

AUSTRALIAN

June 2021
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Shooter

THE MAGAZINE FOR SPORTING SHOOTERS



FIRST REVIEW Lupo the revolution begins

- Rossi 92 lever-action rifle
- Glock Model 44
- X-ray imaging - the inside view



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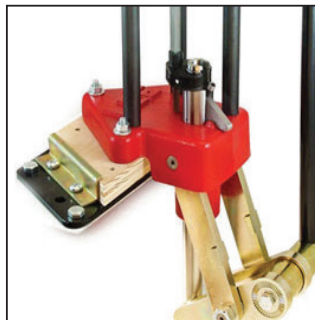
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Our June cover

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The CZ 515 bolt-action rifle is built to be a fun plinker and handy small game hunter, destined to find a market with shooters looking for a moderately priced firearm which is both versatile and affordable.

Successful rabbit hunting means adapting to your situation and the conditions on any given day and we'll talk you through what it takes to modify your approach with a view to filling the freezer.

We've taken a Lithgow LA101 Crossover rifle and re-purposed it by adding a Southern Cross Small Arms TSP X chassis and feel sure it will win many new fans in the process.



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National News

Scottie's tenure extended as SSAA ambassador

The SSAA is proud to announce the re-engagement of Para Trap shooter Scottie Brydon as its flagship ambassador for a further two years. Scottie, 34, has been with us in this capacity for the past two years and says he's delighted to extend his role. He's fiercely committed to Trap shooting and his accomplishments at competitions around the globe have seen him rise to his current rating as number two in the world rankings as well as topping the Commonwealth ladder. Among the highlights have been snaring top spot in the Para Trap Shoots World Championships in Lonato, Italy in 2018, that after a record-breaking performance at the Para World Cup in Chateauroux, France.

"It's really pleasing to continue my relationship with the SSAA," said Scottie. "It's great to be able to focus on what I can do to keep promoting the sport. When I do well in competitions I always try to promote the work of the SSAA. I'm trying to push for more disabled shooters to come into the sport as there's no limit to who can do it." Scottie's eligible for the PT1 event, Class SG-S which caters for athletes with poor balance and/or trunk stability, manoeuvring from a wheelchair in a standard seated space. Athletes have an impairment in the lower limb(s) but no functional limitation in the upper body.

Scottie's pathway to success began in his home town of Cobar, NSW before he made the switch to living in Canberra to be closer to competitions and training facilities. "I usually train between three to five days a week," he said and his exploits have underlined his qualities of tenacity, self-challenge and extending his skills resources. He knows no barriers and has previously stated: "If I put my mind to something then nothing will stop me."

Scottie is thrilled to be able to continue as an inspiration to others while cementing his relationship with Australia's leading sports shooting body. "I've met so many people on my travels and it's been a joy to be involved," he said, adding the sport of competitive shooting is such a level playing field as it embraces people of all shapes and sizes - SSAA members know it doesn't



Flying the flag: Scottie Brydon.

matter whether they're old or young, there are opportunities for everyone.

The global pandemic meant Scottie's overseas assignments have been severely curtailed but he's been keeping busy on the domestic front. Earlier this year he tasted success in the Victorian State Championships at Yarra Valley Clay Target Club and recently competed in the Open category at the NSW Championships at Lake Macquarie but didn't do as well as he'd hoped. "You have ups and downs, you can't expect 100 per cent all the time but that's one of the things I love about this sport."

The pinnacle for Scottie would be to represent Australia at a Paralympic Games. The International Paralympic Committee have long been working with the International Shooting Sport Federation on the classifications to potentially make the shotgun division a Paralympic sport but Scottie says the number of countries needed to sign up to reach that status would take at least another seven years. But that's what dreams are made of and Scottie is proud to fly the SSAA banner along the way. ●

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MEMBERSHIP AND MAGAZINE INQUIRIES

Phone: 02 8805 3900

Fax: 02 9832 9377

PO Box 282, Plumpton, NSW 2761

Email: membership@ssaa.org.au

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EDITORIAL INQUIRIES

Phone: 08 8272 7100

Fax: 08 8272 2945

PO Box 2520, Unley, SA 5061

Email: edit@ssaa.org.au Web: ssaa.org.au

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EDITORIAL

MANAGING EDITOR.....Allan Blane

ASSOCIATE EDITOR.....Thomas Cook

ASSISTANT EDITOR.....Dave Rose

CHIEF OF STAFF.....Jennifer Martens

ART DIRECTOR.....Mike Barr

PRODUCTION COORDINATOR.....

& GRAPHIC DESIGNER.....Elizabeth Tyson

GRAPHIC DESIGNER.....Natalie Kuhlmann

WEBMASTER.....Mark Fieldhouse

ADVERTISING & PROMOTIONS.....Karoline Wasiak

ADMINISTRATION.....Debbie Wing

.....Trudy Sheffield

SENIOR CORRESPONDENT.....John Dunn

SENIOR CORRESPONDENT.....Rod Pascoe

CONTRIBUTORS THIS ISSUE

Peter Bindon, Russell Mark, Con Kapralos, Thomas Tabor, Lionel Swift, Brad Allen, Bob Boland, Daniel O'Dea, Geoff Smith, Dick Eussen, John Maxwell, Henri Lach, Chris Redlich, David Alderson, Pat Kerin.

STATE CONTACT INFORMATION

For SSAA inquiries please contact your state SSAA office:

NSW 02 8889 0400 **WA** 08 9497 7919

QLD 07 3281 3447 **SA** 0419 849 452

VIC 03 8892 2777 **ACT** 0423 043 663

TAS 0418 734 008 **NT** 0402 013 918

NATIONAL CONTACT INFORMATION

SSAA National Chief Executive Officer

and Chief Editor Tim Bannister

Wildlife Programs Matthew Godson

PO Box 2520, Unley, SA 5061

Phone: 08 8272 7100

SSAA National Accounts Office

PO Box 282, Plumpton, NSW 2761

Phone: 02 8805 3900

Email: accounts@ssaa.org.au

SSAA General Insurance Brokers

Unit 1, 212 Glen Osmond Rd,

Fullarton, SA 5063

Phone: 08 8332 0281

Freecall: 1800 808 608

Fax: 08 8332 0303

Email: insurance@ssaa.org.au

President

Lance Miller

Senior Vice President

Denis Moroney

Junior Vice President

Hellen Gill

National Secretary

Kaye McIntyre

Treasurer

Alf Bastian

Please mail all correspondence for the SSAA National Executive to

SSAA, PO Box 282, Plumpton, NSW 2761

Email: ssaa@ssaa.org.au



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Lives more important than money

WITH REGARD TO Ross Golden's letter 'Don't burden the taxpayer' (*Shooter*, February 2021), I'm incredibly disappointed to once again see someone who feels money is more important than people's lives. Surely Ross could comprehend that a 'user pays' model for search and rescue makes people reluctant to ask for rescue when they need it, which results in tragic and unnecessary loss of life.

As to the suggestion people don't deserve rescue unless they have a PLB (Ross, EPIRBs are for boats, not people) or if they're 'ill-prepared, ill-advised, ill-equipped [or] inconsiderate', who do you propose decides if people in trouble meet your requirements? I'm sure you'd be dissatisfied if a group of people is put in charge of looking through your purchase history to make sure you bought a warm enough jacket before sending a rescue party. But how else could that work? Lives are more important than money, Ross.

Nik Saunders, via email

Ammo complicates travel

I READ WITH great interest Rod Pascoe's article on travelling with firearms (*Shooter*, October 2020). Every year I holiday in New Zealand for at least a month and noticed most sports shops, such as Hunting and Fishing, stock common and sometimes not so common ammunition. Unless you have a pet load or use a wildcat round you should be able to buy your ammo in NZ. To me, at least, it sounds complicated to travel overseas with firearms so perhaps if you don't take ammunition it might simplify your journey.

I know from experience when travelling there with a bow and arrow there's no trouble whatsoever as in NZ they don't care about bows of any kind, yet on my return to Australia I had to declare my compound bow. I once had a female customs officer raise a fuss, telling me it was a bolt-action bow. When I told her it was a crossbow that shot bolts and this was a compound bow, she still didn't understand and it took a senior officer to clear things up. I can only imagine the trouble you might encounter with firearms.

Bob Hart, via email



Shine a light on this

I WONDER IF any of your readers could enlighten me as to what this instrument is. It's a measuring device of some sort, housed in a strong Bakelite case 210cm wide. There's very little inside except a battery which just fits. I found it in a charity shop and bought it out of sheer curiosity and have shown it to a few club members but no-one seems to know much about it.

Melville Clark, NSW



Insurance Q&A with Trevor Jenkin

Send questions to: communications@ssaa.org.au

Q I've heard and read about insurance fraud. What should I do if I'm aware of this happening?

Ray Williams, via email

A Wow, what a question! Insurance fraud impacts us all and is a deliberately dishonest act which causes actual or potential financial loss to a person or entity. It can range from overstating the value of damaged or lost items or not declaring information that's known and relevant to a claim, through to the activities of highly organised criminals coordinating large and complex false claims.

There are various types of insurance fraud including padding and exaggeration of otherwise legitimate claims, arson, theft,

staged incidents involving deliberate fabrication of a claim or misrepresentation of facts material to the insurance policy, such as failure to disclose a criminal conviction or giving deliberately misleading information in support of a claim. An insurer can reject a claim that's made fraudulently.

From my experience, identification of fraudulent activity is generally simple and instinct or gut feeling can be a very accurate indicator. To report information on suspected insurance fraud, contact the Insurance Fraud Bureau of Australia (IFBA). Please note that if you make a report concerning a suspected fraud, your information does not need to be recorded. You can also report fraud to your state or territory police.

The IFBA is managed by the Insurance Council of Australia whose role includes coordination of fraud prevention strategies across the general insurance industry. As such, the IFBA receives information and allegations of insurance fraud from a variety of sources (anonymous and otherwise) and relays this to the relevant insurer who then takes whatever action it deems appropriate. The IFBA does not undertake investigations.

For anything insurance-related, call us on (08) 8332 0281 or visit ssaaib.com.au.



Proposed kangaroo ban could have far-reaching consequences

An ABC News report addressing a proposed US ban on kangaroo products has indicated animal rights groups have upped the ante in a bid to have kangaroo products banned in North America. Activists both here and overseas have long fought to stop the kangaroo meat and leather trade by labeling it inhumane. The kangaroo industry processes around two million animals each year for commercial purposes from an estimated total population found in harvest areas of about 43 million.

California has banned the sale of kangaroo products since 2016 but now comes a renewed push by activists to apply the boycott across all US states. To this end they have enlisted two Congressmen

- Salud Carbajal (California) and Brian Fitzpatrick (Pennsylvania) - who are prepared to put forward a Bill known as the 'Kangaroo Protection Act' which aims to stop the sale of kangaroo hides as leather.

If the law is passed, companies such as Adidas, Nike and other US-based manufacturers would not be able to use kangaroo leather when making football boots and similar items. The trade of any kangaroo-based product would be made illegal and severe penalties including fines and jail terms would be applicable for violations. A motley crew of US animal rights organisations are supporting the Bill including Animal Wellness Action, Animal Wellness Foundation, SPCA International and The Centre for a Humane Economy.

The latter of those is so invested in the cause they created a one-minute film called 'Kangaroos are not shoes' with the help of two Hollywood filmmakers which has been shared widely on social media by comedian Ricky Gervais and other 'celebrities'. A billboard campaign across California has also been used to target Nike executives by declaring 'Nike profits. Kangaroos die.'

Our Federal Government has come to the support of the industry as footwear companies continue to resist pressure to change their leather products, the Government using its diplomatic channels to fight the proposed US ban. Federal Agriculture Minister David Littleproud has indicated that Australia's ambassador to the US, Arthur Sinodinos, has met with the two Congressmen behind the Bill in an attempt to provide them with information to change their minds. With that has been an invitation to the Congressmen to visit Australia to understand the industry, its practices and the code of practice which must be adhered to.

The main argument put forward in support of the industry is that animal activists have their facts wrong. First and foremost it is not inhumane to cull kangaroos - if they're not managed in a sustainable way there are perverse animal welfare outcomes. Over-population leads to animals dying of starvation and dehydration when conditions turn dry and resources diminish. Mr Littleproud had said regardless of whether you kill kangaroos for soccer boots or meat for consumption, there will have to be a cull every year and it's so much better to try and utilise a resource in full or part than let it go to waste.

Although the RSPCA provided input into the code of practice to ensure humane methods are used to cull kangaroos, they still don't support the killing of them for commercial use. Under the cloud of needing 'clear justification' for a harvest, they'll only accept culls/harvest when it can be demonstrated as necessary to reduce adverse impacts on a case-by-case basis. Just setting quotas for harvest without clear justification (their opinion) is unacceptable, whereas to many government and non-government stakeholders, sustainable harvest quotas under a management plan *are* acceptable.

The RSPCA's view is one of utopia and totally unworkable for the industry to remain economically viable. Things like monitoring, auditing and clearly defining goals and outcomes related to reducing kangaroo impacts for almost every activity is truly the stuff of wishing wands. It would be nice to have but is, in reality, wholly impracticable.

Send questions to:
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But it's only a *little* creek!

I know it seems counterintuitive but it's absolutely imperative to open at least one window in your vehicle if you're absolutely compelled to enter a flooded road crossing. While all the advice ever given by our emergency services and police warn drivers never to enter floodwaters under any condition, it may be the case that you're in a remote locality with no food or shelter other than the vehicle and must cross for a medical emergency.

There would have to be very peculiar circumstances for this this to happen and a decision to drive into the water should never be taken lightly. A mate and I were caught on the wrong side of the Burdekin River not too far from Charters Towers when a flood came downriver and the water over the crossing rose to an alarming 2.5m on the indicator posts.

That morning, having thought the flood was imminent, we'd left town in two vehicles and had cunningly, or so we felt, left one on the town side of the stream while we took the other across the river which hadn't risen much above its usual level. After finishing our task we returned to the river and found it was a swiftly running deep stream. Thinking we were well prepared we locked up the now flooded-in vehicle and proceeded to walk the riverbank, looking for a broad shallow part where we could wade or swim across.

We knew we were likely to be carried downstream for quite some distance so part of our aim was to find low banks on the other side on which we'd finish our swim. We were both competent swimmers and the day had been hot and steamy, so the prospect of a naked swim didn't bother us too much.

Having found a broad shallow spot we set off on a diagonal course to wade and swim to the other side. This was far less difficult than we'd imagined as the broad river only required a few swimming strokes close to the furthest bank before we were back on dry land. The reaction from a vehicle full of tourists who'd come to view the flood and encountered two naked swimmers can only be imagined, though fortunately this was prior to the popularity of social media. Although not so immaculately dressed in our spare clothes we were safe and drove into town.

On another crossing of the same river not too far away, we learned of an elderly person who'd tried to drive across the flooded river. Unfortunately the water was deeper than he believed and his car was swept off the rock crossing and carried downstream. Plunging into a deep hole, the bonnet became submerged with the weight of the engine and the driver and passenger doors became impossible to open against the pressure of water.



Think seriously before driving into floodwater.

As you'd expect, the electric mechanism for operating the windows shorted out in the water and the floating vehicle tumbled over a few times with the driver trapped inside. Fortunately he was rescued with a few litres of air still in the cab of the vehicle which he could access, but it was far too close for comfort.

As it's almost impossible to find a modern car with manual winders on the windows, remember to wind down the windows even if the rain will blow in. Better still, don't drive into floodwaters even if you think you're prepared.



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Clay Target Q&A

WITH RUSSELL MARK

Q I was interested to watch the recent video you made for the SSAA regarding different forms of lead. I own a Model 56 Beretta Field Gun with 71cm barrels and have recently been shooting Trap targets and was keen to hear your thoughts. I seem to hit more Trap targets using a form of sustained lead - is this normal? I understand this form of lead is best for Sporting Clays and Skeet.

Keith Burnham, Vic.

A No doubt sustained lead is the form used most widely on a Skeet layout. With the known and consistent flight path of a Skeet target this form of lead is perfectly suited to this discipline, but on a Trap range it's certainly not the lead I'd recommend. Because a Trap target is thrown at an unknown trajectory, your starting gun position can't be perfectly placed as it can on a Skeet layout, to be positioned in front of the target to execute a perfect sustained lead shot every time.

The nature of the Trap game requires quick and decisive reflex shots that fall into the domain of 'pass-through' lead, which simply involves letting the target fly in front of your barrels' starting position and chasing it from behind the flight path. When you catch the target, the speed of your barrel provides the lead required and the trigger is pulled. All this takes place in hundredths of a second and if your shotgun is set up with the correct amount of horizontal elevation in the comb of its stock, then hitting a Trap target is a relatively easy shot. Doing it repetitively hundreds of times in a row becomes the problem.

Serious Sporting Clay shooters - and indeed any field shooter of note - need to



have both the mechanics of pass-through and sustained lead in their tool bag and also a lead commonly called 'pull away', where the target is tracked by matching its speed with that of your barrel and at the last fraction of a second the barrel is accelerated in front of the target until the desired point is reached before pulling the trigger (this type of lead is commonly used on longer-range shots).

Going back to your comment of being able to hit more Trap targets using sustained lead than with any other technique makes me wonder how slow you're trying

to shoot your targets. Generally, sustained lead takes some calculation and in the Trap shooting world the unknown trajectory makes guessing the exact amount of lead you'll need on your next target impossible.

Once you call for the clay to be released you must quickly identify its path, catch the target then keep the barrel at a constant distance in front of that target for a period of time. If you were on position one or five on a Trap range and happen to draw the hard-angled target, I guess your method of sustained lead is certainly possible, but if you draw a target that's virtually straight away from you then this type of technique would be hard to consistently apply with success in my opinion.

It almost sounds like you've learned to shoot Trap with a stock so low it's causing the point of impact of your shot pattern to be low also, therefore you're having to make the targets disappear from your vision for a short period to be able to hit a fast-rising Trap target correctly.

The shotgun you mention is certainly not ideal for shooting competitive Trap as it'll certainly have a 'flat' shooting field stock on it but without seeing you shoot, this of course is impossible to say, though my suggestion would be to try and borrow someone's 'high shooting' Trap gun and you might be surprised how easy this discipline will become.



Questions to: Russell@GoShooting.com.au



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Got a question - ask our TOP SHOTS ?

