

CANADIAN FIREARMS JOURNAL

MAY/JUNE 2023

 NFA.ca



Fully Committed On All Fronts
CANADA'S NATIONAL FIREARMS ASSOCIATION

PM 40009473
Return undeliverable to:
Canadian Firearms Journal,
P.O. Box 49090, Edmonton, Alberta T6E 6H4

 NFA.ca



AR-6

Introducing the AR-6 Compact Tactical Magazine Fed Crossbow. Developed by Steambow Austria, the AR-6 Stinger II uses a top-fed 6-shot magazine. The crossbow splits at the rear with the stock acting as a lever to draw the string, making actuation quick and easy. The fiber optic sight allows fast and intuitive aiming, while a red dot sight or scope can be attached to the front Picatinny rail for even more accurate shots. The AR-6 also features an internal accessory slot for use of an optional laser device. Made of high-quality reinforced polymer, the AR-6 Stinger II is extremely lightweight, rugged, reliable, and accurate to target at distances up to 80 feet.

The AR-6 is easily disassembled and can compactly fit into a survival or bug-out bag. Weighing in at just 2.6lbs the AR-6 is easy and convenient to use and transport. The compact dimensions and light weight also make the AR-6 ideal for beginner and smaller statured shooters.

The AR-6 features versatile range of use including target practice, survival and small game hunting and is available with a full suite of options and accessories, including:

- 90lbs Limbs (220 FPS)
- Hunting Broadheads
- Target Bolts
- Bodkin Bolts
- Magazine Speed Loader
- Tactical Arrow Quiver
- Side Mount Picatinny Rail
- Stinger Red Dot Sight
- Laser Sight (For Internal Accessory Slot)
- Tuning Trigger
- Target
- Spare Parts Kit
- Integral Knife

Comes with vertical foregrip, telescoping AR-15 style buttstock (commercial-spec buffer tube), 6 training arrows, 2 strings, stringing aid and manual. Standard draw is 55lbs with bolt speed of 180 FPS. Priced at just \$469

CANADIAN ***FIREARMS JOURNAL***

MAY/JUNE 2023



COLUMNS

4
ON THE COVER

5
FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK
The Scapegoat
AL VOTH

6
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
Liberals Feel The Heat
RICK IGERCICH

10
VICE-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
Macro-Aggressions
BLAIR HAGEN

12
POLITICS & GUNS
The Secret Behind
Trudeau's Anti-Gun Policies
BRUCE GOLD

14
**PRESERVING OUR
FIREARMS HERITAGE**
Canada's Firearms Heritage Is
About To Disappear
GARY K. KANGAS

51
LEGAL CORNER
Handgun Transfers –
What's Still Allowed?
GUY LAVERGNE

54
MADE IN CANADA
Innovation Armoury's PCC-
Shadow Adapter
AL VOTH

FEATURES

16
ONLY THREE GUNS
Which would you choose?
KEVIN WILSON

20
ONE COOL CADEX
Reviewing the Cadex
R7 CBRN hunting rifle
JUSTIN FOSTER

24
SAKO'S SWITCH BARREL
Reviewing the S100
T.J. SCHWANKY

28
CARBON FIBRE CUSTOM
Building a state-of-
the-art varmint rifle
AL VOTH

32
LESS IS MORE
Reduced loads for
the 223 Remington
LOWELL STRAUSS

36
SMOKELESS POWDER STORAGE
The hidden danger handloaders
need to know
RON CRAIG

40
CHOKING UP
Shotgun chokes matter
TIMOTHY FOWLER

45
DYI THREE-IN-ONE TARGET STAND
The portability and function of this
target stand means you can spend
more time practicing
LOWELL STRAUSS

48
**CANADA'S FIRST MASS-
PRODUCED SHOTGUN**
The Tobin Arms Manufacturing
Company epic – part 1
G. SCOTT JAMIESON



MISSION STATEMENT

Canada's National Firearms Association exists to promote, support and protect all safe firearms activities, including the right of self defense, firearms education for all Canadians, freedom and justice for Canada's firearms community and to advocate for legislative change to ensure the right of all Canadians to own and use firearms is protected.

The contents of the Canadian Firearms Journal are copyrighted and may be reproduced only when written permission is obtained from the publisher.



On The Cover

This month's cover comes courtesy of Gary Kangas and features participants at a cowboy action shooting match. The lady running two single-action six-guns like a pro is "Montana May." She shoots in a category called Gunfighter and has been a top competitor for a number of years, besting many of the men. This particular competition was hosted by the Victoria Frontier Shootists in August 2022 and is their largest annual event, titled Headquarters. 



Canadian Firearms Journal

The Official Magazine of



CANADA'S
NATIONAL
FIREARMS
ASSOCIATION

Editor

Al Voth

cfjeditor@nfa.ca

General Manager

Ginger Fournier

ginger@nfa.ca

Accounts/Membership

membership@nfa.ca

General Information

info@nfa.ca

Legal Inquiries

legal@nfa.ca

National Executive

National President

Rick Igercich

1-877-818-0393

rick@nfa.ca

EVP, Communications

Blair Hagen

1-877-818-0393

blair@nfa.ca

Treasurer

Bill Rantz

1-877-818-0393

bill@nfa.ca

Secretary

Donald Feltham

1-877-818-0393

donald@nfa.ca

CANADA'S NATIONAL FIREARMS ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 49090

Edmonton, Alberta T6E 6H4

Toll Free: 1 877-818-0393

Local: (780) 439-1394

Fax: (780) 439-4091



PM 40009473

Return undeliverable to:
Canadian Firearms Journal,
P.O. Box 49090, Edmonton, Alberta T6E 6H4
PRINTED IN CANADA



From The Editor's Desk

Al Voth

The Scapegoat

We've all heard the term scapegoat, but not everyone may know the origin of the term and how it came into common use in the English language. As it turns out, the history of the word fits perfectly with how the current Liberal government is treating licensed gun owners in Canada.

An online dictionary defines scapegoat as, "A person who is blamed for the wrongdoings, mistakes or faults of others, especially for reasons of expediency." Well, that certainly applies. But it gets better, as the term originates from an actual goat.

In a ceremony described in Leviticus, the third book in the Hebrew/Christian scriptures, ancient priests atoned for the sins of the people by laying hands on a goat and ceremonially transferring the people's sins to it. The goat was then led out into the wilderness, thus removing the sins from the people. It was presumed the goat would die out there, but the ceremony eventually evolved to throwing the goat over a cliff. After all, it just might find its way back. And who wants their sins back?

That goat still appears in our language as the scapegoat, with the previously mentioned definition. The term has even moved into the clinical field where there is a recognized psychology of scapegoating. Dr. Neel Burton, writing in *Psychology Today*, says, "The ego defense of displacement plays an important role in scapegoating, in which uncomfortable feelings such as anger,




frustration, envy, guilt, shame and insecurity are displaced or redirected onto another, often more vulnerable, person or group. The scapegoats – outsiders, immigrants, minorities, 'deviants' – are then persecuted, enabling the scapegoaters to discharge and distract from their negative feelings, which are replaced or overtaken by a crude but consoling sense of affirmation and self-righteous indignation."

Of course, scapegoating isn't new. Just about any identifiable minority group has at some point been on the receiving end of it. Whenever it occurs, it's always justified through some type of twisted logic, but then history eventually proves just how misguided and corrupt it all was. The internment of Japanese Canadians in this country and the seizure of

their property during the Second World War is a classic example.

Today, it's us. The "sins" of criminals are transferred to licensed gun owners who are "thrown over a cliff" to give some politicians a "crude but consoling sense of affirmation and self-righteous indignation." Just like the other times it's been used, the scapegoating of gun owners will eventually be recognized as misguided and corrupt. It may take a few decades, but it'll get there.

That's a small consolation for us who are caught up in it now. Fortunately, there are still some politicians in Ottawa who recognize scapegoating when they see it. If we can get them elected, it'll hopefully put an end to licensed gun owners being the goat. At least for a while. 



President's Message

Rick Igercich

Liberals Feel The Heat

As the focus turns to the future of firearms ownership in Canada, turmoil erupts in Ottawa. The Liberal government is still using smoke and mirrors to distract from its agenda, which continues to be stripping law-abiding Canadians of all legally owned firearms.

The tiered approach to banning firearms started in Canada in the late '70s when restrictions were put on certain firearms, followed by the classification of firearms, the long gun registry, the order in council banning 1,800 types of firearms, Bill C-71 with its enhanced background checks and the limited movement of restricted firearms. Next came Bill C-21 and a complete handgun freeze, including the end of handgun importation into Canada. Then, in a duplicitous move, two amendments were attached to the bill at the 11th hour: the G4 "ever-green" amendment, which supposedly defines an "assault-style" firearm, and G46, which prohibited many hunting rifles and shotguns. These amendments were later withdrawn to be re-defined and re-entered at a later date. It is my opinion these amendments were pulled back because of pressure from the gun lobby, Indigenous groups and everyday Canadians.

Rest assured, Canada's National Firearms Association continues to take action to stop and reverse this ridiculous push to take away our personal property. The NFA's directors and our lobbyist continue to seek out and speak to MPs and key players involved in the C-21 SECU meetings. I believe the Liberals are starting to feel the heat and, as a result, at a recent SECU meeting on Friday, Feb. 17, in Ottawa, the Liberals, NDP and Bloc Quebecois made a series of false claims and defamed



The NFA advocates for the re-defining and re-directing of Canada's failed and wasteful firearms legislation, while at the same time defending hunters and other law-abiding firearms owners.

La NFA veut redéfinir et réorienter les lois canadiennes sur les armes à feu, qui sont un échec et une source de gaspillage, tout en défendant les chasseurs et les autres honnêtes propriétaires d'armes à feu.

Canada's National Firearms Association.

Here are some of their claims and our rebuttals.

It was vigorously claimed by Alexandre Boulerice, NDP MP for the riding of Rosemount-la Petite-Patrie, that the NFA promotes civil disobedience.

Untrue. The NFA has never advocated for civil disobedience. The NFA advocates for the defeating of bad firearms laws and those who are responsible for them, both politically and legally. These statements are spurious, slanderous and outrageous.

It was stated by several members, including Pam Damoff, Liberal MP for Oakville North-Burlington, Ontario, and Boulerice, NDP, that the NFA wants to phase out all firearms law in Canada.

Untrue. The NFA advocates for the re-defining and re-directing of Canada's failed and wasteful firearms legislation, while at the same time defending hunters and other law-

abiding firearms owners. The Liberal Party has wasted billions of taxpayer's dollars and federal resources targeting legal, licensed and vetted Canadians, all the while allowing criminal gangs to run rampant in the streets of our cities. This government has so drastically reduced the prison sentences of those arrested, convicted and incarcerated for serious offenses that, as a result, violent crime is at an all-time high. This is all courtesy of the Trudeau Liberals and not the target shooters of Abbotsford, BC, or the moose hunters in Come by Chance, Newfoundland.

Pam Damoff stated that the NFA promotes citizen-armed self-defence.

Regarding our position on self-defence: In Canada, the law is clear,

you are permitted to defend yourself and your property. However, under the Criminal Code, defensive actions are based solely on particular circumstances, with the subject becoming even more complex the moment a firearm enters the equation. The NFA adheres to the current laws, but we have no qualms about our position on streamlining the legislation to benefit the victims of criminal actions who found it necessary to use a firearm in self-defence.

Once again, the Liberals continue to employ tactics of misinformation and disinformation to divide and distract Canadians from the facts and to vilify and disparage their critics. This is all to cover up their missteps and to push through a bill that will do absolutely nothing for public safety.

I have consulted with our legal team for direction on how to proceed regarding these slanderous comments and accusations. Although improper, it seems that comments made at SECU are protected by parliamentary privilege.

To be clear, the mission of Canada's NFA is to change the law while

working within the parliaments, legislatures and courts of Canada.


It is becoming clearer that the Trudeau Liberals are starting to grasp at straws as more and more corruption within the party is coming to light. The Liberals, as usual, continue to go back to their playbook of distraction by targeting law-abiding firearms owners, something they perceive as an issue which will garner the support of the majority of Canadians.

The Liberals may not realize it yet, but with their antics, they have awakened a sleeping giant. Law-abiding Canadians who initially did not see the impact of the order in council and the subsequent bills now do. Canadians are starting to look more closely at the facts and are seeing that law-abiding firearms owners are not the problem when it comes to violent crimes and criminal activity. They are seeing that the Liberals' focus is misdirected and that resources need to be directed toward where the real problems lie, such as smuggled firearms, 3D-printed firearms, gangs and organized crime. I have been inundated by calls and emails from more and more individuals wanting their voices to be heard and wanting to be part

of a gun lobby. More Canadians are now prepared to join the fight for their rights and freedoms and to make their voices heard at the ballot box.

I anticipate the Liberals will keep their focus on law-abiding Canadians, as history shows that garnering votes in federal elections in this manner has worked in the past. But I believe that the next time Canadians are called to the polls, they will not be fooled by the Liberals' manipulation of information and the use of firearms ownership as a wedge issue.

The NFA will continue to educate MPs and all Canadians on the real facts. We will keep the pressure on all who oppose the rights and freedoms of Canadians. Our legal team is continually searching for pathways to fight these ridiculous attacks on Canadians' rights and personal property.

I would like to end by once again thanking all NFA members and supporters and all firearms rights groups in Canada. Together, we will make a difference and change the trajectory of this Liberal government's agenda. Please continue to donate to help the NFA in the fight to make Canada strong and free once again. 

Message du Président

Rick Igercich

Les Libéraux Sentent La Pression

Alors que l'attention se tourne vers l'avenir de la possession d'armes à feu au Canada, les choses vont mal à Ottawa. Le gouvernement libéral tente toujours de distraire les Canadiens de son ordre du jour, qui consiste à dépouiller les Canadiens respectueux des lois de toutes les armes à feu qu'ils détiennent légalement.

L'approche progressive de l'interdiction des armes à feu au Canada a commencé à la fin des années 1970, lorsque des restric-

tions ont été imposées à certaines armes, suivies de la classification des armes à feu, du registre des armes d'épaule, du décret interdisant 1 800 types d'armes, du projet de loi C-71 avec les contrôles renforcés des antécédents et du mouvement limité des armes à autorisation restreinte. Il y a ensuite eu le projet de loi C-21 et le gel complet des armes de poing, notamment la fin de l'importation d'armes de poing au Canada. Puis, dans une manifestation d'hypocrisie, les libéraux

ont ajouté deux amendements de dernière minute au projet de loi: l'amendement G4, censé définir les armes à feu « de type assaut », et l'amendement G46, interdisant de nombreux fusils et carabines de chasse. Ces amendements ont ensuite été retirés pour être redéfinis et réintroduits à une date ultérieure. Je crois qu'ils ont été retirés en raison de la pression exercée par le lobby des armes à feu, les groupes autochtones et les simples citoyens.

Vous pouvez avoir l'assurance que >



L'Association canadienne des armes à feu continue à agir pour stopper et renverser cette tentative ridicule de nous enlever nos biens personnels. Les administrateurs de la NFA et notre lobbyiste continuent à parler aux députés et aux participants clés des réunions du Comité SECU sur le projet de loi C-21. Je crois que les libéraux commencent à sentir la pression et, par conséquent, lors d'une récente réunion du Comité, tenue le vendredi 17 février dernier à Ottawa, les libéraux, le NPD et le Bloc Québécois ont fait une série de fausses déclarations et ont diffamé l'Association canadienne des armes à feu.

Voici quelques-unes de leurs affirmations et nos ripostes:

Alexandre Boulerice, député néo-démocrate de la circonscription de Rosemount-la-Petite-Patrie, a affirmé avec véhémence que la NFA encourage la désobéissance civile.

Faux. La NFA n'a jamais encouragé la désobéissance civile. La NFA veut défaire les mauvaises lois sur les armes à feu et ceux qui en sont responsables, sur les plans politique et juridique. Ces déclarations sont fallacieuses, calomnieuses et scandaleuses.

Plusieurs députés, dont Pam Damoff, députée libérale d'Oakville Nord-Burlington (Ontario), et Alexandre Boulerice, député néo-démocrate, ont déclaré que la NFA veut éliminer progressivement toutes les lois sur les armes à feu au Canada.

Faux. La NFA veut redéfinir et réorienter les lois canadiennes sur les armes à feu, qui sont un échec et une source de gaspillage, tout en défendant les chasseurs et les autres honnêtes propriétaires d'armes à feu. Le parti libéral gaspille des milliards de dollars des contribuables et des ressources fédérales en ciblant les Canadiens qui sont respectueux des lois, détenteurs de permis et surveillés, tout en permettant aux gangs criminels de sévir dans les rues de nos villes. Ce gouvernement a tellement réduit les peines d'emprisonnement des individus arrêtés, condamnés et incarcérés pour des crimes graves que

la criminalité violente n'a jamais été aussi élevée. Tout cela est dû aux libéraux de Trudeau, et non aux tireurs sur cible d'Abbotsford, en Colombie-Britannique, ou aux chasseurs d'original de Come by Chance, à Terre-Neuve.

Pam Damoff a affirmé que la NFA encourage la légitime défense armée.

Notre position sur la légitime défense: Au Canada, la loi est claire. Vous avez le droit de vous défendre et de défendre vos biens. Cependant, en vertu du Code criminel, les actions défensives reposent uniquement sur des circonstances particulières, le sujet devenant encore plus complexe dès qu'une arme à feu entre en jeu. La NFA respecte les lois existantes, mais nous n'hésitons pas à soutenir la simplification de la loi au profit des victimes d'actes criminels qui ont jugé nécessaire d'utiliser une arme à feu pour se défendre.

