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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 Thursday, December 6th.

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:

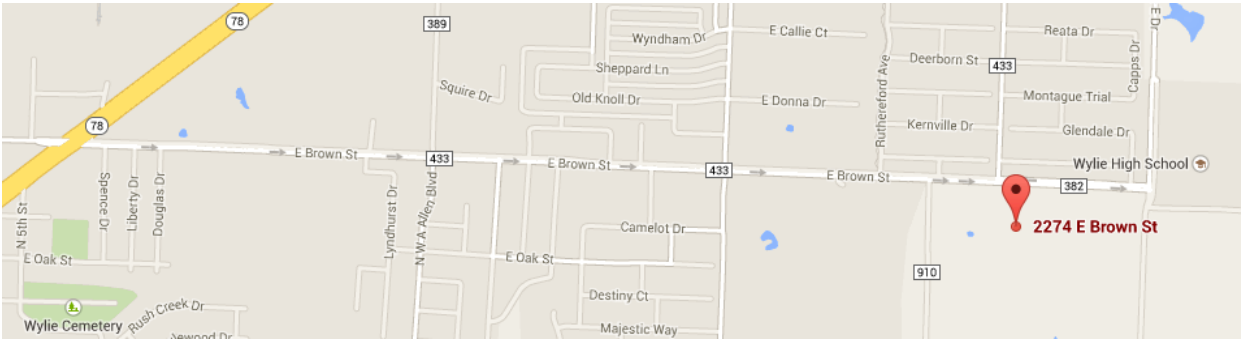
2274 EAST Brown Street in Wylie

At dinner, we will determine if the ground is too wet to park on at the shop. If it is too wet, parking will only be allowed on the gravel driveway. There is on street parking on N Anson Parkway across the street from the shop (about 50-yard walk).

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.





Gun topics for this month:

It is Christmas time and we want to you to bring something that you got for an early Christmas gift this year or something that you got as a Christmas gift in the past.

This is wide open, firearms, optics, targets, ammo, magazines, holsters, reloading equipment, knives, tactical gear, clothing, survival gear, you name it.

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

The following is sent from the TSRA Legislative Director Alice Tripp:

Dear TSRA Members, Family and Friends:

[State and Federal Voter's Guides](#)

[Vote Texas.gov](#)

I want you to use the Vote Texas Link and click on the statewide election night results.

Got to the bottom of the Vote Texas page and look at election results for the Texas Courts of Appeals. The bad results will take your breath away.

Nearly every Republican member of our Appellate Court system went home from work on Tuesday, Election Day, feeling pretty good only to discover later that night that they had lost their jobs. Every court took a hit and we lost long time friends such as Justice Puryear.

This week I spoke to a Republican Women's group in Coppell, a community just north of DFW airport.

They had lost their incumbent Republican State Representative Matt Rinaldi, and State Senator Don Huffines (R) to Democrats. We were all feeling bad until we were told about the down ballot judiciary losses.

Also you need to know that the money source for the opposition came from out of state. New York and California spent twice as much as Texas spent on our election. Reese Witherspoon and other famous entertainers from California contributed to elections they know nothing about. Why? Because they're committed to Blue-ism. .

It took the entire Republican Party pulling together to defeat Beto, the anti-gun Congressman from El Paso. The race was neck and neck till the very end.

President Trump was here. Senior U.S. Senator John Cornyn worked tirelessly as did his campaign staff. He's up for re-election next and we'll go through this again.

Plus we know Texas lost several long-time Republican Congressmen.

The D's were after the U.S. Senate seat and that didn't happen!

The Texas House went from 95 Republican House members to 83 and from 21 Texas Senate Members to 19.

Republican's still hold a healthy majority but..... There was a large enough change to the House that a weak Republican Speaker candidate could work with the House Democrats to be elected Speaker. The Speaker appoints committee chairmen, assigns bills to various committee....

The Senate shouldn't change much but every bill must pass in both chambers to become law and the only thing that's mandatory is the state budget.

And..... Who is deciding on law in the judiciary. Brand new Democrats, many of whom have never been a judge and now they're in our highest courts!

In 2020 the U.S Census will happen and during the 2021 Session the Legislature will use those figures to redistrict, more changes.

Look at the election results on the courts of appeal and look how close all the results were!

We need to begin working on the plan today!

Thanks for your contributions to the TSRA-PAC.

We attended campaign events, did multiple statewide alerts, and multiple alerts by political subdivisions plus post cards.

Thanks for your help with funds and with your vote!

Friday-March1 and Saturday-March 2 at the Sheraton in Georgetown! Call TSRA at 512-615-4200 and ask for information on hotel discounts. Call quickly there are deadlines!

We need you to also participate as a sponsor, as a vendor, or volunteer. We need volunteers.

Thank you for your membership and again for supporting the TSRA-PAC with donations. Your membership and your vote is our power.

Remember to Keep the Faith

Alice Tripp

Legislative Director

TSRA-PAC

www.tsra.com

www.tsrapac.com



https://baltimore.cbslocal.com/2018/11/05/fatal-officer-involved-shooting-in-anne-arundel-county/?fbclid=IwAR39_R8VV1_N_SO81-IivJ_ik5rtNGtBXPYJ-f7Ve7pE4wLapmlnIuFpV2A

Maryland's 'Red Flag' Law Turns Deadly: Officer Kills Man Who Refused To Turn In Gun

By [Kimberly Eiten](#) November 5, 2018 at 11:00 pm

FERNDALE, Md. (WJZ) — A 61-year-old man is dead after he was shot by an officer trying to enforce Maryland's new 'red flag' law in Ferndale Monday morning. Anne Arundel County Police confirmed the police-involved shooting happened in the 100 block of Linwood Avenue around 5:17 a.m.

ADVERTISING

[Anne Arundel Officials Name Officers In Police-Involved Shooting](#)

According to police, two officers serving a new Extreme Risk Protective Order (Red Flag Law), a Maryland protective order to remove guns from a household, shot and killed the man listed on that order.

"Under the law, family, police, mental health professionals can all ask for the protective orders to remove weapons," said Sgt. Jacklyn David, with Anne Arundel County Police.

That man was identified as Gary J. Willis of same address.

Officials said Willis answered the door while holding a handgun.

Willis then placed the gun next to the door.

When officers began to serve him the order, Willis became irate and grabbed his gun.

One of the officers tried to take the gun from Willis, but instead Willis fired the gun.

The second officer fired a gun, striking Willis. He died at the scene.

No police officers were injured and others inside the house were unharmed.

Police continue to investigate the shooting. At this time it's not clear who called police to alert them about Willis.

Anne Arundel County Police have only had nine "red flag" calls so far.

Anyone with information regarding this incident is asked to contact the Homicide Unit at 410-222-4731. Callers wishing to remain anonymous are asked to call the Tip Line at 410-222-4700.

This is a developing story. Stay with WJZ for updates.

Follow [@WJZ](#) on Twitter and like [WJZ-TV | CBS Baltimore](#) on Facebook

Anne Arundel Officials Name Officers In Police-Involved Shooting

November 6, 2018 at 9:42 am

Anne Arundel Officials Name Officers In Police-Involved Shooting

November 6, 2018 at 9:42 am

Filed Under: Anne Arundel County police, Baltimore, Ferndale, Local TV, Police-Involved Shooting, Talkers

FERNDALÉ, Md. (WJZ) — Anne Arundel County Police have named the two officers in a police-involved shooting in Ferndale early Monday.

Officers were trying to enforce Maryland's new Extreme Risk Protective Order (Red Flag Law), a Maryland protective order to remove guns from a household after someone reports that the gun owner may be under distress.

Instead while trying to get the gun from 61-year-old Gary J. Willis, police said Willis fired a shot — and was then fatally shot by an officer on scene.

Corporal J. Hopper is a 5-year veteran of the force and Police First Class G. Zawondry, another 5-year veteran of the force, were placed on administrative leave.

Police also corrected the age of Willis, who they said was 61 and 60 as previously reported.

Court Rules That Medical Marijuana Card Holders Can't Buy Firearms

If you have a medical marijuana card, the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals says that you can't buy a gun.

The court ruled 3-0 on Wednesday that a ban preventing medical marijuana card holders from purchasing firearms is not in violation of the Second Amendment, the [Associated Press](#) reports. There are nine western states under the appeals court's jurisdiction, including Nevada, where the case originated.

A lawsuit was filed in 2011 by Nevada resident S. Rowan Wilson after she tried to purchase a gun for self-defense and was denied based on a federal ban on the sale of guns to users of illegal drugs. Though marijuana has been legalized in some places on a [state-by-state basis](#), it remains illegal under [federal law](#). The court maintained that drug use "raises the risk of irrational or unpredictable behavior with which gun use should not be associated."

Wilson claimed that she doesn't actually use marijuana, she simply obtained a card to show her support for its legalization. The appeals court agreed with guidelines from the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives that firearms sellers should assume that medical marijuana card holders use the drug.

Chaz Rainey, the attorney representing Wilson, said that he plans to appeal the decision. "We live in a world where having a [medical marijuana](#) card is enough to say you don't get a gun, but if you're on the [no fly list](#) your constitutional right is still protected," he told the AP. He argued that there should be more consistency in how the Second Amendment is applied.

Alex Kreit, [marijuana](#) law expert at the San Diego's Thomas Jefferson School of Law, expects that this ruling won't be the last we see of the issue. He told the AP that the ruling may be challenged by people who use medical marijuana who will argue "that they shouldn't be lumped with other drug users in terms of concerns about violence."

<https://www.range365.com/atf-prosecutes-ohio-man-for-ar-pistol-with-brace?src=SOC&dom=fb&fbclid=IwAR3Gc4fJiJ9dm9ByMaijNYC8s7Tqvrp7NA4Nhtel2nFetu7y-2ucwLVbO6k>

ATF Prosecutes Ohio Man for AR Pistol with Brace

The Bureau has defied its own definitions, saying that adding a pistol brace to a pistol made it a short-barreled rifle.

By Joseph Albanese October 30, 2018



The equipment that brought about the alleged infraction included a Maxim CQB Pistol AR 15 PDW brace, Stark Express angled foregrip, and a flash suppressor that added about two inches to the 7.75-inch barrel. These items were all previously approved by the Firearms and Ammunition Technology Division, the arm of the ATF charged with responding to technical inquiries and testing and classifying products submitted to them for review, as well as providing technical services to the firearms industry and other members of the public.

NMpoliticalreport

Legal accessories added to an AR pistol landed an Ohio man in hot water with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms.

The Prince Law Firm's blog recently brought attention to the case of U.S. v. Wright (3:18-CR-16), in which the northern Ohio man is charged with a series of violations regarding the accessories he added to a Sharps Bros. AR-15 pistol known as The Jack. The ATF alleges that the added parts created a Short Barreled-Rifle, which the defendant did not register as required by the National Firearms Act.

According to the evidence list for the upcoming trial, the equipment that brought about the alleged infraction included a Maxim CQB Pistol AR 15 PDW brace, Stark Express angled foregrip, and a flash suppressor that added about two inches to the 7.75-inch barrel. These items were all previously approved by the Firearms and Ammunition Technology Division, the arm of the ATF charged with responding to technical inquiries and testing and classifying products submitted to them for review, as well as providing technical services to the firearms industry and other members of the public.

Luckily there was a happy ending to the saga, with the jury returning a not guilty verdict after a short deliberation. The most alarming part of this indictment is that the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Ohio even sought to prosecute the case. The [Prince Law Offices blog]

(<https://blog.princelaw.com/2018/10/28/atf-unhinged-prosecutions-made-up-out-of-whole-cloth-you-might-be-next/>) went as far as saying the U.S. Attorney's Office invented the charges 'out of whole cloth,' completely fabricating the entire basis for the case.

The U.S. Attorney's Office even went as far as trying to bar the approval letters from the ATF's Firearms and Ammunition Technology Division from being used in court. The trial pitted ATF Firearms Enforcement Officer Eve E. Eisenbise as an expert witness for the government against the defendant's expert Richard Vasquez, a former employee of the Firearms and Ammunition Technology Division. Eisenbise held that the Maxim Defense extension was a shoulder stock, while Vasquez, and the jury, contended it was not.

ATF Chief Wants National Gun Registry

By David Maccar August 2, 2016



Thomas Brandon (right) was recently appointed as Director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives.

In a recent interview with CBS News, Thomas Brandon, the recently appointed director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) said he would like to institute a national firearms registry and that it would make the agency's job much easier.

The story from CBS provides an overview of the modern ATF, what their tasks are, and a bit about how they perform those tasks. The story laments that the agency, which Brandon says is too small, understaffed, and underfunded, must "trace guns used in crimes the old-fashioned way: on the phone. They did this 370,000 times last year. Many 2nd Amendment advocates strongly oppose a nationwide gun registry, so Congress has prohibited the bureau from creating a computerized, searchable database of gun manufacturing and sales."

"I think that having a database of gun sales amounts to de facto gun registration," said Wisconsin Rep. James Sensenbrenner, who has introduced a bill that would abolish the ATF, in the story. "And that is something that Congress would never approve, and which I would never approve of."

Brandon says in the story that doesn't make sense to him.

"So yeah, would it be efficient and effective (with new technology)? Absolutely. Would the taxpayer benefit with public safety? Absolutely. Are we allowed to do it? No," Brandon told CBS News.

The story says that the agency's gun tracing center is stacked with thousands of paper records, which often must be combed through by hand, and with 139,000 gun dealers in business in the U.S., the agency has just 620 investigators.

With all the attention garnered by high-profile shootings in recent years, it may surprise some to learn that the agency responsible for policing illegal firearms trafficking has not been beefed up.

When asked if he thought there is a concerted effort to keep the ATF as weak and underfunded as possible, Brandon replied:

"From sitting in the seat, you know, being around, I would be naive to answer your question to think that the politics of firearms enforcement, that there's not some translation into our budget allocation."

Back in January, we reported that part of President Barack Obama's package of executive actions in response to the San Bernardino terrorist attack was to add 200 agents to the ATF's ranks.

When Sensenbrenner was asked if he thought those agents would ever materialize, he quickly replied, "No."

Dick's Sporting Goods Stock Plummets 10 Percent After Poor Sales Numbers

by JORDAN MICHAELS on AUGUST 29, 2018



Dick's Sporting Goods is starting to feel the effects of its anti-gun policies. (Photo: Mike Mozart/YouTube)

Earlier this year financial analysts [hoped](#) Dick's Sporting Goods could continue to post strong sales numbers even after imposing a slate of anti-gun policies. Today that projection sounds more like wishful thinking than anything else.

Dick's shares fell by as much as 10 percent today after the company announced a 1.9 percent drop in same-store sales, more than twice as large as analysts' average estimate of a 0.62 percent dip. Dick's net sales rose by nearly 1 percent to \$2.18 billion, but that mark also fell below the average Wall Street estimate of \$2.24 billion.

Edward Stack, the company's CEO and Virtue Signaler in Chief, blamed a decline in their hunting department as well as new policies by Under Armour for the same-store sales numbers.

"Sales were impacted by the strategic decisions we made regarding the slow growth, low margin hunt and electronics businesses, which accounted for nearly half of our comp decline," Stack said in a [press release](#). "In addition, we experienced continued significant declines in Under Armour sales as a result of their decision to expand distribution."

By "hunt," of course, Stack means, "firearms." He's also referencing Under Armour's decision to start selling its products in low-price outlets like Kohl's, which makes it more difficult for Dick's to sell at its traditionally higher prices.

Stack nonetheless remained confident in the future of the company.

"We are very confident our sales trajectory will improve next year as these headwinds are expected to subside," he concluded.

Still, the company continues to be concerned that its anti-gun policies will affect sales. Buried in the [earnings report](#), they list “negative reactions to our policies related to the sale of firearms and accessories” as one of the factors that might throw a wrench in their optimistic future projections.

Sportsman’s Warehouse, by contrast, [posted strong second-quarter numbers](#), buoyed largely by a massive uptick in gun sales. The company saw an 8.3 percent uptick in their firearms category, which they attributed to “certain decisions” by their “competitors.”

Dick’s announced after the Valentine’s Day massacre at a high school in Parkland, Florida, that it would no longer sell AR-15 style rifles and 30-round magazines. It also no longer sells firearms to customers under the age of 21.

Vietnam Veteran Who Was Shot by Police While Defending his Grandson Given a Hero's Burial

by JORDAN MICHAELS on AUGUST 29, 2018

A Vietnam War veteran and Bronze Star and Purple Heart recipient was laid to rest this weekend after being shot by police defending his grandson from a home intruder.

Richard "Gary" Black, 73, was in his Aurora, Colorado, home around 1:30 a.m. last month when a naked man broke down their front door and began assaulting his grandson. Black shot the intruder, but police shot Black when they arrived at the scene and saw him carrying a handgun and a flashlight.

The incident has been described as one of the most tragic police shootings in the city's history, according to the [Denver Post](#), and those who were there hailed him as a hero both in the service and at home.

"He was a hero coming out of that war, and he died a hero defending his family," said Mark Potter, chaplain for American Legion Post 22 in Northglenn, Colorado.

Aurora Police Department Chief Nick Metz, whose officer shot and killed Black, was also in attendance, accompanied by several uniformed officers. Metz hailed Black as a hero for defending his family.

"There's no doubt in my mind in any shape or form that Mr. Black saved his family's life that night," Metz said.

The incident began when 26-year-old Dajon Harper left a nearby party and, for reasons that remain unclear, broke down Black's door and grabbed Black's grandson, who had been sleeping on the couch, according to the [Denver Post](#). Harper took Black's grandson to the bathroom and tried to drown him, while Black and the boy's father attempted to wrestle the boy away.

"I won't go into the graphic details other than to say the child was violently assaulted," Metz said.

Black was hit in the head with a vase during the course of the fight, and neither man was able to pull Harper off the boy. Black retrieved a 9mm handgun and shot Harper, but by that time other people from the party had arrived at the house.

Metz told reporters earlier this month that his officers arrived to a "violent" and "chaotic" scene, and it isn't clear from 911 and dispatch calls whether they had been given a clear description of the intruder or the other individuals at the house.

"The 911 telephone call by Mrs. Black was difficult to understand as large portions are unintelligible," the Black family said in a statement. "The family acknowledges the APD's position that the responding officers did not receive a description of the intruders."

Officers observed Black walk around a corner, turn back, and come towards them. Metz says his officers told Black multiple times to drop his weapon, but he also admitted that Black had suffered hearing impairment during his time in the Army.

“For the next 13 seconds, officers continued to give at least five commands to Mr. Black to drop the gun and to show his hands,” Metz said. “We don’t know why, but for whatever reason Mr. Black did not drop the gun.”

Metz admitted that the officers did not identify themselves before firing, but has continued to defend his officers’ actions, even allowing the officers who shot Black to [return to work this week](#).

“There was a reference that our officers acted recklessly,” Metz said. “I dispute that strongly. They were not reckless. They responded how I would expect them to respond given the limited amount of information they were given.”

Gary Black’s wife, Jeanette Black, invited the Aurora police to her husband’s funeral because she wanted her children and grandchildren to respect law enforcement despite what happened.

“They’re still here to protect all of us,” she said. “They’re still representatives of our city.”

Police at Texas Tech Praise Campus Carry: ‘No Longer a Target of Opportunity’ for Mass Killers

by S.H. BLANNELBERRY on AUGUST 6, 2018

Police at Texas Tech are praising campus carry approximately two years after the law has gone into effect, saying that it makes the university a “safer place.”

“I believe it makes the campus a safer place, to live, learn and educate,” Amy Ivey, a lieutenant at the Texas Tech Police Department, told [KAMC News](#).

Specifically, Ivey believes that they are no longer a soft target.

“I like to think we’re no longer a targeting opportunity for any such event, such as active shooter, because they know if they come on campus, there could be a potential for an individual to be able to stop the active shooting,” Ivey continued.

While campus carry is one part of the equation to creating a safer learning environment, another part is training personnel on how to respond to an active shooter event. Something that Tech has also been working on.

“We actually do a hands-on part where we barricade doors, we show you how to go hands-on with weapons, how to defend yourself and also a truncated training on how to stop the bleed, so that way, all of our faculty, staff and students are prepared if an event does happen here on campus,” Ivey explained.

This common-sense approach to school safety was embraced by Tech student Cody Wheeler.

“I do feel safe knowing that there are people that will act upon,” said Wheeler. “If they have their concealed carry, and they see something going, they’ll feel the need to go step in.”



Cocks Not Glocks is an anti-campus carry organization. Following the rollout of the campus carry legislation in 2016, Cocks Not Glocks handed out dildos to fellow students to protest the law. Get it, *cocks* not Glocks. (Photo: Facebook/Cocks Not Glocks)

Not all students support allowing law-abiding and licensed concealed carriers to protect themselves at Tech, however. [Cocks Not Glocks](#), an anti-campus carry organization, made headlines by passing out dildos to fellow students in protest of the law when it officially rolled out on Aug. 1, 2016.

GunsAmerica reached out to Cocks Not Glocks for comment. We're awaiting a response. We were curious to see what these ladies had to say now that campus carry has been on the books for two years. Have they changed their tune now that law enforcement has embraced it? Or are they still opposed to hardening schools against crazed murderers?

In the meantime, for more information on what you need to know to carry on campus in the Lone Star State, check out this GunsAmerica article: ["Texas Begins First Day of Campus Carry, Here's What You Need to Know."](#)

8 Revolutionary Reticles For Long-Range Accuracy

By Luke Hartle - November 7, 2018

Some of the ‘busiest’ and ‘cleanest’ precision rifle reticles available today. **Top precision riflescope reticles:**

- Nightforce MOAR
- Bushnell Deploy MOA
- Vortex Viper XLR
- Leupold Illuminated T-MOA
- Nikon Illuminated X-MOA and X-MRAD Reticles
- SIG Electro-Optics MOA/MRAD DEV-L
- Burris SCR MOA
- Schmidt and Bender

The most accurate precision rifles available are nothing without a riflescope of substantial quality. And such a riflescope is nothing without a reticle capable of helping you deliver a bullet on target from a long, long distance.



Why do you suppose it is that precision rifle shooting — or long-range shooting, as some call it — has jumped into popularity so fast? Seriously ... think about it. The equipment is often quite expensive, and let’s face it: Finding a shooting range in excess of 600 yards is a major hurdle for most shooters across the United States. Long ranges, by definition, take up a lot of room.

Less than a decade ago ARs were just starting to make an entrance into the mainstream civilian market, and precision rifles were only used by Navy SEAL snipers on movies we all couldn't get enough of. Very few people had one. And today, though the AR market remains strong, it's fallen in the shadows of precision shooting. The amount of choices we have as precision rifle shooters — both in regard to gear and training opportunities — is simply amazing.

I could certainly fire-up a mile-long Facebook thread on what exactly is so appealing with precision rifle shooting, because everyone has a varying opinion on why it's "cool" or, even more so, what gear to be using. And that overflow of opinions would prove exactly my point: customization and versatility.

Like the AR platform, precision rifle shooting offers a nearly unparalleled selection of calibers, cartridges, rifle brands and platforms, optics brands and platforms — right down to more reticle choices than even the most serious long-ranger can keep up with.