• John Dunn • Paul Miller • Greg Riemer • Geoff Smith • Barry Wilmot • Rod Pascoe

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Q I've recently been given what I'm told is a Model 1917 Enfield in .303 and was wondering if you could shed some light on it or point me in the right direction as it has a variety of marks, some of which I'm not sure about. I'm told it was a sniper's rifle but feel this is unlikely. All numbers match and are 197321 with D D markings. I was also told it was Australian Army but again I don't know.
Struan, NSW

A Your rifle is a Pattern 1914 Enfield (known as the P-14). These were made in the US for the British Government by Remington at their own plant and at the Eddystone plant, as well as by Winchester, which is where yours was made in early 1917 (Winchester made 235,508 of them up until July 1917). From then on, as the US was now at war, production shifted to making the Model 1917 (M-17) rifle on the same action but chambered for the US .30-06 cartridge. The action is based on the front-locking Mauser design and the rifle has an integral five-round magazine. They're very accurate but less accepted by the troops for combat than the Lee Enfield, being heavier and slower to cycle in rapid-fire mode.

Your rifle is marked 1*D over IW in a circle over PATT 14 which means it was made at the Winchester plant and is the second model as indicated by the asterisk (or 'star'). The brass disc set into the stock has no unit markings. Carefully selected Winchester-made P-14s (but not Remington or Eddystone) were indeed used for sniping, though many never saw action at all or were issued to the Home Guard.

Yours has British proof marks and Department of Defence markings so may well have been issued and may also have

come to Australia just before or during WWII. When used for sniping, some were fitted with a scope sight while others used a flip-up micrometer-adjusted aperture sight. Many P-14s were later reissued to our troops during WWII and the rifle remained in Allied service until 1947.

Geoff Smith

Q Does any of your panel have experience with the RWS 5.6x50R cartridge in the Martini Cadet action? I'm contemplating building one.
Joe, via email

A When the editor floated this question I grabbed it with both hands. About 20 years ago I bought a pre-loved custom Martini Cadet in .22 Hornet, very well made by a name gunsmith. It had a 26" light profile stainless barrel with 1-in-14 twist and one of the nicest stocks I've ever seen on a Cadet action.

After playing with it for a while as a Hornet I decided to run a series of tests by re-chambering it to a set of ever-larger cases starting with the K-Hornet. Long story short I managed to get hold of a 5.6x50R reamer, dies and RWS cases and this proved to be the last chamber cut. It was so successful it remains in that calibre to this day.

The 5.6x50R is the rimmed version of the 5.6x50 which was intended for combination guns, usually in break-action format. At 50mm it's slightly longer than the .222 Magnum yet fits into the Cadet action with no major alterations required. Being designed for break-action firearms it's loaded to lower pressure than the rimless version for bolt actions but is definitely no slouch.

My favourite load moves a 52gr projectile at 3300fps and will manage 12mm four-shot groups. The barrel on my rifle is extremely lightweight and heats up quickly, it has had six different chambers cut without being set back so I restrict it to four-shot groups to extend its life. With a 4-12x scope attached it makes a great walking varmint. In short, I heartily recommend the RWS 5.6x50R as an excellent chambering for a Martini Cadet custom rifle.

Greg Riemer

Q I'm very interested in historic firearms and enjoyed reading John Dunn's articles on the Remington Rolling Block breech-loading rifles. I'm eager to find out about .32 rimfire cartridges as I've never seen one and would like to know what the bullet weight was, how much black powder was in the Long Rifle cartridge and what game it was suitable for.

What were the options, if any, for owners when the .32 rimfire cartridge was discontinued? I believe George Armstrong Custer had a .32 rimfire revolver which was one of the first cartridge revolvers when most others were cap and ball. Thank you for the excellent articles - any help appreciated.

Don Slater, Vic.



A Thanks for your interest Don. The .32 Short rimfire was introduced in 1860 for the #1½ Smith & Wesson revolver and the .32 Long a year later for the #2 S&W revolver. The Long was also used in a wide range of single-shot rifles made by Remington, Winchester, Stevens, Ballard and others and Stevens chambered single-shot Favorite rifles in .32 Long until the 1930s.

Load for the .32 Short version was an 80-grain lead RN bullet and 9gns of black powder, load for the .32 Long being a 90gn outside lubricated lead RN bullet with 12-13gns of black powder. Maximum useful range for both was around 50 yards due to the low velocities (935fps and 1030fps respectively) and high trajectories. While originally designed as self-defence loads, both were useful on small game as the heavy bullets killed well but didn't destroy a lot of edible meat. I've shot a few rabbits with the .32 Long and it works much better at 30m or closer than it does beyond that.

When ammunition dried up, most rifles were put aside and that's why .32 rimfire versions of the smaller Boys' rifles are

generally in much better condition than those chambered for the far more popular and readily available .22 cartridges.

Other .32 rimfire cartridges were the .32 Extra Short (Remington 1871 - 55-60gn bullet, 5½gn black powder), .32 Extra Long (1875 - 90gn RN lead bullet, 18-20gn black powder) and .32 Long Rifle (1900). The latter used a longer case and an inside lubricated bullet of around 81 grains with 13 grains of black powder and could be used in the standard .32 Long chamber.

All .32 rimfire cartridges had the same rim diameter and thickness but different length cases and all used .312" diameter bullets except the .32 Extra Long which was .316". Production of .32 Long ammunition appears to have ceased in the 1930s though some special order cartridges were made for Navy Arms in Brazil by CBC in the 1990s.

John Dunn

Q Does the Monte Carlo stock on a shotgun have any purpose or has it just come back into fashion? I use a straight stock but some of my friends have started using adjustable stocks which are effectively a Monte Carlo when they're adjusted up.

Bill, NSW

A The subject of gunstock shape and gun fit is something about which many books have been written because frankly it's a huge subject and a fascinating one at that. In the past we've seen Monte Carlo stocks on many shotguns and rifles and for many people they look very smart. They're generally designed to give shooters with longer necks or sloping shoulders a more upright and comfortable head position.

These stocks are also useful on rifles intended for use with scopes where the line of sight is considerably higher than if you were using open sights. The comb supports the face and aligns the eye for a good cheek weld and view through the centre of the scope. The same can be said for shotgun shooting, especially Trap, where a high-shooting gun is favoured to allow for rising and rapidly departing targets.

As you say, we're seeing lots of factory

and aftermarket adjustable combs being used today because they offer the ability to fine-tune gun fit in terms of where you want the shot pattern to shoot in relation to your sight picture along the rib. I favour an adjustable comb on my competition guns so I can have the pattern exactly where I want it depending on what discipline I'm shooting.

The other advantage of the Monte Carlo is it often has a long parallel section before dropping off to the heel of the gun. This is handy in disciplines where you start with the gun down and call for the target then quickly mount the gun and take the shot. The parallel section allows a margin for error in mounting the gun yet still seeing the same sight picture. I recommend you try a couple of your mates' guns to see how they feel and, most importantly, how well you hit the targets with them.

Paul Miller

Q In the October 2020 edition of *Australian Shooter* I read with interest the two articles by Barry Musgrave and Joe Norris on the subject of Martini-Henry rifles which reminded me of an old 1875-stamped Martini-Henry ammunition box I have stored away. I can't find any evidence of these boxes still in existence or whether my box was possibly used by the armed forces in the 19th century. I'm hoping you could shed some light on this relic via the markings on the box.

Glen, via email

A The .577/450 MH was the standard British service round from the 1870s and succeeded the .577 Snider. The first ammunition produced in 1870 (Mk.1) had a thin brass foil-wrapped case, the body of the case riveted to a blackened iron base. The bullet weighed 480gr and composed one part tin, 12 parts lead and was wrapped with a white paper patch. Production of Mk.I ceased in 1872.

The Mk.II cartridge made only a short appearance as it had a tendency to split at the base and the Mk.III began production just one year later in 1873. One of the photos you supplied shows a tin liner to the interior of the box which gives definitive evidence it contained Mk.III cartridges

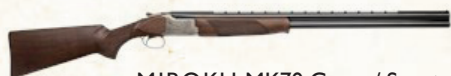
which would have been packed in 63 string-tied paper packets each containing 10 cartridges for a total of 630 rounds as shown on the label. Another photo shows the stamp R / \ L. The broad arrow head is used to designate British Government property and the RL denotes Royal Laboratory, Woolwich where the ammunition and possibly your box was made.

The .577/450 MH was first fired in service in 1875 on the Malay Peninsula and was more widely used in 1878 in South Africa and throughout the British colonies of Australia, Burma, Canada, New Zealand and the Caribbean. Later, a Mk.IV round was produced using a lighter charge of black powder and lighter bullet to counteract complaints about the heavy recoil of the .577/450 MH compared to the smaller .577 Snider cartridge. Solid drawn brass cases weren't introduced until 1885.

Although officially replaced by the .303 British cartridge, the .577/450 MH continued to be used by observers and balloon busters in the Royal Flying Corps in the early stages of WWI. A colleague of mine from the Australian Cartridge Collectors Association tells me your box would be worth good money at auction as they're pretty rare. My thanks to Alan Parker for assisting with this response.

Rod Pascoe





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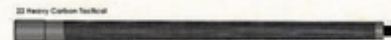
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LUPO

a wolf in Benelli clothing

Con Kapralos



We were given access for just a few days as, being the only one in the country, it was in high demand.

The gunmaking firm of Benelli Armi SpA in Urbino, Italy is an offshoot of the Benelli motorcycle empire and started manufacturing firearms in 1967. Benelli is known for its fine self-loading and pump-action shotguns while in centrefire shooting circles, their Argo and R1 Big Game self-loading rifles are highly regarded throughout Europe. In 2000, Benelli became part of the Beretta Holdings Group and has continued to excel in long-arms but also impressed in the over-and-under fray with the superb 828U shotgun.

In 2016 Benelli decided to look at producing a bolt-action hunting rifle and four years of meticulous design and planning resulted in the release last year of the Lupo, Italian for wolf. A couple of months ago, Beretta Australia procured their initial shipment of this rifle and *Australian Shooter* was the first outlet in the country to gain access to the demonstration model in .30-06 Springfield.

It was evident in the international press

the Lupo is like no other centrefire hunting rifle on the market - could it possibly be the start of a revolution in hunting rifle design and manufacture? We were given access for just a few days as, being the only one in the country, it was in high demand.

At a glance

The rifle arrived with a Steiner Ranger optic already fitted and I could immediately see the similarities between the Lupo design and what Benelli had already released in the 828U o/u shotgun and their stable of self-loading and pump-action longarms.

Barrelled action

This incorporates a receiver made from mild steel mated up to Benelli's patented cryogenically treated barrel (CRIO) using a locking nut to precisely adjust the headspace when fitting barrel to receiver. The receiver has a rounded profile devoid of harsh angled flats or scalloped sections, the

top being slightly flattened to accommodate scope mounting hardware and is drilled and tapped to provide for their installation.

The rifle is supplied with two-piece Weaver-style bases as standard but there is provision for the use of a Picatinny rail with an extra set of base mounting holes on the receiver top. To the rear left of the receiver is a spring-loaded toggle bolt release button which makes removal of the bolt a simple operation. A small gas port is by the front left receiver ring to facilitate escape of hot ignition gases away from the shooter's face, while the ejection port on the right is to allow for unhindered case ejection and also means the magazine can be top-loaded by hand.

The barrel is in .30-06 calibre and of a sporter profile measuring 560mm in length and has a twist rate of one in 11" which will handle most popular .30-calibre bullet weights. The method of barrel manufacture isn't specified but the barrel is subjected to Benelli's Deep Cryogenic Treatment

Lupo - a wolf in Benelli clothing

(DCT) which eliminates all residual internal tension and stresses in the barrel metallurgy and so enhances accuracy. The chamber and rifling are match grade and the muzzle has also a target-grade crown and is threaded M14x1 for use with accessories and covered with an appropriate cap.

The barrelled action is treated with a glossy finish which looks like a deep blue/black, reminiscent of rifles of yesteryear. Benelli call this their BE.S.T (Benelli Surface Treatment), a coating which results in high surface hardness and low friction coefficient, providing an indestructible barrier which is impervious to anything the elements can subject the metalwork to. It looks superb and is a refreshing change to all the ceramic coated finishes which seems part and parcel of rifles these days - nice touch Benelli.

Bolt, safety and trigger

The bolt is one of the characteristic traits of the Lupo, its design incorporating three locking lugs with 60-degree bolt lift. The bolt body is made from a single piece of steel with a scalloped section in the middle which permits cartridges loaded in the magazine to sit slightly higher, achieving better feeding in the process. The bolt head is a separate piece attached to the body with a pin, case extraction and ejection facilitated by a plunger through the bolt face and a claw recessed into the locking lug rim.

To the rear of the bolt, an aluminium shroud keeps everything intact and there's provision for field stripping the bolt by pressing a small tab near the bolt shroud and removing the shroud, firing pin and spring. The main shaft of the bolt handle lies at an angle to the side of the rifle in the bolt-notch but the handle then kicks

out at a slant, terminating with an overside oval knob. The bolt is also subjected to the BE.S.T finish and complements the rest of the metalwork.

The safety mechanism is a two-position design on a tang behind the bolt shroud, inletted into the head of the buttstock. Its linear movement is simple to use and benefits from a small safety over-ride button behind the bolt notch. With the safety 'On' the bolt handle is locked down and firing pin blocked, but by depressing the safety over-ride button the action can be cycled and the chamber cleared of any loaded rounds.

The trigger unit is attached to the underside of the receiver and is of a traditional single-stage design with crisp break and no evidence of creep or over-travel. The trigger is adjustable from 1-2kg and was set at 1.2kg from the factory, which was fine for testing.



Receiver, barrel locking nut, barrel and trigger group.

Magazine

This is designed to match the contours of the aluminium mini-chassis and is five-shot capacity made of polymer (four-shot for the .300 Win Mag). Loaded rounds sit in a twin-stack configuration and are held securely in this manner with design elements built into the follower and magazine body. The outside of the magazine has two polymer scalloped sections on either side which add to the strength while the magazine clips into place securely and sits flush with the base of the mini-chassis, removal done by pressing a clip release on the front edge. The magazine can be top-loaded through the ejection port without any problems.

Mini-chassis, buttstock and fore-end

The aluminium mini-chassis is made using state-of-the-art CNC machining lathes which enable precise tolerances and



Benelli Lupo in disassembled form.



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Lupo - a wolf in Benelli clothing

measures 225mm at its longest point by 39mm wide. The chassis serves several purposes and provides a rock-solid platform for the barrelled action to mate up to, using two action screws.

One action screw is positioned into the rear of the chassis through the top of the bolt raceway, the other anchored into the underside of the front receiver ring just forward of the recoil lug. The lug is affixed to the chassis body and mates up with a machined slot in the underside of the receiver. The chassis also serves as the magazine well which accepts the polymer detachable box magazine and additionally has the bolt notch and triggerguard designed into it.

The two-piece buttstock and fore-end attach to the aluminium chassis via through-bolts, one at the front end (for the fore-end) and one through the buttstock proper anchoring into the rear. The polymer buttstock and fore-end are profiled for great ergonomics and have that Benelli style (textured grip panels), the aluminium chassis anodised in a matte black finish with the Lupo name inscribed just under the front receiver ring.

One main feature of the Lupo is the ability for users to adjust length of pull and cast of the stock to suit their requirements. While the review rifle wasn't supplied with any shims, they are provided on purchase. Benelli also fitted their superb Precision Comfort recoil pad - a shock absorber-like recoil management device - and it doesn't end there as the buttstock comb also has the ComfortTech padded insert installed, providing a soft surface for the user's cheek to rest on and help further dampen the effects of recoil. This insert is interchangeable for height.

The fore-end and buttstock have provisions for rifle sling attachment moulded into the polymer body and this is the only minus, as I could see these anchor points prone to splitting or breaking. Standard QD sling swivel studs would have been a better way to go but there's a provision option on the underside of the fore-end for a stud to be affixed.

Range testing

With the Progressive Comfort recoil management system and ComfortTech comb insert, shooting the Lupo was a delight. The rifle cycled all ammunition fed through the five-shot dual-stack polymer magazine without an issue and extracted fired cases with no problems.

The Federal Premium Power-Shok with 150gr Soft Point and Winchester Super-X with 180gr Soft Point both shot

Two-position tang safety just to the rear of the bolt shroud.



Table 1: Benelli Lupo accuracy testing at 100m

Ammunition	Average group size*
Federal Premium Power-Shok 150-grain Soft Point	30mm
Remington Core-Lokt 150-grain PSP	45mm
Winchester Super-X 180-grain Soft Point	35mm

*Average group size taken from five 3-shot groups at 100m from a benchrest



Left-hand side of the Lupo action and chassis.

well, average group sizes of 30 and 35mm respectively making both brands perfect for hunting larger game, though the rifle didn't like Remington Core-Lokt 150-grain loads (45mm average group size). As is the case when looking for a factory load for your hunting rifle, try a few brands and when you find one that shoots well, stick with it.

Overview

I'll be the first to say it - the new Benelli Lupo will revolutionise the way modern hunting rifles are designed. The incorporation of an aluminium mini-chassis as a bedding platform for the steel barrelled action, which also incorporates the magazine well and triggerguard, is masterful work. Additionally, having the capacity to adjust length of pull and cast of the rifle, something previously reserved for the shotgun fraternity, is another plus.

The Progressive Comfort recoil system and soft ComfortTech comb inserts, which were also interchangeable, made for a superb shooting experience and retailing for \$2599, the Benelli Lupo sits neatly in a price point between two of Beretta Australia's proven greats in the Tikka T3X and Sako 85. For more information ask your firearms retailer or visit www.berettaaustralia.com.au ●

SPECIFICATIONS

Manufacturer: Benelli Armi SpA, Urbino, Italy

Distributor: Beretta Australia

Calibres: .243 Win, 6.5 Creed, .270 Win, .308 Win, .30-06 Sprg (tested), .300 Win Mag

Chassis: Aluminium alloy

Action: Medium: Steel with BE.S.T treatment. Receiver top drilled and tapped for scope mounting provisions. Rifle supplied with two-piece Weaver-style bases

Bolt: Three locking lugs, fluted, BE.S.T glossy

Trigger: Adjustable for reach (+/- 2mm) using spacer (1mm) and shim (1mm), trigger pull adjustable

Safety: Tang-mounted two-position with bolt locking lever

Barrel: Sporter weight: 560mm on standard calibres, 610mm on 6.5 Creed and .300 Win Mag CRIO stabilised and BE.S.T glossy finish. Muzzle threaded (M14x1)

Magazine: Double stack detachable - five rounds in standard calibres, four in .300 Win Mag

Stock: Black techno-polymer with Progressive Comfort recoil system

Length: 1082mm (.243 Win, .270 Win, .308 Win, .30-06 Sprg), 1133mm (6.5 Creed, .300 Win Mag)

Weight: 3.18kg (.243 Win, .270 Win, .308 Win, .30-06 Sprg), 3.23kg (6.5 Creed, .300 Win Mag)

RRP: \$2599



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Savage Arms' Model B17F is a modern-looking rifle and cheapest of the three.



