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Citizens Association for Responsible Gun Ownership = CARGO

www.cargogunclub.org

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Hello Fellow CARGO Members,

The scheduled CARGO meeting on Thursday, September 17th has been cancelled.

I hope that you are all well and surviving the situation as best you can. Please use the CARGO@att.net email or the CARGO Facebook page if you need to get in touch with the club.

We are looking forward to a point when we can meet again.

Take care and be safe,

Paul

When was the last time you visited our web site? Please take some time to go to the CARGO website at www.cargogunclub.org

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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From the Texas Gun Rights PAC:

CARGO,

Protesting, rioting, and looting.

Defunding the police, violence in the streets, and shortages on guns and ammo.

In the wake of recent events, you don't need a lecture about the uncertainty gripping our nation right now.

Worse, Texas is facing a tidal wave of spending from Michael Bloomberg-funded organizations ahead of the November elections.

Their goal: buy control of the Texas House of Representatives and turn us into another liberal, anti-gun stronghold like the extremists in California and Oregon.

And the candidates they are supporting have already announced their radical agenda for Texas:

***** "Red Flag" Gun Confiscation**

***** Universal Gun Registration**

***** Bans on semi-automatic rifles and handguns**

***** Bans on magazines that carry more than a handful of rounds, and more...**

Even though Republicans will maintain control of the Senate in 2020, our gun rights still aren't safe if -- God forbid -- another tragedy strikes.

Especially after Lt. Governor Dan Patrick declared he'd lead the Republican charge for Universal Gun Registration following the tragic events in Midland-Odessa and El Paso just last year.

But there is hope...

Your State Senator, Pat Fallon, is vacating his seat, and a special election to replace him was called for September 29th.

That means you have the opportunity to make the Texas Senate even stronger by sending a pro-gun fighter down to Austin!

And I've got good news: candidate Shelley Luther returned her Texas Gun Rights Candidate Survey 100% pro-gun!

Even before Shelley Luther decided to run for office, she proved she had the courage to stand up and fight an over-reaching government threatening the livelihood of law-abiding Texans.

As you may recall, Shelley Luther is the small business owner who was wrongfully jailed for violating lockdown orders by refusing to shut down her hair salon.

So it's no surprise Shelley Luther was also the first candidate in the Senate District 30 race to respond to our Texas Gun Rights Candidate Survey and take a bold, pro-gun stance.

By returning her survey, Shelley Luther went on record against "Red Flag" Gun Confiscation laws, which empower government agents to confiscate firearms from law-abiding Texans without due process and without a crime having been committed.

Shelley Luther also pledged to oppose Universal Gun Registration, which effectively bans the private purchase, sale, or transfer of a firearm without first begging for government permission to do so.

These dangerous policy proposals are the biggest threats to freedom in the Republican-controlled Texas Legislature, so Shelley Luther's tough stance is a breath of fresh air. But that's not all.

Shelley Luther also supports going on the offensive and pledged her support for pro-gun Constitutional Carry

legislation.

If you're a law-abiding citizen who can legally possess a handgun, you should be able to carry it without any government permission slip and paying expensive fees.

Period.

With economic uncertainty and political unrest sweeping the country, Constitutional Carry for law-abiding citizens is needed more than ever.

Even though Constitutional Carry is already law of the land in 15 states, Texas Republicans have gone out of their way to kill Constitutional Carry in Austin.

Unfortunately, one of Shelley Luther's opponents is a Republican who ignores the Republican Party of Texas' platform by refusing to support Constitutional Carry.



State Representative Drew Springer (left) getting chummy with Joe Straus (middle) and Dennis Bonnen (right), the two men responsible for killing Constitutional Carry in 2015, 2017, and 2019.

Even though State Representative Drew Springer claims to be "pro-gun," he has never co-sponsored or even spoke in favor of Constitutional Carry since first being elected to the Texas House in 2012.

In fact, when Constitutional Carry was filed in 2015 (HB

195), 2017 (HB 375), and 2019 (HB 357), Representative Springer never offered his name as a co-author.

Instead, Springer co-authored the licensed-open carry bill, which was a watered down political compromise -- crafted to give politicians cover for killing Constitutional Carry and to placate gun owners by throwing them table scraps.

But the Texas open carry law Springer helped pass was far more restrictive than the open carry laws in 31 other states, which do not require a license to openly carry a handgun.

So it's no surprise Drew Springer is hiding behind his bloated rating from the establishment gun lobby instead of taking a bold, public stance in support of your gun rights like Shelley Luther has!

Not only that, Drew Springer has refused to go on the record in support of gun rights and against gun control by refusing to return a simple Candidate Survey every time he sought re-election in 2014, 2016, 2018, and 2020.

Now, Drew Springer wants you to give him a promotion by sending him to the Texas Senate.

If Republican candidates won't take a bold stance in a safe, pro-gun district, how will they represent you once elected and sent down to Austin?

For Drew Springer, the answer is COMPROMISE on your gun rights.

Gun owners need a true leader in Austin, not someone who will settle for a half measure.

In this political environment, where unhinged gun control extremists are salivating at the thought of buying control

of the Texas House in 2020, we need true pro-gun fighters in Austin.

Because we already know what it looks like when Republicans fall asleep at the wheel...

So please vote AGAINST Drew Springer on September 29th!

Better yet, **vote for Shelley Luther for Texas Senate!** Early in-person voting begins September 14th!

With everything we're facing right now, your support is critical to keeping Texas a pro-gun state!

For Texas and Liberty,

Chris McNutt
Executive Director
Texas Gun Rights PAC

<https://www.firearmsnews.com/editorial/police-assaulted-boy-executed-property-destroyed-mainstream-media-calls-it-protesting/383381>

Clay Bell - August 17, 2020

Police assaulted, boy executed, and property destroyed: why won't the “mainstream” media admit violent riots are bad?



Photo courtesy of Shutterstock.

What do Black Lives Matter “protesters” in Chicago attacking and fighting with police officers, BLM and Antifa thugs beating and robbing multiple passersby in Portland and violent rioters in Portland chanting, “Kill a cop, save a life” while hurling objects at police have in common?

For one thing, they’re all examples of what many in the so-called “mainstream” media still constantly refer to as “peaceful protests,” And unbelievably, many on the left side of the political spectrum refuse to condemn such criminal actions as wrong.

A police officer in Chicago was bashed over the head with a skateboard as police had to use pepper spray and batons to repel hundreds of demonstrators at a protest to defund police. During the not-so-peaceful protests, participants called for removing police from the city's public schools and abolishing Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

In Stone Mountain, Georgia, those wanting Confederate monuments left in place clashed with those wanting to remove the monuments, causing police to become

involved. And in Michigan, a rally by a right-wing group ended in violence when demonstrators and group members got physical.

Meanwhile in Portland, Antifa and BLM rioters beat up a man and his companion for having the audacity to come to the aid of another person whom those same rioters had just robbed. And when police tried to handle the escalating situation, they were attacked and hit with thrown objects, sending two officers to the hospital. Later, two gunshots were fired after pro- and anti-police rallies clashed in the city.

Yet the major media outlets hardly even mention the violence.

It's the same phenomenon we recently saw with Cannon Hinton, the 5-year-old white boy riding his bike in his yard who was shot in the back of the head execution style by a black neighbor. It's a story largely ignored by "mainstream" media.

Sure, most outlets ran brief stories on the topic once criticism began of them ignoring the event. But had it been a white man murdering a black child, it likely would have made top headlines and led off newscasts throughout the country.

Worse, some are even praising the man for shooting the youngster. One BLM supporter took to social media to say of that episode, "lon give a s--- he is white it's time for revenge we tired shit over with now we shooting yall go cry to yo moma."

Such a reaction is the same that many have to the widespread rioting, claiming rioters have a right to burn police cars and destroy buildings because, well, just because. And the media are complicit in covering up the situation.

In a weekend story, *USA Today* spoke several times about the "mostly peaceful protests" going on around the country. Apparently that "newspaper" has somehow missed the fact that violent, dangerous riots are occurring across the country, mostly spurred by BLM and Antifa activists.

With such travesties of reporting, Americans are left to search alternative news sources to even learn about the carnage occurring in many of our bigger cities. Meanwhile, many leaders in the Democrat party, including U.S. Rep. Alexandra Ocasio-Cortez, refuse to call the violence wrong, even when innocent people are hurt and policemen are injured.

In the end, it's media outlets only telling one side of the story and Democrat politicians refusing to delineate between right and wrong who are the true racists, not those who contend that all lives matter—which they do.

<https://www.firearmsnews.com/editorial/bandemonium-in-3rd-circuit-no-mags-over-10-rounds/384133>

Mark Chesnut - September 04, 2020

Bandemonium in the 3rd Circuit: No Mags Over 10 Rounds

2A News: U.S. 9th Circuit Court ends California's magazine ban.



On Friday, August 14, 2020, the a three-judge panel from the United States Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit released its *opinion in Duncan vs. Becerra*, a case that challenged California’s ban on magazines that hold more than 10 rounds. In what many considered a surprise ruling, the court declared that the ban violates the Second Amendment rights of Californians and should be struck down, granting summary judgment to Duncan. Legalese aside, it’s a big deal.

While individual rights such as those guaranteed by the 1st, 4th and 14th Amendments to the U.S. Constitution are the litigated frequently, there is a dearth of case law regarding the Second Amendment. For example, it was nearly 70 years after the Supreme Court handed-down its decision in *United States V. Miller* until it revisited the topic in *District of Columbia vs. Heller*.

Though *Heller* was a generational victory for the individual right to keep and bear arms, it has not been applied by the appellate courts in a way that has repealed individual gun or magazine bans — until now. The *Duncan* opinion, written by Trump-appointed Judge Kenneth Lee, lays out the two-prong test that the court used to come to their decision. This is basically universal in Constitutional law cases.

The first prong is whether the law in question “burdens conduct protected by the Second Amendment.” The court ruled that the California law did represent a burden, satisfying part the first prong. Additionally, the court ruled that “Large Capacity

Magazines” (“LCM” in the court’s lingo) are “protected arms under the Second Amendment” because they are commonly owned and typically used for lawful purposes, and are not “unusual arms.” Finally, Lee’s opinion stated that the ban does not enjoy “a presumption of lawfulness.”

Though the first prong sounds great to the layperson, it is the second prong that gets lawyers excited. The second element of the test is what level of scrutiny to apply to the state law. In the past, what is called “intermediate scrutiny” has usually been applied to Second Amendment cases due to the compelling state interest of reducing gun violence. In this opinion, the court applied the “strict scrutiny” standard, which favors the rights of the individual over the desires of the government. Lee ruled that the law “struck at the core right of law-abiding citizens to self-defend” and, as a blanket ban, was not narrowly tailored to suit the state’s interests.

Second Amendment advocates have long lamented the fact that gun rights were never given the importance of free speech rights by the courts, this time they were. If the standard in *Duncan* is applied to every firearm and magazine ban across the U.S., the results would be a sweeping victory for individual rights. While this is an important first step, there are more hurdles in the way.

California Attorney General Xavier Becerra will no doubt challenge the court’s decision, which means it will go before a larger *en banc* review. An *en banc* panel is composed of the Chief Judge in the Circuit along with 10 other judges, chosen at random. The Chief Judge, Sidney Thomas, is a Clinton appointee who was part of the majority in the *Peruta v. San Diego* case that decided that the city’s restrictive gun control laws were constitutional. Other than Thomas, Republican-appointed judges slightly outnumber Democrat-appointed judges on the 9th Circuit bench. If we can assume that partisan leanings are indicative of the way that a judge will rule in this case, there is a slight advantage on the gun rights side of the ledger.

It is important to note that, while the court ruled in *Duncan*’s favor, the magazine ban remains in effect, at least for now. The National Shooting Sports Federation (NSSF), the firearm industry’s trade association, warned that “While the holding in *Duncan* is a tremendous victory for the Second Amendment, members of the industry should continue to refrain from selling or shipping into California LCMs until after the appeal proceeding is concluded or the stay is modified or lifted.”

While the fight isn’t over, this was a crucially important first step in the fight to roll back unconstitutional restrictions on the Second Amendment. In light of the fact that we could see a Democrat president elected in November, as well as a majority in both houses of Congress, the courts may be our only recourse for defending our rights. The ruling in this case sets up a scenario where that is entirely possible.

.380 Vs 9mm: Reasons To Consider The Small 'Nine'

By **Elwood Shelton**
August 17, 2020



Yes, the above 9mm remains the more suitable self-defense choice, but there are circumstances that make .380 ACP a logical option.

Yes, there is still a .380 vs 9mm debate and some reasons to still consider the smaller option to keep you covered.