Une fois encore, les libéraux ont recours à des tactiques de désinformation pour diviser et distraire les Canadiens des faits et pour dénigrer leurs détracteurs. Tout cela pour dissimuler leurs erreurs et faire adopter un projet de loi qui ne fera absolument rien pour la sécurité publique.

J'ai demandé à notre équipe juridique comment réagir face à ces commentaires et accusations diffamatoires. Bien que déplacés, il semble que les commentaires faits au Comité SECU sont protégés par le privilège parlementaire.

Soyons clairs, la mission de l'Association canadienne des armes à feu est de changer la loi en travaillant avec les parlements, les assemblées législatives et les tribunaux du Canada.

Il est de plus en plus évident que les libéraux de Trudeau sont prêts à tout alors que la corruption au sein de leur parti devient de plus en plus claire. Comme d'habitude, les libéraux continuent à faire diversion en ciblant les propriétaires d'armes à feu respectueux des lois, croyant que cela va plaire à la majorité des Canadiens.

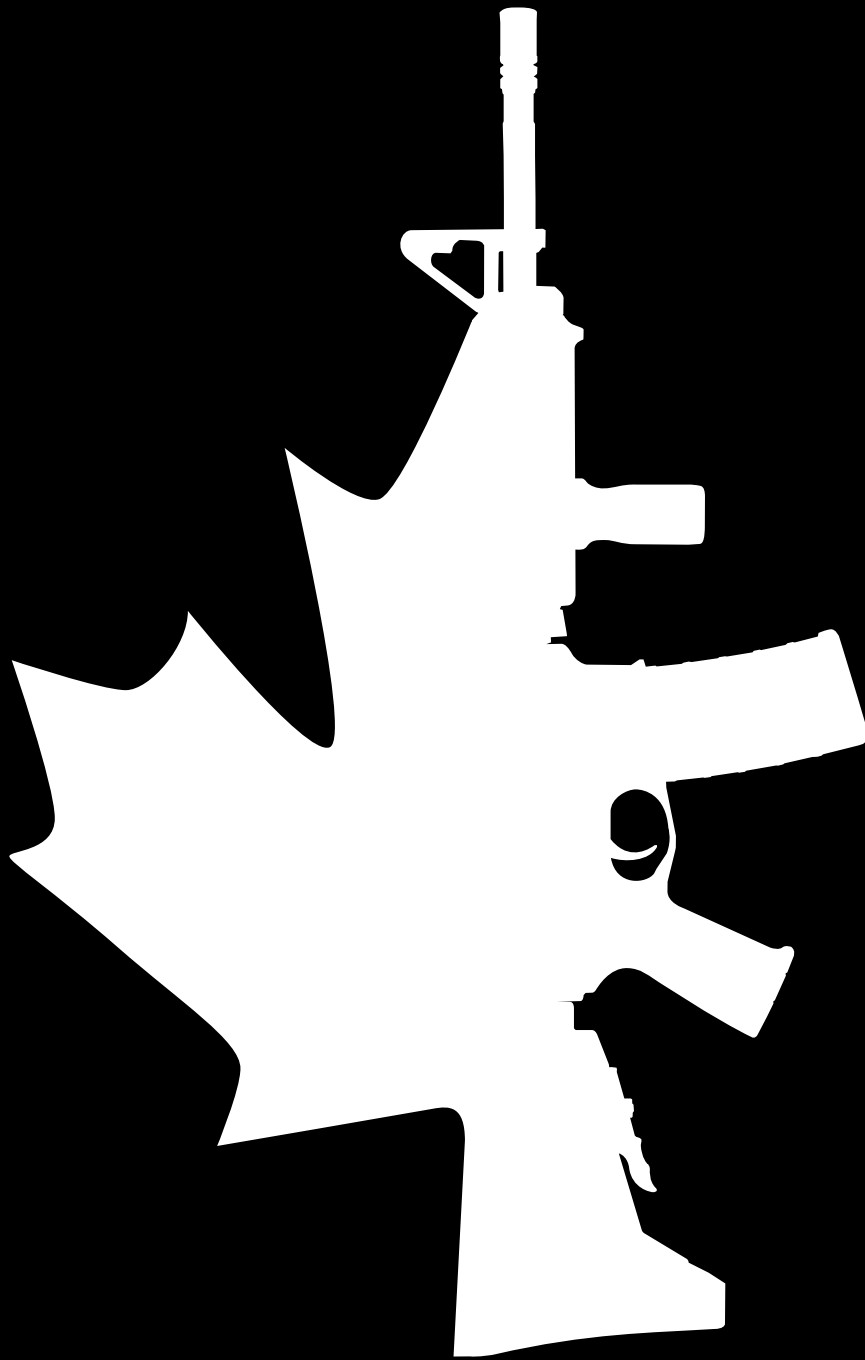
Les libéraux ne le réalisent peut-être pas encore, mais leurs pitreries

ont réveillé un géant endormi. Les Canadiens respectueux des lois qui, au départ, ne voyaient pas les conséquences du décret et des projets de loi subséquents les voient maintenant. Les Canadiens commencent à examiner les faits de plus près et constatent que les honnêtes propriétaires d'armes à feu ne sont pas la cause du problème des crimes violents et des activités criminelles. Ils voient que l'attention des libéraux est mal dirigée et que les ressources doivent être axées sur les véritables problèmes, comme la contrebande des armes à feu, les armes à feu imprimées en 3D, les gangs et le crime organisé. Je suis inondé d'appels et de courriels d'un nombre croissant de gens qui veulent se faire entendre et faire partie d'un lobby des armes à feu. De plus en plus de Canadiens sont prêts à se joindre à la lutte pour leurs droits et libertés et à faire entendre leur voix aux bureaux de vote.

Je m'attends à ce que les libéraux continuent à cibler les Canadiens respectueux des lois, car l'histoire montre que le fait d'obtenir des votes de cette manière a déjà fonctionné. Cependant, je pense que la prochaine fois que les Canadiens seront appelés aux urnes, ils ne seront pas dupes de la manipulation des libéraux et de l'utilisation de la possession d'armes à feu comme sujet de discorde.

La NFA va continuer à informer les députés et tous les Canadiens des faits réels. Nous allons maintenir la pression sur tous ceux qui s'en prennent aux droits et aux libertés des Canadiens. Notre équipe juridique cherche constamment des façons de lutter contre ces attaques ridicules envers les droits et les biens personnels des Canadiens.

J'aimerais terminer en remerciant une fois de plus tous les membres et sympathisants de la NFA et tous les groupes de défense du droit aux armes à feu au Canada. Ensemble, nous allons faire la différence et changer l'ordre du jour de ce gouvernement libéral. Merci de continuer à faire des dons pour aider la NFA à lutter pour que le Canada redevienne fort et libre.



NO COMPROMISE.



Vice-President's Message

By Blair Hagen

Macro-Aggressions

You likely have observed how silly left-wing wokesters love to complain about micro-aggressions and how those tiny offenses make their lives so miserable and deny them social justice.

But I want to talk about macro-aggressions, such as the ones we have been suffering from Justin's Liberals for many years. You know, the ones that criminalize and target the rights, freedoms and property of Canadians for outright confiscation. Actual property and rights -- not imagined -- from regular, law-abiding Canadians.

When you got that order in council letter from the RCMP informing you they were going to confiscate your property, how did you feel? Personally, myself, my wife and our extended family, we all got it and felt like we'd been sucker punched. The protectors became predators. The upholders of rights, freedoms and law became instruments of tyranny to disarm Canadians.

Many think the massive backlash to the two amendments to C-21 demanding the confiscation of even more firearms caused that bill to be stalled. To be sure, the backlash did cause some consternation among some Liberals and NDP members. And although content with the outrages against the ownership of handguns and May 2020 OIC firearms, they were not so content with the amendments targeting tens of thousands of other firearms for confiscation. Including 1909 Brazilian Mausers as weapons of war? Perhaps, 100 years ago. Just more proof of the utter stupidity and licentiousness of Justin's civil disarmament agenda.

And for the record, the AR-15 is not a weapon of war either. It is now,



in 2023, a modern sporting rifle on which multiple variants are based and which will provide the platform for many others in the future.

Yes, the political backlash to C-21 and the confiscatory amendments was strong, focused and passionate. The Liberal SECU Committee got blindsided by truth, fact and reality on the firearms issue that they had no answers to or comebacks for. The Conservatives, MP Raquel Dancho and others, embarrassed and dragged reluctant other opposition MPs into questioning the ignorant and duplicitous nature of C-21.

Rest assured, they will be back, repackaged by the Liberals to show that they "take consultation seriously." Yeah -- no, they don't. The entire confiscatory Liberal firearms agenda is illegitimate and an affront to Cana-

We are Canadians. Free people, descendants of generations of free people who established absolute and inalienable rights based on the Magna Carta and English Common Law

dian citizenship.

Let's not forget for one moment that every firearm targeted by Justin and the Liberals is not some illegal firearm stolen or smuggled for illicit or criminal purposes. Every single one is purchased and owned according to law and regulation by Canadians who willingly chose to do so by faith in law and belief in public safety, despite the punitive and hostile regime constructed to temporarily allow for the lawful transfer and ownership of that property to occur.

The May 2020 OIC, October 2022

OIC handgun freeze and the ban under Bill C-21 are not “minor inconveniences.” These have no basis in public safety. These are an attack on the rights, freedoms and property of all Canadians.

Canadians, who willingly did everything required according to law and regulation in the belief they would be protected and rewarded by doing so, were targeted and punished by those same laws and regulations courtesy of the Marxist lunatics and the bureaucrat functionaries of the Justin Trudeau Liberal government.

The social contract is broken. Canadians, you and me, have been sucker punched by Justin’s Liberals. Compliance and abidance with the law is no longer protection for rights, freedoms or property.

What does that say about our government? I’ve spoken to enough Canadians in the past eight years who are so thoroughly disgusted by what Canada and its bureaucracies have become that the irreparable damage to the reputation of law, government and society in Canada may not be able to be restored by the next federal government -- as determined, well meaning and principled as that

government may be.


A pretty sad state of affairs. I do not envy them.

One thing is for sure: We can lay the blame for all of this at the feet of one foolish boy and his juvenile entourage who attached themselves and tagged along for an eight-year Marxist ideology-induced rave at the expense of the rights, freedoms, property and futures of every single Canadian. All of us. If you work for some department of the federal government or its legal or law enforcement agencies, think about that. If you are a member of the RCMP, you’d better think long and hard.

We are not serfs, and we are not subjects. We are not the downtrodden heirs to despotic authoritarian regimes, juntas, soviets or reichs. We are Canadians. Free people, descendants of generations of free people who established absolute and inalienable rights based on the Magna Carta and English Common Law. Our freedoms, truths and hard-fought-for liberties are things no craven Liberal politician, no statist, no globalist, no bureaucrat will ever destroy for the perfidy and satisfaction of their sick and twisted ideolo-

gies and agendas.

If anyone thinks that the civil disarmament agenda of the Justin Trudeau Liberal government is ever going to be reconciled, recalled or forgotten, they are going to learn some very serious political and cultural lessons in the future. Just as every other segment of our society whose rights and freedoms have been targeted and confiscated by the government, Canadians who believe in rights and freedoms will demand re-dress from the politicians, bureaucrats and officials who so crassly targeted Canadians for their own ideological pleasure and enjoyment.

Justin Trudeau will fall. His government will be relegated to the trash bin of history. But the Canada of the future is now in doubt. Who are we? Who and what will we become? The answer to that strikes at the very heart of what Canada is today and what the Canada of tomorrow looks like. There are all kinds of choices being considered and made in Canada today regarding politics, thought, speech, economy, opportunity, civil liberties and the future. We all must choose wisely. There is no compromise on freedom. 





Politics & Guns

Bruce Gold

The Secret Behind Trudeau's Anti-Gun Policies



For the Liberals to succeed, it is imperative they prevent people from understanding how their soft-on-crime policies are being protected by publicity stunts against the legal gun community.

Trudeau, whatever his failings, cannot be accused of originality.

From globalism to socialism to Alberta's oil, Trudeau's policies are a virtual carbon copy of his father's. This is particularly true for Canada's criminal justice system. His progressive policies place concern for the criminal above concern for the public. As Trudeau's (the elder) Solicitor General Goyer stated to Parliament in 1971: "For too long a time now, our punishment-oriented society has cultivated the state of mind that demands that offenders, whatever their age and whatever the offence, be placed behind bars. Even nowadays, too many Canadians object to looking at offenders as members of our society and seem to disregard the fact that the correctional process aims at making the offender a useful and law-abiding citizen, and not any more an individual alienated from society

and in conflict with it. Consequently, we have decided from now on, to stress the rehabilitation of individuals rather than the protection of society ... Our reforms will perhaps be criticized for being too liberal or for omitting to protect society against dangerous criminals. Indeed, this new rehabilitation policy will probably demand much striving and involve some risks."

The first thing to note is the inclusion of violent repeat offenders in "whatever the offense." These policies appeal to the Liberal's base and give Trudeau ample opportunity to virtue signal and play the Philosopher King to the great Canadian unwashed. This approach also fits nicely with socialist ideas that support the "humanitarian" policy of civilian disarmament, which can be clearly seen in attitudes towards self-defense. As Trudeau proclaimed, "There are debates and we have a cul-

ture where the difference is guns can be used for hunting or for sport shooting in Canada ... but you can't use a gun for self-protection in Canada; no, you don't get that."

Unfortunately, these are also policies which have led to soaring crime rates as hardened repeat offenders enjoy the government's soft touch and created a public relations problem for the Liberals. Fortunately for Trudeau, he had his father's solution of moving from targeting violent criminals to targeting firearms. In practice, this meant going after the easy target -- legal guns and their law-abiding owners.

This left Trudeau with the problem of selling the tenuous connection between legal owners and gun-wielding criminals. The Liberals have attempted to do this by implying that legal gun ownership leads to:

Straw purchases -- already illegal

and seriously problematic since all legal guns and their owners are identified (by sales and transfer data, if not registration) and loss or theft must be reported.

Theft from owners is already illegal and must be reported by law. These are recorded under a lost or stolen category that doesn't even try to separate stolen guns or attempt to find out when and how stolen guns re-emerge.

Criminal use by gun owners – already illegal and so rare even the Liberals have given up making explicit accusations.

Their next problem is what to make illegal, a serious problem because:

The entirety of gun ownership, commerce and use has already been criminalized in eye-watering detail so there is little left to criminalize.

The guns-cause-crime theory is based on studies that are so shoddy they are not standing up to investigation.

The policy rests on maintaining a very shaky connection between criminals using guns illegally and the law-abiding engaged in peaceful pursuits, when the only connection is both have guns.

They have largely lost the public, and their scare tactics are not working even with a friendly press to help.

The massive “Reducing violent crime: A Dialogue on Handguns and Assault-style Firearms, Engagement Summary Report” indicated that Canadians had no appetite for gun control, with 81 per cent not wanting further restrictions on handguns and 77 per cent not wanting more restrictions on “assault weapons.”

TRUDEAU'S RESPONSE

With the Liberals facing massive failures across the policy spectrum, the Nova Scotia shootings (with illegal guns and a prohibited shooter) was just the sort of outrage they needed to divert attention from an underfunded RCMP with more gun control.

ASSAULT WEAPONS

The May 1 OIC, banning as many as 250,000 guns, was a press release triumph and a legal and logistical disaster. It is now known they had no plan whatsoever to actually confiscate the firearms. The courts have now rejected their nullification stunt as

having no basis in law, which means affected gun owners can appeal the re-classification in provincial court. The last-minute amendment to Bill C-21 to ban semi-automatic sporting rifles, which was supposed to resolve the OIC's legal mess, has also failed. The public has not bought into the reduce-drug-gang-shootings-by-restricting-sports-shooters narrative.

HANDGUNS

The Liberals made several attempts to get municipalities to impose a handgun ban without success. It was popular in some cities until they realized how impractical and problematic it would be. In October 2022, they imposed a national confiscation plan on all handguns in Canada.

This was marketed as a “freeze” on sales and transfers however, it was actually a confiscation since all handguns would be seized after the owner's death. The identical treatment of small handguns, about 50 per cent of all handguns, under the 1995 Firearms Act had no impact at all on gun violence.

HOW IT STANDS NOW

The Liberals have not changed their beliefs and are determined to pursue their progressive soft-on-crime policies. Guns and legal gun owners will continue to be used as a scapegoat to protect these soft-on-crime policies.

The Bill C-21 misstep has alerted the mass of gun owners of their intentions, and the divide-and-conquer strategy they use against the firearms community is unlikely to work under these conditions.

There is also the underlying problem of how the whole classification agenda fails to match up with the realities of actual crimes. For example, armed robbery is illegal and does not become more or less illegal depending on the firearm's barrel length, magazine capacity or actual mechanics.

Their current tactic is to “compromise” by dropping the explicit ban on semi-automatic sporting rifles while leaving their very broad definitions in place.

With no legal definitions, the Liberals have a blank cheque to ban any or all firearms in Canada. They can continue the use of their evergreen policy

with re-classifications of individual models and with continuous re-definitions of the criteria to include ever more firearms. One way to understand how undefined terms like “variant” are being used is to look at the May 1 OIC. The OIC listed a mere nine firearms. However, with “variants” it came to 1,500 models and hundreds more have been listed since. It's estimated the OIC affected more than 90,000 individual firearms, now estimated over 250,000. For each firearm listed, 10,000 individual guns were prohibited. There are few, if any, other examples in Canadian criminal law where the government has set out to deliberately make the crime open to re-definition and continual re-imagining.

CONCLUSIONS

There are a number of political conclusions we can reach from this:


This attack on legal firearms is a politically expedient way for a corrupt, inept, bankrupt government to change the subject.