.17 HMR rifles best of the best

Thomas Tabor

In search of a better rimfire cartridge Hornady developed the .17 HMR (Hornady Magnum Rimfire) in 2002. At the time I recognised how ballistically superior that cartridge was compared to its competition but feared the cost would eventually cause its popularity to diminish. How wrong can you be? Shooters, particularly small game hunters, loved the .17 HMR from the outset and that adoration continues and, further adding to its popularity, eventually the cost began to drop.

The .17 HMR was based on the cartridge case of the .22 WMR (Winchester Magnum Rimfire), which was necked down to accommodate the smaller .172" diameter bullet. The end result was a cartridge loaded with a jacketed bullet as opposed to the usual lead bullet of the .22 calibre's rimfire versions, sent on its way at considerably higher velocities than either the .22LR or .22 WMR. Bullet variations began to grow in both composition and weight and while the 17-grain bullet is clearly the most popular weight for the .17 HMR, other weights typically range from a tiny 15.5 up to 20 grains.

Even though I questioned the success of the .17 HMR it wasn't long before I was singing its praises along with many other shooters. But like all cartridges it does have limitations and similar to the .22 LR and .22 WMR, I'd put the .17 HMR in the category of essentially a 100m cartridge. While in a few instances I've made some impressive shots out to about 150m on small game with my HMR rifles, in reality I believe its best performance is achieved within that 100m limit. And when small game is struck by its little 17-grain bullet within that range the results are nothing short of devastating, often leaving an exit hole the size of a 50 cent piece.

Because of the physical similarities between the .17 HMR and the .22 WMR, many rimfire rifle manufacturers found they could easily use their existing .22 rimfire bolt-action designs for the new calibre. As a result, there was soon a flurry of new .17 HMRs hitting the market and that selection has only grown over the past 20 years. But some products are simply better than others and in my opinion the following three rifles are among the best.

Cooper Arms' Jackson Squirrel Rifle

Top of my personal .17 HMR 'best of the best' list would have to be Cooper Arms' Model 57-M Jackson Squirrel Rifle. For the shooter seeking a bit more glamour than the usual production rifle this is hard to beat, but looks are only partly why I chose this one as it's also an excellent performer, capable of pinpoint accuracy. Of course quality comes at a price and a starting RRP around \$4195 makes it the most expensive of my three recommendations.

I've used the Jackson Squirrel Rifle extensively on game ranging in size from tiny ground squirrels often weighing as little as 500g all the way up to badgers, sometimes tipping the scales at as much as 14kg and in every case they were despatched with a single shot. Typically this Cooper model comes equipped with a heavily figured AA grade Carlo walnut stock designed with a roll-over cheekpiece (mine was a special order and came with an upgraded AAA French walnut stock).

The rifle weighs a moderate 2.9kg (6.5lb) and comes with a four-shot removable magazine, though another cartridge can be

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.17 HMR rifles - best of the best

fed directly into the chamber to increase that capacity to five rounds. Chequering of the Cooper stocks is done on-site with the Jackson Squirrel Rifle typically receiving a basic pattern consisting of two panels of 20-lines/inch on the grip.

The trigger is Cooper's own design and was set at the factory to about 2lb pull weight which I found exceptionally crisp and free of slop or excessive movement. For all practical purposes the trigger is considered essentially to be non-adjustable and if you want to change that setting, Cooper recommends you use a qualified gunsmith.

The target grade 22".940 x 5.80 stainless steel barrels are matte finished and supplied by Cooper Arms' subsidiary firm Wilson Arms. The silver stainless colouration has been retained on the barrels while the receiver, bolt and other metal surfaces are matte blued (this distinctive appearance has become a company trademark). At the range I frequently achieved nearly ragged-hole shooting performance with the Jackson Squirrel Rifle and found its hunting feats to be on par with those results.

Savage Arms Model 93R17 BTV

Savage Arms is renowned for the accuracy of its rifles, the Model 93R17 BTV no exception, and at 50m I often found my bullet impact points to be almost touching, no matter what ammunition I put through it. Certainly the quality AccuTrigger had a bearing on those results but the Savage barrels and other designs inherent in this rifle also contributed. I liked the fact this model came with a laminated wood thumb-hole stock which was both eye-catching and comfortable to shoot. While all wood stocks are susceptible to changes in impact point due to weather variations and ambient humidity, laminated stocks generally are less affected than more traditional solid wood stocks.

This stock came with ventilation ports cut in the forearm, which I found pleasing,



Cooper Arms' Model 57-M Jackson Squirrel Rifle is a work of gunsmithing art.



The Savage AccuTrigger on the Model 93R17 BTV and B17F are fully adjustable.

This yellow-bellied marmot fell prey to Thomas's Jackson Squirrel Rifle.



The Savage Arms Model 93R17 BTV is attractive and functional.

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.17 HMR rifles - best of the best

but that porting was only cosmetic. While venting a centrefire rifle stock in this way comes with the advantage of more rapid barrel cooling, a rimfire barrel never heats up to the point where such cooling is necessary.

I appreciate Savage having the foresight to install a thin rubber recoil pad on the stock rather than a buttplate made of metal or plastic. I view this as a safety feature as it discourages slippage of the rifle when placed in an upward position, either with the butt on the ground or in a standing gun-rack. I also appreciated two five-shot magazines being supplied, those magazines made of metal though the carrier the cartridges are set against is plastic.

The only change I'd like to see in this rifle would be an improved metal finish. Mine is a blued model (indicative of the 'B' in its name) and came with a fairly course matte blue finish which many manufacturers have since adopted over a more luxurious gloss or semi-gloss blueing. Essentially this is a cost-cutting measure and while I'm one who likes to save on my purchases, I'd gladly pay an extra few dollars for a more glamorous finish. At a moderate RRP price of around \$740, the Savage Model 93R17 BTV is a rifle any shooter can be proud to own and one capable of many years of service and pinpoint accuracy.

Savage B-Series B17F

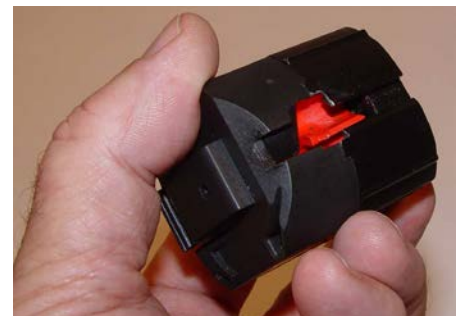
The Savage Arms B-Series rimfire rifles were designed for reliable service yet are moderately priced and have modern stocks



While all factory ammo shot accurately in the Savage Model 93R17 BTV, impact points varied slightly depending on the brand.



When a .17 HMR bullet struck a metal silhouette (top centre) it was powerful enough to crater the surface as opposed to impacts from .22LR bullets which only dented the paint.



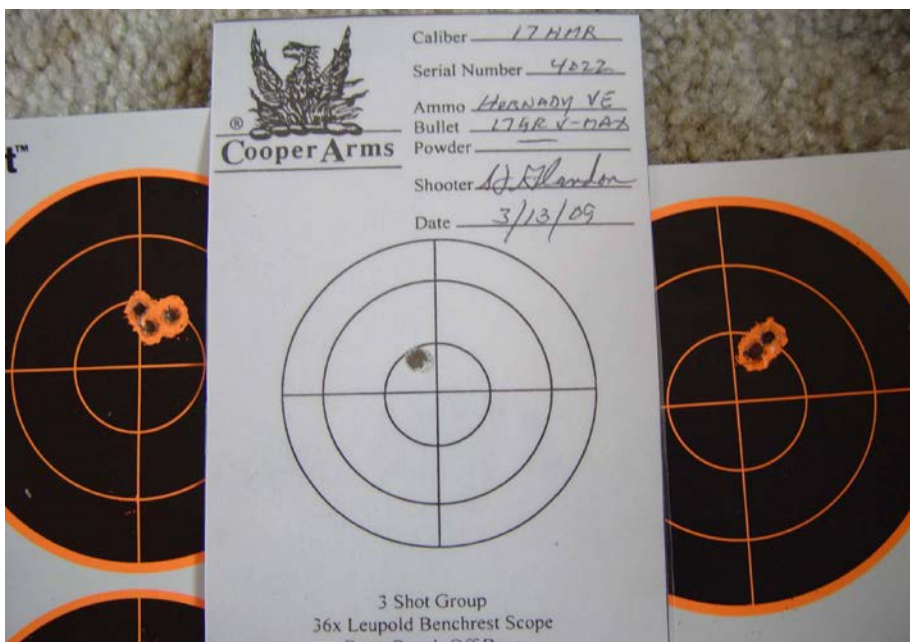
The Savage Model B17F has a well-designed 10-shot rotary magazine.

with a higher-than-standard comb, top tang safety and target-style vertical pistol grip. The B17F is among a variety of configurations in this series and is available in both

right or left-hand design. For the shooter after a modestly-priced, stoutly-built .17 HMR, the B17F may be the perfect choice and with RRP around \$400, this is by far the cheapest of my trio.

The black composite stock will surely appeal to many, its features including a triggerguard moulded directly into it as part of the lay-up process. A combination of texturing and grooves in the forearm and grip ensure slip-free gripping and a somewhat oversized target-style bolt knob helps when it comes to quick cartridge cycling. The pistol grip is formed at a slightly sharper angle than many other stocks, which makes shooting from the prone position easier and more comfortable.

Rather than the more common banana-style magazine, the B17F comes with a 10-round rotary version of Savage's own design which is dependable and assures trouble-free accurate feeding. Once this magazine is in place it contours perfectly to match the stock, making it almost invisible. Savage also saw fit to include the popular and favourable AccuTrigger in their B-Series rifles, typically set at a pleasant 2lb pull weight. And that's my top three - open to debate. ●



Each Cooper rifle comes with a three-shot test target, shown here with a couple Thomas shot on his outdoor range.

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A Smith & Wesson 32 double-action fourth-model revolver viewed in a Springfield museum.

Firearm museums and collections of the world (past and present)

Following on from last month's article which featured several Australian museums, **Lionel Swift** now turns his attention to overseas institutions and international collections of historic firearms. The tour kicks-off in the French capital.

Paris Invalides

This is one of many fine museums in Paris but for reasons unknown is less familiar than others. The building has three parts, the first still a home/hospice for former French soldiers, the second containing the magnificent coloured marble tomb

of Napoleon and the third an extensive exhibition of French small arms and field pieces along with many from other nations. This third portion includes a quadrangle bounded by literally hundreds of ancient cannon barrels and at the entrance are two antique light field cannons, one an unusual pepperbox and the other a victim of an enemy direct hit on its muzzle.

Also on display are edged weapons and life-size mounted warrior mannequins together with suits of armour from several centuries. There follows three or four floors of showcases containing longarms, handguns and edged weapons - I spent two days visiting this collection and still didn't see it all. Among matchlocks, flintlocks, caplocks and cartridge arms are numerous military and sporting firearms to make enthusiasts drool.

Liege

This Belgian city was once the most productive centre of European firearms manufacture, akin to Birmingham in the British industry. Like Birmingham, Liege had cottage industry production of parts

like triggers, locks, barrels, hammers and a lesser although significant number of complete firearms factories.

John Moses Browning took his skills to Liege in the 1920s after decades of designing for Remington and Winchester in the US, following a disagreement with both companies over patent rights. History shows it was a great boon for Belgium, not the least of which was the superposed Browning over-under, later to be improved by his son Val who designed the single-trigger mechanism for that timeless gun.

The most significant reminder of the golden age of Liege gun production is one of the best firearms museums in the world and my detailed review of it appeared in the March 2017 issue of this magazine. The Liege Museum has published for sale an excellent catalogue of its collection, which is sold on the premises.

Brescia

This is the centre of the Italian firearms industry and has been for several centuries, being home to numerous small specialty manufacturers and some larger including,



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Firearm museums of the world

of course, Beretta which is the biggest and oldest. The city coat of arms is a pair of crossed shoulder arms, seen throughout the metropolis, visible on every cast-iron water outlet. There's a magnificent museum using the entire historic Brescia Castle, several floors of which are devoted to an arms and armour collection with the ground floor being a general museum.

I started on the top floor via a gently sloping road with outstanding views to the top floor drawbridge - a reversal of most ancient castle designs. The drawbridge is unusual, having a combination vehicle/equestrian entrance and an adjacent pedestrian bridge. The top floor houses the earliest edged weapons and life-size cavalry figures, then you continue chronologically through several floors housing copious examples of firearm history. It rivals the Invalides in Paris in overall size, number and variety of firearms exhibits and is another venue begging for at least a two-day visit.

One fascinating exhibit is a *matchlock* O/U with a single trigger, which relied on revolving the barrels to meet the single match (and therefore the single trigger). This may interest today's clay target shooters who give great credit to the 'modern' single sighting plane and single trigger while decrying the 'old fashioned' side-by-side.

As a displayer here, it seems the O/U arrived much earlier than is generally appreciated before losing favour to the more aesthetic S/S for a few centuries. Personally



Flintlocks in the Brescia museum



Wheel locks (and O/U matchlock) with crossbow in Brescia.



More wheel locks in the French capital.



Brescia's display of men and horse armour.

I give more credit to today's plastic wads, improved chokes and higher quality lead shot. And speaking of the aesthetics of double-barrel configurations, I recall once writing that "S/S muzzles reminded me of a woman's delightful upper structure while O/U muzzles are reminiscent of a cow with its tail raised".

Eibar

This city in the Basque region has been the centre of the Spanish firearms industry for centuries. Its famous Arms Industry Museum is located at Bista Eder Kalea and contains an extensive collection of arms from the 14th century to the present day, as well as old gunmaking machinery and hand tools. Also incorporated is an entire collection transferred from the Armoury School Museum. AYA is the largest manufacturer of firearms in Eibar and has an extensive collection of its products from inception to current and I was privileged to tour this factory with assistant manager Carmen Lizarralde, though sadly didn't have time to visit the famous Eibar museum.



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Firearm museums of the world



Assistant Manager Carmen Lizarralde with an old bore in the Eibar venue.



Wheel locks in the Invalides.



One of the postcards from Harold's Club.

United States Harold's Club, Reno

This casino was opened in 1935 by brothers Harold and Raymond Smith and provided many innovative features for the Nevada gambling industry. The brothers soon installed their father 'Pappy' Smith as manager and he developed a separate room housing what many believe became America's finest gun collection. He added considerably to the display in 1949, buying the entire gun collection of Raymond Stagg from his nearby casino the Roaring Camp Room. That name and the 3000 guns were then displayed with the existing 2000 in the Roaring Camp Room and the remainder in the Silver Dollar bar and throughout the premises.

The casino closed in 1994 and the entire firearms collection was auctioned individually, although the club's collection of antique cars fared better, the entire lot bought by Holiday Inns. The gun collection included many important pieces such as the duelling pistols used by California Chief Justice David S. Terry and US senator David C. Broderick (Terry won and Broderick came 'second' after incurring a fatal wound).

There were several Kentucky rifles including a four-barrelled flintlock along with pistols carried by Napoleon when he invaded Russia. Another popular piece was a mint condition Gatling gun, a multi-barrelled machine gun from the 1870s which technically was not really a machine gun as its operation was by a manually driven wheel, not perforce of the ammunition. It was designed by Richard Gatling in 1862 and used by the US Army in improved forms until 1911. Guns from this collection still appear on eBay to this day quoting their previous ownership, which is believed to add value.

It's interesting to compare the total number of pieces at Harold's (5000) with the current NRA exhibits over three locations (4200), demonstrating the extent and one-time worth of Harold's collection. I'm delighted to have seen it at its peak in 1982 though all I have left are photos of two postcards.

NRA National Firearms Museums

This collection, highly regarded the world over, is free to enter and housed in three locations across a trio of different states:

- NRA National Firearms Museum: The principal collection is in Fairfax, Virginia and displays 3000 items covering historic, sporting and military pieces as well as many historic edged weapons, especially swords.

- National Sporting Arms Museum: Next in size in the headquarter building of the Bass Pro Shops, Springfield, Missouri, this collection concentrates on sporting arms from 1600 to the present day, holding around 1000 pieces.

- Frank Brownell Museum of the Southwest: Situated in West Raton, New Mexico is the smallest, newest and extremely interesting NRA firearms museum. The collection of 200 pieces, most of which relate to the settlement of the West includes guns used by pioneers and later cowboys, lawmen and hunters.

Buffalo Bill Center of the West

Located in Cody, Wyoming the building incorporates 7000 firearms exhibits and is one of five related museums in the town, founded in 1917 and affiliated with the famous Smithsonian Institute.

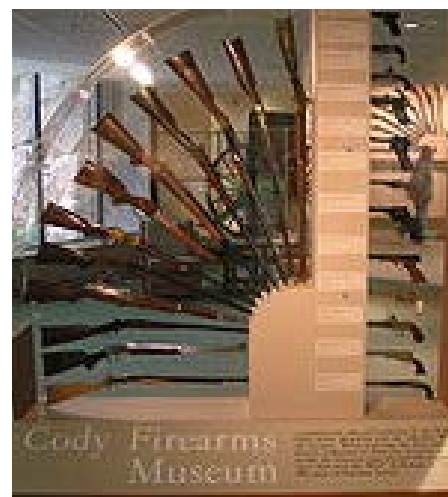
Springfield Museums

This is a complex of six separate museums operated under the auspices of National Parks in Massachusetts. The firearms section contains many complete special galleries including a Smith & Wesson section displaying rare early models such as the 1892 D/A .32. Another example of a rare pistol is the muzzleloading .28 six-shot 3" barrel revolver made by the long-gone Massachusetts Arms Co. The Garand M1 designed and made here and under licence elsewhere to a total of 3.5 million is also represented in great detail.

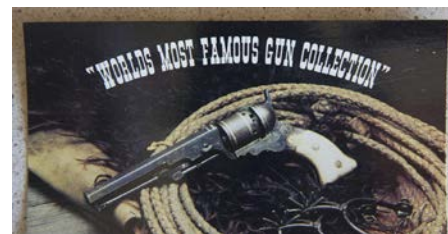
United Kingdom

NRA National Firearms Museum

This is not, nor is it intended to be, like the NRA museums of the US as it came about as an adjunct of the National Shooting



An impressive display in the Buffalo Bill Center.



A picture of a second postcard from Harold's Club.

Centre in Bisley, home of the famous British rifle range. Although the museum was first discussed in 1905 it wasn't inaugurated until years later while exhibits were being collected. The shooting complex was founded on Wimbledon Common as a large rifle range, operating there from 1860 to 1899 when it was moved to Bisley in Surrey due to advancing commerce and housing.

As well as the museum and original rifle range, this is home to an extensive clay target complex and a range may be booked by visitors on either ground. It's also the residence of various shooting clubs, both of military and civilian origin, many with facilities and accommodation provided to members and visitors. For some years the museum has seen an increased bias towards general club and shooting exhibits but still boasts a worthwhile collection of pistols, longarms and military items. ●

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Magnificent seven to the rescue

Brad Allen

I took a phone call from my old mate Kev who lives on a couple of acres on the edge of town. He'd spotted a small mob of pigs in a scrubby paddock over his back fence and I was even more surprised when he rang back the following morning to tell me he'd just chased them out of his chook pen. Luckily there was no damage as they'd forced their way under the bottom strainer wire into the pen and left the same way.