How Does the .380 Beat The 9mm For Self-Defense:

- More manageable recoil improves its shot-to-shot accuracy potential.
- Pistols chambered for it generally use lighter recoil springs, thus are easier to manipulate.
- Chambered in some of the smallest pistols, it's more suited for a backup gun role.
- Advancements in ammunition have improved its terminal performance.

Is the .380 vs 9mm debate over? Given the introduction of the **Sig Sauer** P365 and comparable 9mm models, it sure seems any sizzle to the conversation has quickly cooled.

From the start, armed citizens understood what they were getting into when they chose .380 ACP: an under-powered and marginal self-defense round chambered in pistols convenient as all heck to carry. Among the smallest semi-autos available, what the .380 lacked in Thor's-hammer power, it more than made up for in expediency. Try to make excuses to **Ruger** LCP II or **Colt** Mustang at home. If you can carry a cell phone, you can carry a .380 ACP.

Except, now 9mm pistols are as compact and easy to carry. Head to head, the LCP II is only marginally more pocket-sized than the P365 or micro 9mm **Springfield** Hellcat. Nearly as small .380 options, yet more powerful—you almost have to be plum loco not to level up. Right?

For most, the answer is yes. But that doesn't mean the .380 vs 9mm conversation is dead and buried. Diminished, the good old .380 still has some fight left. While it might not be the top self-defense choice, it still lands some punches against the 9mm Luger.

.380 vs 9mm: Recoil

Among the most blatant arguments for the .380 ACP is the caliber is much milder. It makes a world of sense. The cartridge holds a bullet the same diameter as the 9mm (.355") but in a smaller case with diminished capacity (roughly speaking, 15% less than the 9mm in grains of H₂O). In turn, out of guns of equal weight the .380 produces nearly half the recoil energy.



Given its diminished recoil, the .380 ACP

is easier to handle shot to shot.

Now, this doesn't always mean a .380 pistol won't buck around the hand. Given the small options, many are downright jumpy, punching above their weight in felt recoil (the recoil shooters perceive). But if you think tiny .380 pistols are skittish, wait until you take hold of an analogous model in 9mm.

Recoil shy know which side they take in the .380 vs 9mm debate and the lack of kick it's no small advantage to them. Flinch is a bear to tame, but less likely in tamer cartridges. Since accurate hits carry more weight than other variables, anything enhancing it—even if it's for a certain segment—has to be counted as a plus.

.380 vs 9mm: Manipulation

Dovetailing off recoil is how simple most .380 pistols are to run away from the trigger. Primarily, we're talking slide manipulation. Lighter recoiling cartridges require lighter recoil springs, the side benefit, the slide is that much easier to rack.

Don't scoff. There's a cohort of shooters precluded from semi-auto pistols—striker-fired especially—due to this factor. Elderly, infirmed and a number of other individuals with diminished hand strength, for instance. While some gunmakers have developed easier to manipulate pistols as of late—such as **Smith & Wesson** and **Walther**—powering down to the .380 ACP in many cases eliminates this issue.

Take Aim On The .380 ACP:

- Top **.380 Pistol** Options For Deep Carry
- Concealed Carry: Is The **.380 ACP** Enough For Self-Defense?
- **.380 Ammo** For Defensive Use
- Concealed Carry: The **.380** Pistol For Self Defense
- Masterful Micro: **Remington RM380** Review

.380 vs 9mm: Backup Gun

While the 9mm has encroached on the .380's turf as a primary carry option, the smaller 'nine' still cuts the more dominant figure as a backup gun. The caliber continues to offer the tiniest options on the market, without dropping to an inadvisable caliber. And next to adequate caliber and reliability, size is generally considered the most important factor of a backup gun.

Additionally, petite .380 pistols are legion and come in a slew of different configurations. This opens up options. In all likelihood, no matter your style of backup carry—be it ankle, belly band, pocket or otherwise—there's something in .380 that fits the bill.

.380 vs 9mm: Ammunition

The 9mm has and will always have a power advantage over the .380. Physics dictates nothing less. A quick comparison.



It still under performs compared to the 9mm, but improved defensive ammunition will achieve desired results.

Most .380 ammunition of the defensive variety kicks an 80- to 100-grain bullet out at the muzzle anywhere from 900 to 1,150 fps, generation around 162 to 294 ft-lbs. of energy at the muzzle. Conversely, the 9mm spits out a 115- and 147-grain bullet anywhere around 1,000 to 1,300 fps at the muzzle, with energy ranging from 294 to 495 at the muzzle. In most cases, there's a marked difference in bullet mass and the velocity it's moving. Given, velocity is the main variable dictating defensive ammunition's performance this is a big deal.

That said, like all ammo, .380 ACP self-defense options have improved vastly in recent decades. Where the tiny 9mm once struggled on the FBI penetration (12 to 18 inches) and expansion (1.5 times the original diameter) tests, there are select loads that pass. Are they a numerous as 9mm Luger? Not by a long shot. But they exist, making the caliber more viable for self-defense ... at least relative to the past. The wrinkle here, if you choose a .380 ACP ammunition homework is imperative.

Parting Shot

You'd be hard-pressed to find any firearms instructor worth his or her salt suggesting the .380 ACP over the 9mm. On paper, the Luger is a more potent and capable self-defense option no matter how you cut it. And it has a much more complete self-defense resume as compared to the .380. Yet, there are wrinkles to every argument.

For some, the 9mm Luger proves too lively to accurately make hits shot to shot. And its pistols can be a prohibitive handful to troubleshoot malfunctions promptly. OK, maybe not for you. But how about your aged mother or arthritis-stricken grandparent? In this light, the logic of the continued .380 vs 9mm debate (or .38 Special vs 9mm, for that matter) shines through.

Most can agree, the .380 isn't the top choice for concealed carry or self-defense. But with some considerations, the caliber is still a practical one. You simply have to decide if it's sensible for you and your particular

<https://www.firearmsnews.com/editorial/how-to-build-a-glock-from-an-80-percent-frame-/383262>

Gus Norcross - August 13, 2020

This article will walk you through the process of building a Glock pistol from an 80 percent frame.



I like to build my own guns. Using skills acquired in military and civilian schools, I began building 1911s from bare frames three decades ago. Eventually, I was assembling AR-15s, M14s and M1 Garands. An inventory of my safes would reveal maybe 50% of my firearms were assembled in a factory. A few were built on incomplete, or 80% receivers. I suppose everyone with a shred of creativity in their body needs an outlet for it. Building guns is mine.

If you wish to assemble firearms from 80% receivers, there are legalities to keep in mind. You can build as many as you desire for your personal use. Federal law does not prohibit it. But, you can't sell them to other parties without a federal manufacturer's license from the ATF and payment of excise taxes. They are yours forever. The firearm you build must also comply with state and local laws. The above also applies to building guns with completed receivers which already have a manufacturer's marking and serial numbers—yes, the receiver is the restricted part but it's not a handgun or rifle until it is assembled as such.



Glock (left) and P80 (right). Shooters with small hands may appreciate the re-designed P80 grip with straight backstrap.

Gun banners refer to weapons assembled on 80% frames as “ghost guns,” since they lack serial numbers and whine about how they are “untraceable” by law enforcement. This is a bogus argument. In most jurisdictions, firearms aren’t registered to individuals, and once they are sold by the original owner, the ATF can’t trace them anyway from a central database unless registration is part of state law. Felons are already breaking the law if they possess a firearm. Laws only affect law-abiding individuals.

Last year, I wrote about 80% AR-15 receivers and how to finish them. At the same time, I was eyeing ads for 80% Glock frames and keeping the idea on the shelf for when my editor would ask me what projects I had in mind for upcoming articles. A voice inside my head was saying “you need to try this.”



P80 frame kits are supplied with a clamshell milling fixture, end mill, drills, rail sections and pins.

Disclaimer: I am not a Glock fanboy. I respect the design for its reliability and simplicity, and I have owned a pile of them. As a gunsmith, I have repaired, modified and inspected them. Unfortunately, I was blessed with relatively small hands, and the Glock grip simply doesn’t fit me very well. I also think the grip angle is weird, but I’m an old guy, and my background is 1911s, so if I have a choice, I shoot what I’m

most comfortable with. That being said, if Evil is coming and all I have is a Glock 19, I would feel very well-armed.

Before we begin building Glocks, a few words about the fascinating rise of Gaston Glock and his pistol are in order. In the early 1980s, Glock ran a small Austrian firm that manufactured household items for the civilian market and knives for the Austrian Ministry of Defense. Austria was looking for a new military pistol to replace its aging fleet of P38s. A domestic product was desired. Enter Gaston Glock, a man experienced in manufacturing things other than firearms. Determined to win the contract, Mr. Glock hired experts, studied the problem carefully and produced a high-capacity pistol with a polymer frame that became the standard sidearm of police and military units around the world in less than a couple decades. The Glock pistol was designed with modern manufacturing methods in mind (read, CNC) and could be quickly produced in vast quantities with no hand fitting and a high profit margin.



Arrows indicate the ribs above the rails that must be milled flush.

A typical pistol in 1980 had a metal frame (steel or aluminum) and a swinging hammer. Thirty-eight years later, polymer-framed striker-fired pistols are considered state-of-the-art, and the guns that Neanderthals like myself hold dear are becoming historical artifacts. Show up at the range with a Browning Hi-Power, and the kids down the firing line are snickering, "Hey, look at Gramps over there with the Browning." Heaven forbid you show up with a revolver... The effect of Glock on the firearms industry as a whole cannot be overestimated. An interesting book on this subject is *GLOCK: THE RISE OF AMERICA'S GUN*, by Paul M. Barrett.

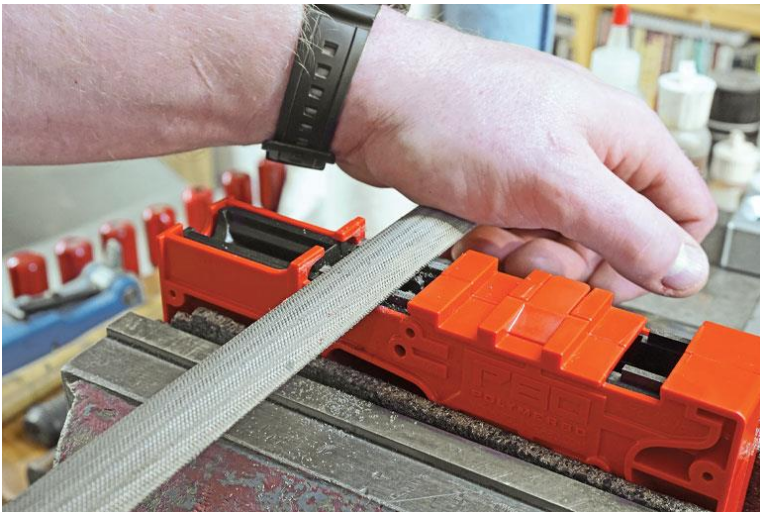


The fixture clamped solidly between two slabs of wood for milling the rails. Frames: Choosing an 80% Glock frame to build is easy. As of this writing, Polymer80 (www.polymer80.com) is the only manufacturer of 80% Glock frames I could find. From there, you have a choice of the standard-size PF940V2 frame (Glock 17, 22) or the compact PF940C1 version (Glock 19, 23). I picked up several frames to sample what was available. P80 frames marketed by vendors such as Brownell's (www.brownells.com) and Lone Wolf Distributors (www.lonewolfdist.com) may vary in grip texture, but are otherwise standard P80 products. Colors available include black, gray, FDE and green.



Mill the raised ribs off flush with the frame.

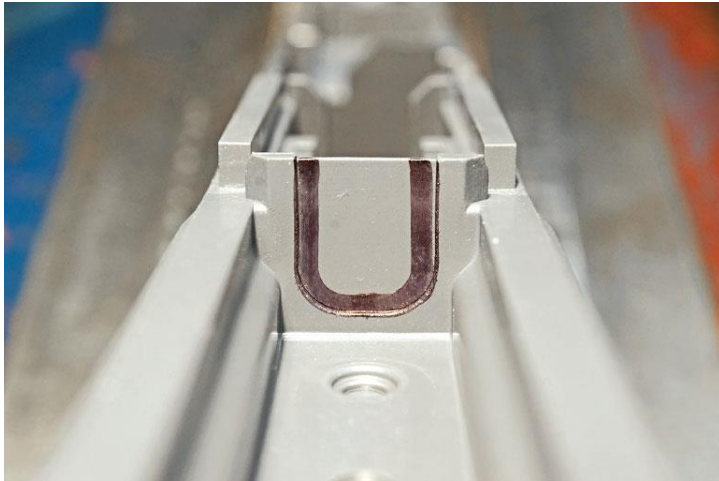
Polymer80, Inc. was formed in 2013, by David L. Borges and Loran Kelly to manufacture 80% AR-15 receivers, which we reviewed in *Firearms News Aug. 2017, Issue 18*. .308 AR frames are also available.