A Volume Of Visuals

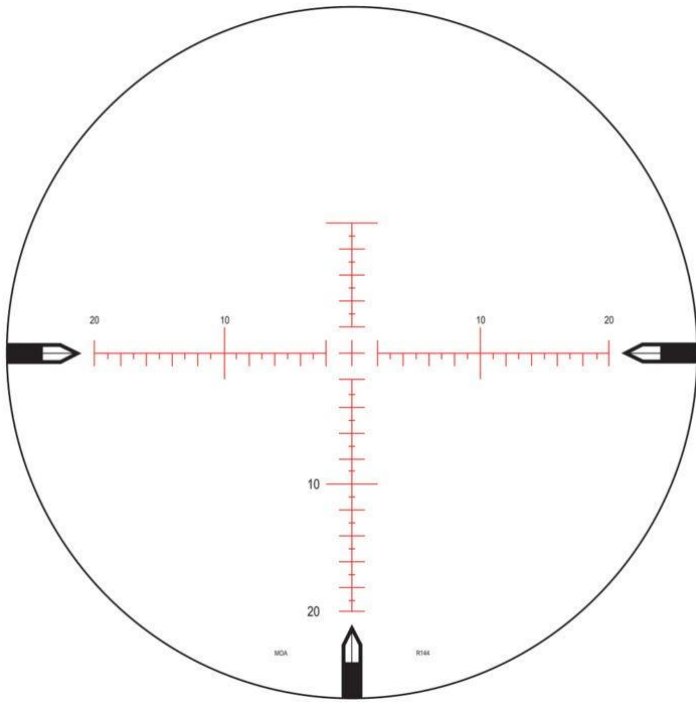
The selection of reticles available in scopes marketed as "long-range optics" is astounding. It's damn-near mind boggling. There are so many one-off options out there that it's nearly enough to scare a shooter back to using open sights.

there's one thing I've learned from taking precision rifle courses and from watching some of the best shooters in the world play the long game, it's that creating the perfect long-range rifle setup is done by following a precise formula — a formula that each individual shooter gets to make up for themselves. There is no right or wrong answer: just you, your setup ... and your training.

Below is a smattering of innovative precision rifle reticles from a sampling of major players in the long-range optics field. All of these manufacturers offer at least a couple of options, and some offer a jaw-dropping number of reticle options. Some are quite complex, and some are very simple. Some pair with first focal plane scopes, and some

don't. Most are designed to be paired with ballistic turrets. Many are MOA configured, and some are mil-rad. Some will fit your preferred shooting style. Some won't.

Nightforce MOAR

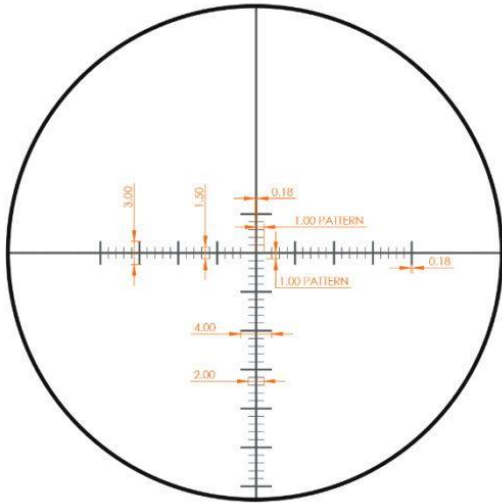


The Nightforce MOAR reticle features a floating center crosshair 2 MOA wide and 2 MOA tall that provides a precise aiming point where it matters most: on smaller targets at longer ranges. In addition, 1-MOA elevation and windage spacings provide for more accurate rangefinding and hold-offs. The MOAR has thicker line subtensions than Nightforce's traditional reticles, and is marked with 10-, 20- and 30-MOA elevation indicators — and 10- and 20-MOA windage indicators — to help the shooter acquire targets extremely quickly and easily under field conditions.

The MOAR was designed specifically to be more intuitive, easier to see in low-light conditions and more visible against dark backgrounds and in shadows — the three areas that Nightforce believes cause the most visual problems for precision riflemen.

www.nightforceoptics.com

Bushnell Deploy MOA

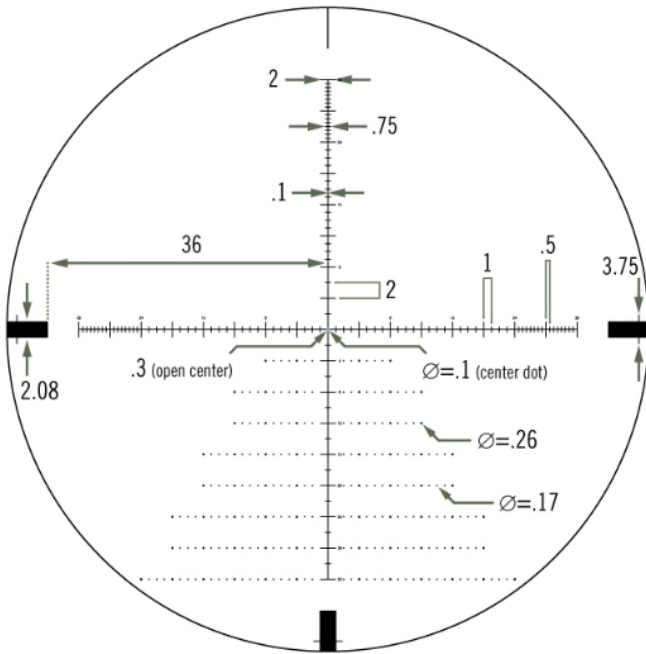


Designed for versatility, the Bushnell Deploy MOA reticle has been designed for hunters, target shooters, shooters of multiple calibers – anyone looking for extreme flexibility in what a riflescope has to offer. The 0.18-MOA thick crosshairs on the Deploy MOA are easy to see without obstructing the target picture, and hashmarks have been strategically placed at every 1 MOA for fast and accurate elevation holdover. The hashmarks below zero are 2 MOA wide to aid in accurate windage holds, which is an excellent yet subtle feature that helps keep the reticle visually clean without sacrificing utility.

www.bushnell.com

Vortex Viper XLR

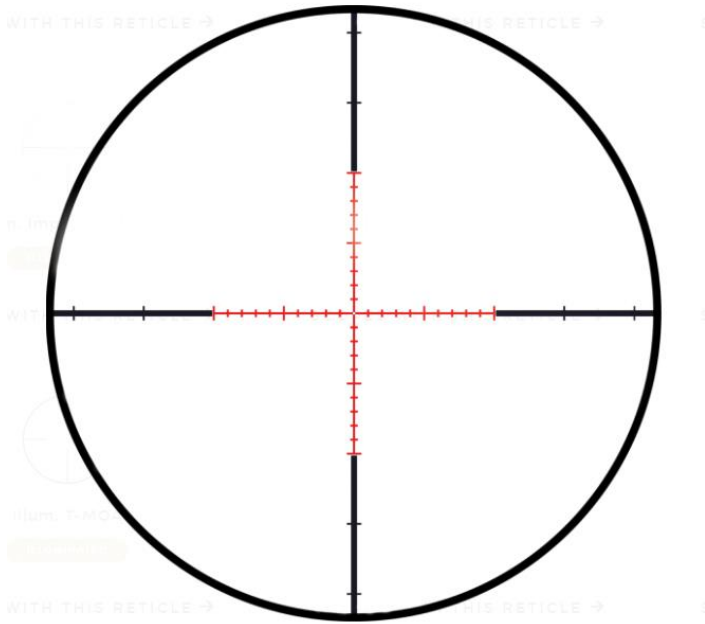
VIPER HS LR XLR Reticle Subtensions for 6-24x50



Designed to maximize long-distance shooting and ranging abilities of a precision rifleman and the rifle of their choosing, the Viper XLR MOA reticle is designed to effectively and quickly determine ranges, holdovers, windage and moving lead corrections. Laser etching on the glass reticle has been crafted with precision and ensures that MOA specifications are kept to the tightest possible tolerances. The design features hashmarks with wind-drift dots and 1 MOA wind reference subtensions, which is ideally suited for long-range shooters dialing for bullet drop or holding drop. In addition, the fine center crosshair subtensions on the XLR MOA reticle were carefully chosen to provide the optimum balance between precision aiming and low-light visibility.

www.vortexoptics.com

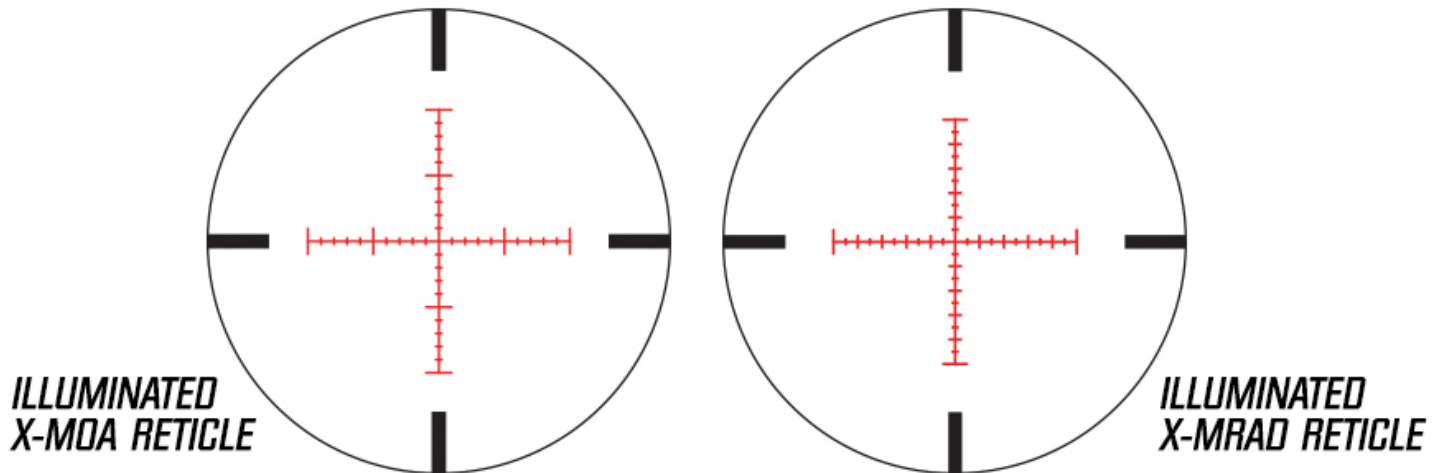
Leupold Illuminated T-MOA



The Leupold Illuminated T-MOA reticle features stadia lines on the horizontal and vertical crosshairs set at 1 MOA for quick bullet drop and windage correction. The crosshair is left open to create a small, clear aperture for increased precision at longer ranges. Sound simple? That's because it is.

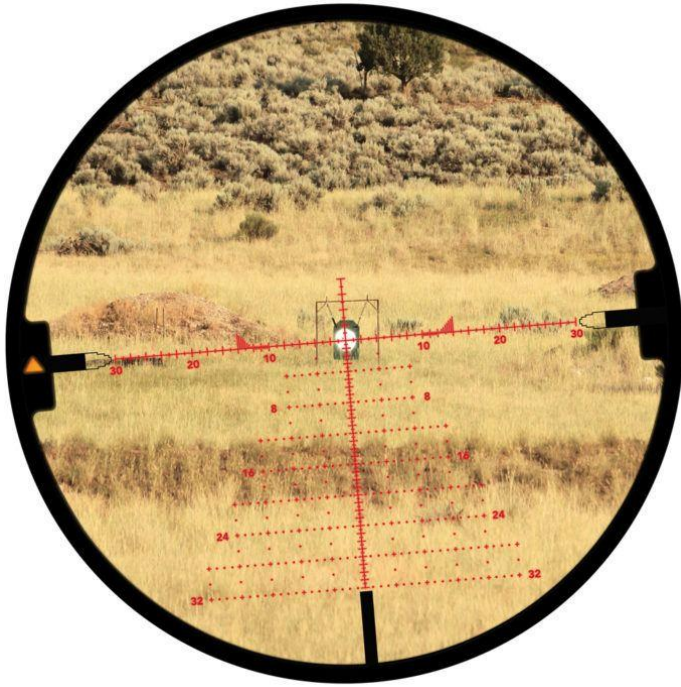
The Illuminated T-MOA is available in the VX-6HD line of scopes, which feature CDS-ZL2 dial locks that can't be inadvertently rotated off the zero. All Leupold VX-HD riflescopes are CDS capable and include one free Custom Ballistic Dial with purchase. The combination of the CDS-ZL2, Illuminated T-MOA and an electronic reticle level make Leupold a top contender in precision riflescopes. www.leupold.com

Nikon Illuminated X-MOA and X-MRAD Reticles



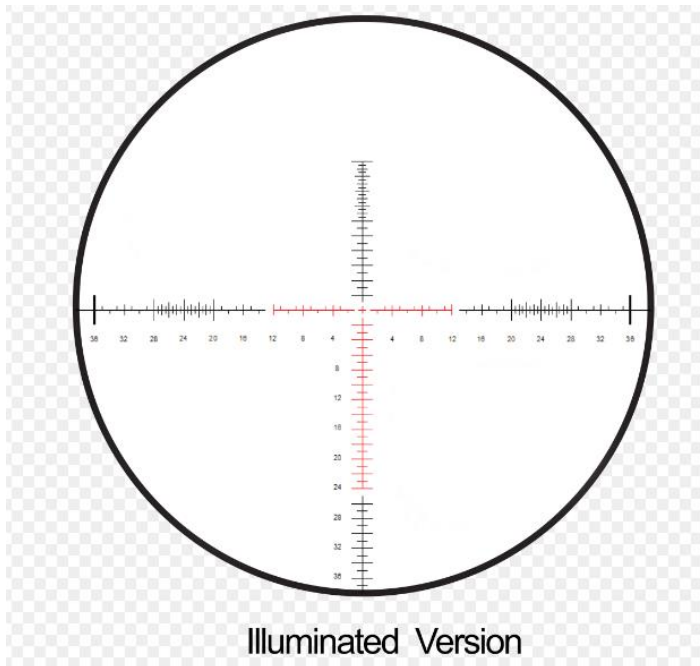
The Nikon Illuminated X-MOA and X-MRAD reticles are paired with the innovative adjustment systems in Nikon's Black line of riflescopes, and they are glass-etched. The X-MRAD reticle provides any precision shooter with clean and simple — yet highly functional — advanced tools for estimating range, maintaining holdovers or dialing for elevation, and of course compensating for wind. Nikon also highlights the point that one advantage of using tactical-style reticles is that it can be applied to virtually any shooting application, regardless of caliber or ballistic performance. Nikon's Spot On Ballistic Match Technology further expands the capabilities of the X-MOA and X-MRAD reticles for specific shooting applications, whatever that might be. www.nikonsportoptics.com

SIG Electro-Optics MOA/MRAD DEV-L



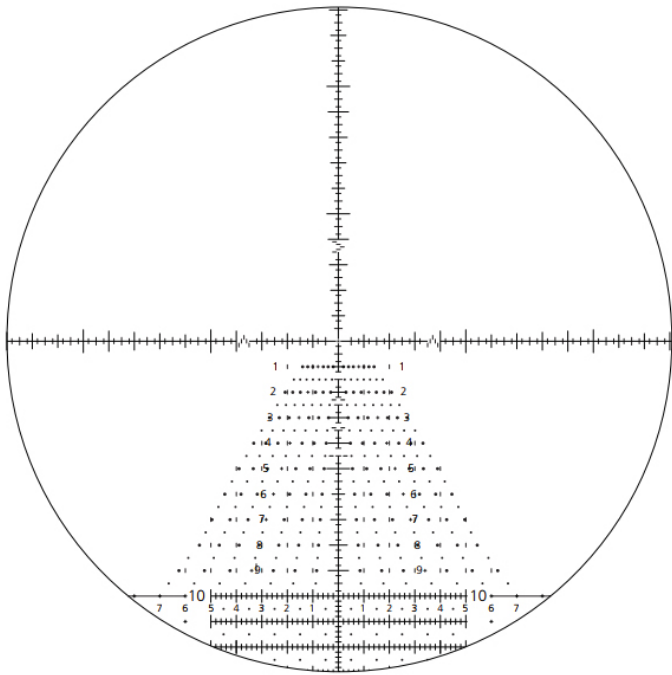
After announcing the release of the Tango6 5-30x65mm riflescope a few years ago, SIG Electro-Optics has continued to evolve at an industry-leading pace through the introduction of LevelPlex, a digital level that's six times more accurate than a bubble level that's designed to remove the accuracy-stealing cant from long-range shooting. To further solidify their place in the precision shooting optics realm, SIG Electro-Optics added the DEV-L ballistic holdover reticle to the Tango6 equation, giving shooters an extensive package of tools all in one riflescope. SIG also offers a SIG Ballistic Turret, SBT Dial, which is free and custom laser engraved to match the shooter's unique ballistic information and environmental conditions. www.sigsauer.com

Burris SCR MOA



The SCR MOA reticle from Burris is available on several Burris riflescopes in both illuminated and non-illuminated models. The illuminated models extend the engagement of targets in low-light conditions, which are perfectly suited for hunters. In non-illuminated models, the fine details in the reticle are sharp enough for close-in focus — in virtually all lighting conditions — for ultra-precise dissection at even the most distant targets. Other features include: 1-MOA holdover lines; 0.5-MOA and 1-MOA windage hold-off lines for precision; and 0.25-MOA ranging brackets on the crosshairs, at the top, left and right. www.burrisoptics.com

Schmidt and Bender



The Tremor2 reticle from Schmidt and Bender is designed by Horus Vision and is all about faster shooting — speed and ease, at a distance. According to Horus, the Tremor2 is field-proven to make wind calls easier.

Although the reticle is one of the “busier” reticles available, the Speed Shooting Formula is built directly into the elevation hold of the reticle, further promoting faster shooting. By design, the reticle also allows the shooter to accurately mil targets very quickly using the chevron 1/10-mil marks. Additional specs and features: Refined “chevron” mil markers subtend to 0.1 mils, versatile marker groupings, central dot at crosshair intersection for refined aiming point, open-above-center reticle for clear observation, and the Horus Grid allows shooters to visually place the target on the appropriate horizontal and vertical grid lines to correct for elevation and windage visually without turning knobs or counting clicks. www.schmidtundbender.de/en/

Conclusion

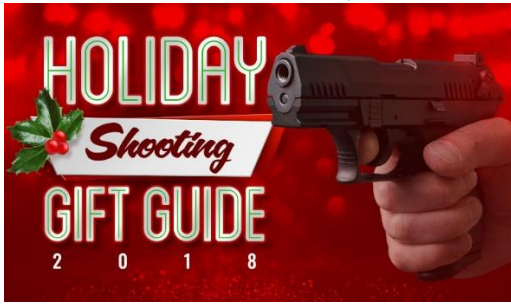
Selecting a reticle is, in my opinion, the most important feature you must consider when considering a riflescope for your precision setup. Choosing a reticle can also be like picking out a puppy: You never really know what you're getting into until you get it home and play with it for a while.

My best advice is to get some precision rifle training from a reputable instructor who will allow you to shoot a variety of different rifles, optics and of course — reticles. Take this “test drive” to see what works for you before you flop a bunch of cash out for your own gear, and you're certain to end up a much better precision shooter in the long run.

***Editor's Note:** This article originally appeared in the October 2017 issue of [Gun Digest the Magazine](#).*

2018 Holiday Gift Guide

G&A Staff - November 06, 2018



Streamlight TLR-8 Green from \$215



Streamlight hit a homerun earlier this year with the introduction of its TLR-7 and TLR-8 pistol-mounted white lights and lasers designed for compact carry pistols. The reason for this is simple, it gave consumers exactly what they were asking for, when they were asking for it and at the level of quality they expect.

Streamlight continues that streak with the introduction of its TLR-8 with a green aiming laser. Green lasers are all the rage, as they greatly extend the distance the aiming point can be seen during the hours of daylight. The green dot appears much brighter and is more pleasing to the eye. Its science, look it up.

The TLR-8 offers 500 lumens of focused white light emitting from a high-output LED for up to 1.5-hours. The unit runs off of a single CR123 lithium battery, that can quickly be swapped out by unscrewing the front lens assembly. This is advantageous because the battery change doesn't require the removal of the unit from the host pistol. Once the unit is zeroed it stays zeroed. The days are getting shorter – it's time to add a miniaturized light/laser to your compact carry pistol, and this is the one.

Crimson Trace Red Dot Sights From \$300



Using a red-dot sight is like hitting the easy button when it comes to shooting. We have come to enjoy just how simple they are to use and how easy it is to make huge accuracy gains.

The latest red dots to hit the market are from Crimson Trace. Its new family of sights consist of the CTS-1000, CTS-1200, CTS-1300 and the CTS-1400 sights.

Crimson Trace's CTS-1200 and 1300 sights are similar in size, but the CTS 1300 is intended for use on a rifle or carbine. The 1200's window is slightly taller, but the entire aluminum housing around the window and the components of the 1300 is thicker. This is evidence that it was engineered to brush off abuse.

The CTS-1400 is meant for rifles and shotguns and provides a slightly larger option versus the CTS-1300.

There is a noticeable difference in viewing screen size with the 1400 being quite a bit bigger in both height and width. But the 1400 still qualifies as an MRD. The large viewing screen makes it our top pick of these new models for any shoulder-fired firearm. It has an even thicker aluminum housing than on the CTS-1300.

Crimson Trace's red-dot sight that breaks away from the rest of the pack is the CTS-1000. This sight is intended for use on a rifle or carbine and comes with a quick-detach, throw-lever mount that takes all the pain out of mounting or dismounting the optic. The CTS-1000 has excellent build quality, and the dot has almost no perceptible blooming, even at the highest illumination settings. There are 10 illumination settings, with the dimmest being usable with night vision equipment, ideal for use on your carbine.

SIG Sauer Dyable X-Frames \$45

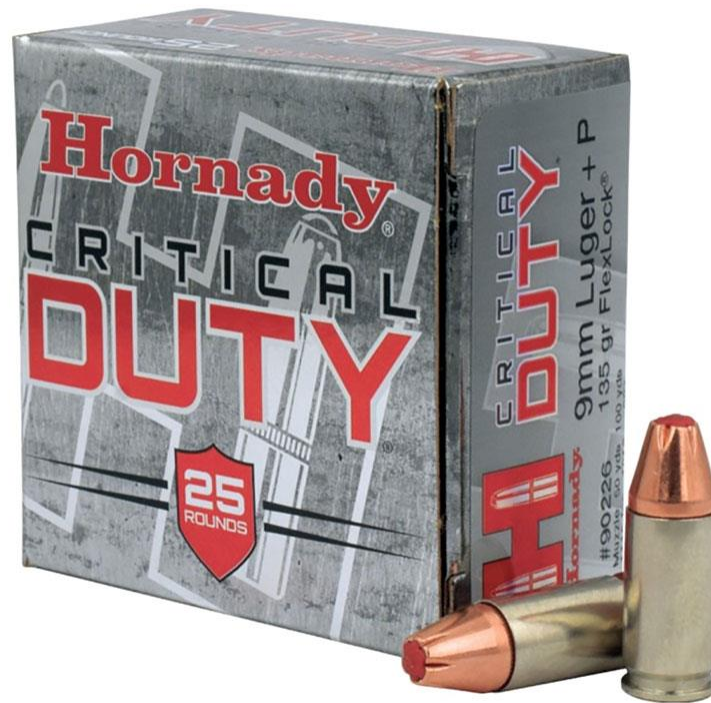


SIG Sauer hit it big with its P320, then again with its P320 X-Series and again with its P320 MHS, and well ... you get the point.

One of the P320's greatest attributes is the ability to customize the gun to your particular liking. Slides, grips, triggers, sights, the whole nine yards can be configured and reconfigured yet again all in a single minute. Grip frames have traditionally come in three flavors – black, flat dark earth and green, but that's about to change. SIG recently introduced white, dyable grip frames for its X-Series grips. To us, this is fantastic news. Rit-Dye is available at most craft stores for about \$4 and can be had in a huge assortment of colors, and when blended together, the color choices are virtually endless. With a pot, some hot water and a few bottles of Rit-Dye, we went to work. We dyed one of our grip frames an Aquamarine Blue and added a UTM slide assembly to it signifying that pistol is now set up to fire non-lethal force on force marking rounds. Second, we dyed a grip frame Cherry Red to signify a dry-fire only pistol with a plugged, non-firing barrel installed. Lastly, a bit of chocolate brown, a pinch of purple and a dash of aquamarine and we had ourselves an attractive dark brown frame as a throwback to the appearance of wood grips – just for the fun of it.

