Airsoft practice guns sold through North Woods Traders. (*Expect an upcoming article on these practice pistols.*)

I usually judge the quality of a firearm by how well it operates after first being removed from the box upon purchase. If I have to do any smithering on a firearm to make it perform its basic functions or if those functions operate too roughly, I view the firearm as poor quality. Unfortunately, or rather fortunately, for me, my Star Model PD was purchased at an estate sale by my boss. The estate was that of a gunsmith who took care to purchase quality firearms and custom work them to bring out their best performance and to operate flawlessly. Therefore, my

assessment of the operation of my Star may be atypical. However, the reputation of the Star Model PD indicates that the handling and operation of my Star is similar and normal compared to other Star Model PDs.

My Star Model PD came in its original plastic box and one magazine, no spares. It's in pristine condition with 100% bluing and no wear. It had been fired only a few times by the previous gunsmith/owner to verify the work done on it. Work done on the sidearm seems to include honing the hammer and trigger groups, honing and smoothing the slide and frame and widening and beveling the ejection port. I paid \$375 for it. A bit above its high Blue Book value, but since I could work/barter for it and was a private sale, I didn't mind the few extra bucks. Plus, in my area firearms always sell at a premium.

Beside looking good, a sidearm should also perform flawlessly. Your life could depend on its function. On its first outing to the range, I found the Star to perform as close to flawlessly as a pistol can be expected to perform. At that first outing a friend and myself put two boxes of ammo (100 rounds)

through the sidearm. While I didn't experience any malfunctions on this first outing, my friend experienced close to one per six round magazine. I chalked this up to partly my friend's grip on the pistol and partly to the luck of the draw. Pistols can be finicky and a variety of circumstances

### Accessories: Magazines

Factory magazines for the Star Model PD has all but dried up. Fortunately, there are a few aftermarket magazine sources that still exist. One source that can still be found is the Pro-Mag Star Model PD aftermarket magazines. I found a good deal on these from Bullseye Sports ([www.bullseysport.com](http://www.bullseysport.com)). They were single stack, ten round magazines. Their seven round magazines were out of stock. I would have wanted some of the ten rounders anyway, so I bought a few of them at \$14.99 each.

Delivery was fast and the magazines arrived in good condition. The magazines were brand new and still wrapped in their original plastic packages. My first act was to load the magazines to be sure they were of the correct dimensions. Loading the single stack ten round magazines was easy and smooth. There was no sharp corners to cut the hand and fingers on, nor were there any sticking points or rough areas.

Once loaded, I wanted to fit the magazines into the magazine well. This is where I ran into a problem with the Pro-Mags. Upon my first attempt I noticed that the magazines were not seating all the way into the magazine well to fit against the receiver. This is definitely a problem. Trying to force the magazines in and giving them some good, hard smacks didn't work. The problem was solved by pressing the magazine release when pushing in the magazines. Release the magazine release after slapping the magazine home and the magazine will stay firmly in place. This fit was consistent with all of the Pro-Mags, which proved the magazines' tolerances were a bit too wide and they were catching on the magazine catch, preventing the magazines from seating.

Despite the overly snug fit in the magazine well, the magazines fed as well as the factory magazine with malfunctions happening only once every ten to twenty full magazines were fired. The Pro-Mags, once properly seated in the magazine well worked very nicely. I was able to empty several fully loaded ten round magazines without a failure to feed or malfunction. The magazines dropped from the magazine well after pressing the magazine release button readily, but did feel a little sticky.

Bottom line on the Pro-Mag aftermarket magazines for the Star Model PD: If I could find a ready supply of Star factory magazines, I would definitely prefer them over the Pro-Mags. Since resources for the discontinued Star are becoming more scarce, these Pro-Mag aftermarket magazines will do the job and they do work when properly seated into the magazine well. This is why training is important. Your body must remember how to seat the magazines in a combat situation.

may or may not cause a malfunction. As the malfunctions on this day took the form of stove pipes (spent cartridge cases hanging up in the ejection port), and the fact that I didn't experience a malfunction, I deemed the pistol to be in operating condition.

Future outings proved the pistol to be in excellent working order. As with all pistols, I do experience an occasional malfunction. I have experienced one failure to feed and a few stove pipes. I can expect to experience these once every ten or twenty, six or ten round magazines have been emptied. This is normal for all pistols and are sometimes the shooters' fault due to grip or improper trigger technique. This is a major reason why training with your pistol is necessary. Training helps you to know how to handle and clear malfunctions. As mentioned, the Star came with only one magazine. I purchased some extra ten round Pro-Mag magazines from Bullseye Sports. See the accessories insert for an assessment on these. In assessing the Star's quality, I and my friend fired the weapon for accuracy, rapid fire to check for extreme function and quick defensive shooting with follow up shots.

Overall the operation of the Star Model PD is excellent and on par or superior to many other makes of pistols including those of the 1911 design. Accuracy was also very good. Groups at seven feet, fired off-hand came in averaging three inches when firing a six round magazine. The group opened up to between five and six and a half inches at twenty five yards, again firing six round groups. For defensive means only, this is sufficient to hit man sized targets at defensive handgun ranges.

Rapid fire was performed as fast as one could press the trigger. Accuracy was not a consideration in this test. The only point to this test was to determine if the Star would operate under extreme rapid fire conditions. As mentioned, I did not experience a malfunction, though my friend did. After several more tests with the factory and aftermarket magazines, I've experienced an average of one malfunction about every fifteen magazines. Also this Star PD was never broken in. It was basically pristine in the box, so I expect the rate of malfunctions to decrease even more as the sidearm is used. This would mark this pistol as quality.

Quick defensive shooting was done from the hip and at the ready. This was to test for handling ability. Being a 1911 design, one wouldn't think that handling would be much different than other 1911s, but there is some difference. The light aluminum alloy frame makes the draw and presentation a bit quicker. Handling also feels faster and the sites go naturally onto the target with little effort. The short barrel also helps in the draw as it clears the holster more quickly. You'd think that recoil would feel stronger, but, again this is surprising as recoil does not feel more pronounced at all. This sidearm handles extremely well. It's quickness and point-ability make it very hard to beat in a defensive situation.

One more word is necessary for those who may be in the decision making process to buy a Star Model PD. That is in the way of accessories. The problem will be in parts and magazines. Since this pistol was discontinued in 1983, parts and magazines are drying up. You are more likely to be able to find parts and magazines for a pistol still in production unless a firearms ban becomes reality in the future. If such anti-American rules are enforced, parts, ammo and magazines for any firearm is going to be hard and expensive to acquire.

To say the least, I am impressed with this defensive pistol. It is a pleasure to carry, accurate, handles well, quick and incorporates a cartridge that gets the job done. For the money the only other pistol of the 1911 design available was the Springfield Arms 1911 GI. The Springfield Arms is an all steel frame sidearm that is also of high quality. Look for a review of this firearm in

the future as well. The price tag was \$450.00 at the time and the choice between the two was purely one of convenience. The full size Springfield was \$75.00 more. Not all that much, but I was offered the chance to work/barter for the Star. My budget was more able to comfortably absorb the work/barter arrangement for the Star. I'm rather happy that the arrangement worked out. I now have a quality defensive sidearm that is standard with my little group and have the experience of firing and handling another make and model of firearm. A win-win for everyone! Would I recommend the Star Model PD to individuals or groups looking for a defensive sidearm? I can say yes to that based on the experience I've had with mine.

**Accessories: Holsters** Holsters are one item that is plentiful and easy to find for the Star Model PD. Any holster that will fit the Colt Commander will fit the Star Model PD. There are a variety of holsters available on the market from concealed carry holsters to on the hip, duty holsters. Presently, I have been carrying my Star in an Uncle Mike's nylon belt holster size 5-A. This model accommodates my Star very well. It is easy to carry, unobtrusive and is very nice on the draw. I have been carrying cocked and locked and the holster's restraining strap also prevents the hammer from falling accidentally. An important feature in my opinion. While this type of holster with the open bottom exposing the barrel end of slide and frame is a convenient carry holster, many may find themselves crawling about in the woods which will leave the firearm unprotected. I will definitely be in the market for a holster with a similar restraining strap, but will protect the firearm better.

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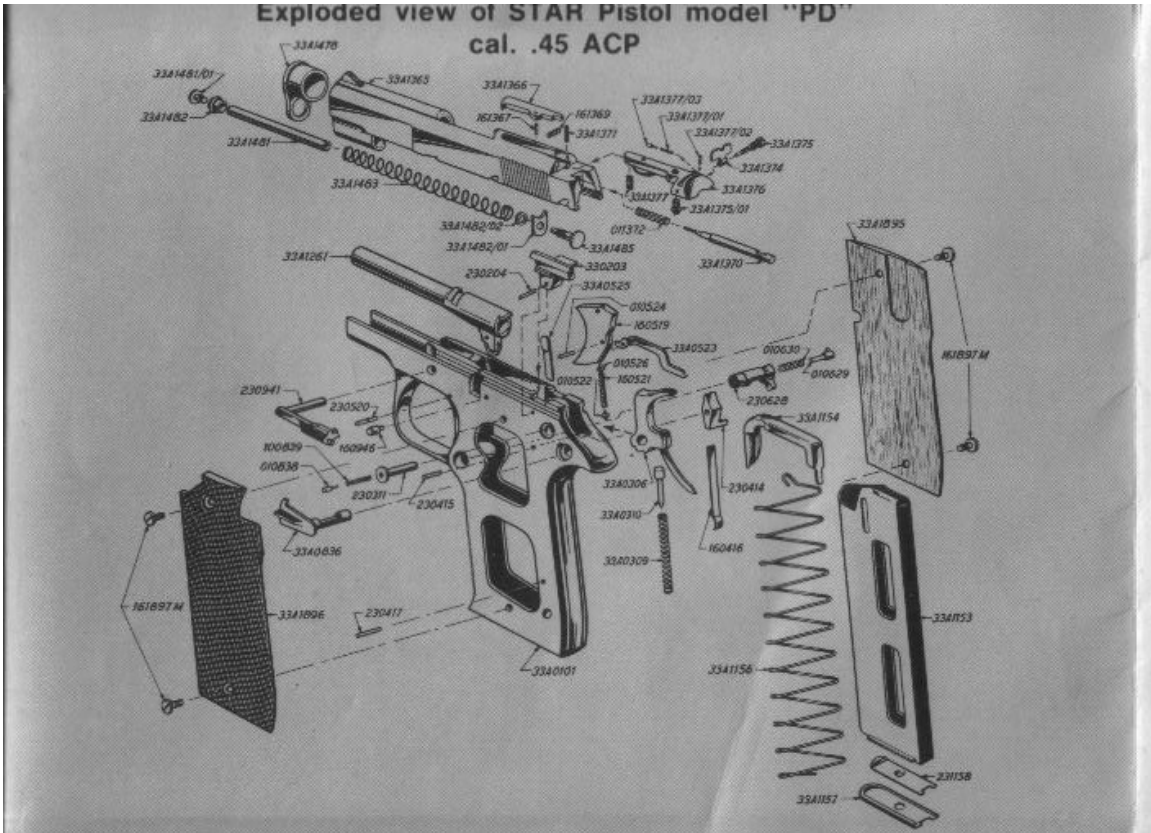
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# Star Model PD Take Down