At that point I thought their close encounter with Kev may have had the desired effect and scared them off for good - but how wrong I was. The following night the hogs had been back in Kev's yard as evidenced by the many fresh hoof prints around the chook pen area. With a taste for grain and table scraps we concluded it was highly likely they'd be back and consequently they had to go.

That afternoon I packed my Ruger .223 and drove to Kev's place. He'd phoned the owner of the scrub block and organised permission for me to have a wander around in a bid to locate the marauding mob and hopefully shoot a few. With the wind blowing in exactly the wrong direction - from behind me and straight into the scrub - I detoured around the area where I suspected the pigs may be holed up, then walking into the wind I approached a long billabong dam surrounded by some low boxthorn bush and wilga scrub.



Morgan and the hog-haul - dog meat for some time to come.

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Magnificent seven to the rescue

Pig sign was everywhere, including the freshly chewed leg of a dead horse. I slowly made my way along the western edge of the dam, trying to be as quiet as possible. There was fresh pig rooting in abundance under the boxthorn, causing me to further slow my pace while peering into the tangle of foliage. A sudden movement to my left caused a mild heart-start as a large red fox took flight, running off in the direction I'd just come from. The adrenalin passed and my heart rate normalised as I hunted further along the edge of the dam.

I was intently focused on the area immediately ahead when movement on the other side of the dam caught my eye. My luck was in as a big reddish-coloured sow walked down the dam bank from cover and began to wallow in the mud at the water's edge. Taking advantage of her preoccupation I slipped over the dam bank and swiftly made

ground, popping back over the bank when I thought I was about level with her and from where I could take a clear shot.

Once in position I waited several minutes for the pig to clear the water and move up the bank, before drawing a bead on her temple with the 1.5-5 Leupold. The Ruger barked and the OSA 62gr bullet struck its mark as she dropped instantly, though in her death throes was able to propel herself down the bank and into the water. The sound of the shot alerted a second sow of similar size and colour which appeared from the scrub at the top of the dam bank, clearly wondering what just happened. Without offering me a clear shot, she watched the dead sow propel herself into the water and decided she'd better places to be and darted back into the scrub.

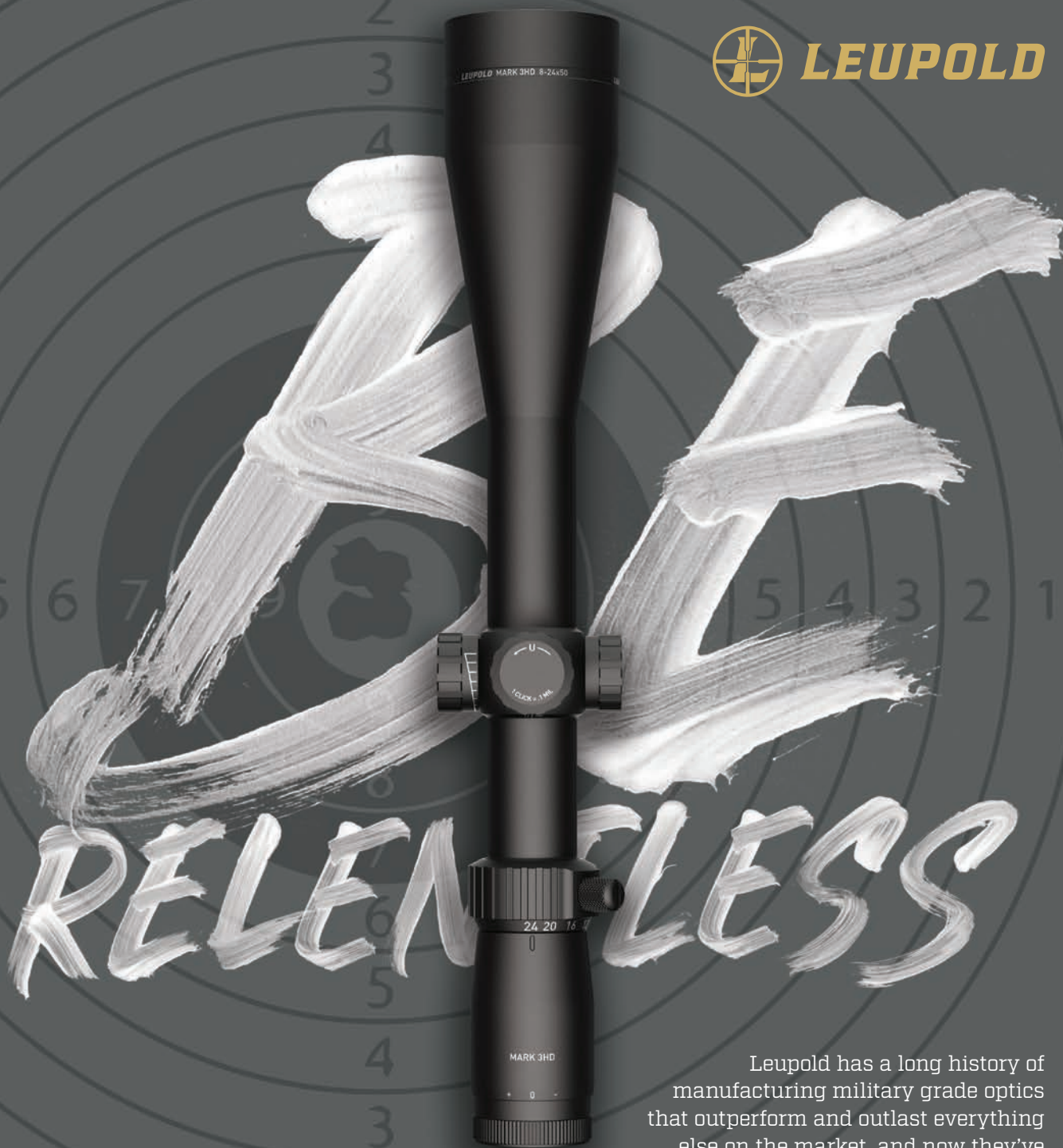
At this point I noticed my sow had disappeared under the water - exactly what I

didn't want - and at that moment I was treated to a rear-end view of the second sow vacating the area with a tribe of reasonably-sized piglets in tow. Oh well, one's better than none and I'd have to return tomorrow when the dead sow would hopefully be floating and I could recover her from the water. Sure enough, the next morning she had risen to the surface and was easily retrieved.

It was at this juncture Kev came up with an idea about how we might tackle the rest of the mob, suggesting we set a large steel mesh dog trap on the fence where the pigs had entered his yard and bait it with some old grain. We concluded the combination of shooting and trapping was a good idea but we wondered if my shot had worried the mob sufficiently for them to vacate the area.

The answer to that came early next day with a black and white piglet caught in the





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Magnificent seven to the rescue

trap and the rest of the mob being quickly led away through the scrub by the old sow as I drove up to the trap. I didn't bother to follow them as I'd only brought along my old Brno .22 to despatch the little hog so the trap was set again in anticipation as I headed for home. The sow was nothing if not persistent, as the next day she and a piglet were caught in the trap (never underestimate what a pig will do for a free feed). Kev also reported the remaining five piglets had hung around their entrapped mother for a while before decamping back to the scrub.

Again, not expecting the piglets to return, I grabbed the Brno .22 and headed to Kev's with my youngest son Morgan to do the business with the sow and youngster in the trap. As we slowly drove up to the trap behind the chook pen we could see the two in the trap but, lo and behold, the cavalry of five piglets were trotting out of the scrub back to their dear, entrapped mother.

As Morgan stepped from the ute, he loaded the Brno .22LR with a 10-shot magazine and moved around the side of the chook pen as the little mob stopped just 20 yards from him on the far side of the fence. With the Leupold set on 3x, Morgan began giving them all the good news and five shots later he had four of the five little hogs on the deck, the survivor heading west at a rate of knots after a near miss.



Kev sets the trap in anticipation.

With the fun over it was down to business as I butchered our hog bounty. They were all in reasonable condition and with livers, kidneys and stomach contents checked, I was satisfied they'd make good dog tucker. The .22LR is by no means my chosen calibre for wild pigs but on small animals like these (under 10kg) in the

hands of a capable shot and at close range, it does a credible job. In any case it was the only rifle we had to hand.

The end result was seven of the nine-pig marauding mob cleanly taken with the Brno, the Winchester 40gr Power-Points having done a sound job on the youngsters, similar to what we've seen on previous outings. Living on the Western Darling Downs of South East Queensland, it's not uncommon to encounter feral pigs quite close to town and in years gone by, usually during periods of prolonged drought, I've shot the odd one or two on the rural outskirts of town on a mate's grain property.

The planning and anticipation of any upcoming hunt or other getaway is usually one of the more enjoyable parts of the whole process - as they say, getting there's half the fun. By contrast, some of the most enjoyable hunts I've had are those I didn't really plan for at all - the ones that just happen like this one - and I know Kev, Morgan and I will remember our interaction and success with this mob of hogs for quite some time. ●



Molly, the canine helper, and Frank on a previous hunt. Three small pigs taken with Frank's own Brno .22LR.



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A photograph of a young boy sitting in the driver's seat of a red car. He is holding a rifle and looking through the scope. A yellow pool noodle is placed horizontally across the car's door sill to support the rifle. The background shows a grassy field and trees.

A swimming pool 'noodle' makes an effective rest when shooting from a vehicle.

Make your shooting dollar GO FURTHER

Bob Boland

If, like me, you enjoy shooting but your budget is limited, you can only drool over the amazing top-end gear available these days (if you have an endless budget, turn the page now). This article will look at four ways to make your shooting dollar go further with car rest, dog chews, rifle sling and shooting stick options.

Car rest

Many of us enjoy shooting from a vehicle either as driver/shooter or, even better, from the back seat. The challenge is that windows and particularly back windows on many cars only drop to about 10cm above the sill and glass is a far from ideal rifle rest. While you can buy a commercial vehicle-mount rifle rest for upwards of \$120, a cheap and effective alternative can easily be made from a swimming pool 'noodle' which costs around \$2.

Simply cut the noodle to the width of your window then make a lengthwise slit so it can be slid over the glass. I recommend using a length of noodle with a bend, so when you slide it over the straight glass it will sit more securely, but this is not essential. Additionally, as the cost in both time and money is low, consider cutting the noodle into four or more rests to allow you to shoot from either window - and give one to a mate.

Dog chews

One of the advantages of being a shooter is it's only a small step to becoming a hunter and while I don't take my dogs hunting, they certainly enjoy fresh free-range food. In fact I've been told by a vet my dogs' teeth are in top condition thanks the number of bones they eat. Clearly bones are equivalent to toothpaste for dogs.

And on the subject of dog health,

remember never to feed your dog carnivore meat (feral cats, wild dogs or foxes) due to the risk of transmitting disease and limit the amount of pig, or at least excessive fat, as too much fat is bad for a dog. If you're a feral pig hunter however, you can render pig fat down as a natural lubricant for black powder firearms.

Back to dog chews and I'm sure most people who hunt and have a dog already feed it off-cuts and, if you have space, an old freezer for dog meat makes a lot of sense. But have you considered air-dried dog chews? For example, if you've boned out a leg you simply hang the bone in a space with reasonable air flow like a shed or veranda.

Skins also dry easily and, once dried, last for a reasonable length of time. Rabbit and hare skins dry nicely around a bent piece of wire or an old coat hanger, while

larger skins can be draped over a fence. Nutritionally your dog will need more than air dried bones and skin, but both of those are good for their teeth and will keep them occupied when you're not at home.

Rifle slings

These are much more than a carry accessory and when used correctly will help improve accuracy, particularly when shooting from a standing position. But commercial slings are not necessarily cheap or customisable. So before suggesting a 'cheap shot' option it's worth looking at what makes a good sling and the first is material, with the most expensive versions being leather. But leather doesn't necessarily enjoy wet weather (yes there are numerous leather dressings but that's another expense).

An obvious alternative is nylon which is cheap, tough and weatherproof. The problem here is nylon is slippery and the irritation of constantly readjusting your sling, let alone the potential damage if the rifle slides off your shoulder, is unpleasant to say the least. So cotton - hardwearing, weatherproof and with more grip than nylon - is a great alternative and a simple cotton sling can be easily customised to suit your needs as a one- or two-point option, cuff, ready or carry sling.

A length of cotton belting and two adjustment fittings will cost less than \$20 (two fittings allow for adjustment at both ends of the sling). I just bought an 'op shop' cotton belt and salvaged two clips from old shoulder bags, but don't forget you'll still need to buy swivels to mount your sling, whether you buy one or make your own.

Shooting sticks

In the field I always try to use some sort

of rest as it simply improves accuracy, the challenge being that sometimes no rest is available. That's why many people use rifle-mounted bipods but, particularly in long grass, a bipod might be too low to see your target. One solution is shooting sticks of which there are many commercially available ranging from monopod, bipod, tripod and four-point shooting sticks.

An added advantage of shooting sticks (particularly four-point) is they help you shoot far more accurately while absorbing heavy recoil more easily than shooting from a bench, a key factor when zeroing-in or familiarising yourself with a heavy recoiling rifle. So let's look at some key features of shooting sticks.

1: They can't be flexible as the whole point is to provide stability and thus accuracy.

2: Must be light weight so you carry them comfortably in the field.

3: Must be adjustable as your target may be significantly higher or lower than you.

So on the basis of these specifications here are some 'cheap shot' options, each with different pros and cons.

Monopod

- A stick - pro: high availability and low cost. Con: finding a good stick is a challenge and then there's the question of some sort of saddle for the rifle to sit in. A traditional thumb stick resolves this but appropriate stock to make a thumb stick can be hard to find.

- Bamboo - pros: light weight, strong and doubles as a walking stick. Additionally, if the branches are left a few centimetres long they provide a natural saddle/rest for a rifle. Cons: not everyone has access to bamboo though many gardeners will give you a length free of charge.

- Second-hand camera monopod/aluminium hiking pole - pros: can be found cheaply, light weight and adjustable for height. Cons: finding one can take a while and you'll need to make a saddle to mount the top, though this isn't difficult.

- Finally, monopods are less stable than shooting sticks with more legs.

Tripod

- Bamboo - pros: light weight, strong, quickly adjustable by spreading the legs and top of the tripod provides a saddle. Cons: Access to bamboo, though my major problem was unwieldiness and the fact that moving a bamboo tripod silently is 'challenging'.

- Camera tripod - same pros and cons as a camera monopod.

Four-point

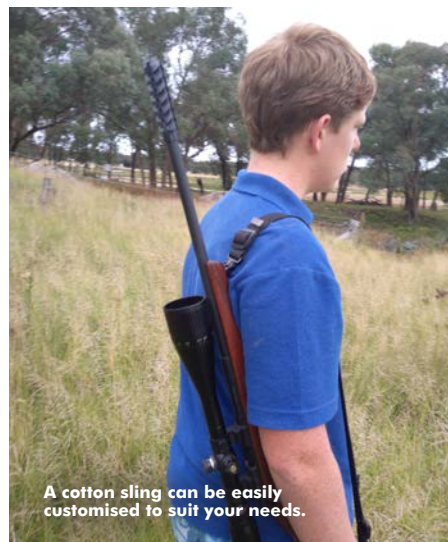
- Bamboo - pros: light weight, strong, adjustable (spreading the legs) and top of the tripod provides a saddle. Four-point sticks are particularly valuable as a way to zero or perfect rounds for a heavy recoiling rifle as they allow the shooter to 'roll' with the recoil. Cons: even more than bamboo tripods, a bamboo four-point is unwieldy and noisy so while it may be great in combination with a hide, particularly when set to a seated rather than standing position, it's not practicable for a more mobile style of hunting.

Conclusion

If you're able to use all of the above you'll have saved substantially more than \$200 and perhaps you've been inspired to consider and experiment to make your shooting dollar go further. I highly recommend the SSAA Gun Sales website as a great way to stretch your shooting budget. ●

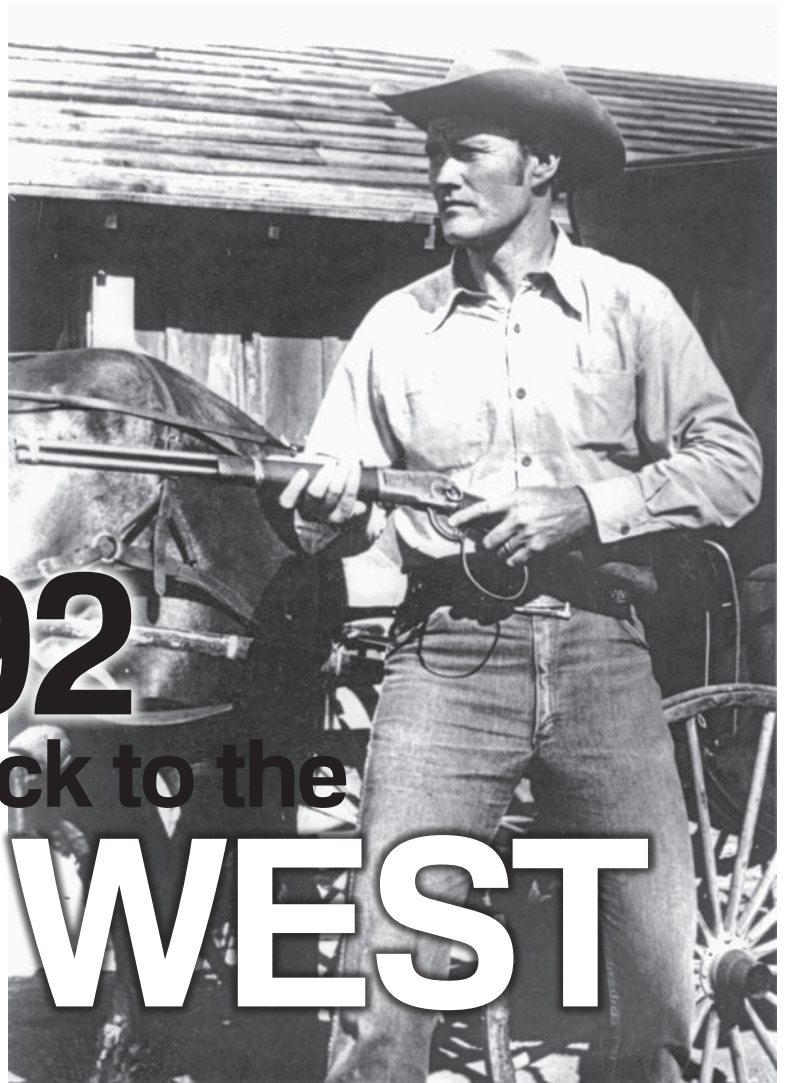


A bamboo tripod is sturdy without being too heavy.



