

# CANADIAN FIREARMS JOURNAL

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2023

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**CANADA'S NATIONAL FIREARMS ASSOCIATION**

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# CANADIAN **FIREARMS JOURNAL**

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2023



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## 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.

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# On The Cover

The cover image for this issue comes from the camera of Lowell Strauss and is loaded with symbolism. Lowell grabbed the photo while he and some friends were helping a farmer do pest control in a Saskatchewan pasture. And yes, that is a large pile of cow manure the shooter is using as a vantage point to rain hollow-point bullets down on the local gopher population. The symbolism appears when we consider that, like all Canadian gun owners, this shooter is standing on a firearm control system built extensively on political bovine excrement. At the same time, there are storm clouds on the horizon threatening to dump more misery on legitimate gun owners. Our shooter, however, is standing tall in the face of it all and not giving in to the obnoxious smell of existing legislation or to the threat of what's on the horizon. 



## Canadian Firearms Journal

The Official Magazine of



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NATIONAL  
FIREARMS  
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# From The Editor's Desk

Al Voth

## Protecting What's Important

I've noticed you can always tell what a government values by the effort it makes to protect the person, object or idea. For example, top politicians are always protected by a circle of armed officers. It leads one to conclude politicians think their lives are really important. Likewise, we have special laws which enable the men and women guarding the cash and cash-like assets being transported in "armoured" trucks to be armed. Again, we can conclude the politicians who passed these laws think protecting money is important. Another group with special permission to work armed are the people who guard our nuclear power generating stations. There's no argument from me, as thwarting some kind of terrorist attack which might turn a chunk of the nation into a nuclear wasteland is important.

All of this comes to mind as I continue to read of random attacks on citizens in our major cities, resulting in their death or serious injury. The media reports on these events breathlessly, and inevitably interview politicians and sociologists looking for what we can do to prevent these senseless crimes. The answers they get always swirl around the fact there is no one solution. Instead, we have to address a multitude of factors, including homelessness, poverty, drug addiction, the parole system and mental health. There's never any mention of giving citizens tools with which to protect themselves.

And I'm not necessarily talking about firearms here. As we all know, it's illegal to carry pepper spray for defense against a human attacker. Likewise, a conducted energy weapon (e.g., taser) or even a knife if it's concealed and your intent for carrying




it is to use it as a potential weapon. A person could almost conclude the lives of common citizens aren't important to our government. If they were, wouldn't they ensure the availability of at least some tools for self-defence?

Maybe it has something to do with who the attacker is. After all, we are allowed to carry pepper spray in defense of bears. And some people, depending on profession, can even carry handguns to defend against bear attacks. Canada had a bad year for bear attacks in 2021 when three persons were killed by them. That same year, there were 788 people killed by homicide. Could it be the measures allowed to defend against bears actually work?

Of course, there are numerous other factors at work here, so a direct comparison isn't realistic. Instead, I think the important question to ask is

why, if we are allowed to carry tools to defend against wild animals, aren't we allowed to pre-emptively carry tools needed to defend against attacking persons?

Those talking heads on TV, whether they are politicians or "experts," never mention the ability to carry defensive tools as even a potential factor in preventing death or injury to innocent people. Even though police officers regularly carry three different tools (gun, pepper spray and taser) to prevent the death or injury of innocent people.

It's something to think about while you're sitting in a tree stand this fall, waiting for a deer, moose or even a bruin to wander by. If you have cell service in your tree stand, e-mail a politician and ask him/her. As they hide behind their armed guards, let them know we and our families are important enough to be protected as well. 



# President's Message

Rick Igercich

## How We Got Here

As I write this, summer is in full swing and both provincial and federal houses are on recess. I thought it would be a good time to do a recap on where we stand as Canadian firearms owners, specifically on Bill C-21 with its constant amendments.

A person who wishes to possess a firearm in Canada must obtain a possession and acquisition licence (PAL). In addition, the government regulates the import, export and sale of firearms. The Liberals, however, want to restrict access to certain types of firearms through a new law, Bill C-21, which, as of this writing, is currently in the Senate in the SEC D hearing stage. This is the tangled web of deceit on how we got here.

The bill's original target was a complete freeze and import ban on legally owned handguns. Several amendments were added, retracted, then added again with an open back door to add more. One of its amendments, the evergreen clause, proposes a new technical definition of the term "assault weapon" to cement in law a future ban on these guns. This enlarges the scope to include common hunting rifles and other firearms. Many of these are used in rural and northern communities for sustenance hunting and these firearms are also used for sport shooting across Canada. The amendment unfairly targets sport shooters, hunters and collectors, while failing to address the real gun violence issues in the country.

Bill C-21 also includes other measures to control the use of firearms. For example, it expands the powers of police officers to search homes for firearms and confiscate them based on a simple complaint, the so-called red flag law. It also gives the provincial chief firearms officer the power (yellow flag law) to summarily revoke licenses in cases of domestic disputes, harass-

ment and everyday complaints.

It's not clear when the bill will be passed, and the law will take effect, although the federal government aims to have the bill passed by late 2023 or early 2024.

This legislation and the 2020 Order in Council, according to the Trudeau Liberals, is a reaction to a handful of incidents, including two in Canada that the Liberals call mass shootings, and a few events which took place in the US. While many Canadians share the government's concern about criminal violence, there are differences of opinion about how to tackle the issue.

This is a political move designed to generate headlines and sow fear. It will have no impact on reducing gang-related shootings or other crimes, and it will do nothing to target the real problem: criminals and gang members who use illegal and smuggled weapons that are readily available to them. It is an attempt to manipulate the public into believing the Liberals are doing something to stop such attacks, even though the facts show otherwise.

The government's approach to Bill C-21 has been controversial, with MPs on both sides of the House of Commons raising concerns. The Liberals used what is called a programming motion to limit how much time the House of Commons committee studied the bill before the third reading and on to the Senate. They argued the move was necessary to fend off official opposition obstruction. However, the Conservatives and NDP have argued that it limits the ability of parliamentarians to properly review the bill's content.

Do the Liberals really care about public safety? Canadians are not impressed by their reasoning and efforts to implement the bill. The government has not explained how the new laws

will help prevent crime.

Liberal tactics have not changed, misuse of the Order in Council started back on May 1, 2020, when they prohibited 1,500 (now 1,800-plus) firearms overnight. With an election looming, it is important that voters understand this and ask their local candidates how they will protect their freedoms.

The best option we have to ensure no further changes in gun laws are made, and the current ones are retracted, is by electing a Conservative government in the next election. The Liberal's continued attempts to restrict the rights and freedoms of law-abiding Canadians are unacceptable, they need to be voted out of office in the next election.

The NFA is strongly entrenched in Ottawa and the provinces, and our influence is starting to show more and more every day. As Canada is on the verge of an election, a key issue of debate is again going to be firearms policy.

NFA in-house lobbyist Charles Zach and I have been meeting with key political players in Ottawa and across Canada. Provincial directors have also been establishing connections in their provinces. Additionally, our legal team is always looking for potential ways to challenge the government.

Canada's National Firearms Association is Canada's oldest firearm lobby group and is leading the way. We will do and use everything in our power to make sure we get back to normality as firearms owners and law-abiding Canadians.

With your help and very much appreciated donations, Canada's National Firearms Association will shut down Trudeau's Liberals in the next election. Then we can continue to work with and educate the CPC on where we stand, and where we need to be as law-abiding Canadians. 🇨🇦

# Message du Président

Rick Igercich

## Comment Nous En Sommes Arrivés Là

**A**u moment où j'écris ces lignes, l'été est bel et bien là et les chambres législatives fédérales et provinciales sont en relâche. J'ai donc pensé que le moment était bien choisi pour faire le point sur notre situation en tant que propriétaires canadiens d'armes à feu, en particulier avec le projet de loi C-21 et ses amendements constants.

Toute personne souhaitant posséder une arme à feu au Canada doit être titulaire d'un permis de possession et d'acquisition (PPA). De plus, le gouvernement réglemente l'importation, l'exportation et la vente d'armes à feu. Cependant, les libéraux veulent restreindre l'accès à certains types d'armes par l'intermédiaire d'une nouvelle mesure législative, le projet de loi C-21, qui est actuellement en deuxième lecture au Sénat. Voici la tromperie complexe qui nous a amenés où nous sommes aujourd'hui.

L'objectif original du projet de loi était le gel complet et l'interdiction de l'importation des armes de poing possédées en toute légalité. Divers amendements ont été ajoutés, retirés puis ajoutés de nouveau, avec la possibilité d'en ajouter d'autres. L'un de ces amendements, la clause de tacite reconduction, propose une nouvelle définition technique du terme « armes d'assaut » afin d'inscrire dans la loi la future interdiction de ces armes. Il en élargit la portée pour inclure des fusils de chasse courants et d'autres armes à feu. Nombre de ces armes sont utilisées dans des communautés rurales et nordiques pour la chasse de subsistance. Ces armes à feu sont également utilisées à des fins de tir sportif partout au Canada. L'amendement cible injustement les tireurs sportifs, les chasseurs et les collectionneurs, sans faire quoi que ce soit pour répondre au véritable problème de la violence

armée au pays.

Le projet de loi C-21 comprend également d'autres mesures visant à contrôler l'utilisation des armes à feu. Par exemple, il élargit les pouvoirs de la police de fouiller les domiciles à la recherche d'armes à feu et de les confisquer avec une simple plainte, ce qu'on appelle la loi « du drapeau rouge ». De plus, il donne au contrôleur des armes à feu provincial le pouvoir (loi « du drapeau jaune ») de révoquer sommairement les permis en cas de conflits familiaux, de harcèlement et de simples plaintes.

On ignore quand le projet de loi sera adopté et quand la loi entrera en vigueur, bien que le gouvernement fédéral veuille qu'il soit adopté d'ici la fin de 2023 ou au début de 2024.

Selon les libéraux de Trudeau, cette mesure législative et le décret de 2020 visent à répondre à une poignée d'incidents, dont deux au Canada que les libéraux qualifient de tueries de masse, et quelques événements aux États-Unis. De nombreux Canadiens partagent les préoccupations du gouvernement sur la violence criminelle, mais il existe des différences d'opinions sur la façon de lutter contre ce problème.

C'est une manœuvre politique visant à faire les gros titres et à semer la peur. Elle n'aura aucun impact sur la réduction des fusillades ou d'autres crimes liés aux gangs et ne s'attaquera pas au véritable problème: les criminels et les membres des gangs qui utilisent des armes illégales et de contrebande auxquelles ils ont facilement accès. C'est une tentative de manipuler le public pour lui faire croire que les libéraux font quelque chose pour mettre fin à ces attaques, alors que les faits démontrent le contraire.

La façon dont le gouvernement

traite le projet de loi C-21 est controversée, des députés des deux côtés de la Chambre des communes ayant fait part de leurs préoccupations. Les libéraux ont utilisé ce qu'on appelle une motion de programmation pour limiter le temps d'étude du projet de loi en comité à la Chambre des communes avant la troisième lecture et l'envoi au Sénat. Ils soutiennent que cette mesure était nécessaire pour contrer l'obstruction de l'Opposition officielle. Cependant, les conservateurs et le NPD affirment que cela limite la capacité des parlementaires d'examiner correctement le contenu du projet de loi.

Les libéraux se soucient-ils vraiment de la sécurité publique ? Les Canadiens ne sont pas dupes de leur raisonnement et de leurs efforts pour mettre le projet de loi en œuvre. Le gouvernement n'explique pas comment les nouvelles lois aideront à prévenir la criminalité.

Les tactiques des libéraux ne changent pas. L'utilisation abusive du décret a commencé le 1 mai 2020, alors que 1 500 (aujourd'hui plus de 1 800) armes à feu ont été interdites du jour au lendemain. Alors que des élections approchent, il est important que les électeurs comprennent cela et demandent à leurs candidats locaux comment ils vont protéger leurs libertés. La meilleure option qui s'offre à nous pour assurer que les lois sur les armes à feu ne seront plus modifiées, et que les lois existantes seront abolies, est d'élire un gouvernement conservateur aux prochaines élections. Les tentatives continues des libéraux de limiter les droits et les libertés des Canadiens respectueux des lois sont inacceptables, et nous devons chasser les libéraux du pouvoir aux prochaines élections.

La NFA est fortement implantée à >



Ottawa et dans les provinces, et notre influence devient de plus en plus forte, jour après jour. Alors que le Canada est à la veille d'élections, la politique sur les armes à feu sera de nouveau au centre des débats.

Le lobbyiste interne de la NFA, Charles Zach, et moi rencontrons des acteurs politiques clés à Ottawa et partout au Canada. De plus, les directeurs provinciaux établissent des

contacts dans leur province. Finalement, notre équipe juridique recherche constamment des façons de contester le gouvernement.

L'Association canadienne des armes à feu est le plus ancien groupe de lobbying sur les armes du Canada, et nous montrons la voie à suivre. Nous allons utiliser tous les moyens à notre disposition pour assurer que nous retournons à la normalité en tant que propriétaires

d'armes à feu et de Canadiens respectueux des lois.

Avec votre aide et vos dons très précieux, l'Association canadienne des armes à feu fera tomber les libéraux de Trudeau aux prochaines élections. Nous pourrions alors continuer à travailler avec le Parti conservateur et à l'informer de notre position et de ce que nous devons faire en tant que Canadiens respectueux des lois.



# Vice-President's Message

Blair Hagen

## The Political, Social & Cultural Fight

I was recently contacted by a reader of the CFJ who pointed out that even if the Poilievre Conservatives form government in the next federal election, the Liberals will eventually get elected again and go back to work destroying the rights and freedoms of Canadians. He asked that given this fact, aren't we fighting losing battles in the political and cultural war to defend and re-establish our ancient rights and freedoms in Canada.

I have been at this a long time, and I've seen governments come and governments go. When I first got started in this back in the 1990s, a popular consensus was that if everyone just said no and refused to comply with the Liberal civil disarmament effort of the time, it would simply fail and go away.

While the long gun registry surely failed, publicly and undeniably, it did not go away until the Liberals were defeated and replaced by a Conservative government which had promised firearms law reform. That government legislated firearms law reform, not so much because it wanted to, but because it had to, or else suffer the political consequences of not doing so. To their credit, they did. This ushered in a new era where firearms law reform was no longer held out of reach by those



Getting youth involved in the shooting sports is one way to fight the cultural war against guns.

in power, but advanced by those who wanted to stay in power.

At that time, I believed it was possible the Liberals learned a lesson about guns. That it was an issue to be avoided, especially with the failure of the registry, lest it motivate the huge voting bloc of Canadians who believe in rights and freedoms to shut the Liberals out of power. I was wrong.