Star Model PD Data:

Caliber .....	.45 ACP
Factory Magazine Capacity .....	6 rounds
Weight with empty magazine .....	1.566 pounds
Overall Length .....	7.086 inches
Height .....	4.921 inches
Width of Grip .....	1.181 inches
Barrel Length Including Chamber .....	3.927 inches
Barrel Length: Rifled Section Only .....	2.755 inches
Number of Grooves .....	6
Depth of Grooves .....	.00354 inches
Width of Grooves .....	.15748 inches
Twist of Rifling .....	1 turn in 12.282 inches
Right Hand Twist	

To Disassemble Pistol:

1. Remove magazine from magazine well. Be certain pistol is unloaded by moving slide back and checking chamber at least three times.

2. Leave hammer cocked.

3. Hold pistol in right hand. Grasp slide in left hand. Push slide to rear and engage the safety by pushing upwards with thumb into middle notch of slide. Slide will now be held in place.



4. Press the index finger of the right hand against the end of the slide stop cam which protrudes from the opposite side of the frame above the trigger guard and withdraw the slide stop with the left hand.



5. Free the slide by lowering the safety, taking care to hold the slide in the left hand: draw the slide forward until it is removed from the frame.



6. Pull out the guide rod and recoil spring by lifting up on the rear of the guide rod and pulling back toward the chamber.



7. Twist the barrel bushing counter clockwise and remove.

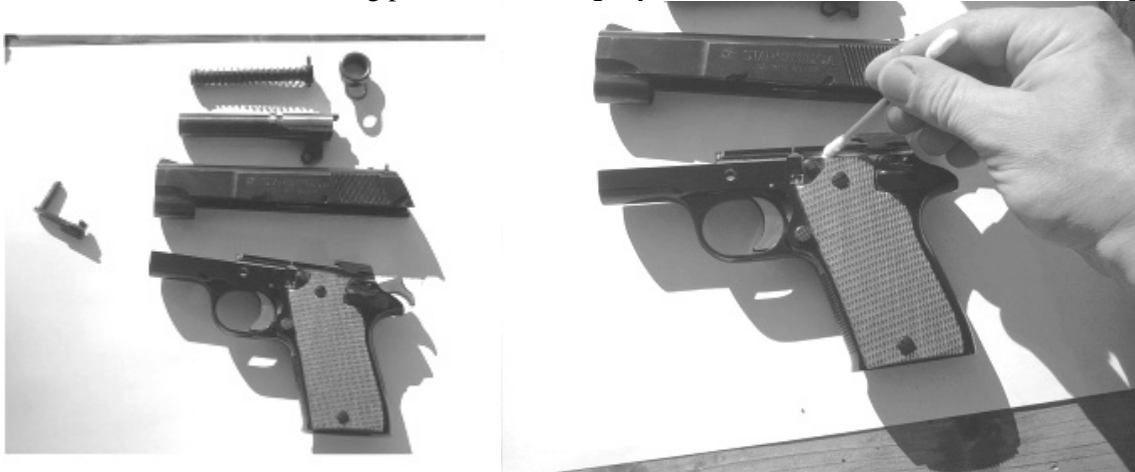


8. Push the barrel link forward and slide the barrel forward out of the slide.





While disassembled, all moving parts should be lightly oiled. Clean firearm before reassembling.



By placing oil on a cotton swab, oil slide grooves in the frame and slide.

Use only standard loads in the Star Model PD. Plus P and stiff loads put too much pressure on the frame. Reloading is OK with the Star and I have fired many reloads through mine. Just keep your loads in a standard pressure and velocity configuration and your Star will perform and last a long time.

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## TARGET SHOOTING FROM YOUR ARMCHAIR

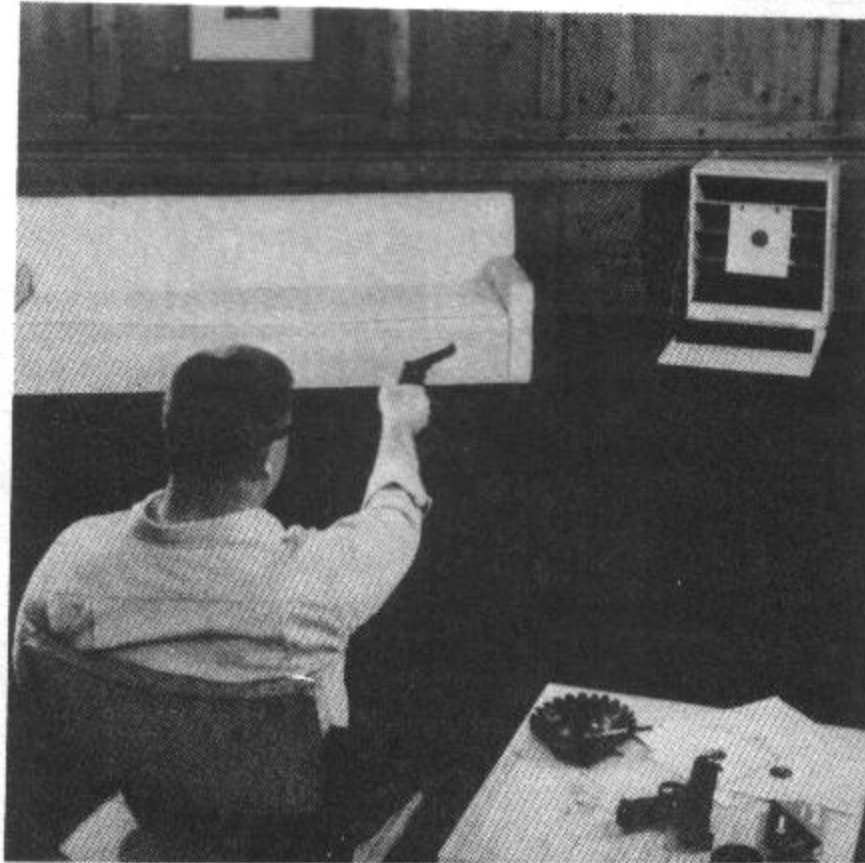
by Dick Kirkpatrick

Reprinted from Popular Mechanics 1968

*With the right kind of bullet trap you can fire anything from spring powered BBs to big bore handguns and rifles in your own living room. And it's perfectly safe.*

What, fire that revolver in the den? Sure, why not? The person in the photo to the right is shooting .22 shots into a perfectly safe bullet trap that soaks them up with no danger of backspatter. It's cold outside, and he couldn't shoot safely in his suburban neighborhood anyway. It's

comfortable indoors, and the thick paneled walls and acoustically tiled ceiling keep the noise down. And if his wife does complain, he can always switch to the quieter CO2 pistol on the table. They'll hardly hear that upstairs.....



Indoor shooting, whether in an armchair or regulation basement range, is becoming more and more popular. And more and more good equipment is becoming available for it. You can shoot anything from spring powered BBs to big bore handguns and rifles in your living room-if you can get away with it-in complete safety. With 15 ft. of space, you can set up a range for BB guns, and the new spring powered weapons are a far cry from the equipment you got in trouble with when you were a kid. With 25 ft. and a little leg room, you can set up an official scale NRA course for .22 target work. And 35 to 50 ft. (plus an indulging family) is enough for your own indoor trapshooting setup if you like, using the efficient and inexpensive .22 shotshells with eggshell birds and launching equipment to match. About the only thing you can't scale down to the living room or basement is full sized shotgun shooting.

### Living Room Rifle Range

Big bore rifles-guns over .22 rimfire size-are no problem, though. Although too powerful to stop with a simple bullet trap, too noisy to fire indoors without acoustical help, and pretty expensive to shoot for fun, you can throw away the book and shoot them with wax, plastic or small bore insert bullets. Then the big gun becomes very practical and quite inexpensive for indoor plinking. The power for all three systems is just the pistol primer-no regular powder charge at all. It provides power-and accuracy-enough for close range indoor shooting, and still feels like the real thing. So you can shoot your .30-06 in the living room, too.

Wax bullets are certainly the easiest and least expensive. Starting with an empty cartridge, you fit in the proper sized primer (large pistol or shotgun primers work best) for the power. You melt a pan of paraffin (or, better still, specially made bullet wax you can buy at a sporting goods store) and pour it into a shallow pan until it's about 5/16 inch deep, though the depth isn't critical. Shove the empty case down through the cooled wax like a cookie cutter, then lift it back out with a slight twist, and it's loaded and ready to fire. For serious wax bullet shooting, you'll want to drill a few cases to take the big shotgun primers for maximum power, or buy predrilled cases designed for that kind of load. There's a wax loading kit on the market that contains all the equipment plus some simple tools to simplify reloading plus a supply of special wax that doesn't foul gun barrels as much as paraffin. In either case, you'll want to clean out the barrel frequently to remove wax deposits. For best results, the flash hole inside the primer pocket needs to be opened to about 1/10 inch, too. For the wax bullet man, there are pre-cast wax bullets that fit into the cases but aren't reusable.