A cotton sling can be easily customised to suit your needs.

Chuck Connors as Lucas McCain in *The Rifleman* with his large lever-loop Winchester 1892.



Rossi 92 offers throwback to the WILD WEST

Daniel O'Dea

If you lived through the 20th century it could be said you existed in a period of the greatest human advancement. Be it medicine, aviation, automotive or electronics, in no time in history have we come so far yet by comparison basic firearms technology remains relatively unchanged. Now before you shout me down, let me qualify that statement. A hundred years ago we basically had the metallic cartridge case as used today - powder, primer and projectile - pretty much perfected. Sure, there have been improvements in all those components but the concept of design remains unchanged.

It's the same with your rifle - we may have synthetic polymer stocks, modern metallurgy and hi-tech finishes such as nitride coatings, but most basic action designs are almost the same. By contrast, look at today's telephones against those of 100 years ago and there's no comparison.

That aside, many firearms designs from 100 years ago are just as effective and relevant in the current age and although basic principles may have remained the same, advancements in ammunition components, manufacturing methods and especially in optics have greatly improved firearm effectiveness.

Of course even where some formats may be dated, certain firearms' popularity continue due to historical themes and the public's desire to relive the past. Be this in shooting sports like Western Action, historic re-enactment or even just collecting, demand has in some cases soared with even some of the most obscure firearms of the past being remade by modern replicators. Likewise some iconic designs have never been out of vogue, clones of the Winchester rifle of 1892 a great example of this and, as such, I was quite keen when offered a look at one such example in the Rossi 92.

The Winchester Model 1892 came about when John Moses Browning was contracted to come up with a more compact version of the large-frame Winchester 1886 which he'd previously designed as a replacement for the Winchester 1873. The story goes Marlin had just released a firearm which Winchester were concerned could take some market share so T.G. Bennett, then Winchester vice-president, offered Browning a \$10,000 bonus if he could deliver a working prototype within 90 days, increasing that to \$15,000 if he could complete the task in 60 days. Browning upped the ante, offering to have it done in 30 days for \$20,000 or he'd hand it over for free. Needless to say he met the deadline and Bennett had to pay up.

The Model 1892 was an instant success and although technically it was its predecessors in the Models 1873 and 1866 which were the guns that truly 'won the West', it

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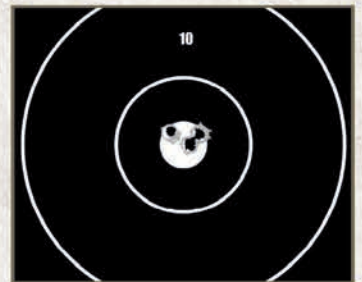
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Rossi 92 offers throwback to the Wild West

would be the Model 1892 which wore that mantle on the silver screen. This is because the Winchester 1892 became the lever-gun of choice for movie Westerns with all Hollywood studios in that golden age of cinema. John Wayne, first swinging his large lever-loop Winchester 1892 in John Ford's 1939 Western *'Stagecoach'*, would be a feature he'd adopt throughout his illustrious career.

My personal favourite Western exposé using the Winchester 1892 is *The Rifleman* TV series which ran from 1958-1963. Shot in black and white it stars Chuck Connors as Lucas McCain, the quintessential all-American Western hero, a chisel-jawed widower and rancher raising his boy Mark (Johnny Crawford) on the Western frontier in the 1880s.

Besides ranching he spends his time saving his local town and neighbours from robbers, rustlers, outlaws and any other ne'er-do-wells who appear in each half-hour episode. McCain's the fastest man in the West with a rifle (again a large lever-loop Winchester 1892) which he carries exclusively over a pistol, and the intro to each show sees him strolling down the town's dirt strip firing rapidly from the hip as the overture builds and the voice-over man declares 'The Rifleman!' - great stuff.

Back to the Rossi 92 and I guess to call it a clone of the original wouldn't be technically correct. The basic action layout and mechanical toggle is much the same, only with minor changes to simplify manufacture (reducing cost) and to meet legal requirements such as for a safety catch than anything else. Patents have long expired so little reason exists for such modifications.



The action on the Rossi 92, although slightly different in profile, is closely based on the Winchester 1892.

The most obvious tweak is in the receiver profile with the Winchester having a step down where the lever hinges, while the Rossi is straight. Likewise, the Rossi uses a coiled hammer spring and the Winchester a flat spring. The actual safety is a small flag/lever incorporated into the rear of the bolt just forward of the hammer spur which, when activated, blocks the hammer from striking the firing pin. It doesn't prevent hammer fall and can only be engaged with the hammer in either the half- or full-cocked position.

The Rossi as tested is the stainless steel Puma Carbine version in the hard-hitting .44 Magnum chambering. It sports a 20"

barrel with a full-length magazine tube holding 10 rounds, other variants available with barrel lengths of both 16" and 24" having eight and 12-round magazine capacities respectively. Rounds are fed into the magazine via a spring-loaded gate on the right of the receiver and cycling the lever introduces a new round from the magazine and extracts and ejects spent rounds from the chamber.

The rifle is stocked with a straight-grained hardwood and lightly varnished, fit and finish surprisingly good for a lever-action rifle in this price range with all inletting displaying tight and even gaps. The buttstock has a curved metal buttplate in



The Rossi 92 Stainless Steel Puma Carbine is a fine-looking lever gun.

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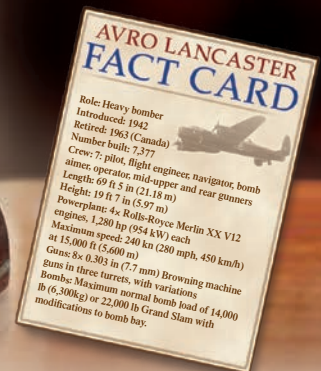


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Rossi 92 offers throwback to the Wild West

matching stainless steel which, although traditional and atheistically pleasing, may not be appreciated by those shy of recoil, especially .44 Magnum when using full-powered and factory loads.

Again staying with tradition, sighting is via a steel front post with gold bead and Buckhorn-style ramp rear sight. The barrel is tapped and threaded between the receiver and the front barrel band so the rear sight can be drifted out and replaced with a supplied 118mm Weaver-style rail for optics mounting. The Model 92 design is a top ejector so any optic must be mounted in this forward position Scout Rifle-style with either a long eye-relief scope or red dot optic.

Straight out the box with the action tight, working the lever was a little clunky. I understand the Rossi 92 to be a rifle which greatly benefits from use, with the action smoothing out once run-in. For those who don't want to wait, tuning by polishing of the mating surface can lead to more immediate improvements but naturally this should be left to a qualified gunsmith. Make no mistake, the action is not unpleasant to use and the tightness is reassuring of good tolerances in manufacture. I only raise this to note it may not be silky smooth out the box but in time, or with work, it can be.

The rifle weighs 6.2lb (about 2.8kg) and is compact and easy to carry. As supplied there are no sling attachments but I'm sure should they be desired, after-market options would be available (a real cowboy will simply slip it into the rifle scabbard attached to his saddle). In use the Rossi 92 is a lot of fun to shoot but if you're recoil shy avoid full loads in the .44 Magnum or, better still, get yours in .357 Magnum which can also be used with .38 Special - both are lighter in recoiling.

Accuracy-wise these aren't benchrest guns but are fairly respectable for what they are and placing shots in a saucer-sized circle at 50 yards with iron sights shouldn't be an issue for a capable shooter. So think less MOA as Minute of Angle and more MOP or 'Minute of Pig' which is exactly, outside of lever-action competition disciplines, the more likely practical use for a rifle like this chambered in .44 Magnum.

For a bit of fun I drifted the rear sight off and fitted up the rail so I could mount an Aimpoint H-1 Red Dot. This type of set-up makes for a compact, fast-handling pig rifle for thick scrub or lignum and it would be equally at home mounted across the handlebars of your motorbike or quad when chasing hogs across the plains. The red dot sight certainly made ringing steel plates at 100m a fairly simple task and extended

the Rossi's range. If you're looking to play cowboy the Rossi 92 is also a popular choice for starting out in Western/Single-Action disciplines, more commonly chambered in the .357/38 option. Either way the rifle is a good workhorse option for those wanting to enjoy both lever-gun heritage and another legacy of John Moses Browning. ●

Specifications

Rifle: Rossi SS Puma Carbine

Action: Lever

Trigger: Single stage

Calibre: .44 Magnum

Capacity: 10-round tubular magazine

Barrel: 20" round profile (508mm)

Twist rate: One in 30

Sights: Beaded front, Buckhorn rear blade

Length of pull: 12.75" (324mm)

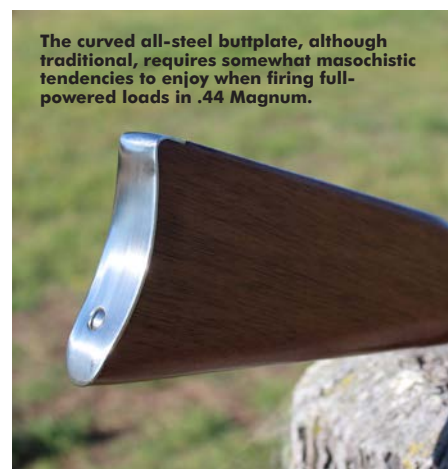
Metal finish: Stainless steel

Stock finish: Laminated

Weight: 6.2lb (2.8kg)

Length OA: 37.2" (945mm)

Price guide: \$1000-\$1100 (approx.)



The curved all-steel buttplate, although traditional, requires somewhat masochistic tendencies to enjoy when firing full-powered loads in .44 Magnum.

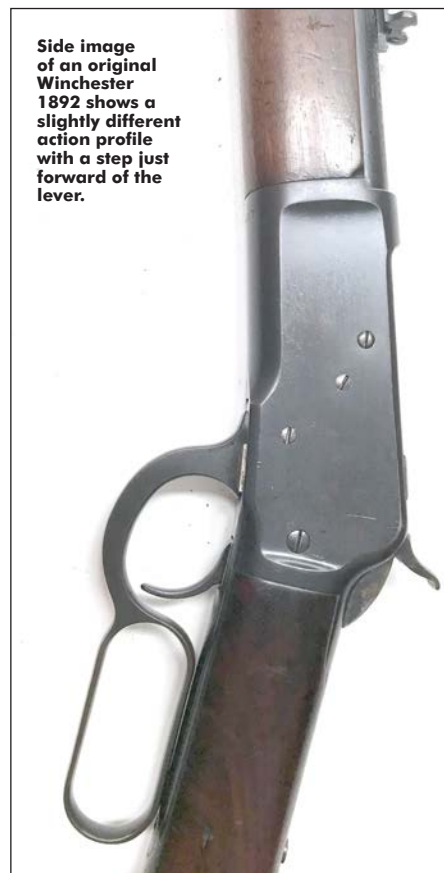


Above: Like most similar lever guns the Rossi 92 has three positions:

Hammer down.

Half-cocked.

Full-cocked.



Side image of an original Winchester 1892 shows a slightly different action profile with a step just forward of the lever.



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Len Hodgson took some trial shots, persevering before hitting the 50m pig on the smallbore silhouette range.

The light fantastic

Glock's new Model 44 rimfire

Geoff Smith

The Austrian firm Glock, known globally for producing lightweight polymer-framed handguns, recently released their first

.22 rimfire, designated the Model 44. According to Wikipedia, while designer Gaston Glock wasn't the first to make a polymer-framed gun (he was apparently beaten by Heckler & Koch) his format was nevertheless well received due to its simplicity and inherent safety.

Glock handguns are favoured by many police forces for being lightweight and extremely straightforward to operate. Ridiculously easy to field strip and clean, there are few controls other than the trigger, slide release and magazine release, making them also almost idiot-proof and durable. This facilitates much simpler training for beginners generally - this model particularly - because of its low recoil and cheap ammunition.

It differs from other Glocks by being a straight blowback-operated gun yet matches

them perfectly by having the black polymer frame and nitride Tenifer-finished steel components. In size it equals their Model 19 so holsters can be used interchangeably and at just 433 grams empty, the Model 44 is extremely lightweight yet exceptionally comfortable to point and shoot.

It's supplied, like the others, in a signature carry box which includes a small cleaning rod, jag and bronze brush as well as a full set of both plain and beavertail grip inserts to enable customising grip size. There are two magazines, an instruction manual and tiny screwdriver for adjusting the rear sight. To comply with Australia's minimum length requirements it has a 122mm barrel, there's a threaded cap on the muzzle and a separate thread adapter is supplied which enables a muzzle brake to be fitted if desired.

The polymer 10-round magazines are of substantial size, tapered at the top to enable rapid insertion into the funnel-shaped magazine well entrance. Twin tabs on either

side aid loading and the recommended method involves placing the magazine on a flat surface and lowering the tabs just enough to insert one cartridge at a time until full, thus ensuring the rims of each cartridge are properly aligned and misfeeds don't occur. The magazines have a zig-zag spring and removable floorplate to enable cleaning. The slide recoils on firing, back over the shooter's hand and in returning to battery scoops up a new cartridge from the magazine in readiness for the next shot. Firing is achieved with a striker located within the slide which has the firing pin on its forward end.

The barrel and key parts of the slide are steel while the frame is made from a tough polymer into which steel guide pieces are strategically embedded. The Model 44 slide differs from the centrefire models by having a steel chassis and breechface but filled with polymer like the rest of the frame, resulting in it weighing just 133g, supposedly to give reliable cycling. Safety begins with the

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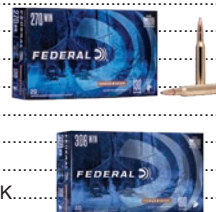


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The light fantastic - Glock's new Model 44 rimfire



Some ammo performed better than others.

trigger which has a protruding safety bar in its centre. Unless the shooter's trigger finger is pressed across the width of the trigger ensuring the central safety bar is pushed back, it cannot move.

Trigger travel is relatively long which makes it feel unusual until the shooter is

used to it. The trigger also readily reveals whether the gun is cocked since it sits far forward compared to when uncocked, what's unusual being the striker is not completely retracted at this time. The final trigger travel is what pulls the striker fully back to its maximum extension position

and consequently, the slide need only be pulled rearwards a short distance in order to engage with the trigger bar catch. The trigger bar itself is connected to the trigger and runs along the right side of the magazine well, back to the rear of the frame.

Depressing the trigger moves the trigger bar backwards which does two important things. From its resting position the catch on the trigger bar pushes the striker rearwards until the cam on the connector pulls the bar downwards, thus releasing the striker. Simultaneously the vertical spur on the trigger bar pushes the firing pin block upwards, enabling the striker to hit the cartridge rim. The firing pin can't reach there if the trigger is not fully engaged, providing the second safety feature. The 'drop safety' is the third inbuilt safety feature and this prevents the trigger bar from releasing the striker unless the trigger is being pulled, so dropping the gun when ready to fire won't result in accidental discharge (doing this of course is highly discouraged).

On firing, as soon as the slide moves out of battery, an internal horizontal cam on the right underside of the slide pushes the



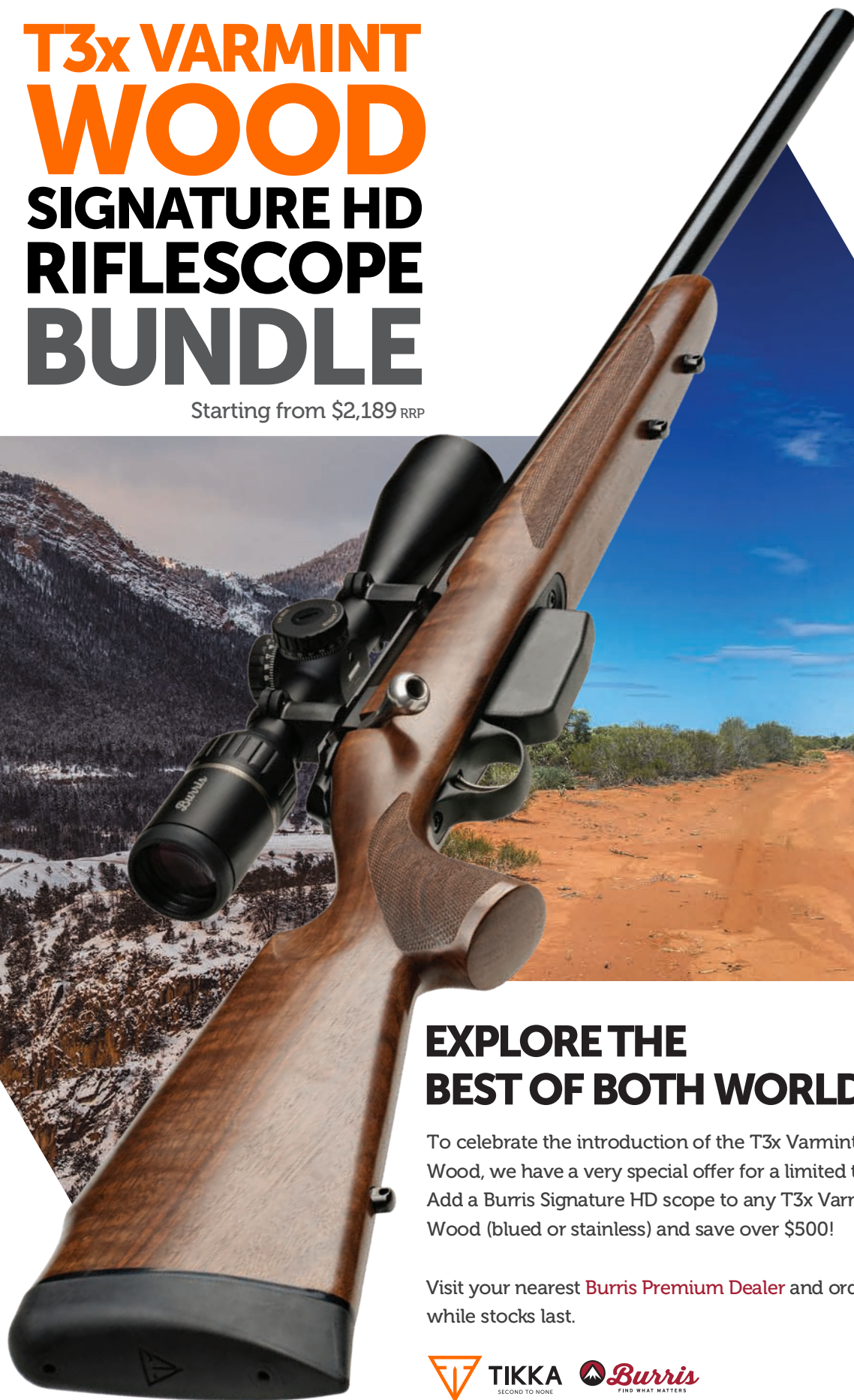
Left-side view with slide held open.