Lacking a drill press or mill/drill, the rail ribs may be filed flush with a coarse, flat file and dressed with sandpaper.

As I mentioned above, there are old codgers like myself who find the grip angle of the Glock distasteful. The problem seems to be the hump at the rear of the grip, forcing the muzzle high when the gun is punched out in a firing stance. Polymer80 has produced its frames without the rear hump in a configuration similar to a 1911, with a straight mainspring housing, although the front-to-rear depth of the P80 frame is still a longer reach than a 1911. I've always been curious why Glock (and P80) left the hollow cavity behind the magazine, when eliminating it would make the grip smaller.

Polymer80 supplies its frames in kit form with a plastic jig to hold it in a vise, drill bits, an end mill, stainless steel front locking block/rail module, and a rear rail module and pins. Retail price is \$160, but discounts can be found at web sites we all frequent. The frame as provided in the kit is not a firearm, so it may be delivered to a consumer directly without the intervention of a licensed dealer.



Only remove the material outlined in this photo. The remaining vertical ribs act as slide buffers.

Instructions are not provided in the box, but downloadable pdfs and video links are available on the Polymer80 web site. If you have been considering an 80% firearm, building a Glock is the simplest to complete, requiring no skills other than the ability to follow instructions.

The Polymer80 frame accepts Glock Gen 3 parts, so if you are purchasing a slide assembly, keep that in mind.



Fixture clamped vertically in the mill vise for milling the spring tunnel. The cutter is centered between the fixture guide ribs.

OK, let's cut some plastic. I recommend studying the print and video instructions provided on the Polymer80 web site before permanently altering the frame. The pdf is EXCELLENT and very easy to understand. We will cover two methods of finishing the frame: with a drill press or mill and without machine tools. The frame kit includes a 9mm end mill, which will be held by your drill press chuck or mill collet. Why 9mm? Polymer80 uses the same cutter for its AR-15 and AR-10 lowers, so they decided to standardize that size for all its products.

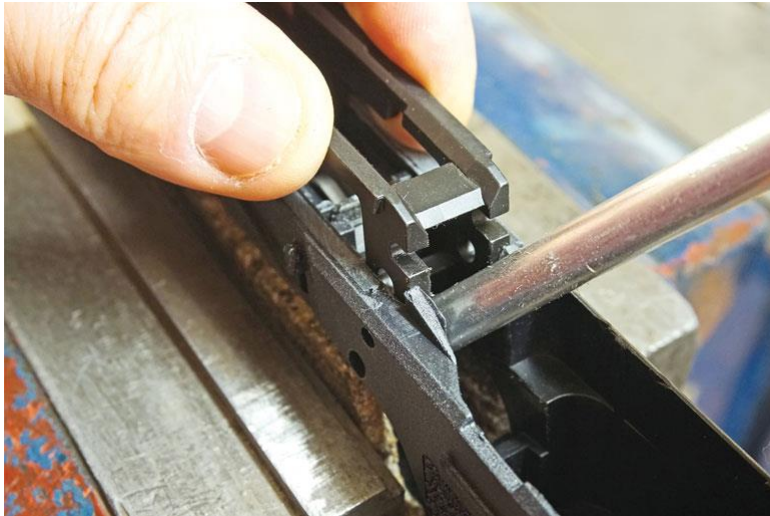
If you are using a mill/drill like I am to demo this article, the odds are you don't have a 9mm collet. A Jacobs chuck will work or a 9mm collet can be purchased from MSC (www.mscdirect.com part number 56448954). A drill press will require a cross slide-type vise, such as the Grizzly Industrial D4082 (www.grizzly.com).



The pin holes are drilled with a cordless drill, while the fixture is clamped in a bench vise. Drill only one side at a time!

Finishing the frame consists of three steps:

1. Milling off the rails.
2. Clearing the spring tunnel.
3. Drilling the pin holes.



It may be necessary to spread the frame slightly with a nonmarring object to start the LBRS into the frame.

Rails: Lock the 80% frame in the red clamshell milling jig and clamp it in your mill or drill-press vise. My 5" Grizzly mill vise is relatively shallow, so I clamped the jig between two pieces of wood to stabilize it.

Mill off the plastic ribs above the rails at the front and rear locations until they are flush. Finish with sandpaper if you want to be fussy. If these areas are too high, the locking block rail module may not seat correctly, and you won't be able to install the pins. The red fixture tells you where to cut. Basically, if you start cutting into the fixture, stop there.



Poly80 PF940V2 frame fitted with a standard length Brownells optic slide, Trijicon RMR, and suppressor sights.

If you lack a mill/drill or drill press, the rails can be filed flush with a flat, coarse file. Clamp the fixture in a bench vise and go for it. I finished a frame with only files, and it took a little longer than milling, but the end result was the same.

Spring tunnel: A plastic membrane blocks the passageway in front of the forward rails, where the recoil spring lives. This must be milled and/or filed away within the visible line molded into the plastic. The plastic (ok, polymer) upright surfaces in front of the rails act as a slide buffer and should not be removed, or the slide may strike the rails. Only remove the plastic inside the scribe line. Polymer80 recommends mounting the fixture vertically in the vise and side milling with the end mill. I like to clamp the fixture horizontally and use a ball end mill.



The RMR is mounted into a slot cut into the slide and secured with two screws. Suppressor height sights are required.

An alternative method would be simply to file out the material or to grind it away with a Dremel. There has to be enough clearance for the recoil spring assembly. Once the front rail section is inserted in the frame, check for any excess material that might rub on the spring. The edges can be trimmed flush to the metal rail section with an X-ACTO knife or utility knife blade.

Drilling: Two drills are provided with the frame kit, 3mm and 4mm. Clamp the fixture in a bench vise. Polymer80 warns against clamping it so tight that the fixture bends and misaligns the holes slightly. The three pin holes that must be drilled are clearly marked to indicate drill size and location. Drill the holes with a hand-held portable drill, using the fixture as a guide. The temptation is to drill the holes all the way through the frame, but the instructions expressly warn against it. Drill the hole half-way through, flip the fixture around, and drill the other side. Pay attention to drill size. You don't want to drill the 3mm holes with a 4mm drill, or the frame is ruined. Note that there is already a hole in the frame for the forward rail section pin. This pin is not present in factory Glocks, because their rail sections are molded permanently into the frame.



Note the window in the optics slide designed to lighten it.

Frame assembly: The frame can be completed with a frame completion kit from Brownell's. OEM Glock 9mm kits are available for full size (100-023-595) and compact (100-024-280) frames, and .40 S&W parts are also available. Lone Wolf/Polymer80 sells completion kits under its own brand for full size (100-023-998) and compact (100-023-997). The only problem encountered with aftermarket parts was one connector that simply didn't function correctly. I replaced it with a Glock OEM connector, and we were good.

The frame assembly process started with the mag catch. The Poly80 mag catch was the extended variety, which I don't really prefer, but I used it. Next up was the slide lock spring and slide lock. The lip on the slide lock should face to the rear of the frame.

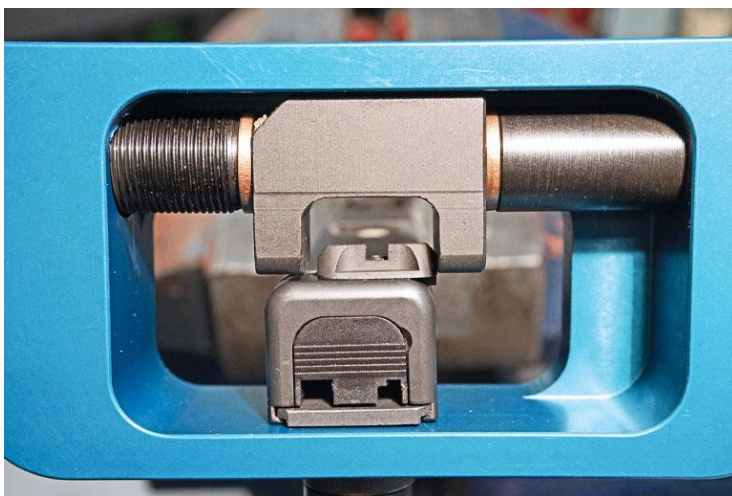
The front rail assembly (referred to as the Locking Block Rail System) is inserted into the frame. Getting it started into its slots can be frustrating due to a tight fit. Poly80 suggests spreading the frame slightly with a rod to start it. I used an aluminum rod I had on the bench, while holding the frame in a padded vise by the trigger guard. Prying the frame apart just in front of the trigger was all that was needed to start the LBRS into its slots. Leave it partially installed until the trigger is in place. Next, the rear rail section should slide into the frame easily. Install the trigger mechanism housing with trigger and trigger bar as an assembly. Install the front and rear pins supplied in the frame kit.



A PF940V2 frame fitted with a Glock 17L long slide. This setup is great fun for target shooting when a good trigger is installed.

Install the rear LBRS pin. Position the slide stop lever on the frame so the hole lines up with the hole in the locking block and trigger, and drive the trigger pin home. Sometimes this last 4mm pin can be tight. Install the slide assembly and perform a quick function check. Verify the slide moves through its full travel and the striker cocks. Dry fire the pistol to make sure the trigger works. Install an EMPTY magazine and retract the slide to ensure it locks to the rear. Check the slide lock to make sure it won't pull down when the slide is fully forward.

Slide options: The frames I assembled for this article will be 9mm pistols, so my slide options for the full-size frame will be Glock 17, 34 or 17L. The compact frame will get a Glock 19 slide. Complete Glock slide assemblies can be found on internet auction sites. They are not cheap. You will probably not save much, if any, money building a Glock from parts, as opposed to just buying a factory pistol. That said, there are custom slide options.



Installing a Novak rear sight with a pusher. Use caution.

Intrigued by the boom in optically sighted pistols, I purchased a slide from Brownell's (078-200-001), modified to accept a Trijicon RMR red-dot sight. The RMR fits on to two raised studs on the slide and is secured by two 4-40 flat-head cap screws. This is a secure mount. I have seen other slides with just two tapped holes in them, but Brownells goes one step further by adding tapered studs. I lost one screw during test firing, but the studs kept the RMR in place.

Admittedly, I'm not a huge fan of reflex-type sights, but if you are, the Brownells slide is a good option. Although the RMR only weighs about one ounce, the slide is lightened somewhat to compensate for the optic, with a slot or "window" cut into it behind the front sight. Material was also removed when the slot was cut to create an optic mounting interface. The addition of iron sights to an optics slide requires they be suppressor-height, and I chose a set of plain black sights from 10-8 Performance (10-8performance.com). A front sight height of .315" allowed the pistol to zero perfectly at seven yards.



Novak fiber optic front sight installed on the 17L slide.

Conventional iron-sighted slides in G17/22 and G19/23 lengths are available from Brownells at very reasonable prices, but they were sold out at the time I wrote this article, so I installed a Glock 19 top end on the compact PF940C frame. This made for a light, accurate carry gun, and the improved geometry of the Poly80 grip frame (in my opinion) allowed me to manipulate it easily.

I finished a second PF940V2 full-size frame (ok, I admit I was having fun at this point) and topped it with a Glock 17L slide assembly. Sight radius is your friend and this six-inch slide has it in spades. Apparently, Glock 17L slide assemblies must be manufactured from depleted uranium or some such expensive material, because the price of the complete upper is higher than a new standard pistol. No bargains here.

The question of sights for the 17L slide caused me to pause and study options. The Glock aftermarket contains dozens of sight choices. All I needed were a good plain, black rear and super visible, fiber optic front. As is my usual practice, I found myself checking the Novak web site (www.novaksights.com). I have used Novak sights for most of my gunsmithing career and continue to do so.



This Tactical Solutions TSG-22 slide is a drop-in replacement for a Glock 19 slide, providing cheap practice and indoor training options.

A familiar wedge-shaped Novak rear sight was installed on the 17L slide with a MGW 309S sight pusher. If you are changing sights on pistols today, such as Glocks, M&Ps, Berettas, etc., you need sight pusher tools. They may not be cheap, but they are indispensable. One note of caution: if the sight is too tight to install working the pusher manually, STOP and fit the sight. Forcing it further by adding an extension to the pusher handle may damage the pusher and even crack the slide (ask me how I know). A Novak green fiber optic front sight was installed with the standard hex head screw.

Triggers? Well, some people may find the average Glock trigger ok. I find them hideous. Apex Tactical, known for curing Crappy Trigger Syndrome, offers its Action Enhancement Kit for Glocks (Brownells 100-020-706), which includes an aluminum flat-faced trigger in your choice of several colors, a connector and a highly polished firing-pin safety. The result is a lighter trigger with shorter reset and better overall feel.

