If for some reason, you no longer wish to receive these e-mails please accept our apologies and respond to this message with REMOVE in the subject line and we will remove your name from the mailing list.
Citizens Association for Responsible Gun Ownership = CARGO
www.cargogunclub.org
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Hello Fellow CARGO Members,

The next meeting will be held at Napoli's on **Wednesday, September 20th**.

We will meet at Napoli's in Wylie.
Napoli's
701 N Highway 78 # A
Wylie, TX 75098

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

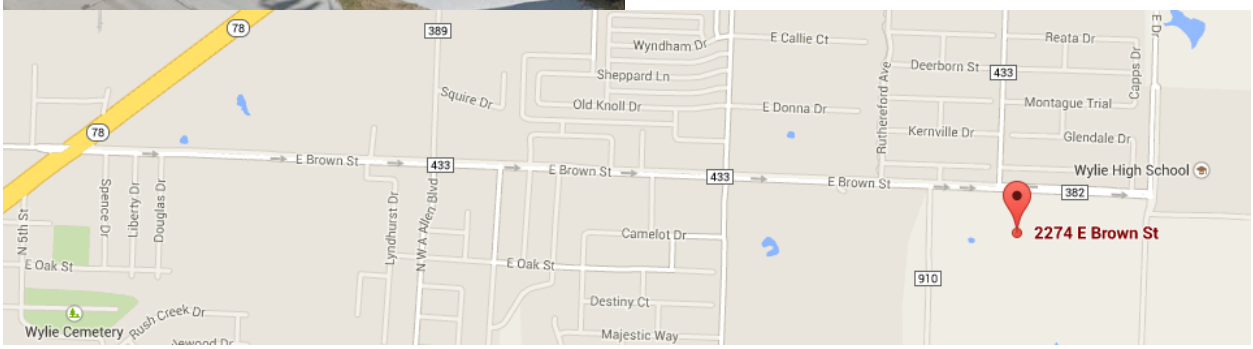
Under the new Texas Open Carry Law, you could be committing an offense if you remove your pistol from its holster while open carrying. While at Napoli's DO NOT remove your pistol from its holster unless it is an emergency.

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

The address is:
2274 EAST Brown Street in Wylie

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

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



Meeting gun topics:

- For show and tell, if you have any firearms manufactured by the following:
- On September 1st, the new Texas knife law went into effect. Do you have something new or old that was impacted by the old law? Please bring any knife that was impacted by the new law.
- **Sturm, Ruger & Co., Inc.**, better known by the shortened name **Ruger**, is an American firearm manufacturing company based in Southport, Connecticut with production facilities also in Newport, New Hampshire, Mayodan, North Carolina and Prescott, Arizona. The company was founded in 1949 by Alexander McCormick Sturm and William B. Ruger
- **Hornady** is a world-leading innovator of bullet, ammunition, reloading tool and accessories since **1949**.
- **ArmaLite, or Armalite,** is an American small arms engineering company founded in the early 1950s in Hollywood, California. It ceased business in the 1980s. The company was revived in 1996 by Mark Westrom.
- **Armscor** The Arms Corporation of the Philippines is a firearms manufacturing company headquartered in the Philippines. The company is known for its inexpensive 1911-pattern pistols, revolvers, shotguns, sporting rifles, firearms parts and ammunition. Founded in 1952.
- The **Great Western Arms Company** (GWA) was founded in Los Angeles, California in 1953 to produce an American-made copy of the Colt Single Action Army Revolver. Colt had discontinued this model in 1940. Great Western Revolvers were used in many Western movies and television shows of the 1950s and 1960s.
- Have anything non-firearms related to share? Got a great knife that you just picked up, an air-rifle or Pistol, a new tactical flash light or red-dot scope? The club always enjoys seeing this as well.

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

https://www.buckeyefirearms.org/appeals-court-schools-dc-heller%E2%80%99s-meaning-invalidates-%E2%80%9Cmay-issue%E2%80%9D-concealed-carry-licensing

Appeals Court Schools D.C. on Heller's Meaning, Invalidates "May-Issue" Concealed Carry Licensing

7:00am Thursday, August 17, 2017

In a major development in the ongoing effort to restore the Second Amendment in Washington, D.C., the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit issued an opinion on Tuesday [July 25] that would effectively require D.C. officials to make concealed carry licenses available on a "shall-issue" basis.

The court's decision comes in the combined cases of *Wrenn v. D.C.* and *Grace v. D.C.*

Following the landmark case of *District of Columbia v. Heller*, which recognized a Second Amendment right to have operable handguns in the home for self-defense, the District retaliated by banning carrying of firearms outside the home.

A lower federal court found D.C.'s carry ban also violated the Second Amendment, but rather than comply with that ruling, D.C. created a sham system for concealed carry permits that requires applicants to show a "good" or "proper" reason for needing to carry a concealed handgun. This includes a "special need for self-protection distinguishable from the general community," job duties requiring the transport of large amounts of cash or valuables, or the need to protect a close relative who cannot provide for his or her own special self-defense needs. Practically speaking, this means the vast majority of law-abiding people who simply want to carry a handgun for self-dense in ordinary circumstances are automatically disqualified.

Licensed concealed carry, moreover, is the only option for ordinary people to lawfully carry a loaded, accessible firearm for self-defense outside the person's home or business in D.C., so in effect the ban on carry already found unconstitutional remains.

Wrenn and *Grace* therefore presented the appellate court with the questions of whether the Second Amendment's right to "bear" arms for self-defense extends beyond the home and, if so, whether District officials could nevertheless deny that right to all but a select, hand-picked few. The court's answer to those questions was a resounding "yes" and "no," respectively.

The D.C. Circuit analogized the District's current concealed carry licensing regime to the ban on keeping handguns at issue in *Heller*. The issue, the court stated, is not whether a few select people could exercise the right but whether it was available to responsible, law-abiding people in ordinary circumstances. Because the court found that D.C.'s "good" or "proper" reason requirement was effectively a ban on bearing arms by people entitled to Second Amendment protection, it declared the requirement invalid and barred its enforcement.

The upshot of this decision is that D.C. must now issue concealed carry licenses to all otherwise eligible applicants, i.e., those who pass the District's background check and training requirements and pay the applicable fees. Unfortunately, the court's order is effectively on hold while District officials determine their next legal move. That could mean asking for a rehearing before the full D.C. Circuit or appealing directly to the U.S. Supreme Court.

How the District will proceed remains to be seen, but in the meantime, your NRA's efforts in the *Grace* case have for now contributed to winning a vital battle in the continuing conflict over the right to keep and bear arms in the seat of the nation's government. As ever, we will keep our readers apprised of further developments in this ongoing effort.

http://www.guns.com/2017/09/11/suppressor-deregulation-proposal-rolled-into-new-share-act/

Suppressor deregulation proposal rolled into new SHARE Act

9/11/17 | by Chris Eger

Legislation to remove suppressors from NFA regulation has been folded into a traditionally popular conservation package. (*Photo: SilencerCo*)

Battle lines are being drawn early in a sweeping new sportsmen's' package introduced in the House earlier this month that includes language from the Hearing Protection Act.

The bipartisan measure, the Sportsmen Heritage and Recreational Enhancement or SHARE Act, blends popular initiatives to safeguard and expand hunting and fishing rights and practices across public land with one to drop suppressors from National Firearms Act regulation. South Carolina Republican U.S. Rep. Jeff Duncan, the sponsor of the bill, has been working with Democrats within the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus to try and garner support from across the aisle.

"It concerns me enough that we've talked to them about it," Duncan said. "At the end of the day, I hope they will embrace it."

Going beyond the Hearing Protection Act, which would remove silencers and suppressors from NFA requirements that include a $200 tax stamp, the SHARE Act would mandate the more than 1.3 million already registered be deleted from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives' records within 365 days of the bill becoming law. Further, while states would not be required to allow their sale or possession, they would be barred from establishing their own potentially prohibitive taxes or registration requirements on legal devices.

In the end, suppressors would be treated as firearms – which would allow them to be transferred through any regular federal firearms license holders to anyone not prohibited from possessing them after the buyer passes an FBI instant background check.

The proposal includes a provision to refund the $200 transfer tax to applicants who purchased a suppressor after Oct. 22, 2015, though makers of the devices would be liable for a 10 percent Pittman-Robertson excise tax, as they are currently on all modern firearms.

In addition to the suppressor language, the bill would open the 11.7 million acres of land controlled by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to concealed carry and protect travelers crossing state lines with firearms. Other

facets would cut the ATF's authority to reclassify popular rifle ammunition as "armor piercing" and how regulators classify some shotguns, shells and rifles as "destructive devices" under the NFA.

While the National Rifle Association embraced the measure, gun control groups quickly blasted the proposal, citing opposition to the suppressor language as their reasons, directing like-minded individuals to an online petition to carve out the provision from the SHARE Act.

"Under the guise of hearing protection, the NRA is trying to gut gun silencer safety laws," said Moms Demand Action. "The goal: to sell more gun silencers to more people, even criminals, and domestic abusers, without so much as a background check."

The bill has been referred to the House Subcommittee on Water, Power and Oceans which is chaired by Colorado Republican Doug Lamborn, an initial co-sponsor of the Hearing Protection Act in January.

http://www.knifeup.com/texas-knife-laws/

Texas Knife Laws

Texas knife laws are mostly found in the Court's decisions, or case law, as the statutes are short and do not provide much information about what any of the terms mean. This article summarizes the case law and the statutes so that anyone can understand what is legal and what is not when it comes to owning and carrying knives in the state of Texas.

What is Legal to Own

- It is legal to own throwing stars or any type of throwing knife
- It is legal to own dirks, daggers, stilettos, and other stabbing knives
- It is legal to own a bowie knife
- It is legal to own a sword or spear
- It is legal to own a switchblade knife
- It is legal to own a pocketknife
- It is legal to own a Balisong, or butterfly knife

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What is Illegal to Own

- It is illegal to own a gravity knife

The Texas state legislature does not limit other knives.

What the Law States

State legislature is covered by the Unlawful Carrying Weapons law as well as some case precedence.

§ 46.02. Unlawful Carrying Weapons

(a) A person commits an offense if the person intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly carries on
or about his or her person a handgun, illegal knife, or club if the person is not:

(1) on the person's own premises or premises under the person's control; or

(2) inside of or directly en route to a motor vehicle or watercraft that is owned by the person or under the person's control….

§ 46.01. Definitions

In this chapter:
…..(6) “Illegal knife” means a:
(A) knife with a blade over five and one-half inches;
(B) hand instrument designed to cut or stab another by being thrown;
(C) dagger, including but not limited to a dirk, stiletto, and poniard;
(D) bowie knife;
(E) sword; or
(F) spear.
(7) “Knife” means any bladed hand instrument that is capable of inflicting serious bodily injury or death by cutting or stabbing a person with the instrument.
……..

Definitions of Various Types of Knives

Switchblade

The Texas code defines switchblade knife as a knife, which has a blade that folds, closes, or retracts into the handle, and that opens automatically by pressure applied to a button or other device located on the handle, by the force of gravity or by the application of centrifugal force (spinning the knife). The term does not include a knife that has a spring or other mechanism designed to keep the blade closed and that requires exertion applied to the blade by hand, wrist, or arm to overcome the bias and open the knife. A switchblade does not have to be operable in its original condition in order to qualify as a switchblade under the law. In Smith v. State, the Texas Court of Appeals upheld Mr. Smith’s conviction for carrying a switchblade with a broken release mechanism, because Mr. Smith had used a rubber band to hold the blade in place, and could still operate the knife as a switchblade. The Court held that there was no statutory requirement that the knife operated in its original intended fashion to obtain a conviction under the statute. **Update** – as of September 1, 2013, switchblades are no longer illegal in the state of Texas.

Throwing Star

In 1983, in Albert v. State, the Court found that the arresting officer’s testimony, calling the objects found under Mr. Albert’s floor mat “martial arts throwing stars” and describing them as “having seven or eight points, like a saw blade, and very sharp” was sufficient to conclude that the objects were throwing stars and therefore, illegal to carry.

Dagger and Bowie Knife

Former Texas Penal Code 1161, in connection with the law of assault with intent to murder, defined “dagger” and “bowie knife” as any knife intended to be worn upon the person, which is capable of inflicting death, and is not commonly known as a pocket knife. In Armendariz v. State, the Court upheld Mr. Armendariz conviction for unlawfully carrying a dagger. It found that the weapon Mr. Armendariz carried, which was slightly over seven inches in length when open, equipped with a double guard, had blade that locked in place when open, and was sharpened on both edges for slightly more than an inch from the point, was a dagger, not a pocketknife.

Butterfly Knife

In 2005, in an unpublished decision, the Texas Court of Appeals found, in Cook v. State, that a butterfly knife fell within the statutory definition of a switchblade, and was therefore illegal to possess or carry. However, because the law which made switchblade knives illegal was repealed in 2013, butterfly knives are now legal to own in Texas.

Restrictions on Carry

- It is illegal to conceal or open carry any knife with a blade over 5 ½ inches long
- It is illegal to conceal or open carry throwing stars or any type of throwing knife
- It is illegal to conceal or open carry dirks, daggers, stilettos, and other stabbing knives
- It is illegal to conceal or open carry a bowie knife
- It is illegal to conceal or open carry a sword or spear

Carry restrictions do not apply to a person's own vehicle or a vehicle that is under their control, as long as the weapon is being carried for a lawful purpose.