The combinations are endless and with a little trial and error (and a lot of fun for the whole family) you (or the missus) can have almost any color grip frame you can imagine. Decorate cookies or dye P320 frames? We'll let you decide, but have fun with it and share your creations with us on Instagram by tagging @gunsandammomag

Hornady 9mm 135-grain +P Critical Duty FBI Load \$20



Sometimes we feel like we're in or approaching the golden-era of bullet technology. So many great choices are available to us today. Like every other category, there is good and then there is better. Or in this case, the best. It's no secret Hornady hit a grand slam with its Critical Duty 135-grain 9mm duty ammunition. It wasn't developed in a vacuum and it certainly was not conceived overnight. A lot of time and effort was put forth by both the leadership and ballisticians at Hornady that spans many years of trial and error. The fruits of all that labor is the 9mm 135-grain +P Critical Duty round recently chosen by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). That is no small feat, as the FBI's testing protocol is demanding, to say the least. Yet Hornady eventually aced all the tests and the new load is being carried by agents world-wide and will no doubt find its way into your local law enforcement officers duty pistols as well.

If you work in or around vehicles at all, you'll be hard pressed to find a better round for your CCW.

Magpul Hybrid Hoodie \$190



We'll be the first to say it, we love hybrid garments. They make us feel like we got my money's worth on a piece of apparel that can be used for more than just one thing – in this case, broader temperature ranges. That's called versatility.

Magpul introduced a hybrid $\frac{3}{4}$ zip jacket that incorporates an uninsulated softshell material around the torso, under arms and forearm/wrist areas. PrimaLoft Active + insulation is used in the chest, outer arms, yoke and hood. The areas of your body where major muscle groups are located are appropriately insulated, while the others, or high sweat zones, are covered by an uninsulated, air-permeable hydrophobic softshell.

Here's the deal with insulated jackets; when you're moving and underload they get hot and the materials just can't transfer the perspiration your body generates, resulting in you becoming both cold and wet – not a good combination in the backcountry. Magpul's Hybrid Hoodie doesn't have that problem.

While this jacket would not be our first choice for a casual night on the town, it is ideal for use in the field and no doubt excels as a mid-layer garment when the temps drop, but the activity level remains high.

Surefire Stiletto \$109



Surefire's new Stiletto illumination tool has quickly become a staff favorite. Most lights in this category, that is tactical-based, are tubular in shape to accommodate the CR123A batteries that power them. The Stiletto breaks the mold a bit with an integrated rechargeable lithium battery, complete with an onboard fuel gauge. The light is quickly recharged via micro USB port.

Thanks to this engine, the body is flattened considerably and closely resembles the shape of a medium sized folding knife, which is much more ergonomic when carried in a front pants pocket. A spring-clip pocket clip adds to that resemblance and allows the light to be affixed to your pants pocket and be quickly drawn.

One of the features we really appreciate about the Stiletto is how it's activated, and its variable power settings. Not all utility lights need the power of the sun behind them. While the Stiletto puts out 650 lumens of white light through its MaxVision reflector with a momentary press of a button on its base, it can also be operated more traditionally.

A large, second button is ergonomically placed about an inch back from the reflector and allows the user to handle the light in a more utilitarian manner. This button is completely programable by pressing and holding the button adjacent to it. The consensus around here is more of the traditional low, medium, high levels of light with each click of the button, but other menus can be chosen. We've also come appreciate that if the light is being used on a low setting, quickly punching the rear activation button overrides the current selection, immediately producing 650 lumens. The new Stiletto is an item worth adding to your EDC ensemble.

SnapSafe Titan Series From \$1,250



Everyone should own a safe; whether it be to store your firearms, jewelry, important documents or other valuables – it's always a good idea. Until recently, housing a safe in your residence was far easier for homeowners or those renting single-family dwellings.

The reasons for this are many, but in-short, moving a 500-1,000lbs safe up sets of stairs or through an apartment building was not only back-breaking, but quickly raised the eyebrow of nosey neighbors and certainly caught the attention of those with a less than honest mind. A company called Snap Safe, owned by Hornady, has changed all that and created a series of modular safes that are assembled in pieces.

Now a safe that you assemble at home may raise your eyebrow but know that Snap Safe states its modular models offer all the security, and are as impenetrable, as a welded safe and offer the same 2,300F fire protection as most conventional safes. The beauty of this line is that they ship to your doorstep for free and arrive in pieces that can be subtly moved anywhere. Once in your space, you can quickly turn a closet into a vault, or position the safe virtually anywhere you please.

The Titan series can be fully assembled from the inside with an included socket wrench in 30-60 minutes, depending on the model. Snap Safe offers models ranging from the 12-gun Titan all the way up the Titan XXL Double Door which holds 56+ long-guns.

SB Tactical SBA3 \$170



We give SB Tactical credit for almost single-handedly breathing new life into AR pistols and variants. The company continues to one-up its products release after release and its newest addition to a growing line is the SBA3 and it has proven to be the best yet.

Why do we love the SBA3? For starters, the unit comes with a mil-spec diameter, 7075 aluminum receiver extension that threads onto your lower receiver, if you don't already have one. Second, the unit offers five adjustment positions allowing you to tune its position to your liking and on the fly, similar to your M4 carbine. Next, the SBA3 features a minimalist design and offers a pair of flush QD sling cups for adding your favorite sling.

AR pistols are becoming exceedingly popular for a number of reasons and the new SBA3 is the pinnacle of braces to date. If you've got an AR pistol, it deserves this functional brace – grab it if you can find one in-stock.

Guns & Ammo Subscription; \$13 for one year, \$21 for two-years.



Yes, that's right, you can get Guns & Ammo delivered right to your door each and every month. It's a gift the whole family can enjoy, what household doesn't want that? My motto is never do math in public, but as I see it, you're saving a ton of cash subscribing to the most widely read gun magazine in the world. A 2-year subscription (24 issues) is just one greenback more than the cost of just 4 issues purchased at the newsstand, an 82% savings. Go ahead and follow this link and thank us later.

https://seuresubs.osgimedia.com/orderpage_ex8.php?m=gunsandammo

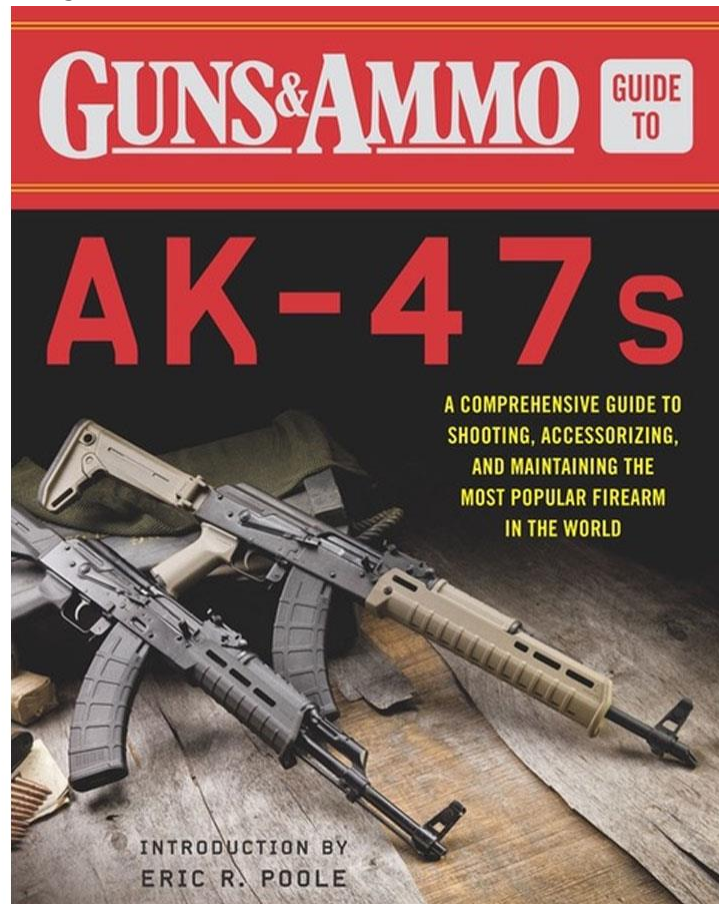
Vedder Holsters LightDraw Kydex OWB Holster From \$66



G&A staff members are big fans of Vedder Holsters, specifically the company's LightDraw outside the waistband (OWB) rig. This carry rig checks all the boxes on our list of must-haves.

The LightDraw Holster is designed for comfortable on or behind the hip carry. We like the steeply curved angles of the holster's wings and how they effectively pull the package in tight to the curvature of our body, reducing the likelihood of printing. These wings also allow the holster to be adjusted for both ride height and cant, allowing you to tailor its fit to you.

When inserting a pistol into the LightDraw, an audible and tactile clicklets you know that your pistol is secure. The amount of force required for drawing the pistol can be adjusted using a Philips-head screwdriver to tighten or loosen an adjustment screw located under the triggerguard, a nice touch not found on many kydex holsters. Vedder uses kydex of .08-inch thickness, allowing the holster to remain sleek and concealable, while also providing enough rigidity and structure for professional use. The material forward of the frontstrap has been molded to allow a high master grip upon the draw, a feature many manufacturers get wrong, but one Vedder Holsters certainly got right.



Everything you need to know about AK-47s from top firearms writers.

The Guns & Ammo Guide to AK-47s is packed with a wealth of valuable information compiled by the foremost firearms writers today. A vast range of topics is covered in these articles, including:

An RPK for America

Guns of the mercenaries

Now: A civilian AKM

Automatic Carbine 5

DSA's RPDs

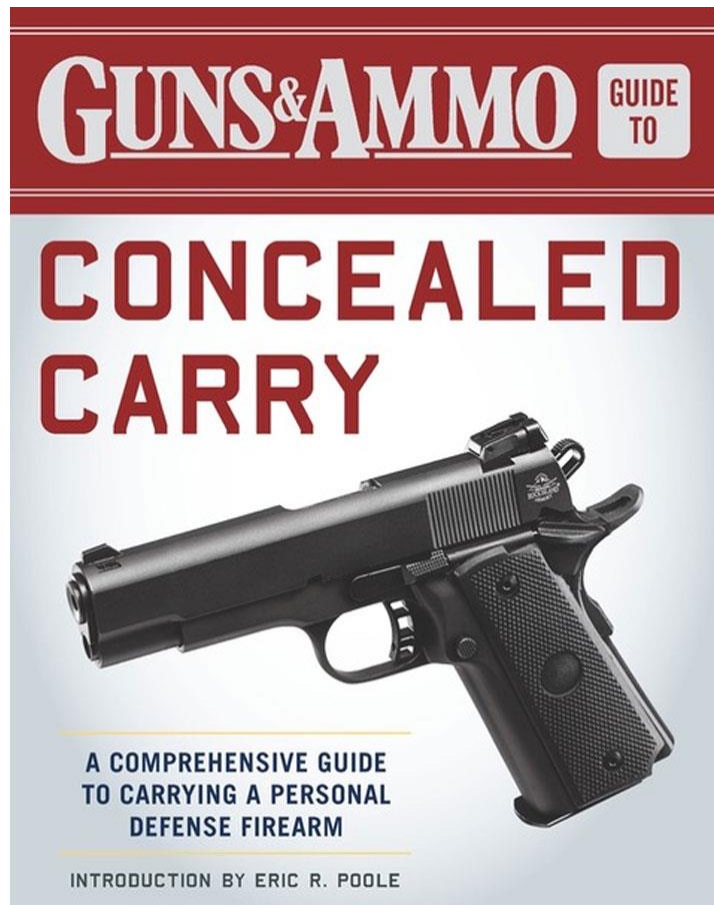
Molot's Wild Boar

AK Cutaway

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Gun control

The armed traveler

Fortifying your castle

Responding to an active shooter

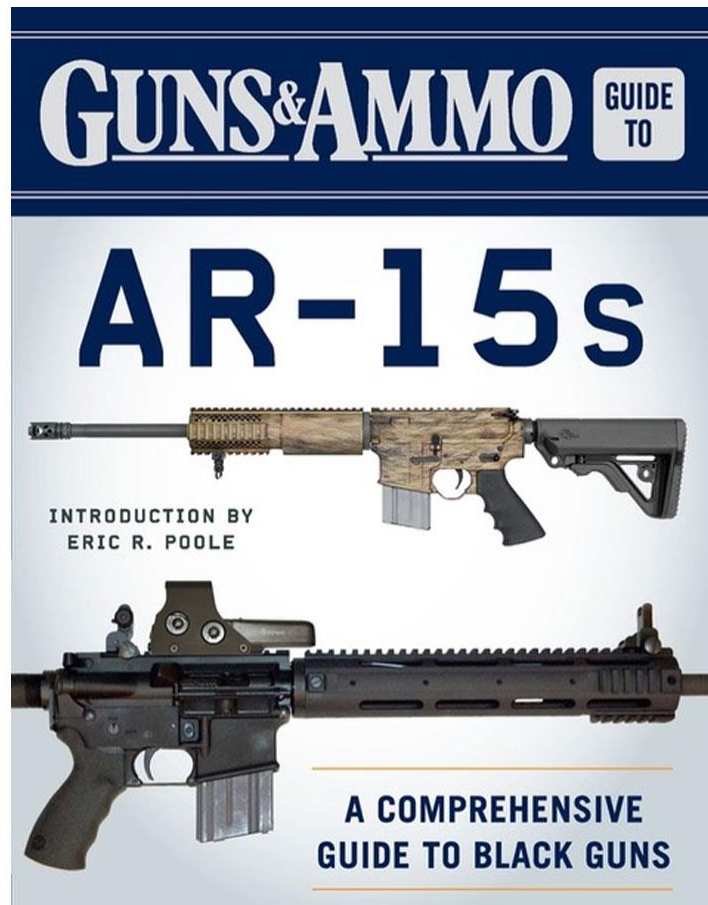
Car fights

And much more!

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The evolution of the REPR

Bore conditions that affect your cold-bore shot

Geissele triggers

Aperture sights

High precision (down) range

AR 9mm perfection

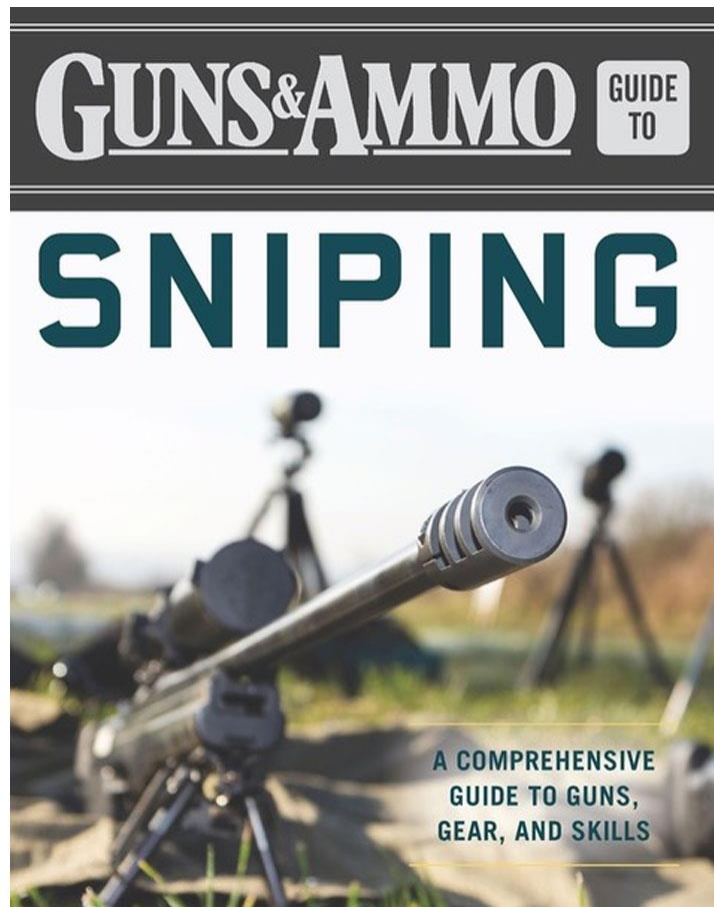
Reloading for AR-15s

And much more!

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Unusual shooting positions

The US Army's XM2010

The sniper's ultimate "one gun"

Modern reticles

Anti-cant

Temperature effect

Distance shooting for police

Ballistics for beginners

And much more!

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Surefire Optimized Bolt Carrier Assembly



Surefire reached out to Jim Sullivan, designer of the AR-15 to help create the Surefire Optimized Bolt Carrier Assembly.

Jim Sullivan is 85 years old and still drives like a bat out of hell. For those unfamiliar with the name, Jim Sullivan designed the AR-15 60 years ago.

Eugene Stoner is most commonly credited for the AR-15 but that isn't entirely accurate. Stoner designed the AR-10 (he was a .30-caliber man) with Sullivan as his assistant. Sullivan's input on the AR-10 is why the cam pin is shaped the way it is and why the gas system sits on top of the barrel instead of on the side. The AR-15 was left almost entirely to Jim Sullivan and the project helped set him on the path of miniaturizing popular rifle designs. (His first was the AR-15 and his second was Ruger's Mini-14.)

I recently had the opportunity to make the drive from Prescott, Arizona, to Gunsite with Sullivan at the wheel, availing me the opportunity to ask the man all the questions that I've accumulated over the years. Most of those questions were centered around his opinion of what's become of his creation.

Surefire Optimized Bolt Carrier Assembly

Material: 8620 steel (bolt carrier);
Carpenter 158 steel (bolt)

MSRP: \$400 (Buffer and spring incl.)

Manufacturer: Surefire, 800-828-8809
surefire.com

Sullivan never anticipated the rifle becoming so popular. Love it or hate it, the AR-15 has spawned an industry all its own. Most of what's happened to the rifle since its inception has taken it far from the initial design parameters.

The AR's Evolution

One of the first major changes to the M16 was to shorten the barrel and the gas system that sat on it. Moving the gas port closer to the chamber meant the rifle started the extraction process much earlier than Sullivan intended. "Colt had an excellent engineer at the time that came up with a very simple and fairly effective solution. He made the buffer heavy," Sullivan elaborated.



The heavier buffer in what's now known as the "M4" holds the bolt and bolt carrier in place longer, allowing pressures in the rifle to drop before extraction begins. This helps prolong bolt life, but doesn't quite eliminate the problems that come with the shorter gas system.

The next change comes from the Special Operations community and their desire for shorter rifles for urban combat. Barrels were shortened even further to 10.3 inches but designers learned they had to enlarge the gas port to send enough gas back to the receiver to reliably cycle the bolt.

Hot on the heels of the 10.3-inch barrel was the addition of a suppressor. Rifles with short barrels have tremendous exit pressure (the pressure in the barrel when the bullet exits the muzzle) and are extraordinarily loud.

Sadly, adding a suppressor to a 10.3-inch barreled AR that wasn't designed for use with one creates some significant problems. The short barrel has very little distance between the gas port that feeds the action and allows it to cycle and the muzzle. Once the bullet exits the muzzle there is no longer pressure to cycle the action. Putting a suppressor on that same short barrel now means the gas system stays pressurized for much longer. That causes the bolt to cycle much faster than it was ever meant to, which shortens bolt life.

(Top) Colt Bolt Carrier Assembly (Bottom) Surefire Optimized Bolt Carrier Assembly

The final change that is so horrific that it boggles the mind is the military's use of M855A1 ammunition that's loaded hot enough to have a chamber pressure of 64,000 pounds per square inch (psi). The AR-pattern rifle was designed for ammunition with a chamber pressure of 50,000 psi. The higher pressure combined with a short gas

system greatly shortens bolt life and represents one of the worst decisions the military has made in quite some time.

Sullivan's Solution

Surefire, a company known for high-quality illumination devices and suppressors, and holder of the suppressor contract for the U.S. Special Operations Command (SOCOM), has been quietly observing the many changes the military has made to both rifle and ammunition and thought it was high time for a sanity check.

Surefire reached out to Sullivan and asked him to take a look at what's happened recently to the AR in the hopes that he could mitigate many of the stresses that the changes have had on his rifle. Up until now, few, if any, have taken a comprehensive look at all of the changes and their overall effect on the AR.

A new, enhanced bolt carrier group (BCG) was Sullivan's solution created for Surefire to remedy the decades of mistreatment his rifle has received. The bolt is made from standard Carpenter 158 case-hardened steel, just like the military requires. However, the real changes are found with the bolt carrier.



Sullivan reshaped the cam pin slot to allow the bolt carrier to move significantly more rearward before twisting the bolt to unlock it from the barrel extension. This small delay keeps the action closed longer and allows pressure inside the chamber and bore to drop significantly. Lower internal pressure means there is less binding force on the bolt lugs when it does unlock. Sullivan's solution is essential to preserve bolt life since the military uses ammunition with a chamber pressure of 64,000 psi.

Sullivan also shortened the gas key on top of the carrier. Instead of a longer key with two screws, his shortened key has only one screw. This allows the bolt carrier additional rearward movement without contacting the lower receiver. The additional length of travel in the bolt carrier greatly slows down the cyclic rate when firing full auto, but gives the magazine spring enough time to push the ammunition column up in front of the bolt, even if it is an old and tired spring.

The reciprocating weight in the back end of the bolt carrier is one of the most ingenious features. The rearward movement of the bolt carrier pushes the spring-loaded weight all the way to one end of its range of motion. When the carrier starts moving forward, the weight moves to the other end of its range of motion. The time it takes the weight to make that transition is the amount of time the carrier is held to the rear. The delay from this reciprocating weight further slows the cyclic rate of an AR-15/M4/M16, which allows the magazine to feed more reliably.

We live in a day and age where the changes the military makes to its rifle and ammunition are done in a vacuum. First, Big Army wanted a carbine version of the M16 and along comes the M4. Next, SOCOM wanted a 10.3-inch barrel to make close-quarters battle easier. That made the gun loud. So, every rifle got a suppressor. Finally, the U.S Army jacked chamber pressure through the roof in pursuit of better terminal ballistics, which they got at the expense of rifle durability. None of those changes were done with any thought of what might come next.

Sullivan

and Surefire added a reciprocating weight to further "delay" cycling and improve the AR's longevity. I think it's brilliant that Surefire, after witnessing all of the above, had the sense to reach out to the guy that designed the rifle in the first place to get his input on what has happened to it and how to solve the second- and third-order effects these modifications have induced.

Jim Sullivan might be a little long in the tooth, but he's still smart enough to come up with a low-cost, drop-in part that fixes several decades of tinkering from amateurs. Tip of the hat to you, Jim.

Show More



The Slim-Tuk is an ambidextrous IWB Kydex holster that features a unique C-Clip allowing it to be positioned anywhere around the waist. And it can be reversed for right- or left-handed use. \$40

Looking at the advertisement, two points drew my attention to the DeSantis Slim-Tuk inside-the-waistband (IWB) holster: the price and the clip.

The suggested price is a penny under \$40, but I suppose writing it "\$39.99" makes readers feel like they're saving something akin to \$10 rather than 1 cent. Still, two \$20s isn't much to give for a Kydex holster these days if it fits your pistol well, supports quick presentations and carries comfortably. Especially if it lasts a lifetime.

At Guns & Ammo, we're skeptics when it comes to holsters sent in with plastic clips. We've broken our fair share during our long-term evaluations, and I've managed to extract a few holsters when drawing a pistol because the hook on the usual J-shape doesn't fully wrap around the bottom of a gun belt, which is thicker than the thin, flimsy belt most people buy off the rack at a department store. For this evaluation, I decided to carry the Slim-Tuk with a variety of gun belts to certify the clip's reliability.



I could argue that DeSantis' belt clip used on the Slim-Tuk (as well as a few other holsters) is the best plastic clip on the market. The hook itself makes a full 180-degree turn around the bottom and accommodates belts as thick as .31-inch. The interior dimensions of the clip measures 1.8 inches, so this clip will accept up to a 13/4-inch-wide belt without slop. When putting the holster on, you can feel the positive click that provides confidence it won't come out when drawing the pistol. To aid in removing the holster, the clip has a protruding tab that allows us leverage to pull the clip out from under the belt easier. (Smart!)