The Liberals have an absolute distain for public safety as they divert billions in scarce resources to a vote-harvesting boondoggle. Still, for a government with a big city base who routinely uses firearms as a wedge issue, it is easy to see why they want to do this as much as possible.

They will continue trying to divide the firearms community. This is likely to focus on getting hunters and First Nations to abandon sports shooters and handgun owners. Special deals and considerations are likely to be offered to organization leaders naïve enough to think they will ever collect.

For the Liberals to succeed, it is imperative they prevent people from understanding how their soft-on-crime policies are being protected by publicity stunts against the legal gun community.

It is also imperative for the Liberals that the wider public does not come to the realization the seizure of private property from the law-abiding is a danger to everyone's private property, not just gun owners.

Their strategy of confiscating property and nullifying civil liberties on a declaration of “public safety,” with all evidence concealed as a “cabinet secret,” is a deadly threat to all Canadians. 

Preserving Our Firearms Heritage

Gary K. Kangas

Canada's Firearms Heritage Is About To Disappear

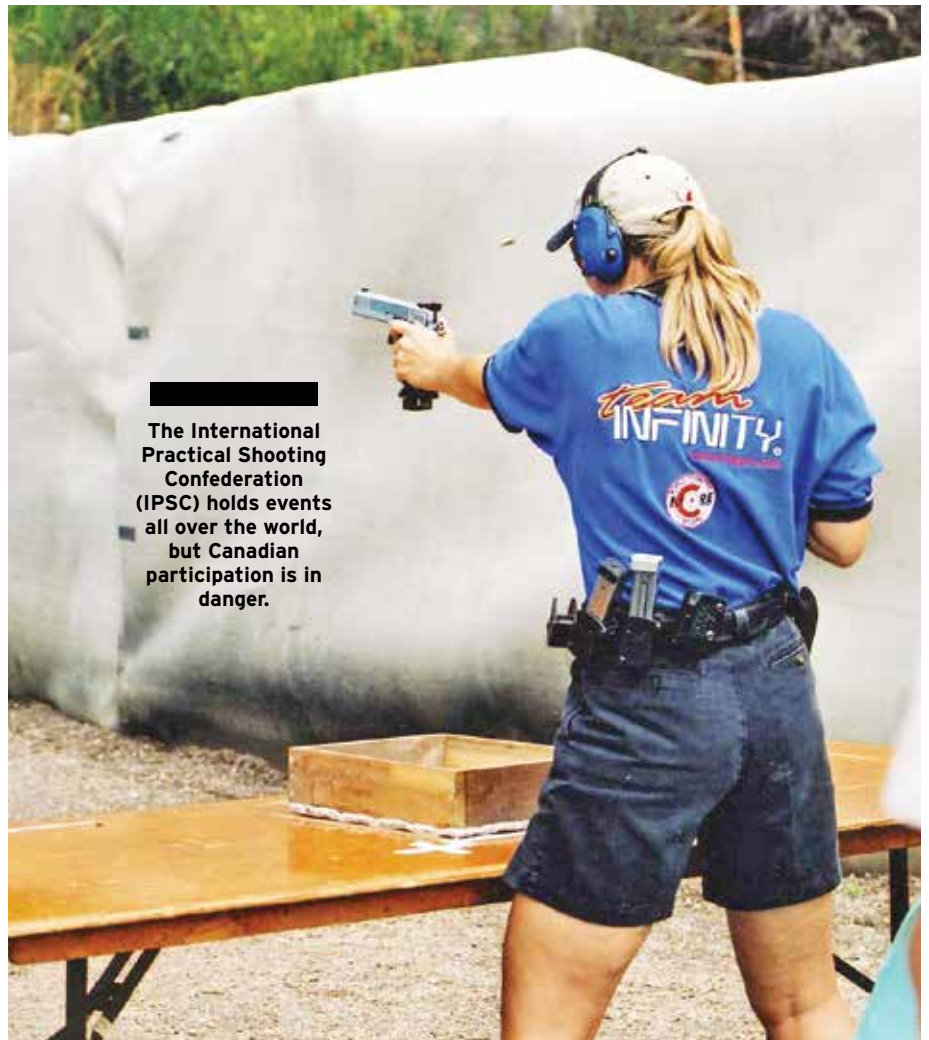
Having read Bill C-21, it's obvious the legislation is not about controlling crime. In my opinion, Bill C-21 has been written to cancel the firearms culture in Canada.

Trudeau and company have a desire to create a post-modern state that decides what is culturally acceptable and what is not. They aim to create a country in which the government is a top-down authoritarian regime controlling what you read, watch on TV and post on the Internet.

Canada has a long history of the peaceful, recreational use of firearms. Hunting is woven into the fabric of our culture, beginning with our interaction with the First Nations. The First Nations were pivotal in instructing the new arrivals in survival and hunting techniques, and in turn the Europeans supplied the First Nations with new hunting tools -- firearms.

Firearm competitions have been a cultural pursuit enjoyed by many. Until a few years ago, cadets and Boy Scouts, supervised by competent instructors, had evening shooting competitions in church and community hall basements. Every weekend and summer evening Canada wide, there are trap and skeet shooting matches, bullseye rifle and handgun competitions, PPC, IPSC, cowboy action shooting, silhouette and vintage bolt-action rifle events. Many shooting sports attract women, as they are not age or gender specific.

I believe Bill C-21 will wipe out our military heritage due to the myth perpetrated by the current regime that Canadians never acted as warriors, only peacekeepers. That concept is pure politics. Canadians have been warriors since the beginning of this nation. Who bested the French on the Plains of Abraham? It was First Nations and Canadian militiamen backing up the British Regular Troops. Who stopped the American invasion of 1812? Indigenous and European Canadians. Who



The International Practical Shooting Confederation (IPSC) holds events all over the world, but Canadian participation is in danger.

fought the Fenian Invasion? Canadian militiamen. Who was the best sniper in the First World War? An Ojibwa First Nations man from Ontario. Who saved the day at the Battle of Vimy in the First World War? Canadian troops led by a Canadian, Sir Arthur Currie. Whose army was prominent in the freeing of Holland in the Second World War? Canadians. Historic re-enactments to honour this military past will cease to exist and valued military arms collections will be seized and destroyed by

order of Bill C-21.

Canadians owning legal, licensed firearms for competitions such as PPC, IPSC, bullseye, black powder handgun, cowboy action shooting and mounted shooting will disappear by attrition as handguns will not be bought, sold, traded or inherited under the rules of C-21. This amounts to billions of dollars of estate value seized by the government for their ideological beliefs and political gain.

The Liberal regimes have, for 46



The Liberals are asking voters to believe that prohibiting mounted cowboy competition (where blanks are used) will prevent gang shootings in Toronto.

years, pursued an agenda to demonize, criminalize and confiscate the property of those who are RCMP-vetted firearm owners and who are not criminals. This legislation does not have any impact on criminals, gun crime or gun violence. Parliamentary acts such as these are prepared in advance so they can be passed immediately after any firearms tragedy. When the next shootings occur by gangsters, drug dealers, criminals or the deranged who do not use licensed firearms, the Liberals always demand more gun laws because the current laws they enacted have not been effective by their own design.

All the Liberal's gun control laws are a distraction to divert the public's attention from the real issues, such as the economy, inflation and Chinese political interference into Canada's elections. The theme is always the same, to ban legal, licensed property. If this actually works, why were not all white vans banned after the Danforth massacre?

In my opinion, the current Liberal regime knows and understands all of the foregoing perfectly well and their strategy is simply based on ideology

and political motivation.

People need to ask their Liberal, NDP and BLOC members of parliament how spending \$5 billion on confiscating the property of those who do not commit crime is going to reduce gun crime. Everyone should also ask how allotting less than \$290 million to fight gun crime and border interdiction of illegal firearms is going to affect the criminal use of firearms. It will not. The \$5 billion should be allotted to pursue real criminals and gun smuggling.

In 2021, there were 232 gun deaths in Canada. Homicides with legal, licensed firearms in Canada numbered 31 in 2021, only 12 per cent of firearm homicides. The other 88 per cent of firearms homicides were perpetrated by criminals. But Liberals want to hold legal, licensed firearms owners to account for all firearm homicides.

Canadian firearms owners comprising city dwellers, farmers, outdoor adventurers, competitive shooters, hunters, First Nations and Olympic competitors have a long history of non-violent use of firearms and yet we are all treated as criminals. Bill C-21 will have zero impact on the criminal

use of guns and gun violence. The current Liberal regime wants only to cancel Canada's firearms heritage by persecuting people who wish to pursue recreational activities with airguns, to extinguish hunting and to confiscate billions of dollars in personal property when no crime has been committed. Parliamentarians who vote for Bill C-21 are guaranteeing the continuation of gun violence on our streets.

In the 2021/2022 season, there were 513,674 people who played hockey in Canada. In 2022 there were 2,300,000 licensed, RCMP-vetted firearms owners in Canada, with an additional estimated 200,000-plus family members using firearms. It means the real number is likely nearly 3,000,000 legal, non-violent firearms users. What is Canada's national sport? Shooting! We must all band together to preserve that firearms heritage. 🇨🇦

Sources:

Stats Canada, World Population Review, Liberal Party of Canada Budget Estimates



ONLY THREE GUNS

Which would you choose?

BY KEVIN WILSON

If you're anything like me, your gun safe is probably bursting at the seams. Call it a fetish or just a mild passion but adding new firearms to the collection every now and then simply makes my world go around. But have you ever asked yourself what you would do if you were limited to only three? No doubt, four would make the decision easier, but for argument's sake, what if you were restricted to choosing only three guns? It's a surprisingly popular question and one well worth considering.

Initially, I thought my choice would be easy, but as I began listing my favourites, along with the pros and cons of each, it became evident it wasn't going to be as straightforward as I thought.

APPLICATION

Without blinking, my initial list of three would indeed include a rimfire, a shotgun and a centrefire rifle. Albeit oversimplified, that shortlist accommodates a broad spectrum of applications. From a hunting perspective, it would allow me to take varmints, small game, fowl, as well as medium-sized to big game animals. From plinking to shooting clays, and even long-range shooting, this selec-

tion would theoretically cover them all. But then there's the elephant in the room, the ever-present consideration of self-defence.

The founders of Canada inherently assumed that it is our God-given right to protect our home and family, so they intentionally excluded the right to bear arms from the founding documents. We now know this was a mistake, as some elected officials are taking liberties to abuse those inalienable rights and freedoms. This right to possess and use a firearm for personal protection is something most law-abiding firearm owners know to be a practical necessity given the history of the world. Unfortunately, it is all too often suppressed as a matter of public discussion given our current government's socialist ideology. So, what would this look like if we were to own a firearm for personal protection? Would this be an inherent consideration as you determine your three?

Then again, as I consider the question of limiting my ownership to three firearms, I have to contemplate how my decisions would vary if I were more of a specialist. In other words, if I focused on certain shooting disciplines, or specific types, sizes, formats or calibres of firearms,

then my choices would certainly reflect that. For instance, if I prefer to shoot handguns only or I'm a competitive cowboy action shooter, my selection would be very different than my neighbour who might be a varmint-hunting specialist. Alternatively, if I have no use for a shotgun or rimfire, then what other calibres and actions would I choose? Or, if I have a particular penchant for blackpowder guns, then which one's would I include? Similarly, I know a lot of folks who shoot shotguns only. They really have no interest in rimfires or centrefires. For them, the decision would likely land on an assortment of shotgun gauges.

With all of that in mind, here's how I might navigate the decision-making process to determine my choice of three guns.

SHOTGUNS

The venerable double-barrel 12 gauge was, for many decades, the go-to gun in most homesteads. The break-action made it easy to load and simple to shoot. It was a highly effective tool used to put food on the table and defend against those with bad intentions. Today, 12-gauge shotguns are available in many different formats. From single- to triple-barrel ▶

break-action, over/under, as well as side-by-side, pump-action, semi-automatic and, yes, for a short time several decades ago, even in a bolt-action format. The 12 gauge is big enough to cover most applications and small enough to be carried and handled by almost anyone, regardless of stature or gender.

When it comes right down to it, accessibility and affordability of ammunition is another big factor, and here the 12 gauge is the clear winner. For my money and applications, if I were forced to limit myself to one shotgun, a higher quality, smooth bore, pump-action 12 gauge that can handle up to a 3-inch shell would be ideal for me. The chance of running into mechanical problems is minimal and it would allow me to switch sizes and ammunition choices to shoot targets, birds and even slugs for wildlife defense. Similarly, by removing the plug (when legal), a pump-action accommodates more than three rounds of ammunition as well.

RIMFIRES

It's almost impossible to argue against the practicality of a 22 Long Rifle. As a calibre, it's simply sensational. Virtually every hunter, most sport shooters and every farmer has one or several. Why? Because they're ideal for target shooting and varmint control. Ammunition is cheap and traditionally accessible. Single-shots, pump-actions, lever-actions and, more recently, multi-round clips are typical options. I have several of them, but my favourite is still the classic Ruger 10/22.

Then again, there are other rimfire options well worth considering. Because of its greater range, the 17 HMR holds a special place in my heart and I love shooting it. It's deadly for gopher control and I shoot coyotes with it from time to time. The biggest challenge with it and the 22 WRM is the cost and accessibility of ammunition. In the end though, it still comes down to application, action type and accessibility and affordability of ammunition.

CENTREFIRE RIFLES

Not long ago, centrefire options were comparatively limited. Most of us had either a bolt-action 30-06 Sprg, 270 Win or a 243 Win. With one or a combination of these in hand, we'd be able to hunt just about anything.

RIGHT: The author considers this HS Precision rifle in 7mm Rem Mag and Winchester 160-grain Accubond CT Expedition ammunition an ideal hunting combination.

BELOW: The 22 LR is the most common, practical and affordable rimfire option and one of the author's top three choices.



By comparison, today's increasingly more powerful cartridges are often better suited for specific big game and dangerous game applications, but these all come down to preference. If we don't see a need for a rimfire or a shotgun, then that frees up a couple spots for alternative centrefire choices.

As far as lighter centrefire calibres go, the 223 Rem still reigns as one of the most cost-effective choices, especially when it comes to ammunition. Then again, the 22-250 Rem, 204 Ru-

ger, and again the 243 Win, and even the 6.5s are tough to beat for their flat shooting and overall downrange accuracy.

Bolt-actions with a magazine tend to be the most popular, with some single-shots still available. Pump-action rifles are less common, mostly due to their relative inaccuracy, and some semi-automatic rifles are available as well. If you're less interested in hunting or utilitarian purposes and more inclined to focus on tacti-

cal choices, then you'll be looking at a whole different class of centrefire rifles, but just know that government legislation could put the brakes on your decisions. While I personally own an assortment of centrefire calibres and rifles, I continue to view a bolt-action 7mm Remington Magnum as one of the most versatile calibres for all-around big game hunting.

Regardless of calibre preferences, with the advancements in cartridge and bullet technology these days, choosing a suitable round for your particular rifle and application is equally, if not more important, than calibre choice. Are there better species-specific options? Yes. But as far as an all-around versatile calibre goes, this is the one for me.

MUZZLELOADERS

I can't imagine anyone choosing a blackpowder firearm as one of their preferred three, but I bet there are folks out there who would. So, I'd be remiss if I didn't mention this option. I suppose if muzzleloaders are your thing, you might include at least one of these. Today's in-line .50 calibre rifles are deadly accurate and, with the right load, they're capable of shooting several hundred yards with surprising accuracy. Blackpowder shotguns in a variety of sizes may also be a consideration.

HANDGUNS

Restricted firearm status aside, handguns would undoubtedly be on many shooters' list of three. Versatile, mostly due to their size, handguns are fun to shoot and an incredibly practical tool serving a utilitarian purpose. Fun to shoot at the range, but also an

effective self-defence tool, handguns have their place. If you're a cowboy action or IPSC shooter, for instance, you might not care about any other guns. You may indeed identify three different handguns as your personal choices.

While 9mm Luger is a popular choice with pistol shooters, heavier calibres like 45 Auto and 10mm Auto are arguably better suited for knock-down power. Similarly, with revolvers, the 44 Rem Mag is generally a shooter favourite when it comes to wildlife defence. Yes, bigger provides more power, but control and accuracy are the name of the game.

If we lived in the US, we could talk extensively about calibres for personal carry, but we're not, so we won't. From a wildlife defense standpoint, handguns are arguably less efficient than a long gun; however, their portability and accessibility on your hip make them an ideal back-country tool. I personally carry a 45 Auto for work under the authority of an authorization to carry and I can tell you that most days I don't even notice it on my hip.

MY PERSONAL CHOICE OF THREE

After all that, you're probably wondering if I'm sticking to my initially suggested three. As much as I like wildcats, and truly enjoy shooting big calibres, short magnums, double rifles and muzzleloaders, you might be surprised with the simplicity of my answer.

In the end, as much as I love my custom rifles and fine shotguns, I'm a pragmatist. My answer isn't sexy, but in the end my decision would be based purely on practicality, functionality, accessibility and affordability. For these reasons combined, I'd stick with a 22 LR, 12-gauge pump-action and 7mm Remington Magnum. If I were allowed a fourth, I'd add my 45 Auto pistol into the mix -- but I'm not, so I won't, for now. I'd probably choose stainless barrels on all of them and I'd go with composite stocks. I see firearms as tools with the extended luxury of crafting them to be works of art. Certainly, they have their own beauty and some are truly spectacular to hold and shoot, but if I could only choose three, that would be my short-list. Which three would you choose? 🏆

RIGHT: What would your safe contain if limited to three guns?

BELOW: Pump-action shotguns like this Winchester are economical and extremely versatile.