A decade later, the Liberals perpetrated probably their greatest offenses

against the rights and property of Canadians in the form of Bill C-71, the May 2020 OIC, the handgun freeze and Bill C-21. Those who fail to learn from the mistakes of the past are doomed to repeat them. The Liberals certainly seem hell bent on dooming Canadians with their insane policies across a wide spectrum of serious issues affecting Canada today.

Today's Liberal Party scarcely resembles a traditional Canadian political



party. Infested with cultural Marxists and corporate elite interests, they hold the values and culture of Canadians in contempt. If not one of their favoured groups, you don't matter. You are not their people.

I know the members of the NFA are just regular people, as are most Canadians who believe in rights and freedoms. You want your rights and property respected, and you wish to do the same for your fellow Canadians.

But those who wish to use the governments and bureaucracies of this country to strip us of our rights and freedoms don't care a whit. They have something to prove to themselves and their fellow travellers internationally. It's a belief they can target the rights and freedoms of Canadians with impunity and without consequences, and that Canadians will bow down and surrender those rights and freedoms. This is a sick, ideological goal so dark and so

twisted it defies description. It strikes at the heart of the human spirit and soul.

It is about power and domination of government over Canadians.

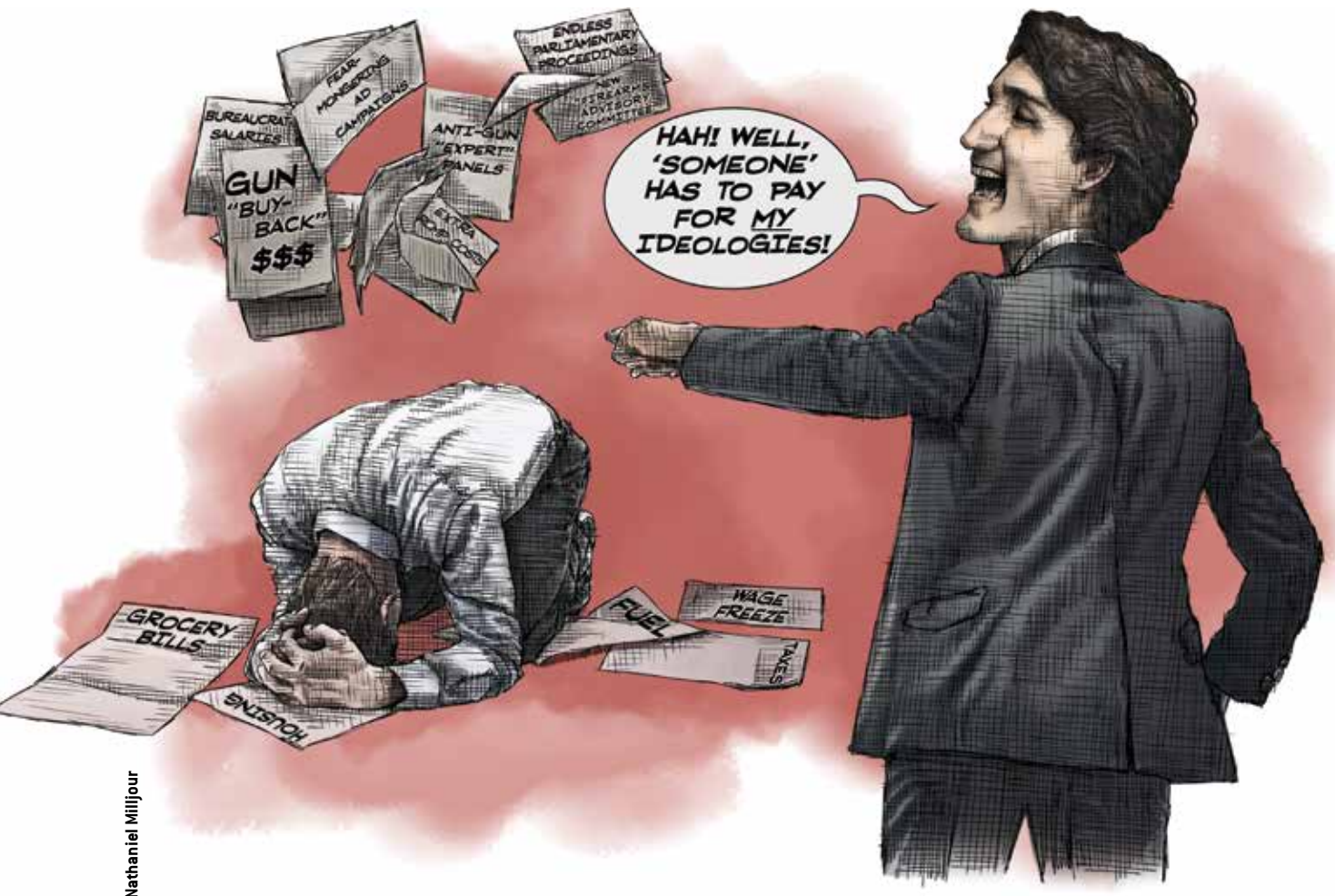
Shortly, those politics will resume as the Liberal Party attempts to do as much damage to the rights, freedoms and values all real Canadians share, before their government falls and they are once again relegated to the trash bin of history. Remember this moment. Remember Jagmeet Singh's NDP who so crassly sold out his own constituents, as well as all Canadians, for a few scraps from Justin Trudeau's table. Remember the lockdowns, the attacks on freedom of speech, the arrests and imprisoning of many Canadians who went to Ottawa in January 2022 with the Freedom Convoy to say, "Enough."

We can never again be those people who sat back and trusted the moral compass and good intentions of governments and politicians. Too much has

been lost, most of all the trust Canadians used to invest in their public service and elected officials. Every one of us has to be involved to the best of one's ability in the political, social and cultural fight.

If you are a member of Canada's National Firearms Association, it is very likely you already know this. However, I think you, like me, need to be reminded of the world we live in, the Canada of 2023, and our duty to fight and defeat the enemies of rights and freedoms who have so thoroughly tarnished them at home and abroad.

I look forward to celebrating with you, the members of Canada's National Firearms Association, the next chapter in Canada's political history. When the Liberals once again will be taught a hard lesson about attacking the very foundations of common law, rights, freedoms and the values Canada was founded on. 🇨🇦



Nathaniel Milijour



# Politics & Guns

Bruce Gold

## C-21 Version 3 – Where We Stand



Without access to the required firearms, all of the many handgun sports, with their impressive record of safe and lawful use, will be destroyed.

**I**t has become painfully clear to all but the willfully blind that Canada is now on a wild ride at the hands of the most incompetent, ideologically driven government in our history. Anyone who thinks the current attack on legal gun ownership can be safely dismissed as “just a gun issue” or “just the other guy’s guns” is in for some nasty surprises. With these actions against gun owners, the government is cementing political and legal precedents that will – not may – apply to other issues.

Simply put, millions of Canadians have had their legal property confiscated based on a government declaration that it is “too dangerous.” The actual

facts of legal handgun and sporting rifle ownership – what is being attacked – do not support these policies. Any studies or statistics backing up the declaration of “too dangerous” have been declared cabinet secrets. This arbitrary governance sets the stage and confirms legal precedence undercutting Canadian’s right to any property that becomes a government target.

The May 1 OIC was followed by a nullification declaration that was used to strip gun owners of the legal right to have a court review of their reclassification under section 74 of the Firearms Act. Courts have ruled this declaration has no basis in law (Court of Queen’s

Bench of Alberta Canada (Attorney General) v Smykot, 2022 ABQB 61 and Ontario Superior Court of Justice, R. v. M.C. et. al. 2022 ONCA 6299). This “just about guns” issue was an attempt (still before the courts as I write this) to strip Canadian citizens of a legal right established by Parliament and written into the law itself. This is a blatant attempt to set the legal precedent that not only property, but also legal rights can be taken by a mere declaration and a form letter. Anyone who thinks a government willing to remove a legal right with a mere declaration is not a mortal threat to all civil liberties, irrespective of guns, is delusional.

## RED FLAGS

The red flag provision of C-21 expands a person's ability to protect themselves or others from harm. It is advertised as a new and necessary way for an individual to get an emergency protection order or have weapons removed. However, this ability already exists. Any person can contact the firearms centre or the police to get immediate protection and the police already have the legal authority to enter any premise and seize any weapon on the basis of a complaint and can do so without a warrant. There is no indication that this arrangement is not working or is in some way too slow.

What the new red flag law does is remove the seizure or other action from any sort of investigation. A judge confronted with a claim will have no other information than what the complainant brings forward and no practical way of investigating the claim. Confronted with this, a judge will have no realistic choice except to take the complainant's claim at face value and order police action. There is nothing in the law regarding false claims or any liability on the part of the complainant. Indeed, the complainant can receive court-enforced anonymity preventing any civil action for a false or malicious claim. It should be noted this doesn't just apply to gun owners and can be brought against anyone. Indeed, a non-gun owner is likely to receive even harsher treatment since the police will simply assume it is an illegal gun held illegally. This opens the door to lawfare complaints during contested divorces, commercial rivalries, retaliation against government officials such as police, and will have immediate, serious consequences for anyone whose livelihood depends on a gun licence, a security clearance, background checks, etc.

The new process requires setting up a court appearance and a wait for court time, and it can scarcely be done without a lawyer and long delays. In short, the red flag has the potential to overwhelm the courts and imposes additional burdens and delays on an applicant. Its only advantage is that it bypasses all investigation in favour of arbitrary judgement. The government actually brags that this would be made available to "victims and supporting organizations" who could then use it for

lawfare. The burden of proof throughout rests firmly on the accused, who must somehow prove not only that they are not a threat, but are also not a "possible" threat. The legislation contains no redress for a person who has been subject to a false complaint.

We can also note that the new rules require a CFO to prohibit within 24 hours of a complaint, leaving no time whatsoever for the complaint to be investigated. Again, arbitrary enforcement with no due process, all imposed when there is a working system in place where action can be taken immediately by the police. All these changes do is remove the one organization that has both the mandate and capacity to investigate the truth behind the allegations.

Also, domestic violence, a major justification of the new rules, is very broadly defined. For example, it includes the killing or harming of an animal as an indicator of domestic violence, but it makes no exception for legal hunting.

The whole process is based on the underlying assumption that legal gun ownership is a clear and present danger that must be rigorously curtailed. With all safeguards removed, nothing remains but the arbitrary power of the state exercised purely on the basis of unsubstantiated complaints from parties who may be malicious, misinformed or engaged in lawfare. This will not make anyone safer.

## PUBLIC SAFETY

One important consideration is who will be impacted by the new restrictions on handgun transfers and the ban on new semi-automatic rifle designs. It is already illegal:

- to have any gun without a license,
- to carry any gun on the street,
- to import or make a gun without a license,
- to sell any gun without legal permission or to any unlicensed person
- and dozens of laws regarding actual misuse of a firearm.

It is hard to see how criminals will be affected since everything in the bill is already illegal for them. Unless, of course, you believe in bogging down the administration of the law and courts with things that are "doubly illegal." These new restrictions will only impact the licensed and law-abiding. Without access to the required firearms, all of the many

handgun sports, with their impressive record of safe and lawful use, will be destroyed. This and the 2020 OIC ban on semi-auto rifles, which is still in force, will not only doom the shooting sports, but will also cripple civilian ranges and firearms businesses that depend on their financing. Hunters, who typically use their firearms less frequently, will find ranges and supporting businesses in decline and eventually gone. A measure of what is being destroyed:

- \$8.5 billion spent on hunting and sports shooting each year,
- 50,000 people working in the firearm industry,
- 2,400 federally licensed firearm businesses,
- 1,245 target-shooting ranges, many used by law enforcement.

## MOTIVATION

The Liberals have claimed that C-21's restrictions on the law-abiding will be a great benefit to public safety. They have indulged in the demagoguery of waving the bloody shirt of individual tragedy and suffering. But they haven't made a case for how these restrictions will do what they claim. In part:

this is a cynical appeal to low-information voters in their big city base,

it harvests public outrage as a distraction from other scandals,

it demonstrates contempt for the firearms community with the repeated implications they are, in some unclear manner, responsible for the actions of criminals,

it is a dishonest manoeuvre to shift attention away from the failure of their soft-on-crime policies, with the pretence that further restricting the law-abiding is in some magical fashion a crackdown on criminals,

it supports the pretension that 5,500 miles of undefended border can be sealed from smuggling, and the pretence that crushing legal usage will then eliminate all sources of crime guns.

For the Liberals, the more straightforward policy of reducing violent crime is just too politically incorrect to even consider. Blaming society and its failings for the deliberate actions of criminals is just one of the many ways the Liberals are redefining Canada as a failed project that must be entirely eliminated to make way for their new utopia. ❗

# Preserving Our Firearms Heritage

Gary K. Kangas

## Hunting Is What We Do

**I**n Canada, hunting is woven into the fabric of our collective history, both First Nations and non-Indigenous individuals. I come from hunting and firearms-owning families on both maternal and paternal sides. Hunting, to me, is what we do.

My Dad and his brother (my favourite uncle) were avid hunters from boyhood. They were tasked with feeding the family in early 20th century homesteader Canada. When I was a boy, my Dad gave me and my brother instructions on how to shoot, including gun handling and strict firearms safety. When I was 13, he bought me a Cooney 20-gauge shotgun, which I still own today. Then, he and I would take to the hunting field in the fall, as upland

bird hunting was a favourite recreation of his. When I was in my mid-teens, my Dad would take me and three friends migratory bird hunting, where I discovered I was a terrible wing shot, and so these events became simply nice outdoor social occasions.

When I was young, both of my grandmothers had handguns, and eating wild game was standard fare, with contributions from family members and also from the neighbours. Dining on moose was not unusual, and I remember my brother biting into a slice of moose roast and discovering a bullet fragment in the meat.

Hunting has changed dramatically since then, with the growing demographic today being women acquiring their PALs and then taking a hunter education course, so they are able to go hunting. Many are young women; however, an overlooked group is ma-



Donna waits for a morning flight of birds.

ture women who are becoming hunters later in life. The following is a narrative from one such lady regarding her discovery of hunting.

"My name is Donna and who would have thought that, approaching age 68, I would be asked to speak about my foray into hunting.