### **Shoot Nylon Bullets**

That factor brings up the second way to shoot big bores indoors. You can buy molded nylon cases and bullets that work like the wax outfits, using the same primers for power. The nylon slugs, though, are tough enough that they're reusable indefinitely as long as you shoot into a fairly soft backstop. While neither wax nor plastic bullets will reproduce real bullet accuracy, you can get 3 inch groups at 25 ft. with any of them and probably a little better with the nylon bullets.

One big advantage of wax bullets for western style shooters: The fast draw boys use low primer loads and soft wax bullets and draw down against themselves in a *heavy* plate glass mirror. The wax won't break the heavy glass, and it sticks where it hits for scoring, but don't try it on the antique pier glass. Wax bullets do deliver a pretty good punch. They'll break ordinary glass, and can deliver a pretty good bruise-maybe even put out an eye. Whatever "soft" load you use, handle the gun as if it had real bullets in it.

Another way to shoot big bore handguns indoors is to use the cylinder insert bullets that use a primer to fire a BB through a short barrel built into the case. They carry out through the barrel without touching it, hit hard enough to penetrate 1/4 inch plywood at 25 ft. and deliver fair accuracy.

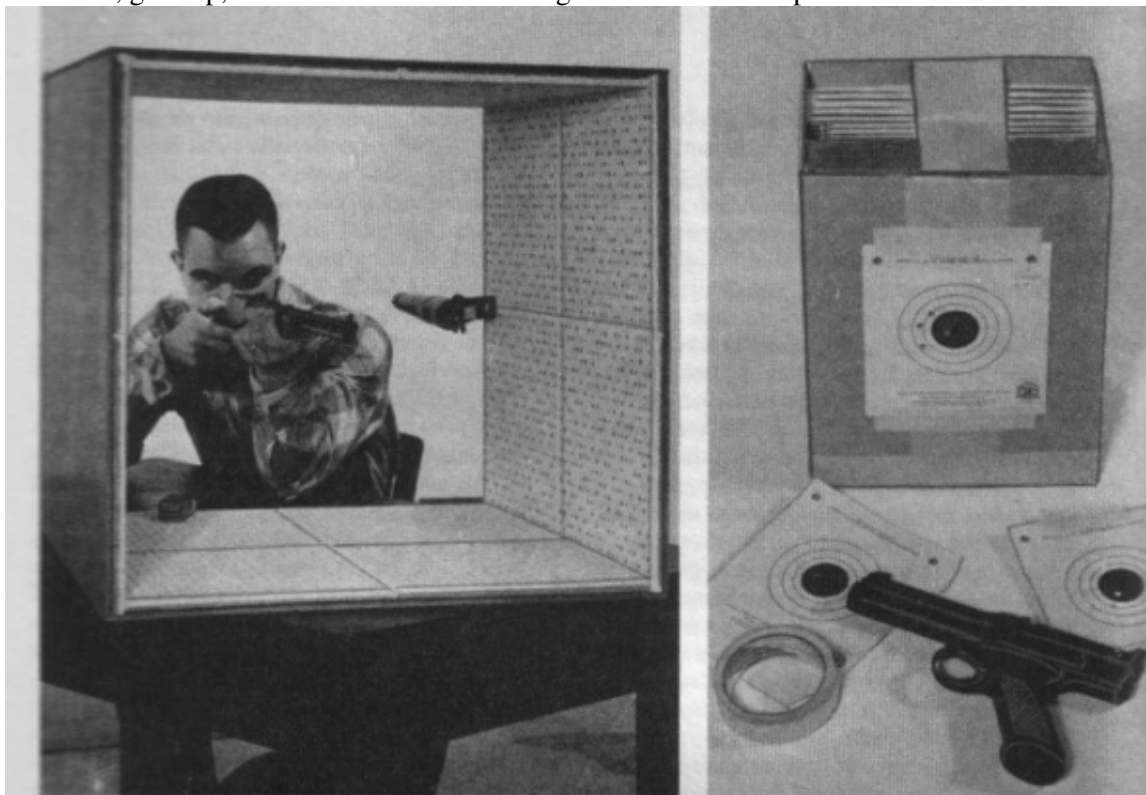
For pure fun shooting it's hard to beat the old spring powered BB gun now as it was 20 years ago. The new ones are a lot easier to use and harder hitting than they were then, too, but the cost is still only the price of the BBs-and they're reusable if you shoot into a soft backstop like the one pictured. A good BB gun can be found for a small price, but deliver good, consistent accuracy at BB gun range (15 ft.) and hits 350 ft. per second for impressive punch at that range. With good copper coated BBs selling for much less than ammunition and the power coming from your good right arm, it's a lot of shooting that won't break your budget.

## Economical And Accurate

Next best for economy, but accurate enough to be used in NRA 25 ft. competition, are the hand-pumped pneumatic guns. They use arm power (and more of it) but shoot BBs, .177 caliber or .22 skirted lead bullets through a rifled barrel. You can pump them for 2 or 3 up to 10 or 12 strokes, and get low power for soft backstops and indoor shooting, or very good punch for long range shooting or varmint hunting. The gun is more expensive than the spring powered models, but if you buy the .177 caliber models, you can still shoot BBs for plinking at a penny per shot.

Skirted pells, or pellets, aren't expensive, either. They provide the best accuracy for the money of any of the indoor guns if you don't mind pumping them. The pumping isn't tough for most people, though some women and smaller children find it difficult.

The liquid CO2 bottle made the big breakthrough in pneumatic weapons right after WWII, when pellet gun manufacturers learned to use that inexpensive bottled power for their guns. Now you get CO2 powered rifles and pistols that'll fire from 20 to 40 rounds or more on a one or two cartridge charge of CO2 delivering effortless, consistent shots up to 650 ft. per second. The cost, of course, goes up, but not too much. A cartridge costs about a couple of bucks.



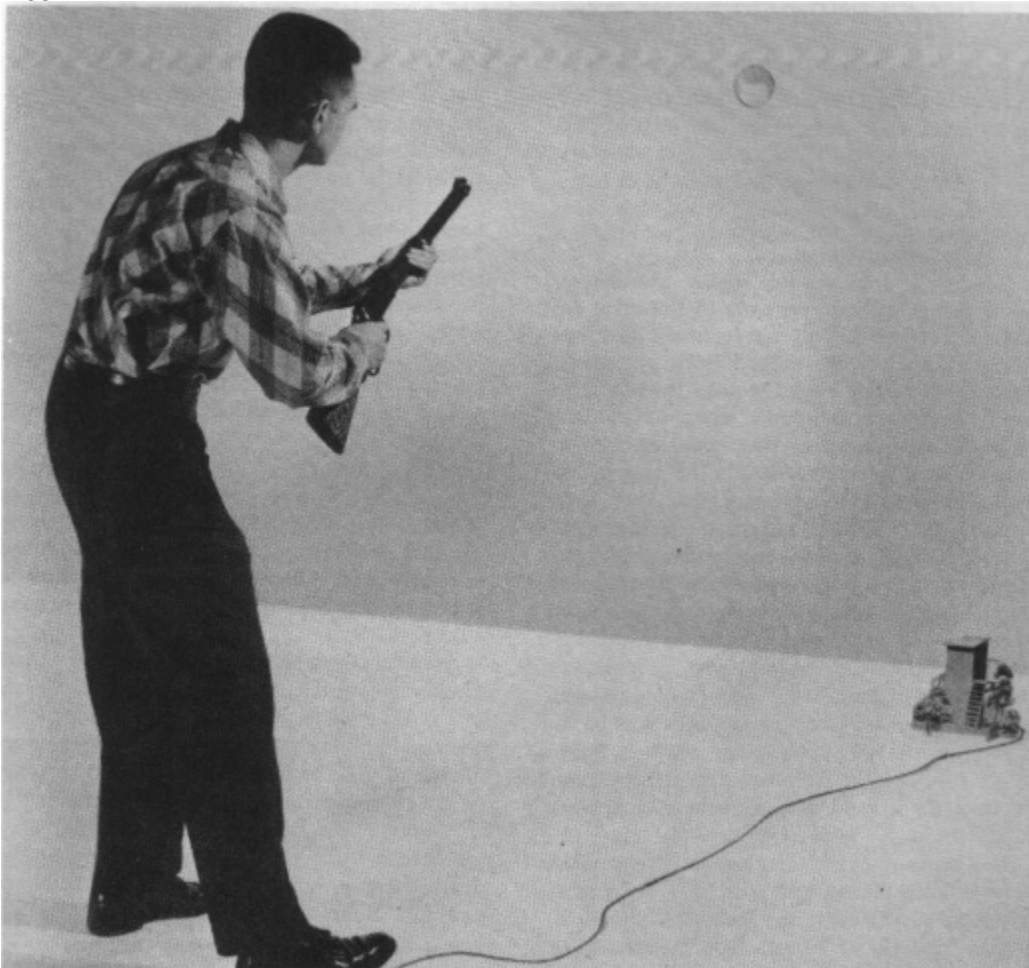
A shooting box (left) lined with acoustical ceiling tile, gives a break on noise with .22s. The bigger the box the better it works; 2 x 4-ft. sides reduce the noise 15 percent. The National Rifle Association recommends 4 x 4 ft. or larger. A shooting mat and pad also helps. Here (right) is an easy stop for BBs, CO<sub>2</sub> and air-gun pellets, also wax or plastic bullets. It's a cardboard box filled with old phone directories stacked tightly. It costs nothing and is good for hundreds of rounds, is safe and can be set up anywhere there's shooting room. To close the front of the box (it gets riddled) stick new targets over the old

You can buy CO2 powered pistols and rifles in a broad price range for under \$100. The highest priced models have everything the big time match .22 rifles have, including pinpoint accuracy.