ONE COOL CADEX

Reviewing the Cadex R7 CBRN hunting rifle

BY JUSTIN FOSTER



Both Hornady Match with a 225-grain ELD Match bullet and Hornady Outfitter with a 190-grain CX bullet shot exceptionally well.

We've all come to know the name Cadex and associate it with precision rifles. So, it only makes sense that Cadex finally ventured into the hunting rifle world with their entries called the CDX-R7 CBRN and CDX-R7 SPTR. Essentially the same rifle except for the barrels, the CDX-R7 line of hunting rifles was designed from the ground up with the care and attention to detail we expect from Cadex. The CBRN model, which Cadex generously sent me for testing, was simply brilliant. Chambered in 300 PRC, this beast was a pleasure to get behind and struck a balance between weight and comfort while shooting.

CDX-R7 ACTION DS

The Cadex CDX-R7 action shares the same footprint as the famous Remington 700, but that is where the similarities stop. On top of the usual upgrade treatment most 700 clones receive, like side bolt release, better extractor and improved bolt knob, the 416 stainless steel R7 boasts a unique one-piece scope rail. The rail utilizes what Cadex calls a "localization system" that integrates two 5/16-inch studs machined into the bottom of the scope rail and mates perfectly with the top of the action. The localization system works in conjunction with four 8-40 screws to ensure the scope rail

never moves under recoil, even from today's large magnum cartridges. Cadex has made this rail design available in 0, 20 and 30 minute-of-angle (MOA) options for this series of hunting rifles.

The R7 has been around for a while now and has proven to be a dependable and smooth-operating action. With this 300 PRC model and all other Cadex rifles I have had the pleasure of shooting, the bolt movement was precise, smooth and intuitive. Transitioning from my many 90-degree bolt-throw actions to the four-lug, 50-degree throw design of the R7 seemed flawless, with zero >

clunkiness to the operation. The R7 action is treated with a diamond-like coating, making this action buttery smooth, with no hesitation when running the bolt hard. I take pride in not putting myself in hunting situations where I need a follow-up shot on game, but if I ever needed to, the lightning-quick and smooth operation of the R7 instills confidence in the shooter if there is ever a need.

BARTLEIN CARBON FIBRE BARREL

A premium action demands a premium barrel. So, Cadex has partnered with top-shelf barrel manufacturer Bartlein to provide their rifles with exceptional single-point cut barrel blanks. Whether you choose the carbon fibre or stainless-steel option, both offer top-tier precision and accuracy in all 10 of Cadex's chamber offerings.

The precision and accuracy I saw from the Cadex and Bartlein 300 PRC package sent to me was exactly what I have come to expect from Cadex. I found both factory ammunition offerings I was able to test from Hornady shot exceptionally well. The Hornady Match ammunition, loaded with the 225-grain ELD Match bullet, averaged five-round groups in the half-MOA range at 100 yards. Across 60 rounds of each ammunition type, I found the best group from the Match ammunition with a five-shot group size of 0.469 inches, with the top group from the Outfitter ammunition at a respectable 0.514 inches.

DX2 EVO TRIGGER

I am what many would consider a trigger snob. As a competitive shooter, the trigger is one of the most vital components of my rifles and is where so much can go right or wrong. Cadex manufactures a trigger called the DX2 Evo. This unique design offers a ton of adjustability for the shooter, including fore and aft trigger shoe adjustments and the ability to choose between single-stage and two-stage trigger pulls. I often find items that try to be great at more than one thing fall short of being good at anything. Still, this is where Cadex shines again, as they have found a way to have a brilliantly crisp and smooth trigger with multiple adjustments.



ABOVE: The 50-degree bolt throw and DLC coating of the CDX-R7 action make for a fast and smooth-cycling repeater.

RIGHT: The localization system Cadex utilizes to maintain a solid relationship between the action and scope rail is robust and dependable.



TUNDRA STRIKE STOCK

If I feel so passionately about triggers, think of how I might feel about stocks and chassis.

Thankfully, Cadex put a lot of thought into the Tundra Strike stock and made it a very comfortable shooting rifle.

The Tundra Strike isn't just another Tupperware stock. Like all of their popular chassis, Cadex built this stock from the ground up. They chose fiberglass-reinforced polymer with molded aluminum bedding blocks in the action area to strike a perfect balance between rigidity and weight. They then finish the stock with a coat of Cerakote from their healthy offering of colours.

The folks at Cadex, being shooters themselves, have considered all the tiny details needed to achieve greatness for their new stock design. An example is the extra sling stud hole on the stock's forend. This rifle ships in a single sling stud configuration but can easily convert to a two-stud setup with a kit from Cadex and one pre-molded hole drilled out by the end user. Other great features that Cadex includes are a neoprene cheek pad and forend

inserts for both sporter and heavy barrel contours to keep the stock looking its best.

The geometry of the stock is such that the grip angle is not vertical, but not so horizontal that the rifle feels awkward when shooting prone. This hybrid angle design allows for a homogeneous blend of comfort and control in many shooting positions.

The rubberized grip panels are an excellent selection by Cadex, as many folks hunt in cold and snowy climates. These grip panels on the forend and rear grip are the perfect texture to grip with gloves but not shred your hands when shooting barehanded. The rubber feels excellent in the cold and is nice and tacky when wet.

The trigger guard and mag release are easy to work around and sleek in their appearance and overall bulk in the rifle. Yet, they function as if they were larger than they really are and lend themselves well to the gloved hand.

The two-tone colour schemes are

attention-grabbing to the human eye but not so punchy that they will scare the deer away. A wide array of colour options incorporate Cerakote on the stock and the barrel to add protection to the already rugged setup.

Aluminum bedding blocks aid in the accuracy and precision of this rifle. This option eliminates the need for a bedding compound to assure accuracy out of the box. Given Cadex's history in impact and recoil absorption measuring, their team designed an outstanding stock that mitigates recoil and aids in overall recoil management.

ACCESSORIES

The price tag of this rifle is higher than what many spend on their standard hunting rifle. With the price difference, you don't just get a premium tack driver of a rifle, but you also get a couple of high-end items. The first is a Cadex Hunter Series hard case that is as premium as the rifle. This case is a value add that helps protect this prized possession.

The addition of the Hunter Series muzzle brake adds to the excellent recoil management of this rifle. Muzzle brakes are often not included on many of today's rifle packages and can be a pretty pricey addition when going with an aftermarket one.

Cadex includes an Accuracy International single-stack, five-round magazine that works flawlessly with the R7 action. This was a welcomed move by Cadex, as Accuracy International makes some of the best magazines in the game. No matter how hard I ran the action during testing, I had no issues feeding or extracting rounds. Additionally, this magazine allows for proper magazine seating on a closed bolt when at full capacity, which is excellent news for many hunters who often do not hike with a round in the chamber but want as many rounds loaded in the rifle as possible.

The manual, while not a momentous accessory, is worth noting. This full-size spiral-bound book has answers to common questions, with detailed drawings. This is the best manual I have seen come inside a rifle case. Bravo to Cadex for this subtle but welcome addition to this package.



The Cadex DX2 Evo trigger offers customization with fore and aft trigger shoe adjustments, as well as the ability to turn the two-stage trigger into a single-stage trigger.

ADDITIONAL NOTES

Cadex realizes not everyone can swing a multi-thousand-dollar rifle. For this reason, they have elected to make many of the components used available for purchase as component-only options. The stock, in particular, is one to note. If you have a Remington 700 or clone barreled action, they have designed this stock to accept those actions as direct drop-ins. This solution would be a great way to finish off a custom hunting build or an excellent option for a stock rifle needing an upgrade.

FINAL THOUGHTS

A Cadex rifle was the first rifle I took out past 1,000 yards and, to this day, I thoroughly enjoy every opportunity I get to be behind one. The Cadex CDX-R7 CBRN hunting rifle was a reminder of how excellent Cadex rifles are and why their name is synonymous with precision.

The CDX-R7 CBRN hunting rifle offers a turnkey solution polished in both design and function. This rifle

provides a long list of highlights that left me confident Cadex has thought of everything a hunter could ever want in a rifle. I would have the utmost confidence in taking this rifle on any hunt, knowing the rifle would be the last thing I would need to be concerned about.

I appreciate that not everyone can purchase such a rifle, but for those currently in the market, don't think twice about the Cadex CDX-R7 CBRN or SPTR rifles. For the individuals who build rifles from components, the price tag of this rifle is very appealing as you're getting a custom rifle with premium components for less than your component list would cost -- and this one is assembled and tested.

The highly knowledgeable team at Cadex channels classic Canadian hospitality and is a pleasure to deal with. They take the time to answer all your questions and ensure you are taken care of as a customer. The only problem with buying a Cadex rifle is you won't want to stop at just one. 🇨🇦





The S100 is a switch-barrel rifle with interchangeable bolt heads and a detachable magazine.

SAKO'S SWITCH BARREL

Reviewing the S100
BY T.J. SCHWANKY

It had been a long time since I was required to take a test and this one had me really nervous. The outcome would decide whether I'd be able to hunt the following day or not. I was in Finland and we were testing Sako's new S100 rifle. According to Finnish law, I was required to pass a shooting proficiency test to be able to hunt moose and I'd be using a rifle that I'd only laid hands on a few minutes earlier. Additionally, I had a group of onlookers comprised of some of the top writers and editors from Australia, New Zealand and the US.

A couple of them, who had taken the test previously, offered me some advice. I was all ears and when the moose target presented itself, I shifted into automatic mode and fired the three rounds in fairly rapid succession. We had 90 seconds to take the shots, but I did it in under

30. Everything just felt right. When the range officer radioed back with the one-word response, "Pass," I was ecstatic. I was going moose hunting in Finland.

We'd been introduced to Sako's new switch barrel, the S100, the evening before at a formal press reception. I've always had a fascination with rifles that have the ability to easily switch barrels and, after handling this rifle for a bit, there was little doubt that with this rifle Sako was going head-to-head with Blaser. Offered in two versions, the Explorer Wood sports a walnut stock with schnabel forend and a Monte Carlo comb on the buttstock. The look leaves little doubt this rifle was aimed at the European market. The Explorer Carbon features a full 360-degree woven carbon fibre stock with the same schnabel forend and Monte Carlo comb.

Both stocks have an adjustable cheek piece that is spring loaded for easy, one-handed adjustment while in the firing position. This ensures a perfect cheek weld in all shooting positions. Europeans favour this stock design for fast, off-hand shooting on driven hunts and it is extremely popular in Africa as well, where most shots are taken from the standing position, off of shooting sticks. The carbon fibre stock has a non-slip finish that is easily gripped when wet and is reported to be chemical resistant, a problem that seems to have plagued some Model 85 synthetic stocks. Chemicals like deer, found in mosquito repellent, would cause the stock's finish to peel. Both stocks have an aluminum V-block bedding system that cradles the full length of the receiver.

The heart of the system, however, is the ability to change barrels >

simply. In this case, it's just a matter of removing two screws. Sako even built the tool for barrel removal, with torque indicator, right into the stock. Uniform torque on the barrel is a key to repeatable accuracy with these switch barrel rifles. Depending on the cartridges you are switching between, if they don't share a common bolt-face, then the bolt will have to be switched out as well. Bolts have a diamond-like coating to reduce friction and increase durability while the barrel is Cerakoted. Each chambering has its own magazine as well, to ensure flawless feeding. Magazines are a steel double-stack design, similar to those on the 85s, with a similar locking system. The scope remains affixed to the barrel, so a separate scope is required for each barrel. This allows barrels to be quickly switched with no need to re-zero. The S100 comes in one action length and can accommodate cartridge lengths from 243 Winchester up to 375 H&H.


The trigger is fully adjustable from one-and-a-half to roughly four pounds and is graduated in six levels that audibly click when adjusted. The trigger can also be adjusted 3.5

millimetres forward or reward for a total of seven millimetres of adjustment, to accommodate different hand sizes. The same tool used to remove the barrel can be used to adjust the trigger. The trigger pad is quite wide compared to most previous Sako models, and I found it extremely comfortable. The S100 has a manual cocking or handspannung safety that allows you to have the rifle uncocked until ready to shoot. The bolt is locked closed when the safety is uncocked, but a bolt release button on the side of the bolt shroud allows the bolt to be opened so the chamber can be unloaded while the rifle is on safe. Even if the rifle is dropped, there is no way it can fire with this safety type.

I was given an Explorer Wood, chambered in 308 Winchester, to use and my first impression was that it felt like a high-end European rifle, which in truth it is. The wood on the stock was beautiful and the new, proprietary Sako action is very smooth. The trigger, like all Sakos, had no creep and I really liked the feel of the wider pad. I set the trigger on the rifle I was using at around two-and-a-half pounds, my preferred hunting weight.

While we were unable to go down-range to retrieve targets due to the number of shooters and short time frame we had, through the spotting scope I would estimate my groups at around 0.8 MOA off the bench. While the rifle felt good on the bench, when I shot the rifle from the standing position, there was no doubt this is what it was designed for. For the European hunter on a stand or the hunter in Africa, this rifle really shines.

Additionally, I was able to shoot the Explorer Carbon, also chambered in 308 Winchester, and we dialed the trigger on it down to one-and-a-half pounds. While too light for hunting, it did tighten my groups slightly off the bench. I ran several rounds through an Explorer Wood chambered in 375 H&H as well. There is no published weight for this rifle, but I'd say the Wood version is in that eight-pound range and the Carbon about a half-pound lighter. So recoil was obviously very manageable even in the 375 H&H. For the hunter going to Africa on a combination dangerous game/plains game hunt, the S100 is tailor made. It has barrels available in 243 Win, 308 Win, 6.5 CM, 6.5x55 SE, 270 Win, 30-06



Pictured is the Explorer Carbon in the uncocked position. The cocking piece at the rear of the action must be pushed forward to cock the rifle.



The S100 proved accurate with Sako ammunition.

The author got to try the S100 on a classic European driven hunt.

Sprg, 8x57IS, 9.3x62, 300 Win Mag, 7 mm Rem Mag and 375 H&H.

The handspanning safety does take a bit of getting used to if you've never used one, which I hadn't. A fair bit of thumb pressure is required to move it into the cocked or ready-to-fire position. Decocking is done simply by depressing a small button, but again it took some getting used to and a bit of fiddling. The option of a more traditional firing pin safety will be available on future models.

When I first started using the safety, I found it really awkward, but after running a few dozen rounds through the rifle, it became second nature. Considering the added security of the handspanning safety, I think I would opt for it, especially in situations like those that arise on an African dangerous game hunt, where you have numerous people in close proximity.

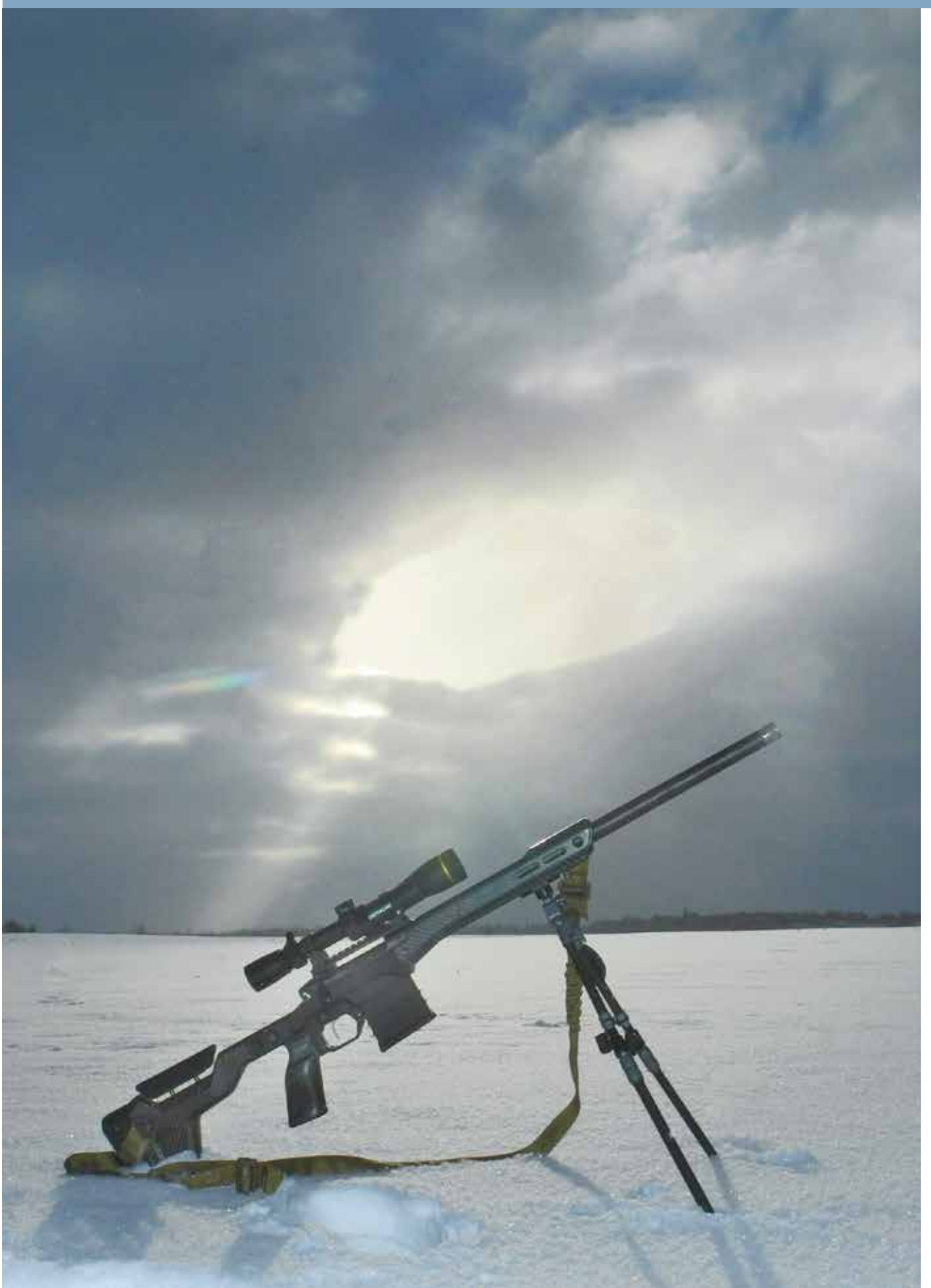
I did get to hunt the following day and I was anxious to try out the S100 on some live game. Stands were assigned via random draw, and we did three drives in the morning and two in the afternoon. Both white-tailed deer and moose were fair game and, as luck would have it, nothing came by my stand on the first two drives. Then, on the third drive, after a vol-



ley of shots nearby, the hunt master announced over the radio that moose were now closed. Of course, it was about two minutes later that a lone cow moose wandered by my stand. All I could do was watch and laugh at my misfortune. In the end, I never fired a round on the hunt, but it was pretty amazing to take part in my first driven hunt and to be part of such a deep-rooted tradition.