Definition of Blade

In Rainer v. State, Mr. Rainer was charged with unlawfully carrying a weapon for having a large hunting knife concealed on his person when he was arrested at a lounge for failing to appear in Court the Texas Appellate Court held that blade was defined in the dictionary as the cutting part of a knife, not the sharpened part. Therefore, the blade of a knife was the part of the knife from the handle to tip, and not just the sharpened portion.

Conclusion on Texas Knife Law

Texas knife laws are some of the most restrictive in the United States.

It is illegal in Texas to own a gravity knife.

It is illegal to open or conceal carry any knife with a blade over 5 ½ inches long, throwing knives or stars, dirks, daggers, stilettos, and other stabbing knives, bowie knives, swords, or spears.

Sources

- Tex. Penal Code § 46.01 (2012)
- Tex. Penal Code § 46.02 (2012)
- Tex. Penal Code § 46.05 (2012)
- Rainer v. State, 763 S.W.2d 615 (Tex. App. 1989)
- Smith v. State, 1988 Tex. App. (Tex. App. 1988)
- Albert v. State, 659 S.W.2d 41 (Tex. App. 1983)
- Armendariz v. State, 396 S.W.2d 132 (Tex. Crim. App. 1965)
- Cook v. State, 2005 Tex. App. LEXIS 3053

http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2017/09/13/republicans-push-gun-silencer-bill-democrats-fire-back.html

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Republicans push gun silencer bill; Democrats fire back

Published September 13, 2017
Fox News

Gun silencers or suppressors are becoming increasingly popular in the real world as hunters and other gun owners adopt them for hearing protection. (Reuters)

Lawmakers on Tuesday debated the merits of a Republican-backed bill that would make it easier for individuals to buy gun silencers.

Rep. Jeff Duncan, R-S.C., introduced the measure in the Sportsmen's Heritage and Recreational Enhancement Act, the Hill reported. The provision calls for a less extensive and instant background check.

Duncan's bill is reportedly dubbed the Hearing Protection Act. The debate was reportedly delayed after the shooting of Rep. Steve Scalise, R-La., in June in a park in Arlington, Va.

Rep. Liz Cheney, R-Wyo., reportedly said it seems that sportsmen "have to choose between damaging their hearing and being able to hunt, shoot, target practice."

Democrats said the bill is dangerous, and would make it more difficult to determine where shots are being fired in an active-shooter situation.

“We should not make it easier for anyone to obtain these weapons of war,” Rep. Jimmy Gomez, D-Calif., said, according to the report.

David Chipman, a senior policy adviser of Americans for Responsible Solutions, a pro-gun control group, was invited to the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Federal Lands hearing, the Hill reported.

Chipman said the bill “would make silencers more readily available to criminals because for the first time in 80 years private parties could sell these guns without background checks on the internet and in gun shows and this has never been the case before.

The National Rifle Association’s lobbying arm supports the measures, saying suppressors are “harmless and very rarely used in crime” and that the joint bill would end the “cumbersome and lengthy application process.”

A similar measure failed in 2015. But supporters are optimistic this time with President Donald Trump in office.

The GOP lawmakers say the bill aims to “cut through the red tape” of owning a suppressor and, if passed, would remove the accessory from the scope of the National Firearms Act. They also say it would replace the “outdated” federal application process with the “instantaneous” National Instant Criminal Background Check.

Critics point to a February 2013 situation in which fired Los Angeles police Officer Christopher Dorner killed four people in a series of attacks over 10 days that targeted law enforcement officials. They argue the fatal attacks might have been stopped earlier had Dorner not been using silencers.

“There’s no evidence of a public health issue associated with hearing loss from gunfire,” Kristin Brown, of the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, told the Los Angeles Times earlier this year. “There is evidence of a public health crisis from gun violence, and we think that’s where legislative efforts should be directed.”

https://www.ammoland.com/2017/05/knife-rights-texas-knife-law-reform-bill-passed-house/#axzz4sZJbnQHg

Knife Rights' Texas Knife Law Reform Bill Passed by House

Posted on May 10, 2017May 10, 2017 by Ammoland Editor Joe Evans
Read more: https://www.ammoland.com/2017/05/knife-rights-texas-knife-law-reform-bill-passed-house/#ixzz4sZKlZK3z

USA -(Ammoland.com)- Knife Rights' bipartisan Texas Knife Law Reform Bill, HB 1935, to repeal "illegal knives" in Texas statute, was passed yesterday by the House 131-1.

Although somewhat anticlimactic after the difficult fight to save the bill and to get it amended and through Second Reading on Monday, with the tragic stabbing at the University of Texas still fresh in everyone's minds, it was never a foregone conclusion. The bill now moves to the Senate where we still have our work cut out for us to get this passed.

As we noted yesterday, Knife Rights Director of Legislative Affairs, Todd Rathner, has been in Austin for a week working to salvage the bill and ensure that any bill that emerged would still be an advance for Texas knife owners. He now gets to go home. He'll be back for the Senate push.

HB 1935, as amended, now eliminates daggers, dirks, stilettos, poniards, swords, spears and most notably, Bowie knives, completely from Texas statute, effectively allowing them to be carried anywhere in the state.

However, in order to get the bill moved, the amendment stipulates that knives with blades over 5 1/2 inches are now defined as "location restricted" knives.

These knives may be carried all over the state except in a narrow list of places such as schools, colleges, correctional facilities, houses of worship, and bars that derive more than 51 percent of their income from alcohol sales.

This is an unfortunate amendment, but the alternative would have been to watch the bill die and throw years of work in Texas down the drain.

This bill's passage would still be a huge win for knife owners in Texas and given the tragic circumstances, Todd's done an incredible job not just saving the legislation, but ending up with 95 percent of what we wanted. If we get this bill passed, we will be back in two years and again try to finish the job in Texas.

We's like to again express our appreciation to our House sponsors, Primary Author, Rep. Frullo, Joint Authors, Reps. Dutton, Kuempel, Moody and Springer and Coauthors, Reps. Canales and Lambert for standing firm in challenging circumstances.

This is a perfect example of why your support is so important. Otherwise, Todd could not have spent the last week in Austin and this bill would have died. It's that simple. Your support is critical!

About Knife Right:

Knife Rights is rewriting knife law in America. Knife Rights passed the nation's first repeal of a switchblade (automatic) knife ban in 2010 in New Hampshire and has since passed repeal of switchblade bans (and repealed other knife restrictions) in Alaska, Colorado, Indiana, Kansas, Maine, Missouri, Nevada, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas and Wisconsin.

http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2017/07/11/texas-law-will-allow-open-carry-knives-swords.html

Texas law will allow open carry of knives, swords

By FOX 7 Austin Published July 11, 2017

A new law in Texas will allow people over 18 to carry knives with blades longer than 5 ½ inches in public. (FOX 7 Austin)

AUSTIN, Texas – A new law in Texas will allow people over 18 to carry knives with blades longer than 5 ½ inches in public.

That means after September 1, people possessing anything from daggers to swords will not be breaking any laws. “What this law does is it gets rid of all that grey area and simplifies the law,” said AJ Postell, co-founder of Lone Star Gun Rights.

Gov. Greg Abbott recently signed House Bill 1935 into law, removing size restrictions on knife blades carried publicly by adults.

“The way the law currently is is that any knife with a blade length over 5 ½ inches is prohibited, so with the new law, it basically takes all that prohibited language off the books thus allowing knives over 5 ½ inches of blade length, also daggers, double-edged knives, dirks, even swords will soon come legal September 1,” Postell said.

Part of the reason knife activists fought for the bill is because they feel Texans were being unfairly labeled as criminals for carrying knives.

“We were seeing a lot of Texans get in trouble for the mere possession of something that they were legally allowed to own and to buy, but they were getting in trouble for possessing that item,” said Postell.

Even after September, long knives will not be allowed in several places; including bars, schools, churches, airports, government buildings, hospitals, correctional facilities, sporting events and polling locations.

“If someone goes into a business and the business owner or an employee is not comfortable with what they're carrying, they can ask them to leave or ask them to go place it in their vehicle and, again, law abiding people are going to do that,” Postell said.

https://www.texastribune.org/2017/09/12/new-texas-law-expands-knife-freedoms/

Now you can carry any knife (almost) anywhere in Texas

A new state law eliminates the category of "illegal knives," effectively expanding knife owners' freedom to carry blades almost anywhere in the state.

by Emma Platoff Sept. 12, 2017 12 AM

Austin Price for The Texas Tribune

There is no such thing as an “illegal knife” in Texas.

Dirks and daggers, stilettos and poniards, even machetes and swords can now legally be carried just about anywhere — even “down Congress Avenue,” said state Rep. John Frullo, R-Lubbock, the author of House Bill 1935, the law that made it so beginning Sept. 1.

HB 1935 effectively eliminates prohibitions on where certain knives can be carried by getting rid of the category of “illegal knives,” a designation critics called ambiguous. Under the new law, a smaller subset of newly dubbed “location restricted” knives will be prohibited in places like college buildings and bars.

Previously, knives with blades longer than five-and-a-half inches**,** as well as Bowie knives and a few other types, could not be legally carried outside the home. The new statute expands knife owners’ freedoms, advocates said, and also eliminates a great deal of confusion. Bowie knives, for example, were designated “illegal” under the previous law, but they were not legally defined.

Oversights like these made it difficult for knife owners to know whether they were in compliance with the law, “making criminals of people who had no intention of doing anything wrong,” Frullo said.

Todd Rathner, director of legislative affairs for the national organization Knife Rights, said the law’s significance stretches beyond practical concerns.

“Texans carry all kinds of knives for all kinds of purposes, whether it’s working on a ranch or opening envelopes in an office. So they want to be able to know that whatever knife they stick in their pocket or hang on their belt, that it’s legal,” Rathner said. “There’s also principle involved: In the United States of America, we have the Second Amendment right to bear arms — it doesn’t say ‘guns,’ it says ‘arms.’”

Cliff Hill, the owner of an Austin knife shop, said he appreciates the expanded protections HB 1935 offers knife enthusiasts.

An amendment restricting knives in certain locations — beyond college campuses, certain knives are also prohibited from jails as well as from certain bars and hospitals — was added to the law in the wake of a deadly stabbing this May on the campus of the University of Texas at Austin. Police said junior biology major Kendrex White used a “large, Bowie-style hunting knife” to kill one fellow student, Harrison Brown, and wound three others. HB 1935 passed the House a week after the tragedy.

The measure faced very little opposition in either chamber.

“The safety concern here was too great for me to vote favorably on this legislation without more debate,” said state Rep. Ina Minjarez, D-San Antonio, one of only a handful of legislators who voted against the bill.

But Frullo said that the law does not increase danger, arguing that knife threats are most likely to come from individuals who weren’t following the laws anyway.

“Definitely, knives can be used as a weapon, but also they have a lot of other practical purposes,” Frullo said. “The fact of whether or not we have a law is not going to change whether somebody is doing something bad.”

Rathner said he aims to push in future sessions for legislation that would eliminate the location restrictions entirely.

Cliff Hill, a competitive knife thrower and the owner of an Austin knife-sharpening store, said changing this law doesn't mean "that you're going to see people walking around with swords hanging off their belt." Instead, he said, it makes it easier for enthusiasts like him to pursue their hobbies without breaking the law.

For example, when Hill takes his collection of blades to a knife-throwing competition or to teach a knife-throwing class, he's been "driving illegal."

"I think it's good in that sense," he said. "If I'm on my way to teach a class, how am I not going to have throwing knives with me, you know?"

Disclosure: The University of Texas at Austin has been a financial supporter of The Texas Tribune. A complete list of Tribune donors and sponsors can be viewed here.

http://www.guns.com/2017/08/17/oregon-governor-signs-gun-confiscation-bill-into-law/

Oregon governor signs gun confiscation bill into law

8/17/17 | by Chris Eger

Brown, a Democrat, signed the measure into law this week after it squeaked through the legislature. (*Photo: Gov. Brown's office*)

Oregon Gov. Kate Brown on Wednesday approved Democrat-backed gun control legislation to establish Extreme Risk Protection Orders, forcing subjects to surrender their firearms.

The law, SB 719A, allows police, or a member of a subject's family or household, to file a petition with the court which could lead to an order prohibiting firearms possession if it is believed they pose an imminent risk to themselves or others. The bill passed the Senate 17-11 in May and the House 31-28 last month, picking up only one Republican supporter along the way.

Brown, a Democrat, signed the bill without comment this week but in remarks to lawmakers during the legislative process she called Extreme Risk Protection Orders the "best way to ensure that a person who is at risk of harming themselves or others is identified, while still ensuring their rights are protected by a court review."

The new law will establish a process for obtaining an order issued by a judge in a civil court prohibiting the subject from possessing or buying firearms or ammo for one year. It grants police enforcing such orders the power to search for and seize guns that were not surrendered or stored with a third party such as a gun dealer.

The subject of the order has 30 days to request a hearing to keep their firearms, which must be held within 21 days.

Those filing fake orders could be imprisoned for up to a year, or pay a fine of up to $6,250, or both.

The law was modeled on one adopted after a ballot referendum last fall in neighboring Washington following a $3.5 million push by gun control groups, which in turn was based on a 2014 California law.

Gun control advocates lauded the new tool to take guns out of some situations.

“SB 719 is a common-sense bill that will empower families and law enforcement officers to take action to potentially prevent tragedies before they happen,” said Lisa Reynolds with Moms Demand Action in a statement. “That law will help save lives.”

Second Amendment groups have blasted the ERPO process, arguing it provides no structure for those deemed at risk to receive help, or those dangerous to be taken into custody. Further, they point to due process concerns.