The clip is 4.6 inches long, which means that it can handle the weight of a loaded full-size pistol for its single position and it features three holes. The bottom secures the clip to the Kydex shell. When loosened, ratcheting teeth on a spacer allows the holster to be canted to any extreme. The hole above the bottom allows access to the tension adjustment screw. The top hole can be used to reposition the holster higher against the belt by dropping the clip lower and remounting the other two screws.

The Slim-Tuk is thin for what it is, which is one piece of Kydex. I've carried two models for 30 days, one for a 1911 and the other for a SIG Sauer P320C. While carrying the P320C, I discovered that this model holster will also hold the new P320 X-Carry, which has an enhanced grip module. Unfortunately, the holster will not accept either P320 models fitted with a red dot sight without alteration (i.e., Dremel-smithing) to the topstrap of the Kydex. That said, the holster has a large and generous sight channel that will accommodate pistols equipped with tall, suppressor-height sights.



I contacted Chad DeSantis about my observations and to learn about the Slim-Tuk's development.

"The idea came from a northeast representative who saw another Kydex holster with a single clip positioned in the middle," DeSantis said. "We started with that concept, but went a different direction after deciding it was best to move the clip to the side of the holster. This offered the adjustability for height and cant, as well as the ability to switch sides for crossdraw carry or ambidextrous use. The Slim-Tuk is truly a holster where customers can make it their own."

The Slim-Tuk is not DeSantis' number-one selling holster - that title remains with the Nemesis pocket holster (\$26) - but in the short time it's been on the market, it's certainly climbing up there. In fact, DeSantis currently sells 4,000 to 5,000 a year.

Some holster companies seem to make a version for every conceivable pistol, but DeSantis has a more efficient approach. Kydex can be difficult to form around handguns such as revolvers and 1911s. However, because customers want them, those are on the list for what the Slim-Tuk can be ordered.

DeSantis	Slim-Tuk (Ambidextrous)
Materials	Kydex (shell); polymer (belt clip); rubber (spacers); steel (screws)
Carry Type	Inside the waistband (IWB)
Retention Type	Level 1 (friction fit); tension adj.
Adjustability	Yes; height: 2.25 in.; cant: 180 deg.; position: 360 deg.
MSRP	\$40
Handgun Fit	Most handguns avail.; 1911 and SIG Sauer P320 X-Carry (tested)
Accessory Rail Accommodations	No
Positions to Carry	IWB; appendix inside the waistband (AIWB); crossdraw; reversible
Average Time to Attach	20 sec.
Comfort Rating	5/5
Concealment Clothing	Untucked t-shirt, shirt or jacket
Average Draw-to-Fire Time	1.26 seconds
Manufacturer	DeSantis Gunhide, 800-GUNHIDE, desantisholster.com

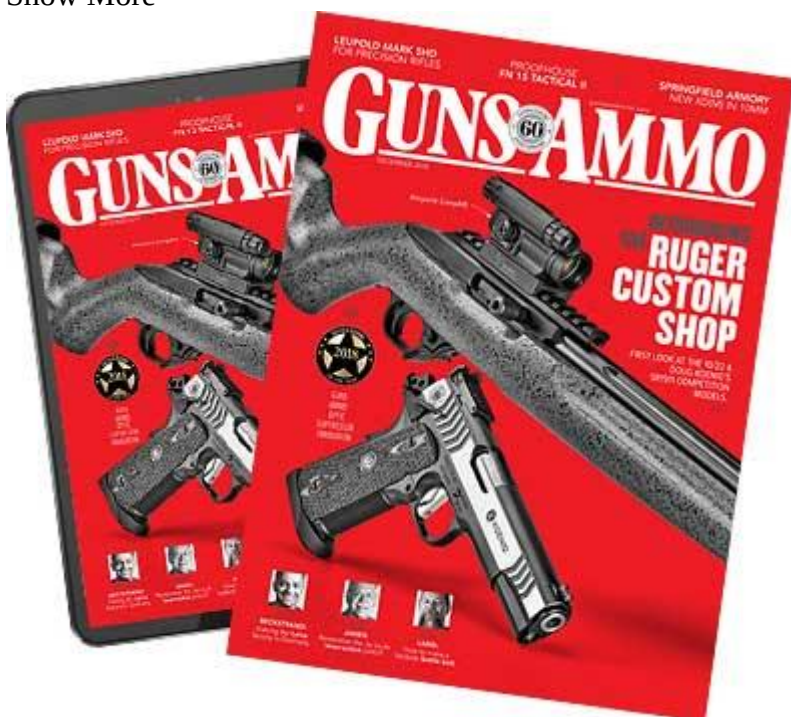
Draw-to-fire time is the average of five clean draws producing an A-zone hit on a stationary target positioned at 21 feet.

"Selection comes down to popularity," DeSantis said. "The top three models for it are the Glock 17/19, the Glock 43 and the Smith & Wesson Shield. We made one for SIG Sauer's new P365 and it's been impossible to keep up with the demand for P365 holsters. We sell them as fast as we make them."

I've worn the Slim-Tuk for both a 1911 and a P320 for a total of 60 days. The holstered pistols hug the waistline, which is great for wearing with slimmer shirts untucked.

Draw speed was only limited by my ability to react and clear cover garments to access the grip. You may have to concentrate to get a firing grip because it hugs the waist so tight, but practice makes perfect.

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<https://www.gunsamerica.com/digest/introducing-the-9mm-glock-45-a-glock-19x-improved/>

Introducing the 9mm Glock 45: A Glock 19X Improved

by MAX SLOWIK on SEPTEMBER 24, 2018



The Gen 5 Glock 45 is based on the 19X. (Photo: Glock)

Glock is officially announcing the newest model, the Glock 45. The Glock 45 is an improved version of the military's Glock 19X for commercial and police markets.

The Glock 19X has been in production for some time. Earlier this year, Glock decided to release a special run of the 19X [to the public](#). Still, not all Glock fans flocked to the new gun.

Designed with military requirements in mind, Glock built the 19X to compete in the Army's [Modular Handgun System](#), or MHS, competition. While it didn't beat all the competition it fared well and closed a gap within Glock's lineup.

The 19X combines the 4-inch compact slide with a full-size frame length with a flush magazine capacity of 17+1 rounds of 9mm Luger. It has many Gen 5 features included to meet the Army's specifications, including a grip design without finger grooves.



Designed for law enforcement and self-defense. (Photo: Glock)

“After the release of the G19X, we saw a strong interest from the law enforcement community for the design in a black model,” said Glock vice president Josh Dorsey. “The G45 is the result of a design that meets the demanding level of reliability with distinctive Gen 5 design enhancements to improve durability, accuracy and performance to those who go into harm’s way where fractions of a second matter.”

The Glock 45 has three major changes from the 19X. The largest and most obvious change is the color. It’s black. The Army wanted the MHS pistol to be flat dark earth or something similar. The Glock 45, like the bulk of their pistols, has a black frame, slide, barrel and controls.

The steel components use Glock’s in-house diamond-like coating finish, like other Gen 5 pistols. This tough finish improves reliability, particularly in adverse conditions. It also has the same grip style and grip pattern as other Gen 5s and the 19X without finger grooves.

The next change is hard to see. Unlike the 19X the Glock 45 doesn’t have a magazine extraction cutout at the base of the grip. Critics of the Glock 19X said that this makes it possible to pinch users’ fingers while reloading, interfering with the reloading process. It still has an enlarged and flared magazine well for faster reloading.

See Also: [Glock 46 Leaked: Something Really New, Really](#)



The ambidextrous slide release lever for left-handed shooters is a strong feature. (Photo: Glock)

The third change is the addition of forward slide serrations. Many shooters wondered why this was left off of Gen 5 and 19X pistols. Forward serrations are useful for press checks and advanced slide manipulation techniques. They're now common to most duty-class handguns.

Other improvements to the Glock 45 are standard Gen 5 changes. The Gen 5 pistols have tighter-fit, accurized barrels and ambidextrous slide stop levers in addition to the other Glock 45 features.

For a while now there's been a gap between the Glock 43 launch and the Glock 46 announcement. Now that we know what the Glock 45 is likely to be we are left to wonder what the Glock 44 is. Was it the 19X all along or could there be something else in the pipe?

<https://www.thetruthaboutguns.com/2018/09/patrick-roberts/information-on-the-new-9mm-glock-45-has-leaked/>

Information On The New 9mm GLOCK 45 Has Leaked

BY [PATRICK ROBERTS](#) | SEP 23, 2018 |



The new 9mm [GLOCK 45](#) was leaked by the German gun magazine ‘Caliber’ in their [online edition for October](#). A new GLOCK release is rumored to be announced on September 24th. Could this be the gun that is to be announced? I know there are a ton of potential buyers that would love to see a [black GLOCK 19X](#).

ADVERTISING

[inRead](#) invented by Teads

DIE NEUE G45

CROSSOVER IN SCHWARZ

Die G45 in 9x19 kombiniert, wie die speziell für militärische Anforderungen entwickelte G19X, den kompakten Verschluss einer G19 mit dem Full-Size Griffstück einer G17. Die G45 überzeugt durch die Merkmale eines Gen5 Pistolenmodells und das bewährte GLOCK Safe Action® System. Mehr Informationen finden Sie auf www.glock.com



Not only has GLOCK added forward serrations to the GLOCK 45, but they also have apparently used a Picatinny compliant accessory rail, a departure from the rest of the Gen5 lineup. The slide is finished in a nDLC finish like the rest of the Gen5 guns and it also wears the same bevel on the slide. The frame is also beveled to match the slide like the GLOCK 19X unlike the rest of the Gen5 lineup.



GLOCK even added the Gen5 flared magwell to the pistol, removing the toe present on the 19X. Magazine capacity is presumed to be 17 since the grip should be GLOCK 17 length.



Strangely, GLOCK introduced this one as a non-MOS model at introduction. Of course, there is a possibility that we will see a MOS version at some point, this might have been a decision made for the European market.



There is no indication when the GLOCK 45 will reach dealers or if it's the pistol that GLOCK intends on releasing tomorrow.

<https://www.gunsamerica.com/digest/urban-defense-1-rifles/>

Clay's Guide to Urban Defense: Ep. 1 Rifles

by CLAY MARTIN on AUGUST 16, 2018

I am beginning my series on Urban Defense with everyone's favorite part: the hardware. I guess that makes sense because this is *GunsAmerica* after all. But before we get to the fun part, a quick disclaimer and then a brief recap of our scenario for newcomers who missed the [introductory episode](#).



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Disclaimer: I'm not an Attorney

I am not giving legal advice. Not even close. As anyone that knows me will tell you, I am the last guy on earth to be advising you on when it's okay to go hot. I pushed the limits enough for multiple "talking-to's" from JAG in an actual combat zone, which is reason enough for me to live in Mooseballs, Idaho now.

Sound good? Okay, moving on.

The Violent Left Rises

Setting the stage for our scenario. You live in the inner city. Antifa goons have taken it over. The problem ballooned from a small riot to an open insurgency overnight. You are stuck in your residence. The police have left the area, retreating behind the perimeter created by the National Guard outside the city. Mobs roam the streets seeking to punish the One Percent, Three Percenters, people with different colored sneakers, and anyone that looks like they may have voted Republican or Libertarian once in their lives. Not to mention the gangs of

opportunistic looters and street thugs who see this event as an open season for depredation. Burning cars light up the night, and all that is missing is Bane giving orders and the trucks with the neutron bombs circling the beltway. John Wayne and the Calvary are nowhere to be seen, you are on your own.

We are also assuming that you live in some type of hardened building, like a concrete apartment complex, or one of the old stone buildings common to eastern cities. The firearms portion of this series works equally well for the suburbs, but the defense is different. We will cover that in detail next episode, but most 2×4 built American homes are indefensible in real terms. It would take three of them to reliably stop a bullet and the fire danger is much greater.

So here you are, huddled in the darkness with your crying children. Your martial prowess and skill with firearms will most likely decide if you survive the night. What should *have been* on your shopping list to increase your odds of seeing daylight?

Rifles

Rifles are the greatest tyranny-stopping tool that has ever been devised. In terms of man-portable combat power, nothing is more flexible or deadly than a modern rifle. You are going to absolutely want at least one of these, preferably multiple.

In terms of reach, no other firearm even comes close. Under normal circumstances, rifles don't have much of an appeal to city dwellers. But in a situation like this, where you might also be receiving rifle fire, nothing else will do. The rifle platform also has the shortest learning curve, if you need to arm someone besides yourself. Think about a new shooter with absolutely zero experience. Are they more likely to hit a 25m target with a pistol or an AR?

The two great debates in terms of a rifle for urban defense are caliber and style of rifle. As it relates to caliber, I feel it is best to narrow the field to common and affordable options. We're talking: 5.56, 7.62×39, and .308. No surprises there.

For the style of rifle, semi-auto is the best choice — hands down. But depending on your area's pre-collapse gun regulations, you may not have the same choices I do. So, for our options packages we will break that down into two categories. Free City (e.g. Dallas, Atlanta) and Non-Free City (e.g. New York, Baltimore).

Free City Defense



In terms of value per dollar, the Springfield SAINT Edge is tough to beat. Check out the [full review](#).

For a free city, a [military-style](#) modern sporting rifle is exactly what you want. Depending on your caliber, an AR-15, an AK-47, and an M1A are all excellent choices. I am not a huge fan of AKs, except that they are relatively inexpensive, so for me, it really comes down to the other two. So, which one do I want?

Amongst my peer group, we have had the 5.56/.308 debate for urban combat within the last 6 months. To be clear this peer group consists solely of multi-tour Iraq SOF veterans that have had an opportunity to use both. And unlike a discussion you are likely to find on a forum amongst strangers, it was serious and without references to anyone's appendage size or racial heritage. The actual question put up was caliber in a sniper rifle, but that is easily transferred to a battle rifle. You get a little more lethality out of a 20-inch SPR-style barrel than a normal 16-inch 5.56 barrel, but not a huge figure.

I would like to tell you we solved the world's problems and came to a consensus, but we didn't. It was about a 50/50 split, and both calibers have merits. I feel the same way. I've shot people with 5.56 and 7.62×51 and they both work. All things being equal I prefer the 7.62×51, but I don't feel naked with a 5.56 gun.

The benefits of 5.56 are mostly weight and volume. The gun weighs less, so it is easier to carry. It recoils less, so you can shoot it faster. The ammo weighs less, so you can carry more of it. Weighing two popular loads from Hornady, 5.56 is about half of .308 in ounces. Which means you can pack literally twice the ammo in go-bang terms. And since you are your own log train, the ammo also costs less. Significantly. If I were recommending one AR-style rifle, the [Springfield Armory SAINT Edge](#) is arguably the best dollar spent in the category.



The .308 has some things going for it too. You will notice I left 6.5 CM, .300 Win Mag, and some of my other mountain favorites off the list, even though they will outrange the .308. The .308, in turn, will also outrange 5.56, but it is a discussion hardly worth having in an urban environment. In a city you will be hard pressed to find a shot past 400m, and past 800m is almost impossible. Even straight down a long road the terrain and refuse will mask an opponent at that distance. So in terms of reach, the two are basically a draw.

What the .308 does, in my opinion at least, is put people down harder. Yes, I have had a bad guy walk off a .308 round. There is no magic bullet. But cumulatively, I have liked the results better from .308 than 5.56. This is usually about the time someone chimes in with “shot placement, blah, blah, blah,” to which I say this. Snap shoot a sprinting bad guy with a 1-second exposure between alleys, 300m away. Then tell me about aiming for the heart or whatever. Arguably the most dangerous man this nation has ever produced blasted a jihadi in the butt cheek with a .308, causing him to flee into the night. Unhappy for sure, but very much alive.

What .308 absolutely does better is penetrate barriers, which is worth considering. Even with my [SR-25](#), one of my favorite rounds was de-linked 147-grain machine gun ammo. Match-grade 175 grain will start to outpace it around 600 meters, but as mentioned above, that is rarely a concern in the streetfight. The 147 grain, with its thick copper jacket, proved very adept at defeating barriers smaller bullets wouldn't. Brick, thinner concrete, mailboxes, cars — it is a winner for certain. For an extra dose of the good stuff, remember this. Machine gunners in the European theater of WWII generally preferred belts of armor piercing rounds for urban fights. It won't expand in people, for certain. But it still leaves a 30-caliber hole, which is nothing to sneeze at. And it will chew right through a brick building, to devastating effect for anyone on the inside.



The Barnes Precision Machine in .308. Check out the [full review](#).

In .308 caliber weapons, there is a wide variety of options. Given that range is not an issue, I would be leaning towards a 16-inch barrel for this one. An [AR-style](#) is a good option, and I like them. As is the FN-FAL, G3, or SCAR-H. But if I had to pick one, it would be the [M1 SOCOM 16](#). Short, reliable, and it comes out of the box with tritium sights!



The M1 SOCOM 16 from Springfield Armory. (Photo: Springfield Armory)

Non-Free City Defense

Now for those of you in a non-free city, your options are severely limited. You are still going to want a rifle, and semi-auto if you can. My first choice would be the [SKS](#), cheap little bastard that it is. I remember when you could still buy one with a spam can of ammo for \$90 all day long and twice on Sunday. Prices are closer to \$500 now, without the bullets. The SKS is at least very reliable and easy to shoot. The biggest reason I like it for you non-free city guys, it loads fast. Using stripper clips to feed as opposed to “detachable magazines,” it does circumvent most nanny-state red tape. And 7.62×39 is nothing if not cheap. My second choice would be an [M1 Garand](#), though they are a bit more expensive. They also load from a stripper clip, a relatively quick affair.



The SKS Carbine. Here's [What You Need To Know](#).

If semi-auto is absolutely off the table, we have a third tier of weapons, the old school bolt action. Most people are going to tell you to the military surplus route and pick up a [Mosin Nagant](#) or a [Mauser K98](#). But a recent check of prices on those presents another option. For pretty much the same price, or cheaper, you can get a Ruger American in any caliber you like. I reviewed the [Ruger American Predator](#) recently and came away impressed. At \$430 [on GunsAmerica](#), you are not going to find a better bolt action for the price.



The Ruger American Predator. Check out the [full review](#).

Lastly, don't rule out the lever action. Having recently been reacquainted with a [Model 89 from Big Horn Armory](#), this is an excellent choice. Normally I recommend them in pistol calibers, but for this exercise, .30-30 is the choice. Because .30-30 is nearly identical ballistically to 7.62×39, which is reach enough. Light, fast handling, and they pack some teeth- the cowboy original can't be ruled out.



Big Horn Armory Model 89. Stay tuned for my full review.

Conclusion

If you take nothing else from this column it should be this: you need a rifle. And preferably several friends with rifles. It doesn't have to break the bank, and there are options for any location, including the People's Republic of Chicago or Los Angeles or New York. Because when the mob is on your block, you need a gun that has a stock!

Next week, we will conclude our weapons discussion with scatterguns, peashooters, and other things that go bang. Stay tuned.

<https://www.gunsamerica.com/digest/clays-guide-to-urban-defense-ep-2-other-things-that-go-bang/>

Clay's Guide to Urban Defense: Ep. 2 Other Things That Go Bang

by CLAY MARTIN on AUGUST 23, 2018



Pistols, while not as optimal as rifles, may have a place in your urban defense plan.

Originally, the plan for Ep.1 was to put together a list of all the firearms I'd recommend for urban defense. That plan fell apart when my discussion on rifles alone started pushing 2,000 words (I like guns, sue me). So, I decided to break the firearms topic into two episodes: rifles and other things that go bang.

Before I get started on the other things that go bang, we had a lot of readers hit up the comments section with favorites, which is much appreciated. Special hat tip to the [M1 Carbine](#) guys, one of my favorites too. It wasn't included on my list because, as mentioned, I was getting really long-winded. The .30 Carbine (7.62x33mm) is ballistically very similar to .357 Magnum out of a rifle, which is not a bad thing at all.

We also got a lotta love for the lever action mention as well, with some cogent commentary. I recommended .30-30 due to the extended reach. But I will concede that a pistol caliber such as [.357- or .44 Magnum](#) has

significantly longer legs out of a rifle and I can't fault that choice either. By the way, the [Big Horn Armory lever gun](#) pictured in Ep.1 is actually in .500 S&W, which would be devastatingly effective. Okay, moving on. It's time to discuss the other options on the table. Some of you are probably going to disagree with my choices here, but I can take the heat.

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Strategy and Storage

In combat terms, worrying about your pistol is generally akin to worrying about the color of your underwear. That is to say, they don't matter much and you should really be thinking about something more important. They are less lethal than any centerfire rifle cartridge unless you are at .41 Magnum or above, and I wouldn't even guarantee that. They are typically lower in capacity, harder to shoot, and generally less capable.

From having fought in a city or ten, my opinion of pistols is pretty low. My recommendation under normal conditions would be to either carry a loaded pistol. Or, in lieu of the pistol, just carry an extra rifle mag. But the scenario I presented in our series introduction isn't normal conditions. And you don't have a military logistics train supporting you, nor a dozen friends with rocket launchers and machine guns backing your play. So you might have to lean on pistols more than anyone with alternatives would like to.

I'm serious when I say that pistols are nearly useless in a combat zone. But the one thing that they absolutely have going for them is they are small. Everyone knows space costs money in a city. Having lived in a few apartments, I can appreciate how little storage you actually have, much less that you can leverage to stash an arsenal. In size terms, you can get about four to five pistols in the same spot as one rifle. And since I'm talking about urban defense, that might not be a bad strategy.



Quantity has a quality all its own.

I haven't talked a great deal about strategy yet. But on that note, let's admit up front you can't defend a building by yourself. Moreover, that defending an entire building with thick exterior walls and multiple vantage points is much preferred to trying to ride it out alone in your individual apartment. All that to say, you are going to need help. And most of that help didn't prepare for this contingency, they were too busy keeping up the Kardashians. If you expect them to hold any ground at all, you will have to arm them yourself. As scary as that sounds, it beats trying to do everything on your own. So the number of weapons on hand is actually a factor. I am sure that is hysterical to the GunsAmerica readers that live in areas with larger living spaces, but we are talking about a narrow band here.

So while a pistol wouldn't be my ideal option for a recently converted Starbucks Barista, it might be what is available. It can still get the job done. As long as you plan your defensive strategy right, you can play to those strengths. We will cover this more in detail later but think for now about the corners of a fortified building held by lookouts with pistols as defensive weapons, with rifles higher up to maximize fields of fire. It only takes one slip up to have bad guys inside your structure, so you have to hold the ground floor. But that is not the best use of your bigger guns if you're in short supply.

The Caliber Debate Is Over: 9mm All the Way

If we agree that some pistols are handy to have, what about caliber? Given the use of your pistols, I don't feel like there's even an argument with this one in the way we had with 5.56/308. I'm recommending 9mm all the way! Now don't get your shorts in a tizzy just yet. Hear me out.

As many of you know, I am usually a fan of .45 ACP and .40 S&W, not to mention my all-time favorite: 10mm. I believe they're — all things being equal — more lethal than 9mm, forget what the FBI says. Shouldn't the increase in lethality from .4 calibers offset the capacity and weight difference from 9mm? Usually. But that's for a seasoned shooter like myself with many years on the job (You'll have to make your own call on that). But if we are talking about the hands of the untrained, 9mm is better all around.

As we all know, 9mm recoils less and the shooter has an easier time getting back to the target, which is magnified exponentially in rookie hands. That plus the added capacity of a 9mm, not to mention the shots to weight ratio of ammo, increases the odds of a hit. As we say in the Army, “If you can’t shoot hot, shoot a lot.”