As for the S100, no doubt the cost

will dissuade many from looking at one. Also, there's definitely a culture of multiple gun ownership in North America, and many gun owners would rather own two or three rifles than one with interchangeable barrels. But for the traveling hunter or the hunter that just wants to be intimately familiar with one firearm, the S100 definitely hits the mark and offers some serious competition for the Blaser. 🏆



CARBON FIBRE CUSTOM

Building a state-of-the-art varmint rifle

BY AL VOTH

I'm of the opinion there are a few rifles which should form part of every Canadian rifle shooter's collection. At the top of the list is a .22 calibre rimfire of as high a quality as a person can reasonably afford. The reason for that choice should be obvious, with cheap ammunition and the capability to handle everything from target practice to small-game hunting leading the list of justifications.

With a good 22 LR in the safe, I'll suggest the other rifle everyone should own is an accurate rifle chambered for the 223 Remington cartridge, with the rationale being not too different from the previously mentioned rimfire.

What that 223 Rem will look like depends on budget, anticipated uses, personal preferences and, in these days of shortages, availability. Personally, I have to go back to a very young me to identify a time I didn't own such a rifle.

That first rifle was a used gun purchased from a co-worker. Then came a succession of various makes and models in a variety of configurations.

It was all beneficial because in the process I ended up trying different magazine systems, stock designs, optics, weights, triggers, barrel lengths and twist rates. All that experimentation helped define what was right for me, and when some new technology became widely available and I found my gun fund holding a healthy balance, it became time to upgrade my current 223 Rem. And that is how the decision was made to go with a full-blown custom rifle.

BARREL

I was still tentative about the idea of a custom gun because I really wanted to use a Proof Research carbon fibre barrel. I've used rifles equipped with these barrels and have been extremely impressed with their overall performance, including accuracy, rapid cooling, stiffness and long life. But then those are the reasons they provide barrels and barrel technology for the US military -- to my knowledge, the only carbon fibre barrel manufacturer to do so. And although those barrels are made just across the border in

Montana, they can sometimes be in short supply.

However, much to my surprise, everything worked and it wasn't long before I had a Proof Research 22-inch, 1-8-inch twist, carbon fibre barrel in hand. The Canadian distributor tells me they try and keep a reasonable inventory on hand and can always special order items as well.

ACTION

These days, we're fortunate to have a lot of options regarding manufacturers of bolt-operated actions, with many of them being Canadian. And since we have people building bolt actions every bit as good as what's available anywhere else in the world, it was an easy decision to use a Canadian action. Again, my choice was easy, and I ended up at the door of K.S. Arms in Edmonton, Alta. If you haven't heard of them, I understand, as they are one of the best kept secrets in the rifle world. No, they don't have a splashy online presence, they just build top-quality products and count on word of mouth and their reputation to make >



ABOVE: Some of the components used to build the author's custom rifle.

BELOW: The extractor and ejector of the rifle's three-lug bolt perform their functions perfectly.



the business flourish. And it's working, as they sell their actions (and barrels too) all over the world.

I grabbed one their Lightweight SA3RL actions, which is a three-lug design with a Remington 700 footprint and integral recoil lug, trimmed down to weigh 23 ounces in the short action length. Other features include a Sako type extractor and hard, corrosion resistant, liquid nitride coating. Overall, it's a smooth operating, precisely built, reliable action, with a lot of accuracy potential.

TRIGGER

A good gun needs a good trigger, and there's currently no better option than what is offered by Ontario's TriggerTech. This isn't the first rifle I've owned to have one of their triggers and I doubt it'll be the last. I selected their Primary model for the Remington 700, as it has the adjustment range I wanted (one-and-a-half to four pounds), thinking a heavier pull weight is appropriate for winter coyote hunting, with a lighter setting for summer range use or ridding pastures of burrowing rodents. As you'd expect, the trigger pull is flawless, totally safe and reliable.

STOCK

With the action having a 700 footprint, the stock/chassis options are numerous. So, in keeping with the mostly Canadian-built and carbon

fibre theme, I went with the HNT-26 chassis from MDT. Another rifle in the safe already wears one of these chassis, so I knew exactly what I was getting and my positive experiences with that rifle made this decision easy. While I wasn't trying to build a super lightweight rifle, I did want to come in under seven pounds with optic, but of course I wanted it to shoot like a 12-pound rifle. This combination of lightweight chassis, action and barrel, I reasoned, would go a long way toward achieving that goal.

The capability to fold the buttstock for compact transport and ease of cleaning, the ARCA rail on the bottom of the forend, the ability to take 10-round magazines and a profusion of M-LOK slots and sling attachment options, as well as the adjustable buttstock length and comb height, all contribute to making the HNT-26 chassis a state-of-the-art product.

OPTICS

In any rifle build where weight is a concern, I'll make Leupold my first stop. That was the case here too. Not only is their reliability and optical performance legendary, but they seem to be able to do it with less weight than anyone else. Therefore, a Leupold VX-3HD 4.5-14x40 came to live on this rifle. I went with a simple Duplex reticle but made sure it had one of their excellent CDS-ZL elevation turrets to help with longer shots.

BITS & PIECES

I happened to have some Tally rings on hand, these being their Tactical version. Alloy construction means they are relatively light, and with stainless steel hardware they should be extremely corrosion resistant. The Picatinny rail you see on the finished rifle was a creation of K.S. Arms, and a bit of a custom job as they typically supply this action with two-piece bases to save some weight. It's pinned to the action and locked down with four 8x40 screws. Yes, that's overkill for a 223 Remington, but it's how they do things there.

Besides chambering and fitting the barrel to the action, K.S. Arms threaded the muzzle in case I ever want to add a muzzle brake. Of course, what I really want to do is add a suppressor to help protect my hearing, but since that won't be happening the provision for a muzzle brake will have to do.

Since this is primarily a hunting



rifle, a support system for long shots is necessary and here the bipod system from Spartan Precision got the call. Made of carbon fibre and aluminum, their system is extremely lightweight and beautifully made. Their magnetic system of attaching the bipod to the rifle is lightning fast and completely reliable. Again, as with the other products used in this build, prices aren't cheap, but performance leaves nothing to be desired.

PERFORMANCE

The assembled barrel and action were delivered to me in mid-January in the

middle of coyote season and a cold Alberta winter. This was a less-than-perfect time to do load development, so I assembled a few basic recipes using temperature-tolerant powders like H4895, Varget and XBR-8208, topping all loads off with some Hornady 55-grain V-Max bullets.

A quick range trip showed the rifle liked XBR-8208 the best, with three consecutive three-shot groups measuring 0.47, 0.43 and 0.30 inches at 3,260 feet per second. At -20 degrees Celsius, that's good enough for me so I went home, loaded a box of 50 rounds and called a farmer friend to check on the coyote situation.

"I'm calving," he said. "And the coyotes are here in force."

I was there the next morning, but I only took one out of circulation that day. On my next morning hunt there, two more yotes went down on the fringes of the cattle herd, and then another single a few days later. I followed that up with a triple, and the coyotes are still dropping, with no end in sight as I write this in late February.

After assembling this rifle, I noticed Nosler is now offering their excellent Model 21 rifle equipped exactly the same as mine. It wears the HNT-26 stock, Proof barrel and TriggerTech trigger, with the only difference being the action. Price on that Nosler is \$5,300 USD. You'll have to ask them, but I'm thinking K.S. Arms would build you the same gun for about the same price, but in Canadian dollars. That's about \$1,500 in savings.

THE FUTURE

When spring rolls around, some serious load development is in order, especially with some of the heavier bullets the 1-8-inch twist can handle. A load recipe for gophers is also in the rifle's future, and I'm thinking I'll put a brake on the muzzle then, to better observe the red mist. I might also drop it into a heavier chassis for shooting those pasture rodents. The MDT TIMBR model has been calling to me.

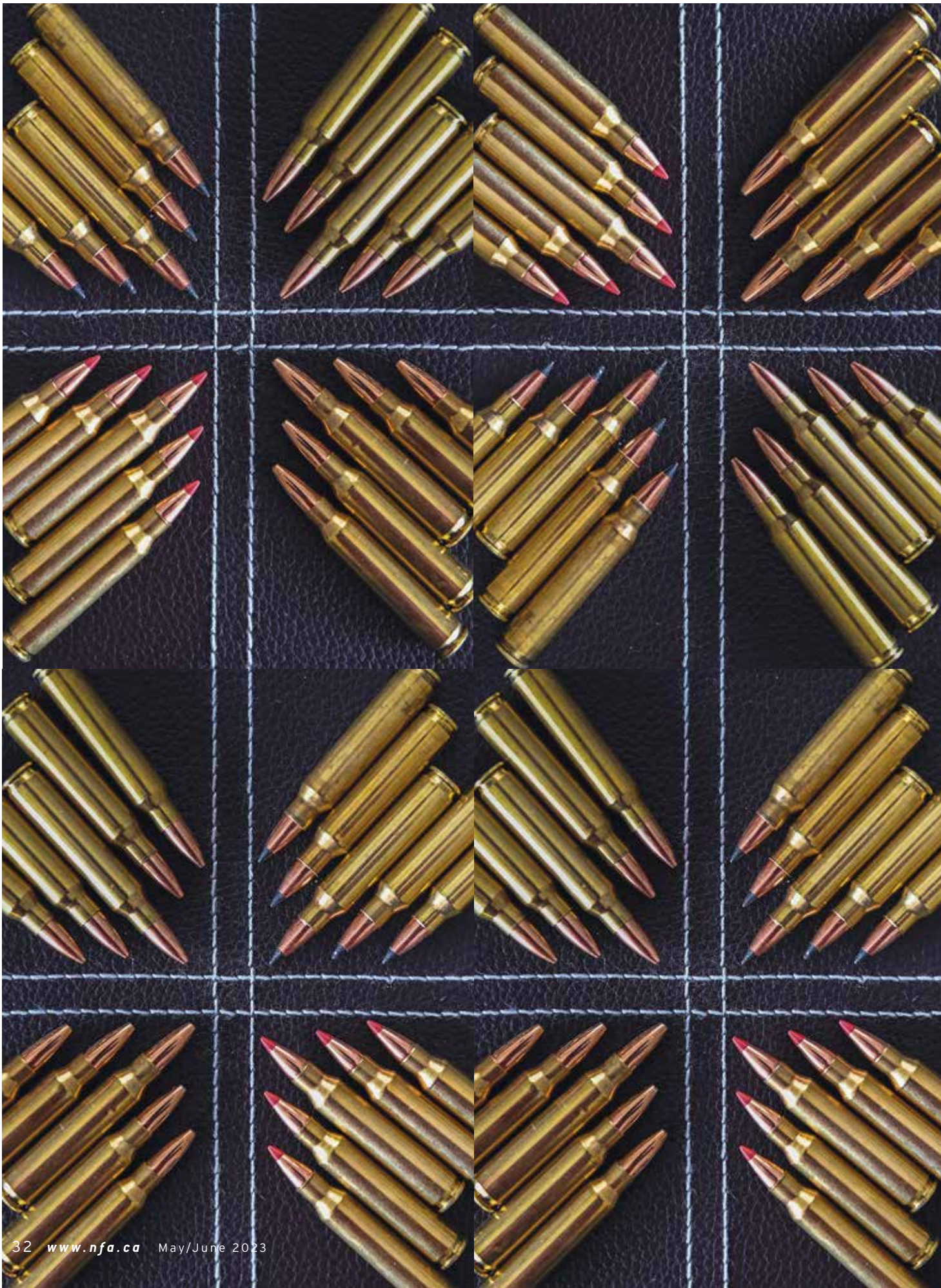
An accurate 223 Remington is a versatile rifle and everyone should have one. While it won't necessarily look like mine, it's a top choice for varmint and predator hunting, inexpensive range practice and working with new shooters. 🍀



TOP: Carbon fibre is used in the rifle's barrel, chassis, and bipod.



BELOW: The custom rifle is proving effective at keeping marauding coyotes out of a calving herd of cattle.



LESS IS MORE

Reduced loads for the 223 Remington

BY LOWELL STRAUSS

Shooters have a need for speed, with muzzle velocity often being the standard by which we judge a cartridge's performance. Faster bullets mean flatter trajectories and dramatic terminal performance.

However, as a handloader, I've discovered the hottest (maximum) loads seldom produce the best results and for hunters and competitors, accuracy and precision trump a few hundred feet per second in velocity. During the long nights of this past winter, I started searching for something different, reduced loads that would add to the capabilities of my varmint rifle.

BRIEF HISTORY

I've always had a fascination with the 223 Remington. From its military roots to widespread use as a sporting cartridge, the 223 Rem has survived competition from numerous new cartridges over the past six decades, remaining one of the most popular cartridges of all time.

The cartridge's development started in 1957 under the small calibre, high-velocity rifle project initiated by the United States Army. With an effec-

tive range goal of 500 yards, ballistic calculations determined a 55-grain bullet fired at 3,300 feet per second would meet the Army's performance objective. Testing began with the 222 Remington, but engineers soon learned chamber pressures were too high to reach the desired velocity. Eugene Stoner, a firearms designer and chief engineer at Armalite, contacted Winchester and Remington, requesting they increase the case capacity to solve the pressure problem. In response, Remington developed the 222 Special, an extended case with more powder capacity, based on 222 Remington. It was later renamed the 223 Remington to avoid confusion with the other .22 calibre cartridges being tested in the project. In 1962, Remington submitted the specifications of the 223 Remington to the Sporting Arms and Ammunition Manufacturers' Institute (SAAMI). By September 1963, the 223 Remington cartridge was officially accepted and named "Cartridge, 5.56 mm ball, M193," and in December 1963, Remington introduced its first sporting rifle chambered for the 223 Rem.

VERSATILITY

The cartridge started using a 55-grain bullet and it worked well in the 1:12 twist barrels of those early rifles. Sixty years later, dozens of factory loads (mostly high velocity) exist, covering a wide range of applications from defence to hunting and competition. With the right barrel twist rate, the 223 Remington shoots light and fast bullets for varmint hunting, controlled expansion bullets for medium, deer-sized game and heavy bullets for long-range targets.

At the other end of the spectrum are subsonic loads. Factory subsonic ammunition exists, but it's not common, living in the shadow of its supersonic counterparts. The cartridge's smaller case capacity means several powders work, producing velocities around 1,050 feet per second. Most loads lack the energy required to cycle a semi-automatic action, so why would anyone want to shoot a subsonic .223? Noise and recoil top the list. Subsonics are also a perfect choice for new shooters and short-range practice. They also expand the utility of the cartridge by allowing a one-gun battery. Ranch- >

ers who need to dispatch a predator among the cattle might want to use a subsonic 223 Rem rather than a 22 LR and still shoot high-velocity ammunition from the same gun for sniping a coyote across an open field.

And in a somewhat middle ground, reduced loads balance velocity, ballistic performance and mild recoil. With a little testing and tuning, reduced loads deliver outstanding precision, on par with match ammunition. In a time where powder scarcity and high prices prevail, squeezing extra rounds from each pound of powder is a bonus.

MULTI-LOAD ZERO

Versatility is great, but re-zeroing for each load isn't practical or cost-effective. There are a couple of ways to get around this problem. The simplest is to zero your rifle for the primary load you plan to shoot. In this case, reduced loads are used at distances where the bullet trajectory is less important.

For hunting, I like the simplicity of using the maximum point-blank range (MPBR) -- the distance where the bullet is above or below the line of sight (dead-on hold) and ensures a hit. To calculate this MPBR, we need to know the size of the target (e.g., vitals on a big game animal or height of a varmint) and the trajectory of the bullet. Ballistic calculators do the work, simply plug in the variables to figure out the MPBR.

Another method is to dial the turrets to match the zero of the ammunition you're shooting. On some scopes with graduated turret dials, this is easy to adjust and confirm, but on typical hunting scopes, you'll need to count the clicks. It is possible, but I've learned a couple of hard lessons trying this in the field. First, I find that not all scopes have repeatable scope adjustment; dialing up and then down again may produce a different point of impact. Not good. Second, dialing is a hassle and, more than once, I've forgotten to do it, sailing the bullet over the critter's back or driving it into the dirt at its feet. With an entry-level hunting scope, I'm a set-it-and-forget-it kind of shooter. On a scope with graduated turrets, this is an okay option. Scopes with mil-dot or graduated reticles work too, if you understand the holdover for each type of ammunition.

Laser rangefinders, modern optics and ballistic calculators remove much of the guesswork from shooting, mak-

The handloader can replicate the ballistics of a 22 LR, 22 WRM and 22 Hornet with reduced loads in the .223 Remington (right).



ing it possible to hit the target with low velocity and arching trajectories thanks to these devices.