"A brief biography: I was born during the '50s in London, Ont., to an Army band sergeant and a bookkeeper mother. One would never expect that one day I would become a hunter with firearms and involved in a reloading business. As the youngest and only girl of four children in a frugal household, the highlight each year was a trip to Ipperwash Beach on Lake Huron for a week of camping. My other activities in summer were hanging out with friends, doing cartwheels and looking for four-leaf clovers. In winter, I enjoyed skating at the ice rink while wearing boy's

skates and tobogganing down a local hill by the school.

"I was not an outdoorsy person, even in high school when we had moved to Calgary. When all others were heading west to the ski hills, it was not something my family pursued. However, a strong work ethic was instilled in watching our parents provide for us.

"As a young adult, I began my working career at age 15 as an IGA cashier. After graduating high school, I moved out of the family home and worked as a bank teller for some time. Other jobs ensued, including telephone operator, legal secretary, receptionist, loans and mortgage officer, non-profit fundraiser, executive assistant, contracts administrator, Canadian travel manager and founder/director of a charity for seniors. Obviously, I don't know what I want to be when I grow up."

After a successful business career,

Donna, due to a change in circumstances in her early 50s, found herself alone. However, fate intervenes and delivers up a compatible mate named Will, who is an avid hunter and outdoorsman. The result is Donna enters a new world of hunting and adventure.

Donna continued, "I met Will in April of 2007, and my life and perspective changed from a city girl to farm girl in short order. Moving to the country, tending cows, growing and harvesting hay, raising donkeys and horses, shooting predators and hunting became the norm. On the farm, we would use a clay launcher to practice our shotgun skills, of which

I have none. My first duck hunt in September 2007 at age 52 near Michichi, Alta., was an experience. Will and his friend, Colin, took me out duck hunting after the Stettler gun show. Dressed in men's hunting clothes and waders, I thought the addition of ammunition belts, camouflage, folding chair and other accoutrements would never stop. Feeling cumbersome and unprepared, I followed them into a body of waist-deep water. No ducks were harmed during my experience.

"My next hunting adventure was close to home on the Bow River that same year in December. It was a cold, beautiful, sunny day as we sat by the river and waited for the ducks to head towards our decoys. I had no idea what I was doing. These ducks were teasing me endlessly and escaped all my attempts. Even with support and encouragement from Will, I was frustrated, but my competitive nature was revealed.

"During 2007, my husband Will and I began expanding his existing business of supplying shotgun reloading equipment. We decided to branch out and began importation of Italian guns. Exploring potential exclusive importing opportunities led us to Fabbrica Armi Isidoro Rizzini (FAIR). We added several exclusive brands to our offerings and increased our reloading products. Now we continue to exclusively represent FAIR in Canada. We are also dealers for Pedersoli, Ballistic Products and MEC Outdoors, offering one of the



**Moose for the freezer.**

largest selections of shotgun reloading supplies in Canada.

"Over the years, I personally introduced PROIS ladies hunting gear to Canada. On a fall day of 2009, wearing my PROIS vest, I accompanied Will and his friend, Neil, into the mountains for a grouse hunt. It was a beautiful day, and I enjoyed the hike, the guys found some birds and my acquisition was a spruce grouse. Cooking it later turned out to be a huge disappointment to the palate."

Donna has shared with me that she has diligently practiced with shotguns and has a 20-gauge Merkel and a 28-gauge Ugartechea custom-fitted to her dimensions, but she suggests she needs much more practice. Donna's narrative on big game hunting came next.

"I was given my husband's Ruger No. 1 in 30-06 to try in preparation for my first big game hunt. The length of pull was too long, but after a few decent test shots I felt somewhat prepared. I figured a deer is a large target and felt encouraged.

"Travelling west into the Porcupine Hills of Alberta in the dark, on a November 2009 morning, we arrived at our destination at sunrise. The hunting spirits were with me as I raced up a hill. As I caught my breath standing at the top, I discovered a young mule deer doe standing perfectly broadside in the coulee below. I knelt into position, took a deep breath and shot. Being inexperienced, I did not take a second

look through the scope to see where she was. However, our friend told me I was successful and she had dropped in place.

"Shooting the Ruger No. 1 was a positive experience, even with its size and weight, but we began searching for an appropriate hunting rifle for me. It came in the guise of a 1976 Ruger No. 1 Sporter in 30-06, which is a shorter version of the standard Ruger No. 1. With a shorter barrel and stock, it fit me perfectly. Topped off with a Leupold scope and adjustments to correct the eye relief, I was ready. I never realized that having a gun with the right length of pull, good balance and the correct eye relief for the scope could make such a difference. Not only was the gun lighter to carry while tracking, but I was also able to spot my target and shoot with ease."

Donna considers herself a subsistence hunter, and she has acquired the skills and patience needed to honour nature by providing food to sustain her family. She has accompanied Will on numerous hunts and has harvested moose, antelope, deer, geese and upland birds. With successful shots up to 500 yards with her 30-06, Donna has become a competent, skilled hunter. Although she is modest and professes not to be a "real" hunter, she has proven herself on many occasions and has taken to heart the tutoring skills of her husband. They own Bilozir Fine Guns in Alberta. Donna is a true credit to the hunting fraternity and our firearms heritage. 🦌



# GUN ART

Rizzini's Artemis Light shotgun

BY JEFF SMITH



**LEFT:**  
The Artemis Light arrives in an excellent Negri case.

Walking slowly along the edge of a local small creek in search of ducks, on opening day in southeast Alberta, I came upon a small flock of teal as they lazed in the calm shelter of reeds. Suddenly, the birds realized I was there and vaulted for the sky to escape, wings pumping wildly. I quickly shouldered the over/under shotgun I was carrying, tracked first one then a second bird, each time caressing the trigger and sending a load of 16-gauge #5 Kent Bismuth their way, connecting both times.

Pleased by the fact I had taken my first birds of the season with a beautiful shotgun, the irony was not lost on me that while the gun was designed as an upland bird gun, the first game killed were ducks. Mind you, teal are a gorgeous duck which also taste mighty fine. I did locate a covey of Huns later that same day and killed three before calling it a day. It was an excellent start to what would be a great bird season, killing ruffed and spruce grouse in the foothills, along with a few sharptails and Hungarian partridge across the open prairie, all in the name of testing Rizzini's Ar-

temis Light shotgun in 16 gauge. While I did hunt ringnecks, unfortunately the ones I encountered all flushed wildly.

Located in the northern Italian region of Valtrompia, in the town of Brescia, an area world renowned for the quality of firearms built there, Rizzini was opened in 1966 by Battista Rizzini. Specialising in fine shotguns and rifles, the company is still located in this region where he, along with his son and two daughters, remain directly involved in this family-owned and operated company. As an example of his dedication to the production of fine-quality guns, each of the shotguns which leaves the shop has a walnut stock hand selected for its quality by Battista himself.

The Artemis Light shotgun I tested is a light version of the basic Artemis shotgun. It is chambered in 12, 16, 20 and 28 gauge, as well as 410 Bore. My 16-gauge model weighs a very pleasant 6.1 pounds, making it easy to carry all day. I chose this gauge as it's been a long time since I've had the opportunity to hunt with this bore size. To scratch this itch thoroughly, I hunted for an entire season almost exclusively

with this gun, opting only to keep it out of the muddiest fields and the wettest of duck blinds.

The Artemis Light is an eye-catching over/under shotgun which has been crafted to the tightest of tolerances. The action is a box lock type made from a light alloy known as Ergal aluminum. This alloy is widely utilized by the aerospace industry for its light weight and strength. The side plates are covered with beautiful, yet simple scenes done in scroll engraving, then enhanced with a coin finish and gold inlays. It's clear that many long hours are spent hand finishing each gun.

The shotgun features a single selective trigger which is gold plated. According to my Lyman digital trigger pull gauge, the trigger breaks at a crisp 4.6 pounds in the top barrel and 4.1 pounds in the bottom barrel. In reality, the trigger feels like it breaks much lighter. Fired hulls are auto ejected, while unfired shells are removed individually by hand.

Depending upon gauge, the barrels measure 28, 29 or 30 inches. As tested, the 16 gauge has a 29-inch barrel. The deeply blued barrels are topped by a >



**LEFT:** The Artemis Light is specifically sized to each of the gauges it's chambered for.

**BOTTOM LEFT AND RIGHT:** All receiver surfaces are covered in engraving and inlays.

raised, vented rib. It is supplied with five flush-mounted chokes which are interchangeable in the usual constrictions. A proper choke wrench, not those key type ones, is also included.

Patterning was done with several commonly available loads, and I found #5 Kent Bismuth patterns the best. This was closely followed by #6 lead from Aguila. As well, I tested #4 Federal steel, which also performed well. I was not able to locate any 16-gauge #2 loads by any manufacturer, but that's not a big loss as this shotgun is primarily an upland hunting tool.


Lock up between the action and barrels is very smooth and tight. The safety, located on the tang, is automatically engaged when the barrels are closed. It smoothly pushes forward to disengage when the shooter is ready to fire the gun, then slides rearwards to re-engage as needed. The barrel selector is integral with the safety. I like

this set-up as I find it quite intuitive while shooting.

The gun is stocked with some gorgeous Turkish walnut, with the grip shaped into the classic Prince of Wales style. I enjoy this grip as it gives me great control in the field, both carrying the gun and while firing at fleeing birds. The length of pull is 14 5/8 inches. Drop is 1 1/2 to 2 3/4 inches, and there's a fairly neutral cast. The forend is secured using a latch system, which consists of a push button found at the tip of the forend that moves a rod into the forend lug, disconnecting it to the barrel assembly. The forend itself is a nice, slender piece of wood. I, personally, prefer the slender fore grip to chunkier ones found on many guns. Both the butt and forend feature very nicely done 26 lines-per-inch checkering, which helps to grip the gun securely without being uncomfortable. The butt is completed with an equally nice walnut butt pad,

with tightly grooved lines to prevent slippage on the shoulder. And all the wood has a highly buffed finish.

The gun was shipped wrapped in a soft gun sock, then secured in a well padded, black Negrini double-walled ABS case designed for break-down shotguns. There is room inside for the spare chokes and wrench in the supplied choke box and a few small accessories such as a cleaning kit and small knife. The case itself secures with user-programmable dial locks. Appropriately, these lightweight cases are made in Italy as well.

I found this shotgun to be a pleasure to carry, and easy to shoot well as it seems to jump to my shoulder, my eye swiftly aligning with game as it flees. It's priced at well over \$5,000 CAD, which is good value for a gun with this kind of heirloom quality. It's a shotgun which performs perfectly and is also easy on the eyes. 





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# FEAR THE REAPER

Reviewing the Fierce Reaper rifle

BY JEFF HELSDON

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When the rock band Blue Oyster Cult wrote Don't Fear the Reaper in 1976, they couldn't have imagined the Reaper taking the form of Fierce Firearm's newest bolt-action rifle. However, the Reaper name is appropriate as both game and targets have a lot to fear from this accurate rifle.

Fierce Firearms is an American firm based in Utah. Started in 2013 by current CEO John Mogle, the company has grown rapidly, and recently expanded its production facility. The company offers shotguns, muzzleloaders and rifles, with bolt-action rifles accounting for the majority of the production. And those bolt-actions come with a half-MOA accuracy guarantee.

## THE REAPER

The Reaper is a bolt-action chassis rifle that's built to be light and compact. With its carbon fibre barrel and alloy/carbon fibre chassis, it tips the scale at 7.2 pounds with a fixed stock and 7.8 pounds with the folding stock. Naturally, adding an optic will increase those numbers.

"It fills a niche here because there are no more ARs," said Rob Dykeman of Stag Outdoor Sales, Fierce's Canadian importer. "This is a gun that shoots like a long-range rifle but looks like a tactical rifle."

Based on the Remington 700 platform, the Fierce Reaper's precision-

machined stainless steel receiver is Cerakote coated and available in three colour options, tungsten, armour black and midnight bronze. The bolt is a two-lug design but with a 70-degree throw. It has dual plunger ejectors and a mini claw extractor. Fierce calls the bolt a TAC style and it's fluted. Called the Accurate Mag by Fierce, the metal box magazine is released by a toggle switch on the front of the trigger guard.

The Bix'n Andy Dakota trigger is adjustable from one to three pounds, with a screw in front of the trigger used to adjust pull weight. The action is topped by a 0-MOA included rail.

The Reaper's barrel is a piece of engineering in itself. Made of stainless steel, the barrel is cryogenically stress relief treated. Hand lapped, it is considered match grade, and wrapped in C3 carbon fibre. There are two choices for muzzle brakes, either radial or directional.

Calibres available in the Reaper are 6mm Creedmoor, 6.5 Creedmoor, 6.5 PRC, 7mm Rem Mag, 28 Nosler, 308 Win, 300 Win Mag, 300 PRC and 300 Rem Ultra Mag. Barrel lengths are dependent on calibre but there are also length options available within a calibre. For instance, there are 18-, 20- and 24-inch barrel options in both 6.5 Creedmoor and 308 Win.

The buttstock has an adjustable

length of pull and is fitted with a Limbsaver recoil pad. That buttstock can also be folded to the left by depressing a button. The carbon fibre cheek piece is adjustable by loosening and tightening several screws. The carbon fibre pistol grip is ergonomically designed to fit the hand and works for both left- and right-hand shooters.

Dykeman said the gun was designed for the hunter, with the folding stock making it easy to fit into, or attached to, a backpack.

"While that's what it was originally designed for, a lot of guys are really liking it for its long-range capabilities," he said.

## THE TEST GUN

My test gun came in 308 Winchester with a 20-inch barrel. It came in a Fierce Recon-DLX case. The case has the Fierce logo and graphics sewn in to make an impressive package. It has three pockets on the side and has a pocket and strap to secure the gun inside. The gun was topped with a Zeiss Conquest 4-16x.

It came with the bronze Cerakote receiver and the directional muzzle brake. The latter is designed to force all the gases out the sides, thereby minimizing kicking up dust if the shooter is positioned low to the ground.

With gun in hand, I picked up >



**LEFT:** The Fierce bipod clips easily onto the gun with a rail system. Height and angle adjustments are push-button simple.

several neat aesthetics, including an embossed pattern on both sides that adds to its looks. Also, the word “Reaper” is engraved on both sides on the receiver at the magazine well, with “Fierce” engraved on the top of the receiver on the left side only. The pistol grip is hollow, and the Fierce logo is cut into the pistol grip and is engraved on the bottom of the magazine.

My gun came equipped with a Fierce carbon fibre bipod. It fastened to a Picatinny rail on the bottom of the receiver and removal was easy. Buttons controlled swivelling the legs into place and varying leg length.