Both pistols and rifles have are available in single shot, manual repeating and semiautomatic models just like powder weapons. They're tops for indoor shooting, with plenty of accuracy, big gun sights and features, but a minimum of noise and no need for a bullet trap. The simple box stop shown on the last page will do nicely if you shoot carefully.

This winter most of the high level indoor shooting is being done with the regular .22 rifle on 25 ft. and 50 ft. indoor ranges, as it has for years. The .22 is hard to beat for inexpensive precision shooting on regular ranges, and makes a perfectly practical indoor weapon-if you have an adequate bullet stop-or trap. [ *ED: Rifles and handguns in .22 caliber can be purchased used in very good condition for as little as \$40 as I have done just a few years ago.* ] You can pay more if you like custom goodies. Almost any of them will provide satisfying accuracy at indoor distances; at 25 ft. the sights mean more than the gun as a rule.

The bullet trap isn't too big a problem. You can buy a .22 trap and a heavy duty model for any size handgun load without destroying your budget. You can build the excellent "venetian blind" trap for little more than the price of steel plates. It'll stop .22s for years, and take an occasional bigger load once in a while.



*With this cork firing "trapshooting" outfit, the shooter's foot presses a bulb to release a breakaway "bird". Then he fires, aiming to "break" it.*

Maybe the biggest problem with shooting the .22 indoors is the noise. Especially in a concrete

floor basement, it does ring the ears a bit. An acoustical ceiling and acoustically tiled walls make a big difference. The acoustical shooting box shown will be some help. Surprisingly, the normally quiet .22 shorts seem to make almost as much noise as the long rifle loads when shooting indoors, though they have a definite price advantage. At 25 ft. they're both more accurate than *you* will be for anything but formal target work.

Best place to go for information on shooting indoors is the National Rifle Association, 1600 Rhode Island Ave NW, Washington, D.C. 20036. Write for their excellent booklet on the 25 ft. shooting program. [Ed: *you can become a member of the NRA for a small fee, but the NRA has not only compromised the individuals' Rights to keep and bear arms, but have supported anti-freedom bills. If you want to become a member of a pro-American gun ownership organization, check out [www.gunowners.org](http://www.gunowners.org).*] It's always more fun to shoot indoors or out.

The bullet trap detailed is an inexpensive, easy-to-build home range version of the excellent venetian blind bullet traps designed for commercial and police range use by Joseph Nikoden of the Detroit Bullet Trap Company of Chicago. It's less likely to produce "splashback" than the single plate traps. It doesn't throw as much sand around the basement, nor does it take up so much floor space when not in use. This design can be scaled up or down to almost any size and is flexible enough that it can be changed to fit the steel plates available to you. We show this one in detail, but mostly to give you the principles of venetian blind trap design.



Key to the trap are the angled, overlapping plates that actually do the work of deflecting the incoming bullets. Key to *that* feature is that bullets don't bounce like billiard balls, but smear out and slide along a hard, smooth surface. The soft .22 slug smears down along the slanted plate, off onto the steel back plate, and down into the sand or wet sawdust in the base of the trap. The angle of the primary plates isn't very critical—30 to 45 degrees will do, though the shallower the angle, the less backscatter you'll get. However, the 45 degree angle soaks up more of the force of impact, reducing wear at other points. You'll get a slight, harmless (at 5 ft.) powder spatter at any angle, however. When the bullet upsets against the plate, some of the metal is squeezed back in the direction of its flight. In any indoor shooting, where the bullet might strike something other than the backstop or trap, it's a good idea to wear glasses as a safety extra.

For frequent, heavy shooting, the side, top and bottom lining plates are a good idea, since

spattering metal will wear the wood walls in time. Lining "plates" can be very light sheet metal of any kind. The 20 gauge steel in the pilot model would last a lifetime. Heavy plate pays off on the louvered deflectors and the protective plate over the built in lights.

It's important to make sure that each primary plate overlaps those above and below it enough that, no matter from what position you're firing, you can't see the backplate. (It's best to paint the backplate light gray to be sure you can see it if you work into a dangerous position.)

Mr. Nikoden's basic design holds, no matter how big-or small-you build a venetian blind bullet trap. It could be 6 inches square or 6 ft. square. About the only limiting factor would be it's weight-it must be heavy enough to stay put under bullet impacts and light enough to be somewhat portable, though the latter isn't important if you have the space.

The paper target (another inexpensive item that costs about a penny) is easily attached by bending it over the leading edge of one of the primary plates, using masking tape to anchor it to the reverse side. Or a wire can be run across the face of the trap, passing through the coiled springs of 2 clamp type clothespins, which in turn hold the target. Either way, there's nothing to deflect a bullet.

With the trap 30 inches tall (depending on your choice of targets), there is no reason to elevate it for shooting in the standard position. With smaller traps this may be necessary; it's an easy matter to set it on a box or table, or to hang the whole trap from the ceiling beams on chains.

*Caution:* The trap won't do for BBs. They don't slide-they bounce. They not only tend to leave the trap, but flatten themselves out of reusability. Better to use a soft backstop.

See the next page for exploded plans to build the bullet trap.

#### ADVERTISEMENT

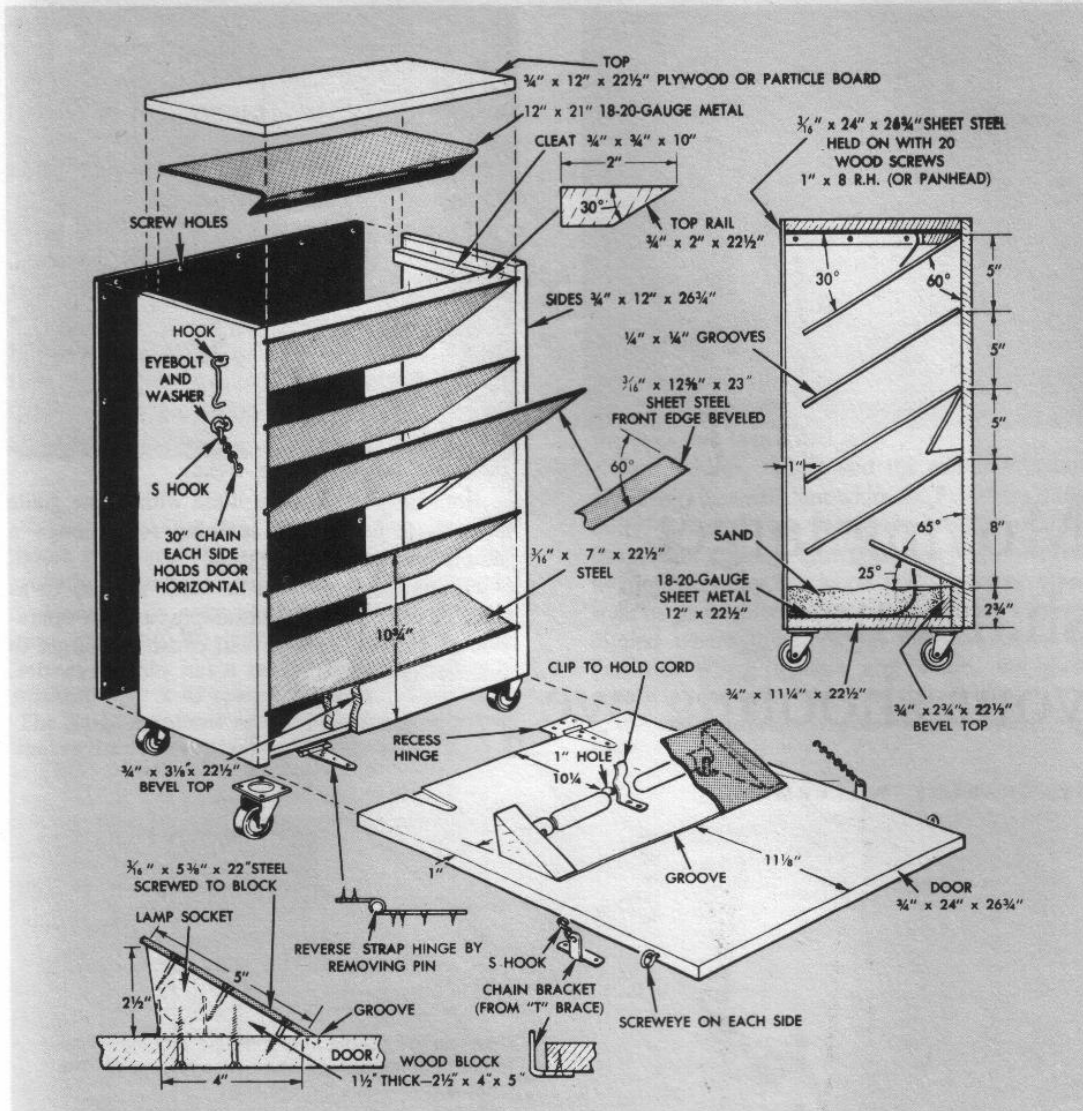


#### M16A5 Airsoft Rifle w/ Collapsible Stock

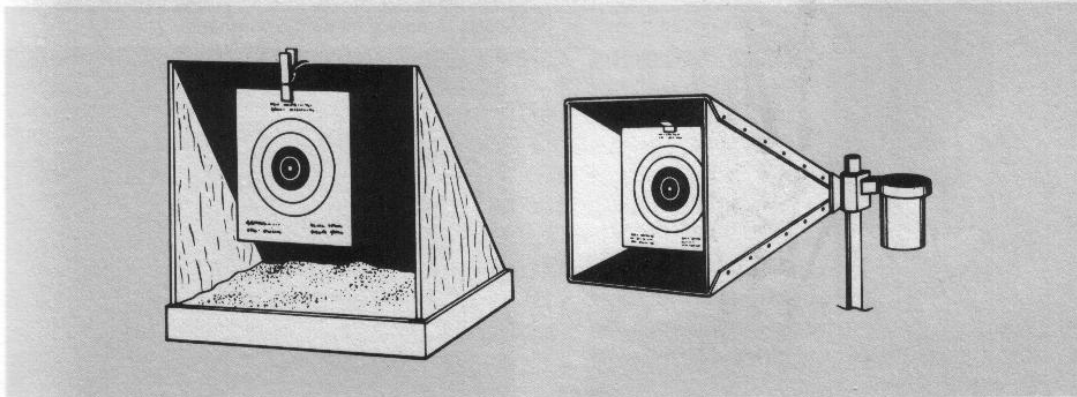
Made by Well, this MR722 M16 airsoft rifle is full scale (1:1). Shoots both 6mm Pellets (included) and 6mm Paintballs (not included). Shoots approximately 240 FPS. Spring loaded (cock and shoot). Adjustable stock (from 30" - 34"). Includes starter pack of pellets