REDUCED LOAD DATA

The plethora of 223 Rem recipes for standard velocity loads makes it difficult for the reloader to narrow down the choices. However, if you want a reduced velocity load, the opposite is true. Sparse loading data adds to the challenge. I wanted loads that would duplicate the subsonic 22 LR, 22 WRM and 22 Hornet velocities.

As with all reloads, it's important to consult reloading manuals; I poured over many and consulted reputable online resources. I often start with the bullet manufacturer's data first, finding a bullet/powder combination that I want to try, and then cross-reference with the powder manufacturer and other data that lists similar components. It may seem silly to go to all this work, but I find it valuable, especially with niche loads, to check for publishing errors.

One good source for reduced loads is the Lyman Reloading Handbook (currently 51st edition) or the older Lyman

Cast Bullet Handbook which contains load data for lead bullets. Cast bullets can't be driven as fast, so all the data for lead bullets is reduced velocity. It is safe to use this data for both lead and jacketed bullets, but I follow the reloading principles with most powders of starting low and working my way up to an accurate charge weight.

It's important to note that, for most powders, using less than the starting charge weight as listed in reloading manuals is dangerous -- as dangerous as a load over maximum.

Powder manufacturers do publish reduced load data for some powders. Hodgdon's H4895 is a good example of such data (a powder and load I utilized in this project).

The Hodgdon Powder Company found that H4895 is the slowest burning propellant that ignites uniformly in reduced charges. For load data which lists H4895 as an acceptable powder, handloaders may safely use the 60 per cent formula. Simply multiply the maximum charge weight as listed in Hodgdon's Reloading Data Center by 0.6 to determine the reduced powder charge. Hodgdon notes that the

load may be adjusted up from there to achieve the desired velocity and accuracy. In the case of the 223 Rem, Hodgdon data lists 26 grains of H4895 as the max for a 55-grain bullet, so plugging this number into the formula gave me a reduced starting charge of 15.6 grains. Other reduced load powders for the 223 Rem include Unique and Trail Boss. In reduced loads with small charge weights, it's imperative not to double-charge the case -- doing so may have catastrophic consequences. I use extra caution and visually double-check the powder levels using a flashlight.

Trail Boss is an interesting powder. The light, flakey powder works well for low-velocity lead bullets for cowboy action shooting. Designed primarily as a pistol powder, it has some application in rifles, including for the low-recoil, subsonic load I used for this project. Trail Boss is newer powder technology that allows high loading density, good flow-through in powder measures, stability in severe temperature variation and, most importantly, additional safety to the handloader. As you can see from the table, Trail Boss produced a quiet subsonic load.

IMR Trail Boss, Alliant Unique, and H4895 are three powders suitable for reduced loads in the 223 Rem.



BULLET	POWDER	CHARGE	VELOCITY	ACCURACY
40-grain Hornady V-Max	Unique	8 grains	2,369 fps	1.2 inches
40-grain Nosler Varmageddon	IMR4198	16 grains	2,324 fps	1.1 inches
55-grain Berger FB Varmint	H4895	15.6 grains	1,769 fps	2.1 inches
55-grain CamPro FMJ	Trail Boss	4 grains	1,020 fps	2.5 inches

Accuracy figures are the result of five-shot groups, shot at 100 yards.

PARTING SHOTS

It's fun trying new loads. While my work centered around the 223 Rem, there is published reduced load data from many other cartridges. Less recoil is welcome for off-season shooting practice for big bore cartridges too.

If reduced loads are something you'd like to try, I recommend starting with either H4895 (adhering strictly to Hodgdon's guidelines) or Trail Boss. Both powders are safe for developing reduced loads. Other powders work, too, but proceed with caution and use only published data.

It seems fitting to finish a reduced loads article with an adage. "There are old reloaders. There are bold reloaders. But there are few old and bold reloaders!" Have fun; stay safe. 🍀

RIGHT: A chronograph is an essential piece of equipment when testing handloads.

BELOW: There are many .22 calibre bullet options, and these varmint-style bullets work well for reduced loads while still delivering good terminal performance.





This fireball was created when a flame source ignited 45 grains of smokeless propellant in a galvanized iron cap. The containers in the background were empty.

SMOKELESS POWDER STORAGE

The hidden danger handloaders need to know

BY RON CRAIG

When a fire and explosion occurred in a former military explosives magazine, investigators were stumped. What caused this catastrophic explosive event? Despite an investigation, the initiation source remained a mystery. That is, until explosives expert Brennan Phillips, a military explosive ordnance disposal technician, suggested a probable cause: spontaneous ignition of smokeless propellant.

Evidence indicated that containers of smokeless propellant had spontaneously ignited, which blew the door off the magazine and caused substantial damage. Why did the propellant auto-ignite? And can this happen with any smokeless propellant? Here is what you need to know to avoid a fire or explosion when storing smokeless powder.

OTHER SELF-INITIATION EVENTS

To begin with, the self-ignition of the propellant was not an isolated incident. In 2012, a tractor-trailer loaded with 42,000 pounds of artillery-grade propellant exploded at Camp Minden, Louisiana. The blast caused a nearby magazine containing 60 tons of black powder to explode, damaging structures four miles away. Researchers have further identified 106 fire and explosion events caused by the suspected self-initiation of propellants.

So what can a handloader do when storing smokeless propellant to avoid an auto-ignition event? Fortunately, there are visual signs handloaders can look for to determine if their smokeless

powder is in danger of spontaneously igniting. But first, why does this occur?

SPONTANEOUS COMBUSTION & SMOKELESS PROPELLANT

The production of smokeless propellant begins with nitrocellulose. And nitrocellulose is the cause of instability in smokeless powders. Single-base powders contain nitrocellulose and other additives to control burning rates. Double-base propellants contain nitroglycerine in addition to nitrocellulose, plus other chemicals. However, a stabilizer is added to both types of propellants during processing. This stabilizer is critical for the safe storage of powder.

Nitrocellulose decomposes with age. As it decomposes, nitrogen oxides are released. These oxides react with the propellant, causing further decomposition of the nitrocellulose, which releases more nitric oxides. Eventually, this results in an exothermic reaction or generation of heat within the propellant.

The most commonly used stabilizers (diphenylamine for single-base powders or ethyl centralite for double-base powders) attract and absorb the nitrogen oxides to prevent further nitrocellulose deterioration. Over time, the stabilizers become "loaded" and can no longer absorb the oxides as intended because there is a limit to how much the stabilizer can capture. When the nitrogen oxide can no longer attach to the stabilizer, the condition is present

for spontaneous combustion to occur.

The US Army Defense Ammunition Center describes this reaction in its Propellant Management Guide. "The stabilizers are scavengers that act rather like sponges, and once they become saturated they are no longer able to remove nitrogen oxides from the propellant. At this point, self-heating of the propellant can occur unabated." The report further warns, "Once begun, the self-heating may become sufficient to cause auto-ignition."

The takeaway is that every propellant will become unstable and start deteriorating at some point. And with this deterioration comes the potential for an auto-ignition event. So how long can you safely store smokeless propellant before it becomes a possible fire hazard? The answer is complicated.

HOW OLD IS THAT POWDER YOU ARE STORING?

Handloaders sometimes store powder for years because it is not used in a timely manner. But there is another factor outside the control of consumers. When was the propellant manufactured? There are only three manufacturers of smokeless propellant in North America. Powder companies purchase their product from these manufacturers, then rebrand the product with their trade name.

As a result, considerable time can elapse from manufacturing to purchase from a retail distributor. The critical issue for handloaders to determine is when powder becomes unstable. >

WHAT ARE THE SIGNS HANDLOADERS SHOULD LOOK FOR?

Most handloading manuals have a warning: "Check old powders for deterioration regularly." Unfortunately, it does not specify how to carry out this inspection. Their only advice is to use the sense of smell: "Powder undergoing deterioration has an irritating acidic odor."

Further, there is an additional warning: "Check to make certain that powder is not exposed to extreme heat as this may cause deterioration." And manufacturers advise handloaders to keep smokeless propellant away from moisture.

However, some reloading literature admits that there is a danger of smokeless propellants spontaneously igniting. For example, the Sporting Arms and Ammunition Manufacturers Institute (SAAMI), in its Properties and Storage of Smokeless Powder guide, states that propellants exposed to extreme heat have been known to "cause spontaneous combustion."

Similarly, an older Hornady Handbook (1980, Third Edition) says, "Deteriorated powder is subject to spontaneous combustion and should be discarded." So what signs should you look for to avoid a catastrophe in your handloading area?

Fortunately, there are clues you can look for when inspecting stored propellants. The first is reddish dust when you pour the powder from the container. Another is the presence of red or rust-colored particles on powder grains. A further indicator is the presence of brown, orange or yellow fumes. These visual cues indicate you should discard the powder.

Finally, a US Military report states that deteriorating powder grains will display discoloration and rough edges. Some IMR powders recovered from older cartridges show significant deterioration of the individual grains plus discoloration. Any of these visual signs are indicators that the powder is in an advanced stage of decomposition.

And the military advises: "Propellant can be unpredictable, decomposing into an unstable condition within four or five years of manufacture." While this is just a guide, it provides handloaders with a data point indicating when their stored powder requires additional scrutiny.

PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS FOR PREVENTING A DISASTER

Phillips has written extensively about

RIGHT: Red particles on this IMR 4198 powder indicate it is deteriorating.

BELOW: A handloader uses a magnifying glass to examine powder for deterioration.



the spontaneous initiation of smokeless propellant and offers some practical advice for handloaders: "Keep powders in one-pound containers, a little bit of separation between the containers, and check for visual indicators that deterioration is taking place." There are some other practical strategies handloaders can use to stay safe:

Write the date you purchased powder on each container to provide age-specific inventory control.

Only buy the powder you need for your current use. Do not store large quantities of powder in your home or handloading area.

Avoid buying four or eight-pound containers of powder unless you are using the powder in a timely manner. Larger containers of smokeless propellant are more commonly involved in spontaneous ignition events.

When in doubt, throw it out. Follow the manufacturer's recommendations to dispose of any powder you suspect is unstable.

Rusted powder tins indicate that you should consider disposing of the powder.

HOW OFTEN DO SPONTANEOUS COMBUSTION EVENTS OCCUR IN HANDLOADING AREAS?

The spontaneous initiation of propellant at military establishments involves large quantities of powder. So how often does this occur with smaller amounts of propellant stored by handloaders?

Unfortunately, it is impossible to determine. However, Phillips writes, "In fact, bomb technicians routinely encountered containers of decomposing smokeless powder in residential settings, businesses and even their own explosive magazines."

Brennan tells how he has seen tins of powder where the bottom of the container has completely disintegrated, with residue dripping onto other powder tins. While none of these incidences involved a fire or explosion, the potential for a disaster was present.

And when the spontaneous ignition of powder occurs, the result can be life-changing. In an Internet post, one handloader reported what happened to him when an eight-pound keg of powder spontaneously ignited while he was handloading at his bench.

"In an instant, my entire world turned into a searing fireball that raised the heavy roof of our one-room workshop enough to eject a Halloween pumpkin, blew out the heavy solid doors into the garden and ignited many items inside the shop." He not only suffered first and second-degree burns to his face, arms and back, but he also spent nine days in intensive care.

He later attributed the powder's ignition to placing the container near a heater on his bench. But, since the container showed no signs of burning on the side nearest the heater, the likely cause was self-ignition – the heat source, as predicted by the warnings in handloading manuals, caused a catastrophic fire and explosion. Or as detailed in the SAMMI advisory regarding the danger of exposing smokeless powder to extreme heat, "Such exposure produces an acidity which accelerates further reaction." In other words, self-ignition can occur when the stabilizers can no longer absorb the nitrogen oxides.

So how can you avoid a tragedy in



LEFT: This jar is a hazard. Never store smokeless propellant in a clear container or mix propellants.

BELOW: The three rusted containers of smokeless propellant in this picture were taken from a cardboard box containing 20 pounds of powder.

your home or handloading area? Knowing the hidden danger of storing older smokeless powders is the first step. And regularly checking your propellant for signs of deterioration is a positive safety

measure.

As Philips has observed, while spontaneous combustion of smokeless propellant "is not an everyday occurrence," there is a history of self-initiation involving stored smokeless propellant. A simple inventory management routine, with regular visual

inspections of your stored powders, is the best way to avoid a problem. These simple precautions will ensure that reloading remains a safe, deeply satisfying pastime. 🍷

DOUBLE-BASE PROPELLANT STABILIZER LIFE TEMPERATURE	COOK-OFF TIME
70 degrees Fahrenheit/21 degrees Celsius	1,708 years
100 degrees Fahrenheit/38 degrees Celsius	81 years
120 degrees Fahrenheit/49 degrees Celsius	12.5 years
140 degrees Fahrenheit/60 degrees Celsius	2.2 years
160 degrees Fahrenheit/71 degrees Celsius	159 days
200 degrees Fahrenheit/93 degrees Celsius	8.3 days

EDITOR'S NOTE: Dave Emery, the recently retired chief ballistician at Hornady, also addresses this topic in a Guns and Ammo article published online at www.gunsandammo.com/editorial/temperature-effects-gunpowder/389257. He provides the following chart which clearly shows the importance of storing powder and ammunition in a cool environment.







LEFT: Patterning various combinations of shot and choke ensures a shotgun is performing to the standards required for the job at hand.

CHOKING UP

Shotgun chokes matter

BY TIMOTHY FOWLER

Chokes and barrels have improved significantly since Cooney manufactured that first single-shot, full-choke break-action 12 gauge of my youth. That old gun is locked away in my safe with the memories of Dad saying, "You best let the birds get up and away a bit more before you slap the trigger." This statement in response to our search for shreds of sharptail grouse in the prairie stubble of southern Alberta.

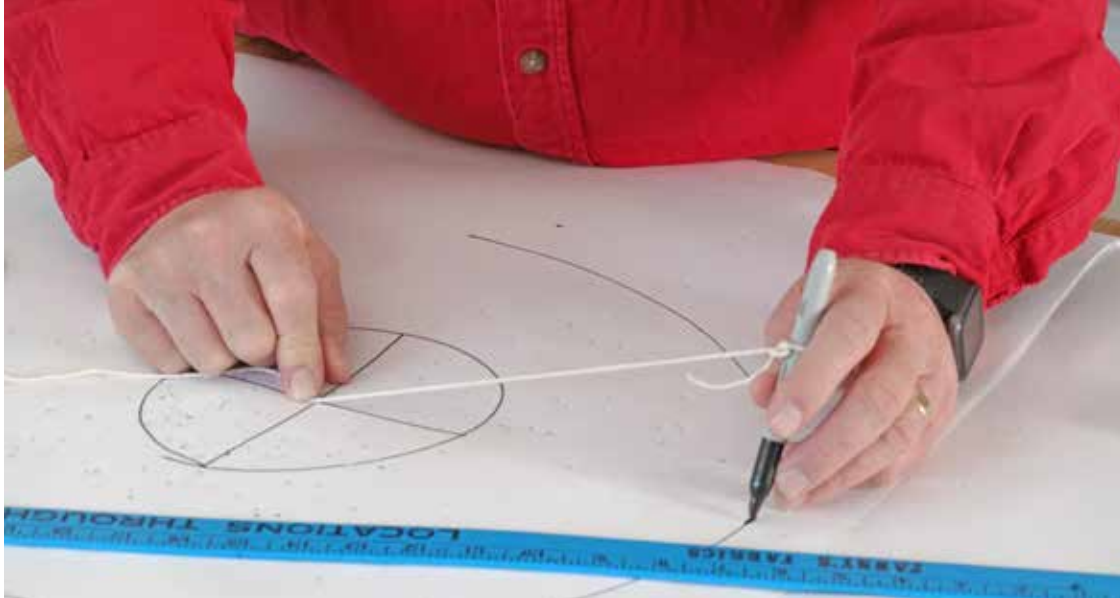
That event was my first exposure to the importance of shotgun choke. I remember asking Dad about altering the choke. However, the only way to accomplish this back then required a

trip to the gunsmith and the alteration would have been irreversible. My next shotgun, a Remington 870 pump with a 3 1/2-inch chamber, had removable and interchangeable chokes but cannot handle steel shot with anything tighter than a modified choke. My Gordon Setter, Rigby, bought me a fancy Italian over/under when we started bird hunting together a decade ago and that gun came with an assortment of chokes. All of this piqued my interest in just how chokes impact shot patterns on paper and thus on game.

With turkey and snow goose season just a few weeks away (some of you will be reading this on your hunt),

I thought it would be interesting to explore Fabarm's newer guns and their unique approach to chokes.

Korth Group imports Fabarm in Canada and their crew recently helped me test two popular Fabarm shotguns: the XLR Bulrush Max 5, 3 1/2-inch magnum autoloader, and the ELOS N2 Allsport over/under chambered for 3-inch shells. We tested these guns at the Korth Group facility in Okotoks, Alta., where Korth has their distribution centre and maintains two private ranges -- a short 40-yard range for shotguns and handguns and a 100-yard range for rifles. The indoor range makes a luxurious option for range >



LEFT: There is no substitute for counting pellets inside a target circle - 45 centimetre or 18 inches in this case.

testing compared to the drifting snow at my regular outdoor range.

We set up 24-by-36-inch paper with a six-inch aiming bullseye at 25 yards. We shot all five provided chokes in each of the guns: #3 bismuth 3-inch shells in the autoloader (a choice which should be ideal for turkey) and #8 lead 2 3/4 shells in the over/under (likely a good load for clays, rabbits, and grouse).