“By allowing a law enforcement officer, family member, or household member to seek the ERPO, SB 719A would allow people who are not mental health professionals, who may be mistaken, and who may only have minimal contact with the respondent to file a petition with the court and testify on the respondent’s state of mind,” says a statement from the National Rifle Association’s legislative lobby arm.

https://www.gunsamerica.com/blog/9-critical-concealed-carry-lessons-ep-7-truck-guns/?utm_source=email&utm_medium=20170822_SpecPub_0107&utm_campaign=/blog/9-critical-concealed-carry-lessons-ep-7-truck-guns/

9 Critical Concealed Carry Lessons: Ep. 7 Truck Guns

by Clay Martin on August 21, 2017

A controversial topic to some, this week we are going to talk about the truck gun concept. I have gotten some backlash over the years that a rifle under the seat doesn't really count as "concealed carry" and no shortage of critics who tell me, "You will go straight to jail if you use an AR to defend yourself."

Well, I say, to each his own. If I need a rifle to solve a problem, I firmly believe in the old saying, "Better judged by twelve than carried by six."

Many things are debatable, but relative firepower is not. A duty-sized pistol beats a pocket pistol, and a rifle beats the pants off of both in terms of killing power. (Notice I didn't say "knock down power.") I almost always carry a rifle in the truck, just in case. Here's why you might consider doing the same.

The first question at hand is geography. Where do you live? If you live out West, like I do, it is really easy to get into wide open spaces. It might not be likely, but it is entirely possible that I need to defend myself from afar.

In fact, it is highly probable that if SHTF, I would prefer to have a .308 to a 5.56 just for the increased range. There are some strange cats out here in the desert, and all it takes is one nut job to think my F-150 is a United Nation's black helicopter for things to go pear-shaped. Wild animals big enough to actually hurt me also roam these parts and 9mm is a bad choice for an enraged moose or mountain lion.

Even if you don't drive a truck, there are plenty of concealment options for cars and SUVs.

Proximity to your house from work should also be a factor in your decision. On the worst of days, it is about 30 miles back to my house from where I work, through an area that is sparsely populated. If something catastrophic

shut down the roads or my truck died, I would probably be able to avoid problems just by moving at night. If that 30 miles were across an urban area, I would want some heavier hardware.

The second point to consider is terrorism. Going all the way back to Charles Whitman at the University of Texas in 1966 to Pulse Night Club to Sandy Hook to San Bernadino to Aurora to the shooting in Dallas perpetrated by Micah Johnson, the worst of the worst have a tendency to bring long guns.

You never want to find yourself in a firefight holding a pistol when the other guy has a rifle. It doesn't matter if their entire marksmanship program involved ninja rolls and monkey bars, you're still likely to get your butt kicked.

The counter-argument to this given by many "professional" trainers is that in such a situation you should either hunker down or flee. If that is your mindset, please leave the rifle at home. Preferably next to your cardigan and pink fluffy slippers. I don't know exactly what kind of man would flee the scene of a mass shooting if he had the means to stop it but that sounds like a coward to me.

Sure, police might confuse you with one of the bad guys. And you might get shot and killed saving innocents. But that is a better end than trying to live with yourself if you fled the scene of a massacre like a rat from a sinking ship. It's a cold, hard world out there, and the sooner you come to terms with it, the better off you will be. It's one man's opinion, and I have the benefit of millions of dollars in training time. But it bears serious consideration.

There are a lot of concealment options for long guns on the market whether it be in the trunk of your car or in a dedicated carry pack (see video for more details on the backpacks). If you are of the means, you can also nab something ultra-compact. The Kel Tec SU-16 is a great truck gun, for example. You can also take a look at AR takedowns or something in a bullpup configuration.

I have space in my vehicle, so I carry a Barnes Precision AR-15 with a 16" barrel. The optic or lack thereof is dictated by need and space. When I did this for a living, I often used just iron sights, because it made the package smaller.

Now that I'm in retirement and live out West, I often use a Bushnell 1-6.5x-25mm for the increased ability to hit at range.

One additional accessory I have recently discovered is the Crimson Trace® LINQ. This is a flashlight and laser aiming module all in one, controlled wirelessly via an integrated pistol grip. I really like the redundancy of a backup aiming system that works in all light conditions. The flashlight is tiny but packs the same punch as a light three times its size. I round my system out with a VTAC sling, still the king of slings in my opinion.

The LINQ from Crimson Trace® is worth checking out, especially in a world where one is none and two is one.

A truck gun isn’t for everyone, but it is something you should consider. It’s like flood insurance. Don’t let the first time you think about it be the day you need it.

https://gundigest.com/gear-ammo/ammunition/9mm-luger-still-setting-standard?utm_source=wir&utm_campaign=gd-dwb-wir-170824-Concealed&utm_content=965217_EDT_CC170824&utm_medium=email

Is The 9mm Luger The Best All-Around Defensive Cartridge?

By Robert Campbell August 4, 2017

The 9mm Luger has always been a widely used cartridge ever since its introduction in 1902, and it remains highly popular among American shooters.

Why is the 9mm America's most popular handgun caliber?

- The 9mm's popularity has sky rocketed, offering shooters a high-powered round that is still manageable.
- Married to the most popular military sidearm in the world, the Browning Hi-Power, the acceptance of the versatile German cartridge soon spread.
- More recently, the 9mm has become a popular concealed carry caliber, due to even new shooters being able to master the most important factor to defensive shooting in pistols chambered for it — shot placement.
- Affordability, wide selection of guns and solid ballistics all continue to make the 9mm the most shot round in the country.

While there may be better cartridges for some situations, none have the winning combination of power, accuracy and economy exhibited by the 9mm Luger. When handgun and ammunition sales are rung up, shooters vote with their hard-earned dollars, and after all these years, the Nine wins the popularity contest.

It remains much more popular than the .40 and the .45. The .40 S&W is a compromise caliber but doesn't seem to have won many converts outside of police work, and that position has been seriously eroded. The .40's snappy recoil in compact handguns is one reason for its loss in popularity. Another is that the 9mm is practically as effective as the .40 given the new breed of highly developed 9mm ammunition.

The 9mm is a high-powered handgun cartridge — there is no doubt about that, but it isn't a cartridge that demands a burly he-man to control it. Slightly built shooters and female shooters have no problem with the 9mm when proper technique is applied. The caliber is so popular that it is being offered in handguns that once were bastions of the .45. Ruger's introduction of the SR1911 9mm has been met with great applause and expectation. This handgun is easy to shoot well and accurate. An aluminum-frame 1911 is easy to carry all day and the lightweight Ruger 9mm doesn't kick much compared to the lightweight .45. Yet, with modern loads, the 9mm has real authority. Even the .38 Super has lost a portion of its limited popularity with the improvement of the 9mm Luger.

The 9mm has come a long way since its introduction as a German service cartridge in 1902. The German Luger was used extensively in World War I, and the first submachine guns were chambered for the 9mm Luger cartridge.

Introduced in 1935, the Browning Hi-Power went on to become the single most popular service pistol in the world. The armed forces of over 100 nations acquired the Browning, all in 9mm Luger chambering. After World War II the allies had excellent 9mm SMGs in the form of the Sten and Sterling, and others were developed. The 9mm Luger became the 9mm NATO cartridge in due course.

Along the way there have been certain milestone handguns that made the popularity of the 9mm handgun inevitable. The ascendency of the Browning Hi-Power handgun is one milestone. Another is the adoption of the 9mm Luger cartridge by Poland for use in their Radom pistol. This is to the best of my knowledge the first instance of the adoption of the service cartridge of an enemy nation based purely on performance. The Walther P38 was a highly influential 9mm handgun. The allies were so impressed with the P38 that eventually the United States adopted a highly modified P38 pistol in the form of the Beretta 92. Today, the Beretta A3 variant is the current service pistol, and by all indications will continue to serve well into the next decade. ***(Editor's Note:*** *Following the results of the Army's Modular Handgun System (MHS) competition this year, it looks like SIG's P320 will be the next service handgun)*

It is also a good cartridge for concealed-carry handguns. It is controllable in a handgun of 21 ounces or more. In compact pistols such as the Glock 19, the cartridge is downright docile. A steel-frame pistol such as the Browning Hi-Power or CZ 75 offers brilliantly fast recovery from recoil. The 9mm is easily controlled in the larger pistols and never becomes a bear even in subcompacts.

Even shooters who later will move on to heavier calibers should begin with the 9mm Luger cartridge. I have seen a number of students come to my shooting classes with a handgun that recoils too much. A new student will likely become discouraged or develop a flinch that is difficult to train away. The single most important component of combat marksmanship is shot placement. The typical beginning shooter is well served with the 9mm. If you insist on a larger caliber you should learn to use a full-size-frame handgun if you choose the .45, or

a Glock 22-size if you choose the .40 caliber. If the pistol is too heavy, you will not carry it — and if it kicks too much you will not practice with it.

There are several more reasons why the 9mm remains so popular.

Economy
It isn't unusual to see special deals on the price of 9mm Luger ammunition. Full-metal-jacket (FMJ) loads are commonly available at good prices. Just check the ammo section of Cheaper Than Dirt!, Midsouth Shooters Supply, Brownells or Cabela's for bargains. Sale prices for 9mm FMJ is often half the price of comparable .40- and .45-caliber loads. Even premium defensive ammo is less than the larger calibers. On average, my recent searches indicate that ammunition can be found in 500-round quantities for the average price of 350 rounds of comparable .45 ACP cartridges. This means more practice. Yet, it is the larger caliber that demands more practice ammunition to master! Use the logic ladder.

The Guns
Some of the finest handguns in the world are chambered in 9mm Luger caliber. These include the SIG P226, Beretta 92, HK VP9 and the Glock 19. They are famously reliable and accurate. Even inexpensive pistols such as the Canik T 100 will get the job done, simply with a little less style. In compact carry guns, the Smith and Wesson Shield, Glock 26 and Springfield XD are excellent choices. This year has seen the introduction of the Ruger SR1911, the Honor Defense Honor Guard and the Arex Rex Zero, all of which exhibit excellent quality.

Ballistics
This is the big question. Despite some pretty strange statements and non-standard science, the 9mm cannot produce a wound equal to the .45 ACP, given similar bullet technology. The .40 S&W and the .357 Magnum give superior results in testing. But then the 9mm can be enough with the proper load, and that is the bottom line. A loading with good quality control and cartridge integrity is the first choice. Every maker doesn't have the same quality control, primer seal and case mouth seal, and especially bullet technology. The loading must maintain the balance of expansion and penetration. This means adequate penetration must not be compromised. This means 12 inches of water or gelatin. (Law enforcement, with the need to penetrate barriers and vehicles, needs more penetration.) It has enough energy to maintain high-velocity penetration and expansion.

No, the 9mm isn't my choice for defense against a pack of feral dogs or a bear, but for most personal defense situations, the 9mm has the necessary power with proper loads to get the job done. And the best loads mean a

lot! The 9mm FMJ loads we use for practice are poor defensive loads, but then few of us deploy a FMJ load if we have a choice. Good control, accuracy and a good balance of expansion and penetration work. As an example, Hornady recently introduced a 124-grain XTP +P load in the American Gunner line. This loading is affordable and offers excellent performance from my personal testing. Also, Winchester offers the PDX in 124-grain +P that offers excellent wound ballistics.

If you prefer not to use a +P loading, there are a number of standard loads that offer good performance. Black Hills Ammunition offers the EXP (Extra Power) loading that is as fast as possible in 9mm without going into +P territory. Performance is excellent. The SIG Sauer Elite 124-grain V Crown is also a good, fast load not +P rated. The Hornady Critical Defense 115 grain is another solid choice. Winchester's Silvertip has been around for decades, although the newest version is considerably improved over the original. These loads all offer good performance, are readily available and exhibit excellent quality control. Federal's 124-grain HST is another good choice. Federal recently introduced a low-recoil 150-grain HST specifically for use in compact 9mm handguns. Performance is interesting. While recoil is low, expansion is good.

The 9mm's future? It is more popular than ever and is an excellent choice for personal defense — given a reliable handgun and intelligent ammunition choice.

Editor's Note: *This article is from Gun Digest 2018.*

http://www.gunsholstersandgear.com/gun-reviews/hk-vp9-review/

HK VP9 Review – Best New 9mm Handgun

Unless you've been living under a rock, you have probably heard about the new HK VP9 pistol that was introduced a few months ago. It is one of the biggest new firearm announcements for 2014, and popularity for the gun seems to be growing exponentially. Having one in my possession for several months now, I completely understand why people love this gun.

What is the VP9? The new Heckler & Koch pistol is a polymer-framed, striker-fired pistol chambered in 9mm. It is a duty-size handgun, slightly larger than the Glock 19, but a hair smaller than the M&P9. (See the below table for a comparison of these three pistols.)

On the surface, it may sound like the gun doesn't offer anything new. But the specs don't tell the whole story. This gun is a real joy to shoot, and it offers a number of unique features that can't be found on other companies' guns.

History

No review of the VP9 would be complete without looking at the historical roots of the gun.

The VP9 is a striker-fired, polymer-framed pistol. Certainly it is not the first plastic, striker-fired gun ever made. Nor is it the first one ever made by Heckler & Koch.

Beating the Glock 17 to market by more than a decade, the VP70 was the first striker-fired, polymer pistol to see commercial introduction. The guns sold in two versions: a semi-automatic pistol for civilians and a select-fire variant for military use. Versions of the gun were manufactured from 1970 through 1989.