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Exploded plan, above, shows the details of construction of this particular trap, but sizes can vary to fit the available materials. Below, simple but less efficient one-plate trap; commercial spiral drum trap at the right

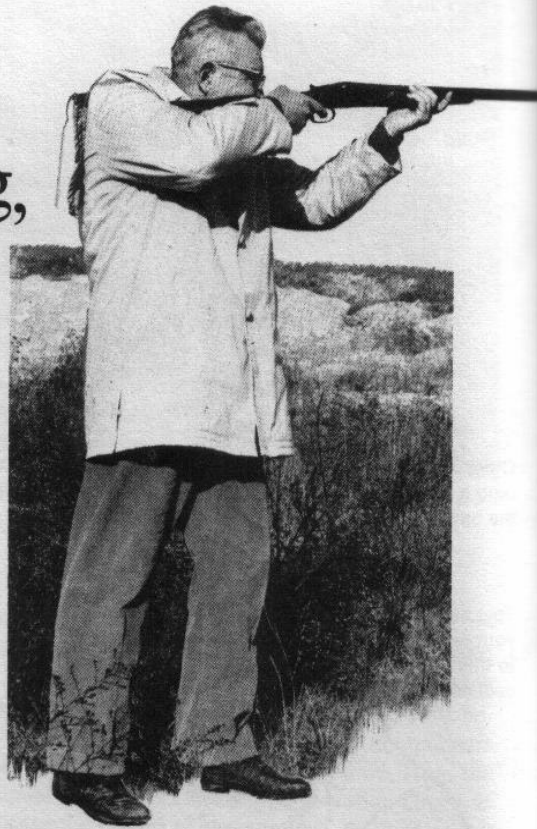




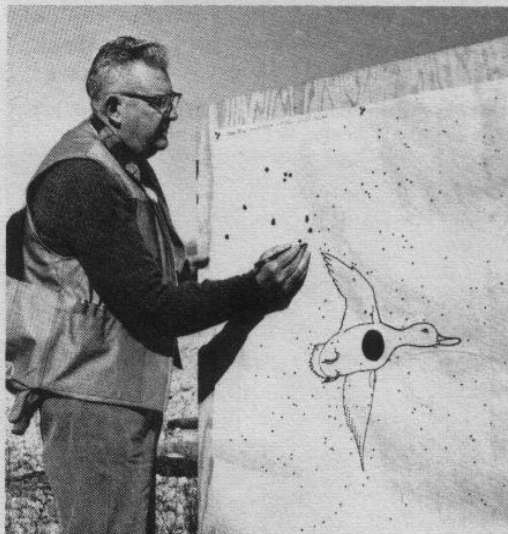
# For better hunting, pattern your shotgun

By W. CLYDE LAMMEY

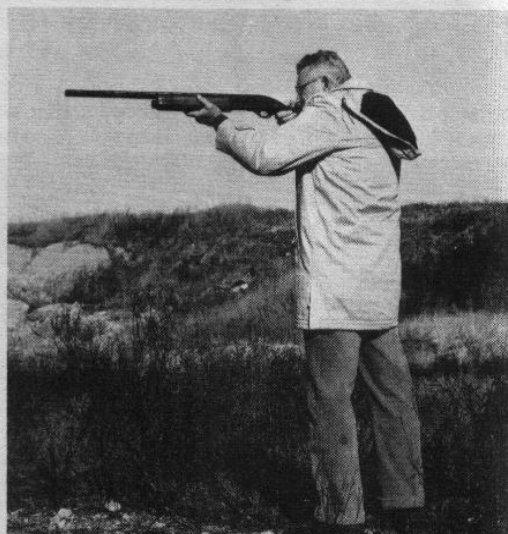
When you swing  
your shotgun on live or clay birds  
it's important to know  
where the shot charge goes

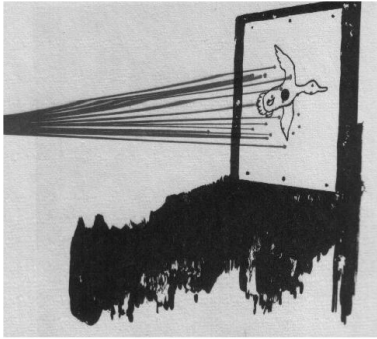


Fire a single shot at each patterning sheet, then either count the number of pellet holes at the time, or label or otherwise mark the sheet for later reference

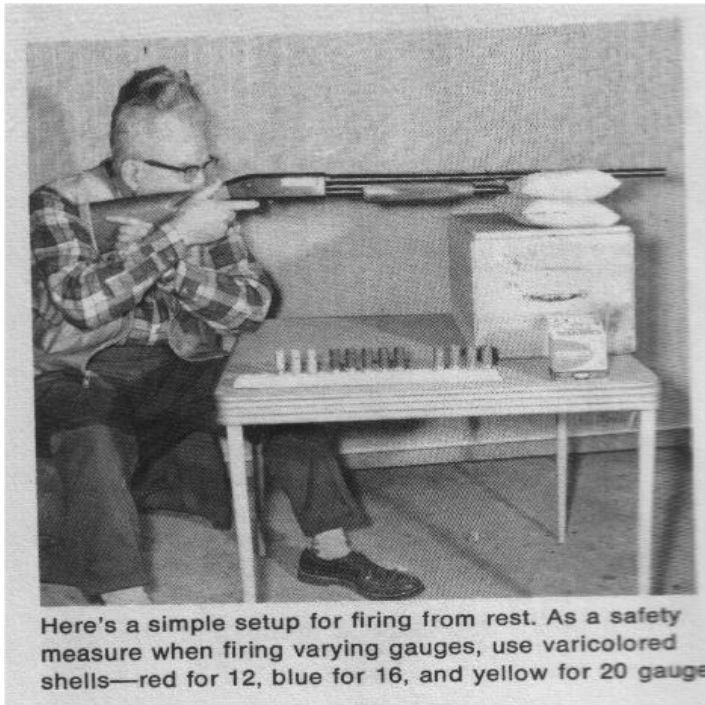


Although stance is important when shooting, it should be relaxed and natural, as suits the individual, with the forward knee slightly bent





Shotgun charges that register consistently off center on the pattern board can tell you how your shotgun fits you. In practice you don't aim a scattergun as you do a rifle and this is why correct shotgun fit is just as essential, perhaps even more essential to high score shooting, as is rifle fit. In shotgun handling one must move fast. Only speed, coordination and proper gun fit count when at most you have only seconds to get off a shot that connects. This is why one should pattern every shotgun he owns, whether these be newly acquired, or old, untested favorites.



Here's a simple setup for firing from rest. As a safety measure when firing varying gauges, use varicolored shells—red for 12, blue for 16, and yellow for 20 gauge

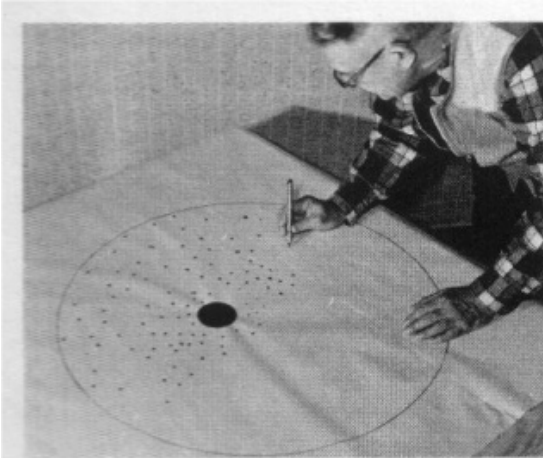
If, for example, you are shooting a scattergun with a stock a bit too short for you, you may find on pattern board testing that the charges register consistently to the right of center and likely a trifle high, assuming, of course, you are right handed. In either case the bird is likely to be caught in the fringes of the shot pattern or may be missed entirely. If the stock drop is too great, you may find the charges landing consistently low and if the stock is too straight for you individually, the charges may register consistently above center. There are, of course, other factors governing gun fit but these variations

This is another view of what is generally accepted as a proper stance for offhand firing at a pattern board. Dry firing can be of help in taking the stance quickly

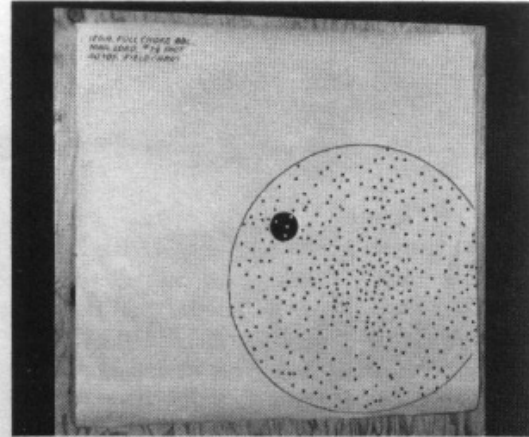


To determine pattern uniformity, also percentages, scribe a 30-in. diameter circle around the greatest concentration of pellet holes. See p. 2338 for detail