One last option worth mentioning is a .22 conversion kit. I tested a TSG-22 from Tactical Solutions (tacticalsol.com), which replaced the slide and magazine of the compact frame (PF940C1) and converted it into a .22 caliber Glock 19. A great training aid, the conversion requires high-velocity ammo to function properly. An old box of Remington Viper ammo cycled through it without a problem. The 10-round magazine is standard, rather than compact length. The slide assembly was extremely well-made and looked exactly like a standard Glock slide when mounted.

What's our next 80% build? Stay tuned. I've got some ideas...

<https://www.gunsandammo.com/editorial/keltec-p17-review/383484>

Brad Fitzpatrick - August 25, 2020

The new KelTec P17 semiauto offers a 16-plus-1 capacity of .22LR and costs less than \$200.



Photos by Mark Fingar

Sometimes the so-called “new” guns don’t seem new at all. Many are a rehashed version of the latest firearms trends with a few new features that dodge someone else’s patents, and finished with a new logo. If you’re tired of the last-night’s-- leftovers approach to gun making, let me remind you of KelTec.

Based in Cocoa, Florida, this year marks 25 years of manufacturing for KelTec, and from the start they’ve done things differently. You could also argue that KelTec were the ones who started the single-stack 9mm trend in ’95 with its P-11 — 20 years before the Glock 43 debuted. And who could forget the SUB-2000 9mm folding carbine, the radical KSG series of shotguns, and the compact RFB and RDB bullpup rifles? Today, this innovative company is introducing its latest super affordable, semiautomatic plinker, the P17.

Budget Minded

Let’s address the P17’s price to start. It’s advertised at \$199 (which sounds better than \$200), but in reality, gun store prices will offer it for a little less. That would make this gun a steal if it proves to be reliable, accurate and fun to shoot. The P17 is also easy to carry and conceal — not that Guns & Ammo would endorse carrying

any pistol in .22LR as a primary self-defense tool, but you could — and some people do.

The P17 does have some competition. The excellent Taurus TX22 was G&A's "2019 Handgun of the Year." However, the P17 has its price and size in its favor. The TX22 is \$150 more expensive and slightly larger in scale. But to each their credit, both offer a 16-round-capacity magazine.

Of course, there are other compact semiautos that shoot .22, but they are usually offered with 10-round-capacity magazines and are generally larger and heavier. Worthy examples are the new Glock 44 (\$430); the Ruger SR22 (\$439); Smith & Wesson's M&P22 Compact (\$389); and the Walther P22 (\$300). Another comparable pistol that emulates the more powerful LCP II centerfire models is the Ruger LCP II Lite Rack (\$349) in .22LR, which offers a capacity of 10 rounds.

Initial Observations

The P17's operating system is one feature on this gun that is conventional. It is a straight blowback design that uses energy from the fired cartridge to move the slide rearward, and then uses the compressed spring's pressure to slow the slide and return it to battery. This same system has worked on guns ranging from the venerable Colt Woodsman to the Ruger Mark series, among others.

Storied .22 pistols have paved the way for contemporary rimfires. Like many other .22s of its type, the P17 has a unique feature: Only a portion of the slide moves rearward during cycling. Yep, look closely and you'll see that the barrel on the P17 is fixed in position — it doesn't move! As we've seen on other pistols, this fixed-barrel design tends to improve accuracy potential.



However, unlike most blowback .22s that feature fixed sights over a fixed barrel (to ensure consistent sight-over-bore alignment), the P17's front and rear sight move with the slide's action during cycling. When fired, the entire top portion of the P17 moves rearward, including the sights. This is not a problem provided that the sights return to the exact same position relative to the barrel after each shot. It made me wonder if this system might limit the accuracy potential of this gun.



The front sight is a fiber optic.

Another KelTec P17 feature is the set of notch-and-post sights fastened to its reciprocating slide. The front sight wears a green fiber-optic insert and the rear adjusts using an Allen wrench, which KelTec kindly provides. Turning the front screw counterclockwise elevates the rear of the sight and raises point-of-impact downrange. At a certain point, the front of the sight blocks the post, but lowering the sight to that level will drop the point of impact to the ground (or nearly) at 25 yards. I didn't find this to be a real problem for practical shooting applications.



The rear sight is adjustable using the provided wrench.

To adjust windage, I used the same provided Allen wrench to turn the screw on the rear sight. A clockwise rotation moves the point of impact to the right, while counterclockwise moves groups to the left.

The P17 is screwed together with an assortment of Allen screws — no less than 11 that are visible on the left side of the gun. (This does not include the screws on the rear sight. There are two additional screws on the front sight.) These screws secure the sight's polymer shroud in place on the slide and hold the two halves of the gun's polymer outer frame together. For the range, you'll also want to have a 2mm wrench for sight adjustments (also provided) and a 2.5mm wrench for those other screws.



The magazine well is basic and thin walled. The magazine holds 16 rounds of .22LR and slides in and out without fuss.

If you enjoy working on your own guns, you'll love how easy the P17 is to break down, clean and maintain. It's disassembly procedure is fantastically simple. To fieldstrip the unloaded gun, remove the magazine by retracting the back the slide and pressing down on the two tabs that extend from the left and right of the frame below the barrel. (The tabs protruding from the lockbar are wide and easy enough to use.) Next, slowly lift and move the top of the slide forward to expose the 3.8-inch barrel. Once the slide is removed, you can easily swab the fixed barrel clean.



The P17 slide locks back on an empty magazine. With a loaded mag inserted, a .22 LR round has a short jump into the chamber.

If you want to access the internals of the P17 trigger, you'll have to separate the two polymer halves of the gun. This disassembly requires — you guessed it — an Allen wrench. Removing the top polymer shroud (again, secured by two Allen screws) offers access to the bolt assembly, which can then be separated from the metal slide by pulling them apart. Inside the bolt you'll find a dagger-shaped firing pin with a spring on top and an easy-to-remove extractor.



The breech face is recessed into the bolt with slots around the rim of a case allowing the extractor, ejector and striker to work.

Perhaps my favorite design element on this gun is the ambidextrous paddle-style magazine release located at the rear of the triggerguard. I'm one who likes that the paddle magazine releases on some of the HK and Walther pistols, and while I might be in the minority, I find the paddle design easy to reach with either hand when shooting. Once you're accustomed to it, this system is quite intuitive.

Full Control



The safety lever is ambidextrous and reveals a ready-to-fire red dot when pushed down.

The P17's frame houses the internal hammer. You'll also see that there's a square window at the rear of the slide that could act as a cocking indicator. It also features an ambidextrous safety lever and a small, extended slide-release tab located in front of and above the safety. Like the slide stop, the safety has a relatively wide tab that's easy to access from either side.



The P17's grip features KelTec's waffle pattern with a ledge on both sides to support the thumb and paddle-style mag release.

Does the P17's grip make you feel like you're picking up and holding something other than a KelTec? Nope. The same can be said of the angled slide cuts on the polymer shroud. The grip on the P17 features KelTec's signature rectangular box texturing, and there's a slight arc to the rear of the grip that allows it to sit comfortably in the hand, while also promoting a high hold. The left and right portions of the grip are flat, and the front strap is angled for complete comfortability.



The P17 is a lot of fun to shoot suppressed.

Up front, KelTec designed an accessory rail under the barrel's dustcover that will accommodate the attachment of most aftermarket lights and lasers. And to the point of attaching accessories, the P17's extended $\frac{1}{2}$ x28 barrel is threaded to accept either a muzzle device or suppressor. Out of the box, the barrel is given a thread protector and wrench.



A wrench is provided to easily remove or install the barrel's thread muzzle cap.

At The Range

As you might expect from a handgun with this much polymer, the P17 is light. Guns & Ammo's test gun weighed 15 ounces loaded and 11 ounces empty. Suffice to say, the P17 has minimal mass. Magazine capacity is 16 rounds, which is impressive considering its price tag. We also send our compliments to KelTec for including three polymer magazines.



The magazine holds 16 rounds of .22LR and slides in and out without fuss. The trigger on the P17 is actually quite light, also. I measured an average right around 3 pounds on a Wheeler gauge. It had a lot of take up and tightened just a bit before firing a shot, but it is target-gun light despite not being target-gun clean. Once you shoot the P17 a few times, you'll get a feel for the trigger and will be able to better predict when it's going to fire.

The best five-shot group of the day was obtained using Winchester's Wildcat 40--grain copper-plated load. From 25 yards, it measured 1.85 inches. It was a strange group with two shots touching inside the center square and the other three shots touching almost 2 inches higher. I had to pull the target off the backing to be sure that there were indeed five holes. Winchester's Wildcat ammunition later produced the second-best group of the day, and it seemed to be the ammo that the P17 preferred. CCI's Mini Mag hollowpoints proved to be the second most accurate. Despite the sights moving with the slide, this didn't seem to detract from overall accuracy.



Full Disclosure

Twenty-two long-rifle ammunition isn't the easiest cartridge to make reliable in semiauto pistols. As a point of record, Editor Eric Poole tested two prototypes of the

P17 in 2019 and experienced reliability problems. He ended up returning both of G&A's preproduction pistols to KelTec with advice that they be further developed.

Since January 2020, production P17s have had a few reported problems. However, the one I evaluated produced only a few malfunctions. The majority of the issues involved spent casings getting stuck inside the gun's action, which jammed the pistol when the return spring slammed the bolt home.

There were also several failures to ignite the primer, and the firing pin struck high on the rim. Four times the extractor failed to draw the spent case from the chamber, but three of those occurred when shooting Aguila ammunition. Two of these failure-to-extract times happened in a row, so I swabbed out the P17's chamber to be sure that the extractor and spring worked properly. Unfortunately, the problem occurred again. The feeding, extraction and ejection issues were most common in the first 100 rounds, but I later tried a CCI Mini-Mag High Velocity load and completed the remainder of my endurance testing without issue.

The Verdict

Though the P17 is not perfect, it does offer great value potential. And while its plastic styling and plethora of Allen screws could be a hang-up for some, if you're still reading this, you're probably not one of them.

The P17 is intended to be a fun gun, and for under \$200 it delivers when fed a load of ammo that it likes. Which ammo is best? I suggest that you shoot a box from several different types and enjoy the process of figuring that out for yourself. Each of G&A's samples preferred something different.

KelTec isn't tied to the traditional formula of gun making, and the buckets-of-fun P17 is an example of why their guns remain so appealing.

PERFORMANCE

LOAD	VEL. (FPS)	ES	SD	BEST GROUP (IN.)	AVG. GROUP (IN.)
Winchester Wildcat 40-gr. RN	917	72	25	1.85	2.31
CCI Maxi-Mag 36-gr. HP	989	69	23	2.42	2.65
Aguila Super Maximum 30-gr. HP	1,153	141	43	2.58	2.94
Fed. Gold Medal Target 40-gr. RN	876	41	16	2.91	3.03
CCI Clean-22 40-gr. RN	919	74	23	2.96	3.33

SEE PHOTO GALLERY

Notes: Accuracy results are average of five, five-shot-shot groups at 25 yards from a fixed rest. Velocity figures are 10-shot averages measured by a Shooting Chrony digital chronograph placed 10 feet from the muzzle.

KelTec P17

- **Type:** Blowback operated, semiautomatic
- **Cartridge:** .22 LR
- **Capacity:** 16+1 rds.
- **Barrel:** 3.8 in.
- **Overall Length:** 6.7 in.
- **Width:** 1.2 in.
- **Height:** 5.3 in.
- **Weight:** 11 oz. (tested, empty)
- **Finish:** Black
- **Sights:** Fiber optic (front); adj. notch (rear)
- **Trigger:** 3 lbs., 2 oz. (tested)
- **MSRP:** \$200
- **Manufacturer:** Kel-Tec CNC Industries, 321-631-0068, keltecweapons.com

Jim Grant - August 17, 2020

The Wilkinson Arms Linda 9mm Carbine offers old-world quality and nostalgic lines, coupled with modern reliability and modularity.



Photo by Michael Anschuetz

If you've ever read any of my previous articles, or seen any of the videos I've produced, you know that I have an obsession with pistol-caliber carbines. Fast-shooting with very little felt recoil, the idea of a little semiautomatic carbine chambered in an affordable, yet potent little cartridge has always fascinated me (and caused irreparable damage to my bank account).

The other firearms that are ruinous to my bank account are Cold War-era carbines and pistols whose designs seem torn between eras. From the wood-stocked Armalite AR-180 SCS and the integrally-suppressed Sterling Mk. V, to original UZI carbines with wooden stocks, Ruger's AC556, and guns from around the time of the Vietnam War, I appreciate guns that have a unique feel and look to them, which is often lacking in modern firearms.



It's hard to pinpoint exactly, but these firearms share a design philosophy that is equal parts WWII-stamped subgun, atomic-age rocketry and 50s chic interior design. By this, I mean the designs are still functionally utilitarian, like war-time production guns, but feature blended, aerodynamic aesthetics featuring wooden accents, in an attempt to reduce weight and appear modern and streamlined, but also familiar.