Pistol Recommendations

If you already have a hand cannon, by all means, feed it. But if you are buying today, with this guide in mind, you can go one of two ways. I can recommend either equally.

1. Go with a high-capacity 9mm pistol with a red dot, such as the [Springfield Armory XD\(M\) OSP](#). Red dots make it easier to put lead on target. They also have an added benefit of making a long shot more likely. The 19+1 capacity is crazy high, and reliability is off the chart.



Consider an optics-equipped pistol [like the Springfield XD\(M\) OSP](#).

2. Go with the AK of pistols. The Hi-Point! An XD(M) OSP will set you back around \$800, which stacks up quick if you are arming the entire floor. Hi-Points [have a street price of around \\$150](#), which is a lot more palatable for things you aren’t likely to see again. Sometimes we need to take the words of Stalin to heart, “Quantity has a quality all its own.”



She ain't a beauty but she'll get the job done.

Shotguns:

Normally, I don't [like shotguns for home defense](#), but again that is under normal conditions. A lot of my argument against the 12 gauge scattergun is offset by the scenario presented, a defensive posture in an urban environment, and the new mag-fed guns on the market.

Traditionally, I've argued that most lawful home-defense shootings happen inside your home at a distance of about 7 meters or less, which is not enough space for the pattern to actually open up. Which means, I would rather have a rifle and its higher capacity. Shotgun rounds are bulky and heavy, which also means I wouldn't choose to carry one on offense.

But if you have time to carry the can of 00 buckshot up the stairs before the crisis starts and if you happen to get your hands on one of these new mag-fed shotguns like the [Mossberg 590M](#), then it's an altogether different story.



The [Mossberg 590M](#) changes the game in many ways, especially with its reliable 20-round magazines.

While the rounds are still heavy, especially in terms of bangs to weight and storage size, the scenario presented plays directly to the shotgun's strengths. If I needed to stop a mob 100 deep streaming down a hallway or up a staircase, bent on my violent death, my first choice would be a belt-fed on a tripod. But those are in pretty short supply, so [a 590M with a 20-round magazine](#) makes an excellent second choice. You can find em on [GunsAmerica for around \\$600](#).

In terms of hurting a lot of evildoers quickly, if they happen to be massed together at least, a shotgun at about 35 yards is absolutely perfect. And while slugs are not a normal scenario good choice, since they are difficult to shoot well and recoil hard, they have an added benefit here. If you fuel up with hard-cast slugs, they are likely to penetrate 6 miscreants per shot, if not more. In raw energy terms, a 1-ounce slug at 1,600 fps second is beyond most magnum rifles. It might not have the reach, but it would be devastating to a horde trying to breach your defenses.

Pistol Caliber Carbines

It was brought up in the comment sections on Ep.1 that PCCs are easier to shoot than pistols, plus the added velocity makes them more lethal. True. But the restrictions on barrel length mean they are the same size as ARs, and ammo weight (9mm to 5.56) is nearly identical. Cost is also virtually the same. Given those facts, I would stick with a real rifle caliber.

Rimfires

Again, normally a bad choice for home defense. But from a fortified position, things change. The great benefit here is the volume of ammo you can store in a small container, an incredible shot to weight ratio.

Obviously, .22 LR is by far the cheapest and most common, which is worth considering. With .17 WSM, I have made reliable [hits at 450 meters](#), in high winds. That is worth considering too. A rimfire rifle takes up just as much space as a centerfire. But given the crazy amount of ammo you can carry, I think it is worth having at least one in this scenario.



A [Ruger 10/22 Takedown with the Ruger Silent-SR ISB or Integrally Suppressed Barrel](#) is a great option.

If nothing else, a rimfire is very useful for probing the darkness, aka recon by fire. Most of us don't have a pile of night vision goggles laying around, and if we did, we would just take our private helicopter out of the crisis zone. So the nights are going to get dark and the mind starts seeing things. It is much better to send harassment fire that is likely to hit nothing with your cheapest option, saving your precious centerfire for sure targets.

Melee Weapons

I wouldn't waste space on hand-to-hand implements. True, [swords don't run out of ammo](#). But in my opinion, it's still folly. If you expect your makeshift army to stand its ground with Viking-style weapons in the teeth of a surging mob of screaming banshees, it isn't going to happen. And even if they did engage the mob, who do you think would win tête-à-tête? The insurance salesman you drafted yesterday whose hobbies include talking about his feelings and sock folding? Or the thug who spent the last four years getting experience at street fighting with bike locks and billy clubs?

Exactly. Don't waste money on melee weapons.

Conclusion

At last, we have exhausted the weapons talk. Before you get out your Visa card and go hog wild, remember, we have other things to factor into the budget. Tune in next week for our discussion on tactics and hardening the castle: boiling oil, razor wire, and plywood. It'll be Home Depot shopping like you've never done before!

Clay's Guide to Urban Defense: Ep. 3 The Amount of Ammo You'll Actually Need

by CLAY MARTIN on AUGUST 30, 2018



President Donald J. Trump. (Photo: Twitter)

Before we continue with our regularly scheduled programming, a quick message from our commander-in-chief:

"They will overturn everything that we've done and they'll do it quickly and violently, and violently. There's violence. When you look at Antifa and you look at some of these groups — these are violent people."

— [President Donald Trump](#), August 2018, on what could happen if the GOP loses in the upcoming midterms.

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Now that we have talked until we are blue in the face about guns, we have to talk about what to feed them. What I am about to say will no doubt ruffle feathers. But let's try to be civil. This is only one man's opinion. And if you don't agree with me, you can always tune back in next week, after you let me know in the comments section that I am an idiot and my mother worked in the less savory districts of Bangkok.

Seriously, on the ammo issue, this is probably going to be controversial. I have a different experience than most people and a different skill set. My personal needs are obviously tailored to me, as yours should be tailored to you. This time, it probably doesn't mean I think your ammo pile is too small. It means I think it is ridiculously over-sized for the task at hand. Mine is too, so hear me out...



The kind of ammo stash that makes fire departments nervous.

Less is More?

If we are talking about someone starting to prep, and in this case preparing for a Mongolian horde event, the easy answer is to tell them to snag *one million rounds!* Preferably in a Dr. Evil voice. But the reality is that is too much, especially when we are talking solely about the amount one will need.

I have a massive stockpile, as I am sure most of you do too. But that is more a hedge against inflation than an insurance policy for Antifa. I have the storage space, so no harm no foul. If you could go back 10 years and buy [Facebook stock](#) or .22 LR, that you had to keep until today, which one would you prefer? Me too.

The one thing I see over and over again in prepping circles is a belief that a mountain of ammo is all you need. Absolutely not true! In fact, I believe that most people would be better off with 300 rounds and the skills of having shot 20,000 as opposed to 20,000 stockpiled and the skills of having shot 300.

For my personal TEOTWAWKI (Total End Of The World As We Know It) stash, I only count 500 rounds of 77-grain 5.56 and an additional 300 rounds of 6.5 Creedmoor. My pistol isn't even coming with me unless I am taking my truck and half of that Creedmoor is to cache in short order. Everything else, including all the extra boomsticks, is for barter, to bury, or expendable. Because in my experience, mobility is a lot more important than firepower. If my skills won't get a resupply as needed with that loadout, I'm not going to make it anyway.

If I was planning an Urban Defense, like we are right now, I would actually upscale those numbers a bit. You still have to keep it sane because apartments are small and bullets are heavy. Not to mention expensive when you buy them in quantity. It changes a little bit both being in a defensive position and being in the concrete jungle.

Centerfire Rifle



For your centerfire rifle, I feel like 1,000 rounds is enough. Have I used more than that in a day of Urban Combat? Absolutely. By a factor of three on some really nasty occasions. But that was mostly in a street fight, where cover was sometimes scarce and the enemy had mountains of ammo to throw back. If someone starts chucking basketball-sized “Dishka” ([DSHK 1938](#)) rounds past you, you do whatever is needed to shut that thing down.

On normal types of combat operations, 2-3 magazines was more likely, so 60-90 rounds. It turns out, experience and hitting what you are aiming at are important things. If you ask most guys from assault-type units what they took with them by the end of the war, 4 magazines is the most common answer. If you splay out 300 bad guys in front of your building, I’m betting your problems will stop. And if you think my suggestion is light, the cost and space aren’t that high to double it.

Pistols



For your pistol or pistols, 200 rounds per gun is a good starting point. Or 500 rounds if you only have one. At close range, or against an area target, your pistol is going to work good enough. Two hundred is a big enough figure that your barista pressed into service can't spend it all at once. It is a strange idea to have half as many pistol rounds as rifle rounds but in this context it makes sense. If you are only arming yourself (because you don't trust anyone else or you're on your own), I would reduce this down to 100 max, and add 500 to the rifle.

Shotgun



For the shotgun, ammo is super heavy. It isn't going to be fun to move around, and if it comes time to escape, this would be my last choice. But you are going to be using it if the human wave closes in, so have enough to feed it. I would use 150 Buckshot and 50 slugs as a solid count.

Rimfire



For rimfire, go a little heavier. Given your defensive position, rimfire punches well above its weight class. At nearly one-third of the weight of rifle or pistol, you can get a [little froggy here](#). Not my choice for fighting in a phone booth, but it beats a knife any day. I like a nice round figure of 5,000 here, which happens to be a full case.

Conclusion

So there we are. Your total urban defense ammo loadout by my calculation costs you just over \$1,200 dollars. If you happen to have more on hand, awesome. But between now and when you need it, I strongly recommend you use some of that extra ammo to hone your skills.

Clay's Guide to Urban Defense: Ep. 4 Hardening the Home

by CLAY MARTIN on SEPTEMBER 6, 2018

In our last episodes we covered the fun part: guns and how much ammo to feed 'em. I'm as guilty as anyone when it comes to chewing the fat on this topic; I've spent hours in the forums talking about caliber preference, weight vs. power, and all the like. But now we have to get into the not so fun part, the part that resembles work. If guns are the equivalent of showing off your abs, the hardening the home part of this series is how you got those abs. It isn't sexy, but it is important.

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My Experience



I'm going to start here with some general experience, and why I'm qualified to speak on the matter of defending an urban location. First and foremost, I did some tours in Iraq, which offers some unique insights. Despite what the public generally thinks about U.S. Military bases and the lines of trailers many troops used, it wasn't always like that. Especially in the early days, we took over former regime buildings and lived and worked in them. It is pretty funny to see a bunch of grunts living in a palace with gold toilets, but it's how it went. The bad guys weren't shy about still trying to kill us in those structures, so we learned a lot about hardening them from both rifle fire and mortar attacks. With the caveat that we usually had Uncle Sugar's logistics train to help us, which provided very expensive and unwieldy things. Like Kevlar blast blankets and Hesco bastions as time went on. Blast blankets start at about \$1,500 apiece, so I think we can leave those off the shopping list.

Second, Iraq had a very weird infrastructure. In certain spots at least, I remember being amazed by how similar it was to a U.S. city. Like the interstate highway system around Baghdad had green and white signs exactly like ours (only they were in English and Arabic), letting you know what exit was coming up. This applied somewhat to buildings as well. In the cities, most structures were concrete and bore at least a passing resemblance to ours. Minus all the OSHA standards and safety features.

Third, not only did we harden buildings, so did the bad guys. It was not uncommon at all to have to fight through barricades and the like, especially if a certain neighborhood was in open revolt at the time. That, combined with some very odd design choices, gives a man insight into how to set up a defense.

And fourth, my last job helps a lot as well. As a CQB instructor, part of the task was teaching new guys how to deal with obstacles similar to what they were likely to encounter. But being on a timeline and a budget, the idea was to build those obstacles cheap and easy. But also in a manner that would require a lot of effort from the student to overcome or work around or breakthrough.

Suburban Defense

Much like the first article on rifles, where we divided the world into free and non-free cities, we need to divide again. The first part of this will focus on the suburbs, for a normal American house built of 2x4s and drywall. The second will focus on the concrete and stone structures we introduced in episode one. There is obviously some overlap of what can be done, and those things I will put in the second part.

Having traveled the world, I can generally break all construction into two categories. American, and everyone else. For cities this is definitely true, Prague looks like Okinawa, looks like Cairo, in terms of things built in the last 50 years. Maybe I lack the artist's eye, but it's how I see it. No one on earth has American-like home ownership, owed at least partially to our ability to build them relatively cheap but also structurally sound. And while American homes have proven capable of lasting against the elements for 100 plus years, they do have a weakness. They don't stop bullets worth a damn! Maybe that is also because we always play away games.

Unless you have something a little different, like a log cabin with foot-thick walls, your house is largely indefensible against rifles. It is even worse against fire, which is a concern I often see ignored in prepper circles. Your back fence will burn, your shingles will burn, and the outside of your house will burn with very little effort. We have largely mitigated this problem in civilized society by having good fire departments and enforcing suburban burn bans, but it is a different animal when Mad Max rules are in play. In short, I would not want to ever try and defend my house from teeming hordes equipped with Molotov cocktails and long guns.

Sandbags And Fighting Positions

But you might not have a choice. So you can still do some things to tilt the odds in your favor. A lot of this is construction specific, which also varies from region to region. One thing that has been brought up in the comments section is sandbags. Plausible option and it would help stop bullets at least. The downside here is the number of sandbags you would need to secure a perimeter around your home, and the labor required to fill them. Having done some sandbag filling, it is not a fun chore.

Some suggested sandbags in the context of hardening only one room, but that has downsides too. Even to protect an interior room is going to require a lot. And if you can only defend that room, you are ceding enough ground to attacking forces to get within 4 feet of you before you have a clear shot.

If you are built on a concrete foundation, you can actually take a shortcut. It's extreme, but we are talking about extreme circumstances. If you cut holes in your floor for fighting positions, you would lower your needed sandbag count by a lot.

Because you have walls to hold the dirt up, you could actually get by without any sandbags at all. You will still want a wheelbarrow, but you could actually build "range berms" three feet high the entire way around your house. Inside or outside, depending on the direness of the situation.

I have a full basement, so my options are more complex. The smartest thing I could do is build parapets to my needed perimeter positions, and then cut firing ports in the walls to the outside. That cedes my entire first floor, but the surprise would be nasty. Imagine running up the driveway for an easy score, then taking rifle fire at knee height. Ouch!

While we are talking about the typical neighborhood set up, the direness of the situation directly influences the level of heavy-handed response from you. For instance, have you thought about fields of fire? Most of the places I have lived, my best course of action would be extreme. I would have to huddle the neighbors in my own home, while I burned theirs to the ground. Otherwise, the avenues of approach would be many. You can stop saboteurs at 50 meters. At five meters, they are likely to win or at least complete their task.

Plywood

What else is a high priority? The next step we can take directly from our friends in hurricane country. While plywood window coverings won't stop bullets, they do stop bricks and Antifa goblins (FYI: half-inch plywood won't even stop handgun rounds, much less rifle fire). I suggest a slight variation from the full coverage of windows, leaving an 8-inch gap at the bottom. This prevents your house from being totally dark while also creating airflow. Since you bought a pile of guns from episode 1, it also gives you space to see and shoot back.

Won't the gap make the window coverings easier to rip off? That is a valid criticism, and yes, a little. But two things. One, as they said in Rhodesia, "An obstacle is only an obstacle if it's covered by fire." If someone is sticking a crowbar in your barricades, you should be sticking bullets in them. And two, trying to remove a sheet of plywood held in by a dozen three-inch deck screws is no easy feat. With your F-250 maybe but not with just your hands or hand tools.

Won't the gap allow snipers to shoot into your house? Possibly. Walking in front of a lit window does create a signature that could get you shot. But it is also kind of the point of the gap. That ribbon of light should serve as a reminder not to walk in front of it. Because in terms of rifle fire, your house might as well be made of paper mache.

Doesn't the plywood create a fire risk all its own? Yes, it will burn, no question. But if it keeps a Molotov from landing in your living room/inside perimeter, it has still done its job. Which brings up the next subject.

Fire Extinguishers And Screws!

Aside from all the standard prepper food and water, you are going to need some other things for home defense. Right up there with bullets should be fire extinguishers. A million dollars in guns and ammo is worthless to you if it burns up. When you calculate the spots in your home that need to be covered by a sentry, calculate 2x fire extinguishers for each as well.

Next, you need at minimum a full contractor box of either nails or deck screws. I prefer deck screws, but only if I have a cordless drill. Nails are easier to install with manual labor but are also easier to pull out. You can make some creative barricades with just that and materials laying around your garage or basement. In the absence of plywood, I could barricade all my windows with fence planks.

For our suburban neighborhood defense, I will close with this. You are going to have to think outside the box. One of the other specific suggestions I have is to plant a large bush or bamboo in a spot you have no windows, 3-4 feet off the wall. The thicker the better. If I was planning to siege a suburban house, and I had numbers on my side, what would my plan be? The same as any Old West movie. Cover the doors and windows with guns, and set it on fire. Shoot anyone that comes out. It is a mistake to assume goblins have never watched an old Western or can't fathom that simplistic line of reasoning. If you find yourself in that spot, the weakness of sheetrock walls can work to your advantage for once. The bushes are to cover your emergency escape hatch, that you are cutting on the inside from day one of the crisis. If you ever need it, cut the last bit of exterior wall you have left in place, and the ground cover buys you precious seconds of surprise. It's little things that often give you a tactical advantage, and you have to shift your thinking.

Tune in next week, when we cover the specific defense of concrete buildings for our brethren stuck at the city center.

Clay's Guide to Urban Defense: Ep. 5 Surviving In A Concrete Jungle

by CLAY MARTIN on SEPTEMBER 12, 2018

Last week, we talked about hardening the suburban home. This week, we are picking up the same subject matter but for those of you who live in a concrete jungle. The differences between the two are stark, with some advantages to both.

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The bad news, if you are a real urban dweller, is that your overall tactical situation is a lot worse. Higher population density in general, historically higher numbers of violent lefties per capita, and fewer supplies per capita all add up to a bad situation. Your rent is likely higher than a house payment, which leaves you less scratch for supplies. You have less storage space for those supplies. About the only positive is that the building you reside in is likely a lot more defensible than your suburban brethren.



Now this isn't a hard and fast fact, everything is situation dependent. But if you happen to live in an old stone building or any apartment complex except the ultra-modern, you have some advantages. Odds are you have concrete walls, in addition to concrete slabs between the floors. All of those will stop most bullets, so that is a positive. But you also have a lot more territory to defend, so what is the plan?

You Can't Survive Alone

As we briefly discussed in [Episode 1](#), Urban defense is impossible alone. The idea of just defending your little cubicle of an apartment is suicide. You might take some people with you, but you won't last. The area is just too small, the avenues of approach are too many, and the problems too vast. Even if you could lay down enough lead to keep the hordes out, it is important to remember one thing. All human beings are adaptable and somewhat sentient creatures, regardless of enemy status. What is to prevent them from turning your concrete fortress into a Suzy bake oven? A bonfire on the floor above and below you, places you can't reach with rifle fire, would end your Alamo defense with a quickness.

So you are going to have to press your neighbors into service. But before you can do that you have to work on your defense plan. Let's start with nuts and bolts.

The Plan

The first step is securing access to your structure. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to know that it is preferable to fight at a street distance as opposed to a house distance. Anyone can get lucky in a 3m gunfight, and in that scenario, your odds of getting killed go up exponentially. How about a 30m-50m gunfight? Skills start to matter more for reliable hits, and your survivability if you are trained, skyrockets. The further the distance, the less the odds of the bad guys getting a lucky hit. And we can assume if you are reading GunsAmerica, you number among the trained.

To illustrate this point to my CQB students, I have a very simple demonstration. I set a full-sized target at 3, 7, and 10 meters. Then, with a 10 round mag, I hip shoot a mag at each target, on auto. Hip firing on auto is my nearest approximation of jihadi marksmanship. Invariable, the 3m target has 10 hits in the chest, the 7m about half that, and the 10m was lucky to have one or two. Distance matters and close fighting favors the lucky.

Therefore, keeping people out of your face and in a kill zone at distance is imperative. Which means you have to hold your ground floor, as well as any below ground entrances, such as parking garages. But wait a minute, can't I shoot the furthest from higher floors? Yes, in theory. And that would work if you happen to be pulling a "[Dawn of the Dead](#)," firing across a massive parking lot. But against armed opponents, in most urban settings, that is going to get you killed real quick.

Urban combat is a game of angles, and you have to think in three dimensions for both offense and defense. Optimal locations afford you a large field of fire, while also making you hard to pinpoint. Consider your theoretical apartment building, and you have decided to hold the 5th floor. If you hang out the window, you can actually control the street to your front for 8 blocks on either side. Sounds great, right? But you are also exposed not only to those same 8 blocks but to every floor of every building to your front. In the early stages of a conflict, before tactical Darwinism has taken root, you might be okay. But eventually, someone is going to sneak within a block, crawl up the fire escape across the street, lay behind a desk on the 7th floor, and put a bullet through the top of your head.



A wide field of view, but a good way to get yourself killed.

If you pull back into the room ten feet, you reduce the angles of attack above and below you to almost nothing. The benefit is you can still handle threats a long way away, and likely from a stable shooting position. The downside is you are blind if the enemy sneaks close, and then hugs cover. As in, stays within about 20 meters of the walls of your building. Even if you detect them, it is very difficult to fire straight down. It can be done, but it isn't easy.



Less field of view, but a much more survivable position.

The obvious solution is to also occupy the ground floor. The ground floor protects from close threats and is hard to hit from above. In defense, it offers an advantage even at close range, should the Mongolian horde try to break through. Also, consider this. How many of you have night vision goggles? How about more than one set, i.e. to defend all 4 directions at night? Me neither. The only way to fend off sappers in the night from breaching your perimeter is to hold that space.

If you bunker in the corners and barricade the other entrances, a lot of your problems go away. Barricades aren't full proof, but covering the approaches offers excellent protection. Remember, as they said in Rhodesia, "An obstacle is only an obstacle if it is covered by fire." Using only hand tools, any one of us could break into a bank vault. With enough time. The vault is there to take up time so that a security goon can show up and shoot you. Nothing, literally nothing, is unbreakable.

Barricades

For barricades, you are likely lower on supplies than your rural and suburban peers. Storage is at a premium in cities. Which means you need to think outside the box. One of my all-time favorites for preventing entry is chainlink, stretched tight over a window, secured by a 2×4 on each side. With "P" for Plenty on deck screws. Expanded steel is actually better, but that is hard to harvest in most urban environments. The chainlink absorbs impact by flexing, which makes it extremely difficult to brute force attack. It doesn't stop bullets, but it also lets you see clearly, and doesn't limit airflow. That alone is worth thinking about, should your crisis happen in the summer months. Can you imagine an Atlanta in August with no power for weeks? Chainlink also offers two benefits against Molotovs, the urban defenders greatest enemy. First, it is actually difficult to get a bottle to break against chainlink, because of the flex. And second, if it does break, it is much better to have a pool of fire on an exterior wall, than inside your building.



Construction sites, an excellent place to harvest materials.

Death from Above

So what is the optimal strategy provided you have the manpower? Occupy the low and high floors, and act in tandem for defense. The high places have the longest shots and can keep the hordes at bay. The low places protect the entries and close combat in case of assault. Remember 4 paragraphs ago when I said it is hard to shoot down. I meant with a rifle, and with pinpoint accuracy. It isn't really the shooting that is hard, it's the recoil. But if a mob is attacking your ground floor, a pistol over the window ledge is easy enough. If your team is inside concrete walls, and the mob isn't, your odds of a fratricide are virtually zero. Bricks, refrigerators, and hand grenades also work wonders from above.



Home Depot is a good place to go to start your preparation.

Should you occupy the roof? Only if you are the tallest building around. If you are, great. If not, it is mostly a bad idea. But you do want a sentry at the roof access point, just in case. If it is possible to bridge to your roof from a nearby building, you must protect it. It just would be less than ideal to go to sleep one night and wake up with a horde pressing down your stairwell.