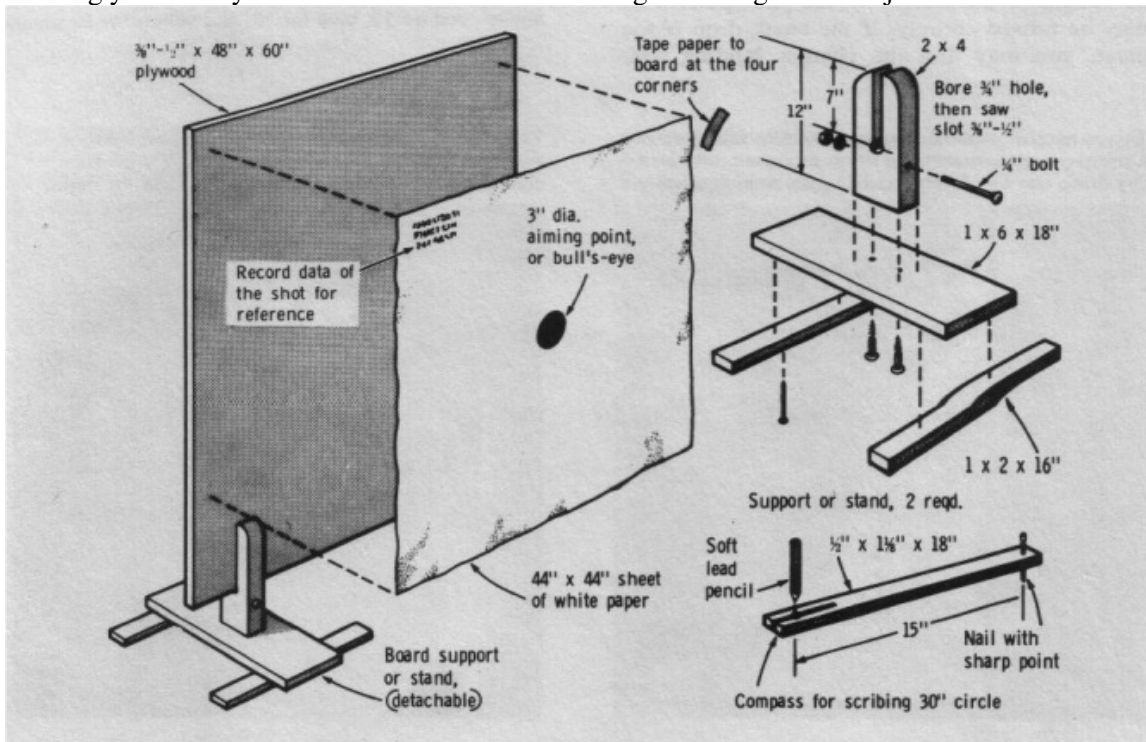
Using a felt marker and counting as you go, check the number of pellet holes inside the circle. The number of pellets may vary from shot to shot, but the average should be fairly close



If your gun stock is too short you may find that shot charges are registering consistently low and perhaps a little to the right, as indicated by the distribution in this pattern

usually are considered primary.

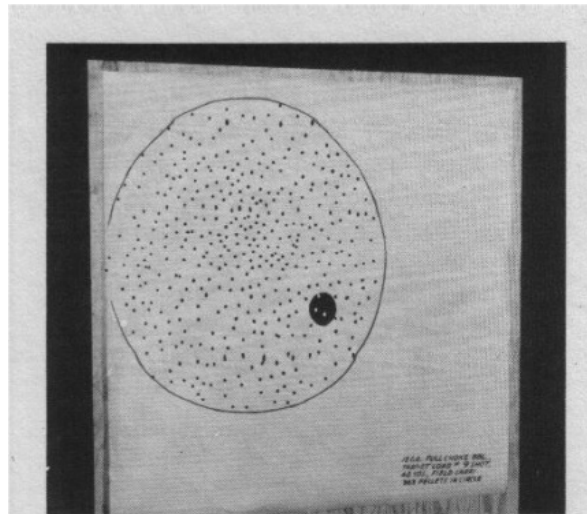
Patterning is a simple procedure but one must be prepared to burn considerable ammo in order to arrive at definite conclusions. You'll need the pattern board and quite a number of sheets of paper roughly of the size and dimensions detailed, the paper sheets each having a bull's eye or bird outline as an aiming point. The pattern board should be set up before a steep slope or in some other location where it is safe to fire a shotgun. A distance of 40 yds. from the pattern board is the generally accepted range for testing full choked 12, 16 and 20 gauge shotguns. The smaller gauges, 28 and .410 bores, also the more open borings in the larger gauges, are usually tested at shorter ranges. Make a mark or drive a stake at the 40 yrd. firing position. Don the clothing you usually wear afield-for the first tests a light hunting shirt and jacket.



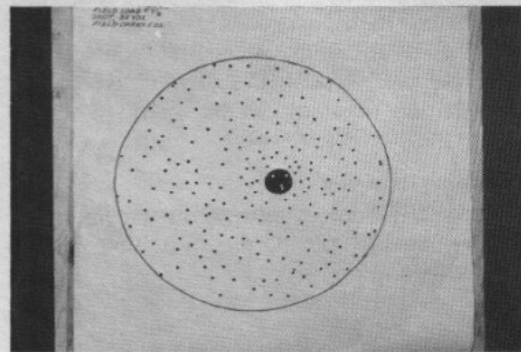
Move diagonally away from the stake a few steps to the right or left, then turn and approach the stake with the gun in the field carry position. On reaching the firing point mount the gun and fire quickly, without “aiming,” just as you would at a moving target. The trials of this maneuver may be difficult to bring off consistently as you will be more fully conscious of the gun, the target, and also of the fact that in this procedure the factors of gun swing and lead have been eliminated. But if one persists-dry runs may help-in the maneuver, it’s possible to duplicate a typical field stance and to carry out gun mounting and pointing with a consistency and accuracy sufficient for the purpose. Fire only one shot at a time and carefully note the position of the charge as tagged by the pattern paper. Then remove the paper, replace with a fresh sheet and repeat the performance until a consistency in placement of the charges becomes unmistakably evident. All charges may continue to land on center-allowing for inaccuracies in pointing-or they may tend to land right, left, high or low.

### Try heavier clothing

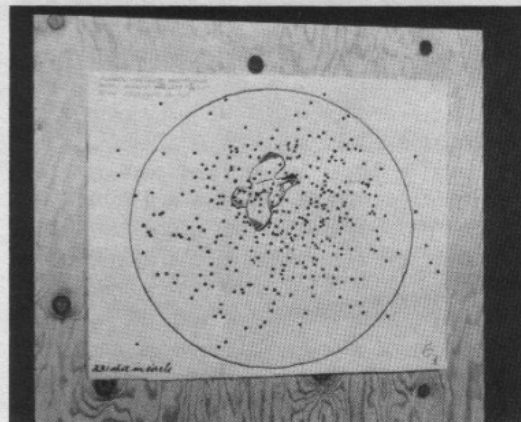
Before you make any corrective stock alterations, such as lengthening or shortening the pull length, or raising or lowering the comb height, change to heavier clothing such as you would wear in cold weather, and run another series of test shots. It’s likely you will turn up some variations, using the same gun and ammo. As an example, if your gun places its charges consistently to the right and low you may discover that when you don heavy clothing the charges tend to land on center, give or take a little. In this case the extra thickness of heavy clothing has, in effect, lengthened the stock. Should the stock be a little too long, you may find you’re throwing charges halfway off the



On the other hand, if the shot charges consistently land to the left and high, the stock may be too long for you individually. A gunsmith can correct this at a nominal cost



This pattern shows a uniform distribution of pellets from a 20-gauge modified choke barrel at 35 yds. The concentration is to the left—likely a pointing error



No. 9 shot size is shown in this pattern from a .410 bore insert in a 12-gauge full choke barrel at a range of 25 yds. Note that the charge is centered and rather tightly concentrated

**AVERAGE NO. OF SHOT PELLETS  
IN COMMON LOADINGS\***  
*Weight of charge in ounces*

Shot Size	3/4	7/8	1	1 1/8	1 1/4
6	439	512	585	658	731
6 1/2	308	359	410	462	512
7 1/2	263	305	350	394	438
8	169	197	225	254	281
9	128	149	170	191	213
10	101	118	135	152	169

*\* Figures are only approximate for the number of pellets for each shot size.*

board when you're heavily clad. Usually there's less variation when the gun tends to throw charges high or low of center consistently, but you may detect some variable even here when comparing the effect of light and heavy clothing.

On discovery of any of these variations you have two corrective choices: either alter the stock as required or adapt your shooting practices to correct the tendency. The latter can be done with practice in handling. You can raise the comb if required with a lace on type pad. The stock can be lengthened with spacers placed under the butt plate or butt pad. Other stock alterations involving reworking the wood, such as thinning the comb, should be done by an experienced gunsmith, unless, of course, you have had experience in this exacting work. But many of the variables can be corrected simply by altering handling practices.

### **Patterning from rest**

Many trapshooters, also skeet shooters and hunters, like to "float" the bird, that is, see it over the gun barrel or barrels, and to determine even more precisely where the gun throws its charge they often pattern from a rest. A sturdy card table will do for this testing. You'll also need a small box and padding to serve as a rest for the gun barrel or barrels. With this set up it's the usual practice to let off each shot just as the sight touches the lower edge of the bull. Here a steady hold is important and at first you may have a little trouble with trigger pull, which usually is somewhat heavier on a shotgun than on a rifle. Also, one may have to become accustomed to the relatively heavy recoil of a shotgun, especially in larger gauges and with magnum loadings. If you flinch, the shots will go wild.

When properly carried out, this test will show just where the gun places its charge relative to the aiming point. Also, it offers an opportunity to test placement of charges from the right and left barrels of side-by-side doubles and over-under guns. Your line of sight in this test—as in those described previously—should be about 1/4 to 3.8 inches above the breech and one should be sure the line of sight is centered over the rib before firing.