I've always believed this was because engineers at the time were hitting the first real wall in terms of performance gains in small-arms tech. Firearms are a mature technology; the quantum leaps in accuracy, reliability and effective range seen during the First World War aren't possible with today's designs



In the early 1980s, the original Wilkinson Arms offered the Linda in a pistol version. The current Wilkinson Arms will also produce these via special order. Because of this, engineers were willing to take risks on external and ergonomics design principles because they knew the underlying technology was solid. One of the coolest examples of this was the J&R Engineering M-68.

Chambered in 9mm Parabellum, the M-68 is an overbuilt, direct-blowback carbine built almost exclusively from plastic and steel. Introduced in the early- to mid-1960s by Ray Wilkinson and Bob Penny, the gun saw initial commercial success, providing them enough mail orders to keep their company, J&R Engineering, well in the black.



A closer look at the barrel's 1/2x28 threaded muzzle. Unfortunately, the introduction of the Gun Control Act of 1968, all but wiped out the little company, and, within months, J&R ceased operations. The remaining assets and parts were transferred to Bob Penney, who sold M-68 carbines under the PJK company name. The M-68 was eventually redesigned with its bolt handle relocated from the top of the receiver to the left side; the carbine was reintroduced as the M-80 model, which featured a port cover similar to the M-16 as one of its improvements. Some years later, the new company, Wilkinson Arms, with Ray Wilkinson involved again, introduced the Wilkinson Terry Carbine, which featured an improvement on late-model M-80 carbines, namely, a standard thumb-activated magazine release instead of the earlier European magazine release located at the bottom rear of the magazine well.



One glance at the internals of the Linda, and shooters will immediately know it's not lightweight. The receiver is milled from a single piece of steel—it's more Thompson SMG than MP-40 in terms of construction.

In the early 1980s, the Wilkinson Linda Carbine was introduced. It had a shorter receiver than the Terry carbine, but the new firearm retained many of the same parts from the M-68, including the grip assembly and fire-control group. A pistol version was also offered. While the new gun did see commercial success, popularity waned, and, by 1989, the little pistol-caliber carbine was discontinued. Around 2005, and after the passing of the gun's original designer, Ray Wilkinson, a new manufacturer, Northwest Arms, began producing an updated Linda Carbine. In 2015, Patrick McFarland purchased the Linda tooling, parts and rights and resurrected the company under the original name, Wilkinson Arms, to honor the original inventor.



Not only is the shape of the Linda's handguard different, shooters can also opt for a tactical, aluminum-railed version.

Today's Linda Carbine

Heavily based on the original Linda Carbine, it incorporates many of the M-68 original parts, as well as all the design improvements Ray Wilkinson implemented over the design's lifespan. However, unlike the many of the early Linda models, the new Linda also features a 1/2x28 thread pitch (instead of the 9/16x20 thread pitch on the originals), making it ideal for mounting 9mm sound suppressors and other muzzle devices like brakes or compensators, though neither are needed at all.



Not only is the shape of the Linda's handguard different, shooters can also opt for a tactical, aluminum-railed version.

The felt recoil on the Linda is very mild, and not simply because of the limited recoil impulse of a 9mm pistol round fired from a carbine. The other factor that dampens the recoil of the Linda is its overall weight—around seven pounds unloaded.



With the railed handguard installed, shooters can attach any accessory they want, like this Magpul angled foregrip.

Another aspect changed from the original is the feed ramp. In previous iterations of the Linda pistol, the feed ramp was made of polymer and only cut for ball ammunition. This version of the Linda instead features and appears to have a more scalloped, more finely polished ramp to accommodate defensive and semi-wadcutter ammo.



The Linda feeds from both an 18-round, flush-fitting magazine and an extended, 31-round version.

While this change isn't readily apparent, the differences in the wooden handguard are. While the original versions of the carbine featured a fully rounded, smoothly finished handguard, the new Linda instead opted for a trapezoidal, angular-cut handguard. While it certainly looks cool and likely reduces build time, it isn't as

comfortable as the original. Thankfully, the new Linda is totally compatible with original parts, allowing shooters to replace this handguard with an original one.

Lastly, the new Wilkinson Arms carbines visually differentiate themselves from the original guns with the inclusion of an engraving of “Murphy, ID”, which indicates the new location of the manufacturing facility, on the right side of the grip assembly. Cosmetic, material, and external differences notwithstanding, the gun is functionally identical to its original design—which is a good thing.



The Linda’s barrel indexes itself with the help of a pegged barrel support sleeve and an interlocking, notched barrel collar.

The simplistic, direct-blowback operating system of the Linda guarantees it will function, provided the ammo used is strong enough to positively cycle the bolt. But what’s really interesting is how much the design borrows from other successful submachine gun designs.

For example, the bolt itself is telescopic, like the Israeli sub gun, the Uzi. This is a brilliant choice, as it permits the carbine to be vastly shorter for two reasons. The bolt itself covers a portion of the barrel when in the locked position, and this allows consolidating the pistol grip and magazine well (like the Uzi and Czech Sa vz. 23), because the receiver doesn’t need additional internal space at the rear for a recoil spring. Another inspired trait is the method of barrel retention used on the Linda.



The large notches on the support sleeve serve as point of leverage for a screwdriver or other tool to assist in disassembly and removal of the bolt.

Just like the British Sten and the Israeli Uzi, the Linda secures its barrel to the receiver with a massive barrel nut located at the front of the receiver. Unlike the Uzi, the Linda doesn't utilize an external spring-loaded catch to prevent the nut from walking itself loose. Instead, the Linda uses an internal, indented one (not unlike the American M3 "Grease Gun") inside a massive notch on its barrel support sleeve that pulls double duty as an indexing point as well.



The barrel is secured to the support sleeve with a massive threaded nut. This notch also functions as a lever point for a screwdriver or oversized Allen key to assist in disassembly. When secure, the barrel support sleeve contains the bolt assembly and aligns the barrel and chamber with the magazine well. While this sounds somewhat confusing at a glance, it's actually very straightforward in practice.



This method of construction is very similar to that of the Uzi submachine gun, shown here, above the Linda.

One last sub gun-inspired trait is the construction and design of the Linda's rear sight. Just like the military versions of the Thompson SMG, the M1 and M1A1, the Linda's rear sight is a simple, fixed aperture-type peep built from a single piece of folded steel secured by machine screws to the top of the receiver.

Shooters looking for something a little more compact can contact Wilkinson, and they'll build pistol versions of the Linda to order.



The rear sight bears more than a passing resemblance to that of the Thompson M1 / M1A1 SMG of WWI.

What About Performance, Though?

I consulted shooters who owned the previous iteration of the Linda carbine, and most stated that the feed ramp gave them issues with certain types of ammo. The most problematic ones were those with either semi-wadcutter or hollow-point projectiles, as well as any round weighing over 124 grains.



The Linda's telescopic bolt installs from the front of the receiver and allows for a very compact design.

Given that auto-loading firearms of the time struggled with these rounds, this isn't surprising. Plus, the original guns utilized polymer feed ramps, which, after thousands of rounds, would change shape or wear out and rend the weapon totally unreliable.



Like most of the gun, the bolt, too, is milled from a solid block of steel.

Thankfully, Wilkinson has replaced the polymer feed ramp with a steel one, and polished it to function with both defensive and semi-wadcutter ammunition. Testing further confirmed this, as the gun never encountered a single failure to feed in the hundreds of rounds fired through it.



The Linda's charging handle threads directly into the bolt itself. Part of disassembling the firearm is unscrewing this charging handle with the aid of an Allen key.

Four brands of ammo were used for the review, each representing different ends of the 9mm ammo weight/shape spectrum. Federal 115gr FMJ was used as a control, as it represents the most common grain and bullet type of 9mm ammo on the market.



While the feed ramps aren't polymer anymore, the grip panels are—but they're comfortable, durable and don't block access to the gun's push-button magazine release.

HPR's frangible 85gr OTP rounds were used to check how well the Linda's barrel could stabilize lightweight, higher-velocity rounds. Next were my go-to defensive rounds from [Hornady](#), its 147gr XTP Critical Duty rounds. These were chosen to see how well the Linda's feed ramp could handle both heavier and hollow-point rounds.



Alternatively, shooters can replace the standard charging handle with an extended one—ideal for use with large optics that might impede or obstruct access to the charger.

Last was the wildcard of the group. A now-defunct company called Oath Ammunition manufactured a solid copper 100gr, pre-cut ball-contour round. In my experience, this round either performs exceptionally or terribly, with no regard to barrel twist or length—but I figured it would be interesting to include.



Charging the Linda with a scope mounted can be difficult with the included charging handle.

Accuracy from the carbine was superb with certain rounds. Let's start off with the bad news first: the Linda hates Oath ammo almost as much as Pelosi hates guns. Fired from a rest, the Linda could only squeeze out six-inch groups at 50 yards! Initially, I believed the rounds were key-holing because of this abhorrent accuracy, but closer examination of the target proved otherwise.



Mounting optics on the Linda isn't difficult, but its antiquated mounting method doesn't inspire a great deal of confidence.

The Good News?

The Linda was outstanding with every other brand of ammunition tested—even the lightweight frangible rounds. For example, Federal's bargain ammo cranked out sub two-inch groups at 50 yards when fired from a rest. Meanwhile, Hornady's 147gr Critical Defense rounds grouped slighter smaller, at 1.83 inches.



Direct blow-back firearms like the Linda make excellent suppressor hosts. Here, the Linda wears an Innovative Arms 9mm can from SilencerShop.

The belle of the ball was HPR's ultra-light Black Ops 85gr OTF rounds. This little black bullet achieved an astounding 1.4-inch group at 50 yards!

Impressed, I pushed the Linda out to 100 yards with the help of a four-power, Nikon P223 scope. Here, HPR's rounds didn't perform quite as well as predicted, grouping a hair over four inches. Presumably, the lightweight bullet's ballistic coefficient is not substantial enough to keep rounds in as tight a group at further ranges.

This was unscientifically confirmed by firing a few five-round groups with Horandy's heavier 147gr rounds. The best of these groups measured 3.44 inches on an [NRA SR-1](#), 100-yard reduction target. Still, the performance of the Linda might be further enhanced with the addition of a higher magnification optic than the Nikon four-power scope used.



Tactical rail, M4 CQB stock and a Primary Arms flash hider: this ain't your daddy's Linda!

And this brings me to my first qualm with the Linda: mounting optics.

While I understand the Linda was designed before widespread use of Picatinny rails, the method of attaching optics to the little carbine is far from ideal. The top of the receiver is adorned with a full-length dovetail rail like many rimfire carbines of the day.



The Linda ships with this pretty wooden stock (bottom) but can use M4-type stocks like this Phase 5 Tactical Universal Mini Stock, with an adaptor.

While dovetail rails work great with airguns and rimfire carbines, they lack the recoil groove found on both Weaver and Picatinny rails. Effectively, this means two things. First, a shooter's choice of optics is very limited, as few companies build their optics with this interface in mind. Second, the lack of recoil groove can lead to the optic shifting position and loose zero. Repeatability of mounting optics is also very difficult.

The other issue I had with the carbine is the design of the ejection-port cover. While it partially resembles those found on AR-15, M4 and M16 rifles, it differs in one truly unfortunate way: it can't be fired when the cover is in the closed position. Rather, it can be fired in that position—once. Doing so destroys the cover's ability to snap closed. This is an annoyance to be sure, but certainly not a deal-breaker. After all, the gun ran without issue for more than 400 rounds when test fired. This includes both with the standard thread protector installed and an Innovative Arms 9mm suppressor provided by SilencerShop. In both configurations, the Linda was utterly reliable with very little felt recoil.



A closer look at the M4-stock adaptor available from Wilkinson Arms. Overall, the Linda isn't going to dethrone high-dollar pistol-caliber carbines from military manufacturers like SIG and H&K, but it's not meant to. Instead, the Linda offers old-world quality and nostalgic lines, coupled with modern reliability and, to some extent, modularity. This is where the Linda truly shines, as an "old-school-cool" PCC that would be equally at home as a plinker, suppressor host or excellent SBR candidate. It might not be the most tactical blaster in town, but the Linda scratches an itch that modern guns just can't reach.