With slide removed the trigger bar can be seen going around the right of the magazine well back to the striker release position.



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The light fantastic - Glock's new Model 44 rimfire

connector away from the trigger bar thereby disconnecting it, ensuring the trigger must be released and re-operated before firing the next round. The slide recoils through the direct momentum of firing and, having pulled the empty case from the chamber, brings it rearwards until striking the ejector, which throws it clear. The returning slide picks up a new cartridge from the magazine and chambers it so when the trigger is released the gun can fire the next shot. The slide remains open after the last shot as the magazine follower lifts the slide release lever when empty.

The unusually slim cold hammer forged barrel features six-groove right-hand rifling with a pitch of 406mm (a fraction under 16"). A bore camera reveals the unusual profile of the rifling as well as the fluting at the forward end of the chamber, which is claimed to assist with extraction. The breech end of the barrel has a 'ghost hole', enabling the shooter to see if a round is present in the chamber which also means dry-firing with this gun is safe, as the firing pin end of the striker can't reach the breechface.

Field stripping is quite simple. After clearing the gun, removing the magazine and dry-firing, the slide is pulled back about 3mm and held (typically with the right hand) while the left hand is used to lower the slide lock catch evenly on each side of the frame, the slide then slipped straight off the frame. The recoil spring lifts out from the barrel and slide and, after unscrewing the muzzle cap, the barrel is slipped out. The gun is now stripped and can be cleaned effectively.

The open sights have a square notch highlighted in white at the rear and a white single dot on the front, the rear sight adjustable for elevation and windage via two tiny screws on the right side and attached to the slide by a transverse dovetail. After cleaning oil from the bore I went to the SA Para range on several occasions and used the gun in a variety of matches, as well as giving fellow shooters a chance to try it and make comment.

The relatively heavy trigger (average pull-weight measured with an RCBS gauge at 6lb or 27N) was a point of discussion as was the noticeably light overall weight. Straight out the box the gun was shooting quite low and to the left but after some adjustments was on the target adequately. I then took the pistol and a wide variety of ammunition to the range and conducted grouping tests from a rest, chronographing with a LabRadar and later analysing results using RSI Shooting Lab software.

Good news is the gun had no problem



Field-stripped for cleaning.

with any of the ammunition used, muzzle velocities ranging from 822-1092fps. In my experience, few handguns will cycle flawlessly then remain open after the last shot over such a wide array of bullet velocities. The groups obtained were not as tight as I'd have liked, which I ascribe mostly to my own inexperience with this combination of light gun and rather heavy, long pull of the trigger. Having said that, I managed 10-shot groups with each of nine brands of ammo and many of those groups included acceptably tight clusters within larger groups, having several flyers that were almost certainly my fault. When accustomed to shooting a heavy gun with a light trigger, the contrast is quite challenging.

There's little doubt that with practice this gun will produce adequate accuracy. Surprisingly, the best groups were achieved with Winchester 555 budget ammo, SK Pistol Match and Sellier & Bellot standard velocity also giving fair results. Because of this I believe the pistol is ideally suited to action-style matches where the emphasis is on speed and timing and, as a training gun for shooters who also use the Glock Model 19, it'll be an outstanding addition to your arsenal. Glock's focus on safety, utility and ruggedness is what makes this gun stand out. The test gun was loaned by Nioa Trading. ●



Originally from Vienna, Rudi Bajzer enjoyed using a gun from his home country.

Specifications:

Glock Model 44
Calibre: .22 long rifle
Length: 206mm
Width: 34mm
Height: 124mm
Weight (unloaded): 433g (including magazine)
Magazine capacity: 10 rounds
Barrel length: 122mm
Rifling: 6 grooves, 406mm twist
Australian importer: Nioa Trading
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Green-eyed monster as active as ever

John Maxwell

Many shooters will have thumbed through *Hot Products*, the annual publication by Queensland firm Nioa, checking out the latest guns and gear from Australia's largest importer and distributor of firearms and accessories. The latest edition runs to almost 500 pages. From a small gunshop and import business set up in 1973 in a service station in Gladstone by Bill Nioa, father of current managing director Robert Nioa, the company is now a significant and growing player in the national defence industry.

Nioa supplies the Australian Defence Force with a range of equipment and munitions, imported and also produced at its plants at Benalla and Maryborough and comes in at No.26 in Australia's Top 40 defence companies according to rankings compiled each year by *Australian Defence Magazine*. To sporting shooters Nioa is perhaps better known as distributor of Glock handguns, Leupold optics, RCBS reloading equipment, Federal and Lapua ammunition and components and much more.

But not everyone is happy about Nioa's success. In February, protesters under

the umbrella of activist group Wage Peace set-up shop outside Nioa's facility in Pinkenba, Brisbane waving placards and doing what protesters do. "When ordinary citizens take action on sites such as the Nioa factory it provides concrete information about real people going about their everyday preparation for war crimes," the group says on its website.

"This action by Wage Peace at Pinkenba draws attention to the fact that Nioa is not just a typical Queensland company and helps to expose the weapons companies' interest in promoting violent conflicts to sell their products." A photo produced by the group shows a protester wearing a black T-shirt emblazoned with 'No War' holding up a placard saying 'Merchant of Death' in front of the Nioa building. This seems to confirm that at least two protesters were present. Activists also put in similar appearances outside the offices of other defence companies in and around Brisbane, having no other impact whatsoever beyond exercising their moral vanity.

Nioa is a big company and well capable of taking care of itself. Yet gleefully reporting these protest activities was Green Left who noted Nioa also featured in an article

revealing a National Rifle Association-style (NRA) gun lobby was flourishing here. "The Australia Institute report also notes that firearms suppliers and their affiliates, such as shooting and hunting clubs and gun advocates, have made significant political donations, run campaigns to influence voters and encouraged the election of pro-gun cross benchers," says the Green Left report. "It found the Sporting Shooters' Association of Australia (SSAA) had almost as many members per capita as the NRA with almost 200,000 members."

But wait, haven't we heard all this before. Of course we have - in reports released by The Australia Institute in March 2019. Though it claims to be independent, The Australia Institute is closely aligned with The Greens with senior personnel being former Greens staff members and political candidates. The Australia Institute's report entitled *Point blank: Political strategies of Australia's gun lobby* was actually commissioned by Gun Control Australia.

Also commissioned by Gun Control Australia - with contributions from GetUp! members - was another Australia Institute report released around the same time entitled *Hunters and collectors: Gun use*

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Green-eyed monster as active as ever

and ownership in Australia. For a report on Australian gun owners this made some truly bizarre observations, including one that gun owners chose their guns to match their outfits such as when going to the beach - clearly drawn from US research.

This all shows the curious associations between so-called progressive, left-leaning organisations which are fundamentally anti-gun but whose agendas don't entirely match organisations such as Gun Control Australia. The Green Left article on Nioa, with its reference to the Australia Institute reports, repeated straight from the Wage Peace website.

Wage Peace is an activist peace group for every conceivable peace-related progressive cause including #FreeAssange etc. Their embrace of the Australia Institute/Gun Control Australia discussion papers seems to be tangential to their fundamental agenda, their website claiming they provide strategic messaging and digital campaign support for campaigns and groups disturbing war and militarism in Australia. "We 'organise' and 'mobilise' to #EndWarCulture," they say.

Wage Peace's big current campaign, endorsed by Green Left, is directed at the Land Forces conference to be held in Brisbane at the start of this month. This is an expo by defence companies selling or keen to showcase their technology to the Australian and other armies. It's not a gun show, though a number of companies such as Nioa which sell their products to Australian shooters will be exhibiting. Land Forces is not open to the general public.

Green Left used to be *Green Left Weekly*,

a printed newspaper founded in 1990 and now also published online. Despite the name, Green Left has no formal association with The Greens political party though they appear to share common views. Green Left is actually a creature of the far left, described in its Wikipedia entry as the de facto newspaper of the Socialist Alliance which was founded in 2001 as a loose alliance of socialist organisations, including Democratic Socialist Perspective and the International Socialist Organisation.

Political scientists will appreciate that over the years Australia has been home to a bewildering array of communist and socialist groupings of divergent allegiance and agendas, small memberships, rising and fading in accordance with world events and the interests of their adherents. A significant shakeout occurred with the end of the Cold War and dissolution of the Soviet Union.

Some Australian commentators have suggested various former socialists/communists saw a brighter future with new and rising party The Greens (now The Australian Greens) which emerged from Tasmanian environmental protests in the 1980s. At least one who did was Lee Rhiannon, a former Greens senator (2011-18), NSW Greens MP (1999-2010) and long-time gun control activist. Before signing with

The Greens she was a members of the Communist Party of Australia (CPA) and Socialist Party of Australia and on leaving federal politics she returned to her roots as a committee member of the Search Foundation, legal successor to the CPA. Her speech last year for an event called Rising Peace is printed in full on the Wage Peace website.

"With Premier O'Farrell up to his elbows in pro-gun culture there is a role for the Federal Government to step in to ensure the good work started by former Prime Minister John Howard in the aftermath of the Port Arthur massacre is not undermined," she said in a media release attacking the NSW State Government in 2012, one of many cited in the gun control section of her website.

Although its agenda is more anti-capitalist, Green Left is scarcely pro-gun, giving gushing endorsement to The Australia Institute papers such as its report on the gun lobby and steps to reduce its influence. "These are all practical measures which would help undercut the gun lobby's lack of transparency and its profiteering from illegal arms dealing (in Australia, this is mostly legally imported firearms which are subsequently diverted or lost to the black market by lawful owners)," it says.

"The public health benefits from such reforms could include a decline in the number of gun accidents, homicides, mass shootings and the use of guns in domestic violence abuse. And that would be a good thing for public health in this country." ●



Lee Rhiannon.

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Scope mounts are crucial components

Dick Eussen

Like scopes, mounts and dovetail rings have come a long way and it's rare to find one that's faulty. Leupold and Weaver mounts rule but there are other brands - Conetrol, Industek, Hawke, Tasco, Rifleman, Lynx, Konus, Sportsmatch and Warne - of excellent-to-good quality matched to reliability. Many scope mounts, like the Lynx Stud System and Conetrol, are mounted directly on the rifle receiver, though some purists claim mounting the scope in direct parallel with the barrel causes canting (tilting).

But canting has been largely solved with two steel loop straps bound over the tube and held in position by four screws instead of two. Still, mounting can be difficult. You line the cross-hairs up properly, tighten the screws and find the scope has canted

because you failed to tighten them in unison, with one side pulling down further than the other. Some years ago Weaver offered a new flat-mounting slot base rail with windage adjustable in answer to that problem.

Sometime later the US military adapted and redesigned the format for use on the M16 rifle - the MIL-STD-1913 Picatinny rail. The rail is designed to provide precise standardisation for the universal acceptance and interchangeability of scopes, lasers, lights, red dots and more and for increased strength the original Weaver rounded rail slots were changed to square bottom slots. The recoil groove on the Weaver mount is .180" but the MIL-spec mount is .206", the spacing being .394" to cater for extra accessories.

The claw feet of the Picatinny slot rail is bulkier even though it appears the same. But the recoil lugs of some night visions and thermal optics are too deep to fit the grooves on Weaver rails and their copies properly, causing stress on the scope's base which may interfere with reliable zero retention during recoil. When fitting dovetail ring mounts and other accessories to a rail and it feels as if you're 'squeezing' or forcing the clamps together, stop and check if the tolerances are the same - better safe than sorry later.

Weaver and slot rail copiers vary their systems as they like (apart from the dovetail width) but when microns matter for target and long-range optical precision, stick to genuine systems. The 1913 Picatinny rails are favoured to properly



Sighting-in a .223 Ruger fitted with a 4-12x40 SS Leupold scope, mounted in Ruger mounts.

secure long-range optics and always use genuine accessories which match the fitting of the rails by sticking with one brand.

Be wary when attempting to match fittings from one to another and stay with the same brand to avoid inherited problems. Weaver mounts and accessories may be used on the MIL-spec system but not vice versa and it's important to remember this when choosing a base between the receiver and the mount by ensuring all components match.

I prefer a two-piece ring mount base over a one-piece slot or rail system because they're directly attached to the receiver either on existing dovetails or screwed, meaning a stronger and more secure system with fewer screws to come loose and less weight. It also offers better single loading. If you have bridge, rail or a

Picatinny-style mount, some obstruction over the loading well is present when single loading.

Sako changed its V-shaped dovetail mounting system some years back to a more complicated and expensive mounting, the dovetails on the action being tapered, which prevent the ring mounts from moving forward - they won't move under recoil even from such hard kickers as the .338 Lapua and .458 Winchester Magnum.

Early Sakos had a similar system and I still have a couple fitted with Australian-made steel Hillver bridge mounts - remember them? They never move no matter what calibre the rifle is. The Ruger Model 77 mounting system is another good option as all the screws are simple to check for tightness and, most of all, when the

mount is removed and replaced its zero is often spot-on with no need to resight the rifle. Ruger rifles are sold with a matching set of mounts.

Arguably best and neatest are Conetrol mounts which have windage with both rings, rear and forward, equally resistant to recoil and forward movement of the scope, no matter how big the optic is. I have them on my .30-30 Marlin lever-action and .270 Mark V Weatherby Magnum. Mounts are available in low, medium and high specifications to suit all types of stock designs and your preferred hold on the rifle when sighting it. If it's not high enough, Leupold's Extended Riser provides extra height and you also have a choice of two-piece ring mounts or a single bridge mount which incorporates the rings.

Scope mounts are crucial components



This Leopold ring mount is fixed directly to the Mauser receiver, drilled and tapped to ensure maximum support for the scope.



Weaver and Picatinny mounts are ideally based to take a variety of sights without having to visit a gunsmith.

Mounting

Loose screws on either the ring mount or a Picatinny-style base can be problematic with big game and other hard-kicking rifles. Most makers now have Torx screws and supply a small 'finger' driver which, when using the short end, tightens the screws enough to prevent over-tightening though I generally snug them up a little extra with a torque wrench for peace of mind.

I put a dab of Loctite on top of the screws after tightening. I used to apply it on the screw but sometimes the stuff sets so tight you need heat to loosen it or risk damaging the head of the screw. Loctite has various strength formulas but use 222 solution for best results. Years ago I had problems with high-powered rifles like the .458 and .375 Magnums holding the scopes securely as they'd move forward under recoil, so I learned to 'shave' grit from fine 220 sandpaper and glued it about the inside of the ring mounts.

Quick-detachable mounts

I've fired Holland & Holland big game rifles fitted with custom QD mounts. One bloke I guided on a buffalo hunt years ago tripped on some rocks in a creek bed and busted his expensive German scope. I offered him one of my rifles but "no thanks" as back at camp he replaced the mount and scope with a spare he had. It fitted perfectly and was in zero so I was suitably impressed as it was the first time I'd seen such a wonderful system.

I've met hunters who carried two scopes mounted in separate rings which matched the QD release stud system mounts on their rifles. Having an extra scope handy is not as silly as it seems as back in the 1970s and '80s, many scopes failed under adverse weather conditions in the tropics - or just



There are options for mounting scopes on different rifles - bridge mounts from Hillver and Conetrol and ring mounts from a dozen makers do the job.

broke. It was good security for hunters on expensive trophy hunts both here and overseas.

QD mounts were introduced by Zeiss in 1904, some say because scopes of the day would often fail and having a system which could quickly be removed to use the iron sights was important. Years ago, as a kid growing up in rural Netherlands on the German border, I saw hunters carry their scopes in leather cases and when a long shot offered itself, they'd put the scope on



Ensure when mounting a scope the rifle is well secured and level.

the rifle. Many of these hunters on both sides of the border had drillings with a rifle barrel under double shotgun barrels as both boars and roe deer used to roam on our farm.

There are other benefits of QD mounts as you have an option of taking the scope off and using open sights or switching from a low power scope to high power. It's simple to sight in a scope and remove it to replace it with another and be ready for the field conditions or, as in the case of my client, keep on hunting with a favourite rifle. Another important consideration is that when travelling, especially flying, the scope can be removed and kept in your carry-on baggage.

QD mounts are available from Burris, Leupold (QR and QRW rings), Talley, Warne Maxima, Weaver Lever Lok, Weigand and Ruger. Many of the best QD systems are designed to match Weaver systems with Weaver-style bases, others with MIL-spec 1913 Picatinny bases. These mounting systems are strong and can be removed and replaced at will without losing the scope's zero, providing the bases are placed in the same slots.

Most makers claim their QD mounts will return to within half-a-minute of angle or less when the scope is remounted,



A .308W Sako Finnlight with Leupold VX-R 4-12x50 FireDot scope secured in Leupold ring mounts.

mounting and removal done with either a special tool, thumb screws or a press stud depending on maker and model. Some European makers like Sako and Burris have bases with cross-slots which clamp directly to the rifle receiver, allowing the use of a Weaver pattern cross-slot ring. These mounting systems are rugged and may be removed, refitted and still maintain zero.

There are other mounting systems, the Skinner Express scope mount with an aperture sight within the base and the Brockman mount is fitted with a pop-up aperture. Sadly some of the stuff isn't available from your local dealer and you may have to go offshore to find it. Visit leupoldqdmounts.com and it opens pages of options. ●

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Love affair with multi-pocket tools



The original Leatherman PST is still in Henri's keeping.

Henri Lach

My passion for multi-pocket tools began one day in the pawn shop of a small commercial complex at Biggera Waters on Queensland's Gold Coast. I've been a dedicated pawn shop and second-hand outlet hunter from an early age, since I discovered the principle that if you can buy low and sell high you can make money with little effort.

Anyway, on this occasion checking out the Biggera Waters store I spotted in a glass display case an attractive looking set of what were obviously stainless steel needle-nosed pliers. The proprietor's spiel was this little tool had been pawned by an

overseas traveller who'd overspent his budget during a tour of the US and needed to balance his books and ensure he still had somewhere to live back on home turf.

That seller apparently had never used the tool but had discarded its original box and paperwork. Subsequent investigation and handling revealed the item was marked 'Leatherman Tool' and the stamp on the jaws confirmed it had indeed come from the US. The tool and its pliers included a functional blade, two-sided file, can/bottle opener, gimlet and four different-sized screwdrivers including a mini-driver and Phillips head. The whole lot folded into a

comfortable little parcel and was contained in an attractive real leather belt pouch with 'Leatherman' logo - what more could a hunter/fisher want?

Do you wonder why I was smitten? I paid a price for it which at the time may have gone some way towards the deposit on a Gold Coast unit. But as they say, love knows no bounds and that original Leatherman tool is still with me, in the same condition and still with its original leather pouch. It has seen scant use in my keeping as it became the catalyst in my quest to keep up with the new models it spawned.



The prized Wave is a brilliant working tool.

A Leatherman Micro - one in every room.