The VP70 name had a meaning to it. VP stood for Volkspistole, or the “People’s Pistol.” Just like Volkswagen was a car for the masses, HK perhaps intended for the VP70 to be a quality handgun that everyone could afford. “70” referred to the year it was introduced.

Though the gun never achieved the same level of sales success that the Glock pistols did, the VP70 clearly blazed a new trail that would be followed by nearly every major gun maker by the early 21st Century.

Features

Drawing inspiration from its historical roots, HK developed the VP9 as an affordable pistol that delivers great features and incredible performance. Many of the features relate to making the gun useable by a wide range of people, further enhancing the Volkspistole legacy.

Prior to the introduction of this gun, HK had been selling (and still does at the time of this writing) a similar pistol called the P30. The P30 is a polymer-framed pistol that uses a hammer-fired action.

The new VP9 has a lot of similar features to the P30 pistols including the magazine release being mounted on the trigger guard and the adjustable backstraps and side panels. The new gun also has a slide release lever mounted on the right side of the frame in addition to the standard left side of the gun.

However, the two guns do not use an identical frame. For example, the trigger guard is significantly different in the two guns. This prevents many of the holsters designed for the P30 from working with the VP9. Read more on VP9 holsters here.

Lets take a look at the pistol's features.

Ambidextrous Controls

The VP9 is fully ambidextrous. Every control on the left side of the gun has a duplicate control on the right side of the gun. There are no parts that have to be swapped to make it south paw friendly as must be done on some other pistols.

A long slide release lever is mounted on the right side of the frame to mirror the function of the one in the traditional location. The lever is low profile, and though it looks like it might interfere with the running of the pistol, it does not. At no point during any of the testing did any shooter have the lever interfere with the gun's operation.

Most pistols uses a push-button magazine release. HK deviated from this convention and used a paddle-style release that is mounted at the rear of the trigger guard. I was very skeptical of this arrangement when I first saw it. However, I found I was at least as fast with this style as I was with a push-button release.

While I found it easiest to use my thumb to release the magazine, other shooters like to use the trigger finger to release the mag. This has the benefit of not breaking your grip to change the magazines.

Semi-Custom Sizing

Carrying the idea of the People's Pistol forward, the handgun has interchangeable backstraps and side panels to fit nearly any hand size. Right out of the box, the gun can be configured for 27 different grip sizes. This allows each shooter to best fit the gun to his or her hand. Proper gun-to-hand fit will allow for proper finger placement on the trigger. Correct finger placement on the trigger can improve accuracy immensely.

Trigger

HK claims the trigger pull on the VP9 is superior to any other striker-fired mechanism on the market. This is a highly subjective claim, but I am unable to name a trigger I like better.

The VP9 trigger is relatively light with a smooth press and short reset. When I first began shooting the pistol, the reset was overly energetic. It pushed my finger past the reset point so that I had to take up slack in the trigger before firing again. I noticed that the more I shot the gun, the less this was a problem.

A positive reset still exists. The reset is still obvious, but now it is slightly less energetic. It no longer pushes my finger forward of the reset point and I can take a follow up shot without the need for additional take up.

Charging Supports

At the rear of the slide is a pair of protrusions called charging supports. These inserts appear to be polymer pieces that are dovetailed into the sides of the slide. The supports extend at a 90˚ angle from the side of the slide, and are designed to improve the shooter's ability to work the slide.

I imagine many people might see these as a marketing gimmick. In fact, I was a bit skeptical about their usefulness when I first saw them. However, I found they do seem to improve my grip when manipulating the slide. They are removable if you do not like them.

Sights

The HK VP9 pistol comes with three-dot luminescent sights. Essentially, the sights glow in the dark. In bright light, they absorb energy and look white. In low light, the dots give off the absorbed energy and glow green. The more stored energy they have, the brighter the glow. If they have given off all of the stored energy, the sights appear to be white.

I found the sights worked as well as any other three-dot arrangement. In bright to moderate lighting conditions, they simply looked like other white dots. In low light conditions, the sights were very visible and easy to use. With my ProTac HL hand held flashlight I could “charge” the front sight for a few seconds and get an extremely bright glow.

The only complaint I have about the sights is the shape of the rear sight. The leading edge of the sight is sloped. Some people prefer this as a way to prevent snagging on clothing during a draw. I, on the other hand, prefer a sharp edge so I can perform a single hand reload and malfunction clearance.

I attempted to use the charging supports to perform a one hand reload, but I found they were not adequate for the task. Essentially, they are not tall enough and have a slight rounded nature that prevents them from griping the edge of a belt or holster.

I've assembled a complete list of aftermarket sights for the VP9 here.

Accessory Rail

Like nearly every modern duty pistol being made today, Heckler & Koch included an Picatinny-type accessory rail on the VP9. The rail allows a shooter to easily pop on a light or laser.

Unfortunately, there have been problems with reliability in polymer pistols from another maker when certain ammunition and accessory lights were combined. I believe that company solved the problem, but HK was determined never to have the problem in the first place.

Extensive testing by HK proved the VP9's accessory rail is completely reliable with any light or laser unit with a weight up to 5.6 ounces. While 5.6 ounces may not sound like much, it does cover nearly every light and laser unit I could find including:

- BLACKHAWK! Night-Ops Xiphos NTX
- INFORCE APL
- Streamlight TLR-1, TLR-1s, TLR-1 HL, TLR-1 HP, TLR-1s HP
- Streamlight TLR-2, TLR-2s, TLR-2 G, TLR-2 HL, TLR-2 IRW
- Streamlight TLR-3
- Streamlight TLR-4, TLR-4 G
- SureFire X300 Ultra, X300V
- SureFire X400 Ultra (red laser), X400 Ultra (green laser), X400V IRc
- Viridian X5L, X5L-R, X5L-FDE, C5, C5-R, C5L, C5L-R, CTL

I found only one light and laser combination unit that exceed the 5.6 ounces. It was the Streamlight TLR-2 VIR. Streamlight states the unit weighs 6.0 ounces with batteries, lens cap and a remote switch. The market for this light is pretty small, so it should not affect the vast majority of VP9 customers. It is possible that without the long gun remote switch the unit would weigh less than 5.6 ounces.

Why 9mm?

Gun folks – myself included – like to debate the various performance benefits of different handgun calibers for self defense. I've shot almost all of them and own guns in most of them. As a police officer, I saw the effects of different ones out in the real world. As a writer, I've seen how a lot of them perform in gelatin.

For me, the 9mm is a very good balance of power and performance. What I mean to say is the 9mm, especially in +P and +P+ offerings, offers an excellent balance between the ability to stop a deadly threat and the ability of the shooter to deliver multiple, well-placed rounds.

Other calibers, such as the .40 S&W, *may* offer a small increase in the ability to shut down an attacker. However, this small gain in performance comes at the cost of a decreased ability to deliver multiple hits to vital areas. For each shooter, a balance must be struck when choosing a caliber. For me, the 9mm makes sense.

While I cannot say for certain why HK decided to make the VP9 a 9mm only pistol, I can only speculate that:

1. 9mm is a NATO standard, which means the gun could be sold to various military units that need a 9mm pistol; and
2. HK may not be limiting the line to 9mm only – other calibers may be coming soon.

HK stated in the original press release that the pistol passed both NATO and NIJ testing (drop tests, extreme environment, etc.) This would tend to indicate they are looking toward the military market in addition to the law enforcement and armed citizen markets.

I have no insight into the long term strategy Heckler & Koch has developed for these pistols. However, I would not be shocked to see a VP40 introduced at the 2015 SHOT Show. The P30 pistol is available in both 9mm and .40 S&W. It would seem that HK could easily build a .40 caliber version of the Volkspistole.

VP9 Specifications

caliber	9mm
standard magazine capacity	15 rounds
barrel length	4.09"
sight radius	6.38"
overall length	7.34"
maximum width	1.32"
overall height	5.41"
weight (with unloaded magazine, factory specified)	25.56 oz
weight (with unloaded magazine, measured)	26.4 oz
trigger pull weight	5.4 lbs

color	matte black
sights	three-dot luminous
warranty	limited lifetime
MSRP	$719

Weight measured on a Weighmax digital postal shipping scale. Trigger pull weight measured on a Lyman electronic digital trigger pull gauge.

HK VP9 Comparison

A comparison of the VP9 to other similarly sized striker-fired pistols from Glock and Smith & Wesson.

	HECKLER & KOCH VP9	GLOCK 19 GEN4	SMITH & WESSON M&P9
caliber	9mm	9mm	9mm
magazine capacity	15 rounds	15 rounds	17 rounds
operating system	recoil operated, striker fired	recoil operated, striker fired	recoil operated, striker fired
barrel length	4.09"	4.01"	4.25"
overall length	7.34"	7.28"	7.63"
width	1.32"	1.18"	1.2"

	HECKLER & KOCH VP9	GLOCK 19 GEN4	SMITH & WESSON M&P9
weight	23.28 oz (unloaded, no magazine)	23.65 oz (unloaded, unknown if with magazine)	24.0 oz (unloaded, no magazine)
height	5.41"	4.99"	5.5"
sights	three dot luminous (tritium optional as accessories)	three dot (tritium optional)	three dot (tritium optional)
sight radius	6.38"	6.02"	6.4"
warranty	limited lifetime	limited one year	limited lifetime
MSRP	$719.00	$649.00	$569.00

There is no perfect apples-to-apples comparison since every gun company has a different approach to the development of firearms. One company's "full size" is another company's "compact." However, the VP9 compares favorably in size to the Glock 19 and Smith & Wesson M&P 9 pistols.

Although the Glock 19 is a "compact" pistol, it is still large enough to be carried as a primary sidearm in law enforcement or military service. I carried my Gen 2 Glock 19 as a reserve deputy with the Fulton County Sheriff's Office in Atlanta, GA. I never felt under-armed with the pistol then and would happily carry it again as a duty weapon.

The one criticism I have seen on the internet regarding this comparison is that the HK's height is closer to that of the Glock 17, and that Glock managed to squeeze two additional rounds into the magazine with that additional distance. This is true, but it seems to me that 15 vs. 17 rounds is not as significant an issue as other things might be. However, if the round count is your primary concern in buying a pistol, the Springfield Armory XD(M) pistol might be the best choice (19 rounds per magazine.)

Performance on the Range

At the time of this writing, I have had the VP9 on the range on seven different occasions. To date, ten different people have shot the gun. Combined we have put more than 1,200 rounds through the pistol. The majority of ammunition (roughly 750 rounds) shot in the gun has been a variety of 115 grain and 124 grain full metal jacket rounds. Brands included Remington, Winchester, Federal and Perfecta (more info on the Perfecta below.)

The VP9 shot amazingly well in all regards. Reliability was rock solid. There were no malfunctions of any kind. All of the ammo cycled properly and went “bang.”

Accuracy was very good. Shooting from anything other than a bolted-down Masters Series Ransom Rest will have too much dependency on the shooter’s ability for it to be a very meaningful measurement of accuracy. I might shoot a 2″ group while the guy next to me using the same ammo could shoot a 1″ group. Which is the “true” measurement of the gun’s accuracy?

For closer shooting, I could put all of the rounds into a center mass area of a target as quickly as I could pull the trigger at seven yards. At 50 yards, I was able to consistently hit an 8″ steel plate. For my purposes – self defense – this is the accuracy I need.

Felt recoil was what I would expect from a full-size 9mm gun. Standard pressure loads are very easy to handle, and +P loads have slightly more kick to them. The Federal BPLE +P+ loads are definitely snappier than the standard pressure stuff, but are still very controllable. For someone learning to manage the recoil of a centerfire cartridge, this gun would be excellent – especially when you fit the grip panels and backstrap to his or her hand.

I was not sure how quickly I would adapt to the paddle style magazine release. I was extremely pleased to discover it worked very well for me. Releasing a magazine with my shooting thumb seemed to be a natural motion, and I became very fast at it. After several trips to the range, I had become as fast with the paddle release as I am with the push-button style.

Ammo Performance

	VELOCITY	ENERGY
Federal 9BPLE 115 gr JHP +P+	1,246 fps	396 ft-lbs
Federal American Eagle 115 gr FMJ	1,065 fps	290 ft-lbs
Federal Champion 115 gr FMJ	1,129 fps	325 ft-lbs
Federal Hydra-Shok 135 gr JHP	1,045 fps	327 ft-lbs

	VELOCITY	ENERGY
Hornady Critical Duty 135 gr FlexLock	962 fps	277 ft-lbs
Hornady Critical Duty 135 gr FlexLock +P	1,069 fps	342 ft-lbs
HPR Ammunition 115 gr JHP	1,115 fps	317 ft-lbs
HPR Ammunition 124 gr JHP	996 fps	273 ft-lbs
Liberty Ammunition 50 gr JHP	2,057 fps	470 ft-lbs
Magtech 115 gr FMJ	1,129 fps	325 ft-lbs
Magtech Gold 124 gr JHP	1,068 fps	320 ft-lbs
Perfecta 115 gr FMJ	1,099 fps	308 ft-lbs
Remington Golden Saber 124 gr JHP +P	1,124 fps	348 ft-lbs
Remington UMC 115 gr JHP	1,132 fps	327 ft-lbs
Remington UMC Target 115 gr MC	1,075 fps	295 ft-lbs
Speer Gold Dot 124 gr JHP	996 fps	273 ft-lbs
Winchester 115 gr FMJ	1,113 fps	316 ft-lbs

Performance measured with a Competition Electronics ProChrono Digital Chronograph at an approximate distance of 15' from the muzzle of the pistol. All measurements are an average of five shots.