Wilkinson Arms Linda 9mm Carbine Specs

- Caliber: 9mm
- Barrel Length: 16 inches
- Thread Pitch: 1/2 x 28
- OA Length: 31.7 inches

- Weight: 6.1 pounds unloaded
- Stock: Fixed steel tube with wooden buttpad. Also uses M4 stocks with adaptor.
- Sights: Fixed front post, Aperture “peep” rear
- Action: Direct blowback
- Finish: Black powdercoat
- Capacity: 18+1, 31+1
- MSRP: \$799
- Info/Contact: WilkinsonArms.com; (208) 495-4958

Wilkinson Arms Linda 9mm Carbine Accuracy Results (50 Yards)

Load	Bullet Weight (gr)	Muzzle Velocity (fps)	Standard Deviation	Avg. Group (in.)
Federal FMJ	115	1347	18	2.47
Hornady XTP (HP)	147	1160	15	2.01
HPR OTF (Open Tip Frangible)	85	1519	11	1.40
Oath Tango (HP with copper cover)	100	1447	8	6.40

Gun owners are living through another history lesson.

May 06, 2020



Too many Americans were cringing in the first weeks of March when the COVID-19 pandemic began to grip the nation. Grocery stores had their shelves stripped bare, the stock market went into freefall, and government officials began talking in tones that sounded a lot like a prelude to martial law. Law and order within our crowded, complex society started to feel as tenuous as it always is, though human nature prevents most of us from acknowledging it because it's too unsettling.

Many of today's new gun owners have developed a self-defense mindset, but they haven't had any real guidance or motivation to act beyond making the decision to purchase a gun. With the COVID-19 crisis, those who did not act may be experiencing regret.

LOOKING BACK

In the third week of March, governors began to issue "stay-at-home" orders and closed all businesses that were not deemed "essential." Most, even in those states considered radically anti-gun like Illinois, Connecticut, and Hawaii designated firearm-related businesses as essential but others in New York, Massachusetts, and even New Mexico refused and ordered their closure. New Jersey and Pennsylvania initially closed all gun stores but soon reversed course.

New Jersey's governor badly wanted to keep his citizens from acquiring firearms but reluctantly submitted after the National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF), the firearm industry trade association, was successful in its work with the Trump Administration. At its request, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) issued a second set of non-binding guidance to states that included those who are part of the firearm and ammunition industries naming their workers as essential in the effort to maintain the nation's key infrastructure. The NSSF's work at the federal, state, and local levels was instrumental in keeping many gun stores and ranges open across the country.

Cities and counties generated their own orders if governors chose to keep their powder dry and refrain from statewide mandates. Gun shops in places like Dallas, Austin, and Houston, all in what is generally deemed the pro-gun state of Texas, were ordered to close by local officials. They knew they were violating the states' strong firearm preemption laws, thanks to the lobbying work of the NRA through the years, but arrogance prevailed in certain areas. After a few days of chaos, Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton slapped his local tyrants across the chops with a formal opinion citing the unambiguous state law prohibiting them from restricting gun sales in any manner. Governor Greg Abbott also issued his own statewide order that recognized gun stores and ranges as essential, pursuant to the NSSF-won DHS guidance.

The clear lesson from all of this is that anti-gun government officials will act with craven disregard for individual rights and the Constitution if they think they have justification to do so. Because of the gun store closures in New York, Massachusetts, and New Mexico, 10 percent of the country's population – more than 30 million people – live in places where they cannot buy firearms. Even buying a firearm from a willing neighbor is not possible because each of these states have imposed universal background check laws. Americans are literally being prevented from exercising their right to keep and bear arms.

In these states, businesses like dry cleaners and liquor stores remain open as essential, but the stores that sell the only explicitly protected property named in the Constitution are forcibly shuttered. If social order ever collapses and violence results, at least those who sought the protection offered by a firearm can wear a freshly starched shirt and have a bourbon in hand as the trouble comes. The NRA and other groups have filed lawsuits, but they will be resolved long after the COVID-19 emergency has passed.

NICS Firearm Background Checks: Month/Year

November 30, 1998 - April 30, 2020

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Totals
1998											21,196	871,644	892,840
1999	591,355	696,323	753,083	646,712	576,272	569,493	589,476	703,394	808,627	945,701	1,004,333	1,253,354	9,138,123
2000	639,972	707,070	736,543	617,689	538,648	550,561	542,520	682,501	782,087	845,886	898,598	1,000,962	8,543,037
2001	640,528	675,156	729,532	594,723	543,501	540,491	539,498	707,288	864,038	1,029,691	983,186	1,062,559	8,910,191
2002	665,803	694,668	714,665	627,745	569,247	518,351	535,594	693,139	724,123	849,281	887,647	974,059	8,454,322
2003	653,751	708,281	736,864	622,832	567,436	529,334	533,289	683,517	738,371	856,863	842,932	1,008,118	8,481,588
2004	695,000	723,654	738,298	642,589	542,456	546,847	561,773	666,598	740,260	865,741	890,754	1,073,701	8,687,671
2005	685,811	743,070	768,290	658,954	557,058	555,560	561,358	687,012	791,353	852,478	927,419	1,164,582	8,952,945
2006	775,518	820,679	845,219	700,373	626,270	616,097	631,156	833,070	919,487	970,030	1,045,194	1,253,840	10,036,933
2007	894,608	914,954	975,806	840,271	803,051	792,943	757,884	917,358	944,889	1,025,123	1,079,923	1,230,525	11,177,335
2008	942,556	1,021,130	1,040,863	940,961	886,183	819,891	891,224	956,872	973,003	1,183,279	1,529,635	1,523,426	12,709,023
2009	1,213,885	1,259,078	1,345,096	1,225,980	1,023,102	968,145	966,162	1,074,757	1,093,230	1,233,982	1,223,252	1,407,155	14,033,824
2010	1,119,229	1,243,211	1,300,100	1,233,761	1,016,876	1,005,876	1,069,792	1,089,374	1,145,798	1,368,184	1,296,223	1,521,192	14,409,616
2011	1,323,336	1,473,513	1,449,724	1,351,255	1,230,953	1,168,322	1,157,041	1,310,041	1,253,752	1,340,273	1,534,414	1,862,327	16,454,951
2012	1,377,301	1,749,903	1,727,881	1,427,343	1,316,226	1,302,660	1,300,704	1,526,206	1,459,363	1,614,032	2,006,919	2,783,765	19,592,303
2013	2,495,440	2,309,393	2,209,407	1,714,433	1,435,917	1,281,351	1,283,912	1,419,088	1,401,562	1,687,599	1,813,643	2,041,528	21,093,273
2014	1,660,355	2,086,863	2,488,842	1,742,946	1,485,259	1,382,975	1,402,228	1,546,497	1,456,032	1,603,469	1,803,397	2,309,684	20,968,547
2015	1,772,794	1,859,584	2,012,488	1,711,340	1,580,980	1,529,057	1,600,832	1,745,410	1,795,102	1,976,759	2,243,030	3,314,594	23,141,970
2016	2,545,802	2,613,074	2,523,265	2,145,865	1,870,000	2,131,485	2,197,169	1,853,815	1,992,219	2,333,539	2,561,281	2,771,159	27,538,673
2017	2,043,184	2,234,817	2,433,092	2,045,564	1,942,677	1,901,768	1,742,546	1,925,146	1,967,104	2,030,391	2,382,788	2,586,138	25,235,215
2018	2,030,530	2,333,193	2,767,699	2,223,213	2,002,992	1,935,691	1,835,318	2,073,296	1,956,681	2,086,895	2,393,043	2,543,385	26,181,936
2019	2,165,094	2,053,886	2,644,851	2,334,249	2,349,309	2,312,309	2,030,661	2,366,824	2,207,312	2,393,609	2,574,752	2,936,894	28,369,750
2020	2,702,702	2,802,467	3,740,688	2,911,128									12,156,985
2021													

TOTAL 345,161,051

In the beginning, dealers rationed gun and ammo sales in an effort to ensure as many customers as possible could find the protection they desired. March set an all-time record for the FBI's National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) associated with gun purchases in a single month at 3.74 million. That is 34 percent more than February and 12 percent more than the previous record in December 2015. The month of April 2020 settled slightly to more than 2.91 million.

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2020	2,702,702	2,802,467	3,740,688	2,911,128									12,156,985
2021													

TOTAL 345,161,051

SEE PHOTO GALLERY

NOTE: These statistics represent the number of firearm background checks initiated through the NICS. They do not represent the number of firearms sold. Based on varying state laws and purchase scenarios, a one-to-one correlation cannot be made between a firearm background check and a firearm sale.

Even in states where gun stores remain open and supply has not been depleted, the ability to actually buy a gun has been far from guaranteed. NICS has been overwhelmed for the volume of gun purchases. As usual, any checks that do not get an immediate approval from a database search go into "delay" status to allow time for an investigation. This might be due to a past arrest with no clear disposition or a customer's name and date of birth are too similar to a someone who is actually prohibited.

Federal law specifies that the background investigation may take up to three business days. After these three days, the dealer can transfer the firearm to the customer, approved or not. This is a critical component of law that keeps government officials from unilaterally and indefinitely delaying firearm transfers through never-ending investigations. A “business day” is considered a day when the offices in the state where the transfer is occurring are open for official business. No state has completely shuttered all state offices during the COVID-19 crisis.

Regardless, the FBI has been giving gun dealers a Brady Transfer Date that is as many as 28 days out from the date the background check is requested by the dealer. There is no legal authority for the FBI to do this and it is another example of the United States government behaving badly during times of uncertainty. Even gun dealers in small towns who know their customers refuse to transfer guns after the three days specified in law because they fear the consequences of disobeying the FBI’s extralegal guidance.

The appropriate and legal act that the FBI should have done while tens of thousands of investigations piled up was to simply tell gun dealers, “You know you have the right to transfer the firearm(s) to the customer after three business days. However, we kindly *request* that you wait until _____ to transfer the firearm(s) in order to give us time to deal with this mess.” It chose not to do this, which is why citizens are right to be suspicious of the government’s growing power.

There are about 20 states including Nevada where gun dealers must first go through state officials for the background check before it is sent to the FBI for the national check. These are called “Point of Contact” states. Nevada’s Department of Public Safety (DPS) runs the state’s portion of the background check. It is so overwhelmed that Nevada’s DPS simply stopped answering calls from gun stores. Dealers began to FAX customer information out of desperation, but the FAX machines were often ignored.

Under federal law, a background check that has been initiated by a dealer expires after 30 days. The delays in Nevada, due to the overwhelmed DPS, have been so bad that dealers must often call customers back into their shop to start the process over again. All of this has made a mockery of the so-called “instant” background check system. Many would-be new gun owners living in Nevada and other places have not been able to get past the administrative blockade associated with the background check system that gun control advocates want to expand.

LOOKING AHEAD

Between the manufacturers' supply challenges to distributors and retailers, state and local governments' orders to shut down gun stores, and the broken background check system becoming so overwhelmed that it ceases to function, law-abiding Americans can never be certain that they'll be able to buy guns when they need them most. The lesson here is to buy guns, ammo, and other essentials long before you actually need them.

<https://www.gunsandammo.com/editorial/how-to-survive-panic-buying/376134>

Brad Fitzpatrick - May 08, 2020

Five things gun owners should remember when fear empties a gun store's shelves.



By now you've felt the effects of the coronavirus pandemic and are weary of it. You may not have the disease, but the near-global shutdown will continue to be felt for some time. Millions of people have reconsidered the importance for ensuring their own personal safety, which has prompted many law-abiding citizens to buy a gun — or at least try to buy a gun. For some, purchasing firearms and ammunition is not an option due to local restrictions or a lack of supply.

Guns & Ammo has been discussing what's to come with firearm and ammunition manufacturers, and though most won't divulge specific numbers of specific items sold, one fact is clear: guns and ammo are continuing to sell, and there's no indication that demand will let up anytime soon. To be honest, manufacturers are now facing their own supply issues of key ingredients or the unavailability of small parts and components. Finding guns and ammo is likely to become more challenging before. Here are five considerations to successfully navigate periods of high demand.

1. Demand during periods of panic buying is focused.



Gun store owners, firearm and ammunition manufacturers and retailers share a similar story: The demand in a panic buy is focused on defensive handguns, AR-type or black rifles, and pump shotguns are experiencing the most sales and demand. Legislation aimed at taking away specific firearms — AR-15s and magazine-fed semiautomatics are the most common target — causes gun sales to boom. What dealers have seen, however, are that panic buyers aren't typically connoisseurs. You can still find guns and ammunition for excellent defensive-worthy cartridges such as .357 SIG, .38 Super, 10mm Auto, and .44 Special. There's also a higher demand for affordable guns and high-quality pistols and rifles higher price tags. Whereas some cost-conscious customers may have been reluctant to purchase a pistol from Ed Brown, Nighthawk Custom or Wilson Combat, we're hearing that people are starting to reconsider these as options with more firearms being sold in the \$1,500 to \$2,500 range than usual.