Fabarm does three unique things with their chokes, all intended to improve shot performance. The choke tube length has been increased to 82 millimetres or 3.23 inches for the Inner HP chokes and 92 millimetres or 3.62 inches for the Exis HP chokes used in the over/under. Also, Fabarm has introduced a hyperbolic curve on the inside of their extended chokes, which they say contributes to a tighter pattern. And lastly, these chokes are machined from solid blocks of chrome molybdenum steel.



ABOVE: It's much easier to confirm which choke is in which barrel when the shooter can see a label on the portion of the choke extending beyond the muzzle.

THE DATA

Once all the targets were shot, pellets inside the 18-inch circle were counted. Results are in the table below.

PELLET DENSITY: 18-inch circle, 25 yards

SHOTGUN: Fabarm XLR Bulrush Max 5

AMMUNITION: Rio, 3-inch, 1-ounce, #3 bismuth shot, 201 pellets

Constriction	Inside diameter	Pellet density
Cylinder	0.732 inches	65 per cent
Improved cylinder	0.729 inches	59 per cent
Modified	0.721 inches	84 per cent
Improved modified	0.709 inches	100 per cent
Full	0.702 inches	93 per cent

PELLET DENSITY: 18-inch circle, 25 yards

SHOTGUN: Fabarm ELOS N2 Allsport

AMMUNITION: Rio, 2 3/4-inch, 1-ounce, #8 lead shot, 398 pellets

Constriction	Inside diameter	Pellet density
Skeet	0.731 inches	30 per cent
Improved cylinder	0.727 inches	33 per cent
Modified	0.719 inches	42 per cent
Improved modified	0.711 inches	45 per cent
Full	0.702 inches	44 per cent

CONCLUSIONS

Note how a few thousandths-of-an-inch in choke constriction has a significant impact on shot density on target and the widely differing performance of the ammunition.

While generally the patterns become denser as the choke constriction increases, the correlation is not one-to-one. Note that 100 per cent of the pellets are in the 18-inch circle with the improved modified choke in the XLR Bulrush and the highest shot density also occurs with an improved modified choke in the over/under. I

think the real lesson is that each of us who rely on shotguns for competition or hunting owe it to our game and ourselves to pattern our shotguns with various shot and choke combinations before engaging in hunting or competition.

I will be spending some more time with my various scatterguns and shot combinations prior to waterfowl and upland seasons to make sure my shotguns are performing at peak and on target. Choke selection, for me, just became more complicated than initially thought. 🍀

Become an
NFA
FIELD
OFFICER

Are you a firearms activist
eager to make a difference
and fight to protect gun owners' rights?

Volunteer and join our leadership team today!

FIELD OFFICER PROGRAM:
1-877-818-0393 // info@nfa.ca



NFA

CANADA'S
NATIONAL
FIREARMS
ASSOCIATION

Devenez **AGENT DE TERRAIN NFA**

Êtes-vous un(e) activiste voulant faire une différence et se battre pour protéger les droits des propriétaires d'armes à feu?

***Joignez-vous à notre équipe
de bénévoles dès aujourd'hui!***

PROGRAMME AGENTS DE TERRAIN
1-877-818-0393 // info@nfa.ca



NFA

CANADA'S
NATIONAL
FIREARMS
ASSOCIATION

THREE IN-ONE TARGET STAND

The portability and function of this target stand means you can spend more time practicing

BY LOWELL STRAUSS



Even though ranges typically provide target stands, every shooter eventually needs one of their own. The utility of this three-in-one target holder far outweighs the time and effort required to build it. And in the true spirit of a do-it-yourself project, salvaging materials instead of buying them adds to the satisfaction. My philosophy is simple – fabricating for free means I have more money for ammunition. It's all about priorities! So, let's get started.

I've seen dozens of target stand designs online, but they only suit one type of shooting. I wanted a modular system to serve as a platform for zeroing rifles, patterning shotguns and ringing steel. Scraps of wood, ABS pipe and rebar are the materials for this project. You can follow my design or build something similar by substituting materials.

My design consists of two major parts: a base and replaceable target supports.

THE BASE

The bottom of the target stand is the key to its modular design. It holds different target supports, which can be swapped out depending on the type of shooting. Four rebar legs support the target stand, preventing tipping from the wind or bullet impacts. The legs are friction fit, removed easily for transport and store conveniently in the target holder base.

The base is a simple box made with strips of 3/4-inch plywood. Wooden spacers contain sections of ABS pipe at either end, while the target backer panel fits in the middle. I cut the rebar to 24 inches for the legs. Next, I drilled holes in the base at a 15-degree downward angle, elevating the base off the ground; the four-leg design adds stability in all directions. Holes in the top of the spacer blocks accept rebar supports for mounting the steel gong.

TARGET SUPPORTS

A standard method of patterning a

shotgun is shooting onto a large sheet of paper at 40 yards and drawing a 30-inch circle around the densest part of the pattern. By doing this, you can evaluate the hit percentages inside the circle and determine whether the choke and ammunition application is suited to your needs.

Two wooden supports provide a place to attach a square 36-inch cardboard backer and patterning paper for shotgun patterning. The wood replacement is simple when required. I ripped a 2x4 into two four-foot boards that fit snugly inside the one-and-a-half-inch ABS support pipes. These formed the uprights for stapling the cardboard. The shotgun patterning board doubles as an inexpensive rifle target backer.

The rifle zeroing board is the easiest part of the build. A stiff plywood backer provides a solid surface for stapling paper targets but splinters more easily than hardboard or corrugated plastic sheeting. To simplify transport

PROJECT MATERIALS

- (2) 3/4" x 30" x 6" plywood
- 3/4" x 30" x 3.25" plywood
- 4" x 1 1/2" PVC or ABS pipe
- 1/2" x 22" rebar
- (2) 1/2" x 30" rebar (formed to accept chain)
- (2) 1/4" x 16" chain

EXTRAS

- Brown builders' paper, 36-inch (inexpensive shotgun patterning paper)
- Sharpie permanent marker
- 16" x 1" scrap wood (patterning compass)
- 1" or 2" sticky notes or round target pasters.
- Cardboard cut to 36" x 36"
- 8" AR500 gong



ABOVE: The modular design of the target stand allows mounting a steel plate for plinking fun.

and backer replacement, I cut a spacer block that holds the backer with a friction fit; cutting different spacers accommodates backers of varying thicknesses.

Reactive steel targets add extra range time fun for new and seasoned shooters alike. I fashioned two supports out of salvaged rebar and chain to hold a steel gong by heating the rebar and bending a 90-degree elbow. Next, I opened the last link on the chain to fit over the hook by squeezing it in a vise and bolted the other end to the gong. I could have secured the chain to the rebar with a few wraps of heavy-gauge wire. Adapting a project to the materials you have on hand is one of the things I like best about DIY projects.

I discovered that the steel gong creates several challenges. The gong on this stand will not take impacts from a centerfire rifle; however, rimfires are fine. I plan to add extra stability by drilling support holes through the base. In that way, pushing the rebar into the ground adds an anchor point.

With the gong mounted directly above the target holder, lead splash hits the wooden stand, creating a lead hazard for handling. If I build another frame, I will re-design how it holds the gong. By mounting the gong at the front of the target stand, bullet impacts and lead splash will hit the ground, not the target stand.

EXTRAS

Drawing a 30-inch circle for pattern evaluation is easiest with a simple compass. I used a scrap board 16 inches long by 1/4 inches thick and one inch wide. I drilled a small hole, sized to hold a permanent marker, in one end and another hole, big enough for my finger, which would act as the pivot, in the other. While this is a relatively rough method of drawing a circle, patterning isn't an exact science.

An inexpensive source of shotgun patterning paper is brown builders' paper. It is sold in 36-inch-wide rolls and contains enough paper for dozens of patterning sessions. Additionally, various-sized sticky notes make great aiming points for zeroing and patterning. I like the one-inch size for zeroing and the larger two-inch sticky notes for patterning and longer-range shooting.

CONCLUSION

There are many good reasons for building your own target stand. For me, portability tops the list. I like confirming my rifle's zero when I head to the field or setting up an informal range in a safe spot for an afternoon of plinking and target practice. Another benefit is for patterning shotguns and testing hunting ammunition. Because non-toxic (steel) and large pellet-size shotgun ammunition isn't allowed

at many gun clubs, a homemade patterning board will enable me to test ammunition in the field before a hunting trip. Lastly, DIY projects get me into my shop, creating something with my hands. The result, an inexpensive project I made myself, is so satisfying.

If you build a target stand or have one of your design, send a picture to cfjeditor@nfa.com; we'd love to see it. 🍷

RIGHT: Target stand disassembly takes only seconds, and the legs and supports stow into the base. Target stand disassembly takes only seconds, and the legs and supports stow into the base.

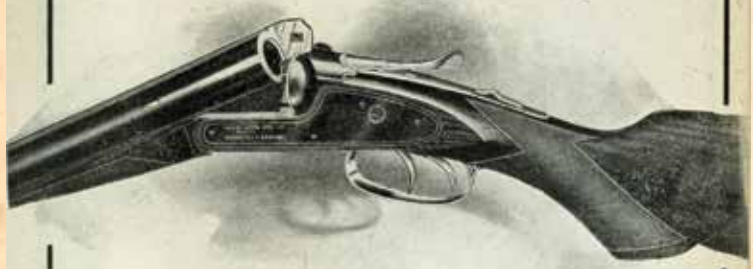


CANADA'S FIRST MASS- PRODUCED SHOTGUN

The Tobin Arms Manufacturing Company epic – part 1
BY G. SCOTT JAMIESON

ROD AND GUN IN CANADA 1199

“Made in Canada with us means Better than any made”



You cannot afford to give away money. You want the best obtainable in return for what you pay.

Our Proposition Briefly Is—

If you can buy a finer gun in any grade from \$250 down to \$25 than a Tobin, buy the other—but if we can show you points of excellence, durability and shooting qualities combined in no other make—then you need a Tobin Gun.

If your dealer cannot supply you we will send you what you want. If you don't find the gun more for the money than you ever saw before return it at our expense. You take no chance. Send for Catalog now.

Tobin Arms Mfg. Co., Limited
Woodstock, Ontario

Years ago, as a much younger man, I encountered a large Tobin collection in an antiques arms store in Willowdale, Ont. Much to my chagrin and my love affair at the time with lever-action rifles, I did not pay much attention to this rare collection of Canadian firearms. I should have. In some ways, this article is the author's humble means of correcting that oversight of so long ago.

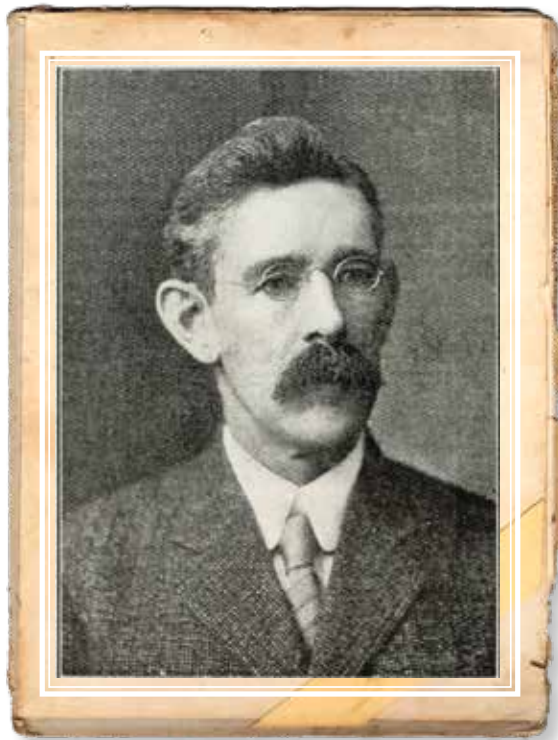
BEGINNINGS

The Tobin story begins with Frank Major Tobin, a Canadian who spent years in the United States working for several firearms concerns in Norwich, Conn., including Hopkins and Allen. It was while travelling as a sales representative that he acquired the C.M. Wollam, US patent 498,043 issued May 23, 1893, for a hammerless shotgun action that Tobin would retail as the Simplex. He formed the Tobin Arms Manufacturing Company in 1903 in Norwich. He was president, A.L. Potter vice-president and B.H. Palmer secretary-treasurer. The first shotguns were shipped in September 1904.¹ Production of these guns in 12 and 16 gauge continued until 1909, comprising a serial number range from 1 to 11139.²

The Norwich concern also private labeled guns for retailers, including Norvell-Shapleigh of St. Louis, using the Blue Diamond moniker, Abercrombie & Fitch and G.B. Richards. Even Iver Johnson listed seven Simplex guns in their 1908 catalog. They also sold into Canada and Australia via dealers such as W.E. Ekins and W. Breckels & Company and Alcock & Pierce. Norwich used two known sideplate stamps: the first in two lines was 'Tobin Arms Mfg Co./Norwich, Conn.' and 'Tobin Arms Mfg Co./Makers/ Norwich, Conn. U.S.A.'

The Norwich models offered were the No. 60, 60E, 60T and 60TE. The 'E' stood for ejectors, 'T' for single trigger and 'ET' for both. In total, they offered 29 models.

The single-trigger option was interesting but who designed it is not known. Author D.J. Noreen felt it most looked like US patent 704,024 of July 8, 1902, issued to E. D. Fulford. Unfortunately, this writer has been unable to uncover a Tobin single trigger internal picture. The other issue is that Fulford secured three more US patents and



LEFT: Photo of Frank Major Tobin, circa 1911.

two UK patents for single trigger, double-barrel shotguns. He does appear to be a solid candidate for the Tobin design.

THE WOODSTOCK YEARS (1909 TO CIRCA 1915)

Why the company moved from Norwich to Woodstock is not known, but they were incorporated Aug. 9, 1909, in Woodstock, Ont.

Tobin may have alluded to the move in an interview given circa March 1910. "In undertaking this project...I did something I was anxious to do for several years, as I felt that there was a future in this business in Canada, which was not in sight on the other side. In figuring out the Canadian market and its possibilities, I made up my mind that the Canadian buyer was a man who wanted a better class of article than the cheap grades so largely sold in the United States, and that is the standard we are going to work to. The fact that there is a protective tariff here, also influenced me to a considerable extent to locate in this country."³

Serial numbers logged were from 10780 through 18969.⁴ All guns produced in Woodstock were also 16 and 12 gauge. The new firm had Tobin as vice-president and managing director, Henry A. Little as president, L.M. Sovereign secretary-treasurer and Ed-

ward W. Nesbitt, Col. John White, A.J. McIntosh and W. J. Taylor as investors. Capital stock was reputed to be \$100,000. W.J. Taylor was awarded the building contract for \$12,000. According to Tobin, his factory comprised three stories, 130 feet long with a 70-foot frontage. For insurance purposes it was designed as a slow-burn factory. It had the maximum amount of window space allowed and all the machinery installed was of the latest type powered by electricity. Taylor, publisher of *The Rod and Gun* in Canada, published many Tobin advertisements in his magazine,⁵ with Tobin's earliest Woodstock advertisements appearing in November 1909.

Six grades of hammerless Simplex models and one hammer gun were now offered. Prices ranged from \$20 to \$250. Tobin would start with 50 employees, some from the US and others local, with initial capacity set at 20 to 25 guns per day. When asked about the export trade, he indicated that their first order had come from Rangoon and that they would ship guns to Australia, New Zealand, India, China, Mexico and South America. The stocks used a kind of walnut imported from Europe where it was grown in the Pyrenees, Swiss Alps, and the Black Forest.

Tobin indicated that a third depart-



LEFT: Typical Tobin Woodstock three-line receiver stampings. Serial number 17254. Note the addition of 'LTD' not noted on Norwich-produced shotguns.


ment took care of barrel operations. "Here, the forged tubes, which are imported from Belgium are brazed together and the ribs are fastened to the barrels. After the completion of the machine cuts on the barrels, the latter are taken to the borers and at this point the greatest care and attention are given to the work. Each pair of barrels is carefully tested and gauged during the process of boring until the required description of bore is obtained. The three parts referred to – stock, barrel actions and lock parts – when brought together take the first stage of assembling and become what is known in the factory as a gun. The operator gives a serial number to the gun, which is repeated on each part, and this is the number by which the gun is ever afterwards known."

Tobin went on to say that after the above work was completed, it still took five or six weeks to finish the gun. "First there comes the action work, or jointing, and this is the most important process. It consists of joining the barrels to the frame. The life of the gun depends upon good work at this point, for the slightest deviation from the true will ruin the weapon. From this operation, it next goes to the department where the lock plates and some of the small parts are fitted in the rough, that is to say before the metal is hardened. From this, it passes to the stocking department, where the wooden part and forearm are fitted to the metal. The

woodwork is here fully finished, sanded, papered, rubbed and oiled, and put aside until the final assembling. The metal parts are passed along to the polishing rooms, where all the parts are finished. Then they are tempered and hardened and the barrels are browned. The gun is now complete, save for the final assembling. This latter operation calls for the most expert work in the factory. The various parts are brought together and joined up with the utmost care and exactness. Finally, each gun, as it is finished, is taken to the shooting range and tested. It is targeted, showing the number of shot of a certain size it puts into a 36-inch circle at 40 yards – the accepted distance and size of target, generally known in the trade for describing the shooting qualities of a gun. Then it is ready for use."⁶

Tobin used three grades of barrel steel: Trojan fluid steel, Krupp Essen fluid steel and, the best, De Moya steel. Jose De Moya, based in France, held at least 13 patents on his steel-making process. His process involved direct re-carbonization of cast iron to give it a perfectly homogeneous, uniformly distributed molecular structure. It was reputed to be better than Krupp or Whitworth steel.⁷

Tobin marketed and promoted his guns from 1909 onwards in many trade publications in Canada, including French language advertisements and trade shows.⁸

In a bid to broaden his manufacturing base, he acquired the Caldwell Bit and Tool Company of Port Rowan, Ont., in November 1910. He used the trade names Never Choke and High Speed for his drill bits, with the drill bits being heavily advertised in trade magazines. They still turn up as individual pieces or as boxed sets on the Internet. 