#### AT THE RANGE

Bolt removal was easy by pushing a button on the left of the receiver. No tricky operations that required pulling the trigger and pushing a button simultaneously on this gun. With all the features on this gun, one thing I noted is the safety has only two positions, not three.

I found the magazine release was simple to operate with one hand – easier than most, actually. The magazine held five shots in 308 Win.

At the range, I found the bolt on the Reaper operated smoothly. There was absolutely no creep in the trigger pull and it broke consistently at two-and-a-half pounds.

Full disclosure is I have not shot a chassis bolt-action gun before. My testing groups were good for any other rifle, but the Reaper has a half-inch guarantee. A finer reticle in the scope would have helped reach that goal, as would some fine tuning of reloads.

My best group was with Federal 168-grain Berger Hybrid Hunter ammunition, providing a group of 0.597 inches. The Federal Fusion, 180 grains, was next at 0.75 inches. My reloads with 150-grain Nosler Ballistic Tip bullets grouped at 0.79 inches. These were the only 150-grain bullets I had to test. My reloads with 180-grain Barnes bullets didn’t group as well at 1.13 inches. Federal’s Terminal Ascent 180-grain bullets grouped at 0.842 inches and Power Shok 180 grains at 1.20 inches. Many of my groups had two of three

holes touching, but the third was further out. Again, I blame the shooter’s set-up for this. I am quite sure both the gun and the shooter could pull off clover leaves with the right ammunition and set-up.

Be warned, the Reaper isn’t cheap. The website lists the price at \$2,995 USD or \$4,039 CAD. But then guns with these features aren’t cheap and Fierce should be an option for those in the market for an accurate rifle that, as the name suggests, will strike fear in its targets. 🏹



**TOP:** Carbon fibre is used throughout the Reaper to reduce weight. The pistol grip is not only carbon fibre, but also hollow.

**RIGHT:** The cheekpiece and length of pull on the Reaper are both adjustable.



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# BENELLI'S WOLF

Reviewing the Lupu rifle

BY JEFF HELSDON

If an argument could be made that there are rifles which grow on a person, and there are those more akin to love at first sight, for me the Benelli Lupu would fall in the latter category. Lupu is the Italian word for wolf, and this rifle, introduced in 2020, is Benelli's first bolt-action.

I received a Lupu chambered for the 308 Winchester cartridge, and upon opening the box I was immediately struck with how this was a unique-looking gun. Its styling is on the modern side, with even the Open Country camouflage on the stock being the newer digital type. But my feelings for the gun grew upon picking it up, as I was impressed with the balance of the gun in my hands and immediately thought I have never held a rifle that felt this good. At the same time, I



The modern design of the Lupo is complimented by digital camo in the Open Country pattern.

realized the look of the gun would be a love-hate thing and some may not appreciate it to the degree I did.

There are seven new patents on this rifle, and its innovations start at the barrel, which is cryogenically treated to add hardness to the steel. The barrel is free floating and is attached to a steel bedding block that is an extension of the alloy receiver. The muzzle is threaded to allow the addition of a brake.

Another difference in the Lupo is the two-piece stock. Unlike most bolt-action stocks which are one piece, the Lupo has a separate stock and forend, similar to a shotgun. Benelli says the stock was designed with ergonomics being the first consideration. Perhaps this is why it felt so good in my hands. Other ergonomic changes are more subtle, including the design of the forend. The Lupo goes further though, with optional raised cheek pad styles and included inserts which allows the stock length to be varied between 14.2 and 15.2 inches.

Like many shotguns today, including Benelli's, the Lupo comes with a set of shims to customize the drop and cast. With the Lupo, the shims can also adjust trigger reach. And

that trigger is nothing less than impressive, and its adjustability unique. The user opens the bolt and then can access the trigger adjustment through the receiver from above by inserting a wrench on an angle. It can be adjusted between 2.2 and 4.4 pounds.

Benelli also borrows from the company's experience in taming shotgun recoil in the Lupo. A modification of its Progressive Comfort system uses interlacing fingers in the recoil pad that flex to absorb the recoil. The Combtech raised comb is designed to reduce recoil felt to the face by being made of a soft material. Combined, the recoil-reduction technology aids in reducing muzzle jump so the shooter can get back on target quicker.

The rifle's bolt is a three-lug design, so not surprisingly it has a 60-degree bolt lift. Its design includes a rubber-like surface for added grip on the bolt knob, a small feature I have never seen before.

The detachable magazine is a double-stack, polymer affair that can be loaded through the open action even when inserted in the rifle. Experimenting with this, I found it loaded easier from the top than a rifle I have that's designed to be loaded this way.

## SHOOTING TIME

Fitted with a Bushnell 2.5-10 Elite scope, I took the gun to the range for initial sighting in. And pulling the trigger for the first time, I remembered that with a good trigger, the gun firing should be a surprise. I found exactly that. There was no creep at all and the release was crisp. Talking to a friend later, whose passion is shooting tight groups and who often swaps out triggers to achieve this goal, he said he was totally impressed with his Lupo and had stuck with the factory trigger.

My initial range experience was to prepare the gun for a hunting trip and limited to shooting some reloads with Nosler Ballistic Tips I planned on hunting with. My results were groups of less than an inch. I returned later with several types of ammunition to give the gun a real work out.

The Lupo is promoted as a sub-MOA gun, and it proved itself worthy of the advertisements. My results varied, with most loads I tried pulling off sub-MOA three-shot groups at 100 yards. The best three-shot group was with Nosler Match 168-grain and was an incredible 0.29 inches. Federal Terminal Velocity in 178 grains printed



at 0.55 inches. Hornady's Outfitter CX 150-grain was 0.62 inches, but the 165-grain CX didn't shoot well. Federal's ELD-X grouped at 1.10 inches. My reloads with 150-grain Hornady Interlock bullets grouped 0.84 inches.

Although I would want to experiment more, this gun seemed to be less picky with 150-grain bullets. Like many guns, the groups went downhill as the barrel heated up. As for the recoil, it's not worth mentioning in 308 Win.

#### WOLF VERSUS BEAR

I had great visions of pitting this canine against a bear during a spring hunt at Hardwoods and Swamps Outfitters in Ontario. Unfortunately, I was told by camp owner Mike Harrison that the cold snap which preceded my arrival had shut down the bears hitting the baits. This proved accurate as I didn't see any bears during my three-day hunt, despite a good success record on previous week-long hunts. My hopes were high for the last day when Harrison told me the cameras showed the bears were active again, but high winds made hunting unsafe that evening.

The hunt still gave me an opportunity to have the gun in my hands

for many hours. I was impressed and found it was easy to handle in the field and carry on a sling.

#### MODEL CHOICES

The standard Lupo comes with a black polymer stock and is available in nine different calibres. In traditional calibres, the options are 243 Winchester, 270 Winchester, 308 Winchester, 30-06 Springfield, 300 Winchester Magnum and 7mm Remington Magnum. There are three additional options in newer chamberings: 6.5 Creedmoor, 6.5 PRC and 6mm Creedmoor.

The two camouflage versions, in Open Country and Elevated, have a more limited calibre selection, with only 308 Win, 300 Win Mag and 6.5mm Creedmoor available. The same chamberings are also available in the walnut version. Both of these options come with the Benelli BE.S.T. surface treatment, which provides corrosion and abrasion resistance. Depending on options, prices start at about \$1,850 CAD and go up from there.

I think Benelli has a winner with the Lupo, and I would rate it as one of the best hunting rifles I have shot. It's not just a revamp of an existing rifle, but an innovation from the barrel to the stock. 🍷

#### BRINGING BACK THE ELITE LINE

The latest revamping of the Bushnell scope line brought back the Elite, one of the company's former top lines. The current Elite 4500 line was launched at the SHOT Show in 2021, with three different models. The numbering in the Elite line signifies the magnification ratio, which in this case is four times. Current models are 1-4X, 2.5-10X and 4-16X.

All feature a 30-millimetre tube, a locking turret and the improved EXO Barrier coating to protect the lens from water, debris and dirt. Although I didn't have a chance to test the EXO Barrier during wet weather conditions, I own other Bushnells with the predecessor to the latest Barrier and can attest the system does work.

The optic I used on the Lupo was the 2.5-10X version and I found this to be a useful zoom range. I found 2.5X was good for close shots and the 10X magnification worked well at long range. There have also been improvements in light transmission from the older line.

One thing I always liked about Bushnell scopes is the long eye relief. The Elite 4500 is no exception with a generous four inches. The ability to set the turrets to zero without tools is another bonus.

Bushnell has packed a lot of scope for the money into this update and it's worth checking out.

The Lupo is guaranteed to be a sub-MOA rifle, and it easily met that standard.





# SHOTSHELL CHOICES

Hunt-specific loads help ensure success

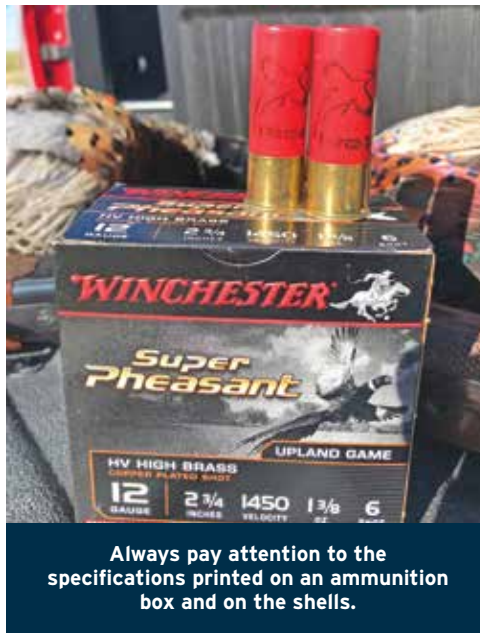
BY KEVIN WILSON

Trailing close behind my friend's lab, Ruby, we watched intently as she scoured every inch of ground in search of a pheasant. Nose to the ground, she suddenly got birdy. Closing in on the scent trail, a luridly coloured rooster exploded from cover. Swinging and shouldering in one motion, I led it accordingly and pulled the trigger. My Super Pheasant load of 1 3/8 ounces of #6 shot connected, plucking the bird from the sky.

Shotguns are used for a broad range of sport hunting. From hunting ducks and geese, and a variety of upland species like grouse, partridge, pheasant and more, to turkey hunting, rabbit hunting and even hunting coyotes, shotshell choices are many. For the purpose of this article, we'll leave bear defense and deer-hunting slugs for another time, but suffice it to say, not all shotshells are created equal. Shot size and weight, the amount of powder packed into each shell and, in some instances, even the wad design affects downrange performance. Indeed, selecting the right shotshell can play a significant role in determining the outcome of a hunt.

## UNDERSTANDING SHOTSHELLS

Choice of shotgun gauge is somewhat straightforward, and often a matter of personal choice. Smaller firearms like the .410 Bore or 20 gauge are usually



Always pay attention to the specifications printed on an ammunition box and on the shells.

chosen by those hunting smaller bird game or, alternatively, those seeking a greater sporting challenge. For good reason, the 12 gauge is most common as it is universally suitable for a wide range of applications. The 10 gauge and 28 gauge are the least common. Regardless of your choice of shotgun though, shotshell considerations and understanding how they work remain more or less consistent across the spectrum.

Shotgun shells are available in a range of shot sizes, including FF, TT, T, B, BB, BBB, #1, #2, #3, #4, #5, #6, #7 1/2

and #8. With birdshot, the larger the number, the smaller each individual pellet is. With smaller pellets, more of them are packed into a single load. Conversely, the smaller the number, the larger the pellets, and therefore less pellets in a single load. It's important to note, however, that the Fs and Ts are significantly less common and #8s are typically only available in lead shot to be used for skeet and trap shooting.

Essentially, each shotshell is made up of a metal base with a primer, a plastic body, propellant powder, a wad and pellets. With most available in 2 3/4 inches and 3-inch lengths, some are also available in 3 1/2 inches. The simplest way to explain the difference is to say that the longer the shell, the more powder and/or shot it's capable of containing. The main difference between loads is the size of the case, amount of powder, the type of wad and the size/weight and type of shot used. A combination of these variables determines the speed or muzzle velocity of the shot when discharged, the killing power and even the consistency or pattern of the shot itself.

Choosing the right hunt-specific shotshell is about more than just killing power though; it's also about finding a balance. The right shotshell will provide sufficient terminal effect, but also not blow the bird or other game

animal to pieces and make it unfit for consumption.

### SHOTSHELL OPTIONS

Technology now presents wing shooters with a plethora of shotshell options. Only a few decades ago, shotgun shells exclusively contained lead pellets. In Canada, hunters are now required to shoot non-toxic (non-lead) loads for many hunting purposes.

Steel is the most cost-effective and common type of non-toxic shot. The biggest challenge with steel is its light weight, so it doesn't carry the same knock-down power as lead. In response, manufacturers have made other non-toxic materials available in the marketplace, including more expensive options like bismuth and tungsten, both of which are heavier than steel and therefore more comparable to lead.

One of the more important considerations when choosing a suitable shotshell is the age and type of shotgun being used. Steel can be hard on the barrel. So, with many older guns, you definitely shouldn't shoot steel. If you have any questions about which non-toxic load is suitable in your gun, be sure to consult a gunsmith. Some are fine, others are not.

As you ponder shotshell choices, base decisions not only on the firearm you'll be using, but also on the species and size of birds or other game you'll be hunting, along with your anticipated shot distances. Few wing shooters are conservative in their consumption of ammunition. Due to the very nature of this shooting activity, ammunition can burn up quickly. In turn, cost may be a legitimate consideration, but it shouldn't be the only factor in determining your decision.

Know that each manufacturer has its own engineering and marketing spin on what makes their shotshells

effective. For duck and goose hunting, for instance, most manufacturers offer an economy load, a mid-range and a top-end shotshell, with each priced accordingly. As an example, Federal has their Premium Black Cloud FS Waterfowl shells with what they call their Flitecontrol Flex wad. This shotshell costs about 40 per cent more than their Speed-Shok waterfowl load. Similarly, Winchester has its newer Blind Side Waterfowl Hex Steel shotshell that's engineered to shoot tighter patterns and hit harder than its more economical Super X, XPERT, High Velocity waterfowl shotshell. Similarly, though, the Blind Side is about double the cost of the more economical shells. I shoot Blind Side a lot and I can tell you it is

deadly. Is it worth the extra money? You'll have to decide for yourself, but I do believe it patterns better and, in turn, shoots more consistently than lower-grade shotshells.

### WATERFOWL LOADS

So, knowing this, how do you choose the most suitable shotshell for your application? Basically, you should consider two main things. First, consider the size of the game you plan to shoot. Second, anticipate the average shot distance.