2. Ammo outsells firearms when panic strikes.

Not surprisingly, 9mm and 5.56 NATO/.223 Remington loads are the hardest to find with .380 ACP, .38 Special/.357 Magnum, .40 S&W and .45 ACP handgun ammo are almost gone, especially near urban populations. The post-COVID-19 lesson for the rest of us is to be sure we stock up on ammo — especially range loads such as those from American Eagle, Fiocchi, Hornady Frontier, Remington UMC and Winchester's white box. These loads fly off store shelves first. If the effects of the pandemic lasts for a year or more, you'll want to have plenty of ammunition to enjoy or train with.



As brisk as gun sales have been over the last couple weeks (NICS background checks are up about 300 percent from this time last year), we've found that ammo is at the heart of the current buying spree. [Brownells.com](https://www.brownells.com) typically stocks dozens of loads of 9mm ammo, but our choices are currently down to one brand as of this writing. There are load for .380 ACP, .40 S&W and .45 ACP ammo still available, but supplies are so low that the remaining products could be gone in hours. There are still pistols available for sale in every one of those sold-out calibers, however. The takeaway is that ammo supplies dry up faster than firearms during a panic buy.

3. Understanding the supply chain is important.

Not many consumers understand how the supply chain for guns and ammunition works. Firearms and ammunition are made or assembled from third party sources (depending on the company) and then shipped to retailers or distributors who then either sell the items directly to customers or to other, gun stores. Understanding the supply chain can help you get your hands on what's available among the in-demand items.

“Large retailers usually fill out requests sooner than smaller ones, and that means they'll often get product first,” said Hornady's Neal Emery. “It's a good idea to get on a waiting list at places like Brownells, Midway USA, Mid-South, Natchez Shooters Supply, and others. Because those companies do high sales volumes at all times, they have to be thinking ahead constantly. So, their orders have already been placed, and that can move you to the front of the line.

4. This will affect hunting season.

Without question, the current demand is about to impact the 2020 hunting season. Just because you don't hunt big game with a 9mm or 5.56mm chambering doesn't mean that you won't feel the aftershocks of the current buying spree either. While resources are being centered around meeting demand for high-volume products, you can expect that production of other products will slow, too.



“It takes time to swap out a bullet press,” Emery said. “That means right now there’s not a lot of incentive to set up a machine that’s making .30-caliber bullets to suddenly start making .25-caliber bullets.” That is bad news for .25-'06 fans, among others.

If you want ammo for use this fall, you'd better start keeping your eyes open right now and decide to buy if you're going to need it. It doesn't mean that you won't find any of your favorite centerfire hunting ammo, but if production on high-demand items continues at the current pace, odds are that restocking depleted hunting stores of low-volume hunting ammo won't be an immediate priority for the ammunition manufacturers.

5. Acting quickly is key.

In a panic-buying situation, products arrive at the retailer when the manufacturer can ship them. Oftentimes, the retailer doesn't know exactly when this will occur, so it's on you to stay vigilant. Recently, I was discussing the current dearth of 9mm ammo with Brownell's Roy Hill while a shipment of 9mm arrived at Brownell's from Aguila. All of it was snatched up as quickly as it was inventoried and stocked. (No, it wasn't me who cleaned out that shipment.) It's very important to keep an eye on what's available. At the very least, it'll take your mind off of those depressing news headlines.

6 Concealed Carry Insurance Options To Protect Your Six (2020)

By [Gun Digest Editors](#) - August 12, 2019



Six major concealed carry insurance programs are now available to the millions of Americans who carry concealed.

What are some of the concealed carry insurance organizations offering plans for responsible armed citizens?

- [United States Concealed Carry Association \(USCCA\)](#)
- [Armed Citizens Legal Defense Network \(ACLDN\)](#)
- [U.S. Law Shield](#)
- [CCW Safe](#)
- [Second Call Defense](#)
- [Firearms Legal Protection](#)

According to a recent estimate by the Crime Prevention Research Center (CPRC), more than 15 million Americans are now licensed to carry a firearm in the United States.

With that many and more legally licensed citizens — including those who keep guns strictly in the home for domestic protection, along with people who open carry or live in one of the dozen states that do not require licenses — the odds are increasing that someone will have to use their firearm to defend against a serious crime.

Realizing this possibility, at least six organizations have recognized the need for some type of coverage plans for the armed citizen who might someday act in **self-defense**. Unlike television, stopping a villain with lethal force isn't the end of the drama — it's often just the beginning.

Stepping up to the plate with protection programs are the United States Concealed Carry Association, Armed Citizens Legal Defense Network, U.S. Law Shield, CCW Safe, Second Call Defense and Firearms Legal Protection. Each has a slightly different approach to the challenge, because in this game, there are problems and there are solutions.

The hard truth is that most armed citizens simply have no idea of the legal minefield they step into the second they press the trigger. As more than one of the people we interviewed explained, from that moment, your life is changed forever.

Even if no criminal charge is filed, because we live in a litigious society, there are attorneys just chomping at the bit to make life miserable for armed citizens in civil court. That's the reality. Defending a life with a firearm can break people — it can destroy life savings, families and jobs.

What You Need To Look For In CCW Insurance

Whether home, auto or concealed carry, insurance policies cover only certain things. In turn, you need to take the time to consider exactly what each option offers and if it will fit the minimum you need to protect you after a **righteous shooting**.

While many concealed carry insurance policies cover several expenses you'll possibly encounter (we'll get to those shortly), there are coverage areas that are essential in a good plan.

Attorney Fees: This is the meat and potatoes of any CCW insurance plan and should be where you put most of your consideration. Criminal and civil defense doesn't come cheap and if your case goes to trial you might find a bill that runs up to six figures. It is a good idea to review if a policy covers retainer, criminal defense and civil defense and damages.

Bail Bond: Whiling away in a jail cell is a miserable experience, and can be detrimental. You need to earn a living, consult with your attorney and put your affairs in order. All of these are difficult to accomplish behind bars, which is why bail-bond coverage is typically part of a sound concealed carry insurance policy.

Coverage Across State Lines: Insurance laws differ state to state, which can cause problems if you travel with your defensive firearm. If you tool around the country you must read the fine print of where each policy covers you.

Expert Resources: One of the best ways to protect yourself from the legal ramifications of a lethal-force event is understanding the law and your rights. Access to solid and well-researched resources on these topics and **concealed carry training** prove invaluable and make you a more proficient armed citizen.

Other Areas Of Concealed Carry Coverage

In many cases, CCW policies go well beyond legal expenses and cover some other aspects you might not have considered, but you'll possibly be on the hook for:

- Crime Scene Clean Up
- Negligent Discharge
- Spouse And Family Self-Defense
- Property Damage
- Firearms Replacement
- Work Loss Coverage
- Personal Use Of Firearm (non-defensive)

You'll find there are other areas covered by some concealed carry insurance plans worth contemplating. Many of them fall within the policies themselves, however, some cost extra. Certainly, they'll make a plan more expensive, but are heartening, given how quickly expenses can add up if you're involved in a self-defense situation.

Policy Caps

Insurance, no matter what it covers, has caps. In short, there is a set amount of money it will cover, then you're on the hook for the rest. This goes for any of the add-ons you might select for your plan, as well.



Your budget dictates how much you can afford in a CCW insurance plan, but you want to make certain you don't undercut yourself when it comes to coverage. On the surface, something along the lines of \$250,000 coverage for attorney's fees might sound solid, but could potentially shelter you from only a fraction the total expense.

Concealed Carry Insurance Options



The United States Concealed Carry Association (USCCA)

Pros

One of the most established and largest – 285,000 paying members – concealed carry insurance companies, **United States Concealed Carry Association** brings a lot of gravitas to the game. Also flexibility.

With three levels of coverage to choose from, you can tailor your policy to your budget and needs. It also gives you the freedom to choose your attorney, in and outside their network.

Cons

The only upfront payments you receive if you enact your policy are for bail bond and criminal defense. And your bail is deducted from your criminal defense cap, along with your lawyer's retainer – which can quickly eat away at the total. Not a deal-breaker, but something to consider when shopping level of coverage. Also, if you live in New York or Washington state, you're out of luck – USCCA coverage isn't available in those states.

Gold Membership

\$22/month or \$247 annually

Legal Protection

- Civil Defense & Damages Protection: \$500,00
- Criminal Defense, Bail Bond Funding & Attorney Retainer: \$100,000
- 24/7/365 Critical Response Team
- Your Choice of Criminal Defense Attorney
- Up-Front Funding for Criminal Defense & Bail Bonds
- Protection for Use of All Legal Weapons

Concealed Carry Magazine

- Complete Print + Digital Subscription
- 1 Year Archive Online Access to Back Issues

Education

- CCW Reciprocity Map With Permit Expiration Reminders
- Member-Only USCCA App Features
- Weekly updates on news, changing laws and gear reviews
- 10 Lifesaving Checklists
- 15 Digital Guides and eBooks

Training

- Weekly Training Drills
- Live Training Broadcasts
- Nationwide USCCA Certified Instructor Network Access
- Proving Ground Training Series Online Videos

Community

- Community Giving Program
- 24/7 Access to Expert Member Services Team
- Free Daily Entry to USCCA Concealed Carry Expo

Perks

- Spouse Membership Discount
- Carry Confidence Kit
- Member-Only Discounts on USCCA Training & Gear
- Early-Bird Access to Brand-New Training & Gear
- Discounts from Industry Partners

Platinum Membership

\$30/month or \$347 annually

Legal Protection

- Civil Defense & Damages Protection: \$1,000,000
- Criminal Defense, Bail Bond Funding & Attorney Retainer: \$150,000
- 24/7/365 Critical Response Team
- Your Choice of Criminal Defense Attorney
- Up-Front Funding for Criminal Defense & Bail Bonds
- Protection for Use of All Legal Weapons

Concealed Carry Magazine

- Print + Digital Subscription
- 5 Year Archive Online Access to Back Issues

Education

- CCW Reciprocity Map With Permit Expiration Reminders
- Member-Only USCCA App Features
- Weekly updates on news, changing laws and gear reviews
- 10 Lifesaving Checklists
- 30 Digital Guides and eBooks
- Interactive “Ask An Attorney” Monthly Webinar

Training

- Weekly Training Drills
- Live Training Broadcasts
- Nationwide USCCA Certified Instructor Network Access
- Proving Ground Training Series and Situational Awareness Online Videos

Community

- Community Giving Program
- 24/7 Access to Expert Member Services Team
- Free Daily Entry to USCCA Concealed Carry Expo and advanced entry

Perks

- Spouse Membership Discount
- Carry Confidence Kit
- Member-Only Discounts on USCCA Training & Gear
- Early-Bird Access to Brand-New Training & Gear
- Discounts from Industry Partners

Elite Membership

\$47 monthly; \$497 annual

Legal Protection

- Civil Defense & Damages Protection: \$2,000,000
- Criminal Defense, Bail Bond Funding & Attorney Retainer: \$250,000
- 24/7/365 Critical Response Team
- Your Choice of Criminal Defense Attorney
- Up-Front Funding for Criminal Defense & Bail Bonds
- Protection for Use of All Legal Weapons

Concealed Carry Magazine

- Complete Print + Digital Subscription
- Lifetime Archive Online Access to Back Issues

Education

- CCW Reciprocity Map With Permit Expiration Reminders
- Member-Only USCCA App Features
- Weekly updates on news, changing laws and gear reviews
- 10 Lifesaving Checklists
- 70 Digital Guides and eBooks
- Interactive “Ask An Attorney” Monthly Webinar and archive access

Training

- Weekly Training Drills
- Live Training Broadcasts
- Nationwide USCCA Certified Instructor Network Access
- Proving Ground Training Series, Situational Awareness and When To Use Deadly Force Online Videos
- eLearning Training Systems: Concealed Carry & Home Defense Fundamentals and Emergency First Aid Fundamentals

Community

- Community Giving Program
- 24/7 Access to Expert Member Services Team
- Free Daily Entry to USCCA Concealed Carry Expo, advanced entry and VIP Experience

Perks

- Spouse Membership Discount
- Carry Confidence Kit
- Member-Only Discounts on USCCA Training & Gear
- Early-Bird Access to Brand-New Training & Gear
- Discounts from Industry Partners

- Elite Concierge Line
-

Armed Citizens Legal Defense Network (ACLDN)



Pros

There are some weighty names from legal, self-defense and firearms areas at your disposal with the organization. In turn, you have some true firepower if you go to trial. Right off the bat, with Armed Citizens' Legal Defense Network you get up to \$25,000 for bail and \$25,000 for an attorney, of your choice, for both criminal and civil cases. As legal proceedings go on, the network can provide more monetary support for criminal, civil, appeals and retrials. Furthermore, it's an inexpensive organization to become a part of, \$135 your first year and \$95 per year after.

Cons

ACLDN is not an insurance plan – it's a pre-paid legal service – so its coverage isn't as extensive as many others. It doesn't cover civil damages or compensation while you're in court or firearm loss protection. Additionally, further monetary support, past the initial \$25,000, goes through a review board before it's awarded. And there's no tiering to the program – it's one-size-fits-all.