If desired, patterning tests can be carried further to determine other governing factors and a "best" load for your particular gun. In patterning for a best loading you may discover a special compatibility of your gun for a certain factory or hand loading in light, medium or heavy

chargings of powder and shot. One scattergun may consistently turn in it's best patterns with a magnum loading. Another of the same gauge and boring may perform best with a light (skeet or trap load) or field loading. In this testing, as well as those described previously, you may have to fire a dozen or more shots to reach a more or less definite conclusion.

### **Aim for consistency**

The perfect pattern is a consistent uniformity of shot distribution inside a 30 inch circle at ranges suitable to the boring-40 yds. for full choke (12, 16 and 20 gauges), 30-35 yds. for modified and improved modified borings and between 20 and 30 yds. for the sheet improved cylinder and full cylinder borings. Shot distribution should show a reasonably consistent uniformity at these ranges. There should be no large, irregular holes in the pattern in the pattern print and no undue bunching or cartwheels, and only a small number of flyers, the latter being deformed pellets which land wide of the main concentration. If you fire the new shot shells with the combined plastic shot cups and wad columns, you may see few, if any flyers. The 28 gauge and .410 bore guns usually give the best pattern prints at the shorter ranges, 25 to 30 yds. average, and these generally perform best with the smaller shot sizes, such as No. 7 1/2, 8 and 9.

### **Determining shot percentages**

It's easy to arrive at the shot percentages. Make a simple compass of 15 inches radius like that detailed, lay the pattern sheet on a flat surface, determine the greatest concentration of pellet holes and strike a circle around this area. Then, using a felt marker, mark the shot holes in the paper within the 30 inch circle, counting as you go. Some testers count the shot holes on the line as well. Then, for example, if there are, say, 300 holes in the circle and the average number of shot pellets per shell is 400, then 300 times 100 divided by 400 equals 75, or 75 percent pattern. These are only convenience figures, of course, but they show how percentages can be arrived at. The percentages will vary somewhat from shot to shot and if you desire a further average, then it will be necessary to fire a minimum of 10 shots or so to determine this figure.

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## REVOLVERS FOR SURVIVAL

by Corcceigh Green

Photos by Moby Green

The sidearm you carry should be a major consideration in your lifestyle. The type you choose must depend upon the living situation you find yourself in now and what you foresee coming your way. For instance, you may live in a large city where liberal/socialist beliefs prevail. In order to maintain a low profile and avert the fear and hatred of those who



do not understand the freedom to defend oneself, you might choose to carry a sidearm that is easily concealed. In this case, you will be looking for a light, slim firearm with a short barrel and small profile. A small frame semi-auto will fill the bill for this.

What about a sidearm for the usual survival scenario? You know, the one a lot of us survivalists were contemplating in the '60s, '70s and '80s. Nuclear war, economic collapse or *Red Dawn* were all some of the scenarios we contemplated the need to be prepared for. Some things have changed since, but not as much as many think. Today we still face nuclear incidents and exchanges. We still face economic collapse though growing tyranny from within the federal government has replaced the Soviets in a *Red Dawn* scenario.

So, how about it? If you find yourself without support and the need to rely on a sidearm to survive, which type of sidearm might serve you best? If I were relying on the sidearm to do most of the things that I needed a firearm for, I'd choose a big bore revolver hands down.

When depending on your sidearm to provide you with food and security without specialized support, versatility is the name of the game. You will find no other sidearm as versatile as a revolver. Because a revolver utilizes multiple chambers bored into a revolving cylinder instead of a single chamber where cartridges are fed from a magazine and extracted after firing, bullet configuration is not as important to the firearm's operation. This allows the shooter to load birdshot, cast lead bullets, jacketed hollow points or full metal jacket bullet configurations into the revolver and they will work without a hang-fire or causing a malfunction. One could also fire a different loading and different bullet configuration with each cylinder without fear of malfunction.

This is a nifty little feat, but what, exactly, does this mean for you and how does it help you in a survival situation? You can carry only so many firearms with you when you are traveling or on the run. You may want to have your hunting rifle, battle rifle, battle carbine, hunting shotgun, riot shotgun, rimfire rifle, rimfire sidearm, concealed sidearm, and defensive sidearm with you (plus ammo for each), but if you find yourself hoofing it through the backwoods, you'll need to leave something home. That means you'll have choices to make.

This is where the versatility of the big bore revolver comes in handy. With some handloading, you can tailor an ammo supply that will give your revolver the ability to supply you with small and large game, as well as serve in a defensive role.

Let's take everyone's favorite big bore as a standard for our article, the .44 Magnum. Everyone's heard the most famous line in movie history. "This is a .44 Magnum, the most powerful handgun



**A .44 Magnum Hunting round loaded with a 300 grain Sierra bullet and stacked on top of 21.5 grains of H-110 powder. This is a stiff load and should only be fired in handguns that are built strongly like the Ruger Super Blackhawk.**

chambered in .44 Magnum and is strong enough to handle some stiff loads. This is a virtue you will want to look for in your survival revolver. If it will handle the stiff loads for you, the more



**The Ruger Super Blackhawk. This handgun is excellent for taking game, but has draw-backs when it comes to defense.**

in the world and can blow your head clean off." The .44 Magnum is no longer the world's most powerful handgun, but it got the job done and still does by thousands of handgun hunters every year. The right loads take deer, sheep, elk, wild pigs and even bear each hunting season.

One of my favorite hunting handguns is my Ruger Super Blackhawk. It is chambered in .44 Magnum and is strong enough to handle some stiff loads. This is a virtue you will want to look for in your survival revolver. If it will handle the stiff loads for you, the more able you will be to bring down the larger game at greater ranges.

The Super Blackhawk is an excellent handgun for taking game, but lacks features that make it ideal for defensive applications. What features will you need for defensive applications? Your revolver must be double action. Every time you squeeze the trigger the cylinder must rotate and the hammer cock and drop on the firing



pin, firing the sidearm with every squeeze until empty. Some early model double actions were also loaded like single action revolvers. This won't be a concern today, as virtually every double action model you come across will feature a swing out cylinder. The swing out cylinder is important as it makes reloading quick and easy with a speed loader and training.

Quickly reloading your revolver is essential as a defensive feature. You will need to rely on your sidearm for defense as well as taking large game. Certainly, the cartridge loadings that you use for taking big game will do the job against human attackers, but recoil from the stiff loads will make quick follow-up shots and engagements against multiple attackers more difficult. Not to worry if you are carrying a revolver. Let's take our example of the .44 Magnum again. When you are not stalking game, you can load your revolver with .44 Specials tailored to hit hard at reduced recoil in anticipation of defensive needs.

There has been much written about the ease of learning to shoot with the revolver. Many writers claim that if you want a sidearm to put into the nightstand drawer and only practice once or twice a year, the revolver fills your bill. If you believe this, you are about to be educated. No American can afford to buy a firearm of any type and not train with it. The revolver, while simpler and quicker to bring into action, requires greater manual dexterity, right when your body's dexterity will be reduced, to quickly reload and bring back into action. This drawback can only be negated by a lot of training. The act of reloading a revolver under stress is tricky if you haven't acquired the muscle memory built through training to do so without thinking about it. You **MUST** train with your speed loader!

We have seen how a strongly built revolver capable of handling stiff loads and featuring a double action mechanism is a major asset for a survivalist contemplating being on his/her own without support. Many firearms manufacturers turn out a good product, but Ruger stands out as a manufacturer that turns out a beefed up, strongly built handgun that will stand up to stiff loads. Of their products, the Ruger Super Redhawk stands out as the perfect sidearm for our purpose.

Why do I focus on the .44 Magnum as the best chambering for the survival revolver? Partly for it's ability to take the gamut of big game in North America and it's ability to fire the .44 Special defensive loads. Also, it's popularity guarantees a supply of ammunition until components are banned or taxed out of existence. In performance, the .41 Magnum and .357 Magnum can come fairly close, but the .41 Magnum never became as popular. The .357 Magnum is just as popular if not more so and can be loaded to take deer sized game, but should not be used, ethically, to hunt elk, moose or the larger species of bear and bison. Yes, I know that elk and moose have been taken with .22 LR's with shots to the head and the same can be accomplished with the .357 Magnum, but the .44 Magnum gives you the option of not *needing* to rely on head shots. The .44 Magnum's versatility is greater.

Also, consider the diameter of the .44 Magnum. It is very close in size to the 410 gauge shotgun shell (.429 inch for the .44 Magnum and .469 inch for the 410 shotshell.) Shot capsules can be purchased for the .44 Magnum/.44 Special and .357 Magnum/.38 Special. These shot capsules allow the handloader to load birdshot into the capsules and load the capsules into cartridges.

These shotshell capsules allow you to load birdshot, bbs, even nails and scrap into them and they will not open to release the shot until they have left the barrel of your revolver, thus protecting the bore. Loading some shot into a .44 Magnum cartridge will power these mini-shotshells to take small game like squirrels out to a close range of 25 feet or more depending on the loading. This should be easy stalking range for most survivalists. Lesser .44 Special loads can be used for



A shotshell loaded into a .44 Magnum cartridge. These won't take the place of a shotgun, but they will allow the shooter to take small game from his/her big bore sidearm.

Additionally, I would load the first 3 chambers in the cylinder with the shotshells, while loading the last 3 chambers with .44 Special defense loads. This gave me protection, first up close in case of snakes, or close in ambush, if necessary and the last 3 cylinders being hard hitting defense rounds against determined adversaries. I also had the option of turning the cylinder to fire the defense rounds first should I detect that threat.



Carrying a diverse assortment of loadings for your revolver will help you in gathering big and small game, as well as in helping to defend yourself.

not hold as much shot. This shouldn't indicate that you need be put off from your .357 Magnum if you already own one. The .44 Magnum is more versatile, but the .357 Magnum can do the job within more confined limitations. In choosing one over the other, you only have one thing to ask yourself. Do you feel lucky?

varmints like mice or snakes.

When tromping through the Mojave desert and Tonto National forest in Arizona, I would often load my Super Blackhawk with .44 Special shotshell loads in case I tromped too close to a rattle snake. They did good work on snakes and remember, snakes are food too.