All brands of ammunition performed very well out of the VP9. As mentioned elsewhere in this review, there were no malfunctions with the gun. However, there were a few ammo standouts that bear mentioning.

Liberty Ammunition – This ammo uses a nickel-plated, solid copper hollowpoint that is very light for the caliber. Combining the increased lubricity of the nickel jacket with the light weight of the bullet, the company gets exceptionally high velocities from standard length handgun barrels. The Civil Defense ammo we shot is rated at 2000 feet per second (fps) by the company. Out of the HK pistol, the average was 2057 fps.

Even with the wicked-fast velocities, recoil was no more than any of the other rounds we were shooting. Subjectively, I would rate the felt recoil similar to any other company's 115 grain +P ammo. Felt recoil was definitely less than the Federal BPLE +P+ we shot.

HPR Ammunition – I was impressed by the accuracy and consistency we got out of the HPR Ammunition in both bullet weights. Both loads turned in standard deviations of 7 during velocity measurements. Only the Federal Hydra-Shok bested the HPR with an SD of only 3. The velocity was a little lower than I would be comfortable with as the loads use the Hornady XTP bullet. I have found the XTP tends to need more velocity than other bullets to reliably expand.

Perfecta – The Perfecta ammo is an inexpensive line that is now being sold in Walmart. The ammunition is made in Italy, presumably by Fiocchi, and it is distributed in the United States by TulAmmoUSA. I've always had very good performance from Fiocchi ammo in the past, and the Perfecta seemed to run great in the VP9. It is brass cased and Boxer primed, so it is reloadable. Accuracy was fine and there were no problems shooting any of the ammo.

I also shot a bunch of the Perfecta ammo in .380 ACP through a Glock 42 during my evaluation of that gun. It ran 100% in the Glock as well. The price on this ammo was significantly cheaper than the Winchester and Remington ammo at my local Walmart, so I think it is a good value.

Holsters

When a new gun is introduced, it can be tough finding holsters and other gear designed for it. While the VP9 is still new at the time of this writing, there are many companies who have already jumped into holster production for it. I've assembled a full list of holsters here. Readers are leaving feedback on these rigs in the comments section, so I encourage you to read through those as well.

Conclusions

I've never taken to a pistol as fast as I have the VP9. There are a lot of guns I really like out there, but this HK handgun is the first that has so readily captured my attention.

There are a lot of things to like about this pistol. Heckler & Koch, though sometimes lampooned on the internet for their decisions on which guns to sell to private citizens, is universally acknowledged as a quality gun maker. The company's traditional high standards for manufacturing have applied equally to this new gun.

When you consider a street price of less than $650 for this combat-ready 9mm pistol, it is clear that this is more than just a great gun, it is also a great value. Click here to pick up one of these pistols from Brownells.

Disclosure

The sad reality is there are many "sponsored" reviews on the internet that are bought and paid for by the manufacturer. This does a disservice to the buying public who needs good information on products before laying down their hard-earned money. So, let me fully disclose all relevant information here.

First, this gun was provided to me as a loaner pistol by HK for the specific purpose of reviewing it. It arrived to me brand new and appears to be a low serial numbered production gun. No monies or other benefits were paid, offered or provided by HK to do this review. If I decide to keep this gun, I will have to pay for it, though it would be at a discounted price since it it is now a used gun.

Second, I also reviewed the gun for Combat Handguns and Guns & Weapons for Law Enforcement magazines. I was paid to do those reviews, but I was not instructed, told or otherwise encouraged to do a positive review of the pistol. This review is completely original work, though my conclusions are the same as what I reported in the other outlets.

Lastly, HK is not an advertiser (at least at the time of this writing,) nor am I in any talks with them to be one.

Summary
Reviewer
Richard Johnson
Review Date
2014-09-17
Reviewed Item
HK VP9 Pistol
Author Rating

Read the original article here: http://www.gunsholstersandgear.com/gun-reviews/hk-vp9-review/ .

http://www.firearmsnews.com/guns/handguns/glock-with-a-stock/

Glock With A Stock

by David Fortier | August 24th, 2017

Can a Glock pistol effectively fill the role of a Personal Defense Weapon? Perhaps says Fortier, if it is outfitted with a shoulder stock or CAA's Micro Roni.

I've carried the same mundane Glock 23 for some 18 years now. It is not fancy, or eye-catching or something to impress friends with. Instead it is a simple and reliable compact carry gun which feels good in my hand and hits where I aim.

Over the years, it has endeared itself to me by the yeoman's service it has provided. I know it will work when needed, hit where I point it and shrug off hard use and abuse.

Is it perfect? No, but neither is anything else. As popular as Gaston Glock's family of pistols has become, it's obvious many others feel the same way.

While a Glock 19 or 17 makes for a tough and reliable handgun, is it possible for it to fill the role of a Personal Defense Weapon (PDW)? Sounds crazy, doesn't it? Well, a few years back I began investigating different firearms that could act as a PDW for personal protection. In my case I was looking for a firearm that was:

1. Very compact—This was the most important part, it needed to be small enough to easily carry stored inside a small bag. Desired length was less than 15 inches.
2. Reliable—The design needed to be well proven, robust and reliable.
3. Chambered for a common and effective cartridge—It needed to be chambered for a cartridge that was economical to buy and practice with yet terminally effective.

4. High hit probability—It needed to have a higher hit probability than a handgun, which dictated the need for a shoulder stock.
5. Capable of mounting modern accessories—A red dot sight, white light and other modern accessories are required, as they can increase survivability.
6. Adequate reach—A minimum effective range of 100 yards was needed.
7. Well supported—wanted spare parts and aftermarket support readily available.
8. Light weight—A maximum unloaded weight of 4.5 pounds was desired.
9. Blue-collar price—The price needed to be within reach of a blue-collar worker.
10. High capacity magazines—It needed to have magazines with a capacity of 20+ rounds readily available at an economical price.

Fortier's goal was to find a very compact firearm with a stock capable of being discreetly carried in a small bag or pack and deployed without assembly.

Basically, I was looking for a very compact firearm I could carry discreetly in a small bag, in addition to the Glock 23 on my hip. By small, I mean a bag so abbreviated a typical person would not expect it capable of concealing a firearm with a stock.

At the same time, I wanted it able to fire without having to assemble it or unfold a stock. I have takedown 12-gauge pump shotguns and ARs with QD barrels and folding stocks. While these fill their-own niche, I was looking for something even more compact and faster into action.

One solution I tried is Kel-Tec's SUB-2000 in 9x19mm. This is a handy little pistol caliber carbine that folds into a package measuring just 16×7 inches. It can easily be carried in a small, low-profile bag most wouldn't expect to be able to conceal a carbine.

The ability to fold into such a compact package along with its use of standard pistol magazines, in my case Glock pattern, is what makes the SUB-2000 so desirable. Since it entered production in 2001, it has achieved a cult following among a certain segment of shooters.

There are some things I really like about the SUB-2000. It measures just over 16 inches long when folded and weighs only 4 pounds. It's simple to operate, fast into action, reliable and easy to hit with at 100 yards.

The downside is that it's not the most robust piece, and it's difficult to mount accessories to the Gen 1 model. Since I purchased mine, Kel-Tec has brought out a more refined Gen 2 model. This is even better and allows easier mounting of accessories. The SUB-2000 is priced right, with an MSRP of $500.

While I really like my SUB-2000, I frankly was looking for something even smaller. So I explored a semi-automatic MP5K-PDW type clone. This consisted first of a Zenith Z-5P pistol fitted with an SB Tactical side-folding arm brace.

Four choices for a compact PDW suitable for discreet carry: Micro Roni, MP5K-PDW clone, Glock 19 with stock and vertical grip and a Kel-Tec SUB2000.

I registered it as a Title II Firearm and lawfully built it into a Short Barrel Rifle (SBR), replacing the brace with a side-folding stock. The result is a very compact piece that measures just 13.7 inches overall. To finish it out, I added a Hi-Lux Optics Micro Max red dot sight, an HKParts.net Front Sight Tower Rail Mount and a white light.

Overall, it accomplishes what I wanted fairly well. It fits neatly into a small laptop bag and is easily carried out of sight. It is easily put into action and can be fired with the stock folded. It has proven reliable and can readily make hits on a man-sized target past 100 yards. It is simple to operate, accurate, handles well and is smooth shooting.

However, it is also quite expensive, retailing at $1,844, plus a $200 tax stamp plus the stock, vertical grip and accessories. Magazines are quite expensive as well. Plus, while compact, it is fairly heavy, coming in at 7 pounds with optic, white light and an unloaded magazine.

Glock With A Stock

After registering as
an SBR, Fortier added a FAB Defense stock and vertical foregrip to a Glock 19, in this case fitted with a Suarez 319K slide assembly.

Still searching for the Grail, I decided on a more radical approach. Since the Zenith Z-5P is nothing more than a big, heavy 9x19mm pistol, why not start with a conventional pistol like a Glock 19? Switching from a blowback operating system to a tilting barrel design would greatly reduce size and weight. But would the concept have any merit?

Fitting a shoulder stock to a handgun is a very old concept dating back hundreds of years. In recent times though, the concept has fallen out of favor.

Today, stocked pistols are looked upon as novelties or archaic collectibles. Having spent some 30 years shooting Mauser C96 pistols has provided me with a bit of insight.

While fitting a stock to a handgun obviously makes it easier to shoot, there are some basic hurdles to overcome. These include sights, where to place your non-dominant hand, how to attach the stock, mounting accessories and in the case of a Glock, the very real need for a manual safety.

While adding a shoulder stock to a handgun doesn’t change the mechanical accuracy, it can make it much easier to shoot accurately, especially at speed and distance.

I registered a Glock 19 frame as a Title II firearm, and when my stamp came back, I began experimenting with different SBR configurations. The first thing I needed, obviously, was a stock. Unfortunately, there are not a lot of suitable options out there, and I ended up purchasing a FAB Defense GLR 17 Tactical Collapsible Stock that that retails for $123.

Note how the vertical foregrip covers the trigger guard when folded, preventing gear or clothing from entering the trigger guard when the piece slung.

While the GLR 17 stock is intended for a Glock 17/34, it fit with just some minor modifications. It's made of lightweight polymer, and weighs just 7 ounces. You can adjust pull length to four positions.

Collapsed, the stock is 10.2 inches long, while fully open, it extends to 14.2 inches. Slide it into place in the hollow of the grip, where a spring loaded detent locks it into place. It features a raised cheekrest as well as a sling loop.

I also purchased a FAB Defense Foregrip Safety System that retails for $57.60. This is a folding vertical grip that attaches to the rail on the dust cover.

Folded, it covers the trigger and acts as a manual safety. Why is this important? It comes into play if the SBR is carried slung where gear, equipment or clothing might enter the trigger guard and discharge the piece.

When in the folded position, it can be pushed clear using only the trigger finger. The vertical grip also incorporates an inner spring-loaded piece that can be further extended if so desired.

In the accompanying photos the stock and vertical grip are seen mounted onto a Glock 19 featuring an aftermarket 319K slide assembly with Kompressor compensator from Suarez International.

It's set up along the lines of what is popularly called a Roland Special; it features a Suarez International slide machined from 17-4 stainless steel with forward and rear slide serrations.

Riding inside this is a threaded match barrel. A two-chamber, four-port 17-4 stainless steel compensator helps reduce recoil. Working in conjunction with this is a one-piece guide rod with 12-pound recoil spring.

Up top, you'll find tall suppressor sights and the slide is cut to accept a Trijicon RMR. The whole package is very pleasing to the eye, with the slide machined at the front with the Kompressor compensator in mind. Finish is a durable black Melonite. Price of the entire slide assembly minus red dot is $599.99.

The whole package measures 17.7 inches long assembled and just 10.2 inches disassembled, and weighs just 2.6 pounds with an empty 33-round magazine.

Performance? I found it mixed. On the positive side, it is very light, easy to carry and stow and quick to assemble. The addition of both the stock and the red dot make it very easy to hit with.

Often with a red dot sighted pistol you find yourself hunting for the dot. This goes away simply by adding the stock.

The result is very fast on target and blessed with quick follow-up shots. Recoil is easy to control. I found making rapid multiple hits on a man-sized target surprisingly easy at 50 yards. Scoring hits at 100 yards is not difficult offhand and easy kneeling or prone. Practical performance is quite similar to the MP5K-PDW clone, only it's about 4.5 pounds lighter.

Negatives? There are certainly some. Starting at the front, Glock never designed its polymer frame to handle the torque that can be applied with a vertical grip. If you apply pressure, you can easily move the dust cover in whatever direction you apply force.

It is easy to apply so much pressure you distort the dust cover enough to shut the gun down. So when shooting, I held onto the vertical grip, but did not apply pressure to it. Mounting the vertical grip also means you cannot add a white light.

Next, the stock is flimsy and flexes easily. More importantly, its attachment point is less than ideal.

By attaching some 4.5 inches below the boreline, the pistol has increased leverage against the stock leading to unnecessary muzzle rise. Ideally, the stock would attach as close as possible to the boreline. The design of the stock also makes it either very difficult or impossible for most right-handed shooters to manipulate the magazine and slide release. I resorted to using the thumb of my left hand to manipulate both controls when reloading.

Running the SBR without the vertical grip removed the possibility of an operator-induced malfunction, and allowed the pistol to fit into a holster, something you cannot do with the vertical grip mounted.

In its place, I fitted a SureFire X300 Ultra. Again, the combination showed potential but was still less than ideal. So I began to ponder what would be needed to optimize the concept.