Extreme Measures

Last but not least, consider extreme measures. If your occupation looks like it's going to last a while, it pays to constantly improve your defense. To mitigate the fire hazard, I would remove everything flammable from the first 2 floors, including the carpet and 2x4s in the walls. Don't make it easy for them to burn you out. A single roll of barbed wire can be worth its weight in gold. Wire can be used to tie doors closed, make ankle traps at ground level, or my favorite, stairs. Wire strung in a high/low pattern can make any stairwell or hallway a death trap for an assault. Concertina wire is better, but the gigantic rolls are hard to store. Regular old barb wire can do the job, in a nice compact package. Wait until the opposition is hopelessly entangled in wire, and cut them to ribbons with bullets. It will also discourage any survivors from trying again.



A staircase begging for a wire trap.

Another longtime favorite is holes in the floors above to discourage assailants. If you block off all the stairs, this also gives you mobility. While it is easier to do with shaped charges, those are hard to come by in modern America. A sledgehammer may take a while, but it will do the job. Imagine the shock of finally gaining a toehold on a ground floor, as your forces pour in. But instead of finding the defenders cowering in a closet, you see the last rung of a step ladder being pulled through the ceiling. Followed immediately by a withering fire from above, with only hands and muzzles exposed. Not a good day out.



Slab floors are common to construction.

Other considerations are many. On day one, I would scavenge all the fire extinguishers in a 4 block radius. Do you have a push broom to sweep the mountains of broken glass out of your position? Do you have basic hand tools, or know where to find some? The survival problems are many, but I hope this has helped your tactical situation. The most important tool you have is your brain, don't forget to use it.

Clay's Guide to Urban Defense: Ep. 6 Escape From NY

by CLAY MARTIN on SEPTEMBER 20, 2018

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Kurt Russell playing the inimitable “Snake Plissken.” (Photo: Screengrab / “Escape from NY” AVCO Embassy Pictures)
I’m calling our last episode in this series, “Escape from NY” because I liked the first movie better, but if you’re an LA fan, that’ll work too. Pick your poison. “Call me Snake...”

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Over the last few weeks, we have talked a lot about hardening your defensive position in case of urban unrest. Which I still believe is your best option, provided you didn't get out in time. It has the highest survivability and is the least risky proposition. Most of the time. But the situation might force your hand, so today we are going to conclude with some tips on how to get out.

This is a bit more scattershot than the previous installments, only because the situations can be so different. Unlike a defensive perimeter, much of the escape is going to depend greatly on your specific environment. So let's think of this more as a sprinkling of good ideas, rather than a hard and fast rule set.

When it comes to escaping an urban environment that turned into a hornet's nest, my preferred option is a Blackhawk, preferably piloted by the [160th SOAR](#). But that probably isn't an option for you or me anymore. Which leaves us with less stellar options. But the first thing I would do is think outside the box a little bit. Cars and trucks are probably out. If you have been in a natural disaster evacuation, you know the drill. The same applies to good old-fashioned riots, to a lesser degree, but still not exactly normal traffic. Finally, if the streets aren't jammed, why aren't you already gone? While convoy operations can be covered in detail, it is really beyond the scope of this article. The short answer is, get in your car and drive away! The end.

Extra Storage



If it's in your budget, a self-storage locker is a solid place to store extra supplies and a means of getting out of Dodge.

Outside the box thinking for vehicles does leave some options though. Let us consider the motorcycle/bicycle, ATV, and boat. The obvious first question you should have is, “Where am I keeping this in my 400 square-foot apartment?”

As we have covered earlier, you don’t have the space for all these toys. But you may be within walking distance of a self-storage facility, that you can use as a staging point for bigger hardware. Yes, it could also cover extra stuff for the other chapters, but that is a risk. Every time you leave your bunker, and every time you open your storage locker, you take a massive risk of compromising your cache. Are a roll of razor wire and an extra can of 9mm worth someone noticing your stash and absconding with your emergency escape plan? In my mind, no. Not even close. If I had the financial means and the location, I would build the escape pod and then never touch it again unless I absolutely needed it.

Is a self-storage container in and of itself a risk, a possible waste of precious prepping funds? Of course. You could lose it anyway, via fire or theft, completely unrelated to you blowing it. But it is also an acceptable risk if your budget allows it. When it comes to theft, we should already assume the fence around U-Store-It USA is window dressing. And the minimum wage employees will abandon ship in the first minutes of a crisis. And also, without a police threat, storage lockers rank among the easiest of all obstacles in terms of breaking and entering. But they do have the advantage of hiding in plain sight.

Think of it this way. If you had 5 minutes to grab everything you could carry from either 1) Best Buy 2) Zales Diamonds 3) Cabela’s or drum roll... use extra labor to look behind door number 4) A non-descript storage unit, which may or may not be a 10×12 foot box full of used diapers, what would you choose? Me too. I’m not saying the storage place won’t eventually get looted. But I am saying it likely isn’t on the high-value target list. Which means it can be an option for your escape.

Urban real estate isn’t exactly cheap, but you can cram a lot of help into a spot that is rentable for around \$100 a month. For your needs, that may be better spent on ammo and water. But if you are serious about needing to get out of Dodge, this will do the trick. If I was using a storage place to hide my ATV or boat, I would take the extra time to build in a false wall of junk to hide it. Use your imagination, but this is not that much extra work.

| You’re Gonna Need A [Bigger](#) Boat



City rivers may be the best way out.

Now, for the use. Boats are awesome because most people aren't going to consider a waterway as an escape avenue. That means less traffic, and fewer eyes watching it. Be honest, how many of you considered the Chicago River as a way out? Your vessel can be anything from kayaks to Zodiacs, with the latter my preferred option. Four to six grown men can carry a zodiac a very long way, once it is inflated. Deflated, it rolls up into a nice compact package that looks more like a gardening accessory than a boat. Season is obviously a factor, water plus November equals not fun. But still, I would take a wetsuit and a kayak and risk freezing to death over my .380 and a walk through a burning downtown Ferguson, i.e. certain death.

ATVs may or may not be beneficial, depending on circumstances. They will go places a car can't, because they're smaller, obviously. In fact, they will fit through the doors of most larger buildings. After the cars have all been burnt and the dumpster fires have gone cold, an ATV might still get you out. Am I suggesting you have enough of them on hand for your entire crew to vamoose? Well, it would be nice, but not likely. The better option, for most of us, would be to use a single ATV as the mothership for supplies.

Walk It Out

On foot, in general, is going to take some doing. Depending on your region, it may take a very long time to hoof it out. In addition to the weight of a backpack, uncertainty and tactical decision-making are going to slow you down. If you calculate that you could walk 10 miles per night under normal conditions, 3 miles is a better planning number for doing so in a crisis. Given that some cities are larger than others, Houston for example, you might need to walk 40 miles to get out of the crisis area. Even at 10 miles per night, that is 4 days.

In addition to bullets and guns, you are going to need water and food at a minimum. I would salvage water with a filter in almost any environment, but urban it would be the absolute last resort. Not only is it going to be scarce with the water mains off, but what you do find may be nasty in a way nature can't match. My filter may be rated for transmission fluid and it may not, but I'd rather not find out.

That means a backpack, something you may not be accustomed to. While the construction workers and delivery guys laugh, you should consider how not fun it is to walk miles at a time on concrete. If you haven't tried it, you should before you need to. That is also why I recommend a light load, much lighter than the ammo stash most of us own. As far as backpacks, this isn't the time to repurpose your kids *Hello Kitty* special. I strongly recommend [CamelBak](#) and [Mystery Ranch](#). They aren't cheap, but they are durable. And comfortable in a way that is worth every penny.



On my short list of backpacks to purchase: CamelBak and Mystery Ranch.

If you do get mixed up in a gunfight, you are probably going to want some spare magazines close at hand. For that, I recommend a belt kit or a chest rig, with the belt being my favorite. Since you may also need to use recovered weapons on your journey, I recommend a universal setup. Without question, [G-Code](#) is the leader on this front. The [Scorpion soft kit](#) isn't cheap, but it covers literally every rifle and pistol possibility, at least on the mag front. This is one I recommend highly.



I prefer a gun belt over a chest rig. From left to right, magazines in Scorpion soft holder. 1911, XDM45, Kriss 45, XDM 9mm, M1A, SR-25, AR-15

For movement, all the same lessons from the woods apply. Don't bunch up, so that one burst of fire wounds two people. Travel at night, especially in the city. The places you can be shot from are too numerous to count in the daylight. If at all possible, go to ground during the day. In a spot, you aren't likely to be stumbled upon, like a flooded parking garage. And if you do get cornered by the Antifa Horde, don't forget the most important thing. You can actually hide behind a wall of lead in the absence of everything else.

Review: Smith & Wesson M&P Shield EZ

James Tarr - November 06, 2018



Smith & Wesson M&P 380 Shield EZ is an easy-racking, soft- shooting pistol.

Imagine a gun company taking one of its most successful pistols and chambering it in a smaller, weaker cartridge. That is exactly what Smith & Wesson has done with the new M&P380 Shield EZ. The original M&P Shield was offered in 9mm and .40 S&W, and this new pistol is “only” a .380 ACP. However, after spending a lot of time with the gun, I have to say Smith & Wesson probably has another success on its hands.

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Chambering a pistol in a less-powerful cartridge seems to be counterintuitive to a lot of people. Or just plain dumb. After all, this is America, where we supersize everything and stuff bigger and

bigger cartridges into smaller and smaller pistols—a place where somebody makes a derringer chambered in .44 Magnum.

However, not every gun owner has the strength of a barrel-chested SWAT team leader. Small, light guns not only recoil heavily, but also need to be outfitted with strong recoil springs to handle those powerful rounds, making their small slides surprisingly hard to work.

The M&P380 Shield EZ does have “Shield” in the name, but it is not simply a downsized 9mm Shield. Actually, it is about a half-inch longer and three-eighths inch taller than the 9mm/.40 S&W Shield. In appearance, it does not have the proportions of the original Shield; it has the proportions of a full-size M&P, just slightly reduced in size.

Overall, it is 6.7 inches long by 4.7 inches tall, which means it is too big for a pocket but will disappear under a covering garment in just about any kind of holster because it is very thin. At the ambidextrous manual safety lever, this model is 1.45 inches wide, but the frame of the gun itself is only 1.04 inches wide. While I think every gun should be in a holster that covers the trigger guard, the Shield EZ’s size, weight and grip safety would make it ideal for purse or bag carry.

It offers most of the same features that have made the 9mm Shield such a huge success. The EZ sports a 35/8-inch stainless steel barrel, the same stainless steel slide with corrosion-resistant Armornite coating, the same steel three-dot sights, and the same reversible magazine catch as the original 9mm and .40 S&W Shields. Because this is a Shield M2.0, it also features forward cocking serrations and texturing on the grip that is noticeably more aggressive. The magazine release is reversible.

While this gun shares those features with the bigger Shields, Smith & Wesson has changed a lot of things on this pistol to make it much easier to load the magazines, easier to chamber a round, easier to shoot and easier to disassemble for cleaning than a standard Shield.

First, the EZ’s magazines are the only centerfire handgun magazines I can think of that feature a thumb stud on the side of the follower to make it easier to load. Just about every .22 Long Rifle pistol magazine has this feature, but you just don’t see them on centerfire mags. The EZ’s stainless steel magazines hold eight rounds and have numbered witness holes and visible orange followers.



In addition to hammer design and weaker springs, a flange at the rear of the slide helps make racking easy.

So many compact and subcompact autos on the market designed to handle 9mm +P and hotter ammo have slides that are difficult to manipulate even if you're strong. That's because the slides are short and narrow and held in place by stout recoil springs. This is not the case with the EZ.

The rear serrations on the slide from the side appear identical to those found on other M&Ps, but if you view the slide from the top you'll see a difference. The rear of the slide is wider just behind the rear serrations, and that resulting ledge of steel is a definite help in working the slide. The only other centerfire pistol I've seen that has a feature like this is the HK VP9, but the slide "wings" on the VP9 are a polymer insert, whereas with the .380 Shield they're integral with the slide.

When I picked up the pistol, I was immediately reminded of the .22 LR version of the full-size M&P I reviewed a few years ago because there was no striker cover on the rear of the slide. A quick disassembly showed me that, like the .22, this M&P is not a striker-fired gun but rather one

with an internal hammer. There's a reason for this, and it is related to the ease with which the shooter can cycle the slide.

Pistols in .380 traditionally have strong recoil springs to counteract the force of the fired cartridge because they are straight-blowback guns. The M&P380 has the same tilting-barrel, delayed-blowback operating system as other Shields, so a stiffer recoil spring is not required.

In fact, the recoil spring on the .380 is noticeably lighter than the one found on the 9mm Shield. The lighter recoil spring is one of the reasons the pistol is an internal hammer-fired design as opposed to a striker-fired design. In the latter, the recoil spring has to fight against the striker spring when going into battery. Theoretically, if this was a striker-fired gun, with a strong striker spring and a weak recoil spring, pulling the trigger might cause the slide to move back out of battery.

Smith & Wesson is offering two versions of the .380 EZ, one with an ambidextrous manual thumb safety and one without. The sample the company sent me has the thumb safety, and it is the same design Smith & Wesson has been putting on its M&P pistols for years and functions like the thumb safety on a 1911.

Trigger pull on this pistol was similar to what you'd experience with a standard Shield or M&P. Smith & Wesson says the trigger pull on this pistol will be about five pounds, and the pull on my sample was relatively crisp and measured exactly five pounds.



The EZ features many of the same controls found on its stablemates, but it adds a bottom-pivoting grip safety that's easy to deactivate. Also, the takedown lever is the only device you need to disassemble the gun.

If you take a look at the trigger, you'll see it does not have the pivoting safety feature found on striker-fired M&Ps. Instead, the pistol has a grip safety. Because my hands are flat, I often have trouble deactivating the grip safeties of 1911s. I was worried I would have the same problem with the grip safety on the Shield EZ but such was not the case.

You have to depress the top of the lever only about two-thirds of the way toward the frame before it stops. Plus, because it pivots from the bottom—rather than the top like a traditional 1911 grip safety—it seems easier to deactivate. Unlike the grip safety on the Springfield Armory XD/XD(m), you can cycle the slide on the EZ without needing to depress the grip safety.

The M&P380 Shield EZ is also easier to disassemble. With the standard M&Ps, you need to lock the slide to the rear, rotate the takedown lever and then push down on the internal sear lever before you can release the slide so it comes off the gun. Or instead of pushing down on the internal lever, you can just pull the trigger, but Smith & Wesson wants people to know you don't have to pull the trigger on this gun to disassemble it.

To disassemble the EZ, simply lock the slide to the rear on an empty gun, push down the takedown lever and then release the slide. The slide will come right off the gun without needing to mess with any internal levers.



The EZ is a hammer-fired gun, a design that makes the slide easier to rack—one of the pistol’s big selling points.

The EZ is a .380 ACP, but because the design will allow just about everyone to get his or her entire hand on the gun, it recoils like a .22. Now, “recoils like a .22” is overused gun writer hyperbole (which is Latin for B.S.), but in this case it is the absolute truth. When I was shooting the Shield EZ I was struck by how little muzzle rise there was and how little recoil was sent back into my hand. The more I shot it, the more I realized my initial impression was correct: I’ve shot .22s with more recoil. This is impressive considering it weighs just 18.5 ounces empty.

Watching other people shoot the Shield EZ was just as instructive. The gun barely recoils, no matter who is shooting it. For new shooters or those with weak grips, it means the gun doesn’t beat you up. For everyone else it means you can pretty much do full mag dumps as fast as you can pull the trigger and keep all your rounds in a paper plate-size group out to 10 yards.



Team Smith & Wesson's Julie Golob—who guest stars in two episodes of “Handguns & Defensive Weapons” this season—thinks the soft-shooting EZ is great for introducing new shooters. It's also one of her favorite personal guns.

But the Shield EZ isn't meant for people like me. It's aimed at the crowd who have issues with the strong springs on most compact semiautos. After the pistol had been on the market for a few months, I contacted Chris Bauer—a local Detroit CCW instructor who specializes in training women, youth and seniors—and asked him about it. He said he'd had seven women train with the pistol, and they all ended up purchasing one.

“There is no reason this pistol is not going to become as mainstream as the snappy little 9mm Shield for people of all walks of life: young, old, male, female, physically challenged or 100 percent healthy,” he said. “If people are in love with the tiny .380 ACPs, I don't know why they would not be in love with a .380 you can actually hold, shoot, and shoot really well.” He also told me he's fired more than 2,000 rounds through the Shield EZ without a single malfunction.

My only issue with the M&P380 Shield EZ was due to the fact that I don't have weak hands, and because of all the years I carried a 1911 cocked and locked, I shoot everything with a thumb-high hold. I shot the pistol with my right thumb clamped down hard over the top of the safety lever,

pressing against the side of the slide. As a result, in combination with the weaker recoil spring, I was able to slow down the slide enough to cause the gun to jam when shooting light ammo.

I don't think this is an issue most people need to be concerned about because most people don't shoot with a thumb-high hold, and the kind of people with weak hands who are going to be interested in the potential of this pistol aren't going to have the kind of grip strength where they can stall the slide like I did.

One of the other endearing specifications I like about this pistol is the price. The suggested retail is just \$399, \$80 cheaper than a standard 9mm Shield. That's a heckuva bargain.

ACCURACY RESULTS SMITH & WESSON M&P380 SHIELD EZ				
.380 ACP	Bullet Weight (gr.)	Muzzle Velocity (fps)	Standard Deviation (fps)	Avg. Group (in.)
Black Hills Honey Badger	60	1,188	24	3.3
Hornady Critical Defense	90	893	22	2.8
SIG Elite JHP	90	898	25	3.7
Federal HST	99	932	19	3.1

Notes: Accuracy results are the averages of four five-shot groups at 25 yards from a sandbag rest. Velocities are averages of 10 shots measured with an Oehler Model 35P chronograph 12 feet from the muzzle. Abbreviation: JHP, jacketed hollowpoint

You might think the .380 Shield is aimed exclusively at the “compromised grip strength” crowd, but I think this version of the Shield is a better choice than the 9mm for a lot of people regardless of their hand strength.

First, it is soft shooting, so nobody will shy away from practice at the range because the pistol is hurting their hand. It honestly is a fun gun to shoot. Second, sure, the .380 ACP doesn't have quite the horsepower behind it of a 9mm, but in my opinion, bullet placement is far more important than caliber. A soft-shooting gun you like to shoot, one that allows you to put a whole lot of bullets where you're aiming—quickly—is a winning proposition.

Smith & Wesson M&P 380 Shield EZ

Type: hammer-fired semiauto

Caliber: .380 ACP

Capacity: 8+1

Barrel: 3.675 in.

OAL/Height/Width: 6.7/4.7/1.45 (at safety) in.

Weight: 18.5 oz. construction: black polymer frame, black Armornite-finished stainless steel slide

Sights: steel 3-dot

Trigger: 5.0 lb. pull (measured)

Price: \$399

Manufacturer: Smith & Wesson, Smith-Wesson.com

Beretta 1301 Tactical – Shotgun Review

by CLAY MARTIN on AUGUST 17, 2018



This week, I got my hands on a long-awaited SHOT Show introduction, the Beretta 1301 Tactical shotgun. Longtime readers of my columns will note that I generally prefer a rifle to a shotgun, and encourage others to think the same. I'm not walking that back, not even close. I am saying that if you choose a semi-auto shotgun for defensive or tactical use, there is a new Sheriff in town.



Most of my disdain for semi-auto shotguns comes from my years shooting 3 gun, and I wouldn't be doing my job if I didn't inject that into the discussion. What 3 gun taught me is that a shotgun tends to be less reliable than a pistol or rifle in terms of go bang no matter what. I realize there are some jobs that are best done with a

scattergun, like duck hunting. But over and over again, I have seen them malfunction at a higher rate than other weapons.



Part of the problem has traditionally been that we were adapting hunting tools to something they were never intended for. There is a life cycle to anything mechanical, and competition pushes the ragged edge of that. The only shooters that use more shotgun shells than 3 gunners are dedicated trap and skeet shooters, who overwhelmingly choose a side by side or over under. On the hunting side, a hardcore waterfowler might shoot 300 rounds in a year. As a competitive multi gunner, that is probably a week. I've seen individual stages as high as 65 rounds, as fast as you can load them. Add the heat and filth of those fast, high round counts, and you start to see why shotguns fall apart.



A few years ago, Beretta set out to fix that. They have a massive stable of champion shotgunners, more than any other company. They brought in one of the European Shotgun specialists they employee to input the design, and the 1301 was born. After proving itself on the other side of the pond, it was brought here and quickly made waves. One of my shooting buddies picked a 1301 up early, and it impressed the hell out of all of us. It was fast shooting, soft, and it ate anything!



In testing with that model, we fed it every kind of shell imaginable. Shotgun shells run a wide gambit, and most guns have a preference. Some guns you are required to switch pistons or other parts to go from hi brass to low brass. Others have a sweet spot of power required per shell, disliking low recoil field shells and slugs or buckshot. The 1301 just chewed them all. It even ate low noise shells, which say right on the box not for auto's. In competition, the 1301 quickly took the title for reliability, finally unseating the ubiquitous Benelli M-2.



So having said all that, it stands to reason the 1301 would excel as a tactical shotgun as well. Reliability it has in spades, as I saw in my own testing this week. The only thing it wouldn't eat was Aguila mini shells, which is not shocking from a semi-auto. Some pump guns won't eat those, so not a deal breaker. It did eat everything else, including multiple tubes from my 5-gallon shotshell trash bucket.

I also like that Beretta didn't just slap a short barrel on the 1301 and call it the tactical model. The Tactical does sport an 18.5 inch barrel, but that isn't the only change.

Law Enforcement was one of the obvious target audiences for this gun, and it shows. The 1301 Tactical features a slightly shorter receiver than the 1301 Competition, part of an overall size reduction. The stock is also slightly shorter, offering a 37.8 inch length of pull out of the box. The shorter stock is helpful for correctly shouldering the gun if you are wearing a vest, similar to collapsing an M-4 stock one position if you are in armor. The shotguns overall length is 37.8 inches, making it easy to maneuver in CQB or your car. And the weight is just

6.35 pounds, making this a winner in the carry it all night department. I also like that the barrel uses chokes, unlike most tactical guns that are fixed. Included in the box is the improved cylinder choke.

Other huge benefits of the 1301 system carry over to the tactical model from the Competition. First is oversized controls. The default controls of the 1301 are amazing, from the bolt knob to the safety. With gloves or less than ideal conditions or just stress, those details matter. Trying to release the pin-sized safety on a normal shotgun while taking fire from a MAC 10 wielding thug is a bad idea. The giant-sized one of the 1301 is hard to miss. My absolute favorite part is the bolt release lever, which is nearly two inches long. Drop on in the chamber and slap the side of the receiver with your palm, and you are almost guaranteed to hit it, no training required.



The speed of the 1301 is also something that can't be overstated. In normal conditions, it doesn't really matter how fast your shotgun cycles. In a tactical or competition gun, it can. If you watch a pro blast a plate rack head to head, you will understand what I mean. For a police officer or armed citizen, you may also need to transition targets like lightning. The system used in the 1301 is Beretta's proprietary Blink, and I can't really say it any better than they do. Per Beretta, "The 1301 Comp features Beretta's proprietary Blink gas-operating system, which enables it to shoot 4 shots in less than 1 second—that is, 36% faster than any other brand."

For a sighting system, Beretta also changed from the Competition model bead only. The Tactical model features ghost ring sights, perfect for tight shots. It also has a chunk of Picatinny on top of the receiver, making this gun optics ready. While I don't recommend a red dot for skeet shooting, on a shotgun for CQB it is devastating.



Overall, the 1301 is a winner in the tactical shotgun market. The reliability is high, which should be criteria number one. The controls are excellent, and the maneuverability is great. If you like scatterguns, this one should be on your list to try.

Visit Beretta by clicking [Here](#).