Research and an eye on the multi-tool market has shown me that after the international success of that first Leatherman PST (Personal Survival Tool), new and more innovative models have come thick and fast, firstly the PST2 with added scissors, dual-edged blade and useful double-sided file with a fishing hook sharpening groove. Then came the super tool with an interlocking blades system, 'butch' look and choice of real leather or strong synthetic pouch. Many other models have followed and I won't bore you by listing them as you can find them on the Leatherman website.

But one model which has passed through

my hands many times - and is my absolute favourite - is the Wave which has all the tools anyone could want for use in the field, on the water and in the home. It's beautifully put together and comfortable in the hand and along with a one-handed opening pocket blade, a Wave on my hip has always been there for outdoor outings of all sorts.

It's fair to say that precious few hunters, fishers and outdoor enthusiasts wouldn't instantly recognise the Leatherman name on my hip as it's become a have-to-have tool in one or many of the brand's configurations for in the field, on the water, in the glove box or even just around the house.

The story of the brand is the stuff of legend and this is one legend firmly backed by empirical evidence and documentation and no doubt there are many entrepreneurs out there to this day wishing they'd thought of it first.

Where it all began, according to records, is with a bloke named Timothy S. Leatherman when he and his wife were touring Europe back in 1975 in a bargain-priced campervan prone to constant minor issues. Young Tim gave serious thought to developing a convenient pocket tool capable of addressing such difficulties and it should be pointed out that Tim Leatherman was

Love affair with multi-pocket tools

not your average sort of tinker, he was a 1970 mechanical engineering graduate of Oregon State University.

Inspired by the original Swiss Army knife, it took several years before he came up with a prototype which earned him his first US patent in 1980. After additional refinement, Tim's initial product was introduced in 1983 as the Pocket Survival Tool (PST) - with which I'm now familiar thanks to my pawn shop find - and initially sold through mail-order catalogues in the US. The rest, as they say, is a runaway success story.

I make no apology for drawing on internet sources, including Wikipedia, for the following information: In July 1983 Tim took on a partner, Steve Berliner, to form the Leatherman Tool Group. According to statistics, the group sold almost 30,000 tools in 1984, fuelling additional product development and rapid growth both in the company and manufacturing capacity. By the end of 2001 the company had annual sales of \$100 million and had sold more than 20 million tools.

Folding knives were introduced to the Leatherman product line in 2005 and two years later the company opened its first retail store (at its manufacturing plant) which has since relocated to a shopping centre near that facility in Portland, Oregon.

That same year, Tim Leatherman was inducted into the Blade Magazine Cutlery Hall of Fame in recognition of his design impact on cutlery history, then in 2011 the Leatherman Tool Group acquired German light manufacturer LED Lenser, the brands and companies run separately under the Leatherman Tool Group umbrella.

Leatherman Tool Group now turns out a line of multi-tools specifically for military and law enforcement personnel, as well as accessories for carrying and expanding the function of its tools. As of February 2011, Leatherman produced 50 products sold in 82 countries with the US market share estimated at 55 per cent. You can even buy a heavy stainless steel bracelet inscribed with the Leatherman name, if you have a lazy couple of hundred dollars in your pocket. But back to the present day and let's not forget the useful little key-hanger, the Leatherman Micra. Every room in my house has one of these in case of a minor emergency like a hangnail or parcel that needs attention.

We know success spawns imitation and US-based firm Gerber was a notable entry into the multi-tool market with their own style of items. They've produced some fine functional types but haven't been able to outdo the Leatherman brand in

terms of sales. And it didn't take long for our northern neighbours to jump on the multi-tool bandwagon, Asian manufacturers having shown absolute disregard in the past for international patents and this attitude certainly marked the Leatherman clones which began to flood the market at giveaway prices in the 1980s.

Australian importers buried their collective conscience while making a swift dollar from the inferior cheap products which proved quick sellers, even in supermarkets. After all, why pay \$100-plus for a Leatherman when you can pick up something which looks just like the real thing and works almost as well for less than \$20?

While the first Asian rip-offs to hit our shores left much to be desired in quality and finish, those northern manufacturers soon got their act together and current Leatherman lookalikes are functional tools, still way below the price of the real thing. I'll admit there are a couple in my collection, as an academic exercise of course, as nothing could ever detract from my love of the real thing, the genesis of which I found in a Gold Coast pawn shop in what seems a lifetime ago. ●

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Nosler E-Tip excels as lead alternative

Chris Redlich

Already sharing a competitive field of bullet designs, Nosler's answer to the all-copper projectile is the E-Tip bullet. Although not a concern in Australia for the time being, some state jurisdictions in the US have banned traditional copper-jacketed lead projectiles for hunting and manufacturers have returned fire with a barrage of all-copper projectiles to effectively suit the needs of hunters in restricted areas.

It's fair to say Nosler bullets take up the majority of shelf space on my reloading bench and I was keen to put their E-Tips to the test. Supplied for the purpose of review by Nioa were a variety of E-Tips in 6.5mm 120-grain, 7mm 140-grain and .308 calibre 150- and 168-grain. Deliberately omitting any political argument on the environmental comparison of an all-copper bullet to a lead core projectile, E-Tip stands for Expansion Tip, a pretty mundane name though an easily identifiable product title by Nosler for their all-copper bullet nonetheless. After all, a good hunting bullet's sole purpose is to expand on impact and kill effectively.



Achieving great results at the range (as evident on the bottom left target) and calculating muzzle velocity of the E-Tip handloads aided by a chronograph.

Bullet design

Apart from its shape, the Nosler E-Tip has considerably different characteristics and features from a lead core bullet.

- Starting with the pointy bit at the business end is Nosler's easily recognisable olive-coloured polymer tip which initiates rapid expansion on impact for deep penetration. It's important to note that E-Tip bullets have a recommended minimum impact velocity of 1800fps in order to effect expansion.

- The Expansion Control Ring (ECR) ensures controlled expansion over a wide array of velocities and conditions.

- Nosler's E2 Cavity or Energy Expansion Cavity provides a dual-purpose chamber for

serious stopping power and uniform expansion with a claimed 95 per cent-plus weight retention for superior penetration through hide, bone and vital organs.

- The solid all-copper alloy construction meets all the lead-free hunting regulations where lead core projectiles are banned.

- The boat-tail design of Nosler's E-Tip combines with the polymer tip to provide extreme long-range performance and easier loading (see photo on Page 68).

Handloading the E-Tip

Nosler's E-Tip, as with most of their hunting bullets such as Ballistic Tip and AccuBonds, are designed dimensionally similar but the all-copper construction of the E-Tip will

Nosler E-Tip excels as lead alternative



Adjusting for correct seating depth is vital to E-Tips' accuracy.

mean a 'longer for weight' projectile (or higher ballistic coefficient) than its lead core brothers of the same weight. For example, a 7mm 140-grain Nosler Ballistic Tip has a marginal but noticeably smaller ballistic coefficient (BC) of 0.485 and shorter overall length (OAL) of 1.29" compared with the 140-grain E-Tip's BC of 0.489 and longer

OAL of 1.3". Alternatively, when comparing a lighter Nosler Ballistic Tip bullet of 120-grain with a 140-grain E-Tip of 6.5mm diameter, you'll notice both are similar in length (see photo below).

Obviously both bullets of the same diameter have an equal sectional density, but in principle lead weighs more than copper

and in most cases a conventional lead core bullet with similar ogive and boat-tail design to the E-Tip will be shorter in OAL. I feel it's important to understand these basic comparisons of the bullet variants, particularly for handloaders.

My own experience in reloading them has revealed vastly different performances, and testing showed a .308 diameter 168-grain all-copper projectile will perform ballistically similar to a 180-grain copper-jacketed lead projectile out to 300m. It's crucial to note that E-Tips and other makes of all-copper projectiles characteristically shoot better when backed off the lands because of their dense copper construction and seating them free helps reduce higher pressures after ignition. Chamber throat length and maximum allowable Cartridge Overall Length (COAL) are two serious considerations for correct seating of the E-Tip projectile and reaching its full accuracy potential while keeping pressures to a safe level.

Recruiting some local SSAA range buddies and equipping them with different



Bullet comparisons of 6.5mm 140-grain Ballistic Tip and 120-grain E-Tip (left) are similar in length while the 7mm 140-grain E-Tip is noticeably longer than the 140-grain Ballistic Tip (right).

weights of bullets supplied, I tasked them with reloading duties to find a broad scope of research for this review. The task was gratefully accepted by all and we went about reloading our respective boxes of E-Tip bullets for various rifles. Results were not surprising and the E-Tips displayed similar characteristics to other all-copper projectiles I've loaded previously. The E-Tips proved a little fussy at first in the rifles tested, but once a correct load and seating depth was reached they shot beautifully.

For example, I fired test loads of AR2208 powder behind the 7mm 140-grain E-Tip and it didn't group as tight as I'd have liked. ADI's AR2208, a medium-burning powder, is perfect for the 140-grain Nosler Ballistic Tip in that test rifle but, as it turns out, the faster-burning AR2206H behind the 140-grain E-Tips printed consistent half-inch groups in almost all test loads. The best group, measuring .384 MOA, was all I needed to confirm my preferred load for the 7mm-08 Rem.

My mate John loaded 150-grain E-tips for his .308 calibre rifle and while they weren't the usual sub- $\frac{1}{2}$ MOA groups typically expected from his rifle, they printed satisfactory hunting groups averaging .959 MOA at 100m. Bill, on the other hand, set about loading 120-grain 6.5mm bullets in his Creedmoor with the best load powered by 40-grains of AR2209, backed 3mm off the lands and printing a .630 MOA group.

With an impending hunt and armed with my new load preference for the Savage Weather Warrior rifle in 7mm-08 Rem, I loaded my remaining batch of 140-grain E-Tips powered by the most accurate of all - 41-grains of AR2206H. Moving along at a chronographed 2770fps from the muzzle would provide the adequate, recommended impact velocity at 100 and 200m for deer hunting and I couldn't wait to put them to the test.



The 7mm 140-grain Nosler E-Tip helped down Carl's first boar of the trip.

Field testing

My son and I made plans for a week away during school holidays and he was keen to shoot the 7mm-08. Carl pre-sighted the rifle for himself prior to the hunt and was more than happy with the accuracy on paper from the Nosler E-Tip loads. Our first outing trailing along a timbered creek line was perfect for us to sneak up on a mob of feral pigs and, oblivious to our presence, the largest boar scavenged close to us while my son took aim. Carl fired and we had our first pig of the trip, the 140-grain E-Tip loaded for the 7mm-08 Rem proving more than adequate for the task.

Typically expected of all-copper projectiles, the Nosler E-Tip passed through both sides of the pig exiting with a tidy wound channel and taking out the vitals in

the process (see photo below). Obviously the bullet couldn't be recovered to verify Nosler's claimed 95 per cent weight retention but a dead pig at our feet was more than enough proof of effective projectile terminal performance.

Conclusion

There's no point banging on about a hunting projectile and all its advertised merits without trialling them for myself. Nosler E-Tips are great bullets but, as with all handloading, you must take care and work up from minimum listed loads. The projectiles supplied to me, once loaded to matching burning rates and barrel twist rates compatible with bullet weight, fell admirably into that 'sweet spot' of tight groups we all strive for.

I believe a rifle which doesn't shoot well on paper isn't going to instil confidence in the field, especially when lining up that one-shot kill at 200m. Our 7mm-08 Rem shooting 140-grain E-Tips performed accurately at the range and was replicated in the field when a shot presented. As expected, Nosler's E-Tip bullet did the job and my son was rewarded with a young boar for his efforts.

Nosler E-Tips in boxes of 50 are available in calibres of varying weight ranges from .22 to .375 and are priced competitively to similar makes of all-copper projectiles. For more on Nosler E-Tips visit the NIOA website and call your local stockist for current pricing. ●



Close-up of an expanded E-Tip retaining 95 per cent of its original weight.



An importantly characteristic tidy exit wound by an all-copper projectile. The E-Tip passes through both shoulders, taking out all vitals in the process.

The P08 9mm Luger had dense qualities.

X-ray imaging: the inside view

David Alderson

Way back in the early days of my training to become a radiographer, now known as a medical imaging technologist, I read an article in an international professional medical journal on historical research, preservation and restoration of various artefacts being aided by the use of X-ray imaging. One of the illustrated artefacts was a US War of Independence-era

Charleville musket, which immediately caught the attention of a novice shooter and collector. Interest in this case wasn't so much in examining the condition of its ageing internal components but making sure it wasn't loaded (and it was) before being put on display. Why no thought was given to asking a muzzleloading shooter to demonstrate the old ramrod internal and external comparison test escapes me.

Nevertheless, it was a fascinating article which piqued my interest and during a career in medical imaging spanning almost 50 years, I built up a small file of radiographs of various items from my collection. Images of individual cartridges, full clips and loaded magazines cut out of X-ray film made useful bookmarks, while similar images applied to ceramic tiles became drink coasters and other novelty gifts for mates.

Modern X-ray equipment used in industry to check for stress fractures, cracks and weld integrity is serious stuff, capable of producing very high levels of dangerous radiation. Similarly, medical imaging systems can generate levels of radiation known to be a health hazard, hence the current plethora of workplace health and safety regulations covering the medical, dental, veterinary and industrial fields.

It was only late in my career I managed to get hold of an imaging system - for cardiac and vascular angiography (dynamic imaging of heart arteries and valves in particular and other arteries anywhere in the body) - with enough grunt to approach the realms of industrial radiography which, of course, I had to exploit to the full.

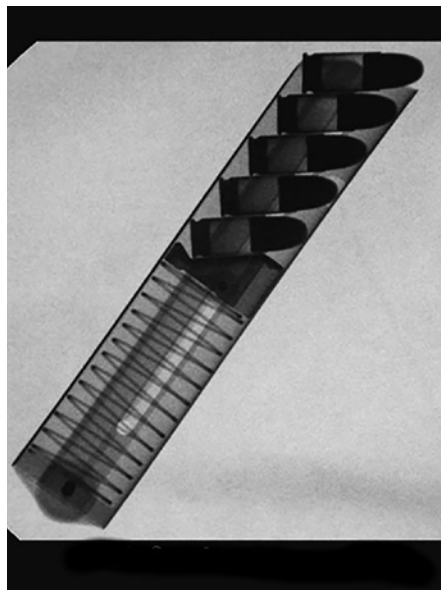
On a routine service day, obviously with no patients or ancillary staff inconvenienced, I just happened to have on hand a bag full of items to help the service technician 'check' the recalibration parameters and fine-tune image quality. With his eager assistance we set about producing the accompanying images.

Not wishing to blind you with science, when an X-ray beam passes through anything - either living tissue or inert substance - some of the energy is absorbed, some penetrates all the way through and some is scattered in all directions. This creates flare around the image and loss of edge sharpness which degrades its overall photographic quality, leading to a reduction in the amount of reliable diagnostic information which can be obtained.

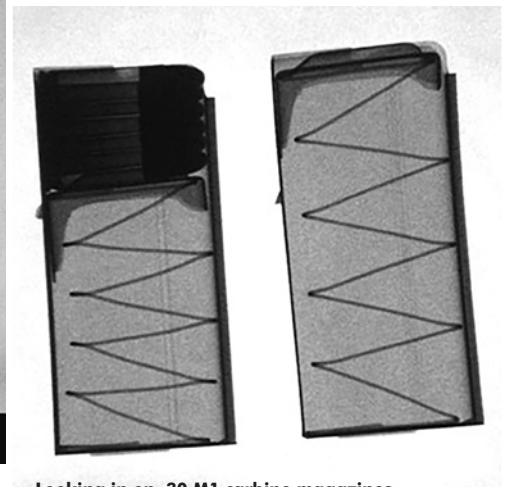
The more dense the object, the more power needed to penetrate it therefore the more scatter, flare and non-sharpness produced. It's the intensity of radiation




Time for the .62mm NATO blank linked belt.



Keeping tabs on a P08 9mm Luger magazine.



Looking in on .30 M1 carbine magazines.



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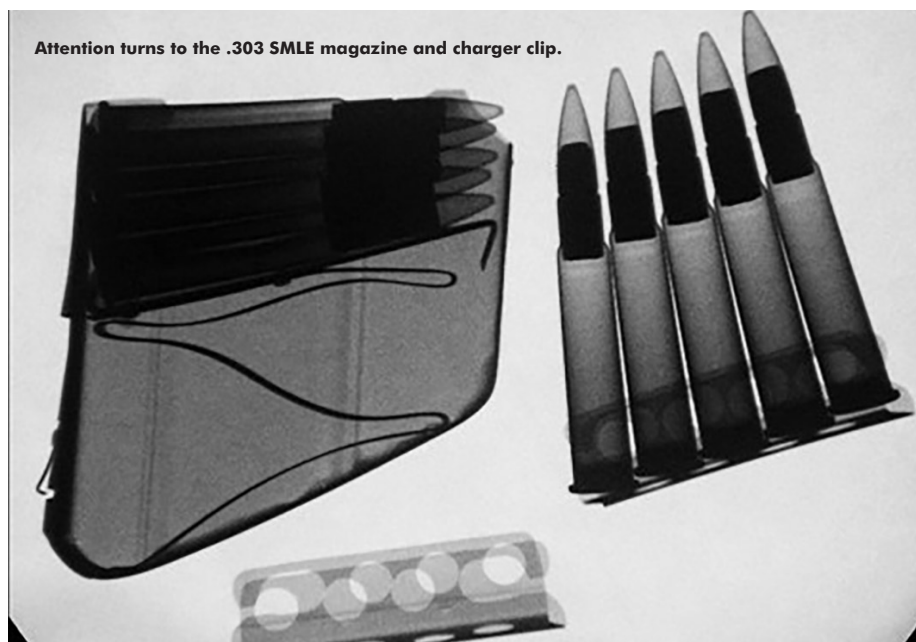
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X-ray imaging: the inside view



passing through different tissue densities and thicknesses and reaching the film or other imaging receptor which creates the various shades of black, grey and white 'shadows' of the final image.

We had to use several 0.5 and 1mm-thick copper filter plates and numerous layers of 50mm lead equivalent thickness personal protective aprons to absorb all the scatter, depending on how thick and dense the subject was. The Luger, being the heaviest, required the most filtration and had the system working at absolute peak output. All acquired data was saved to the system hard drive from where it could be post-processed and recorded to other media for further photographic editing and image enhancement as required.

The resultant images were most informative and I found the symmetrical patterns created by double-stack columns of cartridges intriguing, particularly in the .30-06 en-bloc M1 Garand clip and the

SMLE magazine. The shape of the lead core in the Mk VII .303 projectiles is a rather sneaky way of getting around The Hague Convention's ban on military use of 'inhumane' hollow-point projectiles. With an aluminium or fibre tip enclosed in the pointed full metal jacket, they were stable in flight despite being light compared with the overall length and tumbled on impact, causing tissue damage similar to the dreaded Dum Dum Arsenal product.