Micro Roni

It was about this time that I came across CAA's Micro Roni chassis system for the Glock. CAA was founded in 2004 by Israeli special operations veteran Moshe Oz. Oz went on to use his practical experience gained in special operations and combat to design a host of firearms accessories, including the Micro Roni system.

The Micro Roni is actually named after Oz's daughter, and was designed as an alternative to more expensive PDWs and compact submachine guns.

Fortier says inserting a pistol into the Micro Roni's body takes only a few seconds, and removing it is just as fast and easy; no tools are required.

The Micro Roni is simply a shell to turn a standard Glock 17/22 or 19/23 into a lightweight Personal Defense Weapon with side-folding stock. The pistol can be installed or removed in a matter of seconds.

You can easily fit iron sights or optics, as well as white lights, lasers and slings. Overall length of the unit with stock folded is a very compact 14.5 inches, similar to a MP5K-PDW.

With the stock extended, the piece is a useful 22.6 inches long. The design incorporates a safety to cover the trigger guard, an easy-to-reach slide-release and ambidextrous charging handle. A vertical grip can hold a spare magazine.

I had my first range time with the Micro Roni at a training event put on by Lt. Col. Mikey Hartman (Ret.) of the Israeli Defense Force. Hartman was in charge of the IDF's Marksmanship School until his retirement and provided an excellent opportunity to train with the Micro Roni under Israeli instructors. I liked what I saw training with it and decided to further evaluate the system.

The size and weight of the system caught my attention. Dropping my Glock 23 into the chassis gives an overall weight of 4 pounds. That includes a white light and Aimpoint T1 in a LaRue mount.

Size is almost identical to my MP5K-PDW clone, and the Micro Roni feels light and nimble. The forward vertical grip is comfortable and allows easy activation of the white light mounted at 6 o'clock. The white light is available as part of an accessory kit: a single CR123 battery generates 500 lumens.

Also included in the kit are a set of folding polymer sights, single-point sling with QD swivel and a pair of side rail thumb rests.

I found operating the Micro Roni to be very straightforward. The controls are well placed and easy to manipulate, even with gloves. The stock is easy to fold or extend, and it locks securely into place.

The top rail allows easy mounting of iron and optical sights, while 1913 rails located at 3 and 9 o'clock make it easy to fit accessories. Once you've done it once or twice, installing or removing the pistol from the chassis takes just four or five seconds.

The Micro Roni's vertical grip can also hold an additional magazine, just twist and pull to remove. Adding an extra 33 rounds adds a lot of weight, of course.

To reduce the width, I stripped the side 1913 rails off. I found the standard Glock magazine release a bit of a reach, so tried a slightly extended Vickers Tactical unit that solved my problem. Practical accuracy proved to be very good, allowing rapid hits at 50 and 100 yards.

Accuracy, of course, varies by gun. Using my stock Glock 23 slide assembly, the Micro Roni shot groups similar to a Kalashnikov at 100 yards. I found that to be quite acceptable for a .40 S&W pistol.

I ran the MP5K-PDW clone, Glock with FAB Defense stock and vertical grip along with the Micro Roni chassis through a variety of drills from 7 to 100 yards. This included a couple night fires using white light. Many drills started with deploying from concealment.

Both the MP5K-PDW clone and Micro Roni were shot both with the stock folded and extended, and sometimes both.

The Glock fitted with the Suarez International 319K slide assembly with Kompressor and FAB Defense stock performed well. While the stock did provide an advantage over a regular pistol, especially at longer distances, the FAB unit has some previously mentioned shortcomings, and I think it is grossly overpriced.

The Suarez slide assembly on the other hand is an eye-catching piece. Suarez International has been building Glock slide assemblies cut for red dots since 2011. I have an early example that has proven to be both very accurate and reliable. They offer a wide array of models, options and finishes.

The Kompressor compensator helped to cut recoil and muzzle rise while giving it a distinctive visual appeal. Just remember, it is common to have to tinker with recoil spring weights to get compensated guns to run reliably, especially with lighter loads.

CAA's Micro Roni impressed me the most. It is very well thought out, makes for an extremely small package and works. I was a bit chagrined to find I preferred it over my much more expensive MP5K-PDW clone.

Sure, the MP5K-PDW has a certain style, but for me, the Micro Roni makes more sense. Glock mags are cheap, I can swap between 9mm Parabellum, .357 SIG and .40 S&W, spare parts are readily available and cheap and it works.

Of course the downside to all of these options is their lack of range, penetration and terminal performance due to their firing handgun ammunition. If you prefer not to go the NFA route, there are options. Both Zenith and

CAA offers models with shoulder braces rather than stocks. If you are looking for a compact PDW-type firearm, the Micro Roni system might be one to consider.

Read more: http://www.firearmsnews.com/guns/handguns/glock-with-a-stock/#ixzz4saL4olO1

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

Shocker! You Can Hack Smart Guns–With Magnets!

by MAX SLOWIK *on* JULY 27, 2017

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

http://www.gameandfishmag.com/guns-shooting/rifles/5-reasons-predator-hunters-will-love-trijicons-reap-ir/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=trijicon&utm_term=firearmsnews&utm_content=article3

5 Reasons Predator Hunters Will Love Trijicon's REAP-IR

by Game & Fish Online Staff | August 15th, 2017

Controlling predators and hogs at night is legal where I live, but it's not easy. Spotlights spook the animals and red lens versions don't put out enough light. Night-vision optics were a leap forward, but even they have their limitations, especially the inexpensive units.

When **Trijicon** released their line of thermal optics this year, I found my nirvana. Thermal optics work by detecting differences in heat so they work day or night, rain or shine, and they allow you to spot and target living creatures at virtually any distance. Among those products is the **REAP-IR**, an incredibly capable thermal optic in a surprisingly compact package. At 1.3 pounds and with a length of just 6.5 inches, the REAP-IR is tiny by electronic optic standards. Despite its size, the REAP-IR gives up nothing to larger optics in terms of capability.

The REAP-IR features a 35mm lens with 2.5x of optical magnification and up to 20x of user-variable optical magnification available (8x zoom).

Compact Size With Big Features

Due to its compact dimensions, the REAP-IR is equally at home on a carbine, .308-size semi-auto or even mounted on a precision rifle. In fact, this optic is designed specifically so that it can be swapped easily between numerous rifles and used in differing roles. This unit actually stores four separate zeros so the user can trade it

between rifles and automatically re-zero it without a trip to the range. Thanks to its digital zoom and choice of selectable reticles, the REAP-IR can serve effectively in short-, medium- and long-range roles. It's even compact enough to be used as a monocular, useful for any nighttime observation and ideal for tracking and recovering wounded game. Living creatures glow in the optic's OLED display as if they're made of neon and blood trails are clearly visible on both the ground and vegetation.

Unlike some of the other products in the Trijicon thermal lineup, there is only one model of the REAP-IR available: a 35mm lens variant with 2.5x of optical magnification and up to 20x of user-variable optical magnification available (8x zoom). This little unit attaches to any Picatinny rail using a patented Mini D-LOC mount.

Thermal optics work by detecting differences in heat signatures so they work day or night, rain or shine. Living creatures glow brightly in the optic's OLED display.

Lots of Options

There are six settings to alter the image from white/hot to black/hot, depending on what works best in your current environment. My personal favorite feature on the REAP-IR is the **Edge Detect setting**, which outlines hot objects automatically so that you can spot them easily, and with minimal illumination to damage the user's night vision. This feature, the reticle selection, the digital zoom, and all other relevant functions are all controlled using a single multi-directional thumbstick controller on the side of the unit, ideal for use in total darkness. The diopter adjustment is at the rear of the unit and ranges from -6 to +2. Battery life is up to 5 hours with 2 C123 batteries, depending on the refresh rate and other settings.

Perfect for Predators

During the short time that these thermal products have been on the market, end-users have already found their favorites when it comes to capability. Due to the particulars of the REAP-IR, it has become a favorite of predator hunters. I have spent the past several weeks prowling around at night hunting coyotes with Trijicon's new thermal products and I can't say enough about their effectiveness. What you can see at night through these amazing optics is almost scary; I would hate to be a bad guy on today's battlefield knowing that the good guys have such technology at their disposal.

Used as a monocular the REAP-IR detects heat signatures day or night. When used as a riflescope, the unit can store up to four separate zeros so the user can trade it between rifles without re-zeroing.

User Friendly

Trijicon's line of thermal products is also very user-friendly: what I thought would be a complicated product learning curve that would require long study of the owner's manual to operate turned out to be the opposite. These are simple, intuitive and useful devices that I was able to master in a few minutes. Because these optics function by detecting heat rather than by gathering ambient light they can be zeroed easily during daylight hours—especially using steel targets. This is one of many real advantages that thermal optics have over traditional night-vision optics. Windage and elevation adjustments are made in Minutes Of Angle so digitally zeroing the reticle works just like a traditional daytime optic. Using only the 2.5x optical zoom, we were able to consistently shoot sub-MOA groups on 200- and 300-yard steel targets using a suppressed Mk-12 SPR chambered in 5.56mm, day or night.

The diopter adjustment ranges from -6 to +2 and is located at the rear of the unit. Depending on the refresh rate and other settings, battery life is up to five hours with two C123 batteries.

A Major Innovation

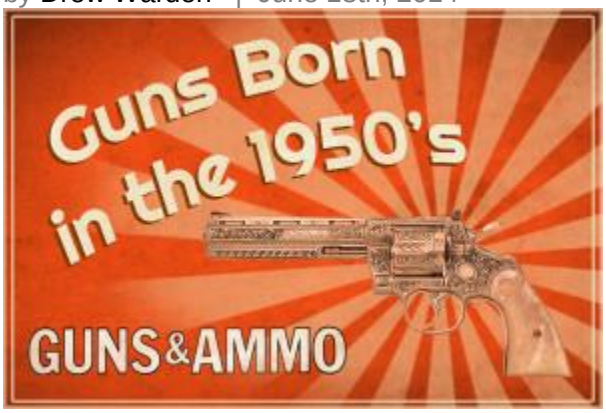
These products are by no means inexpensive and certainly aren't within the budget of every hunter or shooter, but that fact should diminish the importance of this technology. Miniaturization of electronics has been one of the major innovations of the past decades and the REAP-IR is the epitome of that progress. A highly-functional thermal optic that is compact, lightweight and can operate as either a stand-alone sight or work in-conjunction with a day optic is an incredible leap forward. If you want to harness the very best thermal technology that money can buy, I highly recommend that you give **Trijicon's thermal optics** a try. If a compact unit is your priority, the REAP-IR is where your search should begin and end.

While the REAP IR’s thermal imaging made sneaking in close on feeding hogs at night easy, the author was able to consistently shoot sub-MOA groups on 200- and 300-yard steel targets day or night using only the 2.5x optical zoom on his suppressed Mk-12 SPR chambered in 5.56mm.

http://www.gunsandammo.com/historical/guns-born-1950s/

Guns Born in the 1950s

by Drew Warden | June 18th, 2014



Guns & Ammo magazine was also born in the ’50s, with the first issue published in 1958.

For some, thinking of the 1950s might conjure up images of famous musicians like Johnny Cash or Elvis Presley. For others, it might be the sleek and classy cars of the period. School textbooks often reflect on the large-scale introduction of television or of the Sputnik launch and ensuing Space Race between the United States and the Soviet Union.

Often overlooked are the excellent firearms that were designed during the ’50s which left us with some of the most popular and enduring guns to this day.

With factories still humming after World War II and the Cold War brewing in earnest, the 1950s constituted somewhat of a golden age in firearms design. While the battlefield introduced the world to new firearm designs in the early 20th Century, it was during the ‘50s that many guns were developed or innovated.

The resulting firearms, many of which thrive today, were groundbreaking at the time and earned their place in the history of gun design and manufacturing.

We compiled the following list of our favorite firearms born in the 1950s, and then sourced original photos from issues of Guns & Ammo dating all the way back to 1958.

Smith & Wesson Model 29

Although this revolver wouldn't gain widespread fame until the 1970s when actor Clint Eastwood brandished it in his role as "Dirty Harry" Callahan in the *Dirty Harry* series of films, Smith & Wesson actually began producing the Model 29 in 1955. When production first started, the Model 29 was one of the most — if not *the most* powerful handgun on the market.

Built to fire the .44 Magnum round Elmer Keith was helping to develop around the same time, the Model 29 was Smith & Wesson's first revolver chambered for .44 Magnum. Despite being temporarily discontinued in the late '90s, the Model 29 is still popular, and a number of variants are present.

IMI UZI

Famously seen during the assassination attempt on President Ronald Reagan in 1981, the IMI UZI was adopted by the U.S. Secret Service, though it was originally developed for the Israeli Defense Force (IDF).

The IMI UZI is a blowback-operated submachine gun that fires from an open bolt. It fires the 9x19mm cartridge at a rate of roughly 600 rounds per minute. Many variations have been designed, including full- and semi-auto versions of the Mini and Micro UZI.

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Kalashnikov AKM

The AKM was designed by Mikhail Kalashnikov in the late '50s after the AK-47 rifle. Very similar in functionality, the AKM was designed to be even faster and cheaper to produce than the AK-47, while maintaining supreme reliability.

Some 10 million or more AKM rifles were made, making it one of the most highly produced AK-variants. The rifle has seen action in nearly every major conflict in the world, including recent events in Iraq and Afghanistan.

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M14

After World War II, the U.S. military began to see that the M1 Garand, which General Patton famously called "the greatest battle implement ever devised," wasn't perfect. Weapons such as Germany's StG 44 the Soviet Union's AK-47 pointed to the future of firearms design, and the Army's need for a combat rifle with similar properties was clear.