Tested: Three Budget-Friendly Reticle Leveling Systems

by JORDAN MICHAELS on AUGUST 17, 2018



The Segway Reticle Leveler is handy, easy to use, and won't break the bank.

I hate mounting scopes. From applying the proper torque weight to finding the proper eye relief to lapping the rings, installing a scope drives the type-A perfectionist in me insane. The worst part? Leveling the reticle. By the conclusion of that process, I'm more likely to have pulled an eye muscle squinting through the scope than I am to have aligned the reticle perpendicular to the bore's X-axis.

Fed up with eyeballing and Home Depot bubble levels, I finally reached out to Wheeler Engineering and Straight Shot, LLC. Both companies have designed devices that, ostensibly, take the guesswork out of reticle leveling. These aren't the only options on the market: [Badger Ordnance](#) and [Arisaka Defense](#) offer similar products. But the [Level Level Level](#), the [Professional Leveling System](#), and the [Segway Reticle Leveler](#) are among the most cost-effective options and, in my experience, the most ubiquitous.

Does Leveling a Scope's Reticle Really Matter?

The short answer is, "It depends." Within about 200 yards, a very slight cant to your reticle won't dictate whether you take down a whitetail. Beyond that, and especially if you're shooting for precision accuracy, even a small cant will throw off your point of impact.

The science is simple, and I've found no better explanation than the video below from the National Shooting Sports Foundation and former Army Ranger sniper team leader Ryan Cleckner:

Cleckner's tutorial highlights the importance of a level rifle, but the same principle applies to the scope. If a shooter levels the reticle for a shot, but the reticle isn't perpendicular to the bore of the gun, any shots beyond the zero distance won't correctly compensate for bullet drop and will fly to the right or left. The magnitude of error will depend on how many degrees the scope departs from the level, but anyone shooting for distance needs to get as close to perfect as possible.

Level Up



From left to right: the Segway Reticle Leveler from Straight Shot, LLC, the Wheeler Level Level Level, and the Wheeler Professional Leveling System.

The products below represent three different price points, but none are more expensive than \$50. For \$13.99 on Amazon, Wheeler's Level Level Level is the cheapest of the three—and the one most dependent on a suitable firearm.

The Level Level Level works using two levels: the action level and the scope level. Users place the action level in the action and the scope level on the elevation turret to ensure that both the gun and the scope are level with one another.



The Level Level Level is super simple, though not very versatile.

The problem? The action level only seems to fit in certain firearms. I tried installing it on a Ruger 10/22, a .308 Weatherby Vanguard, and an AR-15, and the action level didn't fit in any of them. Furthermore, even if the action level did "fit," I wouldn't have any real way to confirm the level of the gun's bore.

To get around this issue, the action level can also be placed on a picatinny rail. This isn't ideal, as the magnet on the level doesn't adhere to aluminum, and it won't work if the scope is mounted too low. But it's not a bad solution for, say, an AR scope mounted on tall rings. It's certainly better than nothing.

SEE ALSO: [3 Tips for Keeping Your Rifle Zeroed – Preventative Maintenance](#)



The action level wouldn't fit in the actions of any of the three rifles I tried.



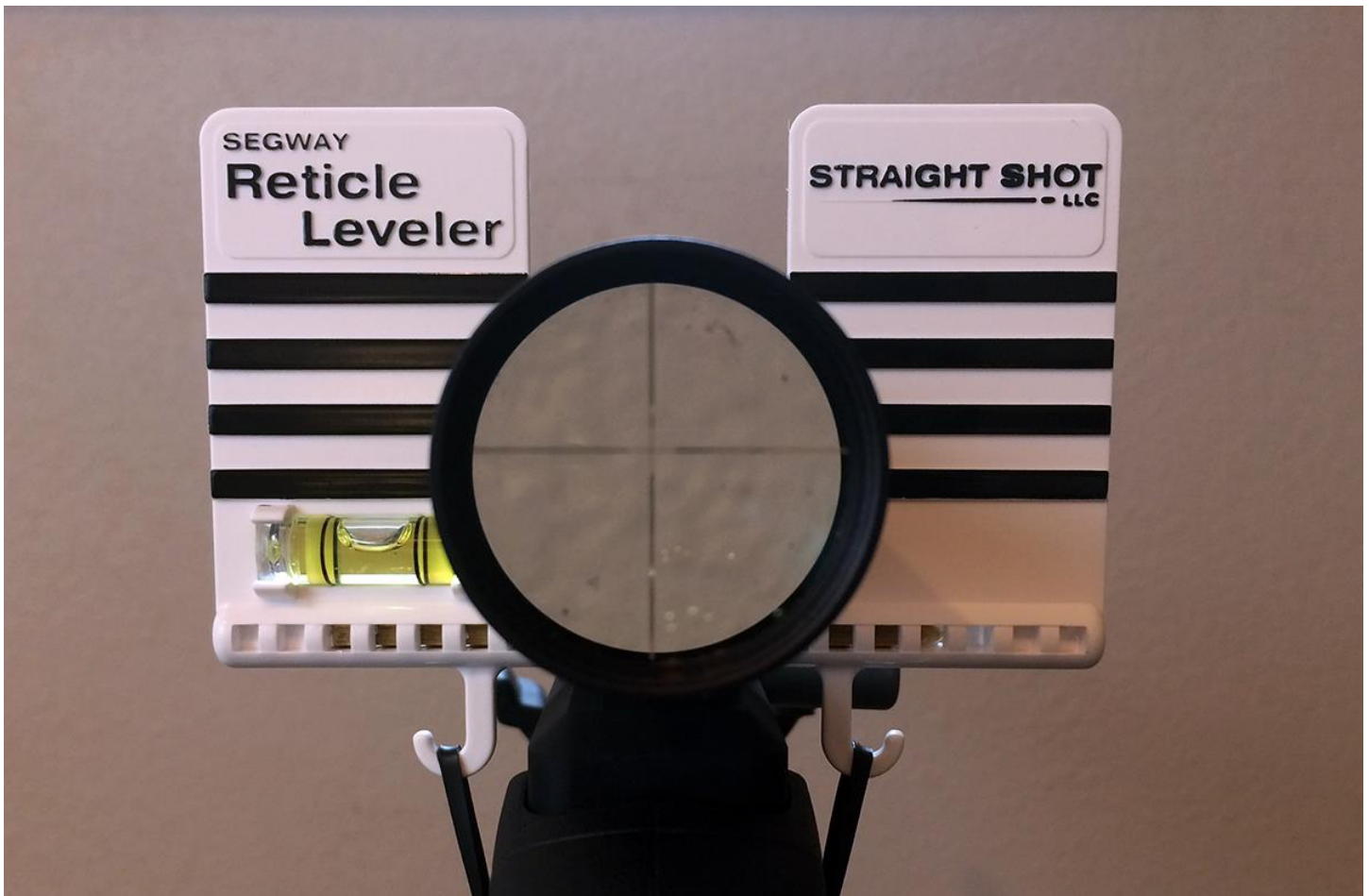
To work around this problem, the action level can also be placed on the picatinny rail, provided the scope is mounted high enough.

The second product I tested, the Segway Reticle Leveler from Straight Shot, LLC., costs only \$6 more than the Level Level Level, but it represents a far greater value.

The Segway Leveler works on any scope mounting system that uses a level base. Users place the device's metal alignment bar under the body of the scope, then align the scope's reticle with the bars on the ears of the device. The package also includes a rubber band that can be attached to each ear and ensures the bar stays flush with the rail.



The bar fits flush to any Picatinny rail or other flat receiver.



To level the scope, users simply align the reticle with the horizontal bars on the Segway.

The system is simple and easy to use, but, more importantly, it doesn't rely on the reticle being in perfect alignment with the elevation turret. Both Wheeler products I tested use a small level placed on the top of the scope's elevation adjustment knob. This method assumes that 1) the turret has a flat surface on which to place the level and 2) the reticle inside the scope is in perfect alignment with the knob.

On the scope I used for this test, neither of these assumptions turned out to be true. It isn't a nice scope (by any means), but why would you purchase a device that can only be used on certain kinds of scopes? The Segway Leveler's design can be used on virtually any scope that mounts to a Picatinny rail or other level surface.



The rounded top turret on my scope has a small flat circle, but it wasn't large enough to be reliable. You can also try removing the turret cap and sometimes you'll have better luck with the turret.

Of course, this system relies on the base being level with the bore, but so do most scope leveling systems, including the more expensive Wheeler product below. I also found that focusing on both the reticle and the Segway's lines simultaneously is more difficult than I expected. Not impossible, but the perfectionist in me couldn't be 100% certain the reticle's lines were aligned with the Segway's.

SEE ALSO: [Intro to Precision Rifle Series — Mindset, Equipment & Skills](#)

The Wheeler Professional Leveling System is the most expensive product I tested, running around \$45 on Amazon. Its strength lies in its ability to find the bore level without having to fit anything in the action or underneath the scope. Users begin by attaching the barrel level clamp to the barrel and placing the reference level on a flat surface on the gun's receiver. The reference level ensures a level bore, and the barrel level clamp can be adjusted to match. Now the reference level can be removed, and as long as the barrel level clamp isn't bumped, it can be used to keep the bore level as the scope is installed.



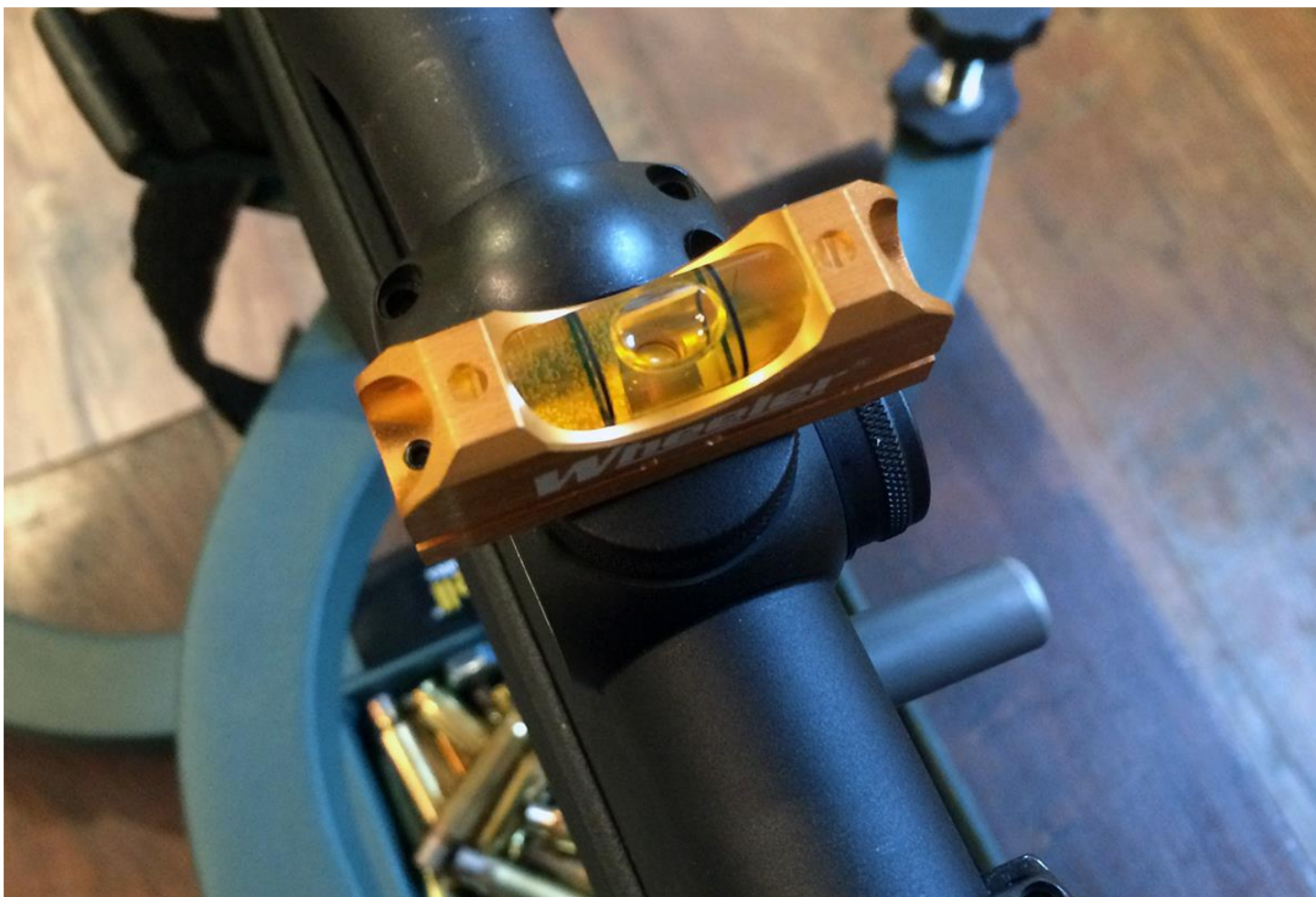
For both Wheeler products, it's important that your gun is in a vice or a rest that allows enough movement to get the bore level.



The Wheeler system gives users a reference point for the bore alignment that doesn't get in the way of the scope or the rings. The directions instruct users to place the reference level on the scope's elevation turret. This works, again, if the turret is flat and you're confident it's aligned with the reticle. With my scope, I decided to use a plumb line. I found a piece of string, attached it to my doorframe, tied a heavy object on the other end, and aligned the Y-axis of my reticle with the string. I checked the barrel clamp to ensure the bore was still level and cinched down my scope rings.



Because I don't believe my scope's elevation turret is aligned with the reticle, I used a plumb line instead of the provided reference level.



After leveling my reticle using a plumb line, I confirmed that the top turret isn't actually aligned with the reticle. Surprise, surprise.

Conclusion

While you can find other ways to level a scope, the three products I tested all help take the headache out of the process. The Level Level Level is cheap and easy to use (provided it fits in your rifle), the Segway Leveler is portable and versatile, and the Wheeler Professional Leveling System is thorough and ultra-reliable (especially when confirmed with a plumb line).

If you're planning to range out that new 6.5 Creedmoor, be sure your scope is dead level before running through 100 rounds trying to hit your range's 1000-yard target. And a level scope isn't just important for long-range nerds. When that twelve-point buck walks across the pasture in November, you want to make sure not to let him get away, and that starts with a proper scope installation.

Best States for Gun Owners (2018)

Keith Wood - October 31, 2018



Guns & Ammo editors have been evaluating the gun laws of each state for the past six years and, in each of those articles, most states moved steadily in a pro-gun direction. This year, thanks in large part due to the media swirling around the mass shootings in Las Vegas and Parkland, we saw things begin to shift in the opposite direction. Many elected officials who ran on a “pro-gun” platform grew weak-kneed when it came to going on the record in support of those very same rights. Traditionally firearm-friendly states such as Vermont and Florida saw the passage of significant anti-gun legislation, almost overnight. How much have things really changed in the wake of this newest wave of anti-gun sentiment? We will do our best to quantify that.

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As we have done in [years past](#), we evaluate each state numerically in each of five categories: Right to Carry (RTC), access to “Black Rifles”, the states’ use-of-force laws (i.e., Castle Doctrine or CD), the prohibition of items regulated by the National Firearms Act (NFA) and a catch-all Miscellaneous (MISC) column. States are awarded 0-10 points in each category and ranked

according to their total number of points. In the case of a tie, which is common, we dig deeper into the “intangibles” category and rank states accordingly. Though we believe that our ranking method is fair, it is not intended to be exhaustive. No article of this length, researched by a single author, could capture every nuance of a state’s statutory and regulatory framework.

Right to Carry This category is evaluated using the criteria applied in our “Best States for CCW” rankings: standard for issuance, training requirements, cost, reciprocity and the extent of locations where licensees are prohibited from carrying. May-issue states that rarely issue permits are graded accordingly and can receive 1-6 points, depending on the standard review factors. Shall-issue states, states that require that a permit be issued so long as the applicant is qualified, are given 6-8 points. States with legal permitless or “constitutional” carry are given 9 points, whereas states that both issue permits and allow citizens to carry without one are given a full 10-point score. States that issue permits and allow for permitless carry for residents only are given 9.5 points. Open carry laws are considered under the Miscellaneous column and can also be used as a tiebreaker.

Black Rifles This category examines whether a state regulates or bans firearms based on their appearance. These laws often require registration of certain firearms and, in some states, ban ownership altogether. Our rankings reflect whether a state regulates any category of firearm by its features or limits the capacity of magazines and, starting this year, we will use this category to track bans on accessory items such as “bump stocks”. States that implement bans on accessories will lose a point.

NFA The National Firearms Act (NFA) regulates the sale, transfer and possession of machine guns, suppressors (actually called “silencers” in the law), short-barreled rifles (SBR), short-barreled shotguns (SBS), Any Other Weapons (AOW), and Destructive Devices (DD). This federal statute allows states to further restrict these items (we use the term “items” since suppressors are not firearms but are covered under the NFA) and some states ban their ownership altogether or piecemeal; we rank each state based on a sliding scale of regulations. This has been an active category in recent years as states have moved to legalize the ownership and use of suppressors.

Castle Doctrine The term “Castle Doctrine” has become shorthand for a state’s use-of-force laws. Some states require citizens to retreat before the use of deadly force is authorized. We rank states based on the right to use force both inside and outside of homes and businesses. We award maximum points to states that allow the use of force wherever a person has a legal right to be and protect citizens from both criminal and civil liability if appropriate force is used.

Miscellaneous Since 2018 saw the passage of numerous bills that would implement “red flag” or “protection order” laws, this category will see some movement in this year’s survey. This is the most subjective category in our survey but allows us some leeway in our ability to quantify the culture and environment in a given state. We use this category to track preemption statutes,

laws and rules that fall outside of our other buckets as well as the availability of places to shoot. States with thriving competitive shooting communities are also recognized here.



51. New York

New York remains hostile ground for gun owners and the state's handgun registration requirement went into effect early this year. The state's Governor and Attorney General have even used the state's regulatory powers to attack gun owners and manufacturers nationwide by leveraging financial and insurance institutions to work against them. The insurance broker and underwriter for the NRA Carry Guard program were fined millions of dollars and forced to discontinue their involvement in the program as a result of the state's action; how's that for big government? The only win for gun owners in New York this year was the forced resignation of Attorney General Eric Schneiderman, who apparently wasn't opposed to violence when it involved himself and women. The Empire State gets zero points in the NFA category and magazines holding more than 10 rounds are a no-go. A may-issue carry permit system exists in the state but carrying in NYC requires a separate permit. (Previous ranking: 50)



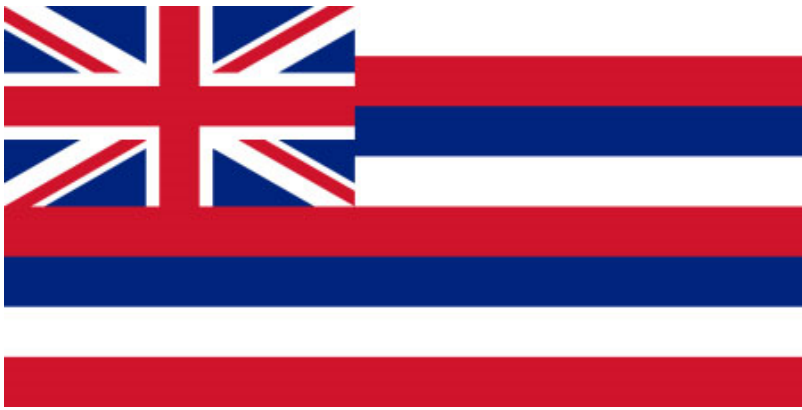
50. New Jersey

New Jersey's own Bon Jovi was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Bruce Springsteen has a hit show on Broadway but life isn't so rosy for the state's gun owners. The Governor recently signed a stack of anti-gun bills. These bills allow for confiscation under certain "red flag" circumstances, magazines holding more than 10 rounds will be banned (previous limit was 15), the bar will be raised for obtaining a may-issue carry permit and "armor piercing" bullets for the FN 5.7mm will be prohibited. CCW permit fees will also see a sharp increase. So much for Chris Christie's work on the RTC front during 2017. NFA items are banned in the state, whether it be by-statute or by the practice of not approving their purchase. (Previous ranking: 48)



49. Massachusetts

At the time of this writing, the Massachusetts House has passed a bill that would allow gun confiscation in "red flag" cases and this bill can be expected to pass out of the Senate. This may sound like a decent idea but the devil is in the details and this bill, like many of them, lacks adequate due process procedures in the minds of many gun owners. The state's broadening of a previous ban on semi-automatics has withstood a legal challenge and remains on the books, costing the state points in the Black Rifles department. Magazines are limited to 10 rounds and no NFA items are legal to possess in the Bay State. Massachusetts gets 3 points in the RTC column as their may-issue CCW permit system does actually issue some permits. There are a surprising number of gun ranges scattered about Massachusetts, many of which are open to the public. (Previous ranking: 49)



48. Hawaii

I love Hawaii but I'm not in love with the state's gun laws. This year saw the passage of legislation that bans "bump stocks" and certain trigger modifications. Hawaii has a may-issue RTC system that apparently issues no permits, resulting in a de facto ban on concealed carry. Magazines are limited to 10 rounds and all NFA firearms and accessories are prohibited. There is a vibrant hunting culture in the state, though, which gives many of us a reason to visit. Surprisingly, Hawaii has one of the highest rates of gun ownership in the nation—45% according to one report. (Previous ranking: 47)



47. Washington, DC

Late in 2017, DC officials effectively gave in on the "good reason" requirement for concealed carry issue when they failed to challenge the ruling of the U.S. Court of Appeals. This means that, technically, DC is now a shall-issue jurisdiction when it comes to Right to Carry, for residents and non-residents alike. This is huge. Thanks to this change, DC jumps ahead several spots for 2018. Lest one think that DC has become a utopia for gun owners, the District still requires the registration of all firearms and many firearms and accessories are prohibited including black guns and magazines that exceed 10 rounds. DC gets zero points for the NFA category since none are legal to own. The use-of-force laws in the District strike a middle ground between requiring "retreat to the wall" and "stand your ground" and earn 4 points in the Castle

Doctrine column. The District's strict gun control laws haven't helped it fight violent crime as it has the highest rate in the nation according to 2016 data. (Previous ranking: 51)



46. California

By the time these words are printed, the June 30th deadline to register “assault weapons” in California will have passed. A lawsuit that sought to invalidate the Assault Weapons Control Act failed, which means that the ban will be implemented. This incredibly-broad measure will criminalize gun owners overnight by merely possessing something that was previously legal. If that wasn't enough, Lt. Governor Gavin Newsome (one of the architects of the ban) is poised to be elected Governor. The Assembly is also considering changing the age to purchase a long gun from 18 to 21. CCW permits are issued on a county-by-county basis and are difficult to obtain in many of the state's coastal areas. Suppressors are illegal but other NFA items are permitted, though with some caveats and permitting requirements. (Previous ranking: 49)



45. Connecticut

The legislature passed a bill this year to ban “bump stocks” and other devices designed to increase a firearm’s rate of fire—this law went into effect on October 1st. This is a true ban meaning that affected items must be destroyed, exported or surrendered. The legislature also considered a bill this session that aimed to criminalize the possession of unserialized “90% receivers”, however, that measure did not pass. CT has a may-issue CCW system that does issue permits so the state gets 5 points in the CCW column—having a permit to carry is actually required to buy a handgun so, if you qualify to purchase, you qualify to carry. Connecticut’s use-of-force laws are fairly strong and suppressors are legal, but black guns and magazines capable of holding more than 10 rounds are restricted. (Previous ranking: 45)