EDITOR'S NOTE: Part 2 of the Tobin Arms story will be found in the next issue.

REFERENCES

- 1 David J. Noreen. Tobin Arms, A Tale of Two Cities. The Gun Report, May 1994, Volume 39, Number 12, page 18.
- 2 Norwich made guns logged by serial number, 58 (2023) Some under private labels but in the serial number range for Norwich produced guns.
- 3 30% duty applied to imported guns circa 1922. Internet.
- 4 Woodstock manufactured guns totaled 49 (2023).
- 5 The Contract Record. September 15, 1909, Volume 24, No. 37.
- 6 R.P. Chester. Canada's Pioneer Gun Factory. Busy Man's Magazine. April 1, 1910, Volume XIX, No. 6, pps. 108-110.
- 7 David J. Noreen, Tobin Arms, A Tale of Two Cities. The Gun Report, May 1994, Volume 39, No. 12, page 18.
- 8 Le Courant. September 30, 1910.



Legal corner

Guy Lavergne, Attorney at Law

Handgun Transfers – What’s Still Allowed?

Bill C-21 has still to be adopted by Parliament. Yet, since Oct. 21, 2022, it is no longer legally possible to sell, gift to or barter a handgun with an individual except in very limited circumstances. By the way, a “gift” includes a testamentary bequest and also likely an intestate devolution of property.

This transfer ban was accomplished via the back door, through an Order in Council (a decision of the cabinet) that was filed before Parliament in the spring of 2022 and came into effect on Oct. 21, 2022.

For all intents and purposes, once a handgun owner wishes to dispose of a handgun, there are very few options left to the owner of that handgun. This is a review of those options.

POTENTIAL TRANSFEREES

A handgun can still be legally transferred (i.e., sold or gifted) to a business that has a licence to possess restricted firearms and, to a very limited extent, to certain individuals. Needless to say, demand is low and prices may be even lower since it is a buyer’s market. However, there may be some opportunities out there:

Museums may still be interested in acquiring handguns, if the handgun is one that presents interest from a historical standpoint. However, most museums would rather issue a tax receipt for a gift, rather than pay a purchase price. Tax receipts must, by law, reflect the fair market value of the thing received. In many cases, given the current set of circumstances, fair market value will likely be quite low.

Businesses that supply props to the movie industry may be interested in acquiring handguns. Contrary to widely held belief, a lot of firearms used in movies are real guns. However, except for when Alec Baldwin is involved, they are usually not loaded with live ammunition. The same caveat regarding market value applies.

Police and government agencies are also potential transferees, although,



Once a handgun owner wishes to dispose of a handgun, there are very few options.

Lorsqu’un propriétaire d’arme de poing désire disposer d’une telle arme, très peu d’options s’offrent à lui.

because of bureaucratic constraints, they will likely prefer to buy from their regular suppliers at full price.

A licensed security firm that transports money and other valuables is another potential transferee. However, in most cases, they will likely only buy handguns that correspond to the ones they already have.

Individuals who have an authorization to carry, in connection with their occupation (security agents, trappers, prospectors, and bush pilots), may be potential transferees.

Individuals who engage or wish to engage in Olympic pistol shooting are also potential transferees, although there are formalities attached and the handgun to be transferred must be suitable for the shooting discipline in question.

(Sarcasm) Finally, the one Canadian individual who holds an authorization to carry a handgun for the protection of his/her/their life may be interested, but it will most likely be very hard to get in touch with that person, since nobody knows who it is.

In all such cases, the transfer will be subject to the prior approval of

the chief firearms officer who has jurisdiction over the transferee. At this stage, I am unaware of whether any such application for the approval of a transfer will be processed with diligence.

LENDING A HANDGUN

First, let me emphasize that I am not, in any way, suggesting that anyone attempt to disguise a sale or gift of a handgun to an individual as something else, in order to circumvent the current or any future transfer ban. That would be illegal and might result in criminal charges against both the transferor and the transferee.

However, there may be circumstances where lending a handgun may be appropriate and legal. One such scenario that I can think of is the following:

Mr. A is an elderly gentleman who possesses handguns for the purpose of engaging in target practice and competitions. Of course, Mr. A has a valid RPAL and all of his handguns are duly registered. Mr. A has a family member (let us call her Ms. B) who is also the holder of a valid RPAL. The two of them used to go to the range

together and Ms. B would use Mr. A's handguns. For health reasons, Mr. A is no longer able to go shooting with Ms. B as often as he or she would like to. Ms. B does not live at the same address as Mr. A but she would like to be able to continue to use Mr. A's handguns on her own.

Mr. A is legally precluded from selling or gifting any of his handguns to Ms. B because of the current transfer ban. However, there is still a possibility for him to provide Ms. B with the enjoyment of some of his handguns, although it can only be temporary. Let me explain.

The transfers that are currently prohibited are those that entail a transfer of ownership, i.e., sales, gifts and bequests. Those are the ones that require prior approval by a chief firearms officer. However, it is still possible to lend or borrow a handgun, although there are numerous strings attached and pitfalls to avoid.

In order to lend a handgun, there are five aspects to consider:

First, the borrower must be the holder of a licence allowing them to borrow the handgun in question. Otherwise, the immediate supervision of the lender is required at all times, which is not practical.

Second, the lender must provide the borrower with the handgun's registration certificate.

Third, the lender must seek permission from their chief firearms officer to store the handgun at the borrower's dwelling and either the lender or the borrower must seek and obtain an authorization to transport the handgun to the borrower's dwelling.

Fourth, the borrower must seek and obtain an authorization to transport the borrowed handgun to their range; and

Fifth, the lender must maintain their licence in effect at all times, since the validity of the registration certificate is tied to that of the handgun owner's licence.

I suspect some chief firearms officers

may view certain handgun loans with suspicion and be reluctant to issue the required authorizations, suspecting they are dealing with a transfer in disguise.

CONSIDERATIONS FOR TESTAMENTARY EXECUTORS

If a handgun owner passes away, their executor must dispose of the handguns within a reasonable amount of time after the death of the original owner. With most handgun transfers now prohibited, I fully expect that the police might start putting a lot of pressure on executors to surrender the handguns for destruction.

Bequests of handguns in the will may be void, or impossible to implement, because of the transfer ban. However, the transfer options listed above (except for lending) are still available and may allow an executor to liquidate the handguns for value and ultimately avoid surrendering them to police. 🚫

Rubrique Juridique

Guy Lavergne, avocat

Cessions D'armes De Poing: Qu'est-Ce Qui Est Encore Permis?

Le projet de loi C-21 n'a pas encore été adopté par le Parlement. Pourtant, depuis le 21 octobre 2023, il n'est plus légalement possible de vendre, d'offrir ou d'échanger une arme de poing avec un particulier, sauf dans des circonstances très limitées. Soit dit en passant, un "don" comprend un legs testamentaire et aussi probablement une dévolution ab intestat de biens.

Cette interdiction de transfert a été accomplie par des moyens détournés, soit par décret (une décision du Cabinet) qui a été déposé devant le Parlement au printemps 2022 et est entré en vigueur le 21 octobre 2022.

À toutes fins utiles, une fois qu'un propriétaire d'arme de poing souhaite se départir d'une arme de poing, il lui reste très peu d'options; mais il en existe encore certaines.

CESSIONNAIRES POTENTIELS

Une arme de poing peut toujours être légalement transférée (c.-à-d. vendue, donnée ou échangée) à une entreprise qui détient un permis de possession d'armes à feu à autorisation restreinte et, dans une mesure très limitée, à certains particuliers. Inutile de dire que la demande est faible et que les prix sont bas puisqu'il s'agit d'un marché d'acheteurs. Cependant, il peut y avoir quelques opportunités:

Les musées peuvent toujours être intéressés à acquérir des armes de poing, si l'arme de poing présente un intérêt d'un point de vue historique. Cependant, la plupart des musées préfèrent émettre un reçu aux fins d'impôt pour un don, plutôt que de payer un prix d'achat. Les reçus aux fins d'impôt doivent, en vertu de la loi, refléter la juste valeur marchande de

la chose donnée. Dans de nombreux cas, compte tenu des circonstances actuelles, la juste valeur marchande sera probablement assez faible.

Les entreprises qui fournissent des accessoires à l'industrie cinématographique peuvent être intéressées par l'acquisition d'armes de poing. Contrairement à une croyance largement répandue, beaucoup d'armes à feu utilisées dans les films sont de vraies armes à feu. Cependant, sauf dans de rares cas où Alec Baldwin est impliqué, elles ne sont généralement pas chargées de balles réelles. La même mise en garde concernant la valeur marchande s'applique.

La police et les organismes gouvernementaux sont également des cessionnaires potentiels, bien qu'en raison de contraintes bureaucratiques,



So far, most parts and accessories for handguns can still be bought and sold freely.

A ce jour, la plupart des pièces et accessoires d'armes de poing peuvent encore être vendus librement.

ils préféreront probablement acheter auprès de leurs fournisseurs habituels, au prix fort.

Une entreprise de sécurité agréée qui transporte de l'argent et d'autres objets de valeur est un autre cessionnaire potentiel. Cependant, dans la plupart des cas, ils n'achèteront probablement que des armes de poing qui correspondent à celles qu'ils ont déjà;

Les personnes qui ont une autorisation de transport, dans le cadre de leur profession (agents de sécurité, trappeurs, prospecteurs et pilotes de brousse) peuvent être des cessionnaires potentiels ;

Les personnes qui se livrent ou souhaitent se livrer au tir au pistolet olympique sont également des cessionnaires potentiels, bien qu'il y ait des formalités à rencontrer, et que l'arme de poing à transférer doit convenir à la discipline de tir en question.

(Sarcasme) Enfin, le seul Canadien qui détient une autorisation de port d'arme de poing pour protéger sa vie peut être intéressé, mais il sera très probablement très difficile d'entrer en contact avec cette personne, puisque personne ne sait qui elle est.

Dans tous ces cas, la cession sera assujettie à l'approbation préalable du contrôleur des armes à feu ayant compétence sur le cessionnaire. À ce stade, je ne puis dire si une telle demande d'approbation d'une cession sera traitée avec diligence.

PRÊT D'UNE ARME DE POING

Tout d'abord, permettez-moi de souligner que je ne suggère aucunement que quiconque tente de déguiser en prêt une vente ou un cadeau d'une arme de poing, afin de contourner l'interdiction de cession. Cela serait illégal et pourrait entraîner

des poursuites pénales contre le cédant et le cessionnaire.

Cependant, il peut y avoir des circonstances où le prêt d'une arme de poing peut être approprié et légal. Un tel scénario auquel je peux penser est le suivant:

M. A est un homme âgé qui possède des armes de poing dans le but de s'entraîner au tir à la cible et de participer à des compétitions. Bien sûr, M. A détient un permis valide et toutes ses armes de poing sont dûment enregistrées. M. A a un membre de sa famille (appelons-la Mme B) qui est également titulaire d'un permis valide. Les deux pratiquent le tir ensemble et Mme B utilise les armes de poing de M. A. Pour des raisons de santé, M. A n'est plus autant en mesure d'aller tirer avec Mme B aussi souvent qu'ils le voudraient. Mme B n'habite pas à la même adresse que M. A, mais elle aimerait pouvoir continuer à utiliser les armes de poing de M. A., même si ce dernier n'est pas présent.

La loi interdit à M. A de vendre ou de donner ses armes de poing à Mme B, en raison de l'interdiction de cession actuelle. Cependant, il est toujours possible pour lui de procurer à Mme B la jouissance de certaines de ses armes de poing en les lui prêtant, bien que cela ne puisse être que temporaire. Laissez-moi vous expliquer.

Les cessions actuellement interdites sont celles qui entraînent une mutation du droit de propriété, c'est-à-dire les ventes, les dons et les échanges. Ce sont ceux-ci qui nécessitent l'approbation préalable d'un contrôleur des armes à feu. Cependant, il est toujours possible de prêter ou d'emprunter une arme de poing, bien qu'il existe de nombreuses conditions qui s'y rattachent et des pièges à éviter.

Afin de prêter une arme de poing, il y

a cinq aspects à considérer:

Premièrement, l'emprunteur doit être titulaire d'un permis lui permettant d'emprunter l'arme de poing en question. Sinon, la supervision immédiate par le prêteur est requise en tout temps, ce qui n'est pas pratique;

Deuxièmement, le prêteur doit fournir à l'emprunteur le certificat d'enregistrement de l'arme de poing;

Troisièmement, le prêteur doit demander la permission à son contrôleur des armes à feu pour entreposer l'arme de poing au domicile de l'emprunteur et le prêteur ou l'emprunteur doit demander et obtenir une autorisation pour transporter l'arme de poing au domicile de l'emprunteur;


Quatrièmement, l'emprunteur doit demander et obtenir une autorisation pour transporter l'arme de poing empruntée à son club de tir; et

Cinquièmement, le prêteur doit maintenir son permis en vigueur en tout temps, puisque la validité du certificat d'enregistrement est liée à celle du permis du propriétaire de l'arme de poing.

Je soupçonne que certains contrôleurs des armes à feu pourraient considérer certains prêts d'armes de poing avec suspicion et hésiter à délivrer les autorisations requises, pensant qu'ils ont affaire à une cession déguisée.

CONSIDÉRATIONS POUR LES LIQUIDATEURS DE SUCCESSION

Si le propriétaire d'une arme de poing décède, le liquidateur de sa succession doit se départir des armes de poing dans un délai raisonnable après le décès du défunt. Étant donné que la plupart des cessions d'armes de poing sont maintenant interdites, je m'attends à ce que la police commence à exercer beaucoup de pression sur les liquidateurs de succession pour qu'ils remettent les armes de poing aux fins de destruction.

Les legs d'armes de poing dans le testament peuvent être nuls ou impossibles à mettre en œuvre en raison de l'interdiction de cession. Toutefois, les options de cession énumérées ci-dessus (à l'exception du prêt) sont toujours disponibles et peuvent permettre à un liquidateur de liquider les armes de poing à titre onéreux et, en fin de compte, d'éviter de les remettre aux forces de l'ordre. 



Made in Canada

Al Voth

Innovation Armoury's PCC-Shadow Adapter



Pistol-calibre carbines are a popular category of firearm these days, and for good reason. They are relatively cheap to feed, have mild recoil and are compact in size, but still offer a major step up in power over the ubiquitous 22 LR. Of those available in a semi-auto platform, the Ruger PCC has earned an enviable record for ruggedness and reliability. I've pumped thousands of rounds through mine and am still waiting for the first stoppage to occur. They are that good.

The 9mm PCC ships with two magazine adapters that allow the user to choose between using Ruger's own pistol magazines or Glock pattern magazines. If you own either of those two handguns, having a carbine which uses the same magazines is a handy feature. Of course, not everyone does, so there's a demand for adapters which will allow the Ruger PCC to function with other handgun magazines. Enter Innovation Armoury of Ontario, with their aftermarket

adapter for the PCC which allows the carbine to use CZ 75 magazines.


Called the PCC-Shadow Adapter, I was intrigued by the idea, and since I own a CZ 75 I thought it would be a practical addition to my carbine. When it arrived, I immediately set to work fitting it. Installation was easy, and in short order I was ready to hit the range. The adapter is supplied with both right and left magazine catches, with these assembling somewhat differently than the factory version while using some factory parts. I found my magazines dropped free perfectly when I punched that release button.

I tested the adapter with an assortment of 9mm Luger ball ammunition and hollow points, including rifle handloads. I can report the little rifle chugged through everything without a single stoppage, maintaining its perfect record for reliability. Additionally, I saw no change in the rifle's accuracy or any kind of shift in point of impact.

Innovation Armoury claims their

adapter will work with magazines intended for the CZ 75, CZ SP-01 and CZ Shadow 2. Magazines for the IWI Jericho and Canik pistols are reported to work as well, but apparently the last round, bolt-hold-open feature won't work with these magazines. The magazines for my CZ 75 are aftermarket products and unfortunately the bolt-hold-open doesn't work with them either, making that the only negative I can report.

Construction of the adapter is some type of sturdy polymer, just like the factory-supplied adapters, so it should be just as durable. It's priced at \$99.99 CAD and available exclusively from Select Shooting Supplies (www.selectshootingssupplies.com), where you'll also find a video detailing how to install it.

CZ 75 pattern pistols are certainly popular in Canada and, if you happen to own one, this adapter is a useful option for using those magazines in Ruger's carbine. 

RL550C

The World's Most Versatile
Progressive Reloader

- Accommodates Over 160 Calibers
- Uses Standard 7/8" x 14 Dies
- Loading Rate: 400-600 Rds./Hr.
- Comes With One Caliber Conversion
- Interchangeable Toolhead Assembly
- Automatic Powder Measure
- Automatic Primer System
- Lifetime "No-B.S." Warranty
- **RISK FREE 30-Day Trial!**

Dillon
PRECISION

dillonprecision.com

**MORE PRECISE SHOOTING.
LESS JUGGLING DEVICES.**



Learn more at VortexCanada.net

1-866-343-0054



RAZOR HD 4000 GB
BALLISTIC LASER RANGEFINDER



RIFLESCOPES | RED DOTS | **RANGEFINDERS** | BINOCULARS | MONOCULARS | SPOTTING SCOPES | TRIPODS | APPAREL



EVERYTHING ABOUT GUNS.

LIVE & UNSCRIPTED.



Find us on these platforms and more :



Apple Podcasts

Spotify

YouTube

Instagram