Completed in 1954, the M14 fired the standard 7.62x51mm NATO round and featured a 20-round detachable box magazine. Although some configurations were fully automatic, the M14's accuracy suffered tremendously during continuous fire, and the semi-auto-only design prevailed.

The M14 initially won out as the Army's standard issue rifle over both the Belgian-made FN FAL and ArmaLite's AR-15, and mass production of the M14 began in 1959. The rifle saw extensive use in Vietnam until the military made the switch to the M16 in 1963.

Variants of the M14 are still used within branches of the U.S. military, most often as a designated marksman rifle (DMR) because of the gun's tremendous long-distance accuracy. The M1A, the civilian version of the M14 manufactured by Springfield Armory, is still produced in various forms, and a host of aftermarket accessories are available for the rifle.

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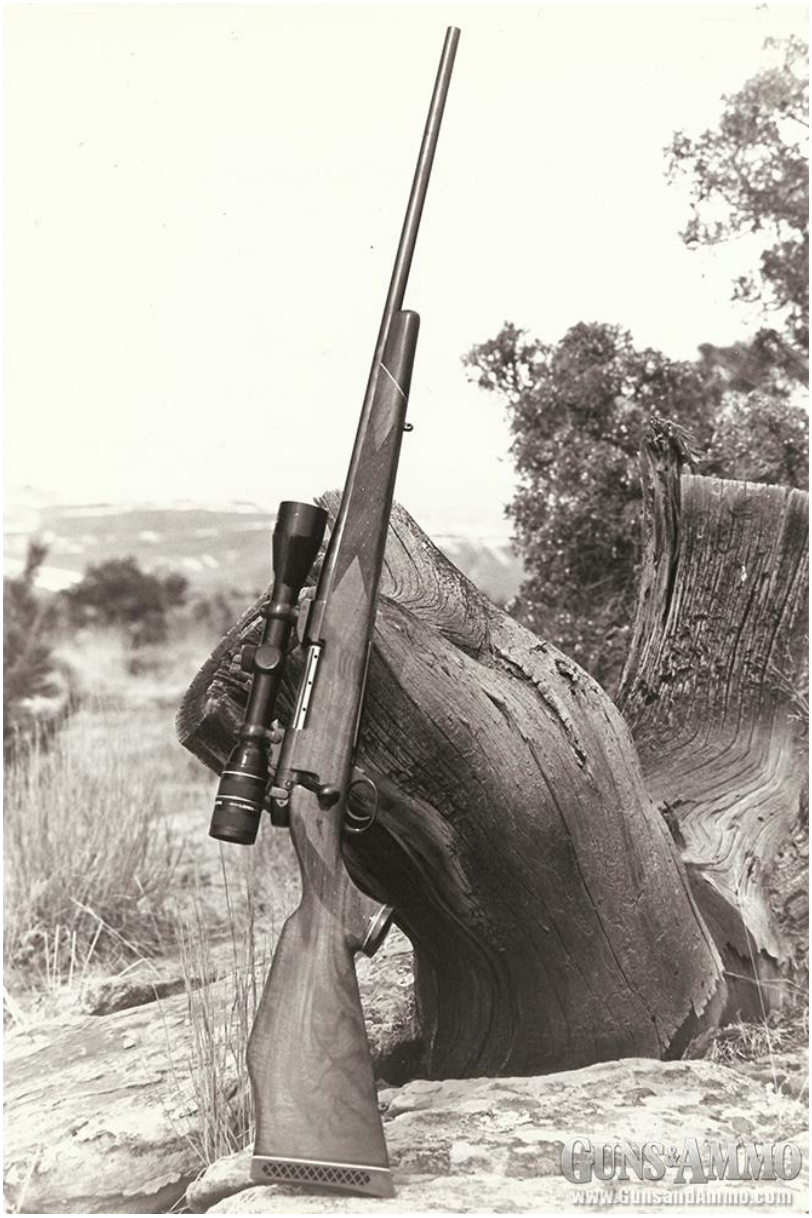
- 

Weatherby Mark V

Specifically designed to handle the high-powered magnum cartridges designed by Roy Weatherby, the Weatherby Mark V brought great recognition to the Weatherby name.

The Mark V was revolutionary at the time because it featured a proprietary action that was both stronger and safer than those found in other rifles. Capable of withstanding the tremendous pressures often associated with magnum and other "wildcat" loads, the Mark V was described by some as being "the world's strongest bolt action."

The Mark V featured three rings of steel surrounding the casehead, a fluted bolt body with three gas ports and an unprecedented nine locking lugs for a short 54-degree bolt lift. Production of the Mark V began in 1957, and the Mark V remains one of Weatherby's signature rifles, available in a number of configurations and calibers.

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Smith & Wesson Model 36

Introduced in 1950, the Smith & Wesson Model 36 (“Chiefs Special”) was built to fire the popular .38 Special round. To accomplish this, Smith & Wesson scrapped their previous I-frame design and created what is now known as the J-frame for the Model 36.

The small, concealable revolver was first introduced at the International Association of Police Chiefs (IACP) in 1950 and was received well. The company produced the revolver as the “Chiefs Special” until 1957, when it was officially changed to the Model 36.

The Model 36 was the standard police detective and carry weapon for a number of police agencies, and many officers still use the Model 36 or one of its newer variants as a backup or an off-duty carry option. Smith & Wesson introduced quite a few variations of the Model 36 over the years, including lightweight and target models, as well as configurations designed specifically for women.

The Model 36 is still manufactured by Smith & Wesson and remains one of its most popular revolvers. Pictured here is a Model 60 (bottom), which was the stainless steel twin of the Model 36 (top).

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Ruger Single Six

Westerns, and especially TV Westerns, were huge during the 1950s, with shows like *Gunsmoke*, *The Rifleman*, *The Lone Ranger*, and *Bonanza* playing on screens in living rooms across the country.

Enter Ruger with their cowboy-inspired Single-Six rimfire revolver.

The first models, now often referred to as the "Old Model" Single-Six, were chambered for .22 LR, .22 long and .22 short and were produced from 1953-1972. After 1972, production began on the New Model Single-Six, which included a transfer bar safety mechanism for more secure carry.

This "new" model is still produced today, and Ruger currently offers five models in their New Model Single-Six line chambered for .22 LR, .22 Magnum or .17 HMR. The Single-Ten, the most recent addition to the line, has been manufactured to hold 10 rounds of .22 LR in its cylinder.

The enduring popularity of the Ruger Single-Six is a testament to both America's unrelenting fascination with Westerns and the revolver's beautifully functional design.

• Continue to next image

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FN FAL

Though the first prototype of the "right arm of the free world" was completed in the late 1940s, the rifle didn't see mainstream production until British and American Armed Forces tested the design. The U.S. insisted the FAL be chambered for a standardized .30-caliber round, which eventually became the 7.62mm NATO. In the end, many countries adopted the FN FAL, while the U.S. selected the M14.

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HK G3

The select-fire, roller-delayed blowback HK G3 was designed with many influences from previous German machine guns and Spanish rifles.

Firing the 7.62mm NATO cartridge, the G3 was designed as a utilitarian battle rifle and put into production in the 1950s. Still in service in some countries today, the G3 is a no-frills rifle that can easily be adapted for varying objectives.

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M60 Machine Gun

In U.S. military service since 1957, the M60 Machine Gun has been deployed by every branch of our Armed Forces, and still serves in modern day conflicts.

When we picture the battle scenes of Vietnam, the M60 Machine Gun is a permanent illustration of jungle-born conflict.

The M60 represents our transition from heavier machine guns such as the earlier Browning designs, towards the deployment of general purpose machine guns used for decades by the Germans.

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Colt Python

Considered by some to be one of the most elegant and well made double-action .357 Magnum revolvers of all time, the Colt Python was produced starting in 1955. The Python featured a unique vented rib design spanning the length of the barrel and sported a bright nickel, blued or stainless steel finish.

One of the Python's most noted features was its incredibly smooth double-action trigger pull, which made the revolver more accurate than other DA revolvers of the time. The Python was received well in both civilian and law enforcement markets following its initial debut, and a number of police forces issued the revolver to officers.

In spite of the high praise, however, Colt halted manufacture of the Python at the main assembly line (limited production of the Python under the title "Python Elite" continued at the Colt Custom Shop until 2004) and ceased production of the Python altogether a few years later.

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Remington 870

Born at the half-century mark, the Remington Model 870 remains one of the best-selling and most produced shotguns in the world.

Manufactured to replace Remington's Model 31 following the war, the Remington 870 won people over with its durability and performance, as well as its relatively low cost. Since its creation, this ubiquitous pump-gun has been produced in many variations with a host of customizable options and has seen use with police and military forces in a number of countries, including the United States.

ArmaLite AR-15

Designed in 1957 by Eugene Stoner, the AR-15 was chambered for the relatively new (at the time) 5.56x45mm NATO round and was supremely lightweight in comparison to other battle rifles of the era.

In 1959, ArmaLite sold production rights for the AR-15 to Colt, which continued to campaign for its adoption by the military. However, it wasn't until 1963 that the rifle (re-designated as the M16) would be produced for large-scale military use in Vietnam.

https://gundigest.com/handguns/concealed-carry/5-standout-concealed-carry-revolvers-carry?utm_source=wir&utm_campaign=gd-dwb-wir-170824-Concealed&utm_content=965217_EDT_CC170824&utm_medium=email

5 Standout Concealed Carry Revolvers For Personal Defense

By Elwood Shelton - August 17, 2017

self-defense guns in recent years, but concealed carry revolvers still hold their own when push comes to shove. The time-tested design is offered in some excellent self-defense calibers, is straightforward in operation and is as dependable as the next day's dawn. And there are some excellent and well-thought-out options in the revolver market tailor-made to hang ever ready on your gun belt and deliver when called upon. So without further ado, here are 5 Standout Concealed Carry Revolvers that will definitely keep you covered.

What will keep you covered when it comes to concealed carry revolvers?

- Ruger SP101 .357 Magnum
- Charter Arms Bulldog DAO
- Smith & Wesson Model 642
- Ruger LCR in .38 Special +P
- Kimber K6s

Ruger SP101 Spurless .357 Magnum

Ruger has several rock-solid options that make dandy concealed carry revolvers. But few match the elegant nasty of this SP101 model. The SP101 gives you five rounds of .357 Magnum (or .38 Special) at your disposal in a manageable package.

The handgun tips the scales at 25 ounces, tending toward the heavier end of carry pieces, but not bad for a single-piece, stainless-steel frame revolver. But that weight pays off when the gun is fired, taming the snappy magnum's recoil, doubly so with the revolver's meaty rubberized grips.

Ruger has configured this SP101 for going undercover by including a spurless hammer (the model is also available with a spur) and by rounding every conceivable snag point — including the front sight. Furthermore, its 2.25-inch barrel and 7.20-inch overall length makes the double-action a breeze to keep under wraps. Of course, common to any gun that focuses on concealability, there are tradeoffs. In this case, the barrel length will not allow the .357 Magnum to come close to its full ballistic potential. With that said, it will still send a load of fury down range. MSRP: $719

Charter Arms Bulldog DAO

A surefire way of stopping a threat is to poke big holes into it. Charter Arms gives you the ability to do exactly this with its legendary .44 Special Bulldog.

The 2.5-inch barreled revolver has been around for a spell, first introduced in the early 1970s, and has only gotten better with time. This includes some much needed tweaks to the original design, such as making the front sight integral to the barrel and expanding the selection of models to keep up with prevailing concealed-carry trends.

The DAO (double-action only) is one such example. A clipped spur isn't absolutely essential for concealed carry revolvers, but it does up the odds of a clean draw each time the gun is unholstered. Not to mention, it makes the revolver more comfortable to carry.

The five-round revolver is very controllable, especially for weighing 21 ounces and pitching bullets up to 300 grains in weight. Much of this is due to the low pressure at which the .44 Special operates, and it is further helped down this road with generous grips, complete with finger indentations.

Being chambered for .44 Special, however, does pose a bit of a challenge. Ammo is not as abundant as it is for the .38 Special or .357 Magnum. But for those willing to shop around, there are solid and hard-hitting options and plenty peace of mind in holstering a dog that definitely has bite. MSRP: $426

Smith & Wesson Model 642

For many, this Smith & Wesson J-Frame is what comes to mind when they think about concealed carry revolvers. The double-action only .38 Special (+P rated) is one of the easiest revolvers to carry, given it is among the lightest options available today.

The Model 642 weighs in at less than a pound unloaded — a scant 14.4 ounces — thanks largely to its aluminum-alloy frame. And with a shrouded hammer, well, there's no worry about the revolver digging into your side when driving or snagging on your shirt when you need it most.

Granted, the 1.8-inch barreled snubby takes some practice to become fully proficient with it (what gun doesn't?). But the .38 Special is a notoriously forgiving round to shoot — one might even say pleasant. Chuck five rounds of +P ammo in its stainless-steel cylinder when it's time to head out the door, and you'll know you're covered for anything short of World War III. MSRP: $469

Ruger LCR in .38 Special +P

Outside of the cylinder, revolutionary hasn't been applied much to the revolver since the 1830s. But there's a whole bunch of it in the Ruger LCR (Lightweight Compact Revolver).

The diminutive five-round handgun is absolutely cutting edge when it comes to material use. Not only has Ruger turned to aircraft-grade aluminum for the gun's frame, but also polymers for its fire control housing. Combined with a highly fluted stainless-steel cylinder, the LCR is among the lightest guns available today — a whopping 13.5 ounces. On top of that, Ruger's friction reducing cam system makes the LCR among the easiest double actions to shoot well.