44. Maryland

In 2018, Governor Larry Hogan signed HB 1302 implementing an “Extreme Risk Protective Order” law. This is an expansive process whereby firearms and ammunition can be seized from individuals subject to a court order. Obtaining a carry permit in Maryland is next to impossible but a federal lawsuit is challenging the state’s “good and substantial reason” requirement so stay tuned. Purchasing a handgun in Maryland requires a permit and black rifles are restricted. All NFA items are permitted in accordance with federal law so the state receives valuable points in that category. (Previous ranking: 44)



43. Rhode Island

Rhode Island’s Governor signed two bills this year: one that will create an ex parte “red flag” process and another that will ban “bump stocks” and similar accessories. Thanks to a 2015 court ruling, the state issues CCW permits if an applicant meets the statutory requirements though it is a may-issue state and the process is complicated. There is no reciprocity or recognition of other states’ permits, however, in theory, permits can be issued to non-residents. Black rifles are legal as are magazines of any size but NFA items are banned altogether unless you are a dealer. The Bay State imposes a duty to retreat when attacked outside of the home which costs the state points in the Castle Doctrine category. (Previous ranking: 43)



42. Delaware

Delaware's Governor John Carney led an effort to ban many semi-automatic firearms and their magazines this year and though the Senate bill was defeated in committee, as of this writing, the outcome is still uncertain. For now, the state gets full points in the Black Rifles category but that could change. Carry permits are issued on a may-issue basis and 20 states' permits are recognized by The Small Wonder. Machine guns and suppressors are illegal but Short-Barreled Rifles and Any Other Weapons are permitted, making the NFA category a mixed bag. Only 5% of Delaware residents own guns, making it the least-armed state in the U.S. (Previous ranking: 42)



41. Illinois

The road to concealed carry in the Land of Lincoln was a long one but concealed carry has been a reality there for five years now—somehow, the sky hasn't fallen. Illinois issues non-resident permits but there is no reciprocity for out-of-state permits. Three anti-gun bills did pass this year: one extended waiting periods on long guns to 72 hours, another creates strict rules for gun dealers and the third will allow courts to seize firearms subject to ex parte protection

orders. Black rifles and magazines are unrestricted by state law but are regulated by some municipalities, a source of current litigation. Illinois has strong use-of-force laws but is not NFA friendly. (Previous ranking: 41)



40. Colorado

Colorado's legislature did no harm in 2018 but that didn't stop the People's Republic of Boulder from passing its own ban on black guns, certain magazines, and an age limit. Even the city attorney admits that the ordinance has no "teeth" and a lawsuit has been filed to challenge it. State law currently bans magazines holding more than 15 rounds. Colorado's receives 7 points for its CCW statute and no restrictions are placed NFA items, earning it full points. Despite a recent shift against gun ownership by many in the state, Colorado has a very strong shooting culture and, of course, is a premiere hunting destination. Colorado remains home to two of the top gunsmithing programs in the nation which are housed at Trinidad State Junior College and the Colorado School of Trades. (Previous ranking: 39)



39. Minnesota

Not much legislative action that would affect gun owners took place in Minnesota this year. The big news is that the current Governor, who has advocated for gun control as recently as this year, is not seeking a third-term. Minnesota has had a shall-issue CCW permit system since 2003 and that permit is valid for both concealed and open carry. There is also a Castle Doctrine law on the books. C&R machine guns and short-barreled shotguns are legal, as are suppressors and SBRs. Minnesota passed a preemption law back in the 1985 which prevents municipalities from passing their own gun control ordinances. The state loses points in the Black Rifle category since a transferee permit is required, though a carry permit does satisfy the law. (Previous ranking: 41)



38. Washington

No anti-gun bills passed out of the legislature this year but gun owners in Washington State face a significant threat from a ballot initiative proposed by a Bloomberg-affiliated anti-gun

organization. This well-funded initiative would place significant restrictions on firearm purchases and require 10-day waiting periods, mandatory training, impose a gun tax and impose age limits beyond federal law. Gun owners will need to show-up in November in order to defeat Initiative 1639. The state gets full points in the Black Rifle column but only 6 points for its NFA laws, which are a mixed-bag. The state's strong use-of-force statute earn it full points in the Castle Doctrine category. (Previous ranking: 38)



37. Vermont

Gun owners in the Green Mountain State took a big hit in 2018 when Governor Phil Scott signed legislation that restricts magazine capacity, raises the age limit to purchase long guns (with some exceptions) and prohibits “bump stocks”. These laws hurt the state's score in both the Black Rifle and Miscellaneous categories. This should be a warning to other historically pro-gun states that things can happen quickly. Vermont allows for permitless carry but does not issue permits which costs it a point. Vermont has the second lowest violent crime rate in the nation and roughly a third of Vermonters are gun owners. Vermont drops 17 points this year thanks to the actions of its state government. (Previous ranking: 20)



36. New Mexico

A “bump stock” ban was introduced by the New Mexico Legislature but failed to advance. The state has a somewhat-antiquated CCW law that earns it 5 points. The state gets 10 points in both the NFA and Black Rifle categories. The state’s use-of-force laws could use some improvement so it only receives 5 points in that category. New Mexico has lots of wide-open spaces and some good shooting opportunities, the crown-jewel of which is NRA’s Whittington Center in Raton, near the Colorado line. (Previous ranking: 37)



35. Iowa

In a gesture in support of the rights of gun owners, the Iowa General Assembly proposed a resolution in support of adding the Right to Keep and Bear Arms to the state’s constitution since it is one of a few states that makes no such recognition. The Assembly must pass the Resolution again in 2019 in order for it to go on the ballot. Iowa issues CCW permits on a shall-issue basis,

earning it 8 points. The Hawkeye State loses key points in the NFA column as it restricts most items other than suppressors. (Previous ranking: 36)



34. Nebraska

Nebraska passed a law this year to protect the identity of gun owners and defeated legislation that would have banned suppressors and “multiburst trigger activators”. The gap in Nebraska’s gun laws remains the lack of a preemption statute that would prevent municipalities from enacting their own gun control ordinances. Nebraska’s “shall issue” CCW law, which I spent three years sheparding through the unique Unicameral Legislature more than a decade ago, earns the Cornhusker State 7 points. The state gets full points in both the Black Rifle and NFA categories as neither are restricted by state law. Use-of-force laws are relatively weak and only earn the state 5 points. (Previous ranking: 35)



33. Oregon

Oregon passed a law this year extending prohibited possessor status to “family and household members”. If we are reading this statute correctly, merely being in a relationship with someone who cannot legally possess a firearm strips you of your own right to be armed. The big threat in Oregon is the initiative on this November’s ballot which would ban or restrict a broad variety of rifles, shotguns and handguns, as well as magazines. For now, Oregon maintains full points in the Black Rifles category but passage of this ballot measure would hurt its score significantly. Oregon’s use-of-force laws earn it 8 points. Thunder Ranch is located here and is a mecca for shooters looking to touch some of Clint Smith’s magic. (Previous ranking: 34)



32. Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania’s gun owners have spent the last several years caught in the crossfire between the state legislature and anti-gun municipalities such as Philadelphia and Pittsburg. Though they came close to passing a preemption bill to solve those issues late in 2017, the bill never made it over the finish line. The legislature is currently considering a ban on “accelerated trigger activators” as well as a bill relating to “extreme risk protection orders”. Pennsylvania has a shall-issue CCW statute and state statutes do not discriminate against Black Rifles or NFA items. The state has strong use-of-force laws which earn it 8 points. (Previous ranking: 33)



31. South Dakota

The South Dakota legislature passed, and the Governor signed, two relevant bills during this year’s session. One bill adds a NICS requirement to the state’s CCW permit process while the other allows for carry in and around non-public schools and churches. South Dakota is a shall-issue CCW state that actually offers three classes of permits, the least-expensive of which only costs \$10 for five years. The only category that costs this state key points is its use-of-force laws, which are surprisingly-weak. (Previous ranking: 32)



30. Virginia

The Commonwealth of Virginia was hit with more than sixty anti-gun bills during this legislative session but, thanks to the hard work of Virginians on the ground, none of the bills were successful in passing. For a place that has become increasingly “purple” politically, Virginia remains a good state for gun owners. State law allows for open carry without a permit and CCW permits are issued on a shall-issue basis. Additionally, Virginia recognizes permits from all

states. The state gets 10 points for its strong use-of-force laws and receives fairly high marks all-around but for a few particulars including a requirement that machine guns be registered with the state authorities in addition to the BATFE. (Previous ranking: 31)



29. Maine

It was a slow year in Maine in terms of gun-related legislation, which isn't necessarily a bad thing. Maine gets 10 points in the Right to Carry category since it issues permits but also allows for permitless carry. The state also gets full points in the Black Rifle and NFA columns since neither are regulated by state law. The only thing hurting Maine is a weak set of use-of-force laws that require individuals to retreat, if possible, before using deadly force outside of the home. The good news is that Maine has the lowest violent crime rate in the nation. (Previous ranking: 30)



28. Ohio

The Ohio legislature is currently considering legislation that would place the burden of proof in self-defense cases onto the prosecution. Passage of this bill would give the state's use-of-force laws a boost. The state has strong concealed carry laws that earn it 8 points in that column. Ohio gets 10 points in both the NFA and Black Rifle categories. Camp Perry, east of Toledo, is a competitive shooting mecca. (Previous ranking: 29)



27. Louisiana

The Louisiana Legislature put two pro-gun bills on Governor John Bel Edwards' desk this year and he signed both. These bills strengthened the state's concealed carry laws relating to schools and churches. Several anti-gun bills were defeated as well. The state's CCW laws are relatively good but the list of prohibited locations is long and permit fees are relatively high. The state gets high marks for its use-of-force laws as well as in the Black Rifle and NFA categories. (Previous ranking: 28)



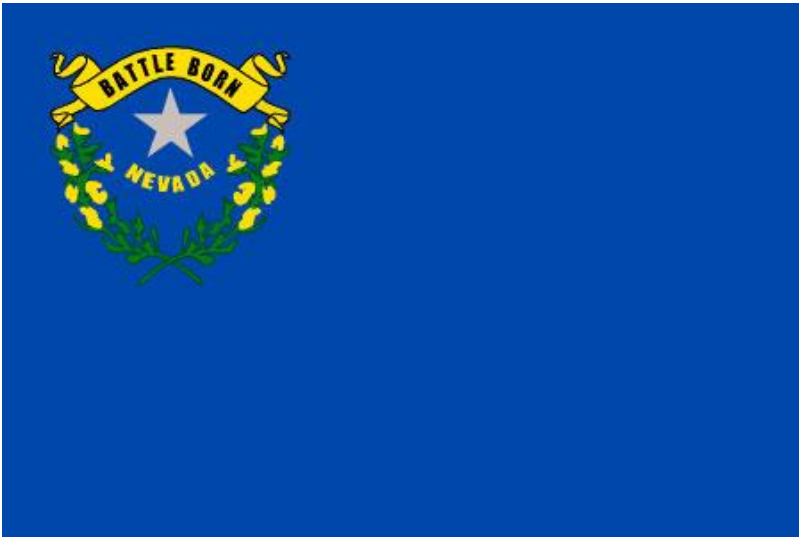
26. Michigan

The Michigan Legislature failed to pass its permitless carry bill in 2017 as well as a bill that would narrow the list of locations where carry is prohibited. The state currently receives 7 points in the CCW category thanks to some improvements made to the permit process a few years ago. Michigan has strong use-of-force statutes that earn it 10 points. The state receives full points in both the NFA and Black Gun columns but registration of handguns is required. (Previous ranking: 27)



25. North Carolina

North Carolina had one of the shortest legislative sessions in its modern era this year so no pro-gun bills were considered. The state has good Right to Carry laws that earn it 8 points and doesn't restrict Black Rifles or NFA items. North Carolina does have a handgun permit requirement which costs it some miscellaneous points. The ACADEMI firearms training center, formerly known as Blackwater, is located in Moyock. (Previous ranking: 26)



24. Nevada

The Nevada Legislature hasn't been in session since our last survey so nothing has changed in terms of state firearm laws. Nevada gets 8 points for its CCW statute and 10 points in the Black Rifle and NFA columns. The state's deserts offer many places to shoot and Las Vegas is home to the largest shooting industry event in the nation, the Shooting Hunting Outdoor Trade (SHOT) Show. (Previous ranking: 25)



23. Florida

The Florida Legislature was the epicenter of the gun control movement this spring, with hundreds of protesters gathering at the capital in the wake of the Parkland Shooting. I was there and it was ugly. The Legislature responded by passing a bill that banned long gun sales to 18-20 year olds, banned "bump stocks", created a three-day waiting period for nearly all firearm sales

and created a means of seizing firearms via “Risk Protection Orders”. The bright spot in the bill was the establishment of a “Guardian” program that would arm certain school officials but the 132 hours of mandated training, including 80 hours of firearms training, seems pretty excessive. Oh, and don’t forget the additional 12 hours of required diversity training. But for this latest affront to Florida’s law-abiding gun owners, the state remains highly-ranked in our survey thanks to one of the nation’s most successful shall-issue permit systems, a thriving competitive shooting culture and an excellent Castle Doctrine statute. (Previous ranking: 12)



22. South Carolina

A permitless carry bill was introduced in the South Carolina Senate this year but it never advanced from its subcommittee. South Carolina gets 7 points in the CCW column, mainly due to its limited permit reciprocity. The state’s use-of-force laws are strong, which earn it maximum points. South Carolina also gets a full 10 points for its NFA and Black Rifle laws as it relies on federal statutes alone. Like most of the south, the Palmetto State has a strong gun culture and places to shoot are many. (Previous ranking: 24)



21. Wisconsin

Governor Scott Walker signed legislation this year that helps protect shooting ranges from predatory regulations but the permitless carry bill that was pending during our last report failed to pass out of either chamber. The state has a strong RTC law that earns it 8 points and it receives 10 points in both the Black Rifles and NFA categories. Wisconsin also has strong use-of-force laws that earn it maximum points in that column. (Previous ranking: 23)



20. Indiana

Not much to report as far as legislative activity in Indiana but sometimes no news is good news. Indiana has a good Right to Carry statute that earns it 8 points. Out-of-state CCW permits are universally recognized in the state and open carry is legal. The Hoosier State gets 10 points in both the NFA and Black Rifle categories and 8 points for its use-of-force statute. (Previous ranking: 21)



19. Arkansas

Arkansas has a budget-only legislative session during even-numbered years so nothing has changed since our last report in terms of state law. Arkansas does well across the board with a strong RTC/CCW law, 10 points in the Black Rifle and NFA and columns and a good overall statutory framework. State law does mandate a conditional duty to retreat outside the home which hurts a bit in terms of use-of-force/Castle Doctrine points. Arkansas reportedly has the second highest rate of gun ownership in the nation. (Previous ranking: 22)



18. Alabama

Once again, the Alabama Legislature failed to pass a permitless carry bill. That said, the state receives 8 points for its existing Right to Carry statute. Permits are issued without a training requirement and, in most counties, are inexpensive to obtain. Alabama does not restrict Black

Rifles, magazines or NFA items gaining it full points in those categories. Open carry is legal and, as an Alabama resident, I can assure you that the state is extremely hospitable to gun owners. Ranges are well-distributed throughout the state and the competitive shooting landscape is positive. (Previous ranking: 18)



17. New Hampshire

The Granite State remains an extremely pro-gun spot in increasingly anti-gun New England. As we reported last year, Governor Chris Sununu signed permitless carry legislation in 2017. The state also has a shall-issue permit system so it receives full points for Right to Carry. New Hampshire also gets full points in the Black Rifles, NFA and Castle Doctrine categories. (Previous ranking: 15)



16. Mississippi

Mississippi gets 10 points in the RTC column thanks to a permitless carry statute and a shall-issue permit system. An enhanced carry permit is designed to allow citizens to carry in places such as courtrooms but that law is apparently not always honored in the way it was intended. The good news is that the Mississippi Supreme Court recently ruled that holders of enhanced permits can bring firearms into courtrooms. Mississippi does not restrict Black Rifles or NFA items so it receives full points in both categories. (Previous ranking: 16)



15. West Virginia

Once again, the West Virginia Legislature has moved the ball forward for gun owners. This year, Governor Jim Justice signed a bill protecting the rights of gun owners to carry firearms in employer-owned parking lots. The state also legalized Sunday hunting on public lands. West Virginia gets 10 points for the RTC, NFA, and Black Rifle categories. Last year in this article I challenged the legislature to repeal the state law that prohibits displaying a firearm in a store window: I'll keep my fingers crossed for a 2019 repeal. (Previous ranking: 13)



14. Kentucky

There was little real legislative activity relating to firearms this year in Kentucky, meaning that the state's score remains a constant. Kentucky earns 8 points for a strong shall-issue CCW law. The state also receives 10 points in the NFA, Black Rifle and Castle Doctrine categories. The biannual Machine Gun Shoot and Military Gun Show at Knob Creek Range is something to behold. (Previous ranking: 14)



13. North Dakota

North Dakota joined the ranks of resident-only permitless carry states in 2017 but there was some question of whether the law applied to citizens in vehicles. An Attorney General opinion released in December clarifies that, yes, permitless carry is legal in a vehicle so long as the individual has a valid ND Driver's License or ID card. The only place where North Dakota loses points is on its use-of-force laws, which aren't quite as strong as some other states. (Previous ranking: 7)



12. Tennessee

Tennessee passed legislation this year which would allow off-duty law enforcement officers to protect schools under certain circumstances, which is good news, but little else changed in terms of the state's gun laws. Tennessee receives maximum points in every category except CCW, where it earns 8 points for a shall-issue permit system. Tennessee offers plenty of places to shoot and is home to some excellent training facilities. (Previous ranking: 11)



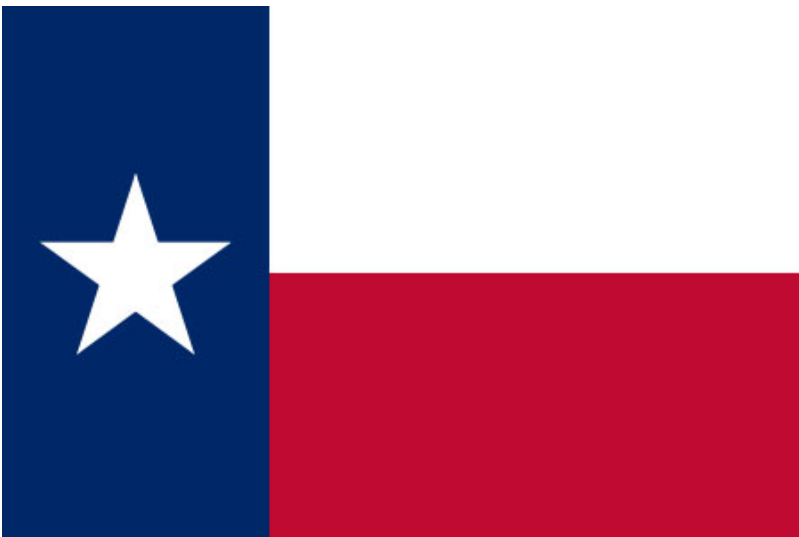
11. Missouri

More than twenty anti-gun bills were filed in Missouri this year but, fortunately, none became law. As we reported last year, Missouri implemented permitless carry in January of 2017 giving the state 10 points in the Right to Carry column. Missouri receives 10 points in almost every category thanks to strong use-of-force laws, no restrictions on Black Rifles or NFA items, and a strong overall legal framework for gun owners. (Previous ranking: 10)



10. Georgia

Not much happened in the Georgia Legislature this year on the gun front but the state maintains its positions as one of the most pro-gun spots in the nation. Georgia has one of the strongest CCW laws in the nation as “permit” states go and also gets 10 points in the NFA, Black Rifle and Castle Doctrine categories. Though we saw many legislators get weak-kneed this year, Georgia’s lawmakers killed a tax break for Delta Air Lines when the state ended a discount agreement with NRA: the move cost the Atlanta-based airline tens of millions of dollars. Boycotts work both ways. (Previous ranking: 9)



9. Texas

The Texas legislature only meets during odd-numbered years so nothing much changed for gun owners in the Lone Star State this year. Texas does well across the board in our survey thanks to a strong RTC law (that now includes open carry), strong use-of-force laws, and its lack of

restrictions on black rifles, magazines or NFA items. The NRA's Annual Meeting was held in Dallas this year and you could have fit all of the protesters in a VW Beetle. (Previous ranking: 8)



8. Montana

The Montana Legislature didn't meet in 2018 so this state maintained the status quo in terms of its very strong gun laws. As we reported last year, the state's Governor vetoed a permitless carry bill in 2017. The state gets 8 points for its shall-issue permit system and 10 points in every other category. Montana's Flathead Valley is home to numerous firearm manufacturers as well as custom gunmakers such as the legendary Jerry Fisher. (Previous ranking: 5)



7. Utah

Utah remains a very strong state for gun owners and, but for a CCW permit requirement, it would be a contender for the top spot. The state receives full points nearly across the board thanks to strong use-of-force laws, a lack of individual restrictions that would affect Black Rifles or NFA items and a preemption statute that keeps the cities out of the gun control business. Utah is home to several firearm and accessory manufacturers and is a great place to shoot. Credible reports indicate that Governor Gary Herbert is urging legislative leaders to adopt gun control measures in 2019 so let's hope that the members of the House and Senate hold strong on the Second Amendment. (Previous ranking: 6)



6. Oklahoma

Oklahoma's Governor vetoed a permitless carry bill this year, costing the state points in the CCW category. Governor Mary Fallin is term-limited so Oklahomans will have a clean slate next year and a chance at full permitless carry. Under current law, Oklahoma allows permitless carry for gun owners from other states whose laws allow it and recognizes all state permits. The state does not place restrictions on Black Rifles, magazines or any NFA items. Camargo is home to the Heat Stroke Open match each July, part of the popular Precision Rifle Series. (Previous ranking: 4)



5. Wyoming

The only factor that hurt Wyoming in previous surveys was the state's use-of-force laws. That all changed in March when Governor Matt Mead signed a bill that not only codified that there is no duty to retreat but provides protections against civil liability. Like neighboring Idaho, Wyoming is a permitless carry state for residents and also recognizes permits of all other states. Hunting and shooting opportunities are endless in Wyoming, thanks to the terrain, culture and low population. (Previous ranking:17)



4. Kansas

A bill that would have expanded Kansas' recognition of out of state CCW permits died in the legislative process this session but Kansas is still an excellent state for gun owners. After passing its initial CCW law in 2006, Kansas expanded to permitless carry more recently. The only place where Kansas loses a point is in the miscellaneous column, since the state lacks the thriving

competitive shooting landscape and general “gun culture” that we see elsewhere. (Previous ranking: 3)



3. Alaska

Alaska is about as pro-gun as it gets and was the first state to allow permitless carry by statute (Vermont’s law comes from a court decision). Alaska has the highest rate of gun ownership in the nation, according to available data. The only thing preventing Alaska from attaining the top spot is that its competitive shooting opportunities and firearms industry presence can’t match our top two states. Still, from a state law perspective, it one would be hard-pressed to match Alaska when it comes to being firearm-friendly. (Previous ranking: 2)



2. Idaho

Idaho got a huge boost this year when the state updated its use-of-force laws and removed the duty to retreat—this was the only category that kept the state from a much higher rank in years past. The state also receives 9.5 points in the CCW column, since residents and active duty military members can carry without a permit. Idaho also receives full points in the NFA, Black Rifle and Miscellaneous categories, which puts it ahead of Alaska this year. (Previous ranking: 19)



1. Arizona

An effort to weaken Arizona's firearm law preemption statute was defeated this session, keeping the state at the number one position in our survey for the fifth straight year. Arizona receives 10 points across the board thanks to its permitless (and permitted) carry law, a strong preemption statute, excellent use-of-force laws, and a lack of restrictions on individual firearms and accessories. Beyond a great set of laws, Arizona has one of the most thriving shooting cultures in the nation, a factor that helps it maintain its spot at the top of our list. Anti-gun groups rank Arizona as the worst state in the nation in terms of gun laws; we say it's the best. (Previous ranking: 1)





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

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

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