Membership

- \$135 Initial 1-year Membership; \$95 1-year Renewal
- Legal Resources
- Up to \$25,000 paid to the member's attorney by the Network if the member has been involved in a self-defense incident
- Further grants may be available
- Up to \$25,000 to post bail on behalf of a member who has used force in self-defense
- Access to Network's affiliate lawyers

- Case review by network's experts
- Access to Network's expert witnesses

Other Resources

- Eight-DVD set of lectures explaining the use of deadly force for self-defense, the legal aftermath of using a gun in self-defense, and how attorneys prepare the court case defending one who used deadly force in self-defense.
 - Monthly journal
-

U.S. Law Shield



Pros

What you get for the price of the plan is among the biggest selling points of U.S. Law Shield (originally known as Texas Law Shield). Essentially, there is no cap on the coverage of legal fees, both for criminal and civil proceedings. This is incredible peace of mind, given how quickly those expenses add up. For \$10.95 monthly payments and \$19.95 set up fee, that's a lot of coverage. No wonder the Texas-based program has some 235,000-plus members and keeps growing.

Cons

First and foremost, you have to use an attorney from their network that they choose. This is potentially a turn off for many, with good reason. In all likelihood, this will be the most important lawyer you'll ever hire and you'll have little on who it is. The other issue, many of the coverage areas that come standard in other policies are add-ons, geographically limited or are unavailable. A good example, nationwide coverage costs another \$2.95 a month, which may or may not make a difference to you. Finally, the plan is only available in 44 states, residents of Alaska, Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, New York and Rhode Island are excluded from purchase.

Membership

Individual \$10.95 monthly/\$131.40 annual; Two Adults \$21.90 monthly/\$240 annual

Legal Resources

- No cap on attorney fees criminal and civil
 - 24/7/365 access to Attorney-Answered Emergency Hotline
 - Non-emergency access to independent program attorneys
 - Option to purchase Bail Bond and Expert Witness add-on coverage
-

CCW Safe



Pro

No cap for criminal and civil legal defense, both covered up front, is the most eye-catching aspect of the CCW Safe plan. Up to \$100,000 in bail bond protection doesn't hurt either. These are generally the meat and potatoes of any concealed carry insurance program and this one has them in spades. In addition to that, the plan has up to \$1 million of civil damage protection through their basic permit-holder plan. CCW Safe also offers a multitude of options, including policies for constitutional carry states, home-defense and active and retired law enforcement. Note, the coverage differs plan to plan, so read the fine print.

Cons

While the plans overall are among the most comprehensive, there are a few cravats. You can choose your attorney, however, they must be vetted by CCW Safe first – this may or may not be a con, depending on how you look at it. The constitutional carry plan only works in your state, so your naked once you cross the state line. And there are certain conditions CCW Safe spell out up front that will negate your policy, such as the use of force against a family member or someone in your residence with your permission.

Protector Plan

\$149 annual

Eligibility

Retired/Active Military and Law Enforcement with a concealed carry permit

Legal Resources

- Access to our 24-hour emergency hotline
- Critical Response Team on site
- \$500,000 bail coverage
- Vetting of Attorneys by National Trial Counsel
- Unlimited Attorney fees covered up front
- Unlimited Investigators covered up front
- Unlimited Expert Witnesses covered up front
- All trial fees covered up front
- Firearm Replacement during trial
- Spouse and children under 18 covered in home only
- Up to \$250 a day work loss while in criminal or civil trial
- Up to 10 sessions (up to \$4k) for a licensed counselor
- Up to \$3k for crime scene clean-up home
- Appeals and expungements covered

Add Ons

- Spouse \$100
- \$1MM bail coverage \$50
- \$1MM dedicated civil liability \$220

Defender Plan

\$179 annual

Eligibility

Valid Carry Permit

Legal Resources

- Access to our 24-hour emergency hotline
- Critical Response Team on site
- \$500,000 bail coverage
- Vetting of Attorneys by National Trial Counsel
- Unlimited Attorney fees covered up front
- Unlimited Investigators covered up front
- Unlimited Expert Witnesses covered up front
- All Trial Costs covered up front
- Firearm Replacement during trial
- Up to \$250 a day work loss while in criminal or civil trial
- Up to 10 sessions (up to \$4k) for a licensed counselor
- Up to \$3k for crime scene clean-up home
- Appeals and expungement covered

Add Ons

- Spouse \$100
- \$1MM bail coverage \$50
- \$1MM dedicated civil liability \$220

Constitutional Carry

\$299 annual

Eligibility

Constitutional Carry States

Legal Resources

- Access to our 24-hour emergency hotline
- Attorney fees
- Investigators fees
- Experts
- Appeals and Firearm Replacement during trial

- Up to \$250 a day work loss while in criminal or civil trial
- Up to 10 sessions (up to \$4k) for a licensed counselor
- Up to \$3k for crime scene clean-up home

Home Defense

\$299 annual

Eligibility

In-Home Coverage For You And Family

Legal Resources

- Access to our 24-hour emergency hotline
- Attorney fees
- Investigators fees
- Experts
- Appeals and Firearm Replacement during trial
- Up to \$250 a day work loss while in criminal or civil trial
- Up to 10 sessions (up to \$4k) for a licensed counselor
- Up to \$3k for crime scene clean-up home

HR218

\$399 annual

Eligibility

active, retired, and former law enforcement officers that meet the requirements for the Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act (LEOSA)

Legal Resources

- Coverage for Criminal, Civil and Administrative Actions
- Access to our 24-hour emergency hotline
- Critical Response Team on site

- \$1 Million bail coverage
- Vetting of Attorneys by National Trial Counsel
- Unlimited Attorney fees covered up front
- Unlimited Investigators covered up front
- Unlimited Expert Witnesses covered up front
- All trial fees covered up front
- Firearm Replacement during trial
- Spouse and children under 18 covered in home only
- Up to \$250 a day work loss while in criminal or civil trial
- Up to 10 sessions (up to \$4k) for a licensed counselor
- Up to \$3k for crime scene clean-up home
- Appeals and expungements covered
- Dedicated \$1MM Civil Liability coverage

Second Call Defense



Pros

Of all the options, Second Call Defense perhaps offers the widest spectrum of tiering. You can get in their entry-level plan for \$9.95 a month or choose

their “Cadillac” plan for \$34.95 per month. The top-tier plan is fairly comprehensive, offering \$100,000 of coverage for criminal defense attorney fees and \$1,000,000 for civil. Furthermore, in the top-end plan, you’re eligible for up to \$250,000 in civil damage protection.

Cons

The entry-level plan is pretty close to “better than nothing.” It doesn’t cover any legal fees pertaining to a civil case against you, and is very limited in its criminal defense – \$10,000 toward your attorney fees, \$2,000 for a retainer and \$1,000 for bail bond. Is that worth \$10 per month? You’ll have to decide that for yourself.

Basic

\$9.95 monthly; \$119 annual

Insurance Protection

Criminal Defense Protection – \$10,000

Financial Support

- Immediate Cash for Bond – \$1,000
- Immediate Attorney Retainer – \$2,000

Rapid Response Team

- 24/7 Emergency Legal Hotline
- Personal Crisis Manager
- Nationwide Attorney Network Access
- Local Attorney Referral within 24 hours
- Emergency Contact Notification

Training & Education

- Member Newsletter
- Self Defense News

Add Ons

Spouse \$48 annual

Defender

\$14.95 monthly; \$179 annual

Insurance Protection

- Civil Suit Defense Protection – \$500,000
- Civil Suit Damages Protection – \$50,000
- Criminal Defense Protection – \$50,000

Financial Support

- Immediate Cash for Bond – \$5,000
- Immediate Attorney Retainer – \$5,000
- Aftermath Cleanup – \$1,000
- Compensation While in Court – \$250/day

Rapid Response Team

- 24/7 Emergency Legal Hotline
- Personal Crisis Manager
- Nationwide Attorney Network Access
- Local Attorney Referral within 24 hours
- Emergency Contact Notification
- Expert Witness Coordination
- Gun Retrieval or Replacement
- Psychological Support⁷ – 20 sessions
- On-Site Assistance

Training & Education

- Member Newsletter

- Self Defense News
- Online Training

Add Ons

Spouse \$60

Ultimate

\$34.95 monthly; \$399 annual

Insurance Protection

- Civil Suit Defense Protection – \$1,000,000
- Civil Suit Damages Protection – \$250,000
- Criminal Defense Protection – \$100,000

Financial Support

- Immediate Cash for Bond⁴ – \$25,000
- Immediate Attorney Retainer – \$10,000
- Aftermath Cleanup – \$2,000
- Compensation While in Court – \$500/day

Rapid Response Team

- 24/7 Emergency Legal Hotline
- Personal Crisis Manager
- Nationwide Attorney Network Access
- Local Attorney Referral within 24 hours
- Emergency Contact Notification
- Expert Witness Coordination
- Gun Retrieval or Replacement
- Psychological Support – 40 sessions
- On-Site Assistance

Training & Education

- Member Newsletter
- Self Defense News
- Online Training

Add Ons

Spouse \$80 annual

Ultimate Plus

\$54.95 monthly; \$599 annual

Insurance Protection

- Civil Suit Defense Protection – \$1,500,000
- Civil Suit Damages Protection – \$300,000
- Criminal Defense Protection – \$150,000

Financial Support

- Immediate Cash for Bond⁴ – \$25,000
- Immediate Attorney Retainer – \$10,000
- Aftermath Cleanup – \$2,000
- Compensation While in Court – \$500/day

Rapid Response Team

- 24/7 Emergency Legal Hotline
- Personal Crisis Manager
- Nationwide Attorney Network Access
- Local Attorney Referral within 24 hours
- Emergency Contact Notification
- Expert Witness Coordination
- Gun Retrieval or Replacement

- Psychological Support – 40 sessions
- On-Site Assistance

Training & Education

- Member Newsletter
- Self Defense News
- Online Training

Add Ons

Spouse \$108 annual

Firearms Legal Protection



Pros

A bit overshadowed by some of the larger players, Firearms Legal Protection nonetheless offers impressive coverage. Again, a tiered program, FLP allows armed citizens to choose a plan that best fits their budget and needs. And as far as entry-level options go, they offer an impressive one: uncapped attorney fees for civil and criminal defense for \$12.95 a month. As you go up the ladder, the more expensive plans offer some of the total coverage many look for, such as firearm loss protection, compensation while in court and the choice of your own attorney. Also, an interesting and timely twist, all FLP plans cover against Extreme Risk Protection Order, or “Red Flag” laws, accusations.

Cons

As far as the entry-level program is concerned, it’s only applicable to a self-defense event that happens in your state. You can get nationwide coverage, however, you’ll have to spend more. Also, it’s presently only available in 30 states, so Firearms Legal Protection is somewhat limited geographically.

Basic Individual

\$12.95 monthly; \$139 annual

Eligibility

Coverage for one person in their home state.

Legal Resources

- Uncapped attorney fees for defense for criminal and civil cases
- 24/7 emergency hotline

- Extreme Risk Protection Order Coverage

Premium Individual

\$21.95 monthly; \$239 annual

Eligibility

Multi-State Coverage

Legal Resources

- Uncapped attorney fees for defense for criminal and civil cases
- 24/7 emergency hotline
- Extreme Risk Protection Order Coverage
- Bail bond protection up to \$250,000
- Expert witness/investigator fees
- Lost wages reimbursement
- Firearm confiscation payment
- Incident scene clean-up fee
- My FLP mobile app

Premium Family

\$39.95 monthly; \$399 annual

Eligibility

Multi-state comprehensive coverage for member, spouse and minor children

Legal Resources

- Uncapped attorney fees for defense for criminal and civil cases
- 24/7 emergency hotline
- Extreme Risk Protection Order Coverage
- Bail bond protection up to \$250,000

- Expert witness/investigator fees
- Minor children coverage
- Lost wages reimbursement
- Firearm confiscation payment
- Incident scene clean-up fee
- My FLP mobile app

Conclusion

That, essentially, is what each of these self-defense insurance plans offer: an advocate rather than just a public defender who might, or might not, have a full grasp of self-defense, much less any sympathy for an armed citizen. It might come as no shock at all to many people, but not all attorneys sympathize with gun owners who fire in self-defense.

People can take their chances with a public defender, or they can rely on the experts associated with these self-defense insurance membership programs. Clearly, a lot of thought went into each of these efforts, and the ultimate beneficiary is the armed citizen.

When was the last time you visited our web site? Please take some time to go to the CARGO website at www.cargogunclub.org

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."
If for some reason, you no longer wish to receive these e-mails please accept our apologies and respond to this message with REMOVE in the subject line and we will remove your name from the mailing list.