Per Ruger's MO, the revolver is highly modifiable, boasting an easily replaceable pinned ramp front sight and grips. But outfitted at the factory with a Hogue Tamer Monogrip, there might not be much reason to go shopping in the latter department. The revolver is available in five calibers, but for carry, the .38 Special +P seems like it would be a strong choice, making the 1.87-inch barreled gun much more manageable, while still packing a punch. MSRP: $579

Kimber K6s

Kimber is generally known for its stunning and highly functional 1911 pistols. But recently, the company has begun to make a name for itself as a revolver-smith. This has been due to the well-conceived and excellently crafted K6s, a gun that seems to boast every must-have when considering concealed carry revolvers.

Chief among them is the K6s' wickedly light and slim design. At 23 ounces and outfitted with a 1.39-inch diameter cylinder, it is the lightest and most compact of all six-round .357 Magnums available today. But Kimber didn't stop there in tailoring the K6s for carry, shrouding the hammer and smoothing every line so it melts seamlessly onto the person, while remaining quick on the draw.

Obviously, the K6s comes with the usual challenges inherent to a 2-inch barreled .357. But the company has done everything to put the shooter in the driver's seat, not recoil. This includes excellent grip ergonomics that gives shooters superior control over the gun. And to top it all off, a match-grade trigger comes standard. MSRP: $899

http://www.firearmsnews.com/guns/handguns/a-look-at-the-future-of-handgun-materials/

A Look At The Future Of Handgun Materials

by James Tarr | August 24th, 2017

Steel-framed guns, personified by this 1911, make up a large percentage of handguns sold in this country, but they are all old designs. Tarr feels that all the innovation is happening on the polymer side of the house, and polymer-framed handguns are not just the present, but also the future.

In a world full of plastic-framed guns, what good is metal?

This comment from an editor of mine got me thinking, and then researching. I went back through my desktop and laptop computers and took a look at all the gun reviews I've done over the past ten years. In that time I've reviewed well over fifty new handguns for various publications including *Firearms News*. My question was, of those pistols, how many of them had metal frames (steel or aluminum) and of those, how many were completely new designs?

As for metal-framed guns, I'd reviewed a lot. It is a rare season when I don't find myself reviewing one or more iterations of America's steel beauty, John Browning's 1911. I found that I'd reviewed a lot of 1911s big and small, steel and aluminum-framed, but the 1911 is the opposite of a new design. The same with the various iterations of the CZ-75, which is Europe's version of the 1911—almost every gun maker over there seems to make a copy of the CZ-75. The only new pistols that immediately popped into my mind were two new Remington offerings, the R51 and the RM380, both

After searching his memory banks, the only handgun Tarr thinks that has come out in the past ten years that has a metal frame and is a completely new design is the aluminum-framed Kimber Solo, and even then some people would argue that it is just a tweaked 1911.

of which sport aluminum frames. However, the R51 is a new version of the old Remington Model 51 (designed 1917), and the RM380 is an improved version of the Rohrbaugh R380 (derived from the Rohrbaugh R9, designed in 2000). Hmm.

While most of the pistols I've covered over the last ten years have been new versions of existing designs, there have been dozens of brand new guns—the Smith & Wesson M&P auto, CZ P-07, Taurus Curve, HK VP9, FNH FNS, Ruger LC9 and Ruger American Pistol, and the Walther CCP, just to name a few.

However, after an exhaustive search of my records and my brain, I came to the conclusion that of all the completely new pistol designs I've looked at in the past decade, I could only find one which had a metal frame: the Kimber Solo (and some might argue that it is just a striker-fired 1911). It is possible there might have been one or two others, but I didn't review them and they didn't pop up in the memory bank.

Looked at as a percentage, that means that 5% or less of all new pistol designs in the past ten years have featured frames made out of metal. Heck, several companies are now making polymer-framed revolvers. So that begs the question—in this modern era of wonder polymers, are metal-framed pistols relevant anymore?

Let me be clear, metal-framed guns are not going anywhere any time soon. The 1911 is more popular now than it ever has been, and while I don't have any hard figures, anecdotal evidence has shown me that the standard steel-framed models make up a majority of 1911 sales. And the 1911 is not the only old metal-framed pistol design still seeing steady sales—you can add to that list the CZ-75 and all of its varied clones, the Beretta 92, and all the SIG P-series pistols.

But that begs the question, are there are innovations happening on the metal-framed pistol side of the aisle? And after examining the evidence, I'd have to say no. All the cool new features, modularity, etc, are happening with plastics. Why?

First, compared to polymer, metal—whether you're talking carbon steel, stainless steel, or aluminum—is a much more expensive material. Titanium is even more so. In addition to that, it takes more effort and time to machine metal. Add all that up and that means a metal-framed gun, all things being equal, will be more expensive than an identical model

Computer-aided design has helped engineers across the board, whether they're working on metal or polymer-framed pistols, but much modern technology (such as 3-D printing) seems to favor polymer.

with a polymer frame. And many metal-framed guns are old designs, which means they can be labor intensive to produce. The perfect example of this comes from SIG, which is now making all of their pistols in the U.S. at the same facility. When you compare the price of the average metal-framed SIG pistol (old design, MSRP $1,100 and up) to their polymer-framed pistols (new design, $650–$750), there's really no comparison.

CNC machines seem to be breeding like rabbits. Just a few decades ago only the biggest manufacturers could even afford them, but now even the smallest machine shop seems to have several. CNC machining is making the job of working metal much easier, but the improvements in polymers, both materials and production, have been even bigger.

You can't do any machining with metal that you can't do with polymer, but there are a lot of things you can do with polymers that would be impossible with metal. I remember visiting Smith & Wesson a few years ago and they had a 3-D printing machine that they used to create full-size models of new designs, just to see if what worked on the computer screen translated properly to the hand. Some of their 3D-printed models could even withstand firing a few rounds of loaded ammo

Admittedly polymer doesn't have the same strength as steel, which is why polymer-framed guns have steel inserts or a chassis to house the fire control group and/or provide a set of rails on which the steel slide can ride. Its weakness when compared to metal is really the only disadvantage of polymer, unless you consider weight. Metal—especially steel—adds recoil absorbing weight to a handgun, and in comparison polymer weighs next to nothing.

I've got two examples of how weight is and isn't important in reducing recoil. My Glock 34 weighs 24 ounces. My all-steel SIG P226 weighs 42 ounces. For you Hillary Clinton voters that's over three pounds difference, and yet the SIG

Even guns with more traditional firing systems, such as this hammer-fired DA/SA FNH FNP-45, are moving to polymer for their frames for modularity and corrosion resistance. Check out how aggressive the checkering on the grip is.

has more muzzle rise. Why? Bore height. The SIG's bore is set far higher off the hand than the Glock, and as a result it has more leverage to pivot during recoil. In fact, the Glock's low bore is one of the reasons the pistol is so easy to shoot. Many polymer-framed guns are striker-fired designs, and striker-fired guns by design have their bores lower than traditional hammer-fired designs.

Metal-framed guns are thought to be more inherently accurate than those with polymer frames. I don't think this is true if you're talking about factory firearms with standard tolerances. I believe that metal-framed guns (specifically the 1911) can be made to be more accurate via gunsmithing than polymer-framed guns. No semi-auto has yet to unseat the 1911 when it comes to the accuracy-intensive bullseye shooting, and gunsmiths have decades of experience in working on that design to push it to its ultimate potential. However, for those action pistols sports that only require what I'll call real world accuracy, polymer-framed pistols have proven themselves more than adequate for the task, and shooters using them have earned dozens of IDPA and USPSA national titles.

That said, all-steel 1911s chambered in 9mm are more popular than ever in IDPA and USPSA competition. Why? The 1911 has a low bore, and when you chamber a heavy all-steel gun in a lightly recoiling cartridge, the end result is a gun that recoils hardly more than a .22.

However, most handgun buyers are overly obsessed with lowering the weight of their carry guns (the most popular segment), and the gun designers are following that parade, trying to find ways to reduce the overall weight of pistols. They work to reduce the recoil using other methods than sheer mass such as innovative recoil spring systems and low bore offset.

The only type of handguns that require not just metal but steel in their frames these days are revolvers chambered in big magnums. Ruger might have figured out how to use a lot of polymer in the frame of the LCR, but the day when you'll see a polymer-framed revolver chambered in .454 Casull or .500 S&W is never.

All polymers used in handguns are not the same, and polymer isn't necessarily better than metal, it just offers engineers different design options. Polymers range from the plastic used in Glocks, which is the softest in the industry and only half a step removed from rubber, to the glass-filled nylon favored by Ruger that is much stiffer. Engineers have to account for the flex of the polymer during recoil, something not an issue when dealing with metal. Stiffer polymers flex less, but transmit more felt recoil to the shooter's hand.

 The soft polymer in a Glock frame really flexes and soaks up recoil, however that's not always a good thing. The Gen 4 Glocks exist because Glock was losing law enforcement sales due to a problem unique to them; if you hung a weapon light on a Gen 3 Glock chambered in .40 S&W, the gun's frame would flex so much in recoil it would short cycle. This isn't a new problem for Glock—they had to put metal inserts into the polymer magazine bodies when the original all-polymer bodies warped under heat and pressure (i.e. cops sitting on them all day). But they adapted their design and moved on, and now the Glock polymer-over-metal magazines and guns are considered the standard in the industry for simplicity and reliability.

As for the advantages of using polymer in a handgun frame, they are many. First, we've already touched on cost. Not only is polymer itself cheaper as a material than any kind of metal, production costs are lower. Polymer can be machined, like metal, but more often it is injection molded into forms with any flash trimmed off by hand. That is quicker than machining.

The new molds and production processes are getting so much better that some of the molded polymer grip texturing feels nearly as sharp as a checkered metal frame. Color changes are easy—just add different dye to the polymer. That is why you see so many color options on some lines of polymer pistols—because it is so easy for the manufacturer to do. One great example of this is the Ruger LCP pocket .380. I just glanced at the short-run distributor exclusives of the LCP currently on the Ruger website, and there are close to a dozen different color frames available.

Because the grips on a polymer-framed pistol are part of the frame itself, the result is a pistol that is thinner, lighter, and has fewer parts. The ubiquitous Glock has fewer parts (34 including all springs and pins) than any other competing design on the market, and almost all of them have fewer parts than similarly sized pistols with metal frames. Most 1911s have more than 50 parts and as semi-auto pistols go it is relatively simple.

Engineers who have begun to think outside the box think of polymer frames in a different light than they would a frame made out of metal. As a result we're seeing increased modularity in polymer-framed guns. The new Ruger American Pistol doesn't feature interchangeable backstraps but rather replaceable grip shells that wrap around the frame, which is little more than a polymer column covering the magazine. The SIG P250 and P320 pistols don't even have traditional frames—the serialized part is a steel chassis inside the polymer grip module, and swapping out one module for one a different size or color takes only a minute and requires no tools or federal paperwork.

Walther started out making pistols with steel frames (such as the Walther PPK), but every new design they've had in the last twenty years has featured a polymer frame. Their latest is the CCP, seen here, meant for the concealed carry crowd. It is an odd combination of the new (polymer frame) and the old (fixed barrel, gas piston) and has been very successful.

Forget factory customization, polymer is much more user-customizable. Notice the explosion of stippling? Currently I'm wearing a SIG P320 Carry whose grip module I have stippled and recontoured to fit my tastes. I used a soldering iron for the stippling and a Dremel tool for the other work. The stippling looks great, and is very functional, which is impressive considering I have no artistic or mechanical skill. Or patience. Hand checkering metal frames (which used to be the only way to get a checkered frontstrap on a 1911) is a skill that takes hundreds of hours to perfect. As for hand checkering an aluminum frame, it just doesn't work well at all. Titanium? Forget it.

Oh, and before I forget, let's talk about a subject I really hate: cleaning. Modern polymers in handgun frames are picked specifically because they are not harmed by any harsh cleaning chemicals. And most importantly? Plastic doesn't rust, and the finish won't wear off. It requires no maintenance.

Handguns need metal, but engineers are coming up with ways to use less and less of it in the design of handguns. Sure, right now you need a metal barrel and slide and some trigger components, and rails on which the slide can reciprocate, but I would wager a generation from now that won't be the case. Right now polymer has really only replaced the metal in the frame of a pistol. But there are exceptions to that, such as the FN Five-seveN, which has a polymer shell around its steel slide. A pistol that is all polymer and ceramic and uses other futuristic materials like carbon fiber probably isn't more than a couple of decades away, but the question is whether you'd want to fire it. Not because it won't be safe, but because it will be so light it might have significant and probably unpleasant recoil.

Speaking of ceramics, I'll bet that within a decade you'll see manufacturers experimenting with ceramic components in handguns. Industrial ceramics have gone mainstream, and are used in the medical, oil and gas, computer, plumbing, and textile industries just to name a few. I've even got a couple of ceramic kitchen knives, and tests have shown that ceramic blades keep their edges ten times longer than the typical steel blade.

The first handguns were made out of steel and wood, because they had to be. Nothing else was strong enough. Aluminum reduced the weight, but it still had to be machined in the same way as steel. Polymers, however, haven't just changed the way handguns are made but how they are designed. Metal-framed guns aren't going away, their designs are too established and proven, but they are the past, not the future.

Thank you,
Paul Curtis
President - CARGO
www.cargogunclub.org
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