At the end of the day it was a challenging yet nonetheless professionally satisfying exercise to produce these images, even though their quality wouldn't compare well with those obtainable from industrial standard equipment. One regret is I should have taken in a much bigger bag! My technical assistant was pleased he'd been able to contribute his knowledge and expertise to achieve the end results and asked countless questions about internal components and the working of mechanisms.

Recent technological advances have further improved the performance of imaging systems, so I may have to drop in on some young colleagues during equipment service down-times with afternoon tea treats and a bag of stuff. If you'd like to see what a real artist is capable of with the right equipment and know-how, visit www.nickveasey.com. No firearms or cartridges but entire motor vehicles are impressive.

Note: In the interest of safety the Luger firing pin was removed and chamber emptied.

References: *Cartridges of the World 16th Edition* by Frank C. Barnes, Edited by W. Todd Woodard (2019); *Before the Fall-Out - From Marie Curie to Hiroshima*, Diana Preston (2005);

X-ray Physics & Equipment, Lecture Notes 1968-70, David Alderson. ●



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Rimfire long range shooting breaks new ground

Pat Kerin

You may have noticed in recent years that many manufacturers of firearms, optics and ammunition have been catering more and more to a new aspect of shooting - long range. A more recent development has seen the rise of .22 rimfire equivalent activities, with rifles and ammo designed specifically for long range shooting. But what is 'long range' when it comes to a .22 rimfire?

Long range .22

Historically, the humble .22LR was thought of as a 50-75m small-game calibre, a purpose it has served extremely well since the late 1800s and continues to do so to this day. More recently though, people have discovered this diminutive cartridge has unimagined capabilities the shooters of yesteryear could only dream of. For the majority of

us, 100m is a long shot with a .22 and most current matches stop at that range.

The Fly Shoot discipline has a paper target rimfire event which goes out to 200m but that's been about it - until now. A new challenge designed to cater to long range rimfire shooting has taken off at SSAA Para branch in Adelaide on its 300-yard main range - and every one of those 300 yards is used by a dedicated bunch of shooters who try to knock over metallic silhouettes for the thrill of it. By any measure, 300 yards is long range when it comes to shooting a .22 rimfire rifle.

It's mostly about the scope

Combining elements of both Benchrest and Metallic Silhouette - shooting at ranges of 100m, 200m and 300 yards - a match has evolved that's challenging yet fun and

anyone with a .22 rimfire can take part. With one catch. You'll need to upgrade that old 4x hunting scope or fine cross-hair target scope to something designed for extended-range shooting.

I started with a 3-9x Hawke Vantage with holdover points for 50-200m and worked out that by lowering the magnification from 9 down to 4.5x, the 200m aiming point worked for 300 yards. Since then I've upgraded to a scope even better adapted to long range use, with reticles which make holdover and aim-off at higher magnification possible.

Reasons to give it a go

Scaling down the calibre means you don't need 1000m to shoot long range - 200m is enough. The cost of ammunition is a fraction of shooting centrefire calibres and lack of recoil and noise makes it a user-friendly



Targets at 100m, 200m and 300 yards - they're all challenging but the adrenalin surge from seeing that 300-yard target go down is intense.



Using different scaled sets of silhouettes ensures plenty of target options for the various ranges.

environment for all, especially newcomers to the sport.

Being shot from a bench, wheelchair shooters are at no disadvantage and age is no barrier either (our youngest shooter is about 11 and has put the rest of us to shame on occasions). The principles involved in long range shooting apply equally to rimfire and centrefire, so rimfire shooting makes a useful training tool for the bigger stuff.

Being able to use existing club equipment like metallic silhouettes in a different way makes for an inexpensive start-up too, so that's another plus. Finally, the use of metallic silhouettes gives instant gratification when a hit is scored and makes for a

spectator-friendly match when everyone else can observe your shot.

One shot, one hit

Unlike Precision Rifle Shooting where speed is a major focus, our objective is 'one shot, one hit' with each shooter allowed just one shot at a time to hit their targets at the various ranges. Everyone has up to five attempts to hit each target but only after their turn comes around again when all other shooters have used their one shot. Conditions can change between shots because of this, so unique hold calculations must be made for each attempt.

Hold-offs for windage at 300 yards can be

impressive and often determine the winner. Because only one shooter at a time is firing, all the others are watching with interest and calls of "how much did you hold off then?" are often heard, light-hearted replies generally along the lines of "I'm not telling you!"

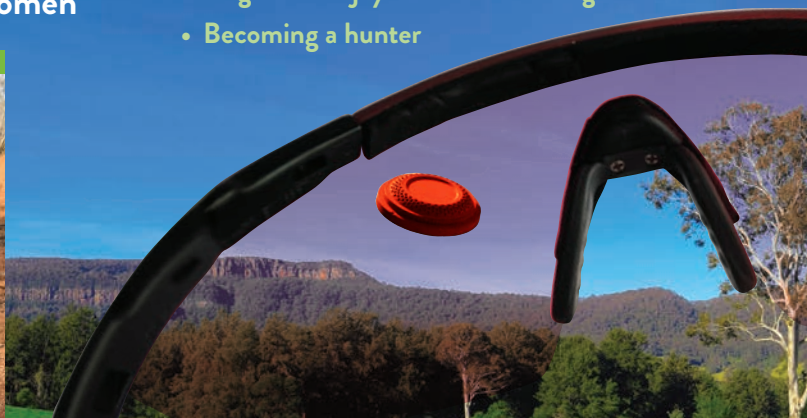
The world of long range shooting, especially at reactive targets, is a ton of fun and hugely popular worldwide and starting with a rimfire is an inexpensive way to get involved and see where it takes you. With rimfire shooting, it seems the only limitation is imagination. ●

AUSTRALIAN WOMEN'S SHOOTER

Issue 11 online now at ssaa.org.au/women



- A focus on shooting glasses
- Aiming for gold in Outback Kalgoorlie
- Target Pistol joy at the SSAA range
- Becoming a hunter



An assortment of targets attached to an alpha bracket frame.

Target practice was never easier

Matt Godson

If you're looking to enjoy some plinking or longer-range shooting with a reactive target system, Throom could have the ideal solution. Throom Targets by Newbold are made of a self-sealing polymer which has been designed to allow bullets to pass completely through the target without ricochet or splatter.

They're a much safer option than standard steel plate targets, are seven times lighter than steel and you don't have to re-paint them to keep them looking good. Throom targets now come in a bright green colour so you can easily see them at distance, while the coloured targets used for this review will no longer be available after current stock sells out.

The three target types provided for this review were Bounce-Back (yellow), Knock-Down (orange with black base) and Hang-Tuff. Bounce-Back targets act as the name suggests and automatically reset, so when they take the impact of a bullet they return to the starting position. These targets can be swapped with an assortment of versions of the Bounce-Back design including different-sized round targets, animal

silhouettes and various novelty-shaped objects such as bowling pins, tombstones etc.

Knock-Down targets stay down after they're hit when attached to the top of the frame, though the design allows you to attach string to the target in order to pull it back into position if you don't want to walk down and inspect it before resetting. Alternatively, it can be placed in a hanging position and will self-reset via gravity. Hang-Tuff targets are simply attached to timber and will flap back and forth after a hit.

By using 'alpha brackets' you can set up a target frame to a size of your choosing and all you need do is buy a few lengths of 35mm x 80mm structural pine from a local hardware store. You'll need four equal lengths for the legs and one for the crossbar which the targets are attached to. It's recommended you use full metal jacket, conical or round nose ammunition to extend the life of the targets as hollow points and other expanding projectiles will cookie-cut the target and reduce its lifespan.

I set up the frame and tested this product using 22LR, 22-250 and 308 firearms and

the most time-consuming part of the exercise was securely screwing targets to the timber. This could easily be done prior to going out into the field or range and, depending on available storage space at home, left as-is for the next time you use it. Assembly of the frame only takes a minute and you're ready to shoot.

If you're interested in these products, distributor Arivaca Enterprises recommends you contact them first for availability and shipping costs. Prices for the various targets are all shown on the website as is their contact information. Visit www.arivacaenterprises.com



New bright green targets now available.

National

Big Game Rifle National Postal Shoot

Jan 1-Nov 30, 2021
Participating Big Game Rifle clubs
See National website for event details.
Contact shoot captain at your local club.

National Junior Rimfire Rifle Metallic Silhouette Postal Championships

March 1-July 21, 2021
All clubs and branches.
See National website for full event details. Contact: juniorsports@disciplines.ssaa.org.au

SSAA Benchrest Group National Championships

June 3-7, 2021
Springsure Sporting Shooters Club, Springsure, Qld. See National website for event details. Contact: Gavin Marshal 0438 759 162.

National Junior Rimfire Field Rifle Postal Championships

June 1-October 31, 2021
All clubs and branches.
See National website for full event details. Contact: juniorsports@disciplines.ssaa.org.au

SSAA National Junior Challenge

July 8-11, 2021
Madden Range, Belmont, Qld
See National website for event details. Contact: Jon McCarthy 0438 756 622 jon@bendworx.com.au or (07) 3395 0911 bookings@ssaabris.org.au

2021 National Junior Challenge

SSAA Brisbane, Madden Range, Belmont, Qld
July 9-11, 2021
See National website for event details. Contact: Jon McCarthy 0438 756 622 or jon@bendworx.com.au

Law Enforcement Activities National Championship PPC Matches

June 19, 2021
Belmont Shooting Range, Qld
See National website for event details. Contact: lawenforcementactivities@ssaa.org.au

SSAA Gallery Rifle National Championships

July 17-18, 2021
Para Branch, Greenwith, SA
See National website for event details. Contact: Don Robinson 0428 986 070 or Dave McCarthy 0414 880 333.

SSAA Gallery Rifle National Championships

July 17-28, 2021
Para Branch, Greenwith, SA
See National website for event details. Contact: Don Robinson 0428 986 070 or Dave McCarthy 0414 880 333.

Law Enforcement Activities APS 150 Challenge Match National Championship

July 31, 2021
Belmont Shooting Range, Qld
See National website for event details. Contact: lawenforcementactivities@ssaa.org.au

SSAA Fly Shoot National Championships

July 23-26, 2021
SSAA Mackay, Qld
See National website for event details. Contact: treasurerq17@outlook.com

Benchrest Score National Championships

September 3-7, 2021
Dairyville Range, Coffs Harbour, WA
See National website for event details. Contact: Ray Munro 0408 649 126 or email: r.munro@internode.on.net

SSAA Combined Services National Championships

October 1-3, 2021
Central Qld Shooting Complex, Gladstone, Qld
See National website for event details. Contact: Shayne Smith: 0418 808 817.

IHMSA National Championships

October 1-8, 2021
Majura Shooting Complex, ACT
See National website for event details. Contact: Russell Mowles handgunsilhouette@disciplines.ssaa.org.au or Cheyne Fischer ihmsa.act@gmail.com

SSAA Lever Action Silhouette National Championships

October 28-31, 2021
SSAA Majura Range, ACT
See National website for event details. Contact: David 0423 043 663 or Mark 0401 867 839 or email mnl1@live.com.au

Law Enforcement Activities Police Service Match National Championship

October 9-10, 2021
Belmont Shooting Range, Qld
See National website for event details. Contact: lawenforcementactivities@ssaa.org.au

ACT

SSAA (ACT) Rifle Metallic Silhouette State Snowball Shoot

June 12-14, 2021
SSAA Majura Range, ACT
See National website for event details. Contact: Mark Lovell 0401 867 839 or email mnl1@live.com.au

NSW

SSAA (NSW) Big Game Rifle State Championship

July 16-18, 2021

Windamere Regional Shooting Complex
See National website for event details. Contact: Ben Doherty 0409 831 258.

NSW Combined Services State Championships

September 17-19, 2021
Windamere Regional Shooting Complex
See National website for event details. Contact: Anthony Gatti info@nswcsd.com.au or 0499 987 899.

Qld

SSAA (Qld) State Junior Championships

July 2-4, 2021
Madden Range, Belmont, Qld
See National website for event details. Contact: Jon McCarthy 0438 756 622 jon@bendworx.com.au or (07) 3395 0911 bookings@ssaabris.org.au

Qld IRB and Rimfire Benchrest Group National Championships

September 30-October 4, 2021
Springsure Sporting Shooters, Qld
See National website for event details. Contact: Gavin Marshal 0438 759 162.

SA

SSAA (SA) Rifle Metallic Silhouette State Championship

June 19-20, 2021
Monarto Shooting Complex, SA
See National website for event details. Contact: mmsrcsecretary@gmail.com

SSAA (SA) Fly Shoot State Championships

July 17-18, 2021
Monarto Shooting Complex
See National website for event details. Contact: Pat Kitchke whytiger49@hotmail.com or 0455 280 024.

Vic

SSAA (Vic) Single Action Black Powder State Championships

July 10-11, 2021
Little River Raiders Single Action Shooting Club
See National website for event details. Contact: Tony Diablo 0419 187 980 or diablo6@bigpond.com

WA

SSAA (WA) Single Action State Championships

June 5-6, 2021
Jarrahdale Sporting Shooters
See National website for event details. Contact: Peter Konowalow 0417 186 280 or William Dickson 0407 980 955.

SSAA (WA) NRA & Scoped Air Rifle State Championships

June 12-13, 2021
Port Bouvard Pistol and Small Bore Rifle Club
See National website for event details. Contact: Matt fieldrifle@ssaawa.org.au

SSAA (WA) NRA & Scoped 10m Air Rifle State Championships

June 12-13, 2021
Dawesville, WA.
See National website for event details. Contact: Matthew Boots 0439 092 686.

SSAA (WA) Combined Services State Championships

June 19-20, 2021
Wanneroo Shooting Complex
See National website for event details. Contact: John Edwards 0418 423 227.

SSAA (WA) Scoped 3-P & Field Rifle State Champs

September 25-27, 2021
Perth Field Rifle Club
See National website for event details. Contact: Matt - fieldrifle@ssaawa.org.au

SSAA National Event Cancellation/Postponement Policy

SSAA National championship events may be subject to border controls and other COVID-19 impacts. In addition to general border closures, many states and territories may prohibit persons from known COVID hotspots. An event may be postponed or cancelled at any time by SSAA National, SSAA State Office or club directive. It is recommended competitors consider any potential COVID-19 impacts on travel, accommodation plans and insurances etc. SSAA National will not be liable for reimbursement to competitors for any costs associated with a postponed or cancelled SSAA National championship event for any reason, including COVID-19. Competitors planning to attend an event should consider options for free cancellation or refund of travel and accommodation costs where available.

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SSAA National's 'Sign up a Junior' campaign
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ssaa.org.au





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Glow-in-the-dark fishing knives

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SSAA Ladies' Polo

The SSAA Ladies' Polo has a feminine styled 'V' neck with contrasting piping panels. The easy care fabric is 160gm 100 per cent DriWear polyester with moisture removal and mini-waffle knit.

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See more online!

SSAA Renegade Jacket



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The hardcover book, *Handguns* by Jim Supica is a 144-page coffee table book. A great read for both those who know about firearms and those who may only have a passing interest.

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(IF DIFFERENT FROM ABOVE)

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Junior Prize – Winchester Pack
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Howard Leight Earmuffs
Chris Barnacle, Qld

Puma 4 Star Mini with buffalo horn handle knife
Graeme Dixon, Vic

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Thrill riding with the Tritten tribe

Down in the gully bottom a pig turned away from the approaching CanAm buggy and trotted up the opposite face.

There were at least 20 other pigs among the tussocks, their sizes ranging from wee suckers through to a couple of larger animals which were probably boars but unidentifiable as such due to the height of the grass and distance. It didn't matter, we were looking for deer and weren't about to disturb the area by shooting pigs. There'd always be another time.

In low gear the buggy crept up the face of the hill, leaving tracks in the grass where wheels had probably never turned before, loose rocks clamouring against the protective belly-plate as we passed over them. Initially I maintained a white-knuckle death grip on the dashboard safety bar and it took some time before I could settle down and enjoy the experience as a ride to be relished, even if the steady climbing of the vehicle seemed to defy the basic laws of gravity at times.

In the saddle of a leading spur we pulled up to look at the face looming above us. The motor idled and died, everything suddenly quiet as we reached for binoculars and began to search. Almost 400m away a dark animal was moving through the tussocks and thistles, just the line of its back visible. At a glance it may have been another pig but the magnification of the Swarovski bino showed it as a fallow buck - sleek and shining in the morning sun, his antlers rocking and flashing as he fed - a nice animal but no trophy. For several long minutes he had our full attention and then was gone, drifting down into the bowels of a timbered gully where there was shelter from the hard-edged breeze coming over the tops.

Top of the range was draped in a grey-white blanket of woolly cloud, the sweeping wind cold and clammy and ripe with the forecast promise of rain. The temperature dropped, our jackets suddenly essential. If it wasn't for the clean, sweet smell of eucalypts on the damp morning air and the hills and plains rolling away to the north and west, we could have almost



Team Tritten: Caleb, Dylan and Rob in the CanAm buggy that's a crucial part of their hunting and culling operations.

been on some windswept range in New Zealand. The wind gushed and rushed past our ears, rippling over the tussocks and making them look like a grassy imitation of a rolling sea.

Shivering in the unaccustomed February cold I took the photos I needed then climbed back into the buggy. The motor pattered into life and we headed down and across the face of the range into the shelter of timber where our chances of finding what we were looking for had to be better than on the tops.

We idled down the mountain, the track more or less following a fence line which stood in ageing testament to the landholder's determination to delineate one paddock from another and never mind the terrain. On the verge above a side-cut bank, a spike head fallow buck was feeding through the tussocks, out of the wind and completely unaware of our approach.

Rob Tritten braked the buggy to a halt and killed the motor - "Shoot that one for meat Johnno." A roll bar makes a solid rest, the cross-hairs settled and the rifle barked its single shot, the outcome

established if not graven in stone long before the hammer dropped.

The mechanics of culling deer in steep-faced mountain country are a long way removed from the ethics of fair chase hunting. They have to be, given the imperative need to reduce the population as quickly and humanely as possible.

At writing, the numbers already removed stretch well into many thousands, a grim reality some hunters find difficult to accept or even acknowledge. Most of the deer have been taken by professionals, working long hours on a task which isn't hunting yet requires a hunter's skill and commitment and dedication to ensure the necessary outcomes.

It's a numbers game and the CanAm buggies are an integral part of that, the places they can go a constant source of amazement to a long-time walker like me who can no longer walk as well as he used to. As a ride it's quite an adventure. The shooting is incidental. ●





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Dave says all three pistols were replaced.



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Not Covered.

Theft where the equipment was not stored in an approved gun safe as required by State or Territory authority, other than when the equipment is in use or away from the Insured's premises. Where the Insured or any person or entity to whom the equipment has been entrusted to fails to comply with any law relating to either storage, use or handling of the equipment.

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