For greater Canada geese, the most common shot size choices include BB for short-range shooting out to 40 yards and BBB for longer-range geese out to 50 yards. For field or pothole shoot-

Premium ammunition is more effective, but it costs significantly more than bargain ammunition.





Regardless of shotshell choice, it's always a good idea to pattern the load to determine performance in your gun.

ing shorter-range mallards, pintails or even diver ducks finishing in decoys at 20 to 30 yards, #4, #3 and even #2 shot works well. If, however, you plan to shoot longer-range ducks or specks/white-fronted geese out to 40 yards, a #2 or even #1 shot may be a better choice for reaching out and touching them. For snow geese, I really like a specialized snow goose load like a 3-inch Winchester Snow Goose XPERT with 1 1/4 ounces of #1 or #2 shot.

#### UPLAND GAME LOADS

A general rule of thumb for upland bird hunting acknowledges small shot like #7 1/2 is suitable for birds like woodcock, Hungarian (Gray) partridge, ruffed grouse, spruce grouse, blue grouse and sharptails. For closer range pheasants, I really like specialized 2 3/4-inch Winchester Super Pheasant with 1 3/8 ounces of either #5 or #6 shot. That said, if birds are spooky and

longer shots are anticipated, going to shot as big as #4 is not out of the question. In a pinch, when specialized shotshells were unavailable, I've hunted upland gamebirds with #4 shot and it worked alright.

#### TURKEY LOADS

With turkey hunting becoming extremely popular in Canada, I'd be remiss if I didn't mention turkey loads. Generally speaking, #4, #5 and #6 shot sizes are most suitable for turkeys. The biggest challenge is both the size and timidity of wary gobblers. They can be tough, so a head shot is imperative. Whenever possible, I like to again use a specialized longer shell. I've experimented with a bunch of different shotshells for turkey hunting over the last 20 years and my go-to load now is Winchester's 3 1/2-inch Longbeard XR in #5 shot. This 2-ounce load delivers some serious knock-down power.

#### RABBIT ROUNDS

Rabbit hunting is extremely popular in eastern Canada, and I recently took up winter rabbit hunting with beagles myself. Truly sporting, most shots are fast paced as the bunny races through the woods or across open areas. Shot distances can be further, but from what I've experienced so far, most are mid-range opportunities out to 30 yards. Rabbits are not overly tough, so shotshell choices vary greatly. With a proper hit, they expire quickly. To illustrate, I've used a .410 Bore shotgun with #8 shot with great success. My hunting partner likes to use a 20 gauge with a basic #6 shotshell, and I've also used a 12 gauge with a very light #8 skeet load as well. All are more than sufficient for rabbit hunting.

#### COYOTE SHOT

Most varmint hunters like to call using a variety of prey distress or coyote vocalizations to bring predators in close, and that provides the option to use a shotgun. Shots can range from 40 yards to point blank. Shotshell loads for predators are very different than what we would use for wingshooting. Essentially, anything from 12-gauge buckshot to BB loads can work.

The first consideration is length of shell. While just about any lead or plated shotshell can work, I recommend shooting a 3-inch or a 3 1/2-inch shell. Hornady offers what I think is probably one of the most deadly predator loads: their 12-gauge Heavy Magnum Coyote load, a 3-inch shotshell packed with either nickel-plated BBs or 00 buckshot. It incorporates Hornady's Versatite wad to hold pattern density. I can tell you that this load maximizes penetration and is arguably the most effective load for these fur-bearing varmints.

#### DECISION TIME

In the end, the best advice I can give is to buy the finest quality ammunition you can afford. Keep it simple and select ammunition that will work for you. Make sure it's suitable for the type of hunting you plan to do and be sure to check for compatibility with your firearm. The rest will fall into place. 🍀

# A MATTER OF BALANCE

Accuracy or velocity – can we have both?

BY ROSS OEHMS



Although velocity is a necessary part of shooting a rifle cartridge, there are upper limits, which, if exceeded, start to cause problems. In the pre-chronograph days, there was a large amount of educated guessing about velocity, but the availability of relatively cheap chronographs has made the rifleman's life much easier. Yes, we need velocity; but unless it is coupled with accuracy, we are wasting our time and resources. There is a balance to be struck between the two and getting the best of both worlds is sometimes difficult.

## CARTRIDGE & PROJECTILE DESIGN

Some cartridges appear to be inherently accurate and well-balanced; examples such as the 308 Win and the 6.5X55mm certainly come under this heading. The benchrest shooters worked it out years ago with the 6mm PPC cartridge, for which a 68-grain hollow point projectile's velocity should not exceed 3,200 feet per second. Coupled with a proper barrel twist, this loading provides the most consistency from shot to shot, seemingly independent of the rifle.

We need speed, and determining how much is required can take some careful consideration. Getting more of it always requires a larger case and more powder capacity, assuming projectile characteristics remain the same. Of course, it's possible to change projectiles to one with a higher ballistic coefficient (BC) and this can result in higher velocities at extended ranges. But since a higher BC often means increased bullet weight, velocity will be lower at shorter ranges -- just another reason to choose carefully.

There are also expansion consid-

erations. This isn't a factor for target shooters, but for hunters the bullet must be able to expand reliably at the anticipated impact velocity and penetrate into a vital zone. If it doesn't, there's too much risk of losing an animal. And there's the simple fact that all the velocity in the world is useless if you cannot hit your intended target. After all, if your top load produces three-inch groups at 100 yards, you are wasting your time trying to hit a rabbit at 300 yards!

#### FINDING THE BALANCE

I would suggest that most cartridges produce their best accuracy at a velocity somewhat below the maximum safely achievable. Nearly always it becomes a compromise between accuracy and speed. Personally, deciding between the two hasn't caused me any problems, as I always load for accuracy.

With consistent high-pressure loads, cases start to stretch, necks thicken or split and case life may not extend beyond a few firings. As a result, excessive cost suddenly enters the picture. This is a good example of the law of diminishing returns.

Early in my shooting career, my Ruger No. 1 in 22-250 Rem. seemed to prefer 39 grains of Win. 760 powder, one-half grain under the Speer Manual maximum, in Federal cases, and Speer 55-grain soft points. I did not have a chronograph at the time,

but it shot one-inch groups or less consistently. I have no idea if the velocity was anywhere near the book figure of 3,595 feet per second.

Somewhat later, I experimented with 38 grains of Win. 760 powder using magnum rifle primers and this tightened groups up considerably. According to the No. 10 Speer Manual, this load was one-and-a-half grains below the maximum. Although I tried two other powders, none could compete with this last load in terms of accuracy. My more modern Savage LRPV using the same cartridge uses one-and-a-half grains under the book maximum to achieve the best accuracy, using 55-grain projectiles. So, as we all know, different recipes can achieve the same objective.

Velocity consistency is another factor and can be important for accuracy at extended ranges. If this kind of shooting is to be done, small standard deviations are your Holy Grail. Shooters in the long-range and extreme long-range sports go to great lengths to get consistent velocities, as this will dramatically reduce vertical dispersion within a group. At shorter ranges, the effect is much less pronounced and can almost be ignored.

Increasing velocity will also flatten trajectory and reduce flight time. A flatter trajectory means the shooter has less holdover to deal with, while reduced flight time means wind has

less time to move the bullet from its intended path. Both of these can be considerations, depending on the type of shooting being done.

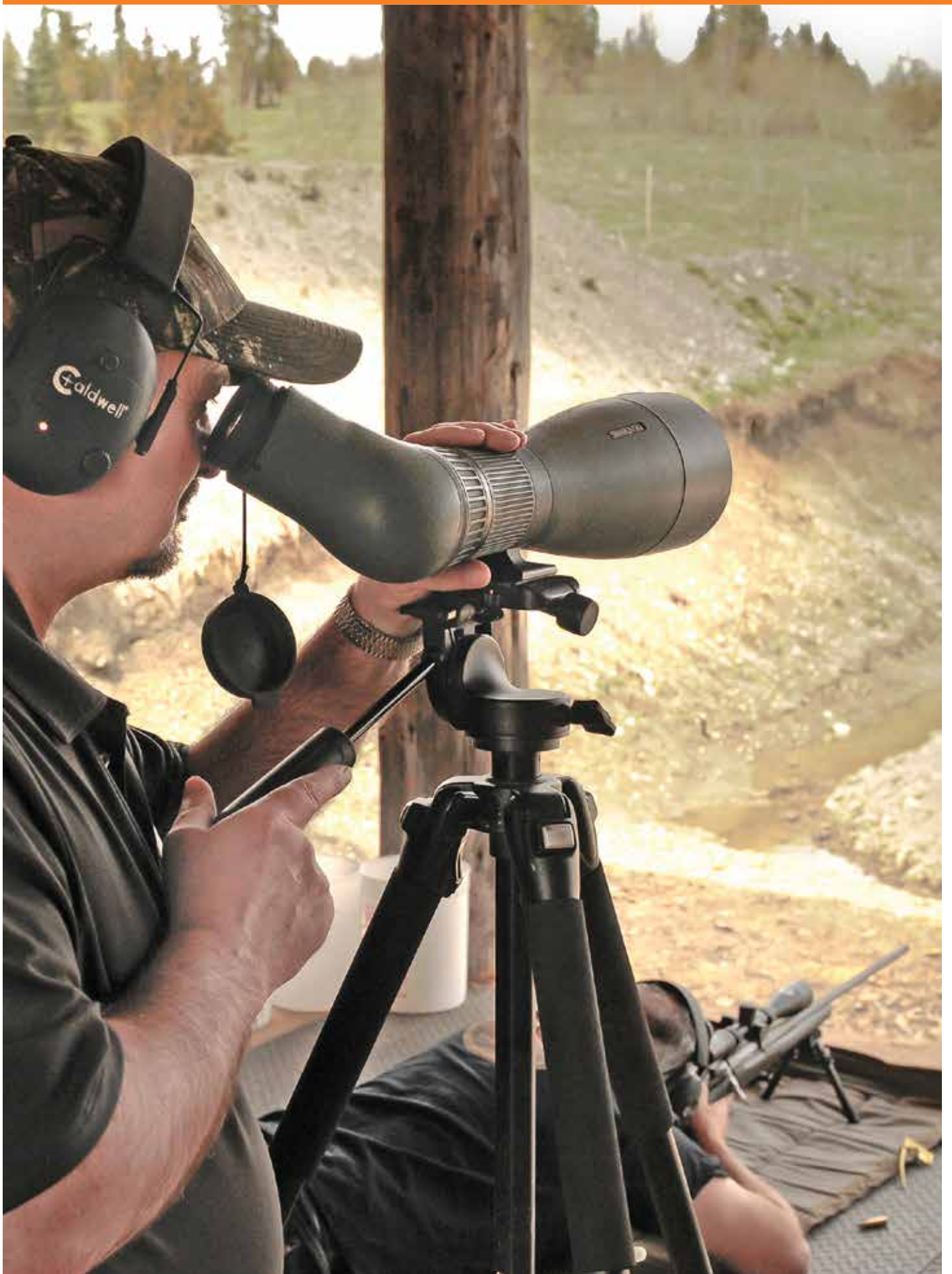
How much velocity do you need from the bullet while enroute to the target, and to perform properly once it gets there? How much precision must your rifle/ammunition combination be capable of to hit the target? These are the questions we need to answer. In any given cartridge, there will always be a balance between velocity and accuracy. For the long-range hunter, this is a major concern, as there's a need to retain energy at long range but it's also necessary to have the accuracy to hit small targets.

#### CHANGES

If you have a library of older hand-loading manuals, you should also be aware that over time many maximum loads quoted in various reloading manuals have changed to lower figures. Many claim this is because of legal liability concerns, but I believe there is another reason: the technology now available to measure internal pressures when a cartridge is fired is much better than it was in years past. So, some loads in the past which may have been deemed okay were actually marginal, hence the change to lower figures.

► Always choose load components carefully and use only trusted sources for recipes. 🏹







# SPOTTING SCOPE BASICS

Seeing hits, misses & targets at a distance

BY LOWELL STRAUSS

I discovered more about spotting scopes in a month of identifying and counting small shorebirds than many learn in a lifetime. Technically, I was no more knowledgeable about the specifications than anyone else. Still, a few hundred hours of glassing tiny flitting birds during a summer assignment taught me about essential features that made my difficult task more possible. Little did I know I would use this experience and these tools many times in my life, including when shooting.

Given the numerous makes, models and features, all varying in price, buying a spotting scope can be daunting. I've had the privilege to use many different brands and models over the years, so let's explore

what I've learned and maybe it'll help focus your own options. There are differences in clarity and ease of use between scopes, so do your research. In the store, it may be hard to decide which is best. Here's what I've unearthed.

## THE BASICS

A spotting scope is a high-magnification optic suited for observing distant objects. Shooters use spotting scopes to see shot impacts or search the landscape for game animals. Scopes magnify more than typical binoculars but usually require a tripod for stability. The eyepiece determines the magnification power, often ranging from 20–60x. Most scopes include a zoom eyepiece, though some are

fixed (one magnification).

The diameter of the objective lens (the big end) determines a spotting scope's light-transmitting ability. Larger lenses let in more light and, therefore, more light reaches the eye, which is handy at dawn, dusk or on overcast days. Standard objective lens sizes range from about 50 millimetres to 80 millimetres.

There are two main shapes of spotting scopes based on the eyepiece alignment. A straight scope has its eyepiece on the same axis as the scope body. Angled scopes feature the eyepiece at an angle to the scope body.

## OBJECTIVE SIZE & MAGNIFICATION

One of the first things you'll notice when looking through spotting scopes is the effect of the objective lens. Because larger objectives allow more light through the scope, the image (what you see) is brighter with more detail, especially in low light. Perfect! Then buy a scope with the biggest objective, right? It's a good idea, but there's no free lunch. Glass is heavy, and a large lens adds weight, a consideration for carrying in the field. Large lenses also tend to be more expensive than smaller ones. From these arguments, you might think I'm opposed to objectives in the 80-millimetre size range. No so, I love the view through a big, bright spotting scope. They are outstanding at the range; however, they're not my first choice in the field.

Objective size and magnification go hand in hand. As magnification >

**LEFT:**  
This short tripod is tall enough for prone and sitting when used with an angled scope.



increases, the amount of light coming through the eyepiece decreases. It's one of the reasons why we don't often see spotting scope eyepieces of more than 60x and why larger objectives work better than smaller objectives at higher magnification.

More power than 60x and you're into the realm of a telescope with massive objective lenses — not practical for the shooting sports. High magnifications also have a narrower field of view and image shake becomes exaggerated.