By loading a diverse assortment of 3 differing cartridge loads for your single revolver, your revolver can serve triple duty as a large game provider, small game provider and defender. .357 Magnum owners can achieve close to the same effect as the larger diameter .44 Magnum, but I would recommend stalking closer to your small game as the shotshells will



# 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.*

Where are we today as a nation? The document that defines our nation is the Constitution. Open it up and read it. We're not there. We aren't even on the map. Some argue that we are in a state of fascism. Others say we have entered communism. Both have valid points. Every one of the 10 planks of the communist manifesto has been implemented in our once free country. We should also note that those holding offices at the top of our bureaucratically bloated institutions take their cues from large, global corporations which seem to sway politicians to do their biddings with ease just by waving a fistful of dollars under their noses. When you have public/private partnerships, which is the politically correct way of saying corporate government, you have fascism. So, which is it that we are facing today?

Both and either. On the Republican side of the controlled political spectrum, you have the stereotypically, bloodless, old geezer. A barely warm corpse who has lived off of corporate coffers during a lifetime holding an office that used to belong to Americans and a complete disdain for The Bill Of Rights. On the Democratic side of the controlled political spectrum, you have the stereotypically fury armpitted, screeching harpy with an America is bad protest sign, a bra in one paw and a lighter in the other and a bong between it's teeth. A complete love of socialism and a complete disdain for The Bill Of Rights. Both of these buggers pay a certain lip service to the Constitution when it's convenient or necessary for them to do so, but when the truth comes out, they both think of the Constitution as a G-d piece of paper. No matter which side holds the greatest sway in the federal government, you have a complete disdain for The Bill Of Rights, less freedom, bigger government breaking the highest law of our land and more totalitarianism.

No matter which political party (Fascist or communist) prevails in any election, you get totalitarianism. More control over the populous, more intrusion into your private life and less freedom to live the way you choose. It is important for Americans to recognize this fact. Americans must be able to compare our true form of government as described in the Constitution with the actions and bureaucratic screw overs perpetrated by the political machine today. Americans have to see the truth through the political party hype before we can send representatives to office that will perform the duties of their office as described in the Constitution. We are fortunate this election season. The Republican Party has one major tier candidate who is advocating a return to constitutional government.

Dr. Ron Paul is running for the office of the president on the Republican ticket. His platform is based on returning our country to it's roots as a Constitutional Republic. He has come out in favor of defunding programs that violate our highest law, eliminating unlawful executive orders and abolishing the IRS. He has a very strong voting record in Congress in standing for constitutional issues and not voting for bills which violate Americans' Natural Rights and the way government is supposed to be run under the Constitution. If you consider yourself an

American who wants to do his/her duty by voting in an American election, you need to look in on Dr. Ron Paul's campaign. If you are an American who believes in liberty, freedom and individual Rights and the way our forefathers set up our once great country, you'll work to help spread the word about Ron Paul and his quest to return our country to it's path of freedom. You might even consider donating to the campaign and volunteering. Check Ron Paul's campaign out at [www.ronpaul2008.com](http://www.ronpaul2008.com).

As I wrote in my column last issue, I am not only going to point out criminal violations of our true law by those in America's pretend government, I am going to begin to suggest solutions. Dr. Ron Paul offers a tremendous solution for restoring our country to it's former Constitutional Republic. You might say he is a last gasp of hope for a peaceful restoration. Yes, I know Congress and the tribunal system will fight him every step of the way. It will be a hard battle with the Diebold electronic vote fraud machines and the major media like Fox News purposefully censoring him. That's why we need to be involved with this campaign. If Ron Paul is to be successful in recapturing the office of president for the American people, we can't depend on the pretend government's propaganda arm we call the main stream media to allow his campaign to reach the people. Log onto the campaign's web site. Put signs in your yard that not only advertise Ron Paul for president, but advertise the web site and advertise the fact that his purpose is to restore our Republic. I'm really enamored by a T-shirt I bought that has the Battle of the Cowpens flag on it and says, "Ron Paul for president, working to restore America and the Constitution" and gives the web site. I'm thinking this will also make a great yard sign. Tell everyone you know about Ron Paul.

Now, when I say that I believe Ron Paul is our last gasp of hope for a peaceful restoration of the Republic, I don't mean that we or any Ron Paul supporters are going to rise up in armed conflict should he be vote frauded or censored out. Well, maybe, if he is assassinated. What I mean is that should Ron Paul be the victim of vote fraud or that if he fails in his campaign to restore American law to the land, we the people are going to have to form our own communities which will allow us to live as freely as possible with less government interference as possible. This means those forming freedom communities will be in the active resistance phase. Government will consider such persons as hostile to their totalitarian agenda. As freedom communities grow and become successful, government actions or, possibly, outright attacks will take place. This will lead to defensive actions by communities and, possibly, civil war.

That aspect is something we must be prepared for now, or we must begin preparing RIGHT NOW!!! LMI Newsletter really covered that aspect very well last issue. If you don't have the September/October 2007 issue in your permanent survival library, you aren't prepared in any sense of the word! I'm just going to add some items that you need to buy now and store in your home, storage units and caches. For the tactics of how to use the items read last issues articles. Number 1, BUY AMMO! Buy every round your budget will allow. Ammo is getting scarce and unlawful regulations in Kalifornia and other communist held territory is making it harder for manufacturers to stock and sell the ammo. Legislation on the federal level seeks to ban and/or tax ammo to the point where it is not available to the general populous. Stocking Ammo is at a critical priority right now! Buy all you can and stock it back.

Number 2. Buy water filters and stock them back. Buy the Aqua Rain or Berkey type filter and then buy several changes of filter units. Water is going to be scarce in some areas of the country. We are already experiencing water shortages throughout the west and southeast. Indications are, it is going to get worse. Control of water is an easy way to control a populous. Just send troops in to take possession of a water source and don't allow the water to flow. Soon you'll have a thirsty

populous that will surrender to your every demand. Unless too many individuals have alternative water sources or a means of collecting and purifying/filtering water.

Number 3, Food. If you're not dead in 3 days from a lack of water, you'll need food to maintain your strength and ability to call upon your body to handle the situation at hand. Some of those situations may be defensive in nature, so having a food source is going to be important. Not only will you need storage food for at least a year, you need a method for growing and harvesting more food. In a situation where government has troops and bureau-rats (that wasn't a misspelling) sitting on top of the country's food supply and are sweeping suspected "hoarders"'s homes for stored food, you'll need stored food stashed around in caches and hidden places. If you're not starving, you can still engage the enemy successfully.

Number 4 is survival gear in a bug-out bag. For me, I want ammo, food and water filters. This will take up the majority of space and weight. Next, is a knife, my Leatherman tool, a pup tent, rain poncho, sleeping mat, (yeah, I'm getting old and soft) sleeping bag, matches and firestarter, fishing kit and some snares.

Firearms? Don't tell me you're just now thinking about firearms! If you still don't have firearms after reading works like this newsletter I'm going to go upside your head with a buttstroke from my favorite battle carbine. Of course you need firearms! That's what the ammo in the bug-out bag is for. I've written about a simple firearms battery before. A hunting rifle, a battle carbine, maybe a shotgun and a handgun is all that's necessary. You may still find yourself bugging out without one or another gun you may find yourself in need of later. To prevent this, cache some low cost rifles and handguns. Cache lots of ammo too.

Get with others. Chances are, you move in certain circles. You hang out at the gun store and range. You frequent survival and outdoor stores and you are frequently spotted at the bulk food store hauling half a ton of dry goods and buckets through the parking lot. Odds are someone has approached you about the latest gun law or hunting equipment or how you are going to store all that food. Plus, your friends and family have at least a fair inkling of what you're up to. You can usually discern whom from these contacts are open to a freedom oriented, survivalist lifestyle. Network with these people. Help others out with info and skills. Those that live close enough to you may form survival groups.

It's unlikely that you'll be able to wage a one man guerilla war and win back freedom in what used to be America. You need community support. That's why your survival group should also be a community with cottage industries and a striving toward self sufficiency. These communities will produce much of what they need like food, some tools and maybe some other items that I won't go into now. There should also be communication between communities. This should be a pre-coordination for support between communities for when the you know what hits the fan. Trade between communities could be important in supplying needed food items, ammo, clothing or heating fuel to those without the means to create their own after government has restricted those needed resources. One or more communities could also come under government attack. American families will need a place to go for shelter and necessities after government has burned their communities. If they are in contact with other communities, they would have that place to go. Suppose a leader in one community is sought for arrest or assassination by government for breaking one or more of the new thought crimes being introduced into Congress. His community is certain to be searched or surveilled. To lessen the severity of government action at his community, the leader may want to make use of an inter-community underground railroad to vacate to a safe area.

Let's review the info in our last few pages. What did we learn? Our first emphasis was to grasp at what is quite probably our last chance at a peaceful restoration of the Constitutional Republic. We campaign and vote for Dr. Ron Paul for president, the only candidate advocating a return to American principles and American government. Should Dr. Ron Paul attain the office of president, he will begin dismantling the globalist socialist entanglements strangling our true form of government. He will run into resistance, but with the backing of the American people, we can ensure that Dr. Paul will be successful.

Our next lesson was in individual preparation. Each and every one of us needs to be equipped, trained and prepared to the best of our abilities to survive and resist hostile government actions against freedom minded people.

Lastly, we learned that we need to form bonds with others of like mind. We need survival groups and communities that will enforce constitutional government and resist tyranny while providing individuals of those communities with the essentials. Should the globalists holding the offices of what used to be our government resist our attempts to recover our institutions peacefully by electing honest statesmen like Dr. Ron Paul, our communities will have to walk away from the government as it has become and re-institute honest institutions among themselves. We will delve into this matter in more detail in the issues to come.

The time is now upon us that we must begin acting. You have just read some basic ideas on the subject. You know what the threat is. Let's begin our preparations for survival and to keep our freedoms.

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