When testing a spotting scope, evaluate it throughout its zoom range. Look into the dark corners of a retail store while zooming in and see if you can see detail.

In the field, I find myself zooming in as much as possible. However, when animals are most active, dim light prevents seeing detail. I've learned to dial down the magnification at dawn and dusk for the best view.

#### STRAIGHT OR ANGLED

The geometry of the spotting scope makes no noticeable difference in its performance. I prefer straight spotting scopes while standing, sitting or using a window mount. The straight tube expedites finding the target in the field of view at high magnification because it roughly aligns the scope body with the target, making it easier to locate through the eyepiece. For hunting or any shooting sports where you, as a spotter, need to transition between targets quickly, the straight design easily wins.

Angled scopes have their place too. On the windy prairies, I use an angled scope because it keeps the scope lower and more stable (less shaking). Even top-quality scopes are hard to look through if they're waving in the wind. I also use an angled scope when I'm shooting by myself and need to transition between the firearm and the spotting scope.

#### FOCUSING

Being an effective spotter requires



**ABOVE: Stabilizing a spotting scope with a sturdy tripod removes vibrations and shakes that affect image quality. The setup shown here is heavy and stable.**

**RIGHT: Some spotting scopes have interchangeable eyepieces. This model has a 20-60X zoom eyepiece and two fixed 30X eyepieces, one with an MOA reticle and the other a MIL reticle.**



finding and focusing on the target quickly. A large, intuitive focus mechanism — usually an adjustment wheel with coarse texture — makes quick work of this task, even with gloves. It allows both coarse and fine adjustments for razor-sharp focus. Some scopes use a focus knob, while others use a ring the same size as the scope's housing.

#### TRIPODS

I believe the spotting scope is only as good as the platform you're using it from. I've used OK spotting scopes with a good tripod and they got the job done. Conversely, I've used excellent optics on cheap tripods with unsatisfactory results. Of course, a great scope with a solid tripod is best; at the other end of the spectrum are budget scopes on flimsy tripods,

which are horrible.

The tripod (and tripod head) is often an afterthought when buying an optic. I'd recommend setting a budget that includes both a scope and a sturdy tripod. You'll be happier in the end with the results.

Modern carbon fibre tripods offer the best of both worlds: lightweight and stable. However, premium performance comes with a bigger price tag. There are several lightweight, aluminum frame options that still provide good in-the-field performance.

Double-check how high the tripod extends and consider that the scope is most stable with the tripod head on top of the legs and not on an extended central column. I bought a tripod that is rock solid but not tall enough to be used while standing;

but it's good for hunting with my angled spotting scope. Modern tripods designed for field use include a hook for adding weight (like a backpack), which further enhances stability.

Window mounts provide a stable mounting system for glassing from the comfort of your vehicle. Vibrations from a running vehicle travel through the mount and cause shake, so it's best to turn off the vehicle while glassing from your seat.

### OPTIC QUALITY

The market includes many reputable brands, and competition continues to raise the bar in terms of value and quality. Brand loyalists may only consider models from their favorites; however, I would encourage you to look through as many different scopes as possible before laying down hard-earned cash, no matter what your budget. Brands worth considering include Leupold, Vortex, Swarovski, Zeiss, Meopta, Hawke, Kowa, Nikon, Bushnell, Burris, Vanguard and more.

To learn more about what's new and trending in spotting scopes, I spoke with Swarovski's Evan Dextraze about the company's new line of compact spotting scopes.

"We're excited about these new ATC and STC compact spotting scopes," he said. "The size and design

cut as much weight as possible while still providing an amazing image. We think this versatile scope meets the needs of most hunters and shooters, from the mountains to the range, in a lightweight package."

Judging by the specs, this scope hits the sweet spot for magnification (17-40x) and objective size (56 millimetres). The ATC/STC, with its 17x low-end magnification, can be handheld using an innovative half-shell or mounted on a tripod for higher magnification use.

The new Swarovski ATC/STC is compatible with Swarovski's variable phone adapter, which opens the possibility of digiscoping — using a phone or camera to record video or photos through your scope. From photographing wildlife, to documenting a hunt, to after-the-shot analysis, the ability to digiscope enhances a spotting scope's capabilities. Digiscoping adapters are made by optics companies and aftermarket manufacturers, so whichever brand you choose, there is likely an adapter made for your scope.

### RETICLES

Some spotting scopes include a graduated reticle. In target shooting, this is useful with two-person teams where a spotter calls corrections for a shooter. It's also useful for measuring

target size (known distance) or range finding (known target size), though both calculations require estimation and field math. Range finding with a laser is much more precise but uses extra equipment.

Reticles come in minute of angle (MOA) or milliradian (MRAD or mils) versions and, when used for shot correction, should match the reticle units used in the riflescope. In most scopes with reticles, the lines are always visible. Swarovski took an innovative approach to this as well, explained Dextraze. "The illuminated reticle in Swarovski's ATS 80 spotting scope can be turned on when judging hits and misses and turned off for an unobstructed view during observation."

### FINAL LOOK

A spotting scope enhances the enjoyment of shooting sports. However, a poor-quality scope or shaky tripod can cause more frustration than fun, so choose wisely. After my summer of identifying and counting shorebirds, I ended up realizing that the clarity and focus of my optics were critically important. Take time to test out different brands and models. Buy the best you can afford, including that tripod and head. Then enjoy the clear view that optics suited to your needs can offer. 🦋

**RIGHT:**  
Typically spotting scopes are used with a tripod, but on low magnification, handholding a scope allows a faster option for observation.





# ELEVATE YOUR HANDLOADING

Tools to save time & improve accuracy

BY TIMOTHY FOWLER



Hornady's ultrasonic cleaner and case dryer speed up the process of making several hundred cases shiny again.

**F**irst, a definition: Rabbit warren: a network of interconnected rabbit burrows.

If guns and the shooting sports can be described as rabbit holes, handloading is a rabbit warren. Everything is connected, with a myriad of tools, tricks and processes to explore. The combination of rocketing ammunition prices and reduced availability is encouraging shooters to consider handloading. But once a handloader has mastered the process of assembling factory-equivalent ammunition with a basic handloading kit, what's next?

Next level handloaders tend to go in one of two directions. The choices are speed and increased output or improved accuracy. Although, to be fair, there are some processes which accomplish both goals. What follows is a dozen additions to a loading bench that will give handloaders the potential to derive more value from their handloading efforts and more consistent results. Most of these choices reflect my goal of more output and timesaving while maintaining acceptable accuracy.

## DE-PRIMING DIE

Most resizing dies can be set to remove a primer, with this normally happening during the resizing step. But a de-priming die has the sole function of knocking the primer out. They are versatile in that one die will remove the primers from a wide variety of different cartridges. Using one of these dies leaves the case unsized so the handloader can move to the cleaning process prior to sizing and not worry about getting grit embedded into a sizing die. >

## ULTRASONIC CLEANER

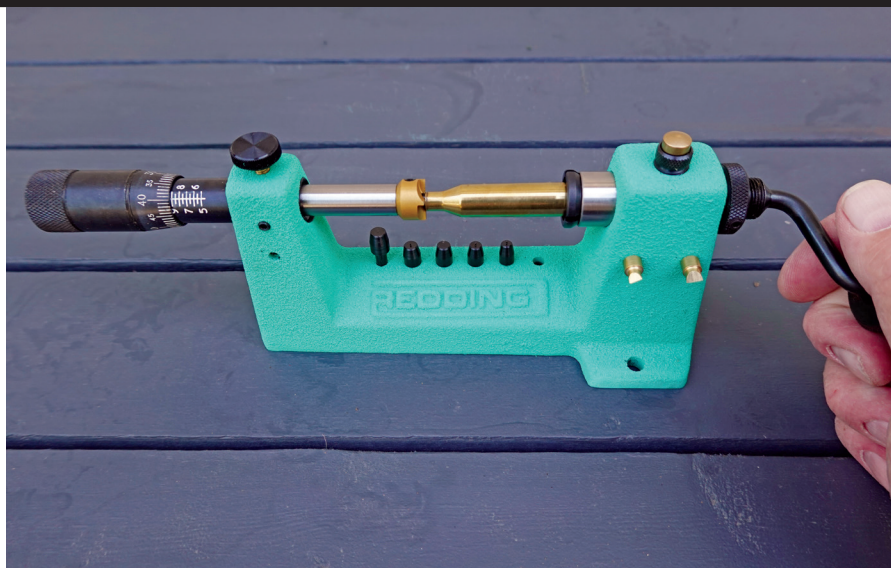
Handloaders love shiny brass, especially if said brass is carbon-covered or otherwise lacking luster. While standard vibratory cleaners do a pretty good job of cleaning brass, there is no process like ultrasonic cleaning to remove caked-on carbon. Hornady's Lock-N-Load Sonic Cleaner 2L will make several hundred 223 Remington cases or half that many 308 Winchester cases shiny every cycle.

## CASE DRYER

Cases cleaned in the ultrasonic cleaner need to be rinsed in clear water and dried. F-class reloader Bob Raymond uses distilled water to rinse his cases. The drying part can be a nuisance, but the Hornady Lock-N-Load Digital Case and Parts Dryer works perfectly to quickly and fully dry cases coming from the ultrasonic cleaner. This same piece of equipment efficiently dries gun parts too.

## SECOND OR UPGRADED PRESS

Once cases are clean, they need to be sized. I've added a Redding T7 tur-



The Redding case trimmer is designed to rotate the case instead of the cutter.

ret press as my second press, but it quickly took the predominate space on my loading bench. The interchangeable heads let me set up a die for a particular round and leave it locked into that setting. This speeds up the die change-over required when switching to a

different calibre. Placing a sizing and seating die next to each other in the turret makes simple work of switching from sizing to seating with just a partial rotation of the head. Adding a press is mostly about timesaving, but having dies consistently set and not having to adjust each one every time I set up the press for a particular round impacts consistency too.

This collection of hand tools by Redding allows full case preparation by hand — after trimming.



## CASE TRIMMING

I have and use two case trimmers. The Redding Model 2400 Precision Trimmer rotates the case instead of the cutter when trimming and has a micrometer with 0.001-inch adjustments. This one remains set for my 223 Remington, the round I shoot hundreds of every summer. The second trimmer, a 20-plus-year-old RCBS, has trimmed thousands of cases and is still going strong. I set this up for whatever cases are on the bench needing to be trimmed at that moment.

## CASE PREPARATION

Redding makes an affordable and comprehensive collection of hand tools. The fact these hand tools are portable means you can complete these functions at the picnic table or from a comfy chair in your backyard.

Chamfering. Once trimmed, case mouths need to be chamfered inside and out. Redding's piloted adjustable chamfer tool indexes off the flash hole to ensure concentric cuts are squared to the case head. The tool is adjustable to fit various case lengths.

Uniform primer pockets. The primer

pocket uniformer is a precision tool made from carbide and is designed to cut primer pockets to a uniform depth and perfectly square to the case head. I acquired their hex adaptor, as well, to attach the cutter to my cordless drill, speeding up this step. Primer pocket uniformers come in two sizes to match primer formats.

Deburr flash holes. The flash hole deburring tool is designed to remove burrs that may result from case manufacture. This tool requires calibre-specific pilots to function properly. The user controls the depth of the cut.

Clean case necks and primer pockets. The case preparation kit includes three brushes to remove residue from inside case necks from .22 to .45 calibre. This package includes the tool handle, as well as wire brush primer pocket cleaners for both large and small primer sizes.

#### PRIMING CASES

Most handloading presses come with an integral priming tool, but there are advantages to using a handheld version. Long-range shooting competitors are fans, as am I, of the 21st Century

hand priming tool. This tool features an adjustment ring, allowing the seating depth to be set in increments to seat a primer perfectly.

#### POWDER DISPENSING

An electronic powder dispenser is on my Christmas wish list, but in the meantime, I use Redding's Competition Powder Measure PR-50. Redding says its sweet spot is cases that require 50 to 60 grains of powder, but the measure will accommodate 35 to 75 grains of powder. I find this measure gives me a combination of consistent charge weights and dispensing speed for cartridges like the 308 Winchester. Redding produces four such powder measures, each with increased capacity and engineered for specific target charge weights.

#### BULLET SEATING

While standard die sets come complete with bullet seating dies, I have opted to add Redding Competition seating die sets for a couple of calibres where I want to improve accuracy. Being able to use a micrometer to adjust and set bullet seating depth is wonderfully simple with these dies.

#### JUST DIVE IN

While the initial motivation to head down the handloading rabbit hole is often about cost savings, improved accuracy or custom needs normally follow. But today, supply chain issues resulting in several gaps on gun store ammunition shelves are a valid driver bringing new handloaders to the hobby. However, stocks of handloading supplies can vary widely too, so keep a running list of what you need now and what you will need in the next six to 12 months. I recommend buying equipment and components when and where you find them.

Robin Sharpless, executive vice-president of Redding Reloading Equipment, said, "Demand for our reloading equipment remains strong, with exports continuing to run very hot. Our purchase of over a dozen new CNC machining centres and adding more personnel are getting the shipping times back to a level where we are happier."

Handloading equipment is an investment expected to pay dividends in time saved and improved accuracy. However, no matter what your goals are, enjoy the process. It's fun down here. 🍷

This is the author's favourite hand priming tool because of the easy-to-adjust seating depth ring.







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# GETTING HITS

Improving upland bird shooting skills

**BY DUANE RADFORD**

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**W**hile the season for upland birds might still be some time away, if you're keen on improving upland game bird shooting skills now is when you should get serious and make some plans to become a better shot.

First, to become a competent shot, you must be intimately familiar with your shotgun. Further, you must also practice shooting so that aiming and firing becomes more or less automatic. Windows for shot opportunities at upland birds are often brief at best, with little time to think. If you find yourself overthinking your shot opportunities, you probably haven't practiced enough.

You also have to control your emotions while shooting and remain calm, so you don't lose your focus on the target. While it's understandable that the cackle of a flushed cock pheasant or the unnerving racket that a ruffed grouse makes as it takes flight can rattle even an experienced hunter, you can't let emotions override your focus.

I've twice shot triples on pheasants and have several doubles on grey partridge and ruffed grouse, both difficult targets. I chalk up this success to practice at the range, field experience and an understanding of the biology and behaviour of upland birds.

## RANGE WORK

Most shots at upland birds are crossing slightly from the left or right, or they are simple straight-aways, so shooting at a trap range simulates these kinds of situations. Actually, if you're hunting with a pointer, it's much like yelling "pull" at a range prior to the release of a clay target.

Trap shooting is a good way to practice picking up a target, leading it if necessary, and firing at the right moment. Beyond this, practice at a skeet range will take you to another level with high and low house targets shot as singles and doubles that are more complicated, as leads can be tricky. Finally, time spent at a sporting clays range, where almost anything can happen, will provide the ultimate simulated field shooting experience to integrate what you've learned at both trap and skeet ranges.

There's no substitute for time spent shooting clays. You have to be able to get your sight on target, figure out various leads and time the shot. It's also important to just get familiar with your shotgun so you can operate the controls, including the safety, quickly and efficiently.

Once you've become a competent shot at the range, you're ready to test your skills in the field.

## EFFECTIVE SHOTGUN DISTANCES

One thing to remember about upland birds is that they typically rise from the ground vertically until they gain a cruising altitude, then they level off in flight. I suggest trying to hold fire until they've levelled off because shooting at a rising target is more complicated. This makes range estimation important. I've found the maximum effective range of 12- and 20-gauge shotguns on upland birds is about 50 yards. Your practice with clay targets will help your ability to estimate effective distances in the field.

Shot pellet density drops over distance and so we need to predict, at least approximately, how many pellets will hit a target at a given distance. An approximate formula is X inches of spread at X yards," which means that the effective pattern spread is 20 inches at 20 yards, 30 inches at 30 yards and so on.

According to Remington Arms, "Most hunters use the 40/40 method, which is a 40-inch spread at 40 yards." Remington claims that 40 yards is likely the maximum effective range of #7 1/2 birdshot; however, in my experience, the outer limit is about 50 yards. This, of course, depends on the choke setting, whether you're using steel or lead shot and the size of the >

game bird. However, if you use the 40/40 method, you know the spread is 40 inches at 40 yards. Beyond 40 yards, killing shots are still feasible but the impact of pellets diminishes.

Head shots or broken wings usually down game birds, and often only a single pellet will be responsible. I never cease to be amazed at how some pellets find their way through branches and tangles in an aspen stand to down a grouse, but they do.

### PATTERNING

The only way you'll know how many pellets are going to be on target is by patterning your shotgun at a range. Patterning reports typically feature hit percentages in a 30-inch circle at 40 yards. By way of example, I test fired my 12-gauge A5 Stalker at a distance of 25 yards using #2 shot and BBB shot because my local range was not set up to pattern shotguns at the standard 40 yards. All tests were done using a full choke and repeated three times.

Previous researchers have found there should be a 30 per cent de-



●●●

Considering the amount of walking involved in hunting upland birds, a lightweight shotgun like this Browning 20-gauge is ideal.



●●●

Let birds rise to their cruising altitude before taking the first shot.



●●●  
**Knowing the effective range of your shotgun/ammunition combination results in clean kills.**

crease in pattern percentages at 40 yards compared to 25 yards when using a full choke. By extrapolation, it's technically possible to calculate how effective the A5 Stalker would be at 40 yards. After considering the 30 per cent decrease, 63.8 per cent of the #2 shot pellets would have hit the

target at 40 yards, compared with 64.3 percent of the BBB shot. These results illustrate that at about 50 yards, killing shots are doable, especially if you're using a full choke.

**WEIGHT & LENGTH**

Nowadays, I do all my upland game

bird hunting with a 20-gauge shotgun, usually with an improved cylinder choke. I fire either #6 or #7 1/2 game bird loads and find they are deadly up to about 50 yards. For many years, I shot a 20-gauge Model 1100 Remington semi-auto. A few years ago, I switched to an even lighter, shorter pump-action Browning BPS Special with a 22-inch barrel that's deadly on grouse. Often, you'll have to cover a lot of ground when hunting upland birds, so firearm weight can be an issue.

I think I got off to a good start by shooting ground squirrels and grouse in the head with an open sighted .22 calibre rimfire rifle as a kid. There's an overlap between rifle and shotgun shooting skills, both of which are founded on proper training and repetitive practice. I was fortunate to have an opportunity to hone my shotgun shooting skills at trap and skeet ranges and then refine them at sporting clays ranges. You can do the same because good shots are not born, they're made by repetitive practice until shooting becomes second nature. 🦷



●●●  
**Practice on clay targets is a first step to becoming a good shot on birds.**



# Legal corner

Guy Lavergne, Attorney at Law

## Travelling With A Firearm



The rules for traveling with a firearm on a commercial airline differ from those when chartering a bush plane.

Les règles afférentes au transport d'une arme à feu sur un vol commercial diffèrent de celles qui s'appliquent lors du nolisement d'un avion de brousse.

As gun owners, we may wish to travel with a firearm, whether to participate in a competition, to go hunting or merely for recreational purposes. Before doing so, it is advisable to know and understand the applicable rules to avoid unpleasant and costly surprises.

The applicable rules will depend upon the destination, the mode of travel and the type of firearm one wishes to travel with. Hereafter is a brief overview of the rules that apply to travelling from and within Canada. Obviously, for the purposes of this discussion, I assume that the traveller is duly licensed to possess the firearms with which they wish to travel and that the firearms in question are duly registered, whenever applicable.

### DOMESTIC TRAVEL

By domestic travel, I mean travelling to and from a location within Canada, without a stopover or connection in a foreign country. Obviously, this is the simplest situation, as it does not

entail any import/export or foreign law considerations.

### DOMESTIC TRAVEL WITH NON-RESTRICTED FIREARMS

If travelling by car and only crossing provincial borders, the situation is akin to intra-provincial travel, unless the firearms are classified as restricted or prohibited. Thus, an individual travelling to another province with non-restricted firearms need only be concerned with storage and transportation rules, which I will not review here. While the firearms are in the car, the transportation rules apply. During a stopover, the transportation rules continue to apply if the firearms remain in the car. If they are taken out and brought into a hotel room, the storage rules arguably apply, unless they are under the immediate attention of the owner.

If a car is left with a hotel valet, it is likely preferable to take the firearms out of the car, lock them up in the trunk and use a valet key, so that the valet does not have access to the car

trunk (if the car has a locked trunk).

### DOMESTIC TRAVEL WITH RESTRICTED FIREARMS OR 12(G)/12(?) HANDGUNS

Travelling with these types of a firearm entails additional restrictions. First, an authorization to transport (ATT) is required. If the destination is outside of the traveller's home province, the situation will not be covered by the ATT that is issued as a matter of law as a condition of the traveller's RPAL. A separate ATT must be applied for with your provincial chief firearms officer (CFO), who has discretion to refuse it for any reasonable grounds. The most common occurrence would be to participate in a competition. In such circumstances, be ready to provide proof that you are entered in the competition in question when applying for the ATT.

As with any ATT, the one issued for your trip will contain a condition stating you must travel to and from your destination by a reasonably direct route. It would be advisable

to make your hotel reservations in advance and to mention the hotel locations in your ATT application. You may also ask the CFO to be authorized to store your restricted/prohibited firearms in your hotel room during your trip. Failing such authorization, you may have to leave your firearms in your locked car. In such an event, you will be restricted as to where you may go, since your firearms will be in the car. You will be restricted to commuting with your car only between the hotel and the range where the competition is held, without the possibility of going anywhere else. Any other travel during your trip will have to be on foot or via public transit, and without your restricted firearms.

Speaking of public transit, Quebec has a rule precluding possession of firearms in public transit, except for taxis.

#### AIR TRAVEL

For domestic air travel, the same considerations apply. However, there are rules specific to air travel that must also be complied with. A distinction must also be made between travelling on a commercial airline and chartering a bush plane to go hunting.

Obviously, a bush plane will only be chartered for hunting, and hunting with restricted firearms is prohibited. For a bush plane charter, the only restriction would be to ensure that the firearms are not loaded. I would suggest that they be trigger-locked or stored in a locked case, because there is a possibility that they will be handled by a non-licensed third party.

For commercial airline travel, a firearm cannot be brought inside the plane's cabin. All firearms must be packed in a locked, hard-sided container. You must declare all firearms, firearm parts, bullets and cartridges to the airline during check-in. Additional baggage and handling fees may be applicable. Ammunition must be transported in your checked baggage, in the original containers (commercial cartridge boxes). MTM cases are likely not acceptable. It is probably OK to pack reloads in commercial cartridge boxes.

If you hunt with a muzzleloader, you are precluded from boarding the plane with your gun powder, since it is considered as an explosive. You will have to either ground ship it or buy some at your destination.

#### INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL

Applicable rules for international travel with firearms will depend upon the country of destination and any other country through which you may transit/connect on your way there.

Once you have crossed Canada's border, you are no longer subject to Canadian laws but rather to the laws of the country which you have entered. It is incumbent upon you to find out what those laws are and follow the applicable rules. It is advisable to do so well in advance and be prepared.

There may be rules applicable to entering the foreign country with a firearm, as well as rules pertaining to possession and transportation after entry. Since there are so many possibilities, reviewing them all would be a tremendous task that goes well beyond the purview of this column.

If travelling to a country that is a federation (such as the US or Mexico), you may want to enquire about both federal and state/provincial laws. For example, the US allows any person to enter the country with firearms, provided they have obtained an ATF-6 (temporary import license) authorization, but certain US states may restrict non-residents from possessing certain types of firearms. By way of example, a few years back, the state of New York did not allow non-residents to possess handguns, except for participation in sanctioned shooting competitions.

An ATF-6 license requires that the applicant hold a US hunting license (any state) or an invitation to participate in a shooting event. Membership in a US gun club has been deemed an acceptable basis to apply for an ATF-6 in recent years. ATF-6 licenses are specific to certain firearms and ammunition. When you apply, make sure to declare all the firearms and type and amount of ammunition that you may eventually travel with. Failing to do so may trigger the need to re-apply. Obtaining an ATF-6 may take several weeks, so plan accordingly.

If the firearms you intend to travel with are classified as restricted, you will be required to obtain an ATT to travel to a Canadian port of exit (either a border crossing or airport) and from a port of entry upon coming back. Until recently, such an ATT was included as a matter of law as a

condition of your firearms licence, but this is no longer the case.


About two years ago, because of the enactment of certain provisions of Bill C-71, the Canadian Firearms Program reverted to the old system, where an express ATT is required. Even if you believe that you have such an ATT, because your firearms licence conditions say so, that ATT is no longer valid. You would commit a criminal offence by relying upon such outdated paperwork.

The firearms and ammunition that you left with must be returned to Canada, except of course for the ammunition that is consumed over the course of your trip. Foreign legislation will likely prohibit you from selling or otherwise transferring your firearms and ammunition.

#### COMING BACK TO CANADA

Upon coming back to Canada, you will be required to declare your firearms and ammunition. Please ensure that you have all required documents. If you have bought firearms and ammunition abroad, you may need both an export license from the country of origin and an import license to bring them to Canada. Failing to obtain either may get you acquainted with the criminal justice system.

By way of example, the US has a set of rules known as the International Trading in Arms Regulations (ITAR). ITAR requires that any person leaving the US with firearms, ammunition, firearm components and accessories first obtain an export licence. That is the reason why so few US firearms businesses ship to Canada, and why it is costly to do so. Thankfully, there are exceptions, including antiques (by US standards). An ATF-6 license also exempts the holder from obtaining an export license, but only in respect of the specific firearms and ammunition that were temporarily imported. An ATF-6 is not a license to buy ammunition in the US and export it to Canada.

Recent amendments to Bill C-21 will require that ammunition not only be declared upon entering Canada (including upon re-entry), but also that a valid firearms licence be exhibited. Those provisions are not yet in effect but will be soon. 



# Rubrique Juridique

Guy Lavergne, avocat

## Voyager Avec Une Arme À Feu

**E**n tant que propriétaires d'armes à feu, il est possible que nous souhaitons voyager avec une arme à feu, que ce soit pour participer à une compétition, pour aller à la chasse ou simplement à des fins récréatives. Avant de le faire, il est conseillé de connaître et de comprendre les règles applicables afin d'éviter les mauvaises surprises, lesquelles pourraient s'avérer coûteuses.

Les règles applicables dépendront de la destination, du mode de déplacement et du type d'arme à feu avec laquelle on souhaite voyager. Vous trouverez ci-dessous un bref aperçu des règles qui s'appliquent aux voyages en provenance et à l'intérieur du Canada. Évidemment, aux fins de cette discussion, je présume que le voyageur est dûment autorisé à posséder les armes à feu avec lesquelles il souhaite voyager et que les armes à feu en question sont dûment enregistrées, lorsque requis par la loi.

### VOYAGES INTÉRIEURS

Par voyage intérieur, j'entends voyager à destination et en provenance d'un endroit au Canada, sans escale ni correspondance dans un pays étranger. Évidemment, c'est la situation la plus simple, car elle n'implique aucune considération d'importation/exportation ou de droit étranger.

### VOYAGES INTÉRIEURS AVEC DES ARMES À FEU SANS RESTRICTION

Si vous voyagez en voiture et ne traversez que des frontières provinciales, la situation s'apparente à un voyage intraprovincial, à moins que les armes à feu ne soient classées comme étant à autorisation restreinte ou prohibées. Ainsi, une personne qui se rend dans une autre province avec des armes à feu sans restriction n'a qu'à se préoccuper des règles d'entreposage et de transport, que je n'examinerai pas ici. Pendant que les armes à feu sont dans la voiture, les règles de transport s'appliquent.

**During a stopover, transportation rules continue to apply if the firearms remain in the vehicle.**

**Lors d'une escale, les règles afférentes au transport continuent de s'appliquer lorsque les armes à feu demeurent à bord du véhicule.**



Lors d'une escale, les règles de transport continuent de s'appliquer si les armes à feu restent dans la voiture. Si elles en sont sorties et apportées dans une chambre d'hôtel, les règles d'entreposage s'appliquent vraisemblablement, à moins que les armes à feu ne soient sous l'attention immédiate du propriétaire.

Si une voiture est laissée avec un voiturier d'hôtel, il est probablement préférable de sortir les armes à feu de la voiture, ou de les remettre dans le coffre et d'utiliser une clé de voiturier, afin que le voiturier n'ait pas accès au coffre de la voiture (si la voiture a un coffre verrouillé).

### VOYAGES INTÉRIEURS AVEC DES ARMES À FEU À AUTORISATION RESTREINTE OU DES Armes De Poing Prohibées Visées Aux Paragraphes 12(6)/12(7) De La Loi Sur Les Armes À Feu

Voyager avec ces types d'armes à feu entraîne des restrictions supplémentaires. Tout d'abord, une autorisation de transport (AT) est requise. Si la destination est à l'extérieur de la province de résidence du voyageur, la situation ne sera pas couverte par l'AT qui est délivrée en vertu de la loi comme condition rattachée au permis. Une AT distincte doit être demandée auprès du contrôleur des armes à feu (CAF) de votre province. Ce dernier a le pouvoir discrétionnaire de la refuser pour tout motif raisonnable. Le scénario le plus commun est de voyager pour participer à une compétition. Dans de telles circonstances, soyez prêt à fournir

la preuve que vous êtes inscrit à la compétition en question lors de votre demande d'AT.

Comme pour toute AT, celle émise pour votre voyage contiendra une condition stipulant que vous devez voyager vers et depuis votre destination par un itinéraire raisonnablement direct. Il serait conseillé de faire vos réservations d'hôtel à l'avance et de mentionner les emplacements du ou des hôtels dans votre demande ATT. Vous pouvez également demander au CAF d'être autorisé à entreposer vos armes à feu à autorisation restreinte ou prohibées dans votre chambre d'hôtel pendant votre voyage. À défaut d'une telle autorisation, vous devrez peut-être laisser vos armes à feu dans votre voiture verrouillée. Dans ce cas, vous serez limité quant aux endroits où vous pourrez aller, puisque vos armes à feu seront dans la voiture. Vous serez limité à faire la navette avec votre voiture uniquement entre l'hôtel et le champ de tir où se déroule la compétition, sans possibilité d'aller ailleurs. Tout autre déplacement pendant votre voyage devra se faire à pied ou en transport en commun, et sans vos armes à feu à autorisation restreinte.

Parlant de transport en commun, le Québec a une règle interdisant la possession d'armes à feu dans les transports en commun, sauf pour les taxis.

### VOYAGE AÉRIEN

Pour les voyages aériens intérieurs, les mêmes considérations s'appliquent. Cependant, il existe des règles spécifiques au transport aérien qui

doivent également être respectées. Une distinction doit également être faite entre voyager sur une compagnie aérienne commerciale et affréter un avion de brousse pour aller à la chasse.

De toute évidence, un avion de brousse ne sera affrété que pour la chasse et la chasse avec des armes à feu à autorisation restreinte est interdite. Pour un affrètement d'avion de brousse, la seule restriction serait de s'assurer que les armes à feu ne sont pas chargées. Je suggérerais qu'elles soient car il est possible qu'elles soient manipulées par un tiers non autorisé.

Pour les voyages en avion commercial, une arme à feu ne peut pas être apportée dans la cabine de l'avion. Toutes les armes à feu doivent être emballées dans un contenant verrouillé à parois rigides. Vous devez déclarer toutes les armes à feu, pièces d'armes à feu, balles et cartouches à la compagnie aérienne lors de l'enregistrement. Des frais supplémentaires de bagages et de documentation peuvent s'appliquer. Les munitions doivent être transportées dans vos bagages enregistrés, dans les boîtes d'origine (boîtes de cartouches commerciales). Les boîtes de type MTM ne sont probablement pas acceptables.

Si vous chassez avec une arme à chargement par la bouche, il vous est interdit de monter à bord de l'avion avec votre poudre, car elle est considérée comme un explosif. Vous devrez soit l'expédier par voie terrestre, soit en acheter à destination.

## VOYAGES INTERNATIONAUX

Les règles applicables aux voyages internationaux avec des armes à feu dépendront du pays de destination et de tout autre pays par lequel vous devrez transiter pour vous y rendre.

Une fois que vous avez traversé la frontière canadienne, vous n'êtes plus assujetti aux lois canadiennes, mais plutôt aux lois du pays dans lequel vous êtes entré. Il vous incombe de vous renseigner sur ces lois et de suivre les règles applicables. Il est conseillé de le faire bien à l'avance et d'être préparé.

Il peut y avoir des règles applicables à l'entrée dans le pays étranger avec une arme à feu, ainsi que des règles relatives à la possession et au transport après l'entrée. Comme il y a

tellement de possibilités, les examiner toutes est une tâche énorme qui va bien au-delà de la portée de cette chronique.

Si vous voyagez dans un pays qui est une fédération (comme les États-Unis ou le Mexique), vous voudrez peut-être vous renseigner sur les lois fédérales et sur celles des subdivisions territoriales que vous visiterez. Par exemple, les États-Unis autorisent toute personne à entrer dans le pays avec des armes à feu et munitions, à condition d'avoir obtenu une autorisation ATF-6 (permis d'importation temporaire), mais certains États américains peuvent interdire aux non-résidents de posséder certains types d'armes à feu. À titre d'exemple, il y a quelques années, l'État de New-York n'autorisait pas les non-résidents à posséder des armes de poing, sauf pour participer à des compétitions de tir sanctionnées. Un permis ATF-6 exige que le demandeur soit titulaire d'un permis de chasse américain (n'importe quel État) ou d'une invitation à participer à une compétition de tir. L'adhésion à un club de tir américain est maintenant considérée comme une base acceptable pour demander un ATF-6. Les autorisations ATF-6 sont spécifiques à certaines armes à feu et munitions. Lorsque vous présentez une demande, assurez-vous de déclarer toutes les armes à feu ainsi que le type et la quantité de munitions avec lesquelles vous pourriez éventuellement voyager. Ne pas le faire peut entraîner la nécessité de présenter une nouvelle demande. L'obtention d'une autorisation ATF-6 peut prendre plusieurs semaines; planifiez en conséquence!

Si les armes à feu avec lesquelles vous avez l'intention de voyager sont classées comme étant à autorisation restreinte, vous devrez obtenir une AT pour vous rendre à un point de sortie (poste frontalier ou aéroport) et pour revenir d'un point d'entrée à votre retour. Alors que jusqu'à récemment, une telle autorisation était automatiquement émise comme condition rattachée à votre permis d'armes à feu, ce n'est plus le cas. Il y a environ deux ans, en raison de l'adoption de certaines dispositions du projet de loi C-71, le Programme canadien des armes à feu (PCAF) est


revenu à l'ancien système, où une AT expresse est requise. Même si vous croyez avoir une telle AT, parce que les conditions de votre permis d'armes à feu l'indiquent, cette autorisation n'est plus valide. Vous commettriez une infraction criminelle en vous appuyant sur ce document périmé.

Vos armes à feu et munitions doivent être ramenées au Canada, à l'exception bien sûr des munitions consommées au cours de votre voyage. La législation étrangère vous interdira probablement de vendre ou de transférer autrement vos armes à feu et vos munitions à l'étranger.

## REVENIR AU CANADA AVEC DES ARMES À FEU ET DES MUNITIONS

À votre retour au Canada, vous devrez déclarer vos armes à feu et vos munitions. Veuillez donc vous assurer d'avoir tous les documents requis. Si vous avez acheté des armes à feu et des munitions à l'étranger, vous pourriez avoir besoin d'un permis d'exportation du pays d'origine (par exemple, les États-Unis) et d'un permis d'importation pour les apporter au Canada. Ne pas obtenir l'un ou l'autre peut vous familiariser avec le système de justice pénale.

À titre d'exemple, les États-Unis disposent d'un ensemble de règles connues sous l'acronyme ITAR. L'ITAR exige que toute personne qui désire exporter des armes à feu, des munitions, des composants et des accessoires d'armes à feu obtienne d'abord une licence d'exportation. C'est la raison pour laquelle si peu d'entreprises américaines d'armes à feu expédient au Canada, et pourquoi il est coûteux de le faire. Heureusement, il y a des exceptions, dont les antiquités (selon les normes américaines). Une autorisation ATF-6 dispense également son titulaire d'obtenir un permis d'exportation, mais uniquement pour les armes à feu et les munitions spécifiques qui ont été importées temporairement. Une autorisation ATF-6 n'est pas une licence pour acheter des munitions aux États-Unis et les exporter au Canada.

Les récentes modifications apportées au projet de loi C-21 exigeront que les munitions soient déclarées à l'entrée au Canada mais aussi qu'un permis d'armes à feu valide soit présenté. Ces dispositions ne sont pas encore en vigueur, mais le seront bientôt. 



# Made in Canada

Justin Foster

## TriggerTech Triggers

If you're unfamiliar with TriggerTech, you might want to come out from the rock you live under. All joking aside, TriggerTech is a Canadian company that has taken the aftermarket trigger industry by storm.

At the 2015 SHOT Show, TriggerTech introduced its first Remington 700 trigger, the Primary. From humble beginnings, as a new company operating out of a backpack at its first SHOT Show, to dominating the trigger world, all eyes are now firmly fixed on TriggerTech to see what they come out with next.

As someone who has been using TriggerTech products for years, I can tell you their Frictionless Release Technology is remarkable. Unlike other triggers limited by the sliding friction between the trigger and the sear, Frictionless Release Technology utilizes a free-floating roller captured between the sear and the trigger. This eliminates the feeling of trigger creep and offers an incredibly crisp break and short reset. You truly can feel the difference, and nothing else on the market is quite like it.

As if their Frictionless Release Technology wasn't enough, TriggerTech continued innovating and developed their TKR Technology. This technology utilizes a piece they call the ticker, an intermediary component that can pivot freely from the trigger lever to enable the sear to release without requiring further displacement from the trigger lever. This minimizes overtravel and sets up a perfect reset that's less than 30 thousandths of an inch, but it remains tactile and forceful enough so you're never left wondering if the trigger reset.


To add a cherry on top of all this, TriggerTech simplified the adjustment of their triggers into a single screw on all single-stage models. They call it CLKR Technology and it employs a detent and a set screw combination, enabling the end user to make adjustments with tactile clicks, so there is no question of how much adjustment



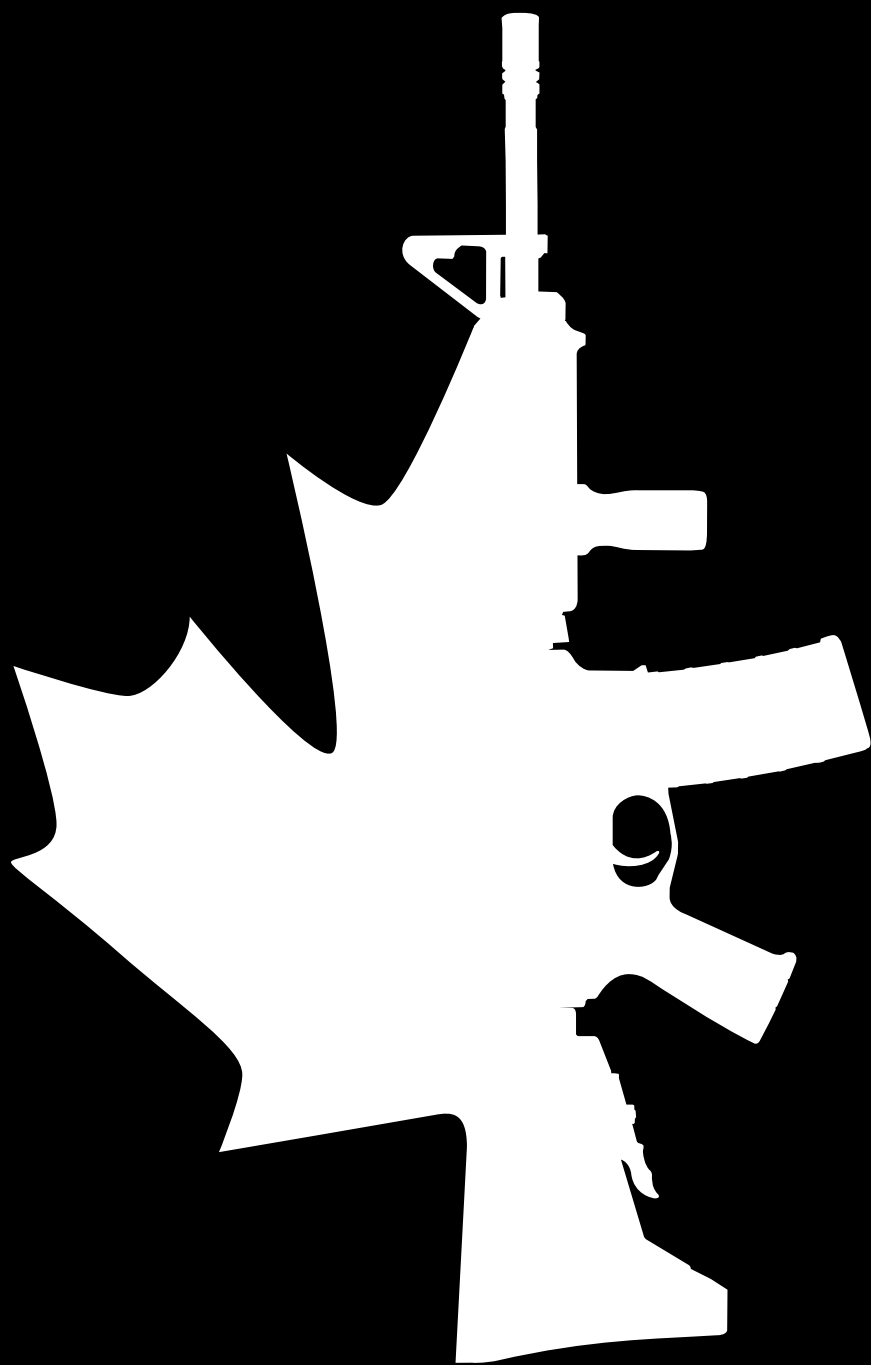
was made. The adjustment feature is also fail-safe, as it is designed to withstand overtightening. And if the set screw were to be removed entirely or lost, the trigger would continue to be completely safe and operational, working at the lowest end of its pull weight range.

I am what many consider a trigger snob. This seemingly holds a negative context, but the accuracy and precision of a rifle are the sum of many variables. One of the critical variables is the shooter and how they interface with the rifle. Other than the stock or chassis, the trigger is the only other component the shooter will interface with during the shooting process. This being said, everyone should hold their triggers to a high standard. With bolt gun prices starting at about \$180,

TriggerTech is an easy one-stop solution for shooters of all budgets looking to increase success. The simple drop-in design of their triggers enables even the most inexperienced folks to install an upgraded trigger. Every pin and spring are captured within the trigger body, allowing for a painless process.

Many top rifle manufacturers now use TriggerTech products, including Bergara, Borden Accuracy, Christensen Arms, GA Precision, Gunwerks, McMillan and Proof Research. This is further evidence how TriggerTech has cemented itself firmly at the top of the aftermarket trigger game. The sky seems like the only limit for this dominating trigger company that is proudly Canadian. 





**NO COMPROMISE.**



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